Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

February 2025

In This Issue

President's Byline



The Demise of the Democrat Party

In recent years, the Democratic Party has become increasingly out of touch with the American people. They are no longer seen as the party of the working class, Dems struggled to make a connection with voters in 2024. Many people feel they have become too focused on diversity and equity. Democrat leaders seem to only listen to Hollywood elites. They focus on identity politics, transgenderism, environmental extremism and DEI policies instead of the country as a whole. They have many

internal struggles within the ranks from the Pro- Palestinian Faction to the young Neo Democrats who believe America is inherently a racist country that needs all institutions dismantled.

In Democrat run cities and states - crime, and homelessness are high. They have bloated government agencies that are ineffective. For example, the management of California's wildfires has received criticism from everyone, they have destroyed the homes of working-class people and the wealthy alike. Their bloated bureaucratic delays and red tape have slowed down fire prevention efforts, such as thinning dense forests and conducting controlled underbrush burns. Governor Gavin Newsom's administration has been accused of mismanaging resources, destroying 4 necessary dams for political pandering and failing to prepare for wildfire seasons. The LA mayor passed a 17-million-dollar budget cut on the fire department, laid off firemen and gave excess equipment to Ukraine. Low water pressure and water shortages have hindered firefighting efforts. Devastating wildfires have been burning unchecked, causing loss of human life and property damage. Farmers and ranchers have lost livestock and crops. All of this has sparked a massive political backlash and calls for accountability. On top of all that, the head of the water department makes \$700,000 per year, almost double the presidential salary.

We have had political parties fail before, the demise of the Whig Party and the Bull Moose Party (Progressive Party) stemmed from a combination of internal divisions, shifting political landscapes, and external pressures. The same problems the Progressive Democrat is facing now.

The Whig Party was a major political force in the mid-19th century, opposing Andrew Jackson's Democratic Party. However, it disintegrated by the mid-1850s due to internal divisions over slavery. The party included both pro-slavery Southern Whigs and anti-slavery Northern Whigs. As the debate over slavery intensified in the 1850s, particularly with the Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854), the party was unable to maintain unity. They had a lack of a clear vison, just like the modern Democrat party. The Whigs opposed the Jacksonian Democrats but lacked unifying platform. Their focus on economic modernization and infrastructure appealed to some but did not resonate with the rest of the country. Also, when the Republican Party emerged in the 1850s as a direct response to the slavery issue, they guickly absorbed many former Northern Whigs. The Republican Party's clear stance on slavery and its broader appeal to Northern voters left little room for the Whigs to survive.

Another dead party is the Bull Moose Party or the Progressive Party from 1912–1916. The Bull Moose

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Calendar of Events

Next Board Meeting

February 4, 2025, 11:30

Napoli's Restaurant

Next General Meeting

February 18, 2025, 11:30

Saltgrass - East Plano





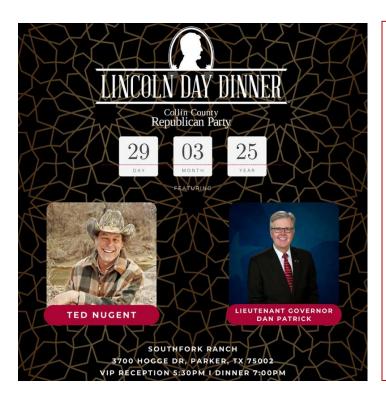
Party was formed by Theodore Roosevelt after he failed to secure the Republican nomination in 1912. Despite initial success, it quickly faded due to dependence on a single leader, Theodore Roosevelt and a small base of base of leaders or support under him. The Bull Moose Party split the Republican vote in the 1912 election allowing Democrat Woodrow Wilson to win. This demonstrated the difficulty of sustaining a third party in a two-party system. After Roosevelt's defeat, many Bull Moose supporters returned to the Republican Party. The party's platforms, such as progressivism and social reform, were gradually absorbed by both major parties, reducing its distinctiveness and turning them into a little remembered footnote in history.

Could the modern Democrat party face a similar fate?

