

Galveston Island Democrats
Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes
ILA Local 20 Union Hall
[6501 Harborside Dr, Galveston, TX 77554-2825](https://www.galvestonisdemocrats.org/6501-Harborside-Dr-Galveston-TX-77554-2825)
Tuesday, September 29, 2026

Pre-meeting activity: Members stuffed bags with candidate information for mainland.

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: Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Treasurer Loretta Davis, reported that Galveston Island Democrats (GID) has \$25,898 in bank. Match amount for the \$5,000.00 challenge has been reached.

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

1.Approvals & Formal Motions (other than minutes)

None

2. Announcements and Discussions

A. Election update

Loretta Davis, Finance, reported that the ballot for Galveston County was approved today. The county website for voting, GalvestonVotes.org should be up to date by tomorrow. The County is at least two weeks behind in getting the mail-in ballots distributed and at last count they had over 4000 requests, which is lower than usual. The Texas City office was being inundated with calls to find out if voters were registered.

B. Voter Registration Activities

Lynda Harvey, President thanked everyone for their efforts to get people registered prior to the election. She highlighted efforts by GID and GCDP to create registration card baskets. League of Women Voters and Powered by People have been on the island doing registration drives. Now that voter registration deadline has passed for the November election, the registration card baskets will be repurposed to voter information baskets.

C. Voter Encouragement and No Kings Day

Carol Derragon, Activism chair, announced that activities are planned for October 17 (No Kings Day), with an emphasis on encouraging people to vote. Volunteers will form small “pop-up” groups at local events, including Artoberfest, Walkabout, and the East End Garden Tour. They’ll walk around with signs, briefly pose together to attract attention, and share nonpartisan voter information cards. Volunteers were encouraged to sign up for an hour; details were being shared through the group’s website and Facebook page. The group also planned to place

nonpartisan voter information cards in outreach baskets and display large, illuminated letter signs at Marlow during the election cycle.

D. GID Headquarters

Peggy Purvis, Get Out The Vote (GOTV) chair, reported that the headquarters at 2121 Market Street, second floor, had been open for about 10 days and was receiving visitors. Volunteers were encouraged to sign up for shifts and follow through on their commitments. Hours are Thursday and Friday, 3–7 p.m., and Saturday, 11 a.m.–7 p.m. Members were invited to stop by, help with volunteer activities, and take yard signs; a \$5 donation was suggested, but not required. A happy hour at the headquarters was also mentioned.

E. Third Coast Pride Fest Parade

Lynda Harvey announced that GID was registered for the Third Coast Pride Fest Parade which will be on Sunday, October 18th, with the parade starting at 2PM. Details for early meeting time and location will be posted on the web and Facebook when they are finalized.

F. Speaker – Doug Balli -Chief of Police, City of Galveston

Chief of Police Doug Balli discussed his long career with the Galveston Police Department and said the department had recently reached full staffing after working through 32 vacancies; it now has about eight vacancies. He described efforts to achieve accreditation through the Texas Police Chiefs Association's best-practices program and to strengthen department culture through professionalism, customer service, and accountability.

During questions, he explained that the department's 34 Flock cameras are placed on major thoroughfares and capture still images of vehicles. Searches require a case number, are subject to audit, and are intended to support investigations. He also described using drones to assist with calls such as missing children and robberies.

On public safety, he said the department works with protest organizers to help keep demonstrations safe and encouraged people to contact police if they feel uncomfortable at polling places. He stated that Galveston Police does not participate in active immigration enforcement under the 287(g) program, while noting the department may cooperate with other agencies in specific circumstances. He also discussed the potential for AI to help investigators review large volumes of case documents, while emphasizing that it does not replace officers or detectives.

G. Candidate Introductions - Albert “Al” Smith – Galveston County Judge

Al Smith urged attendees to vote during early voting, October 19–30, and on Election Day, November 3, and to encourage friends to vote. He stressed the importance of electing candidates he believed would help the county succeed and said he had been canvassing for Democratic candidates beyond Galveston County as well. He also encouraged attendees to take campaign signs for their yards.

H. Clean Galveston Walkabout

Carol Hollaway, VP Finance invited attendees to the Clean Galveston Walkabout on Saturday, October 17. Described as the organization’s largest annual fundraiser, the event will feature prizes including a Carnival cruise, a sunset catamaran cruise, and Dynamo tickets. A ticket also includes admission to Oktoberfest. The speaker noted that Clean Galveston has awarded \$75,000 in grants to local groups and agencies over the past three or four years and encouraged members to attend and support the organization.

I. Announcements from floor

The First Friday Drop-In Coffee Club will be October 2nd from 9 am to 10:30 am at Nifany’s Sweet Store Café Bar, at the Pride Center Galveston at 1502 39th Steet (Mike Gaido Blvd).

The Third Tuesday Drop-In Happy Hour will be on Oct. 20th from 4:30p pm to 6:30 pm at Guelder Rose (formerly MarMo Café & Lounge) at 2121 Market Street.

Our members Henry and Cailin Heffernan are presenting [The Omnibus of Phantasmagoria](#) which is a live theatrical production presented by Act 3 Galveston at the historic Scottish Rite Cathedral in Galveston, 2128 Church St. The presentation will be Saturday, October 17 at 7 pm for pre-show mixer and 8 pm for main performance. The second performance will be Sunday, October 18th, at 2 pm. Tickets are available online through the [Act 3 Galveston Event Tickets Portal](#).

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Next meeting will be October 27th, 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

Meet Us at
GID Headquarters
2121 Market Street
Galveston, TX 77550