

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

December 2025

President's Byline



The Influence of Democrat Political Rhetoric on Violence Against Law Enforcement

In recent years, hateful political rhetoric against law enforcement has normalized violence against the police, ICE agents, and the National Guard. On November 27, 2025, two National Guard members, identified as Specialist Sarah Beckstrom, 20, and Staff Sergeant

Andrew Wolfe, 24, were shot in an ambush-style attack near the White House in Washington, D.C. in the latest act against law enforcement. Both were from the West Virginia National Guard. They were deployed as part of a high-visibility group to bring down crime in the Nation's capital. Democrats were quick to criticize the president and the National Guardsmen for being there in the first place.

Analysts and citizens alike have observed a correlation between the nature of political rhetoric against all forms of law enforcement and the frequency or intensity of violent incidents. The Democrat party is on the front line for this new wave of violence we are seeing. Below are common tactics used to control or influence certain parts of the population.

Political rhetoric used to refer to normal language, messaging, and communication strategies employed by politicians, parties, and political movements to persuade, mobilize, or influence the public in peaceful activities. In recent years, political rhetoric has been amplified by mass media, social platforms, and instant communication, allowing messages to reach vast audiences rapidly. It has also taken on a darker turn when used by the Dems, many whom are members of Congress who see *hot button* rhetoric as a way to energize unstable or vulnerable parts of the population towards goals they need. Examples are using one or two topics of hatred towards one group or person to achieve mass voting or support going into voting cycles for Democrat candidates using misinformation, fear, or outlandish rhetoric.

Polarization: Rhetoric often emphasizes "us vs. them" narratives, deepening divisions between groups. We saw this in 2020 when the George Floyd riots were used to attack the police and create more public unrest during COVID to destabilize President Trump during an election cycle. The phrase 'All Cops Are Bad' was used to describe a small proportion of deaths by law enforcement. While ignoring CDC data that 40% of the

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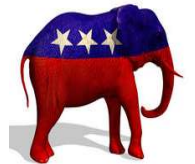
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Calendar of Events

Christmas/Hanukkah Party
(Details on page 4.)
12/2/2025

Next Board Meeting
1/6/2026, 11:30
Napoli's Restaurant
West Plano

Next General Meeting
1/20/2026, 11:30
Saltgrass - East Plano



Continued on Page 2

PRW President's Byline (continued)

deaths of young black males are homicides, and 82% of those murders are by other black males.

Emotional Appeals: Politicians increasingly use fear, anger, and resentment to energize their base. This can be seen every day on social media. Last week, Sen. Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.), Sen. Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.), Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D-Pa.), Rep. Chris Deluzio (D-Pa.), Rep. Maggie Goodlander (D-N.H.) and Rep. Jason Crow (D-Colo.) encouraged the military to disregard orders they *feel* are illegal coming from command or President Trump. Unhinged people can easily make the next illogical leap that if the military personnel are going to stop obeying "illegal orders" then I as a concerned citizen need to take actions into my own hands. These people are also vulnerable to a misplaced belief they will be elevated to hero status.

Misinformation and Conspiracy Theories: False or misleading claims are sometimes used to delegitimize opponents or institutions. Examples of this behavior are false claims that law makers and law enforcement agencies are "*acting outside of the law*". So, they should be stopped at all costs. From harassment of ICE agents to ambushing ICE agents with the intent to kill. Something that has been revived from the earlier War on the Police from just 2 years ago.

Dehumanization: Opponents may be described in terms that undermine their humanity or legitimacy. Law enforcement is described as Nazis, or ICE as modern day slave patrol which is ironic because the out-of-control illegal immigration has brought back widespread indentured servitude to the Cartel in the United States. Human trafficking in all age groups, especially minors, and large-scale sex trafficking allows people here illegally to continue to be marginalized as slave laborers and paid below the living wage.

Calls to Action: Some rhetoric explicitly or implicitly encourages direct action, which can include protest or violence. There are so many examples of Democrat calls to action that incite violence against law enforcement or from the above mentions six Congressional members recent video to Jasmine Crockett, AOC, Gavin Newsom, Dick Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Hillary Clinton, the mayors of US sanctuary cities, etc., that I cannot list them all in one article.

Legitimizing Aggression: When leaders use hot button language that justifies hostility or frames violence as a legitimate response, some followers may feel empowered to act. When the ICE Blocker app came out on the Apple store, it was applauded by liberal media and Democrats alike as being positive way to stop ICE. Democrat congressional members even tried to get federal funding for it. This year, attacks on ICE officials have increased by 400%. ICE officers experience daily loud whistles, pepper spray, physically being blocked from arresting criminals, and shootings at ICE facilities. Illegal aliens and ICE officials alike have been killed. Mainstream things like the ICE Blocker app on the Apple store legitimized violence. This crowd source funded app is being advocated by celebrities and Democrat politicians *as a legitimate, effective way to combat the legal deportation of people who are here illegally*. We have heard this sentiment repeatedly, and it has probably caused the numerous assaults on the ICE agents and the police officers sent to protect them.

