



THE CTRW LEADER

February 2026

CTRW (PAC)
P.O. BOX 24
BELTON, TEXAS 76513
www.ctrw-pac.com



www.ctrw-pac.com

Email: contactctrw@gmail.com



President's Pen

Fasten your seatbelts—January delivered an energized, sold-out Texas Attorney General Forum to start the 2026 election cycle strong, with the Central Texas Republican Women (RW) leading the way for the community and

and membership. **CTRW leads the way!**

A big CTRW thanks of appreciation to Senator Joan Huffman, Senator Mayes Middleton, and Aaron Reitz, who traveled from across Texas to participate in the 2026 Club forum. Attendees left with a clearer understanding of the responsibilities covered by the Attorney General's office. Each candidate responded to questions, giving voters valuable insight before heading to the ballot box later this month. The Executive Team hopes you found value in bringing this forum to fruition.

In February, voters and candidates will be gearing up for the Republican Primary Election, with Early Voting kicking off on February 17th. Make a plan, invite your neighbors and family, and get out to vote. There will be one more opportunity for candidates to get in front of the community at the Central Texas RW *Faith*Family*Freedom* Gala on February 10th.

So, get ready to celebrate the 62nd anniversary of Central Texas RW and the 250th Birthday of America at the *Faith*Family*Freedom* Gala FUNdraiser on February 10th. This will be a star-studded event featuring speakers from all walks of life and experiences for a very special evening. Guests will hear inspiring messages from Pastor Ramiro Peña (serves on President Trump's Faith Team), Gary Heavin (Curves Co-Founder & Philanthropist), Steve Munisteri (Senior Advisor to Governor Greg Abbott), Dr. Dawn Buckingham (TX Land Commissioner), Dr. Brad Buckley (TX Representative HD54), and Hillary Hickland (TX Representative HD55). The evening will also feature a unique Texas-inspired Silent/Live Auction with Commissioner Bobby Whitson as the guest auctioneer, music, dancing, and an opportunity to meet and hear from candidates. And for something extra romantic with Valentine's right around the corner, someone will walk away with a sparkling Oval Pink 2.12-carat Sapphire. Get your tickets to reserve your seat for a fun evening.

It's here. Republican candidates are heading to the Primary Election this month. Congratulations to each CTRW member who is either a candidate, helping in a campaign, or working as an election worker during this Primary Election season. Thank you for always giving your best dedicated effort as we work together to build up and unify the Republican party here in our local area, in Texas, and across the Nation. Your effort and vote matter. Remember, after the election, we come back together, support the Republican Nominee 100%, and win the Mid-Terms. **Texas succeeds when Texans succeed, as we value faith, family, and freedom.**

Janet Brown, CTRW President

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1st Vice President of Programs, Heather Bounds

Educate Encourage Engage

Central Texas Republican Women recently held a candidate forum for Texas Attorney General during its monthly meeting, drawing a large crowd for an informative and engaging discussion. Three of the four declared candidates for Attorney General were in attendance, providing an excellent opportunity to hear directly from those running for this critical statewide position.

Each candidate spoke about their background, priorities, and vision for leading the Attorney General’s office. The discussion centered on key issues affecting Texans, such as maintaining the rule of law, protecting constitutional rights, and ensuring accountability in state government. The structured format gave candidates equal time to discuss these issues and clearly articulate their positions.

Attendees valued the opportunity to hear the candidates speak side by side in an environment that encouraged thoughtful, substantive responses rather than campaign soundbites. The forum provided valuable insight into how each candidate views the Attorney General’s responsibilities and the role the office plays in defending Texas values.



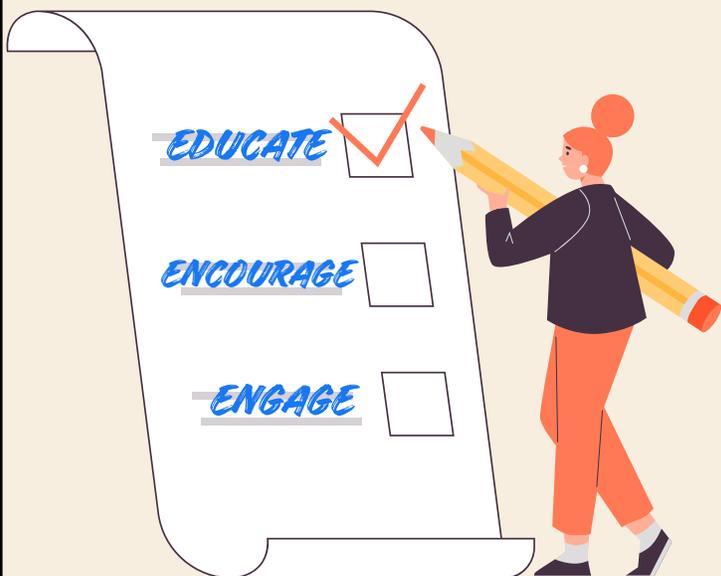
L-R: Aaron Reitz, Senator Mayes Middleton, Joan Huffman, and Moderator CTRW 1st VP, Heather Bounds.