The answer is yes, the survival of their party depends on their ability to adapt to changing political, social, and economic landscapes. Democrats have failed to address internal divisions and are losing relevance to most voters. Additionally, the Democrats don't have any compelling leadership. During the 2024 General Elections, they had two bad candidates for the presidency, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. They also had a slew of wacky, DEI candidates for every elected position at the federal, state and local level. After the massive failures of these people including the supposed gem of Democrat leadership in California, Gavin Newsom, the next prospective Democrat presidential candidate. I truly believe they are a dying party. The 2024 election saw significant losses for the Democrats, with many voters feeling that the party failed to address their concerns and needs. I honestly think this party will not be able to rebuild and reconnect with their base. We are already seeing them double down on everything that caused them to lose so dramatically in the 2024 elections. Frankly, I hope they continue down this path so we can see them take the same route as the failed parties of our past.



prw_president@ planorepublicanwomen.org



This annual fundraiser supports the county GOP and is a key event for conservatives in North Texas. The evening begins at 5:30 PM with a silent auction, exhibits, and VIP & general receptions, followed by dinner at 7:00 PM. The night wraps up with live music and dancing at 9:00 PM

You do not want to miss this important and exciting event. It consistently sells out, so GET_YOUR TICKETS NOW. Sponsorships, candidate tables, and more ticket details are available on the Collin County GOP website:

https://www.collincountygop.org/lincoln-day-dinner/.

LDD helps fund voter outreach, candidate support, and party initiatives amid efforts to shift Texas politically. Updates are found here https://www.instagram.com/collingop/.

Excellent opportunity to engage with fellow conservatives, support constitutional values, and contribute to keeping Texas Red.

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.

PRW February Meeting



NEXT GENERAL MEETING: February 18, 2025

Pat Fallon, Representative of Texas' 4th Congressional District Congressional News

Congressman Pat Fallon has proudly represented Texas' Fourth Congressional District since 2021. A staunch advocate for US national security, Congressman Fallon is a member of the House Armed Services Committee, where he serves as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. He also serves on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Committee on Oversight and Government Accountability.

Prior to his time in Congress, Pat Fallon represented North Texas in the State House and Senate. He also has enjoyed a decades-long successful entrepreneurial career, having founded over a dozen successful companies.

Congressman Fallon is a proud graduate of the University of Notre Dame where he played varsity football under legendary coach Lou Holtz and was a member of the 1988 National Championship team. Upon graduation, he received a commission to serve as an officer in the United States Air Force where he was stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, TX.

To raise funds and awareness for pediatric cancer research, Pat Fallon entered what has been billed as "the world's greatest endurance challenge" in 2016. He completed the World Marathon Challenge, a race where competitors attempt to run 7 marathons on 7 continents in 7 days, on January 29, 2016, becoming just the 15th person in the world to do so successfully. He is also the first (and still only) person to finish the World Marathon Challenge with no previous marathon experience.)

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.

RSVPs for lunch must be made by 5 pm Friday, February 12, 2025

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

January Photos





























AMERICANISM REPORT

I 🧼 America

by Ellen Leyrer

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT: LEADERSHIP, LEGACY, AND LESSONS IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FEBRUARY 1. 2025

Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR), the 32nd President of the United States, is remembered as a transformative leader who guided the nation through two of its most significant crises: the Great Depression and World War II. His presidency, spanning from 1933 to 1945, saw sweeping changes in the role of the federal government and America's position on the world stage. While FDR's legacy is marked by both achievements and controversies, his leadership during times of immense difficulty offers valuable lessons in civic engagement and underscores the importance of citizens actively participating in their democracy.

When FDR took office in 1933, the United States was in the throes of the Great Depression, with widespread unemployment, failing banks, and widespread poverty. Roosevelt understood that bold action was necessary to restore public confidence and revive the economy. His New Deal program introduced a series of economic reforms and social welfare initiatives aimed at providing relief, recovery, and reform. Key programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Works Progress Administration (WPA), and Social Security fundamentally reshaped the relationship between the government and its citizens. (Who knew how far social programs would go? But that's a topic for another day.)

At the heart of FDR's approach was a commitment to ensuring that ordinary Americans could maintain hope in the future. His famous words, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself," delivered during his first inaugural address, served not just as reassurance but as a call for collective action. He believed that the government had a responsibility to create opportunities for its citizens, but he also understood that lasting recovery required the active engagement and effort of the people. By involving ordinary Americans in programs like the CCC and WPA, Roosevelt encouraged a sense of shared purpose and demonstrated that civic participation could directly improve society.

Despite these achievements, FDR's presidency was not without controversy. His attempt to expand the Supreme Court in 1937, often referred to as the "court-packing" plan, was widely criticized as an overreach of executive power. Additionally, his decision to sign Executive Order 9066, which led to the internment of over 110,000 Japanese Americans during World War II, remains one of the darkest stains on his legacy. These actions serve as a reminder that even great leaders are fallible and that the vigilance of engaged citizens is essential in holding their government accountable.

