



THE ELEPHANT'S EAR

Ellis County GOP's Monthly Newsletter
Get informed!

June 2024 Edition

A Message from the Chair

Ellis County Republicans:

The primary is finally over. I want to congratulate Grace Pandithurai for winning the Republican nomination to be on the November General Ballot; at this time, she has no opponents. Grace worked extremely hard over a seven-month long campaign and showed people that hard work pays off. I also want to thank Greg Wilhelm for running for this position and giving Ellis County a choice. Both candidates ran a good, clean race.

My respect goes to anyone who runs for elected office. It is exhausting, time consuming, and emotionally nerve racking. Now it is time for us to pull together. After the bogus conviction of President Trump, we will need all hands on deck to counteract the lies that will be spreading to the uninformed voter who will listen to the constant dribble from the national news.

Our Constitution and freedoms are under attack, and if Biden is reelected, his first term as president will look like a walk in the park. Even if Biden made it past the Democrat National Convention and the election, odds are he would not complete his next term due to his health and age. Could we survive a President Kamala Harris? The implications go on and on.

I know it has been a very long primary season, but we have to keep pushing because the propaganda machine never stops. We have to get out and talk to our friends, neighbors, pastors and their congregations to help them see the dire circumstances this country is in.

Our June meeting has been moved to the 18th of June at Railport Brewing Company, 405 W. Madison St. in Waxahachie; it is across from the Women's Building. This will be a historic meeting because after the county chair and precinct chairs have been sworn in and the bylaws have been adopted, the County Chairman and the precinct chairs in Justice of the Peace Precinct 4 and the precinct chairs in County Commissioner Precinct 3 will hold caucuses to discuss ballot placement of candidates for these positions to be on the November General Election ballot. These caucuses are open to the public unless/until they go into executive session, at which point the room will have to be cleared or the caucuses will move to a private setting. At the close of executive session, general session will be reopened and the rulings will be announced.

Social hour starts at 5:30; FilipinaVille Island Food will be there for food purchases. The organizational meeting will begin at 6:30. The caucuses will begin at the close of the meeting.

Hope to see you on the 18th,
Randy Bellomy
Chairman
Ellis County Republican Party

June Agenda

Ellis County Republican Executive Committee Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Social Time 5:30 until quorum is reached or 6:30PM (whichever comes last)
Executive Committee Meeting
(All Republicans are welcome)

Welcome – Randy Bellomy, County Chair

Invocation and pledges to the flags - TBD

Executive Committee Members Swearing-in - Sharon Tryon

Nomination of Officers and Committee Chairs - Randy Bellomy

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

Committee Reports:

- **Budget & Finance** – Tom Manning
- **Legacy Circle** – Dorinda Sims
- **Communications & Marketing** - JJ Brookshire
- **Headquarters and volunteers** - Kay Dunn
- **Events & Fundraising** – Paula Anz
- **Victory** - Jennifer Zarate

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

Parades – Bettie Gray

SREC Report - TBD

Republican Women's Report - Beverly Gatlin

Young GOP Report - Corey Rogan

New Business:

Bylaws update - Jason Watson

Resolution: Calling for Reform of the Texas House including Speaker Selection by Republican House Members

Establishment of Ballot Placement Caucuses - County Commissioner - PCT 3 (CC3) and Justice of the Peace - PCT 4 (JP4)

Old Business

General Public comments and Questions
Adjournment.

Meeting of the CC3 Caucus

Meeting of the JP4 Caucus

Due to overlapping membership, these subcommittees cannot meet simultaneously.

Legislative Update

Legislative Update:

We have made it through election season, minus a few municipal runoff elections.

In this past runoff the grassroots won 7 out their 9 races in regards to the Texas House. Off course most of you probably know that Speaker Phelan kept his house seat, but do not fret, as more State Reps are jumping into the Speaker race. Shelby Slawson is the most recent nominee. Be wary, very wary of the games that are being played behind the scenes and who still aligns with Speaker Phelan.

Austin is alive and kicking as we have had many informative Interim Hearings. The Texas Senate had a very informative State Affairs public hearing in regards to Big Tech and the influence on our elections. The video of this hearing is definitely worth watching. The whistleblowers testimony is jaw dropping. The Water, Agriculture and Local Government committee hearing once again gave a shout out to Ellis County in regards to the mass amount of communication that was received in regards to the water issues and the MUDs. That is how change is made under the Pink Dome.

It is a very productive Interim Hearing session in Austin. The dialogue and the conversation are some of the best of recent sessions.

Remember, the Interim Hearings is YOUR time to be involved in legislation for the 89th session, and to give input on legislation that has passed in past sessions.

