

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

July 2026

President's Byline



Celebrating America's 250th Birthday

Dear Members and Friends,

This year, our nation marks an extraordinary milestone—250 years of American independence. For two and a half centuries, the United States has stood as a beacon of freedom, opportunity, and self-government, inspiring people around the world with enduring promise that liberty belongs to all. As we celebrate this

historic anniversary, we honor the courage of the patriots who pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to establish a nation founded on the timeless principles of faith, freedom, and individual responsibility. Their sacrifice reminds us that liberty is never guaranteed—it must be cherished, protected, and passed faithfully to the next generation.

Today, we have the privilege and responsibility of carrying that legacy forward. Whether we serve our communities, support worthy causes, mentor young leaders, or engage in the civic process, each of us has a role in preserving the blessings of freedom. Our commitment to constitutional principles, strong families, personal responsibility, and engaged citizenship ensures that the American story continues to be one of hope and opportunity.

As we gather with family, friends, and neighbors to commemorate America's 250th birthday, let us celebrate not only our remarkable history but also our shared future. May we renew our gratitude for those who came before us, pray for wisdom for today's leaders, and remain steadfast in our dedication to the ideals that have made our nation exceptional.

On behalf of the Plano Republican Women, I wish you and your loved ones a joyful and meaningful celebration of this historic anniversary. May God continue to bless our club, our community, and the United States of America.

With gratitude and patriotic pride,

Kathy Ward

President@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org

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Calendar of Events

Next Board Meeting
August 4, 2026, 11:30
Napoli's Restaurant
West Plano

Next General Meeting
August 18, 2026, 11:30
Saltgrass - East Plano



"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." — Psalm 33:12

PRW August Meeting

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

August 18, 2026



Plano Republican Women

Join us for a fantastic lineup of speakers after summer break!

August 18



The Hon. Shelby Williams
Republican Candidate for
Collin County Commissioner, Pct 4

September 15



Judge Brook Fulks
470th District Court



Judge Christine Nowak
493rd District Court

October 20



The Hon. Steve Munisteri
Senior Advisor to Governor Abbott

November 17



Chairwoman D'rinda Randall
Republican Party of Texas

www.planorepublicanwomen.org

Location:

Saltgrass Steakhouse
Plano East

3320 North Central
Expressway, Plano,
TX 75074

Time: 11:15 am: Arrive
and check-in, 11:30
am: Meeting, Lunch &
Program

Lunch is available for
\$25.00 with RSVP, cash
or check payable to PRW
on arrival.

*Lunch will be salad, and
entree with a vegetable*

[RSVP here to pay with credit card](#)

Please note: all Online Credit Card Payments include a processing fee.

To RSVP send an email to: <https://planorepublicanwomen.org/>.

Include your name in your email and specify whether you will/will not be having lunch.

PRW July Social



We would love for you to join us
for our July Summer Social!

Space is limited so please
RSVP to

Prw@planorepublicanwomen.org

if you plan to attend our
PRW Annual Summer Social.

Friends and family are welcome.

We are celebrating
America's 250th!

PRW ladies donating a check to CCGOP Victory 2026



Legislative Report

By Jennifer Groysman

THE PLANO CITY COUNCIL VOTED ON THE DALLAS STARS MOVING TO PLANO

On Monday, June 8, 2026, the Plano City Council voted on four agenda items having to do with the Dallas Stars Hockey team moving to Plano. Even though each item seemed to be separate, they are all related to the Stars and a huge corporate welfare windfall.

Item one on the agenda was the creation of the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) Number Six. This is 800-900 acres in West Plano. The zone goes from the train tracks before Bush Turnpike, parts of Midway, Plano Pkwy, International, Park, Communications, Windhaven, and Parkwood. Since the plan is to build an arena on the Willow Bend Mall property, One would think the city would only make the mall a TIRZ; however, the city decided to include a massive area by the mall.

