

Galveston Island Democrats
Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes
ILA Local 20 Union Hall
[6501 Harborside Dr, Galveston, TX 77554-2825](https://www.galvestonisdemocrats.org)
Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Pre-meeting activity: Meet and greet the candidates.

Call to Order: President Carol Derragon brought the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Recitation of the Preamble to the U. S. Constitution

Minutes: Minutes from the previous meeting accepted. Motion to accept by Dave Hedgepeth.

Financial Report: Loretta Davis, Treasurer, reported that Galveston Island Democrats (GID) has \$22,286 in bank.

Attendance Report: 100 people attended, eight new members.

Final Remarks by President Carol Derragon:

President Carol Derragon explains the importance of building a war chest for the upcoming election. She states the GID does not endorse any particular Democratic candidate until after the primary. The President makes final remarks to thank the officers and committee chairs for their contributions.

Election of Officers: The following officers were elected by acclamation.

President: Lynda Harvey

Vice President – Administration: Janet Jordan

Vice President – Finance: Carol Hollaway

Treasurer: Loretta Davis

Secretary: Shelia Salinas

President Lynda Harvey Inaugural Comments to Members:

President Lynda Harvey thanks everyone for electing her and acknowledges those who encouraged and supported her. She highlights the achievements of the previous year, including increased membership and community engagement. Lynda mentions the various events organized by the club, such as parades, social events, and forums. She thanks the retiring president, Carol Derragon, for her contributions and support.

Gift presented to former President Derragon.

Candidate Forum:

Tierr'ishia Bell, Galveston County Democratic Chair, introduced the following candidates and gave each candidate five minutes to address the membership.

Konstantinos Vogiatzis for Texas 14th Congressional District vs. Randy Webber

Konstantinos Vogiatzis, candidate for Texas 14th Congressional District, opens by saying they planned to discuss their professional qualifications but decided against it due to recent events they describe as extreme government violence and lawlessness. They argue that credentials alone are insufficient, pointing out that Congress already contains highly credentialed professionals who have failed to protect civil liberties and the rule of law.

Instead, the speaker frames the election as a fight for fundamental freedoms and positions themselves as a “line of defense” against government overreach, police violence, and erosion of rights. They emphasize threats to basic liberties, including bodily autonomy, environmental safety, and protection from state violence.

The candidate highlights low voter turnout and under-registration in the district and says their campaign aims to inspire disengaged voters by offering bold, structural reforms. Their platform includes guaranteeing universal health care, defending reproductive and fertility rights, confronting corporate influence in politics, reducing costs driven by corporate power, and defunding and dismantling ICE.

They stress transparency and preparedness, noting that their website outlines specific policy actions they would pursue starting on their first day in office. The speech concludes with a call for grassroots organizing, an appeal for votes, and a pledge to challenge the status quo and actively drive meaningful change.

Sean Foley for State Representative District 23 vs. Terri Leo Wilson

Sean Foley, a candidate for Texas State Representative representing the southern half of Dallas County and Galveston/Texas City, introduces himself as a local native and U.S. Marine running in response to what he sees as corruption, corporate influence, and erosion of constitutional rights in Texas and the nation. He criticizes lawmakers for accepting corporate money while denying basic needs like affordable health care to the public.

He frames his candidacy around historical warnings from Franklin D. Roosevelt and Mark Twain about concentrated private power, arguing that democracy depends on voters rejecting tyranny through the ballot. Foley outlines a platform based on three pillars: affordability, education, and rights.

On affordability, he calls for campaign finance reform, limits on corporate political donations, and greater transparency around dark money. He identifies health care costs as the most urgent issue, noting that Texas has the highest uninsured rate in the country and urging the state to close the Medicaid coverage gap, recognize health care as a human right, and regulate pharmaceutical pricing.

On rights, Foley pledges to defend bodily autonomy, including the right to make personal health decisions and access abortion, as well as due process and protections from illegal searches for all people in Texas.

He contrasts himself with his opponent, emphasizing that he refuses corporate PAC money, relies on small donations, and portrays himself as a grassroots candidate

focused on serving constituents rather than national politics. The speech concludes with a call to action, asserting that democracy requires resistance to tyranny and asking for voter support to bring change to the state legislature.

Cheryl Lynn Clark for State Representative District 23 vs. Terri Leo Wilson

Cheryl Lynn Clark introduces herself as a candidate for Texas House District 23, highlighting her deep Texas roots and long-term connection to Galveston. She explains that she decided to run after being encouraged to fill an uncontested Democratic slot, which motivated her to step forward rather than leave voters without a choice.

Clark outlines her background, including graduating from Texas A&M, working on political campaigns in Washington, D.C., and spending about 30 years in the financial industry before settling in Galveston in 2003. She currently works at Newton Methodist Church as director of church-wide ministries, a role she describes as centered on diplomacy, coalition-building, community service, and volunteer coordination.

She argues that her church-based work has prepared her for public office by teaching her how to bring people together and serve those in need. Clark identifies two recent local issues that prompted her candidacy: increased cooperation between local law enforcement and ICE, including officers receiving ICE training, and the removal of rainbow crosswalks due to funding concerns, which she viewed as symbolic harm to the community.

The speech concludes with Clark presenting herself as a compassionate, community-focused candidate and asking for voters' support, promising to serve House District 23 effectively.

Shannon Dicely for State Senator District 11 held by Mayes Middleton (candidate for Atty General)

Shannon Dicely, a candidate for Texas Senate District 11, introduces herself as a long-time resident of the district and a mother. She explains that her decision to run for office was shaped by personal experience, particularly her breast cancer diagnosis in 2020, which required treatment during the COVID-19 lockdown. Going through surgery and treatment largely alone heightened her awareness of the importance of accessible health care and the risks she believes state leadership and policies posed to families during that time.