If you are interested in receiving notifications on Interim Hearings then please email me at texaspoliticstx@gmail.com

Texas House of Representatives interim Committee Charges are available for download in a pdf format at the [Ellis County GOP - Austin Updates page](#).

The grassroots also achieved a clean sweep of victories at the State Convention giving us even more help for the upcoming 89th session.

The RPT rules committee passed a rule to Close the Primaries. The legal battle will soon begin, but fret not as we have seen many other states win this battle. All we need to do is look to Idaho and their recent case and victory.

Oh so much to discuss in regards to the legislative update and Austin. Including some great bills that have been already written, and are ready to be filed, in regards to issues that concern Texans.

For now, I will end the update, or it may become 3 pages long.

Remember a golden rule in politics: When we show up, they give up.

We need everyone involved in the 89th.

#Onward

All Politics is Local

Kathy Ponce



BRIAN HARRISON

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 10

Press Releases & Announcements



As I write this my tenure as the Chair of the Communications and Marketing Committee and Precinct 1034 is coming to an end. The upcoming June 18th Ellis County Republican Party Executive Committee meeting is very special. It is our biennial reorganization meeting. Since I was unopposed for the position as Precinct Chair for Precinct 1034, I will swear in for another 2 year term. If I'm nominated by the County Chair and confirmed by the Executive Committee, I'll continue as Chair of the Communications and Marketing Committee. I point this out in an attempt to educate the readers of this newsletter and because one should never count chickens before...

Much has happened since the last Elephant's Ear was sent out. Grace Pandithurai won the runoff race to be the Republican nominee for District Judge for 443rd District to replace the retiring Judge Cindy Ermatinger. Since no other party filed to have a candidate on the ballot in November, Grace will be running unopposed and is all but assured to win the election and swear in on or after January 1st.

Much has happened since the last Elephant's Ear. The fact that no candidate representing a party other than the Republican party filed to run against Grace is an important fact to remember as I attempt to communicate the situation regarding the vacancy for County Commissioner - Precinct 3 (CC3) that occurred with Commissioner Perry's passing.

There has been much discussion and some erroneous information recently published on social media regarding the procedures for placing a Republican candidate on the November ballot in the race for CC3. Here I will attempt to educate and set the record straight.

The application period to appear on the ballot in the March 5, 2204 (election day) Republican primary was between November 11, 2023 and December 11, 2023. Commissioner Paul D. Perry (Pct 3) filed to run for reelection within the

prescribed application period. No other candidate filed to run for the Republican nomination for this position and no candidate filed for their respective party's nomination. On February 11, 2024 Commissioner Perry passed away. Because this was less than 74 days from the scheduled primary election, his name remained on the ballot. It should be noted that when the official results of the March 5th Republican Primary were tallied, the late Commissioner Perry received nearly 5,000 votes in testament to the love and respect felt by the voters in Precinct 3 (my family among them).

This is where the process splits. With a current vacancy on the Commissioner's court, the responsibility to appoint someone to fill the Precinct 3 position on an interim basis falls solely on the County Judge. The other County Commissioners did not have a vote in this selection. Judge Little announced on March 5, 2024 that he had offered the appointment to and it was accepted by then Justice of the Peace Louis Ponder. Because the CC3 seat was already scheduled to be on the general election ballot on November 5, 2024 (election day), this is an "interim appointment" and is set to expire at the end of the 2024 calendar year.

The Republican Party of Ellis County must follow Texas Election Code, Title 10, Subtitle B, Chapter 172, Subchapter A (Sec. 172.058) and select an candidate to represent the Republican party on the November 5, 2024 ballot. This decision will be made by a caucus consisting of the Republican Party of Ellis County precinct chairs and the county chair who resides within CC3 and were elected during the March 5th primary (all but one were unopposed). These precinct chairs can vet and interview potential candidates prior to the start of their 2 year term but cannot vote on who to place on the general election ballot until they have been sworn in. This swearing in ceremony will take place at the upcoming meeting on June 18th at the Railport Brewing Company in Waxahachie.

It is critical to understand that the process of placing a candidate on the ballot in November is entirely the responsibility of the Republican Party and is entirely a party focused issue. If this caucus does not place a Republican on the ballot, that task can be taken up by the Texas Republican Party.

It should be noted that because no other candidate representing any other party filed between November 11, 2023 and December 11, 2023, they cannot now place someone on the November ballot. The caucus will decide who will represent the Republican Party on the ballot in November for the position of CC3 and that person will be the only candidate on the ballot.

When Louis Ponder accepted the interim appointment it created a vacancy in the office of Justice of the Peace - Pct 4 (JP4). On April 16, 2024 the Ellis County Commissioners Court met and voted to make Ellis County Sheriff Department Lieutenant Mike McKenna the interim Justice of the Peace Pct 4. McKenna will hold this position through the calendar year unless elected in November to fill the remainder of the term (through December 2026).