FDR's leadership during World War II solidified his place in history. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, he rallied the nation to support the war effort and led the Allied powers to victory.

One of FDR's most enduring contributions was his articulation of the **Four Freedoms**: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. These ideals, presented in his 1941 State of the Union address, provided a moral framework for the war effort and continue to serve as guiding principles for American democracy. They remind us that freedom is not simply the absence of oppression but the presence of opportunity and security for all.

As citizens today, we can draw inspiration from FDR's era and his emphasis on collective effort. The challenges we face—whether economic, social, or environmental—require engaged and informed citizens who are willing to participate in their communities and advocate for solutions. FDR's legacy teaches us that democracy is not a spectator sport; it demands the involvement of every individual. By voting, staying informed, volunteering, and holding our leaders accountable, we honor the spirit of Roosevelt's call to action.

In conclusion, Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency offers a compelling narrative of leadership, resilience, and the power of civic engagement. His policies and vision transformed the United States and provided hope during some of its darkest hours. While his actions were not without flaws, his legacy underscores the importance of citizens playing an active role in shaping their government and society. Just as FDR inspired Americans to rise to the challenges of his time, we too must take responsibility for the future of our nation by embracing our roles as engaged citizens in the ongoing pursuit of freedom and justice for all.

Political Action Hours

by Political Action Chair Jennifer Groysma



Keep the challenge going! 10 hours per month!



Connections



Please join other PRW members for Connections, following our General Meeting.

Let's plan to work together for an hour or so. Come and go as your schedule allows.

Bring your staplers, scissors and pens and you will be prepared for whatever we tackle!

Our projects continue to evolve.

Whatever we do, we will get to do it together.

The tasks may change but the Connections will remain.

As per NFRW bylaws, PRW will not endorse any candidate for public office in contested Republican Primaries, Runoff Elections, Special Elections and/or non-partisan elections when more than one Republican is in the race. All Republican Candidates are welcome to contact us for more information.

Political Action Report

By Jennifer Groysman

I am happy to report that the final total hours for 2024 for Plano Republican Women is 13,603. Great job ladies. 2025 is a convention year for all Texas Federated Republican Women clubs. That means it is time to apply for awards. TFRW has an award for the lady with the most political action hours. I will have the honor of submitting the name of our club member with the most hours for the award. So, ladies, remember to submit your hours. Every hour counts and makes a difference. Also, don't forget to add up your travel time to and from events, meetings, activities, and when you go vote. We are already off to a great start in January. So far, our members submitted 2,174 hours. Excellent work, ladies.

You can submit your hours on our website here: Political Action Hours

Legislative Update

By Jennifer Groysman

The 89th legislative session is open. So far House members voted on a Speaker and rules for this session. As of 1/27/2025 2,192 bills have been filed.

The first bill on school choice is SB2 by Creighton, Bettencourt, Campbell, Hagenbuch, Hinojosa, Adam, King, Middleton, Parker, and Paxton. The bill relates to the establishment of an education savings account program. You can read the bill here, https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=SB2.

There have been 55 bills filed about the border. Three bills were filed about the power grid, and 17 about lobbying. If you would like to look up bills that have been filed, you can go to https://capitol.texas.gov/Home.aspx.

The lone Collin County Democrat in HD 70, Rep Plesa, filed a bill (H.B.1220). It relates to exceptions to laws prohibiting abortion. The bill adds the following language to the code. "Subsection (a) does not prohibit a physician from performing an abortion if: (1) the pregnant woman is 35 years of age or older or has a high-risk condition, as determined by the physician; or (2) the pregnancy resulted from in vitro fertilization." You can read the full bill here,

https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=HB1220.

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.

Cathie Alexander Debby Arrant

Sara Billingsley Deb Blencow

Ushma Ferguson Nuray Fuller

Catherine Gibb Jennifer Groysman

Madelon Issaeff Donna Krauss

Pam Little Cleo Marchese

Lynn McCoy

We are currently accepting Membership Renewals for 2025! And we always welcome new members!

Membership dues can be paid at the meeting by cash or check, or 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 65094.