Mobilizing Extremist Groups: Targeted messages can rally fringe or extremist elements, inciting them to action. We saw Black Lives Matter become out of control in 2020 and 2021. Antifa has recently become

PRW President's Byline (continued)

designated as a terrorist organization. This is good because Antifa has been called the modern-day military arm of the Democrat party, a replacement for the KKK. I applaud President Trump taking action against them. Law enforcement was often one of their targets with different chapters trying to burn down occupied police buildings and spray painting ACAB (the abbreviation for All Cops Are Bad) on them.

Unfortunately, we are at a tipping point in this country. Violence against political adversaries and law enforcement has become so normalized that more attacks only stay in the news for a few news cycles and are then forgotten. Constant exposure to aggressive or hateful rhetoric desensitizes the public, making more violence seem acceptable or inevitable. In this last attack on the two National guardsmen, some people blamed President Trump citing that if he had not had them out there trying to stop the violence and crime in DC, they never would have died. Stopping high crime and violence are now seen as futile and racist which gives Democrats the areas of hopelessness they need to stay in power. Cities filled with high crime, unaffordable safe housing, and poor educational opportunities for most citizens are easier to control. You can tell these people anything, and they will believe you. The rest are made to feel bad if they voice any concerns about crime, immigration, education, high taxes etc. Recent years have witnessed several incidents where heated political rhetoric was linked to violent acts. With the death of Charlie Kirk, more people have opted for silence in the political arena leaving only a few to combat the sea of imbalanced, hateful rhetoric from the Left. Even libertarians overwhelmingly cite Team Blue as spewing daily hate-filled political rhetoric to stay relevant or to pander to their base. I don't have a solution to this problem; I am hoping by making more people aware of the true nature of this problem, of how deep and insidious it is, lawmakers on the Right will do something. Even if it is just through public education or shaming of the shameless. We cannot continue normalizing daily violence against an opposing party or against the people who uphold our laws through law enforcement. Bringing back faith and respect will help. This country is based on Judeo-Christian values to humanize people and not allow them to easily be dehumanized by people for profit or political gain. History shows the more secular a society becomes the quicker it fails.

Cleo Marchese

prw_president@planorepublicanwomen.org



PRW Meetings/Events

No December Meeting. Christmas/Hanukkah Party December 2, 2025.



Our Next Meeting is January 20, 2026.

General Meeting 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, entree with vegetable, and dessert.

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

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

To RSVP send an email to: rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org.

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



Attention Incoming Officers and Board Members:

TEXAS FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN
WOMEN

Leadership Day 2026 *WHERE THE RED BEGINS*

“Retention, Education, and Deployment”

TFRW Leadership Day 2026 is fast approaching. Please consider attending as this is an immersive training event that will help you manage your new position.

Early Bird registration for Leadership Day ends December 15, 2025.

More information available at <https://www.tfrw.org/events/>.



November Meeting Photos





Legislative Report

Plano Residents To Vote On Keeping DART

On November 5, 2025 the Plano City Council agreed to hold a ballot referendum election in May 2026 on the question of staying in or leaving Dallas Area Rapid Transit. Irving, Highland Park and Farmers Branch will also hold a ballot referendum election to see if each of them should leave or stay in DART. Addition City Council will discuss putting the question on their ballot at a December 2, 2025 meeting.

DART and Plano have had their differences. It started in 2019 when a Plano City Councilman asked some basic questions. “How much money does the city contribute to DART? How many people ride it? How can we get more effective service? How much does DART spend in Plano?” According to him, “Instead of answers, for nearly six years, through three legislative sessions, we got misdirection, smokescreens and numerous empty promises.”

Before the Covid 19 pandemic, DART’s ridership was going down, but after the virus ridership dropped like a rock. Today ridership is still well below pre-pandemic levels. Yet, Plano’s contribution to DART has gone up every year.

Plano gives one cent of its two cents in sales tax it collects from every transaction to DART. That was the agreement that was made back in 1983. No matter how many Plano people ride DART, or how good the service is, DART gets that penny. Last year Plano gave \$109 million to DART and only got \$44 million in service. Next year Plano predicts to give \$123 million for the same amount of service. It does not matter if DART has one person riding it or 100, or if the service is terrible or great, DART still gets the \$123 million. DART does not have any intensive to improve.