Texas election code specifies that an election must be held to determine who will serve out the remainder of the term as JP4. Since this election will be held as part of the upcoming November general election this is not considered a "special election". The Republican Party of Ellis County must follow Texas Election Code and may select a candidate to represent the Republican party on the November 5, 2024 ballot. This decision will be made by a caucus consisting of the Republican Party of Ellis County precinct chairs who reside within justice of the peace precinct 4. While there is some overlap of members of these caucuses (I'm on both). There are several different members of each caucus.

The caucus will decide who will represent the Republican Party on the ballot in November for the position of JP4. In that this race was not contemplated between November 11, 2023 and December 11, 2023 candidates representing other parties may be on the ballot this November.

I know this is lengthy and I appreciate you continuing to read if you've made it this far. I want to note that several Ellis County voters have asked me about these two races and expressed their displeasure with having "only a few Precinct Chairs decide who will be on the ballot". Please understand that this process is entirely dictated by Texas Election Code (legal statute) and the rules of the Texas Republican Party. As a precinct chair who will have a vote in both caucuses, I take this task very seriously. I continue to vet and consider those who are asking for consideration for both positions. I've communicated with several of my "constituents" and value their opinions. I hope this serves as a wake-up call to the Republican voters in Ellis County and encourages them to get more involved with local party politics.

To those on social media that I've seen criticize those that volunteer hundreds of hours each year of their time to serve as precinct chairs I give you this analogy. Before you yell at the players on the field, please at least walk into the stadium.

With that, I hope to see a "packed house" this Tuesday, June 18th at [Railport Brewing Company, 405 W Madison St., Waxahachie, TX 75165](https://www.railportbrewing.com/405-W-Madison-St-Waxahachie-TX-75165). Social hour begins at 5:30 with meeting kick off at 6:30.

One Team, Many Fights!

J.J. Brookshire

Chair - Communications & Marketing 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](#)

Ellis County GOP Precinct Corner

The [Ellis County GOP Precinct](#) page now includes:

- Ellis County Voting Precinct Map (pdf)
- Ellis County Commissioner's Precinct Map (pdf)
- Ellis County JP and Constable Precinct Map (pdf)
- Precinct Chair Application (pdf)
- List of Precinct Chairs (click on names to email)
- Individual Voting Precinct Maps (pdf)
- Online Precinct Chair/Vice Chair Application



Do you want fries with that?

Have you seen that reel going around? No, not mantis vs. shrimp (my Dad loves that one). I'm talking about the one with the Gen Z college graduates proclaiming what their area of study was for the past four years. It's, how are the kids saying it these days? Cringey. [Click for REEL](#)

I graduated college in 2009. I studied Speech Communication with a Certification in 8-12 Education (Speech, English, and ESL) with a minor in Exercise and Sports Science. I taught and coached in Public Education for nearly a decade. Now I am in Private Education. I have used my degree for sure. After watching these adults say they studied things like Art with Social Mechanism and Business and Gender Studies, I'm genuinely curious what these people are going to do for a career. Some of the comments were, "All I hear is, 'Do you want fries with that?'" While I did get a good chuckle, I just can't help but wonder, what are these adults thinking? What do they think the real world is like? With a job and a family? Or are they even destined for any of that? Where was the guidance? Where were the parents? I don't have a crystal ball, but I can imagine most of these people are going to get a hard "no" at many places of employment. They are so specialized they aren't broad enough to be hired to use a useless degree. I feel sorry for them, in a way. I also think they have been greatly underserved their entire educational life. I sat in many of those meetings discussing directions for students. True story, I watched a committee put a 9th grade soon-to-be 10th grade student in Medical Terminology. This particular student was barely reading and writing on a third grade level. Can we really place all the blame on the know-nothing 22 year-olds who want \$22/hour minimum wage? What do I know, though? I hope somewhere along the way, some disgruntled middle management boss smacks some sense into a few of them. We might be able to turn this thing around if that happens. Until then, I don't even think they will get a chance to say, "Do you want fries with that," since robots are about to take over those jobs. Strange times we are living in for sure.

Holly Freeman

Editor

For more ways to stay Red visit www.elliscountygop.org

Biennial Name Badge Orders



We will be taking orders for Name Badges at this week's meeting. If you are unable to make it and want to order one, please send an email to assistant@EllisCountyGOP.org. You don't have to be a precinct chair or officer to grab one of these. The cost will be \$10 each (cash or check).

Food for Thought

For Immediate Release: Texas House
Texans React to Trump Verdict
Tyler ISD
Alert: New TEA Instructional Material

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](#)

The Ellis County GOP is a proud member of these chambers of commerce and encourages readers to support the Ellis County merchants noted below:



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