

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

July 2025

President's Byline



When Protests Cross the Line: The Growing Violence Toward Federal Officers

The past few months we have seen a sharp rise in violence against federal and local law enforcement who are trying to remove illegals from our country. People with long criminal histories like robbery, sexual assault, drug running—to a slew of crimes that have ended in

the deaths of American citizens. The left leaning press calls these attacks expressions of dissent against unlawful immigration enforcement officers who are terrorizing the immigrant community. Ironically, the same immigrant community will tell you leaving these types of serious criminals in their communities has caused more problems for them than removing the criminals. We have all seen the same host of characters the Dems trot out every time they want to protest something. Organized protestors like Antifa with bricks, Molotov cocktails, pepper spray, and blunt force weapons like bats, umbrellas and skateboards. Local, state, and congressional politicians are encouraging their constituents to continue targeting ICE officers nationwide. From organized ambushes to physical assaults and improvised weaponry, everyone supports the right to peacefully protest—but we all should strongly condemn attacks on our brave ICE, CBP, and law enforcement personnel. Studies show assaults on agents directly correlate with inflammatory language from various sources including talk shows, media outlets and social media.

Escalating Summertime Violence Against Federal Agents

Alvarado, TX — July 4th Ambush

At the Prairieland ICE Detention Center in Alvarado, a heavily coordinated assault saw 20–30 rounds fired at unarmed ICE correctional officers and an Alvarado police officer struck in the neck. The attackers, dressed in tactical gear and armed with rifles, lit fireworks and vandalized property before gunfire erupted from nearby woods. Ten individuals now face federal charges including attempted murder.

McAllen, TX — Border Patrol Shooting, July 7

In a separate incident just days later, a Michigan man armed with a semiautomatic rifle

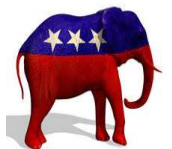
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Calendar of Events

Next Board Meeting
Aug 5, 11:30
Napoli's Restaurant
West Plano

Next General Meeting
Aug 19, 11:30
Saltgrass - East Plano



Continued on Page 2

PRW President's Byline (continued)

opened fire at a CBP border station. The ensuing firefight injured a local police officer and two Border Patrol agents—one by glass debris—and resulted in the shooter's death.

Los Angeles, CA — June Riots and Agent Injuries

During coordinated anti-ICE protests in early June, federal agents were besieged with rocks, glass bottles, broken concrete, and Molotov cocktails. At least one ICE agent suffered a hand injury when a rock shattered a vehicle windshield. Deputies sustained injuries from Molotov devices. LA law enforcement responded with tear gas, pepper balls, flash-bangs, and eventually a citywide tactical alert. One individual, later placed on the FBI's most wanted list, was recorded hurling concrete blocks at federal vehicles and was later arrested after fleeing to Mexico. Criminal prosecutions stemmed from these episodes: people charged with throwing fireworks at officers, driving motorcycles into police, and assaulting peace officers face severe sentences.

New York City — June 9–10 Clashes

What began as sit-in protests quickly devolved into disorder outside federal immigration courts. Protesters reportedly threw bottles at NYPD officers and obstructed streets, resulting in 86 arrests.

What we can do as Conservatives

The American people overwhelmingly voted for President Trump as the law-and-order president. Everyone is sick of the constant lawlessness that became pervasive during the Biden Administration. The border is currently at its lowest rate of crossings and apprehensions. Currently, the Democrats have an approval rating of nineteen percent, yet daily we see sitting members of Congress taking to social media telling people to resist and take it to the next level. Attacks against the police or ICE officers, whether using firearms, concrete blocks, or incendiary devices undermine public safety, cross constitutional boundaries, and trigger escalatory responses like National Guard and Marine deployments. The Dems are loving the violence and want it to get worse. They have convinced themselves and worse, their most unstable electorate that violence is the answer. As conservatives, we should all take seriously how dangerous the Dems have become and work on removing from office any elected officials who support civil unrest or violence against law enforcement. The midterms are coming, and the Dems see this as a way to get back in power. Their party leaders and movement organizers need to unequivocally denounce any violence directed at law enforcement, but they won't. So, they must go. We need to come together and work as hard as we did this past Fall for the General election to find good, solid conservative leaders who are disgusted by the irresponsible rhetoric framing ICE and Border Patrol as enemies of the American public and start working on getting them in office for the 2026 midterms.