In the city's own ordinance for TIRZ # 6 they said the area needs, "essential public infrastructure and economic development programs are needed to attract new business and commercial activity to the proposed zone, thereby increasing the real property tax base for all taxing units within the zone, increasing sales and use tax revenues for the City and the State of Texas, and creating additional job opportunities for residents of the City and the region." It goes on to say, "The area is predominantly open or undeveloped and, due to obsolete platting, deterioration of structures or site improvements, or other factors, substantially impedes the municipality's sound growth." None of this is true. The zone area is not undeveloped. It only has three empty pieces of land left. It has a Target, Walmart, Costco, Tom Thumb, Kroger, medical offices, upscale restaurants, fast food restaurants, small retail stores, salons, banks, Home Depot, Hobby Lobby, Michael's, Petsmart, Audi, Porsche, and Ferrari Dealerships. It also has a mixed-use development that is not that old on Parker and Dallas Pkwy. It is so crowded on the weekends for dinner it is hard to park your car. According to the city's finance plan for the zone, the appraised property values total \$1,633,085,024. Yes, over 1 billion dollars. The sales tax from the zone totals \$7,081,035. However, in the finance plan, one of the requirements for a TIRZ is the area must, "substantially arrests or impairs the sound growth of the municipality designating the Zone, retard the provision of housing accommodations, or constitutes an economic or social liability and is a menace to the public health, safety, morals, or welfare in its present condition." The only area in the zone that is a problem is the mall, but I would not say it was a menace to the public health, safety, morals, or welfare in its present condition.

The council appointed itself as the board of directors for the zone. The zone will last for 41 years. For the next 41 years, additional property tax and sales tax revenue will go into the TIRZ 6 fund. That is longer than the Stars agreement. According to the city's plan, the additional property tax revenue will be \$1,377,499,464 and it will all go into the TIRZ 6 fund. The additional sales tax revenue will be \$245,598,628. Again, the city will get none of it. It will all go in the fund.

All this money pay for the bond for a new sports center/arena for the Stars. The City will pay \$700 million in bond money to build it. The Stars, who are worth over \$2 billion, will put in \$300 million. Administrative costs to the city will be \$499,945, and they must be paid before the debt. According to the city's own plan, the interest on the debt is unknown.

At the city council meeting, only one resident actually spoke against the TIRZ #6. The other speakers on this item did not want the Stars in the Willow Bend location. The City Council members did not comment on the TIRZ #6. Councilman Horn only commented on the Mall needing redevelopment.

Item 2 on the agenda was a grant for \$15 million to the current owners of the property. In-exchange the owners will demolish the inline space of the mall, the community theater, Dillard's, and the Crayola Factory. They will also do site preparation work for the redevelopment. The owners also have to build a shell space of no less than 6,500 square feet for the City's Visitors Center. The city will get this space rent free for ten years. The city will also waive all building, inspection, planning and engineering fees. Lastly, the contractor can't pass on all sales taxes they paid for the equipment and materials to the property owner. Only one resident spoke against the grant. The Council did not comment on it.

Legislative Report

By Jennifer Groysman

Item 3 is the Letter of Intent for the Stars. It clearly states the city will own the arena site and the arena itself. The Stars get a 30-year lease agreement for it. After that time the Stars can pick up and leave like they did to Dallas. The Stars get to keep all the money from the use and operation of the arena. They will also be responsible for the operations, maintenance and routine repairs. Large capital expenses may be paid by the taxpayers.

The City will collect \$3.00 per car for parking at the arena. The city says it will work in good faith with Transit Providers to expand bus routes and shuttles. However, these providers could tell the city to go pound sand. The arena where the Stars are now holds around 20,000 people. If we assume two people per car, that would be about 10,000 cars on game day.

The agreement with the city and the Stars will get reevaluated in 15 years to see what upgrades are needed to be paid for by the city.

The letter of intent lists nine additional agreements. These include a development agreement, a design and construction agreement, lease agreement, non relocation agreement, team sub-lease agreement, community benefits agreement, intellectual property rights agreement, construction trust agreement, and guarantee agreements. There was no details on them were given. Again, residents spoke against having the Stars in West Plano. The council members asked some question to staff but did not respond to the residents' concerns.

