

Galveston Island Democrats
Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes
ILA Local 20 Union Hall
[6501 Harborside Dr, Galveston, TX 77554-2825](https://www.galvestonisdemocrats.com)
Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Pre-meeting activity: none

Call to Order: President Lynda Harvey 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 Peggy Purvis with second by Carol Hollaway.

Financial Report: Loretta Davis, Treasurer, reported that Galveston Island Democrats (GID) has \$25,493.04 in bank. Match amount is \$1,003.66 for the \$5,000.00 challenge.

Attendance Report: Forty-eight people attended, two new members.

1. Approvals & Formal Motions

none

2. Announcements and Discussions

A. Cinco de Mayo

The club received an update on participation in the upcoming Cinco de Mayo parade and fiesta, sponsored by LULAC for the first time in about 30 years. Members were invited to walk or ride in golf carts, with decorations provided, and encouraged to wear bright, colorful clothing (such as Mexican blouses or dresses) and comfortable shoes. The parade will start at 25th and Ball, proceed north on 25th to The Strand, then east on Strand to 21st Street, and return south to the old county building, with participants asked to arrive between 11:00 and 11:30 a.m. for setup before the 1:00 p.m. start. After the parade, GID will staff a booth at the fiesta to sell club merchandise and plants provided by Peter, engage with the community, and promote the organization; volunteers can sign up for 90-minute shifts via the posted QR code, and members were asked to stay after the meeting to help assemble snack bags with goodies and GID bracelets for distribution at the event.

B. Juneteenth

Francis King reported on upcoming Juneteenth events and emphasized their historical importance, noting that Texas was the last state to inform enslaved people of their freedom and that the holiday represents a true Independence Day for many. Beginning June 1, there will be multiple Juneteenth activities across the island, including indoor events, online and guided driving tours, and educational demonstrations, all accessible via a QR code displayed at the meeting. The club was invited to participate in the Juneteenth parade on June 19, with lineup at approximately 1:00 p.m. and parade start at 3:00 p.m., and in the annual Juneteenth festival at

Menard Park on June 13, featuring food, vendors, and live music. Members were reminded that last year's events drew notable guests such as Representative Al Green and that additional details, including the special guest for the Reedy AME "Fun Day" on June 19, will be provided at the next meeting.

C. Activism

Carol Derragon announced the formation of a new Activism Committee to expand the club's presence in the community beyond protests and to "protect" democracy and the Constitution through visible, positive actions. The committee's first meeting will be held on Monday, May 4, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Shrimp N Stuff Downtown, which offers free parking and a dedicated meeting room. Members were encouraged to attend or contact Carol if the time does not work for them, as the committee will brainstorm activities that are feasible in the summer heat, require manageable numbers of volunteers, and help communicate a proactive, protective message about democratic values in Galveston.

D. Fundraiser

Peter Kiernan will hold an ongoing plant sale fundraiser with a goal of raising \$1,000 this spring which will be donated by Peter to GID. Members and supporters can purchase plumeria cuttings, amaryllis, pencil cactus starts, and Mexican petunias (including at the Cinco de Mayo booth) and are asked to donate used plastic pots to help reduce costs and sustain future fundraising.

E. Guest Speaker – Konstantinos Vogiatzis

Konstantinos Vogiatzis described his recent grassroots campaign for Congressional District 14, stressing that "losing" still meant building meaningful power: he earned about 12,000 votes, raised roughly \$75,000 in 130 days from small donors, and came within about 6.8% of a runoff as the youngest candidate the district has seen. He compared campaigns to climbing Mount Everest, explaining that corporate-funded and establishment candidates are "dropped at the top," while grassroots candidates must build a team and infrastructure from scratch. He shared how, after filing for Congress, he recruited and supported about 11 municipal candidates in Brazoria County, focusing on authentic, progressive messaging (e.g., fighting dark money, challenging data centers), and retargeting voters who had never or rarely voted in municipal elections; this approach brought in many new and previously uncontacted voters and volunteers. In Q&A, he said he learned that candidates cannot rely on the party for money, staff, or data and must self-build operational teams and volunteer networks. He also explained that his decision to run came from seeing the impact of the Trump administration and immigration threats on his own family and students his parents teach, leading him to conclude that he needed to seek federal office to confront attacks on democracy directly.

F. Candidate Introductions

Gerald Wilson, candidate for Galveston City Council District 1

Michael Adams-Huerta, candidate for the 14th Court of Appeals

Richard Davis, candidate for Congressional District 14

G. Announcements from the floor

1. New precinct chair

Kenneth Macpherson announced a new precinct chair for Tiki Island and Bayou Vista, Carol Ann McCoy.

2. Gina Hinojosa meet and greet

Carol Derragon and Connie Rivers announced that Texas gubernatorial candidate Gina Hinojosa will visit Galveston County for a meet-and-greet on May 30 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Galveston County Democratic Club will take the lead on coordination in that the event is so significant for our area. They credited the Young Democrats for initiating contact with her campaign and shared Gina's enthusiasm about coming to Galveston, noting that all local Democratic clubs will be represented and that further details and promotional materials will be circulated so members can attend and show strong support for her candidacy. The county is still searching for a venue that will host about 200 people and if anyone has suggestions, please contact Conni or Carol.

Social and Activism Events:

Events can be seen at: <https://galvisledems.com/events/>

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM. Members stayed to stuff bags for Cinco de Mayo parade.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 26th, at 6:30 PM for social and 7 PM for meeting.

Shelia Salinas - Secretary

Follow GID on its website and Facebook page:

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