After completing treatment, Dicely shifted from community volunteering to pursuing systemic change. She became active in local Democratic Party efforts, served as a precinct chair, worked on local campaigns, and later enrolled at Sam Houston State University, where she earned a master's degree in political science. She says this academic and practical experience deepened her understanding of policy and voter behavior.

Her campaign platform centers on three pillars: affordability, public education, and health care. She advocates for raising the minimum wage, regulating homeowners' insurance to prevent people from being priced out of their homes, opposing school voucher programs, improving teacher benefits such as paid family leave, and expanding Medicaid in Texas.

Dicely concludes by asking for voter support, stating that she aims to represent all residents of Senate District 11 and emphasizing that, despite living there for nearly two decades, she has not previously felt represented by current leadership.

Richard Davis for Texas 14th Congressional District vs. Randy Webber

Richard Davis, a Democratic candidate for Congress in the 14th Congressional District, presents himself as fiscally responsible and supportive of traditional Democratic values, including a strong national defense. He emphasizes that his campaign is focused less on ideology and more on “kitchen table” economic issues such as inflation, economic stability, and personal finances, which he argues are voters’ top concerns.

Davis contends that political instability and government dysfunction contribute to economic uncertainty and inflation by making it difficult for businesses to plan and invest. He expresses support for the Biden administration and Federal Reserve’s approach to inflation, arguing that inflation would be more under control if their plans had been fully followed.

He also warns that democratic freedoms are being eroded, blaming former President Donald Trump and the Republican Party for undermining constitutional norms. A central policy proposal in his speech is overturning or legislatively countering the Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision. Davis argues that corporations are legal creations of government, not citizens, and should not have the right to spend money in political campaigns.

He concludes by stating that reducing corporate influence in elections is essential to restoring democratic power to individual citizens and asks for voters’ consideration.

Cameron Rollwitz for State Senator District 11 held by Mayes Middleton (candidate for Atty General)

Cameron Rollwitz, a candidate for Texas Senate District 11, presents himself as a young progressive seeking to implement bold, systemic reforms. He describes a working-class upbringing in Texas, noting that his family relied on programs such as SNAP and WIC, which shaped his understanding of the importance of social safety nets. He outlines a professional background that includes corporate work in human resources, employee rights advocacy, and later data science and process improvement.

Rollwitz highlights his advocacy for LGBTQ+ workplace protections, including rewriting transgender inclusion policies, and his efforts to ensure abortion-related health care coverage for employees after the overturning of Roe v. Wade. He also discusses his leadership in secular support groups and his academic background in psychology, religious studies, and sociology.

He explains that a recent layoff has placed him in the same economic position as many working-class Texans, currently applying for public assistance while caring for a young child. His campaign platform focuses on three core areas—energy, education, and the economy—with a major emphasis on health care. He proposes a Texas-level universal single-payer health care system funded through the state and the creation of trauma centers in every county.

Additional priorities include reinvesting in infrastructure and public transit, particularly high-speed rail connecting major metropolitan areas. Rollwitz emphasizes his preparation for office

through detailed study of Texas law and legislative procedures and notes his involvement in monitoring conditions at local ICE detention facilities. He concludes by asking for support to represent all Texans and promote unity in the district.

Committee Reports: Full reports published at <https://galvisledems.com/>

2026 Election Key Dates

March 3, 2026 – Primary Election Day (Last day to register Feb. 2; Early voting Feb. 17 – Feb. 27)

November 3, 2026 – General Election Day (Last day to register Oct. 5; Early voting Oct. 19 – Oct. 30)

Social and Activism Events:

GID is trying to follow the national calendars <https://www.mobilize.us/> ;

<https://www.fiftyfifty.one/events>

Date	Day	Time	Place	Activity
1/2/26	Friday	Cancelled – moved to 1/9/26		1st Friday Drop-In Coffee Club GID Sponsored
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Cancelled - participation	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
1/9/2026	Friday	9:00 am - 10:30 am	Pride Center 1502 39th Street, aka Mike Gaido Blvd	1st Friday Drop-In Coffee Club GID Sponsored
1/17/26	Saturday	11:00 am - 2:00 pm	29th & Church 29th & Church, Galveston, TX, United States	MLK Parade MLK Day Parade GID participated
1/20/26	Tuesday	4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	Nicks Kitchen and Beach Bar 3802 Seawall Blvd, Galveston	3rd Tuesday Drop-In Happy Hour GID Sponsored
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Cancelled - weather	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

2/1/26	Sunday	1pm – 3PM	McGuire Dent Recreation Center 2222 28 th Galveston	ICE Unite and Turn Up the Heat GID sponsored..
2/4/2026	Wednesday	12:00 – 1:30	Shrimp and Stuff Downtown 2506 Avenue H. Galveston	Meet & Greet event for Vikki Goodwin. Sponsored by Hector & Randy. GID participated
2/6/26	Friday	9:00 am - 10:30 am	Gypsy Joynt, 6105 Stewart, Galveston	1st Friday Drop- In Coffee Club GID Sponsored
2/17/26	Tuesday	4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	Sugay & Rye Coastal Kitchen 2401 Church Street. Galveston	3rd Tuesday Drop-In Happy Hour GID Sponsored

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 24, at 7 PM.

Shelia Salinas - Secretary

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Website: <https://galvisledems.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GalvestonIslandDemocrats>

Bylaws, Minutes and Newsletters: <https://galvisledems.com/bylaws-minutes-newsletters/>

Questions: email us at galvisledems@gmail.com