The last item is a resolution to fund and build the arena. This is subject to a vote of the residents of Plano on November 3, 2026. Most of the funding will come from a bond that will be paid back by the TIRZ 6 fund. The rest will come from an increase in hotel/motel taxes to 15%. So, if you have people coming in for a visit, their hotel bill may be going up. The car rental tax may be going up too. If your car is in the shop and you need a rental, that bill may also be going up. There will be a 10% tax rate on event tickets, and a facility use tax of \$5,000 per game on each member of a major league team that plays at the arena. This resolution must also be submitted to the Texas Comptroller for approval.

There have been five decades of studies on the economic results of city own arenas. All of these studies came to the same conclusion; in the long term, the cities always lose. They lose economically and financially. The only winner is the team.

Everyone thinks it will be great for the city. It will bring business and tourism, but it does not. On game or event days business in the area goes down. Why? Because the people who shop at stores like Home Depot or Michael's avoid the area on event days. Those that come in for an event don't stop in at Petsmart or other retail stores. People go to the event, maybe stop at a restaurant or bar in the area, and then they go home. So, while business may be great in the Willow Bend, it will tank outside of it.

On top of that, crime, drunk driving, and traffic will all go up during event days as well. Yet, even with all the studies and hard economic evidence that this arena will be a loss for the city, our council passed each agenda item to build one with debt that the taxpayers will have to pay back.

The City will be having two Open House Meetings in July to hear from the residents and answer questions at the Willow Bend. Attendees should use the entrance by Equinox and Crate & Barrel.

July 8, 2026 11am - 1pm

July 14, 2026 6-8 pm

For more information go to the web-page <https://www.plano.gov/2435/Willow-Bend-District>

A Self-Guided Virtual Community Open House will be available for those unable to attend in person events:

July 8 – July 22 at <https://www.plano.gov/2435/Willow-Bend-District>

PRW at the RPT Convention





AMERICANISM REPORT



Army – After the battles of Lexington and Concord took place, the second Continental Congress created



Over the next few months, we will explore the pinnacle of American heritage: iconic places, people, events and symbols of patriotism that played a key role in the early development of our country.

In celebration of America'S 250TH Anniversary



HEROES OF AMERICA: THE HISTORY OF OUR ARMED FORCES

By: Crystal Griffith

This Fourth of July, churches and communities alike will celebrate the holiday with a grand fanfare of patriotism as people will come together to proudly wear the red, white and blue, wave streamers, watch fireworks, eat apple pie and hot dogs, and take tiny American flags with them as souvenirs. They will engage in prayers lifted up for our nation and witness the familiar musical parade of service members entering the stage to the tunes of “Anchor’s Aweigh,” Semper Paratus,” “The Marines’ Hymn” and the like, as fellow soldiers in the crowd stand when their branch of service is called up from the score. Some will salute to honor the living while others will salute to honor those who have passed on. With all the attention we place on our appreciation for the Armed Forces and likewise, learning the history of our early United States, it might be interesting to also study how the six branches of service came into existence from their very formation to the grand force of courage and strength that they are today. We should not take for granted the modern-day capabilities of these units and the sacrifice it took from each service member to defend and protect the United States at home and abroad.



Army – After the battles of Lexington and Concord took place, the second Continental Congress created the Continental Army on June 14, 1775, to unite the thirteen colonies and mount a show of force, resistance and strength against the British Army. The very next day, George Washington was appointed by Congress to be the first Commander-in-Chief. It was also decided that 10 separate expert riflemen companies would be formed to serve as light infantry, thus growing the Army in quick fashion from the start. Since the creation of

this body of men occurred even before the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Army served as America’s first national institution. The transition to the modern-day Army was on June 3, 1784, after the conclusion of the American Revolution, making the Army the oldest branch of the Armed Forces.



AMERICANISM REPORT



Navy – British supply ships were headed toward America and became a threat to the colonists during the Revolutionary War. In response, the Continental Congress established a Continental Navy on October 13, 1775, and commissioned two armed vessels to combat the British. One of them, the *USS Alfred*, from Philadelphia, was the Navy's first ship. At the time, the newly formed government had limited funds, so these first vessels were merchant ships that were ruggedly outfitted for defense purposes. The Navy was disbanded after the War, as Congress did not want to have a standing militia at peace time. However, pirates and foreign entities began attacking U.S. merchant ships in the Mediterranean Sea, so Congress quickly passed the Naval Act of 1794 to re-establish the Navy, and commissioned a series of six frigates, including the *USS Constitution*, to bolster the safety of American sea travelers and supply ships, and to protect our shores.



