

Galveston Island Democrats
Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes
ILA Local 20 Union Hall
6501 Harborside Dr, Galveston, TX 77554-2825
Tuesday, July 28, 2026

Pre-meeting activity: coloring postcards at precinct tables

Call to Order: President Lynda Harvey called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Recitation of the Preamble to the U. S. Constitution followed.

Minutes: Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as written after President Harvey verified that the challenge match amount was correctly recorded in the minutes. Motion to accept was by Joe Willis and was seconded by Dean Paulson.

Financial Report: Treasurer Loretta Davis reported that Galveston Island Democrats (GID) balance in Galveston Island Democrats (GID) checking account is \$27,180.34. GID has received, so far, a total of \$2,651.68 for the \$5,000 challenge grant match.

Attendance: Forty-five members attended, including 8 new people.

Recognition of Past Leaders and Members: Kevin Moran, past president of Galveston Island Democrats

Announcements and Discussions

- A. Ongoing Legal Cases:** Loretta Davis reported on a case ~~that I will need to verify~~. U.S. Fifth Circuit Judge Jeffrey V. Brown heard and rejected Galveston County's attempt to dismiss as moot the case of Petteway vs Galveston County. Judge Brown ruled that plaintiffs can proceed in their lawsuit challenging the redrawn precinct maps that eliminated the only majority minority precinct, Precinct 3, in Galveston County.
- B. Outreach:** Lodie Massey provided information, re: ABC13's Loves Teachers School Supply Drive. Randy Penn, Hector Arias, and she will be taking the supplies brought to the meeting to Galveston ISD Support Center, 3904 Avenue T, Friday morning.
- C. Plant sales:** Peter Kiernan gave a report on his plant sale fundraising. He has contributed all the sales of plumerias and other plants he has grown to GID except for a donation of a plumeria to Dean and Becky Paulson for their kickoff of the League City Democrats Club. So far, Peter has raised in excess of \$800 with plant sales.

D. GCDP Precinct Actions: Kenneth Macpherson gave an overview of how the Galveston County precincts have been aggregated into “pods” that will organize the Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts. Imran Karam has accepted the leadership position for Pod #6 which includes all of Galveston Island and Bolivar Peninsula in Galveston County.

Guest Speaker: John Campbell

Lodie Massey introduced the guest speaker for the meeting, Mr. John Campbell. John is a philanthropic advisor, a palm expert, and a country lawyer. John gave a general history of his family’s involvement in beautification projects on the Island. John has a palm farm on the West End of the Island. He addressed the lethal bronzing threat to Island palms, the new park at the site of the old Rosenberg School (they are recreating the park based on its original form), and the acquisition and renaming of Seeding Galveston’s urban farm as the Hinson Community Farm. It was an upbeat presentation, and several new visitors attended, based on John’s draw, including Bob and Allison Brown.

Bob Brown, District 3 City Council representative, provided updates on City Council matters, including the naming of the new park after Dr. Nancy Lefebber Hughes and ongoing update of the City’s Comprehensive Plan. Bob encouraged community participation in the comprehensive plan development process to shape the future of Galveston.

Candidate Introductions

- A. Thurman “Bill” Bartee, candidate for Congressional District 14, emphasized the importance of local representation, criticizing the current representative for being disconnected from the community.
- B. Albert Smith, candidate for Galveston County Judge, emphasized the importance of community involvement and action plans.

Announcements from the Floor

- A. Conni Rivers, Galveston County Democratic Party Liaison, updated on the county newsletter, a strike at the Ashland Chemical Company, and the formation of new Democratic clubs in Dickinson and League City.
- B. Conni also announced that the President of Young Democrats, Galveston County, Julius Segelquist, will be running for a seat on the League City City Council.
- C. Griff Amie from Annie’s List promoted a free Campaign 101 training course on August 8 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at COM’s Corporate Training Building. Conni will announce this in the GCDP newsletter.

- D. Maryanne Welford, Committee Chair for Civic Engagement, encouraged members to sign up to cover local governmental affairs and the school board. Many city meetings are video- or audio-recorded so that members can watch or listen from home. Maryanne also noted that the City of Galveston is currently soliciting volunteers to serve on the many boards and commissions needing participants. The boards and commissions for which the City is currently recruiting are located on the city's website and the link to the application is also on the website, [Boards & Commissions | Galveston, TX - Official Website](#).
- E. Caulin Heffernan announced a play about immigration at Galveston College that she wrote and is producing. It is running August 29-30. Tickets are available at www.act3galveston.org.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for August 25th, at 6:30 p.m. for social and 7:00 p.m. for meeting.

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