If the residents of Plano vote to leave DART, service will stop. However, that does not mean Plano will not have any public transportation. Plano can contract for the DART services that it thinks works. For example, Plano can contract for the light rail. Plano is also working on having its own public transit system. We would also have to finish paying off our portion of DART debt. Once that is paid off Plano can use the full cent for its own needs.

You have until May to decide if you want to stay with DART or leave. If you want more information, reach out to Former Councilman Williams and those currently on City Council.

Jennifer Groysman
Political Action Chair



AMERICANISM REPORT

by Ellen Leyrer



FRANCES PERKINS: THE WOMAN WHO MADE “NEVER AGAIN” AMERICAN LAW

DECEMBER 1, 2025

She watched 146 women burn to death because factory owners locked the doors.

Twelve years later, she helped rebuild America’s conscience.

As a girl, **Frances Perkins** couldn’t understand why good people lived in poverty. Her father told her that the poor were lazy or weak. Frances knew that couldn’t be true.

At Mount Holyoke College, she studied physics — safe, respectable, and appropriate for a young woman of her time. But then came the field trip that changed her life. Her professor took students to tour factories along the Connecticut River.

What she saw was not progress. It was bondage.

Girls, younger than she, were bent over machines for twelve-hour shifts, six days a week, in rooms without windows, air, or exits. Fingers lost to gears. Lungs blackened by dust. Childhoods spent making profits for men they’d never meet.

In that moment, Frances understood that knowledge means little unless it serves human dignity.

She abandoned the “safe” path — marriage, piano lessons for rich children — and chose instead the hard road of reform. She earned a master’s degree in economics and sociology from Columbia University, writing her thesis on malnutrition in New York’s Hell’s Kitchen. Her family was appalled. “Nice girls” didn’t live among immigrants or study poverty.

Frances didn’t care what nice girls did. She cared what was right.

By 1910, she was **Executive Secretary of the New York Consumers League**, inspecting factories, exposing abuses, and testifying before lawmakers. Clean bakeries. Safe exits. Reasonable hours. These were her weapons against exploitation.

Men in power sneered. Newspapers mocked. She pressed on.

Then came **March 25, 1911** — the day that burned itself into history.

Frances was taking tea near Washington Square when the fire bells sounded. Following the smoke, she reached the **Triangle Shirtwaist Factory**, a towering inferno filled with trapped workers. The owners had locked the doors to prevent “theft” and “unauthorized breaks.”

She stood in the street and watched young women — some only fourteen — leap from the ninth floor rather than burn alive.

Continued on Page 8



AMERICANISM REPORT

by Ellen Leyrer



Their bodies struck the pavement like thunder. Again and again and again.

When the fire was out, **146 were dead.**

That day, Frances Perkins made herself a promise: **“Their deaths will not be in vain.”**

Within weeks, she joined the official commission investigating the disaster. She didn’t just write a report — she helped rewrite **New York’s entire labor code.**

- Unlocked, clearly marked fire exits.
- Sprinkler systems.
- Maximum occupancy limits.
- Regular safety inspections.
- A 54-hour maximum workweek and one day of rest per week.

Factory owners fought every rule. They called it “government overreach” and said it would ruin business. Frances responded with photos of the dead and testimony from the living. Her reforms passed — in New York first, then across the nation.

Industrial America never looked the same again.

She was called a communist, an old maid, and worse. She ignored it all. Her work was too important to pause for insults.

When **Franklin D. Roosevelt** became president in 1933, he faced the Great Depression and asked Frances to join his Cabinet as **Secretary of Labor** — the first woman ever to hold such a position. She was 53 years old.

Frances said she would accept — but only on her terms. She handed Roosevelt a handwritten list:

- A 40-hour workweek
- A minimum wage
- The end of child labor
- Unemployment insurance
- Old-age pensions

Roosevelt looked at her and said, “You know this is impossible.”

Frances replied, “Then find someone else.”

He didn’t. He appointed her.

For twelve years — longer than any Labor Secretary before or since — Frances Perkins turned those “impossible” goals into reality.

The **Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938** created the 40-hour week, overtime pay, and child labor restrictions.



AMERICANISM REPORT

by Ellen Leyrer



The **Social Security Act of 1935** gave Americans old-age pensions and unemployment insurance.

The laws weren't perfect — agricultural and domestic workers were excluded, a compromise she despised but accepted to get the bills passed. Still, millions of working Americans gained rights and protections they had never dreamed possible.

When Roosevelt died in 1945, she stepped down, having reshaped the moral foundation of American labor. Instead of retiring in comfort, she taught at Cornell University, lecturing on the dignity of work until her death in 1965.