Marines – Congress needed additional troops who had the capability to join forces on land or sea, so on November 10, 1775, upon John Adams' resolution, the Continental Marines were established. The first Marines were recruited in Tun Tavern in Philadelphia and were led by Captain Samuel Nicholas. Their mission: to land on the shore of New Providence in the Bahamas to capture a British fort there and take over a large supply of gunpowder. Like the two prior branches, the Marines was disbanded upon conclusion of the war but were re-established on July 11, 1798, in response to rising conflicts the U.S. had with France. Although there are two formation dates, the Marines officially recognize November 10, 1775, as the beginning of their branch of service.

Coast Guard – After the close of the Revolutionary War, the country was in debt and needing to collect tariffs for imports to stabilize the economy. But the Navy had been disbanded, so smuggling and other illegal operations abounded, keeping those critical funds from reaching the country. So, on August 4, 1790, President George Washington signed the Tariff Act, creating the U.S. Coast Guard. The proposition from Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton allowed for ten armed vessels, "revenue cutters," as they were called, to enforce trade laws, collect customs duties, and keep out smugglers from the shores. The U.S. Life-Saving Service was created in 1848 to patrol the coastlines and perform life-saving rescue operations for ships and passengers during maritime emergencies. On January 28, 1915, the Revenue Cutter Service and Life-Saving Service were combined through an Act of Congress to create the modern-day Coast Guard



Air Force – The formation of the Air Force was a process that occurred over several decades. It began when the US War Department established a small Aeronautical division under the Army Signal Corps on August 1, 1907. Then, a single heavy flying machine was purchased for the military from the Wright Brothers in 1909, and a small squadron of balloons and planes was formed by 1913. President Woodrow Wilson was concerned with how far behind the United States was in aviation compared with other European nations. So, he created the Army Air Service in 1918 and the push for independence as a



AMERICANISM REPORT



separate branch of service began. It took on different names, such as the Army Air Corps in 1926, then the Army Air Forces (AAF) in 1941, which was responsible for multiple duties during World War II, including aerial campaigns, bombing targets, and the use of the atomic bomb. The work of the AAF proved how vital this branch of service was in winning a war in a more modern age of technology that included international threats and enemies now able to reach American shores. President Harry Truman created the modern-day Air Force division of the Armed Forces through the passage of the National Security Act, and the Air Force became a reality on September 18, 1947.

Space Force – The U. S. Space Force is the newest branch of the military, officially established December 20, 2019, under President Donald J. Trump. The United States recognized threats from China and Russia to space and satellite security and previous space programs were strung out among multiple other branches of service, also interfering with their own funding, mission, and priorities. It made logical sense to break out the entire program into one independently functioning agency, so Congress wholeheartedly supported and signed bipartisan legislation to restructure under a separate branch through the Department of the Air Force and focus the program on goals such as carrying out global satellite operations, launches into space, and conducting defensive space operations. Members of the Space Force are called “guardians” rather than soldiers and do not fight in space but work to protect the United States airspace and security from foreign entities who might wish harm upon the country.



REMINDER – THESE EVENTS ARE OCCURRING NEAR YOU IN CELEBRATION OF AMERICA'S 250TH!



FREE ADMISSION: George W. Bush Presidential Library(July 3-6, 2026)

Explore the permanent exhibit, which offers a moving exhibit on September 11, 2001, a replica Oval Office, and an interactive experience in presidential decision-making through the Decision Points Theater.

<https://www.bushcenter.org/events-and-exhibits/bush-center-america-250-celebration>

***OFFICIAL AMERICA'S 250TH EVENT* - America's 250th Birthday Celebration** (July 4, 2026)

This celebration will extend along Main Street and will feature a classic car show, kids activities, a snowball fight, a pie-eating contest with Norma's Café, Fletcher's Corn Dogs and food trucks, family activities, and photo opportunities throughout the park and along Main Street.