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)



Legislative Update from Representative Pat Fallon (TX-04)

- All committees have organized, but few have began hearings. As committee work picks up, I
 will be sure to update everyone.
- At the end of the 118th Congress, Congressman Fallon introduced the <u>Safeguard American Innovation Act</u>. This bill is vital to securing our nation's technology and deterring foreign threats, particularly from China. Recent cyberattacks like SolarWinds and Salt Typhoon have shown how vulnerable our defense and IT systems are to foreign interference. This bill will take action to prevent this by blocking any Department of Defense (DOD) contracts with companies tied to China that could jeopardize our national security.
- Last week, the Congressman led a <u>letter</u> to the United States Senate urging his colleagues to swiftly confirm President Trump's cabinet nominations.
- This week, Congressman Fallon led a <u>letter</u> congratulating the President's recent nomination for Director of the Secret Service. The letter also asks that the new director take a careful look at the final report compiled by the Task Force that investigated the assassination attempts on President Trump.

District

- In TX-04, the district team has been hard at work for our constituents:
 - o In January alone, they have returned \$44,000 to constituents.
 - Members of our team have visited with the newly elected Sheriff in Grayson County. They have also spent time with the new District Attorney in Grayson County, learning how he and his staff plan to address the backlogged cases head-on.
 - Our VA team has spent the last few weeks visiting with several veteran service officers and VFW groups to determine how we can better serve our veterans community.
 - We have also been working on finalizing our academy nominations and Valentines for Vets (V for V). V for V is a program where children across the district write cards of appreciations to veterans. Later, these cards are delivered by staff.

For the 119th Congress, the Congressman has been selected to serve on the following committees/subcommittees.

- House Armed Services Committee
 - Military Personnel (Chairman)
 - Cyber, Information Technology, & Innovation
- House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
 - Subcommittees -- TBD
- House Committee on Oversight & Accountability
 - Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation
 - Delivering on Government Efficiency

As well as being chosen for the above committees, Congressman Fallon was also elected by his peers to serve on the House Steering Committee.

Oath to the Constitution: What Adherence Truly Means

By: Michael Boldin | Published on: Jan 6, 2025

"If their duty, their honor, and their oaths will not bind them, let us not put into their hands our liberty and all our other great interests."

These are the powerful words of Gouverneur Morris, the "Penman of the Constitution" and author of its preamble.

Morris did not mince words during the Philadelphia Convention of 1787, and his warning remains essential today.

Politicians across the spectrum routinely violate their oaths to the Constitution, and rarely, if ever, face accountability.

Why? Perhaps the answer lies in ignorance, fear, or a lack of self-respect among the people who tolerate these transgressions.

Let's explore the original understanding of the oath to the Constitution, its foundational importance, and the dire consequences of its neglect.

The Oath: A Foundational Principle

The Constitution clearly outlines the requirement of an oath in two places.

Article II, Section 1, Clause 8 prescribes the presidential oath: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

For all other officers – federal and state – Article VI, Clause 3 mandates an oath or affirmation "to support this Constitution."

This comes with a critical caveat: no religious test "shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States."

The founding generation viewed the oath as so essential that Congress made it their first legislative act, and President George Washington signed it into law on June 1, 1789.

This landmark legislation regulated the administration of oaths, and provided a straightforward text: "I, A.B. do solemnly swear or affirm (as the case may be) that I will support the Constitution of the United States." This simplicity underscores the oath's critical importance to the founding generation.

Violating the Oath: A Serious Breach

St. George Tucker, a leading legal scholar of the early Republic, articulated the gravity of violating one's oath.

In his View of the Constitution of the United States, Tucker wrote: "Acts of Congress, to be binding, must be made pursuant to the Constitution; otherwise, they are **not laws**, but a mere **nullity** or, worse, **acts of usurpation**."

Tucker emphasized that unconstitutional acts amount to a theft of power from the people - a betrayal that turns final authority over to those who seize power unlawfully.

"Every such act is an act of usurpation in the government, and, as such, treason against the sovereignty of the people, which is thus endeavored to be subverted, and transferred to the usurpers."

Tucker explained the duty under the oath to oppose all usurpations of power:

"The people are not only not bound by them, but the several departments and officers of the governments, both federal, and state, are **bound by oath to oppose them**."

He then elaborated on the gravity of this responsibility: "For, being bound by oath to support the constitution, they must violate that oath, whenever they give their sanction, by obedience, or otherwise, to any unconstitutional act of any department of the government."

By this standard, any official who enforces or supports unconstitutional acts – even through mere acquiescence – is guilty of violating their oath.

The Modern Reality

Today, the federal government operates far beyond the limits of the Constitution, making it virtually impossible for officials to remain faithful to their oaths.