The high turnout highlighted the importance of staying informed and involved in the election process. The Central Texas Republican Women PAC is proud to host candidate forums that educate voters, encourage civic participation, and promote strong conservative leadership throughout Texas.

CTRW LEADS! - Heather Bounds

No February Membership Meeting!! - See you at the February 10th *FAITH*FAMILY*FREEDOM* GALA

SAMPLE BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE!



Make “knowing before voting” part of your voting plan.

Click on the orange ballot box icon to access your ballot according to precinct.





2nd Vice President Membership, Marlean Druce

WHAT TIME IS IT?

Time to renew your 2026 membership! Memberships run from October 1st thru August 30th, so please send in your renewal as soon as you are able. **We need 45 more RENEWED or NEW PRIMARY MEMBERS to reach our goal of breaking the 200 primary members' mark.** If you have a friend or family member who has been thinking about joining, now is the time to reel them in and help meet our 2026 goal. Your support is greatly appreciated as we continue to grow not only in members, but in our activities and events as well.

We Keep Growing! - Marlean Druce



CENTRAL TEXAS
ESTABLISHED 1964
REPUBLICAN WOMEN
★ Help ★ Elect ★ Republicans ★

America 250
1776-2026

Membership Orientation

For new or current members - invite a friend

Special Guest Presenters
Jill Tate, TFRW President



February 7, 2025
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Light lunch will be served

Harris Community Center, Simpson Room
401 N. Alexander St, Belton, TX

RSVP Due: 2/3/2026
rsvpctrw@gmail.com



DISCLAIMER: Political ad paid for by CTRW (PAC) which is a nonprofit organization under Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to CTRW (PAC) are not tax deductible as charitable contributions. No federal income tax purposes. Corporate contributions are not permitted, but authorized by any statute.

The annual New Member Orientation will take place on **February 7** at the **Harris Community Center - Simpson Room, 401 N. Alexander, Belton, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.** Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about CTRW, TFRW, and NFRW, and to connect with fellow CTRW members, the Board, and Executive Committee Members. The orientation also provides an excellent opportunity to explore ways to deepen community support. All interested individuals are welcome to attend, including existing members who wish to hear guest speaker, Jill Tate, TFRW President, or network with other members. Guests are encouraged to bring friends who may wish to join. Light lunch of snacks and beverages will be served.



2025
MEMBERSHIP

199 PRIMARY MEMBERS
+ 67 JUMBO CLUB
ASSOCIATE & STUDENT MEMBERS

266

CENTRAL TEXAS
ESTABLISHED 1964
REPUBLICAN WOMEN
★ Help ★ Elect ★ Republicans ★

2026
MEMBERSHIP

155 PRIMARY MEMBERS
+ 51 JUMBO CLUB
ASSOCIATE & STUDENT MEMBERS

206

CENTRAL TEXAS
ESTABLISHED 1964
REPUBLICAN WOMEN
★ Help ★ Elect ★ Republicans ★

MEMBERSHIP GOALS
201+
Primary Members = Super Jumbo Club



AMERICA 250 MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

America 250 Membership Challenge Rally Now to Become a Patriot Keepers Guild Club

As we approach the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, the America 250 Membership Challenge calls on every NFRW club to stand as guardians of our proud legacy—just as the patriots of 1776 safeguarded the flame of liberty for future generations.

This two-year initiative, spanning President Jenkins' term, honors the courage, unity, and vision that built our nation while strengthening our Federation for the decades ahead. Through intentional growth, renewed engagement, and steadfast commitment, our clubs are preparing the next generation of conservative women leaders to carry that legacy forward.

We're Now in the Patriot Keepers Guild Phase

The first achievement level of the America 250 Membership Challenge is the Patriot Keepers Guild, which recognizes clubs that protect and preserve their membership strength.

To achieve Patriot Keepers Guild status in 2026, clubs must:

- Meet or exceed their 2025 membership count by March 1, 2026
- Focus on renewing every 2025 member

This phase is all about retention—keeping the flame of commitment alive by ensuring that no member is left behind.

Every renewal matters.

Every conversation counts.

Every effort strengthens not only your club, but also the Federation as a whole.

Why Patriot Keepers Matter

In 1776, victory depended on perseverance and unity. Today, our success depends on the same principles. Clubs that achieve Patriot Keepers Guild status demonstrate:

- Strong leadership and organization
- Meaningful member engagement
- A firm foundation for future growth

Retention is the bedrock upon which recruitment and revival are built. By reaching this first milestone, your club positions itself for even greater achievements later in the America 250 Membership Challenge.

March 1 will arrive quickly. Now is the time to:

- Personally reach out to every 2025 member
- Promote the value and impact of continued membership
- Celebrate your members and remind them they are essential to our mission

Let's answer the call of history together. By achieving Patriot Keepers Guild status, your club affirms its commitment to the principles that founded our nation—and to the future of NFRW. Keep the flame. Become a Patriot Keepers Guild club.