<https://downtowndallas.com/event/americas-250th-birthday-celebration/>

City of Plano: All American 4th (July 4, 2026)

Come celebrate America's 250th anniversary at the All-American 4th event. Join us on Saturday, July 4 for an unforgettable evening of free family fun, including games, food and drinks (available for purchase) and a spectacular fireworks show at 9:30pm. <https://www.plano.gov/1042/All-American-4th>

Sources:

<https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/heritage/origins-of-the-navy/birth-of-the-us-navy.html>

<https://www.clemson.edu/business/academics/air-rotc/about/history.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Armed_Forces

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Space_Force



AMERICANISM REPORT



The work took six years and three committees, but in 1782 it was Charles Thomson who landed on the majestic seal of the eagle holding the olive branch and arrows in its talons; a symbolic statement of peace and war - a head turned to the olive branch and desiring peace, but ready at a moment's notice to defend freedom. The patriotic shield on the breast of the eagle was, in Thomson's words, a shield "without any other supporters to denote that the United States of America ought to rely on their own Virtue." The original thirteen colonies were remembered in the number of arrows, stripes on the shield, and in the stars above the eagle. "E Pluribus Unum," our country's motto, is the Latin phrase "Out of many, one" and remembers the union of the original colonies. Today, the Great Seal of the United States resides with the Secretary of State and can be found on many important documents, such as treaties and commissions, and on the reverse of the \$1 bill. It is a bold symbol of strength, honor, peace and courage that represents America all over the world.



America 250 Celebrations are happening all around town in the months leading up to our country's anniversary. We will feature several of these events in upcoming newsletters.

250 Years of Us: Reading America's Past, Writing Our Future (June 25, 2026)

Hosted by the Dallas Historical Society, E Pluribus Texas Exhibition: An exhibit at The Hall of State (Texas State Fair grounds) highlighting Texas history and its connection to the American Story. https://www.dallashistory.org/event/e_pluribus_texas_2026

FREE ADMISSION: George W. Bush Presidential Library, celebrating the 250th (July 3-6, 2026)

Celebrate America's 250th anniversary with free admission to the George W. Bush Presidential Museum July 3-6 only. Explore the permanent exhibit, which offers a moving exhibit on September 11, 2001, a replica Oval Office, and an interactive experience in presidential decision-making through the Decision Points Theater. <https://www.bushcenter.org/events-and-exhibits/bush-center-america-250-celebration>

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AMERICANISM REPORT



***OFFICIAL AMERICA'S 250TH EVENT* - America's 250th Birthday Celebration** (July 4, 2026)

In partnership with Downtown Dallas, a family-friendly celebration honoring America's 250th birthday will extend from Main Street Garden along Main Street during Social Saturday and will feature a classic car show, kids activities, a snowball fight, a pie-eating contest with Norma's Café, Fletcher's Corn Dogs and food trucks, family activities, and photo opportunities throughout the park and along Main Street. Attendees are encouraged to continue the July 4 celebration just a few blocks north with afternoon and evening festivities at Klyde Warren Park.

<https://downtowndallas.com/event/americas-250th-birthday-celebration/>

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<https://www.plano.gov/1042/All-American-4th>

Sources:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zo0bdC_1TLw

<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-history>

<https://diplomacy.state.gov/the-great-seal/>

I want to thank the Plano Republican Women for the opportunity to visit and speak about local government budgeting and the importance of transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Several attendees have asked for a copy of the presentation, so I am happy to share it here: <https://www.michaelslaughter.com/budget-presentation>

If you have any questions about the presentation, county government, or local budgeting, please feel free to reach out to me at Michael@MichaelSlaughter.com or by phone at [469-922-4427](tel:469-922-4427). I am always happy to visit with residents and discuss the issues that matter most to our community.

