

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

March 2025

President's Byline

In This Issue



Promises Made, Promises Kept

President Trump is a “promises made, promises kept” person. He promised to stop government waste and rein in unnecessary spending, and he is doing it rapidly. Trump has received criticism from all the usual suspects including congressional Democrats staging protests the last few weeks, holding hands and trying to look pious while spewing curse words at the same time. Even a few old school Republicans who are not Trump fans have claimed he is moving too fast. Too fast for who? Frankly, I love this pace, and the Dems are reeling with this Republican / DOGE Blitzkrieg. On Feb 23rd, Sixty Minutes did an entire show with all segments anti-Trump and anti-DOGE. They criticized how all of these “necessary programs” have been unfairly cut. They didn’t mention that Trump did give older workers the option to leave with a severance package including retirement benefits. Federal office buildings have been empty since 2020 because federal workers handling sensitive information have not returned to work in person, yet we are still paying for lighting, heating, and cooling of these unused spaces. Federal workers have generally been insulated from economic downturns and recessions. Unlike the private sector, where low performance, outdated jobs, or recessions can lead to massive job losses, federal employees have enjoyed stable employment throughout their careers. Despite increasing national debt being over 36 trillion dollars and increasing yearly by \$2.3 trillion, the government has not reduced spending through job cuts or by cutting anything substantial in decades. The Federal government just borrows more money because it takes in only 5 trillion yearly in taxes. In the private sector, most business professionals have faced layoffs at least once in their careers, and in some industries several times.

Many biased critics argue that Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) workers lack sufficient education to competently perform their duties. They are using algorithms to find inconsistencies in spending. They are highly skilled computer science technology workers. Businesses have hired companies with people like them for decades to monitor waste in spending. Although algorithms are not new technology, they are often portrayed by mainstream media as complex and difficult to use. Algorithms are commonly used across various fields such as business, science, medicine, and technology. The real problem is the lights are being turned on to government waste and fraud and it’s not looking pretty. Average Americans seeing this are very, very angry. It seems a large part of government spending is irrational, and our tax dollars should never have been spent on any of it. From crazy DEI initiatives to just plain old wasteful spending in this country and abroad. Let’s look at what is going on in more detail.

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Calendar of Events

Next Board Meeting

March 4, 2025, 11:30

Napoli's Restaurant

Next General Meeting

March 18, 2025, 11:30

Saltgrass - East Plano



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Below is a list of the reported cuts by Trump /DOGE* and savings so far:

The Elimination of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Programs including, wait for it...DEI Scholarships in Burma: Terminated \$45,288,500 in DEI scholarships administered by USAID and the U.S. Embassy. Cancelled 85 DEI-related contracts across more than 10 federal agencies, amounting to approximately \$1 billion in savings. My favorite boondoggles were from the USAID: \$70 million for transgender comic books for Peru, \$1.5 billion for DEI in Serbia, and \$47,000 for a transgender opera in Colombia. That is only a small amount of the waste from USAID. They also purged the scourge of DEI programs from all Federal agencies.

DOGE terminated wasteful government contracts including in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), they terminated a \$405,986 contract for “resilience, energy, and sustainability management program support services.” In the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), DOGE cancelled three contracts totaling \$45 million dollars. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), they cancelled 62 contracts worth \$182 million, including a \$168,707 contract for an Anthony Fauci exhibit at the NIH Museum. DOGE *recommended* canceling 12 contracts for the General Services Administration (GSA) and Department of Education to save roughly \$30 million but they are still under review. They recommended downsizing or eliminating government agencies such as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and The United States Agency for International Development (USAID). DOGE implemented significant staff reductions and temporary shutdowns. DOGE canceled numerous federal contracts, including significant ones within the Department of Education and Health and Human Services that were wasteful spending. They also cut over \$67 million in grants intended for environmental justice projects initiated during the previous administration. The Pentagon announced plans to lay off thousands of civilian employees starting next week, aligning with DOGE’s broader strategy to reduce the federal workforce.