»» LEARN MORE



DIAMOND CIRCLE PRIMARY or Associate Members

Jane Aguirre
 Dagne Ameigh
 Linda Atkins
 Natalie Austin
 Pamela Blair
 Heather Bounds
 Charles Brashear
 Stephanie Brashear
 Janet Brown
 Tony Canterino
 Ashley Clapper-Bennett
 Lisa Copeland
 Jo Dammen
 Christina Demirs
 Jackeline Fountain

Phyllis Lawrence
 Maria Martinez
 Sandra McCleney
 Cheyenne Minick
 Louanna Minick
 Lori Murdoch
 Raquel Nelson
 Asha Petrich
 Wanita Reeder
 Kathy Ruiz
 Austin Ruiz
 Rebecca Tong
 Melissa Tyroch
 Zenia Warren
 Bob Weber

Download a 2026 Membership Form

[Pay Online HERE](#)

Mailing Info:
 CTRW-PAC
 P.O. Box 24
 Belton, TX 76513



Primary Member: Women
Associate Member: Men or a Member of Another TFRW Club
Youth Membership - 12-17 yrs
Student Membership - Student ID, 18-26 yrs
Diamond Circle - Primary or Associate

JOIN US NOW

MEMBERSHIP

HEY THERE!
 Want to shape the **FUTURE** of our
 CITY, COUNTY, & STATE?

Join the Central Texas Republican Women's Club!
 Help elect **LEADERS**, develop **CANDIDATES**,
 and make an **IMPACT!**

JOIN US

www.ctrw-pac.com

1776-2026

By joining CTRW, you become a member of our statewide organization, the **Texas Federation of Republican Women**, and our national organization, the **National Federation of Republican Women**.



tfrw.org
 Monthly Newsletter



nfrw.org
 NFRWNews



My Why:

Marta Jones, CTRW Club Member

How did you first learn about CTRW?

“Seven years ago, I attended a very dynamic retreat in Fredericksburg, Texas. There were many people from Central Texas Republican Women who were in attendance. It was a wonderful time of learning, sharing, and visiting great wineries around Fredericksburg. Afterwards, I was left wanting to know more about CTRW and the members I met there.

At that time, I had been a resident of Bell County for 25yrs. Before that, I had been a lifelong resident of Austin, TX in Travis County.” Marta remembers when the Travis County population sign reported 150,000.

How has it been since joining CTRW?

“It’s been a wonderful learning experience! CTRW has helped me to understand legislative procedures and policy much more than I did, even coming from Austin.” says Marta. She also reports enjoying affecting political change through CTRW.

(*Something to Note: CTRW provides various opportunities to be politically active. Some include, but aren’t limited to block walking, campaign support, and VDR opportunities.)



left-right: CTRW members Joyce Damon, Marilyn Beasley, and Marta Jones.

After joining, how did your life change?

I attended my first meeting at The Gin in Belton, TX. I sat next to a young woman I did not meet in Fredericksburg. Her name was Marilyn [Beasley] and she’s become one of my dearest friends. And then later, when attending a networking luncheon at The Gin, I met Joyce [Damon]. The three of us bonded. We are The Three Amigos! We have had the good fortune to travel to Italy and Spain together.

Any advice for those on the fence about joining CTRW?

CTRW provides a wonderful opportunity to meet new people. Most members are gregarious, warm, and welcoming!

Be part of the “My Why” series and share your story.
Please let us know at contactctrw@gmail.com

What's Your Why?

February

Jean Alexander-Smith 02/02

Kathy Jones 02/03

Janice Carter 02/04

Brooke Houppert 02/08

Diana Cowan 02/14

David Carter 02/16

Sylvia Crum 02/20





3rd VP Fundraising, Rebecca Tong

Time is Counting Down to February 10th: The Night of Our Faith, Family and Freedom Celebration!

Central Texas Republican Women will be hosting a memorable event on Tuesday, February 10th, 2026. There are still tables and individuals' tickets available, but the sales are rolling in.

Our guest speakers for the evening are:

- Pastor Ramiro Pena, Senior Pastor of Christ the King Church, Waco, TX.
- Gary Heavins, Co-founder of Curves, Philanthropist
- Dr. Dawn Buckingham, Texas's first woman Land Commissioner
- Dr. Brad Buckley, HD 54 State Representative
- Hillary Hickland, HD55 State Representative

At the event, attendees will enjoy catered food and

dance to music by DJ Southern Comfort (Felix Gonzalez). The 250th Freedom Celebration at Christ the King Catholic Church - Event Center in Belton, TX, from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. To help plan this event, please get in touch with Rebecca Tong, 3rd VP of fundraising, contactctrw@gmail.com

Ticket includes Meal- Choice of Bacon-wrapped Chicken or Smothered Hamburger Steak, Vegetable, Salad, Dessert, Tea, Water, Complimentary Bar, Photo Booth, and Entertainment!

Attire: Ladies are invited to wear elegant dresses, and gentlemen can opt for sharp suits or tuxedos—it's going to be a formal occasion, and we know that as women we look for opportunities to get dressed up as dressing up makes the night even more enjoyable. *Primary State/Local Republican Candidate will be offered 1 minute to speak, and there will be a Candidate Table for campaign materials.