It's time to clean house.

Cleo Marchese

[prw_president@ planorepublicanwomen.org](mailto:prw_president@planorepublicanwomen.org)

PRW August Meeting

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

August 19, 2025



Update on Artificial Intelligence

Steve Kinard

AI Innovation Association, President

Steve Kinard is the President of AI Innovation Association. Previously, he served as the Director of Policy and Director of Bitcoin Mining at the Texas Blockchain Council, an industry association dedicated to making Texas a leader in bitcoin innovation. He was instrumental in developing innovative programing and workforce development partnerships with universities while growing corporate membership in an emerging industry. He was actively involved in legislative advocacy regarding technology policy and opposing onerous regulation and federal government overreach. He also serves as Director of Development for Shalehaven Partners, a private fund focused on oil and gas investments.

He holds a BA in International Studies from Texas A&M University, an MBA from George Washington University, and lives in Richardson, Texas.

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.

Our Next Meeting is August 19, 2025.

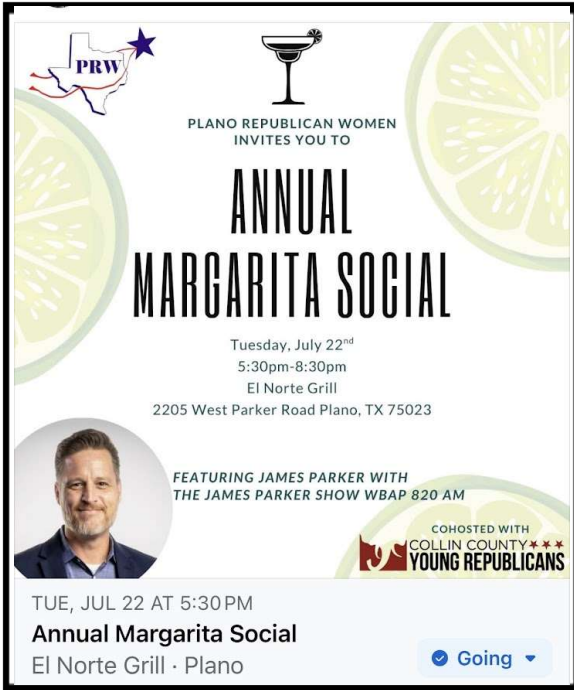
[RSVP here to pay with credit card](#)

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.

Summer Social Photos



PRW

PLANO REPUBLICAN WOMEN
INVITES YOU TO

ANNUAL MARGARITA SOCIAL

Tuesday, July 22nd
5:30pm-8:30pm
El Norte Grill
2205 West Parker Road Plano, TX 75023

FEATURING JAMES PARKER WITH
THE JAMES PARKER SHOW WBAP 820 AM

COHOSTED WITH
COLLIN COUNTY***
YOUNG REPUBLICANS

TUE, JUL 22 AT 5:30 PM
Annual Margarita Social
El Norte Grill · Plano

Going





Governor Abbott's Special Session agenda items include:

FLOOD WARNING SYSTEMS: Legislation to improve early warning systems and other preparedness infrastructure in flood-prone areas throughout Texas.

FLOOD EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS: Legislation to strengthen emergency communications and other response infrastructure in flood-prone areas throughout Texas.

RELIEF FUNDING FOR HILL COUNTRY FLOODS: Legislation to provide relief funding for response to and recovery from the storms which began in early July 2025, including local match funding for jurisdictions eligible for FEMA public assistance.

NATURAL DISASTER PREPARATION & RECOVERY: Legislation to evaluate and streamline rules and regulations to speed preparedness for and recovery from natural disasters.

ELIMINATE STAAR TEST: Legislation to eliminate the STAAR test and replace it with effective tools to assess student progress and ensure school district accountability.