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They gained access to sensitive data from the Treasury Department, Education Department, and other federal bodies, aiming to identify and prevent improper payments, such as Social Security payments to numerous beneficiaries over 100 years old, some as old as 126. We would be in the Guinness World Book of Records if our country honestly had thousands of people between 100-126 years old. They also ended 12 underutilized federal leases, resulting in over \$3 million dollars in savings. Ended media subscriptions, including a total of \$44.2 million paid by the federal government to left leaning Politico in subscription fees from 2017 - 2024. It was supposed to be for government employees. I’m sorry but they are making good money. They don’t need digital magazine subscriptions paid by taxpayers. This was clearly a taxpayer funded method of propping up a liberal propaganda machine. They got rid of the penny, highlighting that the penny costs over 3 cents to make and cost U.S. taxpayers over \$179 million in 2023 fiscal year. The nickel is probably next, it costs 14 cents to make.

Elon Musk, the head of DOGE, has implemented Workforce Reduction Initiatives such as the Employee Accountability Directive on February 22, 2025. All federal employees must report their weekly duties within

Continued on Page 3

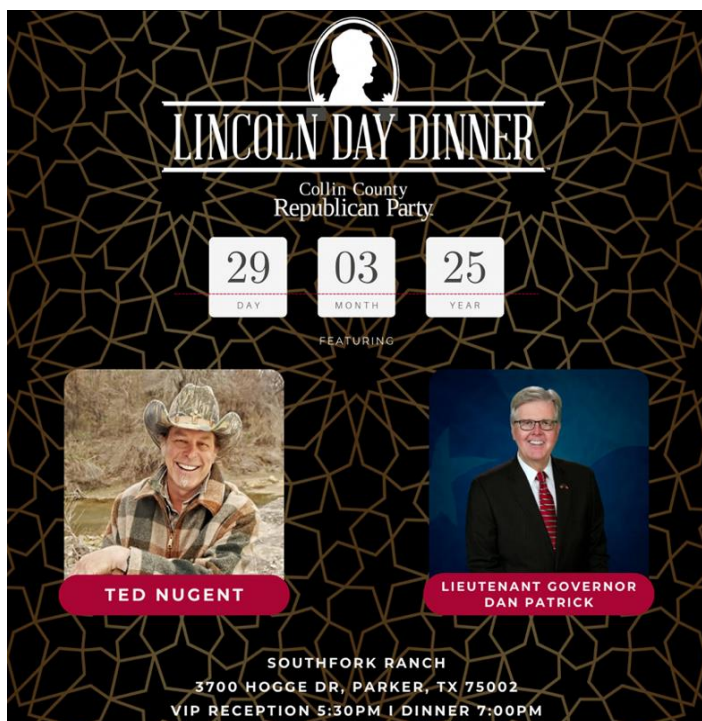
48 hours except for those working with sensitive data like the FBI, CIA and Pentagon to name a few examples. Non-compliance would be considered a resignation. He is basically asking them to say what their job is and what they are working on weekly. Strangely enough, the biggest supporters of this are workers in the private sector. Many have to do this weekly, monthly or at least annually. Private sector workers where genuinely surprised federal employees have no standardized accountability metric like in the private sectors.

President Trump has called for more aggressive cuts; he has urged Musk to intensify efforts in eliminating federal waste. Supposedly these actions will result in savings of approximately \$1 billion per day, with the goal of saving over \$3 billion daily. I don't know if this can be achieved but at least we are finally starting to cut wasteful spending out of government. These measures aimed at reducing government spending have also sparked legal challenges and public debate regarding their impact on essential programs and services. My only wish is that this administration doesn't replace the nutty DEI and other initiatives of the Biden Administration with equality expensive and unnecessary spending of their own. We have needed tax relief and serious tax reform in this country for too long, but our crushing national debt has made it impossible to lower taxes when we are borrowing money just to cover the interest rate on our \$7 trillion national debt. I applaud President Trump's efforts for not believing the problem was too big to manage and kicking the can down the road to the next guy.

Cleo Marchese

prw_president@planorepublicanwomen.org

*When leftists say "DOGE has no authority to cut anything", agree with them. But what it does have is the ear of the President who can accept or deny DOGE recommendations. The President as head of the Executive branch absolutely has this authority.