**Primary State/Local Republican Candidate will be offered 1 minute to speak. There will be a Candidate Table for materials.*

It's Going to be a Golden Time! - Rebecca Tong

Central Texas Republican Women
Faith*Family*Freedom
Special Guest Speakers
 Pastor Ramiro Pena
 Dr. Dawn Buckingham
 Gary Heavin
 Steve Munisteri
 Dr. Brad Buckley
 Hillary Hickland
 Entertainment: Southern Comfort w/DJ Felix Gonzales
Tuesday, February 10, 2026
 6 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
 Christ the King Catholic Event Center
 210 E. 24th Ave, Belton, TX
 Join us for a very special evening to celebrate Faith, Family, & Freedom and the 250th Birthday of America. Candidate Meet & Greet.

No February Membership Meeting!! - See you at the February 10th *FAITH*FAMILY*FREEDOM* GALA

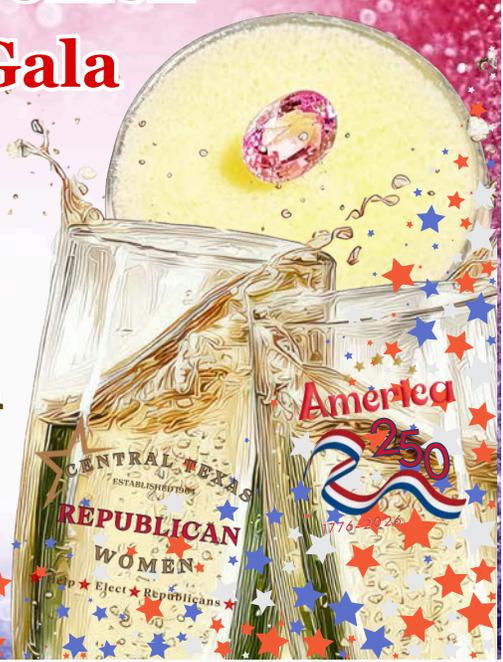
Central Texas Republican Women

*Faith*Family*Freedom*Gala

Sapphire Drop "Treat"

Ticket entitles Gala attendee to receive a champagne flute filled with yummy treats. One Champagne Flute will include an extra treat - a spectacular 2.12-carat oval pink sapphire.

2.12ct Pink Sapphire!!



Central Texas Republican Women

*Faith*Family*Freedom*Gala

TRUMP'S GOLDEN AGE Sponsor- \$1000

8 Event Tickets and 250TH Commemorative pins
Preferred Table - Reserved Seating
Complimentary 2 Bottles of Texas Wine
Thank You Gift
Name printed in Celebration Program
Social Media Recognition
Announcement at Event
Group Event Photo

ORDER
NOW

**BECOME A
SPONSOR**

TEXAS ROSE Sponsor - \$750

4 Event Tickets
4 - 250th Commemorative Pins
Preferred Table - Reserved Seating
Complimentary Bottle of Texas Wine
Name printed in Celebration Program
Social Media Recognition
Announcement at Event

GULF OF AMERICA Sponsor - \$500

2 Event Tickets
2 - 250th Commemorative Pins
Complimentary Bottle of Texas Wine
Preferred Table - Reserved Seating
Name printed in Celebration Program
Social Media Recognition
Announcement at Event

DIAMOND CIRCLE Sponsor - \$250.00

1 Event Ticket at Diamond Circle Table
2026 CTRW Diamond Membership
250th Commemorative Pin
Name printed in Celebration Program
Announcement at Event
Social Media Recognition

AMERICA FIRST - Individual Ticket \$100

1 Event Ticket
Open General Seating
250th Commemorative Pin



www.ctrw-pac.com/events



Caring for America Chair, Kathy Ruiz

Central Texas RW are Givers!

Happy February, my dear CTRW family. I so enjoyed visiting with many of you at our January meeting/candidate forum. Once again, your generosity and servant's hearts towards of Jeffrey's Tree was on full display as evidenced by your donations.

As a reminder, please be sure to track the hours you have spent volunteering at their warehouse, purchasing items and/or delivering items as I will need this information for reporting purposes. You can go to www.JeffreysTree.org for a donation receipt form for your tax records.



left-right: Dagne Ameigh, Kathy Ruiz, and Troy Ameigh, Dagne's husband.

I believe the success of any organization's mission is dependent upon the work ethic and dedication of its membership, and your response to the needs of Jeffrey's Tree assures our efforts will enhance their mission to serve the children of our community. Thank you to those who have donated their time and their gifts in selfless service.

Jeffrey's Tree is in need of the following items:

- Socks - Boys & Girls
- Boys Undies: 4T - Mens 2X
- Girls Undies: 4T - Womens XL
- Girls' Bras
- Long Sleeve or Warm Weather Clothing*

*Check the clearance rack for these!

May this month be filled with blessings, joy and love for each of you, and may we always continue in service together to help others and to

KEEP TEXAS RED.