Michael Slaughter

Candidate - Collin County Commissioner Pct 2

www.MichaelSlaughter.com

469-922-4427

PRW at RPT Convention



Political Action Hours

by Political Action Chair Jennifer Groysman



Even though we are not meeting during the summer, please remember to turn in your hours on our website.

www.planorepublicanwomen.org

Keep the challenge going! 10 hours per month!



What counts as

Political Activity Hours

- **Attending Political Meetings**
 - Political Events & Fundraisers
 - County or State GOP meetings
 - School Board or City Council meetings
- **Travel**
 - Any time you spend traveling to and from political events and meetings.
- **Legislative Advocacy**
 - Time spent calling, writing, about legislative issues

- **Campaign Activities**
 - Block walking, sign waving, phone banking, digital work
 - Running for office
- **Election Support**
 - Election Judge, Election Clerk, Deputy Voter Registrar
- **Appointed or Elected Service**
 - Prep time, travel time, and attendance at meetings you were appointed or elected to serve at any level

Any political activity you do that is not for your primary job counts!

CARING FOR AMERICA



Your Gift Changes Lives – Donate Today

The Agape Resource & Assistance Center in East Plano, TX, helps women, moms and their children facing situational homelessness. With the help of case workers and counselors, women and children typically stay with Agape from 6 months to a year, during which time they gain the skills, strength and stability for self-sufficiency. **Bring donations to the meeting.**

Move in Items:

- Laundry Baskets tall baskets or collapsible
- Coloring Books
- Planners (no dates)
- Trash Cans (small for bedroom)
- Tumblers/Water Bottles for kids and women
- Welcome Mats for our homes
- Treats/Snacks for welcome bags, like chocolate and candy
- Heating pads
- Cozy socks

Move Out Items:

- Trash Bags
- Deodorant
- Shampoo and conditioner for curly hair
- Swiffer Mop Replacement Pads
- Kids toothpaste
- Diaper Cream
- Kids Tylenol
- Kids ibuprofen
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper



Membership Report

by Membership Chair Joan Hart

Many Thanks To Our Club Patrons

These members have donated \$100.00 in cash, given items to the club, or paid budgeted expenses valued at \$100.00 or more.

Debby Arrant

Deb Blencowe

Doreen Cruz

Ushma Ferguson

Catherine Gibb

Jennifer Groysman

Joan Hart

Madelon Issaeff

Donna Krauss

Cleo Marchese

Lynn McCoy

Dana Sickler

Merrie Spaeth

Kathy Ward

Di Wike

We are currently accepting Membership Renewals for 2026! And we always welcome new members!

**Membership dues can be paid at the meeting, online through our website
<https://planorepublicanwomen.org/become-a-member>**

**Or checks can be mailed to Plano Republican Women, P O Box 940461,
 Plano, TX 75094-0461.**

Memberships:

\$40 Full Active Single Membership (PRW receives \$15, TFRW and NFRW receive \$25)

\$45 Full Active Membership with Spouse

\$25 Associate Membership – for Men or Active Members of other Republican Women Clubs

\$20 Young Affiliate (young woman, age 10-17)

\$140 Patron Member (includes Full Active Single Membership)

\$145 Patron Member with Spouse

[Become a Member](#)

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STATE of TEXAS
HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

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296TH DISTRICT COURT

John R. Roach, Jr.
Presiding Judge

Collin County Courthouse
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McKinney, Texas 75071

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Metro: (972) 424-1460, Ext. 4409
296@collincountytx.gov



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366TH DISTRICT COURT

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380TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

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Tammy Sharkey, Coordinator
Charla Reamy, Court Reporter
Ty Jones, Bailiff



PIPER McCRAW
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COLLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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Court Administrator, Shannon Reynolds • Court Reporter, Stephanie Hunn
Bailiff, Shane Capps

SCOTT GRIGG

Conservative Republican
for
Collin County Tax Assessor Collector



JIM SKINNER
SHERIFF

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972.547.5100 Office
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sheriffskinner@collincountytx.gov
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Plano Republican Women is an American political club, bringing together women to positively impact the direction of our nation. We come together as a collective force advancing the power of women through political access and participation.

Our mission is to see women from all age groups and walks of life as key players at the political table of national, state, and local issues.