CUT PROPERTY TAXES: Legislation reducing the property tax burden on Texans and legislation imposing spending limits on entities authorized to impose property taxes.

PROTECT CHILDREN FROM THC: Legislation making it a crime to provide hemp-derived products to children under 21 years of age.

REGULATE HEMP-DERIVED PRODUCTS : Legislation to comprehensively regulate hemp-derived products, including limiting potency, restricting synthetically modified compounds, and establishing enforcement mechanisms, all without banning a lawful agricultural commodity.

PROTECT UNBORN CHILDREN: Legislation further protecting unborn children and their mothers from the harm of abortion.

BAN TAXPAYER-FUNDED LOBBYING: Legislation prohibiting taxpayer-funded lobbying, including the use of tax dollars to hire lobbyists and payment of tax dollars to associations that lobby the Legislature.

PROTECT HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS: Legislation, similar to Senate Bill No. 1278 from the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, that protects victims of human trafficking from criminal liability for non-violent acts closely tied to their own victimization.

POLICE PERSONNEL RECORDS: Legislation that protects law enforcement officers from public disclosure of unsubstantiated complaints in personnel files.

PROTECT WOMEN'S SPACES: Legislation protecting women's privacy in sex-segregated spaces.

ATTORNEY GENERAL ELECTION POWERS: Legislation proposing a constitutional amendment allowing the Attorney General to prosecute state election crimes.

REDISTRICTING: Legislation that provides a revised congressional redistricting plan in light of constitutional concerns raised by the U.S. Department of Justice.

TITLE THEFT & DEED FRAUD: Legislation, similar to Senate Bill No. 648 from the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, that provides strengthened protections against title theft and deed fraud.

WATER PROJECT INCENTIVES: Legislation, similar to Senate Bill No. 1253 from the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, that authorizes political subdivisions to reduce impact fees for builders who include water conservation and efficiency measures.

STATE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT: Legislation, similar to Senate Bill No. 2878 from the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, relating to the operation and administration of the Judicial Department of state government.

Jennifer Groysman, Legislative Chair



AMERICANISM REPORT

by Ellen Leyrer



ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST ICONIC SYMBOLS: THE LIBERTY BELL

FACT, LEGEND, SYMBOLISM, AND MORE

AUGUST 1, 2025

Born to Ring, Not to Crack

The Liberty Bell's journey began in 1752, when it was commissioned for the Pennsylvania State House (now Independence Hall). Cast in London, it cracked almost immediately upon arrival. After two re-castings by Philadelphia founders John Pass and John Stow (their names are still visible on the bell today), it finally rang clearly in 1753.

It was just called the "State House Bell" back then—but that was only the beginning.

Smuggled Away for Freedom

During the Revolutionary War, the bell's real danger wasn't cracking—it was being captured and melted down by the British to make cannons. So, in 1777, as British troops approached Philadelphia, patriots smuggled the bell out of the city and hid it beneath floorboards in Zion Reformed Church in Allentown, Pennsylvania. There it remained safely hidden until the British retreated from Philadelphia in June 1778.



A crowd of tourists gathers around the Liberty Bell at [Independence Hall](#) in July 1951



The Bell's First Note, a 1913 painting of the Liberty Bell by [Jean Leon Gerome Ferris](#)

"Proclaim LIBERTY Throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants Thereof Lev. XXV. v X."



Continued

Americanism Report

Continued



Bicentennial dollar, 1976 issue, reverse



Franklin half dollar, reverse



Liberty Bell stamp, issue of 1926
See other versions issued in 1960, 1961, 1975



The Liberty Bell. Boston: American Anti-Slavery Society, 1856



PHOTO: FOTO-SELECT/ISTOCK EDITORIAL/GETTY IMAGES PLUS

The Liberty Bell last hit the road in 1915. Back in the day, the Bell went on tour around the United States, but in the days before World War I, it became clear the Bell had condition issues. Today, it resides at [the Liberty Bell Center in Philadelphia](#), where it is occasionally tapped to mark special occasions.

