



THE ELEPHANT'S EAR

**Ellis County GOP's Monthly Newsletter**  
Get informed!

**November 2023 Edition**

**A Message from the Chair**

Dear Ellis County Republicans,

I want to start by reminding you that our meeting time has changed for this month. Because the first Tuesday is Election Day, we will meet on Tuesday, November 14th. Social hour is at 5:30, and the meeting begins at 6:30. There is a lot to discuss and a lot of information to get out on the state and federal issues. By the time we meet the legislature will probably be in another special session. We will also have the pleasure of Rebekah Warwick of the Heritage Foundation speaking, so come to learn and be informed.

Last week, Judge Cindy Ermatinger announced she would not be running for re-election. This spurred a lot of interest from several people, and we will surely have several candidates running for the 443<sup>rd</sup> District Court. We are definitely going to have a strong race for the 443<sup>rd</sup> District Judge and also for the District County Attorney positions. Thank you, Judge Ermatinger, for your service to Ellis County.

As we get into the process of making the decisions about which candidates to support and campaign for, we need to remember that we are all Republicans. I understand as we invest in these candidates that emotions run high, but we have to be cautious that we do not disparage others and that we do not take offense. Please give each other a little grace because we need to be a strong force together as we head into the 2024 general election. There is a lot at stake, and we need all of us at full throttle instead of sitting on the sidelines wounded. Please check your sources thoroughly and think twice before you say, text, or publish any information or refute what someone else has posted. Use each of these moments as a teaching moment to build someone up, not tear them down because they may have gotten some wrong information from what they thought was a trusted source.

Randy Bellomy  
Chairman  
Ellis County Republican Party



**BRIAN HARRISON**

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
DISTRICT 10

**Press Releases & Announcements**

If your city is having a parade but is not listed, please call or text Bettie Gray at 469-431-5842 or email. [parades@elliscountygop.org](mailto:parades@elliscountygop.org)  
If possible, please bring individually wrapped candies to the ECGOP meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup> to hand out during the parades. Some of the crowds will be large, please donate as much as you can. Candy canes are especially festive! Thank you in advance for your generous support.



**November Agenda**

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

5:00 Deputy Voter Registrar Training

Social Hour 5:30-6:30

6:30 Executive Committee

Executive Committee (All are welcome.)

Welcome – Randy Bellomy, County Chair

Invocation and pledges to the flags

Officer's Reports:

Secretary's Report -Terry Todd: Report of Quorum, request approval of minutes

Committee Reports:

Budget & Finance – Tom Manning

Precinct Chairman Development -Sharon Tryon

Communications and Marketing- JJ Brookshire

Headquarters and volunteers- Kay Dunn

Events & Fundraising – Paula Anz

Victory -Jennifer Zarate

Bylaws – Nelson Baird

Legislative and political priorities-Kathy Ponce (state), Dan Altman (federal)

Parades – Bettie Gray

Republican Women's Report – Beverly Gatlin

SREC Report- Mike White

Young Republicans: Report - Daniel Southerland

New Business

General Session

Old Business

General Public comments and Questions

Adjournment.

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## Legislative Update

So as I sit here and write the most current legislative update there is still an uncertainty to what Special Session legislation will be passed by the last day, November 7th.

One bill has passed both chambers, and is heading to the Governor's desk is SB7. This bill relates to prohibiting a private employer from adopting or enforcing certain COVID-19 vaccine mandates, and authorizes an administrative penalty. Two amendments were added to strengthen the bill which should be duly noted: State Rep. Briscoe Cain's amendment protects students, volunteers, and unpaid interns. State Rep. Steve Toth's amendment will fine companies that do not comply with the bill with a \$50,000.00 fine versus \$10,000.00.

Another issue that has had much publicity is the Colony Ridge development. I will explain in great detail the legislative findings on this development at the GOP meeting on November 14th. All politics is local pertains now more than ever as we uncover the issues with this development. The reality is that a development such as Colony Ridge could be developed in YOUR backyard.

For now here is AG Paxton's findings on Colony Ridge:

[Paxton Letter](#)

A few bills we are waiting for further movement on:

HB4: Makes illegal entry a state-level offense so our law enforcement can order those entering illegally to be returned back to the Port of Entry.

This bill has passed the Texas House and the Texas Senate Border Committee.

We are waiting for the floor vote from the Texas Senate.

SB6/HB6: \$1.5 billion appropriation for constructing border wall infrastructure.

Please Note: SB6 includes funds for more police enforcement in Colony Ridge and HB6 does not.

Governor Abbott made a statement today that there has been an agreement made in regards to Public School funding and School Choice. We will see in the next few days how this will all play out.

Be sure to attend the GOP meeting on November 14th to hear a recap of the current Special Session.

Until then #Onward.

All Politics is Local.

Kathy Ponce

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## Ellis County GOP Precinct Corner

[Precinct maps and Chair listing found HERE.](#)



As this issue of the Elephant's Ear goes out, early voting is over and Election Day is fast approaching. This Tuesday, November 7th is our opportunity to have our voices heard. The good news is that nearly 95% of the registered voters can come out on Tuesday to vote. The bad news is that only 5.27% of the registered voters have voted in early voting.

