

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

November 2025

President's Byline



Why the Democratic Party Is Continuing with the Government Shutdown

Understanding the political strategy and motivations of a party who has lost its way in American politics can be perplexing. The ongoing government shutdown has become a focal point in American politics, with Democrats defending their positions, many of which are causing pain to working class families and problems across multiple government agencies. Even the mainstream news outlets who are normally friendly to the Dems are asking why the Democratic Party is continuing with the shutdown, refusing to yield to common sense legislation from the Republicans party. If you ask a Democrat socialist, they will say the problem is complex, and they care about all "citizens" not just the rich. But let's take a look at their reasons and see if they are worth the real financial pain people are going through under them.

Principled Stance on Policy Issue

One of the main reasons Democrats have held their ground is their commitment to specific policy issues. Their beliefs are fundamental to their socialist platform, the Dems have moved further left over the last two decades to the point they do not respect the US Constitution, and they openly embrace Marxist ideology as the path forward for Americans. They want to continue to fund social programs for illegal aliens with healthcare being the most important. They want USAID funding to come back, their personal slush funds for a wide variety of liberal nonsense. They also don't want the 2021 COVID-era subsidies for Obamacare to expire before the mid-terms. Democrat policy makers knew when they added the COVID-era subsidiaries, it would not have "an expiration date," because they planned to keep extending it or make it permanent in the future. This will not be the last "temporary" subsidiary increase for the ACA; Obamacare is projected to cost another \$350 billion in taxpayer funded subsidiaries by 2035. The subsidiaries collected go directly to insurance companies, driving up the cost of healthcare instead of bringing it down. The US income tax was also intended

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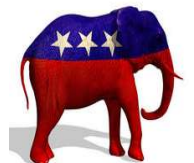
Calendar of Events

Next Board Meeting

Nov 4, 11:30
Napoli's Restaurant
West Plano

Next General Meeting

Nov 18, 11:30
Saltgrass - East Plano



PRW President's Byline (continued)

to be a temporary measure yet has persisted for over a century. By maintaining the shutdown, Democrats are shouting loud and proud that they are unwilling to compromise on their “core values” of supporting illegal aliens over US citizens and expiring Obamacare subsidies right before the midterms over opening the government for everyone else.

Political Leverage

Democrats see the shutdown as a way to gain political leverage. By refusing to pass a budget or funding bill that contradicts their positions, they want to put pressure on the Republicans to make concessions first. Chuck Schumer and the Democrats are using the Politics of Pain. They want the shutdown to be so painful that everyone says okay. Let the illegals have all their government funded goodies so I can get paid, so I can get my much-needed benefits, so we can fund our military and bring back welfare programs like SNAP for legal citizens. Chuck Schumer and Hakeem Jeffries care more about their far-left fringe base than you. They are the worst type of politicians, making decisions based on how to keep their political power. These people have built a life and a lot of wealth by keeping a large faction of the American public ignorant of how government is really run and angry at Republicans for things the Democrats have done. Chuck Schumer said, “Every day of the shutdown is better for us.”

Messaging and Accountability

By continuing the shutdown, the Democrats claim this highlights what they see as “irresponsible or harmful policies” proposed by the Trump administration. This messaging is often aimed at their voters only. Multiple members of Congress have been seen in interviews claiming the financial pain some Americans are feeling is necessary and good because we need to protect “all our ‘citizens’” not just **legal citizens**. They once again feel they have moral high ground, but it is backfiring on them. By drawing so much attention to their pet issues, Democrats hope to mobilize their base and persuade undecided voters during the midterms. I do not feel it is working; they keep trying to place the blame on Republicans, but the American people are starting to get angry because charity only goes so far. When it hurts the average person to help others over themselves. People will choose normalcy for them over some high-minded ideals for non-citizens. Once again, the Democrats have overplayed their hand. They allowed unlimited, illegal immigration under the Biden era, then gave illegals free government benefits, more benefits than impoverished American citizens have received. Now they are punishing seniors, the military, government workers, and welfare beneficiaries to keep a leveraging tool for illegal aliens.

Unmasking the Game

The Democratic Party's decision to continue with the government shutdown is a combination of bad policy making and poor strategic calculations. While the outcome remains uncertain, understanding their motivations provides insight into the broader dynamics of American future political negotiations we will see from them. The Democrats are playing the long game. They know a lot of their aggressive policies and Marxist beliefs have left America with a declining birth

PRW President's Byline (continued)

rate and an aging work force. They believe importing and keeping massive amounts of illegal people with a higher birth rate than US citizens is the path forward for them to maintain power. Why illegal immigration? Because they are unskilled workers with low levels of education. Dems believe they are easier to control. Most legal immigrants are highly educated individuals. They are here to work and make money. Most have zero interest in government welfare programs. The Democrats are scared and have become dangerously violent because they are losing control. Under the Trump administration we have seen a revival of normalcy across all demographics. Transgenderism is dying, family values are returning, and faith. Americans don't want the dark, dystopian future of socialism like Venezuela. If you have any uncertainty regarding their perspective for America, look at Zohran Mamdani and what he is promising New York City. The Democrats will stay stubborn to get what they want - a compliant population who will vote as they are told because they are given cradle to the grave government benefits.