Most people today don't know her name.

But they live every day in the world **Frances Perkins built**. Every time you're paid overtime — that's Frances Perkins. Every clearly marked fire exit — Frances Perkins. Every Social Security check, every unemployment benefit, every weekend off — Frances Perkins.

She stood on a street in 1911 and watched 146 women die because profit mattered more than human life. Then she spent the next fifty years making sure that would never be true again — not legally, not quietly, not without consequence.

She didn't just witness injustice. She **built the system that fought it**.

Her father said the poor were lazy or weak. Frances proved poverty was a policy choice — and policy could be changed.

She didn't seek fame. She sought fairness. And in doing so, she turned compassion into law, and tragedy into progress.

That's **Americanism**: When one person, armed only with courage and conviction, helps a nation remember its soul.

Sources: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094521249188>, <https://francesperkinscenter.org/>, <https://www.dol.gov/general/aboutdol/history/perkins>, <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/>, <https://search.archives.gov/search?query=frances+perkins&submit=&utf8=&affiliate=national-archives>

"History does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid."
– **Dwight D. Eisenhower**



"Liberty cannot be preserved without a general knowledge among the people."
– **John Adams**

Political Action Hours

by Political Action Chair Jennifer Groysman

Keep the challenge going! 10 hours per month!



Ladies, you can submit your hours on our website here: [Political Action Hours](#)

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!



Election Day is coming....

will you be prepared?

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. Di Wike, Chair.**

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 (kitchen, as many as you can get)
- Deodorant
- Shampoo and conditioner for curly hair
- Swiffer Mop Replacement Pads, off brand is fine, wet
- Kids toothpaste
- Diaper Cream
- Kids Tylenol
- Kids ibuprofen
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper



Abraham George, Chairman of the Republican Party of Texas

Why the Republican Party of Texas Must Have Closed Primaries

Texas stands at a crossroads. For decades, Republican voters, volunteers, and grassroots leaders have built this Party into the strongest conservative force in America. But our primary election system, an open primary system that allows every Democrat to participate in choosing the Republican nominee, weakens and destroys the integrity of our elections, dilutes the will of our voters, and threatens the direction of our Party. If Texas is serious about protecting conservative values, safeguarding our platform, and respecting the will of Republican voters, then closing the primaries is not just an option, it is a necessity.

Closed Primaries Protect the Republican Party from Democrat Interference

Under the current open primary system, anyone can vote in the Republican primary, including radical Democrats, wishy washy independents, and even liberal activists who openly oppose Republican policies. Let's just say Barack Obama moves to Texas, we cannot stop him from voting in the Republican primary. Do you think he is going to choose a conservative? This creates a loophole that can be weaponized. Democrats can cross over, not to support our strongest conservative candidates, but to elevate the weakest Republican in hopes that they will win more easily in November. We have seen this crossover sabotage strategy used in other states, and Texas is not immune. We saw this in the 2024 primary clearer than ever before.

A closed primary ensures that only registered Republicans choose our Republican nominees. It is common sense. The Republican Party, not the Democrat Party, not independents, should decide who carries the GOP banner into the general election.

Closed Primaries Strengthen the Grassroots and Respect Party Members

Every Republican voter in Texas, every precinct chair, every volunteer, every donor, every activist, has invested their time and energy into building this Party. Yet under the open primary system, people who knocked on a door for a radical Democrat, donated dollars to them, and supported the Democrat platform are still shaping our nomination process.

Closed primaries protect the voice of loyal Republicans. They ensure that Republican voters decide Republican direction, Republican activists shape Republican leadership, and Republican values, not outside influence, define our platform.

This is about respecting the members of the Party, like you, who carry the weight of victory every election cycle.

Closed Primaries Produce Stronger, More Accountable Conservative Candidates

When candidates are chosen only by Republican voters, the incentive shifts.

- Candidates must speak to actual Republican priorities
- Candidates cannot win by appealing to Democrat voters in a Republican race
- Elected officials become more accountable to their own Party and voters

Closed primaries sharpen the Party, strengthen our message, and allow Texas to send genuine conservatives, those who stand for life, liberty, limited government, border security, and parental rights, to Austin and Washington.

GOP GUEST ARTICLE

Closed Primaries Reduce Outside Money and Influence

National liberal groups have learned that one of the easiest ways to swing a Republican primary is to:

- Funnel money through PACs
- Promote fake Republican candidates
- Mobilize non-Republican voters to participate in the GOP primary

Our opponents know what is at stake. They know that influencing our internal elections is easier than winning general elections in a conservative state. Closing the primaries cuts off this avenue of manipulation and ensures our elections reflect Texas Republicans, not out of state political strategies.