As Tucker observed, even mere obedience to an unconstitutional act constitutes a violation of one's oath.

The consequences of this systemic failure are profound. As Gouverneur Morris warned, entrusting power to those who disregard their oaths jeopardizes liberty itself.

If people with power lack the honor and integrity to uphold the Constitution, what is the point of giving them authority over our lives and freedoms?

An Appeal to Heaven

The founding generation understood an oath as an appeal to a higher power. As Oliver Wolcott explained during the Connecticut Ratifying Convention, an oath was "a direct appeal to that God who is the Avenger of Perjury."

Similarly, James Iredell of North Carolina described it as "a solemn appeal to the Supreme Being for the truth of what is said."

This belief reflected the deeply ingrained notion that an oath bound individuals to their word under divine scrutiny. It was not merely a formality but a sacred commitment.

Skepticism and Debate

Despite the widespread reverence for oaths, some of the founders expressed concerns.

Anti-Federalists feared the consolidation of power under the new Constitution and questioned whether the oath might exacerbate this trend.

Luther Martin, for instance, opposed requiring **state** officers to swear allegiance to the **federal** Constitution, arguing that it could conflict with their obligations under state constitutions.

Melancton Smith of New York proposed a reciprocal oath, requiring **federal** officials to swear to uphold **state** constitutions.

Without such balance, he believed the federal government would eventually overwhelm the states.

On the Federalist side, skepticism also existed. James Wilson dismissed oaths as a mere "left-handed security" and argued that good governance depended more on the character of officials than on formal promises.

Wilson elaborated during the Philadelphia Convention: "A good government did not need them, and a bad one could not or ought not to be supported."

Edmund Pendleton similarly questioned the efficacy of oaths, suggesting they were meaningless without a belief in divine accountability.

Pendleton elaborated in a letter to James Madison: "My last Criticism you will probably laugh at, tho' it is really a Serious one wth. me. Why require an Oath from Public Officers, and yet interdict all Religious Tests, their only Sanction?"

Pendleton believed this contradiction undermined the moral force of oaths.

He continued: "Those hitherto adopted have been narrow & illiberal, because designed to preserve Established modes of Worship; But since a belief of a future State of Rewards & Punishments, can alone give consciensious Obligation to Observe an Oath, It would seem that Test should be required or Oaths Abolished."

Despite this opposition from both sides, the vast majority at the founding were on board with the **principle** behind the oath – adherence to the Constitution. Edmund Randolph described that principle like this:

"The senators and representatives, members of the state legislatures, and executive and judicial officers are bound by oath or affirmation to support this constitution, but this only binds them to support it in the exercise of the powers constitutionally given."

A Call to Action

The founding generation recognized that the ultimate responsibility for holding officials accountable rests with the people.

As John Dickinson explained, it's up to the people of the several states to keep the federal government within the bounds of the Constitution: "IT IS THEIR DUTY TO WATCH, AND THEIR RIGHT TO TAKE CARE, THAT THE CONSTITUTION BE PRESERVED."

This duty is not passive. Dickinson likened it to the Roman tradition of vigilance during perilous times: "TO PROVIDE, THAT THE REPUBLIC RECEIVE NO DAMAGE."

Government-run schools and mainstream narratives often obscure this truth, promoting the illusion that only the government can check its own power.

In reality, it is up to the people to enforce the Constitution in part by refusing to support those who betray their oaths.

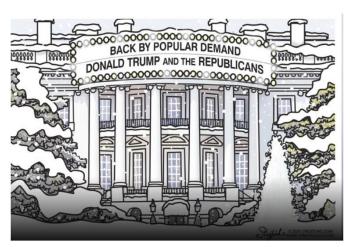
As St. George Tucker and others emphasized, acts of usurpation should be met with firm resistance, not compliance.

This principle remains as relevant today as it was in the founding era. Restoring fidelity to the Constitution also requires a vigilant and informed populace willing to hold their representatives to the highest standards.

The question remains: will "We the People" rise to this challenge, or will they allow the betrayal of the Constitution to continue unchecked?







Caring for America

BORDER CARE PROJECT

As part of our Caring for America program, we are continuing to send needed items for the Border Care Project.

Our Border Care Project is as important as ever, maybe more so with President Trump's push to deport illegal aliens.