Happy Valentine's Day! - Kathy Ruiz

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF CENTRAL TEXAS

FIESTA WITH FRIENDS

PURSE BINGO

FEBRUARY 1ST

INCLUDED WITH YOUR TICKET:

- Bingo card packet & dauber; Nacho bar; Sangria & margaritas. Access to silent auction & raffle, Bragging rights if you win a purse. (Cash bar also available!)

CLICK HERE!



Community Engagement Chair, Cynthia Pursell

February Means Fun!

As we wrap up January and head into February, just when you think things couldn't get any more fun—of course they can and always with purpose! We're excited to announce a **Game Night at Spare Time in Temple on February 19th**. CTRW's heart is to actively support great local businesses. And, as many of you know, Spare Time Texas is a great addition to our fun roster. Join us for a night of bowling with friends, laser tag, classic low-key video games, or simply enjoy some good conservative conversation with great people. They serve food, so come for dinner if that suits you!

Don't forget to check out Spare Time's specials—they have some great deals going on! Plus, don't forget our monthly morning coffee meetup which will be held at **Black Rifle in Killeen!**

Looking forward to connecting with you! - Cyndie Pursell

Upcoming Red Roof Events



**Central Texas Republican Women
RED ROOF Connections**

Tuesday, February 3, 2026
9:00 am - 11 am

Coffee

Black Rifle Coffee Company
2170 S. Clear Creek Rd
Killeen, TX



Eat, meet, talk politics, and support local small business.

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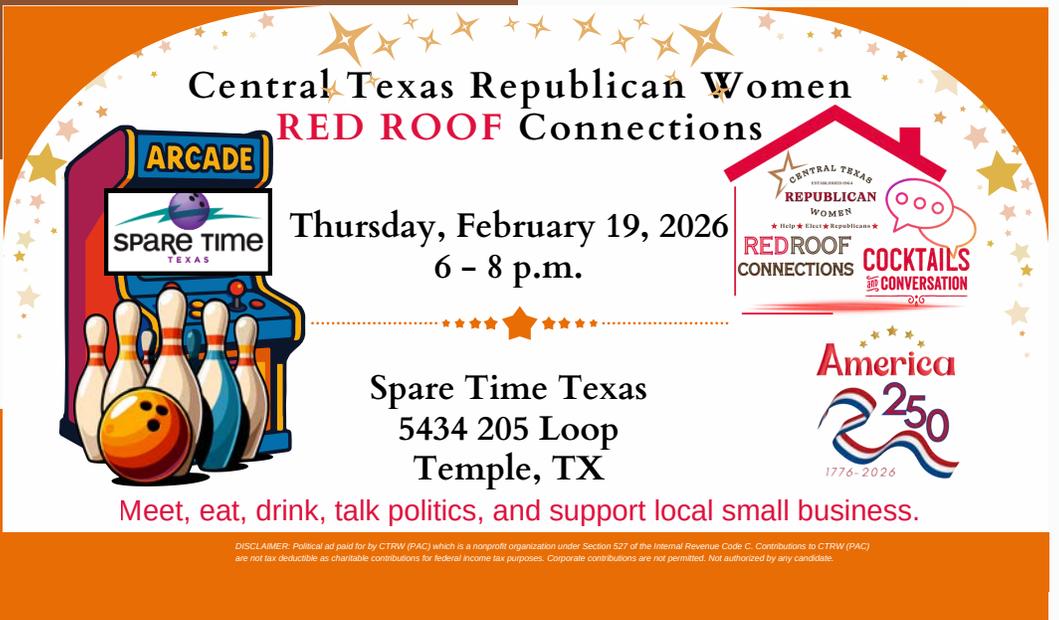
RSVP
Black Rifle CC - Killeen

RSVP



RSVP
Spare Time Texas

RSVP



**Central Texas Republican Women
RED ROOF Connections**

Thursday, February 19, 2026
6 - 8 p.m.

Spare Time Texas
5434 205 Loop
Temple, TX



Meet, eat, drink, talk politics, and support local small business.

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Americanism Chair, Natalie Austin

February is Rich in History

February may be the shortest month, but it's packed with meaningful moments in American history and plenty of reasons to celebrate our shared values.

This month we honor **Presidents Day on February 17**, recognizing the leadership and legacy of George Washington (born February 22, 1732, Colonial Beach, Virginia) and Abraham Lincoln (born February 12, 1809, Hodgenville, Kentucky)—two presidents whose courage and commitment helped shape our nation. February is also Black History Month, a time to reflect on the many Black Americans whose patriotism, service, and perseverance strengthened the United States.

For Texans, February carries special significance. On February 23, 1836, the Battle of the Alamo began in San Antonio, marking a defining moment in Texas' fight for independence. During the siege, James (Jim) Bowie, co-commander of the Alamo, passed away on February 27, 1836, and is remembered for his courage and sacrifice. February is also when Texans reflect on the powerful rallying cry "Remember the Alamo!", which helped inspire victory at the Battle of San Jacinto later that year.