The Majority of Republican States Already Use Closed Primaries

Across the country, red states from Florida to Kentucky to Idaho use some form of closed or semi closed primaries. Why. Because it strengthens their Party and protects their voters.

Texas is the largest, strongest Republican state in America. Yet we still operate under a primary system that gives outside groups unprecedented access to our electoral process. It is time for Texas to join the states that take Party integrity seriously.

Closed Primaries Are About Election Security, Not Exclusion

Closing the primaries is not about shutting people out. Any voter is welcome to participate by registering as a Republican. Closed primaries simply require a voter to declare which Party they belong to. This is normal, reasonable, fair, and standard practice in many states.

If someone wants to vote in the Republican primary, all they need to do is be a Republican. That is not exclusion. It is accountability.

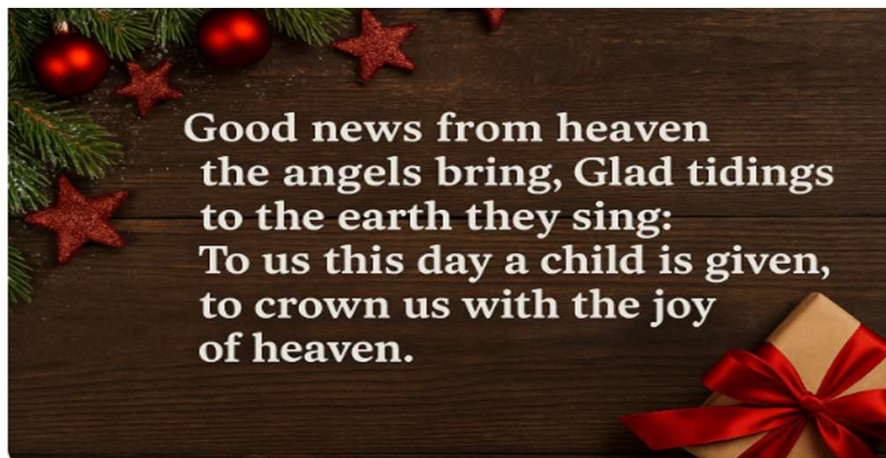
Where We Are Now

At the last convention, the Republican Party of Texas decided to have a closed primary. Throughout the 89th legislative session, I worked with Republican legislators to get closed primaries bills filed. Unfortunately, neither the House nor the Senate passed the closed primaries bills and provided nonsensical excuses.

Once the session was over, I decided to file a lawsuit against the State of Texas and the Secretary of State. As a Party, we have the right to associate with Republicans only and not let Democrats choose our nominees. A few days after the lawsuit, the State of Texas, under the leadership of our Attorney General Ken Paxton, joined our lawsuit and agreed that the Republican Party does in fact have the right of association and that the Secretary of State should allow us to close our primaries.

Unfortunately, Secretary of State Jane Nelson disagrees and has retained multiple law firms and committed over 1.25 million dollars of your tax dollars to fight the Republican Party from closing its primary. We are now in the process of this lawsuit. More information about the lawsuit and its filings can be found on our RPT website at texasgop.org.

As always, for the Plano Republican Women, I am just a phone call away. Thank you for what you all do to keep Texas Red and Strong. God bless you all. Merry Christmas.



Membership Report

by Membership Chair Ushma Ferguson

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.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Evelina Davitian-Abounayan | Debby Arrant |
| Deb Blencowe | Pat Donley |
| Ushma Ferguson | Catherine Gibb |
| Jennifer Groysman | Madelon Issaeff |
| Donna Krauss | Cleo Marchese |
| Lynn McCoy | Dana Sickler |
| Merrie Spaeth | Kathy Ward |

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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Commissioner, Precinct 2

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Ushma Ferguson, 2nd VP Membership

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Lynn McCoy, 3rd VP Awards

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December Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Kathy Ward | 12/1 |
| Leah Slaughter | 12/3 |
| Cynthia McDonald | 12/4 |
| Dianna Wike | 12/6 |
| Donna Krauss | 12/7 |
| Blair Petersen | 12/7 |
| Devin Fleming | 12/15 |
| Sheila Patterson | 12/15 |
| Stephanie Moncrief | 12/17 |
| Jessica Barnick | 12/18 |
| Teri O'Donnell | 12/19 |
| Denise Midgley | 12/22 |
| Sara Billingsley | 12/26 |
| Eileen McCoy | 12/26 |
| Cherie Wachholz | 12/27 |
| Jill Brooks | 12/28 |



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Vision and Mission Statement:

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.