Continued

Americanism Report

Continued

A Bell Renamed by a Cause

The name *Liberty Bell* didn't catch on until the 1830s. Abolitionists, seeking a symbol for their cause, focused on the bell's biblical inscription from Leviticus 25:10: "Proclaim LIBERTY Throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants Thereof."

By the 1840s, the bell had become a beacon for the anti-slavery movement. But its heavy use led to tragedy for the bell itself. It developed a hairline crack—likely from heavy use in ceremonies and celebrations. In 1846, during a George Washington birthday event, technicians attempted to repair the crack by widening and stabilizing it with a drill.

Instead, they finished the job the crack had started. The Liberty Bell was silenced forever.

Lincoln and the Bell

In April 1865, the bell's message of liberty took on even deeper meaning. After President Abraham Lincoln's assassination, his body lay in state in Independence Hall—beneath the Liberty Bell's inscription. Though the bell no longer rang, its presence was deeply symbolic: the man who delivered freedom to millions now rested beneath a bell adopted by abolitionists, inscribed with a divine command to proclaim liberty.

"After his assassination, [President Lincoln's body](#) was laid inside Independence Hall with the Liberty Bell and its inscription placed directly overhead. Only a small fraction of those wishing to view the body were able to enter, but as many as 140,000 visitors paid their respects that day. According to reports, the line to get in was never less than three miles long.

I find it incredibly providential that Abraham Lincoln—the man who delivered freedom to the slaves—was given his final honor while lying below a bell named by abolitionists, bearing a verse that commanded the rest of us to fight for freedom."

~Dr. Ben Carson

The Bell Today



The Liberty Bell Center was opened in October, 2003. From the southern end, the bell is visible from the street 24 hours a day.

On every Fourth of July, at 2pm Eastern time, children who are descendants of Declaration signers symbolically tap the Liberty Bell 13 times while bells across the nation also ring 13 times in honor of the patriots from the original 13 states.

Each year, the bell is gently tapped in honor of Martin Luther King Day. The ceremony began in 1986 at request of Dr. King's widow, Coretta Scott King.

Continued

Americanism Report

Continued

A Bell for Every Generation

Through the centuries, the bell continued to evolve. It became:

- A rallying point for women's suffrage, inspiring the casting of the "Justice Bell" in 1915.
- A Cold War emblem, as the U.S. used it in propaganda to highlight American freedom.
- A protest symbol in the 1960s civil rights era, often featured in photos from rallies and marches held nearby.
- A national treasure on tour, traveling to expositions and World's Fairs from New Orleans to San Francisco from 1885–1915.
- A pop culture prank in 1996, when Taco Bell "*bought*" the bell in an April Fools' ad campaign, rechristening it the Taco Liberty Bell. The hoax was so convincing that Independence National Historical Park was flooded with angry calls. Taco Bell later admitted the joke—but their sales jumped by over \$500,000 that week.

Money Talks (and Shimmers)

Even in modern times, the Liberty Bell has stayed relevant. If you look at a U.S. \$100 bill (the redesigned blue one), you'll see a color-shifting Liberty Bell printed in an inkwell. Tilt it, and the bell changes color—a subtle nod to freedom that travels with every Benjamin in your wallet.

A Symbol of Strength in Imperfection

No one knows for sure when exactly the Liberty Bell got its now-famous large crack, but that mystery is part of its charm. Like America itself, the bell has been recast, tested, cracked, abused, moved, protested near, and misunderstood—but it endures.

It's not a perfect bell.

It's not a loud bell.

But it is *our* bell.