Fun February Facts:

- **February 3, 1870:** The 15th Amendment was ratified, protecting the right to vote regardless of race.
- **February 27, 1931:** "The Star-Spangled Banner" was officially adopted as the U.S. national anthem.

February reminds us that Americanism starts at home and grows through civic responsibility, service, and faith. As Republican women, we proudly champion the principles that make both Texas and America exceptional.

Ours is a Rich Heritage! - Natalie Austin

EVERY VOTE COUNTS

GO VOTE!

EVERY VOTE COUNTS

Early Voting: Tuesday, February 17, 2026, to Friday, February 27, 2026

Tuesday, February 17 to Friday, February 20 - 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
 Saturday, February 21 - 7:00 am - 7:00 pm
 Sunday, February 22 - 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm
 Monday, February 23 to Friday, February 27 - 7:00 am - 7:00 pm

Texas Primary Election Important Dates:
 ★★★

Monday, February 2
 Last Day to Register to Vote

Friday, February 17
 First Day of Early Voting

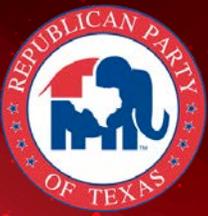
Monday, February 20
 Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail

Friday, February 27
 Last Day of Early Voting

Tuesday, March 3
ELECTION DAY
 Last Day to Receive Ballot by Mail

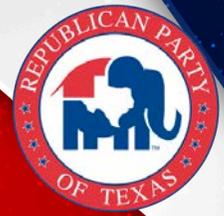
EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS
[CLICK HERE](#)

ELECTION DAY VOTING LOCATIONS
[CLICK HERE](#)



Republican Party of Texas

Ballot Propositions



★ Proposition 1

Texas property taxes should be assessed at the purchase price and phased out entirely over the next six years through spending reductions.

★ Proposition 2

Texas should require any local government budget that raises property taxes to be approved by voters at a November general election.

★ Proposition 3

Texas should prohibit denial of healthcare or any medical service based solely on the patient's vaccination status.

★ Proposition 4

Texas should require its public schools to teach that life begins at fertilization.

★ Proposition 5

Texas should ban gender, sexuality, and reproductive clinics and services in K-12 schools.

★ Proposition 6

Texas should enact term limits on all elected officials.

★ Proposition 7

Texas should ban the large-scale export or sale of our groundwater and surface water to any single private or public entity.

★ Proposition 8

The Texas Legislature should reduce the burden of illegal immigration on taxpayers by ending public services for illegal aliens.

★ Proposition 9

The Republican-controlled Texas Legislature should stop awarding leadership positions, including committee and subcommittee chairmanships and vice chairmanships, to Democrats.

★ Proposition 10

Texas should prohibit Sharia Law.



Political Activities Chair, Christina Demirs

“The Golden Age of America Begins Right Now.” —President Donald J. Trump

Congratulations CTRW members for a record-breaking year of engaging in political activity! The club logged a record number of 112,531 political hours. Using the For Good Institute volunteer hourly rate of \$34.79, that equates to a monetary value of \$3,914,953.49 our members served in the community. With the 2026 election season underway, we have a great opportunity to break our own record in the calendar year 2026. At the top of the list, there is always a need for more volunteer deputy registrars (VDRs).

Please check the Bell County Elections website to for more information and upcoming trainings:

https://www.bellcountytexas.com/departments/elections/volunteer_deputy_registrar.php

If you are already a VDR or have received your certification, please let me or Janet know and also track the number of voters registered and report back.

Please keep track of 2026 First Quarter (January, February, and March) hours and calls. Hours and calls will be due in April. We now have a digital form to report your quarterly totals for political hours and political calls. I only need two numbers from you: **total number of hours and total number of calls.**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSevP76KgbpXCWg1CBi1SOqFFOx9Mg2HUYykulvASJD PjQDY7A/viewform?pli=1>.

CTRW LEADS! - Christina Demirs



CENTRAL TEXAS
ESTABLISHED 1964
REPUBLICAN
WOMEN

★ Help ★ Elect ★ Republicans ★

Political Activity

Cumulative Total for 2025 Hours: 112,531
Cumulative Total for 2025 Calls: 17,809

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Total for 4th Quarter Hours: 31,731
Total for 4th Quarter Calls: 4,118

4th Q Member Most Hours: Rebecca Tong 904
4th Q Member Most Calls: Zenia Warren 1567



Chaplain, Rebecca Tong

The 250th Anniversary of the United States: A Time of Reflection and Honor

The 250th anniversary of the United States, also known as America’s birthday, will be celebrated on July 4, 2026. The 250th anniversary, or Semi-quincentennial, is a milestone in American history. It commemorates the birth of the nation and its journey over the past two and a half centuries. This celebration offers an opportunity to reflect on the nation’s past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and envision the future.