On the ballot every Texas voter will find 14 constitutional amendments to approve or disapprove. In addition some Ellis County voters will have additional issues and/or races on the ballot. Those in Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 will be able to vote on "Proposition A" which reads "The legal sale of all alcoholic beverages for off-premise consumption only." Alma voters will also have a "Proposition A" but it is not the same. It reads "The legal sale of mixed beverages in restaurants by food and beverage certificate holders only." Bardwell will vote on Mayor and 2 City Council seats. Buena Vista-Bethel SUD will elect a member of the board of directors. Ellis county ESD No. 5 has a "Proposition A" that says "Authorizing an increase in the maximum ad valorem tax rate that Ellis County Emergency Services District No. 5 may impose on property within the District to a rate not to exceed six cents (\$.06) per one hundred dollars (\$100) valuation."

**[\(Click Here to visit EllisCountyGOP.org/vote to download polling place information, sample ballot, full text of constitutional amendments and explanatory notes\).](#)**

In an effort to assist Ellis county Republicans who wish to contact their SREC representatives, we've added SREC Representatives for Ellis County to the [Elected Officials page on the website](#). This was done after the state Republican party took down their email addresses from the state website. You will find that SD 22 only has one representative. This is due to Devvie Duke's decision to step down as SD 22 SREC rep to run for Texas House District 56 after Rep Charles "Doc" Anderson announced that he will not seek reelection.

Please join fellow Ellis County Republicans on Tuesday, November 14th for the monthly meeting. Social/Supper hour starts at 5:30PM with meeting starting at 6:30PM. Great BBQ and fixings will be available from [Good Directions BBQ](#).

One Team, Many Fights!

J.J. Brookshire

Chair - Communications & Marketing Sub-committee & Pct 1034

media@EllisCountyGOP.org

Tel: 415-VOTE-GOP (415.868.3467)

[PS: Please encourage your fellow Ellis County residents to visit the Ellis County GOP website and subscribe to the Elephant's Ear](#)



## A Comment on our State...of Humanity

I attend a church here in Ellis County. I also teach a Bible class at a private school in Ellis County. In my Sunday School class we have been reading the book of Judges. In my Bible class I have been teaching from Judges and the time of the judges. You might be thinking, "And, so?" There's more, just keep reading.

In my personal life, it's hard for me to turn the news off. No, it's not a brag. I want to turn the news off. News has evolved from your four basic channels to, well, really everything you look at. You can't turn a football game on, a cooking show, or look at a friend's Facebook page or Instagram posts, without the news being thrown in your face. Everyone is a journalist. Everyone has something to show. X formally known as Twitter, is a dark hell hole spiral of your brain deciphering true and false information as well as a barrage of true crime videos taken by your everyday citizen or assailant in some cases. It's utterly devastating to view. Is it so different from the book of Judges in the Bible? Any time a "news" story pops up, the only thing I can think of is what nearly every single account in the book of Judges starts off with, "Everyone did what was right in their own eyes." It hits me right in the soul to realize, because that's exactly where we are and what we are doing.

The history rewrites have been successful at turning our Judeo-Christian principled nation into a place where our Founders would be fighting for their freedom. It's bleak, but there is hope. I pray, daily, for this Nation to stop doing what is right in our own eyes, and to turn back to the Lord. Without getting into Eschatology, I know the only answer is the return of Jesus. No longer can we pretend that politics and religion don't and can't go together. Sure, I understand the separation of church and state, but it's been hijacked and weaponized against Constitutionalists. When people worship the government and themselves, there is no longer separation of church and state because the state has become the "church."

If this resonates with you, let's pray in a way that leads our Nation back to the Lord.

Holly Freeman

Editor

For more ways to stay Red visit [www.elliscountygop.org](http://www.elliscountygop.org)

## Food for Thought

Federal: Kay Granger

Districts Asking for Big Bonds

Virginia Students Walk Out over Bathroom Policy

## Join the Legacy Circle

When you become a Legacy Circle member of the Republican Party of Ellis County you will be a vital part of helping us build a powerful and influential presence.

Your contribution will help keep Ellis County and the great state of Texas, RED!

Your valuable contribution will go directly to providing a permanent location for our GOP Headquarters in Ellis County which allows us to do the following:

1. Hold our GOP monthly meetings open to all citizens
2. Have training for Precinct Chairman and volunteers
3. Host our 'Get Out The Vote' efforts at election time
4. House our resources such as our candidate campaign signs and literature
5. Be a center for town hall meetings to educate and inform our citizens

There are several levels of membership – please choose the one that is right for you!

Bronze level contribution - \$100

Silver level contribution - \$200

Gold level contribution - \$500

Platinum level Contribution - \$1000

[To Join the Legacy Circle CLICK HERE](#)

## Shop Ellis County Merchant Program

Please support the Ellis County merchants listed below:

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Host location for Ellis County Republican Party Executive Committee Monthly Meeting

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 Haresh Boghara, M.D., MBA.  
 Principal Investigator  
 hboghara@epicmedresearch.com

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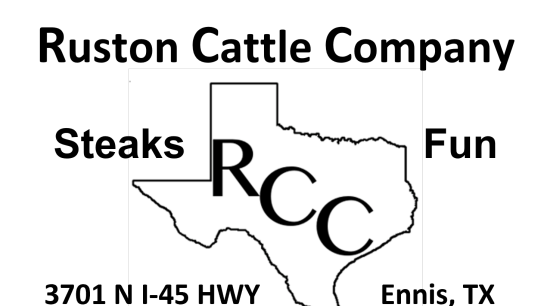
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