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 March Meeting



NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

March 18, 2025

JILL TATE

TFRW Board Member & VP of Legislation

Jill graduated from Baylor University with a BBA in Real Estate and worked for a number of years in commercial real estate management and development before deciding to become a stay-at-home mom. While at Baylor, she served as youth coordinator for George Bush for Governor, President of the Young Conservatives of Texas, and State Secretary of the Young Conservatives of Texas.

She has worked for and volunteered on numerous campaigns both locally and nationally and has served as delegate to every Texas GOP Convention since she was 20 and served as a national delegate in 1996. She has been an active member in several Republican organizations throughout the state and has served on and chaired numerous committees within the party including platform, organization, and credentials. Currently, she serves as a precinct chair in Tarrant County.

She supports her community by serving as an ambassador for Patriot Paws Service Dogs giving presentations to raise funds, awareness, and inform the public about the important role that service dogs play in the lives of disabled veterans and is also a long-time volunteer for GRACE in Grapevine. She is a founding member of her TFRW club, Texas Strong Republican Women, where she has served as President, VP of Campaigns, VP of Programs and is currently serving as VP of Legislation. Jill has served on the Texas Federation of Republican Women's State board as Co-Chair for the 2017 State Convention, Caring for America Chair, the Vice President of Finance and currently the Vice President of Legislation and the chair of Fundraising for the National Federation of Republican Women. In 2017, she was appointed by Gov. Abbott to serve on the Texas State School Safety Board as the Texas PTA representative and is the current Vice Chair. She was the GRACE seasonal volunteer of the year in 2016 and 2020, named Outstanding Volunteer 2017 for Patriot Paws, TFRW Tribute to Women Honoree in 2018, and is a recipient of the Texas PTA "Friend of Children" award. She lives in Colleyville with her husband, Fred, son Sawyer, and 2 Labradors.

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, March 14, 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

February Meeting Photos





AMERICANISM REPORT

by Ellen Leyrer



FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT: THE NEW DEAL'S LEGACY AND THE COST OF GOVERNMENT DEPENDENCE

MARCH 1, 2025

Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal marked a pivotal moment in American history, fundamentally reshaping the role of government. Initially designed to combat the Great Depression, the New Deal aimed at providing relief, recovery, and reform. Programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and Social Security were intended to offer *temporary* solutions to unprecedented economic hardship. However, these measures planted the seeds for a permanent expansion of government intervention, which continues to shape American society today. While the New Deal offered immediate benefits, it also led to a growing dependence on government assistance, the erosion of individual responsibility, and a steady decline in personal liberty.

The New Deal's programs were born out of necessity during a time of economic collapse. Millions of Americans faced unemployment, poverty, and insecurity. Roosevelt's administration responded with ambitious initiatives aimed at stabilizing the economy and providing jobs. These programs undeniably helped millions of Americans survive a dire period, but they also set a precedent for government involvement in areas traditionally managed by individuals, families, and local communities. What began as temporary emergency relief evolved into an expectation of continuous government support and an abuse by many politicians to increase their own power.

Over the decades, this expectation has fostered a culture of dependence. Instead of seeking solutions through personal initiative or community-driven efforts, many citizens have come to rely on government programs for their well-being. This dependency erodes the spirit of self-reliance and innovation that once defined the American ethos. Historically, Americans took pride in solving problems independently, working hard to overcome challenges. The expansion of social welfare programs, instead of just providing a safety net, has contributed to a mindset in which government is seen as the primary solution to personal and societal problems. Recently, this has led to certain ideologies using government to push 'rights' to specific minority groups and to undermine and supplant traditional mores, infringing further on certain freedoms.

The increase in government control over various aspects of life has also led to a significant reduction in individual liberty. As government programs grow, so too does the bureaucracy required to manage them. This expansion inevitably leads to more regulations and restrictions on personal behavior. For example, programs tied to healthcare, education, and welfare often come with conditions that limit individual choices. While some regulation is necessary, citizens must remain vigilant and engaged to avoid overreach.

Furthermore, the financial burden of maintaining expansive government programs cannot be ignored. What began as temporary relief has become a permanent and growing expense. Entitlement programs now account for a significant portion of federal spending, contributing to a national debt that continues to rise. This fiscal burden limits the government's ability to invest in other critical areas, such as infrastructure and defense, and places a heavy burden on future generations. It also creates economic risks, as high levels of debt are harming national stability. Already, the middle class has suffered and shrunk. Furthermore, that path leads to socialism.

