

NACOGDOCHES COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



Democratic Party Weekly Update

Monday, June 5, 2023

Dear Democrats,

Texas makes the news again for the wrong reasons. The New York Times Editorial Board writes that “Texas Is Silencing the Will of Millions of Voters”.

“Gov. Greg Abbott, Republican of Texas, is expected to sign a bill in the next few days that would make it immeasurably more difficult for cities in the state to govern themselves. The bill would strip cities of the ability to set standards for local workplaces, to ensure civil rights, and to improve their environments, trampling on the rights of voters who elected local officials to do just that... The bill is the latest effort by Republicans to rid the state of any policies that conflict with their hard-right agenda - even if those policies are fully supported by voters in those cities, who elect representatives to serve their interests.”

As President Obama recently tweeted, “Our democracy is resilient as long as we stay engaged and active between elections.” That “we” is “us”.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/03/opinion/texas-preemption-bill.html?smid=url-share>

Upcoming events in the next few weeks

1. Texas AgriForestry Small Farmers and Ranchers (TASFR) is hosting their Fifth Annual Agriculture/ Forestry Summit over two days. On Thursday, June 8, there will be an historical bus tour and demonstration. On Friday, June 9, the main conference will take place in the Exposition and Civic Center, 805 NW Stallings Drive. See their website for more information: <https://tasfragriculture.com/>

2. Blueberry Festival, Saturday, June 10! We have a booth and have fans to hand out, so call Bruce McNellie to volunteer and show Nacogdoches that there are a lot of nice, good Democrats here! More information below.

3. The Nacogdoches Community Coalition will meet on Monday, June 12, at 5:00pm in the Little Zion Baptist Church, 305 South Shawnee, to discuss plans for the 2023 Juneteenth Celebration. Contact Celena Garrett for more information.

P.O. Box 633961 | Nacogdoches, TX 75963

nacogdochesco.democrats@gmail.com

(936) 221-9686



Nacogdoches
County
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4. The Nacogdoches County Democratic Party Executive Committee will meet on Monday, June 12, in the County Courthouse Annex, 203 West Main Street. The Executive Committee will meet at 5:30pm. This will be followed at about 6:00pm by the general monthly meeting.

5. The Nacogdoches NAACP unit will hold their Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 13, at 5:30pm, in the Little Zion Baptist Church, 305 Shawnee. The monthly General Membership meeting will start after this meeting, at 6:00pm. Contact the NAACP Secretary, Lisa Colston, at (504) 905-8720, for more information or to ask about Zoom access.

6. The Juneteenth Celebration, organized by the Progressive Leadership Group, will take place on Saturday, June 17. Come join as we celebrate our rich heritage with great food, festivities, and fun! Nac Dems will have a vehicle in the parade and a booth in the park so get ready to volunteer.

Blueberry Festival!

Come to the annual festival, show the 20,000 people walking down Main Street that there are Democrats in Nacogdoches, tell them what we believe, and have a good – if warm – time doing it. Call Bruce McNellie, (936) 371-2910, to volunteer for a shift; here is who has signed up so far:

Shift	Task	Name
7-8am	Set up	Mike Strong, Sue Wenner, Gale Chennault
8-10am	Staff booth	Amy Nixdorf, Patricia Crain, Carolyn Crain, Angela Williams, Gail Chenault, Nancy Niehaus
10-noon	Staff booth	Myra McNellie, Marilyn Griffith, Sharon Ninness
noon-2pm	Staff booth	Pat Castella, Eloise Adams, Hazel Burns
2-4pm	Staff booth	Kathy Cochran, Joe Cochran
4pm	Breakdown	Bruce McNellie, Mike Strong

Volunteer Deputy Registrars

The Elections Office has scheduled more VDR classes so sign up and get certified for another two years. Register for a class online at www.NacVotes.com or call (936) 560-7825. You must register by 1:00pm on the day before the event so that they can have your paperwork ready for the class. Classes are held in the Courthouse Annex at 203 West Main Street on:

Thursday, June 8, at 10:00am (so you can register at Blueberry Festival!)

Friday, July 7, at 10:00am

Tuesday, August 15, at 2:00pm

City advisory boards

The City of Nacogdoches will accept applications for its advisory boards starting on May 26. Participate in local government and make your voice heard on issues from disabilities to zoning. Boards with available seats are:

- Convention and Visitors Bureau Board
- Historic Landmark Preservation Committee
- Housing Authority Board
- Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
- Planning and Zoning Commission
- Zoning Board of Adjustment

The deadline to submit applications is 5:00pm Friday, June 9. The City Council will appoint members to serve on above listed boards. For information about what the various Boards do go to <https://www.nactx.us/819/Boards-Commissions>. To get an application call the City Secretary, at (936) 559-2506 or visit the City's website at www.nactx.us

Nacogdoches City Council

The Nacogdoches City Council will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday, June 13, (changed from June 6) at 5:30pm. Meetings are held in the City Hall, 202 East Pilar Street. See the City's "Friday Update" for more information about meetings and more: www.nactx.us/1374/Friday-Update. Agendas for city meetings can be found at <https://www.nactx.us/agendas>; press Download Packet to get the whole agenda.

There will be a Special City Council Meeting at 4:00pm on Thursday, June 8, to discuss matters concerning the City Manager search. As always, there will also be an Open Forum, an opportunity for citizens to speak about items not listed on the agenda.

Capital Needs Advisory Committee

The CNAC Team will meet at 3:00pm on Tuesday, June 13, in the C.L. Simon Recreation Center.

NacTogether

NacTogether is the community-driven vision for the future of Nacogdoches. It is a coordinated long-term planning effort that includes the Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Master Plan, and I-69 Corridor Study. More information is available at their site: <https://nactogether.com/>

On May 10 the Downtown Advisory Committee (DTAC) endorsed the DRAFT Downtown Vision Plan that has been in the works for the past 15 months. The DRAFT plan is now available to the public for feedback before it is taken to City Council for adoption. If you would like to view the plan visit www.nactogether.com and click on the "Resources" tab. This 190-page document is the first piece of the overall city plan to come out and deserves careful reading, discussing, and commenting.

There will be a Downtown Vision Plan poster exhibit inside the Convention & Visitors Bureau (200 East Main) during the Texas Blueberry Festival. Take a few minutes, escape the heat, and view some of the proposed projects!

Nacogdoches County Commissioners

The Nacogdoches County Commissioners Court will meet at 9:00am on Tuesday, June 13, in the Commissioners Courtroom, Suite 170 of the Nacogdoches County Courthouse, 101 West Main Street. Recordings of meetings are posted on the county [website](#).

NISD School Board meetings

The NISD School Board's next meeting will be on Thursday, July 21, at the E.J. Campbell District Support Center Annex, 420 South Shawnee Street. Executive Sessions start at 5:00pm and the Regular Sessions start at 6:00pm. Go to their [website](#) for information.

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

8-9 June	Texas AgriForestry Small Farmers and Ranchers (TASFR) summit
10 June	Blueberry Festival
14 June	Flag Day
17 June	Juneteenth celebration
19 June	Juneteenth
4 July	Freedom Fest in the park

Stay engaged and active!

Mike Strong
Nac Dems