Sources: <https://time.com/4464934/ben-carson-liberty-bell-history/>,
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<https://time.com/4464934/ben-carson-liberty-bell-history/>



Political Action Hours

by Political Action Chair Jennifer Groysman



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
- **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
- **Travel**
 - Any time you spend traveling to and from political events and meetings.
- **Legislative Advocacy**
 - Time spent calling, writing, about legislative issues

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

Political Action Hours

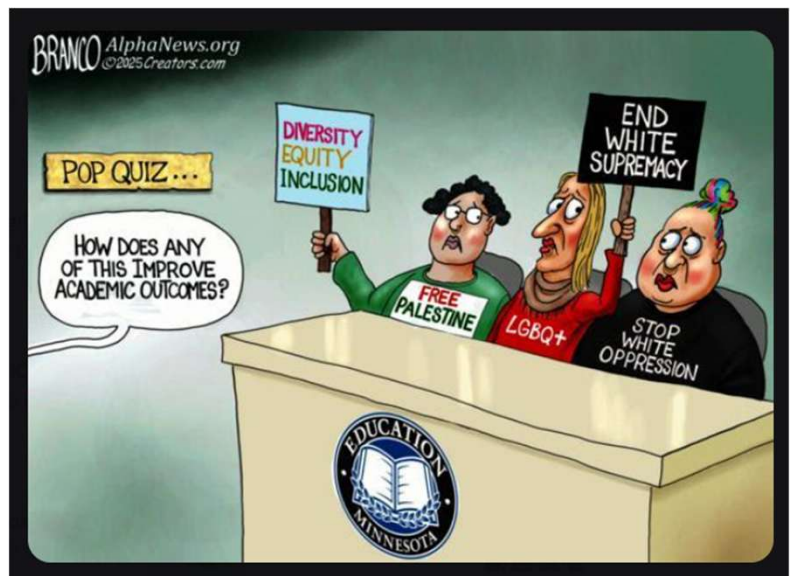
By Jennifer Groysman, Legislative Chair

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

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.



GOP GUEST ARTICLE

The Pecos Housing Finance Corporation is Costing Taxpayers Millions of Dollars

By Shelby Williams

The Pecos Texas Housing Finance Corporation (HFC) has assumed ownership of two apartment complexes in Plano, potentially costing Plano taxpayers nearly \$3 million. Read on to learn about the hearing I recently attended at the Collin County Courthouse with several citizens, council members, trustees, and staff from the City of Plano and Plano ISD.

To set the stage, HFCs are authorized under state law, ostensibly to promote “affordable housing,” which means taxpayer-subsidized housing. They must have a sponsoring city, in this case, Pecos, Texas, which is as close to Plano as Memphis, Tennessee. HFCs have the power under law to remove properties they own from property tax rolls, theoretically making them more “affordable” (assuming the property tax savings is actually passed along to the renters). The Pecos HFC should have obtained the City of Plano’s permission to disappear these properties from the tax rolls. They didn’t even try, due to a tortured reading of the law. That law, under Local Government Code Chapter 394, was strengthened this year by House Bill 21, but leaves a two-year gap to the tune of \$1.38 million of your money each year.

How does this work? In exchange for using their statutory powers of tax-avoidance, Pecos HFC assumes ownership of the apartment complexes for 99 years, taking around 10 percent of the savings the property owners realize from no longer having to pay property taxes. State law requires that half the units be reserved for “low-income” people making 80 percent or less of the Area Median Income, but without any verification or enforcement mechanism, that’s kind of meaningless. That \$1.38 million a year has to be made up for somehow, either by a reduction in services by the City, County, ISD, and College District, or by raising your taxes to make up for the shortfall.

The apartment complexes in question are The Hathaway and The Dayton, both in West Plano, both high-end apartments boasting of “resort-style amenities” and “resort-style pools.” The Dayton has a tennis court. These apartments have been around for about ten years and are almost fully occupied at market rates. They’re also not going to kick out half the residents to make room for low-income renters.

The jaw-droppingest moment for me came when the defense attorney for the Pecos HFC said, “Low-income people are entitled to live in nice places. They are entitled to swimming pools and tennis courts.”

No one is entitled to having you pay for their swimming pool or tennis court.

I fought hard for six years on Plano City Council to protect your tax dollars, and just because I’ve rolled off council doesn’t mean I’m taking a break from fighting for you. This hearing was for a temporary injunction pending having the case heard on the merits, and only involves those complexes in Plano; there are several more. The judge didn’t rule on the injunction that day. I’ll keep you posted on how this develops, so stay tuned.

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 2025! 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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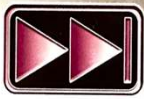


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