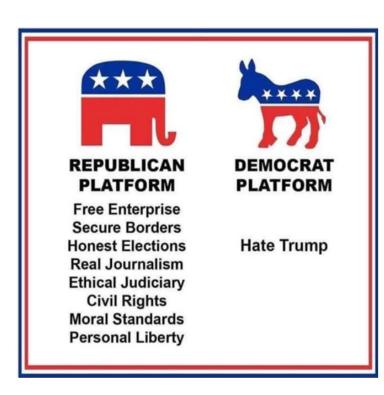
Kay Barnett is heading up this project and doing an amazing job. At each meeting you'll see her handing out brown paper bags with the list of items on it for us to take, contribute, and return.

Some suggested items are:

- Hand sanitizer
- Towelettes
- Wound Wash (i.e. Bactine)
- Powdered Electrolytes Mix (i.e. Gatorade, Propel...)
- Sunscreen

You can order and have it shipped directly from <u>Amazon</u>, https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/28N8E3MQJ6CZT

You can contact Kay at barnett66@me.com.





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sfletcher@collincountytx.gov 972.548.4676 office 972.567.4162 personal cell

2300 Bloomdale Rd., Suite 4192

Collin County Sheriff's Office 4300 Community Avenue

McKinney, Texas 75071

972.547.5100 Office

972.547.5303 Fax

SHERIFF

JIM SKINNER





Cheryl Williams

2300 Bloomdale Road, Suite 4192, McKinney, TX 75071 Metro (972) 424-1460, Ext. 4626 • Cell (214) 471-3126 Email cdwilliams@collincountytx.gov



Duncan Webb Commissioner, Precinct 4

2300 Bloomdale Rd., Suite 4192 • McKinney, Texas 75071 (972) 548-4631 • Metro (972) 424-1460, Ext. 4631 jdwebb@collincountytx.gov • www.collincountytx.gov



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sknapp@co.collin.tx.us Cell: (214) 250-7886 www.collincountytx.gov

(972) 881-3070 Fax: (972) 881-3143



Anthony Ricciardelli Place 2

City of Plano 1520 Avenue K Suite 300 Plano, TX 75074

sheriffskinner@collincountytx.gov www.collincountytx.gov/sheriff

> P.O. Box 860358 Plano, TX 75086-0358

> Tel: 972,941,7107 Cell: 972.345.8730 Fax: 972.423.9587 aricciardelli@plano.gov

plano.gov



JUDGE RANDY JOHNSON County Court at Law No. 5

2100 Bloomdale Rd., Ste. 20382 • McKinney, TX 75071 (972) 548-3850 • Metro (972) 424-1460, Ext. 3850 E-mail: rjohnson@co.collin.tx.us • www.collincountytx.gov



Shelby Williams Council Member

Place 5

City of Plano 1520 K Avenue Suite 300 Plano, TX 75074

P.O. Box 860358 Plano, TX 75086-0358

Tel: 972.941.7107 Cell: 469.367.1320 Fax: 972.423.9587 shelbywilliams@plano.gov

"The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of these United States are covenants we have made not only with ourselves, but with all mankind. Our founding documents proclaim to the world that freedom is not the sole prerogative of a chosen few. It is the Universal right of all God's children".

~Ronald Reagan

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MATT CARPENTER CONSTABLE PRECINCT 1

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Email: mcarpenter@co.collin.tx.us www.collincountytx.gov

(972) 548-4419 Fax: (972) 548-4785



george.flint@solidcounsel.com P: 214.472.2183 C: 214.773.9500

2600 Network Blvd, Suite 400 Frisco, Texas 75034 P: 214.472.2100 F: 214.472.2150 www.solidcounsel.com

"Resistance to tyranny becomes the Christian and social duty of each individual... Continue steadfast and with a proper sense of your dependence on God, nobly defend those rights which heaven gave, and no man ought to take from us."

~John Hancock, Founding Father

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GREG WILLIS

CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY COLLIN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 2100 Bloomdale Rd., Ste. 20004 McKinney, TX 75071

gwillis@collincountytx.gov

972.548.4330



JUDGE JILL R. WILLIS 429th Judicial District Court

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470@co.collin.tx.us Stacey Samples, Coordinator Major Pearson, Court Officer Tanner Feast, Court Reporter www.collincountytx.gov



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Kathy Ward, 1st VP Programs

Ushma Ferguson, 2nd VP Membership RSVP@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org

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Saltgrass Steakhouse Plano East 3320 North Central Expressway Plano, TX 75074 11:15 am check-in

11:30 am meeting, lunch and program Lunch is \$25 payable to PRW (Cash or Check) at the

> You do not have to have lunch to attend. But please RSVP to rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org