Another concerning consequence of the New Deal's legacy is the shift in the balance of power between the government and its citizens. As government grows, it gains more authority over individuals' lives. This shift can lead to overreach, as seen in some of FDR's controversial policies, such as his attempt to pack the Supreme Court and the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. These examples serve as reminders of the dangers inherent in concentrating too much power in the hands of the state. An engaged and informed citizenry is essential to ensure that government remains a servant of the people, not their master.

Despite these concerns, it is important to acknowledge that the New Deal was motivated by a genuine desire to help Americans in a time of unprecedented hardship. Roosevelt's leadership provided hope and stability during one of the nation's darkest periods. However, the long-term consequences of his policies highlight the need for balance. Government assistance can provide vital support during crises, but it must be carefully managed to avoid fostering dependency and undermining liberty.

To preserve the principles of freedom and self-governance, it is essential for citizens to remain engaged in the political process. Individuals must advocate for policies that promote personal responsibility, local solutions, and limited government. Civic engagement is the key to ensuring that the government serves its intended purpose—to protect our God-given rights and provide a foundation within which people can thrive.

In conclusion, Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal played a critical role in helping the United States recover from the Great Depression, but its legacy has had lasting implications. The expansion of government programs has contributed to a culture of dependence, increased government control, and a significant fiscal burden. To safeguard America's future, citizens must remain vigilant, advocating for a return to personal responsibility and a government that respects individual liberty. Only through constant active civic engagement can we ensure that the ideals of freedom, self-reliance, and opportunity endure for generations to come.




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!

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

We are off to a great start this year with 2838 hours and 215 phone calls. However, I know we have more that are not being reported. Remember, these hours are important. You took the time to do the work; we want it to be recognized by our parent organization, Texas Federation of Republican Women, and our grandparent organization, The National Federation of Republican Women. Remember your time at our meetings counts, helping candidates counts, voting counts, and even the time it takes you to read this newsletter counts. You can turn in your hours on our website www.planorepublicanwomen.org.

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

Legislative Update

By Jennifer Groysman

School Choice Passes the Texas Senate and a Bill is in the Texas House

Senate Bill 2 (SB2) passed the Texas Senate on February 2nd. The school choice bill, *if passed*, will give vouchers to parents, \$10,000 to send their child to a Texas school of their choice. In order to qualify a child must come from a household that does not make more than 500% above the poverty line (under \$106,000 a year).

The money for these vouchers will come from the general fund. School property taxes and other school funds will NOT go towards vouchers. So, public school funds are safe.

In the Texas House the bill on school choice is House Bill 3 (HB3). It is somewhat different from SB2. HB3 creates a tier system for how the money is given out.

According to the bill, the comptroller [will] fill the available positions by lottery of applicants, prioritizing applicants in the following order:

- A) Children with a disability who are members of a household with a total annual income that is at or below 500 percent of the federal poverty guidelines;
- B) Children who are members of a household with a total annual income that is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines;
- C) Children who are members of a household with a total annual income that is above 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines and below 500 percent of the federal poverty guidelines; and
- (D) Children who are members of a household with a total annual income that is at or above 500 percent of the federal poverty guidelines."

The voucher program will have enough money in it for about 100,000 children. So, the public schools will not go out of business from this program.

Please go and read the bills for yourselves. If you like what you read, let your representative know. If you *don't* like what you read, let your representative know.

Rep Candy Noble: House District 89 Office Phone (512) 463-0186 Email candy@candacenoble.com	Rep Jeff Leach: House District 67 Office Phone (512) 463-0544 Email District67.Leach@house.texas.gov
Rep Matt Shaheen: House District 66 Office Phone (512) 463-0594 Email matt@mattshaheen.com	Rep Mihaela Plesa: House District 70 Office Phone (512) 463-0356 Email https://house.texas.gov/members/4345
Rep Keresa Richardson: House District 61 Office Phone (512) 463-0738 Email https://house.texas.gov/members/4735	Rep. Katrina Pierson: House District 33 Office Phone (512) 463-0484 Email https://house.texas.gov/members/4715



In January 2025, a yearly financial audit of the PRW treasurer books was performed and successfully completed by members Janet Rawe and Ushma Ferguson. The financials were found to be in order and no irregularities were discovered. Many thanks to Janet for letting us use her home so we could gather and get this accomplished.
~Debby Arrant, Treasurer

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 contact Kay at barnett66@me.com.