Cleo Marchese

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Plano Republican Women

Christmas Party

DECEMBER 2ND AT 5:30 - 7:30 PM

food and drinks provided

1400 Haverford Way McKinney, TX 75071

RSVP by November 26th

prw@planorepublicanwomen.org

Beautifully designed Christmas decor and trees by world famous designer
Debbie Elliott

We will have a Mighty Photo booth for professional pictures

Volunteer of the Year Award

Installation of Officers for the new 2026-27 board

TEN OUTSTANDING REPUBLICAN WOMEN

At each biennial convention since 1965, TFRW has recognized 10 Outstanding Republican Women who have given so much for Republican causes in their local clubs, TFRW, NFRW, party activities, and civic duty. Each club nominates one woman for this honor. In PRW the past award winners choose our nominee. This year's nominee was Kathy Ward. At each convention, the Ten Outstanding Committee, all of whom are previous award winners, select the winners. The TFRW president chooses the members of this committee. Plano Republican Women past 10 Outstanding winners are as follows:

1989 Alma Carter

1991 Harriet Armstrong

1995 Patsy Standefer

1997 Mattie Friedlein

1999 Ann Harrington

2007 Dotty Ragley

2013 Catherine Gibb

We congratulate **Kathy Ward** as one of the 10 Outstanding for 2025, a well-deserved honor!!



Photo Credit: Lene' DeRudder



TFRW 35th Biennial Convention - PRW Delegates & Awards

San Antonio, Texas

October 23-26, 2025



PRW November Meeting

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

November 18, 2025



Andy Kahan, Director Victim Services, Crime Stoppers of Houston

Crime and Legislation

Andy Kahan joined Crime Stoppers of Houston in June 2018 as its first-ever Director of Victim Services and Advocacy.

Prior to Crime Stoppers, Andy served as the Victim Advocate for the Mayor's Office and Houston Police Department for 26 years before retiring and joining Crime-Stoppers of Houston to resume his career as a Victim Advocate.

Andy Kahan received his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice in 1983 from the University of Houston. He worked as both a Parole and Probation Officer before becoming the first victim advocate in the country to work in a Mayor's Office. His responsibilities included working with local crime victim's rights organizations to facilitate the pooling of resources and the exchange of information, accompanying and representing victims before the Parole Board, putting crime victims in touch with local crime victims support and advocacy groups, and court accompaniment.

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 November 18, 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.



The Plano City Council has made the cost of living higher as of October 1st. The council has passed the largest property tax increase in the last three years. The average homeowner will see a \$249.00 increase in their property tax bills.

The council also passed increases on residents' heat, water, trash, and sewer bills. All these increases plus the property tax increase will cost the average homeowner \$521.96 a year. Not one council member fought against these raises.

This is why local elections matter. Local governments have more effect on our cost of living than any other government body. Yet, people pay the least attention to local politicians.

If you don't watch your City Council meetings, start. You can watch most local government meetings online, and they have past meetings you can watch at anytime.

For Plano City Council you can watch here: <https://www.plano.gov/1565/Plano-TV>

For Plano School Board meetings you can watch here: <https://www.pisd.edu/about-our-district/board-of-trustees/watch-board-meetings>

For Collin County Commissioners Court you can watch here:

<https://www.collincountytx.gov/Government/Commissioners-Court/court-videos>

For the Collin County College Board you can watch here:

<https://collincollegetx.new.swagit.com/views/503/>



Jennifer Groysman
Political Action Chair

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





AMERICANISM REPORT

by Ellen Leyrer



JAMES MADISON: ARCHITECT OF A FRAGILE REPUBLIC

NOVEMBER 1, 2025

James Madison wasn't the loud revolutionary or the glamorous general. He was small, shy, chronically ill — a man who spoke so softly people leaned in to hear him. But behind that quiet exterior was one of the sharpest minds in history. His weapon wasn't a sword or fiery speeches — it was structure.

By 1787, the young United States was faltering under the Articles of Confederation. Madison, just 36 years old, steeped himself in Aristotle, Montesquieu, and Locke, then arrived at the Constitutional Convention with the Virginia Plan — a blueprint that became the backbone of the Constitution. He championed checks and balances, separation of powers, and federalism, not as abstract ideas, but as a system designed to restrain ambition itself. As he wrote in *Federalist No. 51*: “If men were angels, no government would be necessary.”

Madison feared both tyranny and anarchy — mobs on one side, monarchs on the other. In 1792 he observed, “**All men having power ought to be distrusted to a certain degree.**” His genius lay not in trusting men, but in designing a system to withstand their flaws.

Though Madison initially opposed a bill of rights, he later changed course. He drafted amendments that became the **Bill of Rights**, recognizing that even a brilliant structure required guardrails.

Still, Madison often stood in the shadows of Washington's gravitas, Jefferson's eloquence, and Hamilton's fire. Yet he outlasted them all. As Jefferson's Secretary of State and later as president, Madison faced the crisis he had long dreaded: war with Britain.