As the nation looks back on its founding moments, the 250th anniversary also serves as a reminder of the ongoing pursuit of freedom and justice. It invites people of all backgrounds to participate in what it means to be American today and how the ideals of the Declaration of Independence continue to shape the country’s future. By encouraging learning, appreciation, and conversation, this anniversary stands as both a celebration of achievements and a call to action for future generations to uphold the principles of liberty, equality, and opportunity for all.

The primary purpose of the Declaration was to explain the reasons for the colonists’ decision to seek independence. It outlined the philosophical justification for revolution, asserting that all individuals possess inalienable rights to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

As we come together to honor our country and the Declaration of Independence, let's remember that this document was based on the Word of God and we should always seek His word and guidance before any decisions are made.

Your Servant in Christ - Rebecca Tong

MARK YOUR CTRW CALENDARS



- February 3 RED Roof Coffee Connections, Black Rifle Coffee, Killeen, TX
- February 5 CTRW Executive Board Meeting, Noon, Bell County Courthouse, Belton, TX
- February 7 CTRW Membership Orientation, Harris Community Ctr, Belton, TX
- February 10 *Faith*Family*Freedom* Gala, Christ the King Event Ctr, Belton, TX
- February 17-27 VOTEEarly Voting - Primary Election
- February 19 RED Roof Cocktails & Conversations, Spare Time Texas, Temple, TX
- March 3 VOTE - Election Day for Primary Election
- March 5 CTRW Executive Board Meeting, Noon, Bell County Courthouse, Belton, TX
- March 16 CTRW Networking Lunch Meeting, Harris Community Ctr, Belton, TX

Serve on the 2026 CTRW Dream Team



2026 Central Texas Republican Women Executive Team

President: Janet Brown

contact@ctrw-pac.com

1st Vice President
2nd Vice President
3rd Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer/PAC
Parliamentarian/ByLaws
Political Activities
Americanism
Awards

Heather Bounds
Marlean Druce
Rebecca Tong
Renee Bigham
Wanita Reeder
Zenia Warren
Christina Demirs
Natalie Austin
Natalie Austin

Caring For America
Chaplain
Corresponding Secretary
Legislative
Literacy
Communications Director
Community Engagement
Past President
Scholarship Foundation

Kathy Ruiz
Rebecca Tong
Lynda Jackson
LouAnn Minnick
Maria Martinez
Asha Petrich
Cynthia Pursell
Zenia Warren
Zenia Warren, Kathy Ruiz, Wanita Reeder

JOIN OUR TEAM

Team Members needed:
Americanism
Community Engagement
Communications
Literacy.



Order your Central Texas RW Logo Shirt

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Legislative Chair, Lou Barbosa Minick

Federal Focus and Issues That Affect Texans

As we prepare with Central Texas legislators for the 90th Legislative Session in 2027, it remains essential to track major federal developments that affect Texas. [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) remains the most reliable resource for monitoring federal legislation. A recent reminder emphasized that while we are fortunate to have President Trump in office, future leadership is never guaranteed—reinforcing Texas’s responsibility to elect strong conservative Republicans at every level.

At the federal level, Congress is currently facing several pressing issues, including the January 30 government funding deadline and efforts to finalize the remaining FY 2026 appropriations bills, which account for nearly 90% of federal spending. Major disagreements continue over funding for the Pentagon, HHS, HUD, and Homeland Security, and Congress is working to prevent another shutdown. Additionally, lawmakers are grappling with the expiration of enhanced Affordable Care Act subsidies and broader debates over healthcare policy, with the House prioritizing action on the expiring subsidies.

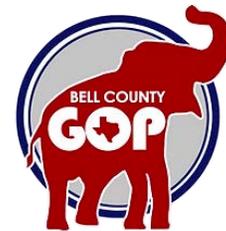
President Reagan’s example remains instructive. He urged Congress to pair cooperation with fiscal discipline, reduce deficits, and limit government overreach—principles that continue to resonate today. His consistent message emphasized bipartisan achievement, tax relief, spending restraint, and the shared responsibility to preserve liberty for future generations.



May God Bless You All and Bless Our Great State of Texas! - Lou Barbosa Minick

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From the Official's Desk: Shay Luedeke, Bell County Tax Assessor-Collector

The Bell County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office remains focused on one core mission: delivering efficient, secure, and customer-centered service. Every day, our team works to ensure residents can complete their vehicle transactions quickly and accurately — getting customers in and out with everything they need while maintaining compliance with state law and protecting sensitive personal information.

Over the past year, we have continued to streamline processes, expand appointment options, and improve workflow inside our offices. These improvements have reduced wait times, increased transaction accuracy, and enhanced the overall customer experience. Our staff remains committed to professionalism, courtesy, and accountability — values that guide every interaction with the public.

In recent months, however, Tax Assessor-Collectors across Texas have also found themselves on the front lines of protecting Texans' personal data. In late November, the Governor directed the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to require a valid REAL ID or equivalent identification for all vehicle registrations and renewals. This directive was issued in response to online claims regarding registration eligibility and has raised significant operational and security concerns statewide.

