# NACOGDOCHES COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



Democratic Party Weekly Update Monday, January 17, 2022

Dear Democrats,

# Protect the vote, protect the dream

Living up to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy, and what he believed our nation could become, requires more than just reflection - it requires action. We must protect the hard-fought gains he helped achieve and continue his unfinished struggle. That is why the Congress must pass federal legislation to protect the right to vote - a right that is under attack by a sinister combination of voter suppression and election subversion.

On his birthday, we must strive to achieve not just political equality but also economic justice so that workers can earn a decent living, students can learn safely, the sick can access health care, the poor can climb out of poverty, the elderly can age with dignity, and everyone in America can live without discrimination or fear. We must keep the faith in that righteous cause - and in each other.

President Joe Biden, January 17, 2022

## Upcoming events in the next few weeks

1. Monday, January 17, is Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. To honor his legacy there will be a march in the North Redland Community, starting at 9:00am at the corner of County Road 116 and County Road 117. This will be followed by a commemorative program at the Mt. Zionia CME Church, 880 County Road 114. The guest speaker will be Rev. Terrance Hicks and the Power of the Word Ministries. Afterwards there will be lunch and a book for the children who come.

2. SFA's Office of Multicultural Affairs has organized their annual MLK Day of Service on January 17. Check-in will begin at 7:30am on the second floor of the Student Center, followed by a program at 8:30am in the Grand Ballroom. The guest speaker will be Dionna La'Fay, the State Coordinator of the Black Voters Matter Fund. Volunteer will work at service sites from 10:00am to 1:00pm, followed by a celebration on campus. Interested participants can register online at <u>www.sfasu.edu/OMA</u>.

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Nacogdoches County Democrats



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3. The 21/7 Association, the group of organizations and individuals who work and/or live near East Highway 21 and East Highway 7, will have their monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 18, at 2:00pm on Zoom. They will send out a Zoom link and any additional information for the meeting closer to the date

4. The first day to file for a place on the ballot for City Council and School Board elections is January 19; the last day to file is February 18.

5. Monday, January 31, is the last day to register to vote for the March 1 primary election.

6. On Saturday, February 5, Jamarr Brown, the Co-Executive Director of the Texas Democratic Party, will be in Nacogdoches to help organize the county party infrastructure in East Texas.

#### **Primary Election**

The Democratic and Republican Party primary elections are scheduled for Tuesday, March 1. Sample ballots will be out shortly. In the meantime, see the list of candidates for both parties <u>www.NacVotes.com</u> under "Current Election Information". The list of Republican Party propositions is very informative. Unfortunately, there are no Democratic Party propositions.

### Local redistricting

The city is currently undergoing the process of re-establishing council district boundaries, based on 2020 Census data. Information regarding this process can be found online at <a href="https://www.nactx.us/1438/Redistricting">https://www.nactx.us/1438/Redistricting</a>. On January 18 the City Council will conduct a public hearing to adopt the final redistricting plan during its regular meeting.

### **COVID** vaccination clinics

Go to <u>www.vaccines.gov</u> to find a location. Know someone who is eligible and not yet vaccinated? Get them immunized, Covid-19 rates in Nacogdoches are exploding. And get your booster, they are now available.

#### Volunteer Deputy Registrar Classes

Get trained to assist people with registering to vote by attending one of the classes given by Todd Stallings, our Elections Administrator. Register online at <u>www.NacVotes.com</u> or call (936) 560-7825. You must register by 1:00pm on the day before the event so that they can have all of your paperwork ready for the class. Classes are held in the Courthouse Annex at 203 West Main Street, Nacogdoches on the following dates and times:

Tuesday, January 25 - 12:00 noon - bring a sack lunch! Tuesday, February 1 - 2:00pm

The Dean of Students Office will host VDR training sessions in the Student Center commons room at 1:15pm Wednesday, January 19, for faculty and staff and at 3:00pm for students. Those interested in attending can RSVP with the Dean of Students office at DOS@sfasu.edu. Further information will be emailed to you once an RSVP has been received.

## Nacogdoches City Council

The Nacogdoches City Council will hold their regular meeting on Tuesday, January 18, at 5:30pm. Meetings are being held in person in City Council Chambers, City Hall. To schedule a time to speak please call the City Secretary at (936) 559-2506. Time and speaker limits during the open forum will still be observed. The agenda and live-streaming link are available at <u>www.nactx.us</u>

A group opposed to an application to HUD's Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program for construction of affordable housing on University Drive may voice their concerns during the public comment period. The LIHTC program is the most important resource for creating affordable housing in the United States today. Since Democrats want to expand the LIHTC to incentivize private-sector construction of affordable housing, and make sure urban, suburban, and rural areas all benefit, it will be interesting to see what the other side has to say.

Agenda items include the approval of the redistricting of the single member City Council wards and establish new single-member ward boundary lines for City Council elections based on 2020 census data and the approval of a contract for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and the Downtown Master Plan.

See the City's "Friday Update" every week for more information about meetings, committees, vaccinations, city jobs, and more: <u>https://www.nactx.us/friday-update</u>

### Nacogdoches County Commissioners

The Nacogdoches County Commissioners Court will meet in regular session at 9:00am on Tuesday, January 25, in the Commissioners Courtroom, Suite 170 of the Nacogdoches County Courthouse, 101 West Main Street. Recordings of meetings are posted on the county <u>website</u>.

### NISD School Board meetings

The NISD School Board's next meeting will be on Thursday, January 20. The Executive Sessions start at 5:00pm and the Regular Sessions at 6:00pm. These are now in-person meetings. Go to their <u>website</u> for information about participating.

The Nacogdoches Conservative Watch might show up at this meeting to demand that books on adolescent sexuality and on race and the history of racism in America be removed from school libraries. Texas lawmaker Matt Krause - who coincidentally is running for Texas Attorney General in the Republican primary - started this witch hunt when he targeted a list of 850 books that made him uneasy. See the list and an NPR article here: <a href="https://www.npr.org/2021/10/28/1050013664/texas-lawmaker-matt-krause-launches-inquiry-">https://www.npr.org/2021/10/28/1050013664/texas-lawmaker-matt-krause-launches-inquiry-</a>

into-850-books

Major holidays and events in Nacogdoches and elsewhere in the near future

17 Januarv Martin Luther King Jr. Day march and service, Mt. Zionia CME Church 17 January Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, SFA's Office of Multicultural Affairs Last day to register to vote for March 1 Primary election 31 January 1-28 Feb Black History Month 5 February CASA Texi-Gras fundraiser 5 February Black Pastors meeting with Jamarr Brown, Co-Executive Director, TDP 10 February Concerned Black Men's Annual Valentine's Scholarship Gala 11 February SFA's eight annual Diversity Conference 14 February First day of early voting in Primary Election 18 February Last day to file for place on ballot for Local Election 1 March **Primary Election** 19 March **Nacogdoches County Democratic Party Convention** Local Election 7 May

Stay warm out there!

Mike Strong Chair