The War of 1812 nearly broke the nation. British troops burned Washington, D.C., including the White House. Dolley Madison famously saved Gilbert Stuart's portrait of George Washington — an artifact that truly did outlast them all. Madison, usually the frail philosopher, was the only sitting president to ride toward advancing enemy troops, though historians debate whether he came under actual fire.

In later years at Montpelier, Madison reflected on the fragility of the republic. He warned that partisan divisions could poison democracy, that ignorance was as dangerous as tyranny, and that gross inequality could threaten liberty. “*Knowledge will forever govern ignorance,*” he wrote. “*And a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.*”

When he died in 1836, his last recorded advice was simple: “*Cherish the Union.*”

Madison never claimed perfection. He knew liberty could be lost both by its abuse and by unchecked power. His true legacy was not just writing the Constitution but building a system with enough humility to survive human weakness.

Sources:

- *Federalist Papers* Nos. 10 & 51: https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed.asp
- Library of Congress – James Madison Papers: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/james-madison-papers/>
- National Archives – Bill of Rights: <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/bill-of-rights>
- Montpelier (Madison's home and museum): <https://www.montpelier.org/>

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!

Political Action Hours

By Jennifer Groysman, Political Action Chair

I have just come back from our Texas Federation of Republican Women's Convention. The convention was very informative and fun. Plano Republican Women earned the John Tower Achievement award. Also, our very own 1st VP, Kathy Ward, won the '10 Outstanding Republican Women Award'. Ladies who went to the convention, please remember to hand in your hours from the convention. You start counting from the moment you leave your home until you get back to your home.

Remember everyone can hand in their hours on our website,
www.planorepublicanwomen.org.

CARING FOR AMERICA



Your Gift Changes Lives – Donate Today

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

Move in Items:

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

Move Out Items:

- Trash Bags (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

GOP GUEST ARTICLE



CAPITOL HALL REPORT



Timeless Conservative Principles Worth Revisiting: The Sharon Statement

I am often asked, “What are the guiding principles by which a free society can be governed while preserving individual liberty?”

“The Sharon Statement,” a short yet powerful declaration of conservative principles, was adopted by the founding members of Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) in Sharon, Connecticut, at the home of William F. Buckley Jr. in September 1960. Though originally written over six decades ago, it remains a timeless reminder for all who call themselves conservative.

I encourage you to read this statement and share it with others who may need to be reminded—or refreshed—of these enduring ideas. As the document addressed the crises of its own time, its truths may be even more relevant today.

The Sharon Statement

In this time of moral and political crises, it is the responsibility of the youth of America to affirm certain eternal truths. We, as young conservatives, believe: That foremost among the transcendent values is the individual’s use of his God-given free will, whence derives his right to be free from the restrictions of arbitrary force; That liberty is indivisible, and that political freedom cannot long exist without economic freedom; That the purpose of government is to protect those freedoms through the preservation of internal order, the provision of national defense, and the administration of justice; That when government ventures beyond these rightful functions, it accumulates power, which tends to diminish order and liberty; That the Constitution of the United States is the best arrangement yet devised for empowering government to fulfill its proper role, while restraining it from the concentration and abuse of power; That the genius of the Constitution—the division of powers—is summed up in the clause that reserves primacy to the several states, or to the people, in those spheres not specifically delegated to the Federal government; That the market economy, allocating resources by the free play of supply and demand, is the single economic system compatible with the requirements of personal freedom and constitutional government, and that it is at the same time the most productive supplier of human needs; That when government interferes with the work of the market economy, it tends to reduce the moral and physical strength of the nation; that when it takes from one man to bestow on another, it diminishes the incentive of the first, the integrity of the second, and the moral autonomy of both; That we will be free only so long as the national sovereignty of the United States is secure; that history shows periods of freedom are rare, and can exist only when free citizens concertedly defend their rights against all enemies; That the forces of international Communism are, at present, the greatest single threat to these liberties; That the United States should stress victory over, rather than coexistence with, this menace; and That American foreign policy must be judged by this criterion: does it serve the just interests of the United States?

In conclusion, The Sharon Statement stands as a powerful testament to the core principles that define conservative thought - reminding us of the enduring importance of individual liberty, economic freedom, and the proper role of government in safeguarding both. As we confront the challenges of our time, embracing the timeless truths articulated in this document can renew our commitment to defend freedom and promote a just and prosperous society. Let us continue to uphold these values and engage in meaningful dialogue, ensuring that the ideals of The Sharon Statement endure to guide future generations.

For Texas and Liberty,
Senator Bob Hall
Texas Senate District 2

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
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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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Lynn McCoy, 3rd VP Awards

Catherine Gibb, 4th VP, Ways and Means - 214-929-0857

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Candy Maxey	11/2
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Evelina Davitian-Abounayan	11/6
Susan Nall	11/6
Valerie Pemberton	11/6
Janet Moore	11/7
Debby Arrant	11/14
Pam Varney-Terrell	11/15
Pamela Link	11/16
Suzanne Bowers	11/18
Peggy Sue Gleghorn	11/25
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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.