Requiring a copy of a valid ID to be mailed with a registration renewal and check disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations. Out-of-state military members, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and rural Texans often lack reliable internet access, transportation, or access to scanners and copy machines. Mailing personal identification also creates serious security risks. With mail theft on the rise nationwide, motorists become prime targets for identity theft and bank fraud. The FBI has specifically warned against mailing sensitive personal documents alongside financial payments.

Currently, the only online renewal option that satisfies these requirements is Texas-by-Texas (TxT). While convenient for some, TxT requires extensive personal data, including birthdates, Social Security information, and other identifiers. Following multiple reported data breaches in 2025 involving state agencies, including TxHHS, TxDOT, and the General Land Office, many Texans are understandably hesitant to submit this level of sensitive information online.

Additionally, hundreds of thousands of government and business-owned vehicles are no longer eligible for online renewals under these changes. This has already increased rejected mail transactions and in-person office visits, placing additional strain on county offices and taxpayers alike.

Alarming, within one day of the new requirements being announced, fraudsters began advertising ways to bypass the system. These developments increase the risk of counterfeit registration stickers, fake identification, and fraudulent vehicle purchases. Over time, this could result in millions of dollars in lost registration and sales tax revenue and make it more difficult for law enforcement to identify true vehicle ownership during investigations.

For these reasons, the Tax Assessor-Collectors recommend amending the proposed ID Requirements to require valid, unexpired identification at the point of initial registration — when ownership is established — rather than at every annual renewal.

Our office remains committed to balancing security, accessibility, and efficiency while advocating for policies that protect Texans, safeguard personal data, and preserve the integrity of our motor vehicle system.



Shay Luedeke, CTOP
Tax Assessor-Collector
www.bellcountytexas.com/tac/
PO Box 669
Belton, TX 76513
O: 254-933-5320
F: 254-933-5325

A Joyful Look Back on January

Club membership has its perks!

A fantastic weekend filled with laughter, connection, celebration, and learning at the Texas Federation of Republican Women First Quarter Board Meeting and Leadership Training for Central Texas RW members. Several Club members from the 2025 Candidate School cohort were recognized for successfully completing this essential program. And from Friday evening through Saturday, TFRW Leadership Day was filled with a Candidate Forum, breakout sessions, and hearing from local/national leaders, including Agricultural Secretary Brooke Rollins.



Big Fun at Big Breakfast!

Coffee Time at Miller's Smokehouse with Central Texas RW's RED Roof Connections was a great time of laughter, connections, and political conversation. Getting together is always a pleasure when it involves amazing people! And this morning did not disappoint.



The Central Texas RW Texas Attorney General Candidate Forum did not disappoint! This sold-out event gave all in attendance the opportunity to hear from the candidates themselves, both their minds and their hearts. Also in attendance was the Texas Tribune to report on the event. Attendees increased their understanding of each candidate. This is why CTRW deeply enjoys working hard to bring these events to you. As we rightly know, an informed public is foundational to a strong society. Thank you for coming out, and many thanks to TX Senator Joan Huffman, TX Senator Mayes Middleton, and Aaron Reitz for meeting with our Central Texas RW Community today!! (US Rep. Chip Roy was not able to attend.)



The Wine-Time at BeeMaRosa Winery with Central Texas RW RED Roof Connections was an evening filled with great conversation and new connections. Some of us drank wine and some of us drank water, but we all soaked in the warmth of camaraderie and the exchange of ideas and shared experiences.





Communications Director, Asha Petrich

CTRW FAMILY, WE ARE GROWING!

Make no mistake, Central Texas Republican Women are a force to be reckoned with. You continue to show up and show out in all you do to **Keep Texas Red**. From the Networking Luncheons to the Red Roof Events, our members consistently demonstrate their focus on education, idea sharing, participation, and building new relationships.

As we move forward into 2026, expect to learn more about your fellow members, both in and out of elected office. For those of you looking to take your engagement to new heights, there are several ways the Communications Team can help you.

- Consider encouraging fellow members through the sharing of your story. Inspire others with what brought you to CTRW in our monthly "My Why" article. Our stories matter!
- Make it a point to attend at least one Red Roof Event a month and to bring someone with you. Let your picture in our social media posts speak! You won't be left sitting in a corner; your fellow members WANT to engage with you!
- Volunteer - whether you can give a couple of hours once a month or several hours a week on a dedicated team, there's a place for you and your abilities to shine through contribution, be it with Communications or another team!

That said, the Communications Team is looking for additional team members to help spread our message as the Club continues to innovate and grow. If you enjoy web design/management, content management, or making video presentations, please get in touch with CTRW President Janet Brown.

Always a Pleasure! - Asha Petrich



NFRW: www.nfrw.org

TFRW: www.tfrw.org

Bell County Texas GOP: www.belltxgop.org

CTRW: www.ctrw-pac.com

CTRW Facebook: www.facebook.com/ctrwpac

CTRW Instagram: www.instagram.com/ctrw_pac

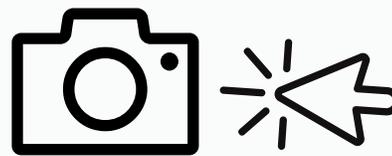
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