March Birthdays

Terri Miller	3/8
Paula Branum	3/9
Charlotte Pickett	3/14
Carol Sewell	3/14
Staci Weaver	3/15
Julie Hinton	3/18
Jeanne Hurlebaus	3/22
Debbie Elliott	3/23
Myrna Acklin	3/30



Ronald Reagan and Donald Trump at the White House in 1987, while the former was serving his second term as president



TEXAS PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION

THE COSTS OF CHANCE: EVALUATING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF CASINO GAMBLING EXPANSION IN TEXAS

WRITTEN BY
Derek M. Cohen, Ph.D.
December 2024



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	Cathie Alexander
Debby Arrant	Sara Billingsley
Deb Blencow	Pat Donley
Ushma Ferguson	Nuray Fuller
Catherine Gibb	Jennifer Groysman
Madelon Issaef	Donna Krauss
Pam Little	Cleo Marchese
Lynn McCoy	Merie Spaeth

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)



Legislative Report from Representative Jeff Leach (HD-67)

March is right around the corner and the Capitol is busier than ever. Now that committee assignments are out, some have already begun hearings, and many will start doing so very soon. The committee chair, Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence, will have our first official committee hearing March 5th. More to come on that!

The Texas Teacher Bill of Rights

Yesterday, the Texas House filed multiple bills related to education, school finance and teachers, including my bill, House Bill 6, which we've named the Texas Teacher Bill of Rights. Over the past year, I have met with many school boards, administrators, teachers and parents and one thing that teachers have expressed over and over again is that they spend too much time disciplining students in their classrooms – taking away precious time to teach. HB 6 will restore order in the classroom by ensuring that teachers have the authority and are empowered to maintain a safe and effective learning environment.

To put it simply - this bill is about standing with our educators, ensuring they have the support they need to create a structured and focused learning environment. A strong education system starts with engaged parents and strong and well-equipped teachers, and to recruit amazing teachers to the classroom and to retain them there, we must give them the ability to maintain discipline without unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles.

House Bill 6 reflects a commitment to prioritizing the needs of teachers, students, and parents alike - ensuring Texas classrooms remain places of learning, not constant disruption.

This Week at the Texas Capitol

It was wonderful joining with so many fellow legislators and faith leaders from the community at the annual Legislative Prayer Breakfast this week. Speaker Burrows brought a great message from James 1 reminding us all to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. A message that we all needed to hear!

Since being appointed the House Committee on Public Education, I've had the pleasure of sitting down with teachers, parents, advocates and even students themselves – listening to the challenges they face and the opportunities we have in front of us. You can be assured that I will be fighting hard for EVERY student and teacher in our great state and I'm looking forward to a productive and successful education session.

All My Best,

Jeff Leach

Capitol Office
Room GN.11
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
(512) 463-0544 Phone

The next time you see these sponsors - shake their hands.

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 <p>Duncan Webb Commissioner, Precinct 4</p> <p>2300 Bloomdale Rd., Suite 4192 • McKinney, Texas 75071 (972) 548-4631 • Metro (972) 424-1460, Ext. 4631 jdwebb@collincountytexas.gov • www.collincountytexas.gov</p>	 <p>JIM SKINNER SHERIFF</p> <p>Collin County Sheriff's Office 4300 Community Avenue McKinney, Texas 75071 972.547.5100 Office 972.547.5303 Fax</p> <p>sheriffskinner@collincountytexas.gov www.collincountytexas.gov/sheriff</p>	 <p>JUDGE RANDY JOHNSON County Court at Law No. 5</p> <p>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.collincountytexas.gov</p>
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"Here, the people are masters of government; elsewhere, the government is master of the people".

~ James Wilson, Founding Father, Signer of the Constitution, Supreme Court Justice

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“Freedom prospers when religion is vibrant and the rule of law under God is acknowledged.”

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Plano Republican Women

meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month
(except June, July & December)

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 door.

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