

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, August 25, 2026

Pre-meeting activity: Members stuffed bags with mail-in voter registration cards and flyers for Precincts 218 and 223.

Call to Order: President Lynda Harvey brought the meeting to order at 7:03 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 \$28875 in bank. Match amount is \$4660 for the \$5,000.00 challenge.

Attendance Report: Forty-one people attended, five new members.

1.Approvals & Formal Motions (other than minutes)

None

2.Announcements and Discussions

A. New GID Headquarters

Carol Derragon announced that GID has joined Marmo downtown as a member organization, establishing a new headquarters space for meetings, block-walk launches, and events. This increased visibility and community engagement opportunity was made possible largely through a challenge grant. Marmo also hosts partners such as Vision Galveston and its incubator program.

B. Tiffany Perkinz Meet & Greet-Maryanne Welford

Mary Ann Welford announced a meet-and-greet for State Board of Education candidate Tiffany Perkins, to be held tomorrow from 4:00–5:30 p.m. at Sherpa Stuff, 3939 Avenue O, with refreshments provided. Members were urged to attend and share the event via the club’s Facebook page.”

C. Speaker – Candy Hattingh-Vision Galveston & Incubate Galveston-

Candy Hattingh, Incubate Director for Vision Galveston, presented on the organization’s community-driven 2040 plan and four initiatives: Build Galveston (workforce housing), Green Galveston (walkability, resilience, and parks), Incubate (equitable entrepreneurship support), and Measure Galveston (data for equity and policy). She highlighted the Mortar 15-week entrepreneur accelerator, Hackathon High for students, upcoming microloan program, and ongoing park projects at Jones Park and Shield Park. Vision Galveston partners with SBDC, SBA, and local chambers to avoid duplication and expand access to resources. Candy invited members to contact her at candy@visiongalveston.com for collaboration or data support.

D. Candidate Introductions

1. William Demond – Candidate for 14th Court of Appeals, Place 7

William Demond, a constitutional rights attorney and former staff attorney at the Dallas Court of Appeals, addressed the club as the Democratic candidate for the 14th Court of Appeals, Place 7, which serves a 10-county area. He explained that the court, which had a Democratic majority from 2018–2024, is now composed entirely of Republicans, leaving no alternative or dissenting voice on the bench. Demond highlighted his extensive civil-rights background, including representing Harris County inmates in federal COVID-19 jail litigation, working on the Ten Commandments case with Justice Sarah Beth Landau and former Judge Vanessa Gilmore, and being among the first attorneys assisting travelers affected by the federal travel ban. He emphasized the importance of adding diverse perspectives and strong constitutional protections to the appellate court and requested members' support for his campaign.

2. Thurman 'Bill' Bartie, Democratic nominee for Congressional District 14

Thurman "Bill" Bartie, the Democratic nominee for U.S. Congressional District 14 (which includes all of Galveston County), briefly addressed the club, noting that he regularly receives GID emails and had attended the July meeting. He described himself as a neighbor and someone who shares the community's core values, particularly on family, immigration, healthcare, and other issues that shape residents' daily lives. Bartie emphasized that, if elected, he would make decisions in Washington aligned with those values and the needs of local families. He also stressed the importance of name recognition, asking attendees to remember the spelling of his last name—"Bartie – B-A-R-T-I"—and requested their support in his campaign for Congress.

E. Outreach Activities

Lodi Masey provided a list of activities in our community that would like our participation. They are as follows:

9/11 Service of Remembrance – Grace Episcopal Church will hold a remembrance service on September 11 at 6:00 p.m. Members were invited to attend.

ACCT Seawalk – ACCT will host its annual Seawalk on October 3 at 11:00 a.m., meeting at Fort Crockett Park. The walk is approximately 3K. Registration is \$30; children walk free with a registered adult.

ACCT Lunch – December 10 – Galveston Island Democrats will again prepare and serve lunch (including desserts) for approximately 100 people at ACCT on Thursday, December 10. Volunteers were invited to contact the organizer to help with food preparation and service.

Women's Equality / Inequality Day – It was noted that the day commemorates the 19th Amendment and women's right to vote, but that the Equal Rights Amendment still has not been added to the Constitution. The League of Women Voters now observes this as Women's Inequality Day, highlighting ongoing inequities in rights and representation.

National Voter Registration Day at Pride Center – GID will support National Voter Registration Day with an event at the Galveston Pride Center (39th & N). Details, including final confirmation of the September 16 date and logistics, will be shared as they are finalized.

Voter Registration Tools – Reach App – Hector introduced Powered by People (founded by Beto O'Rourke) and the Reach Progressive Organizing app, which allows volunteers to check voter registration status and stay in contact with voters and friends. Data show that 79% of voters contacted through Reach vote, compared to 39% of the general public. Members were encouraged to download and use the app at “hotspots” such as GID meetings, farmers markets, health fairs, and art walks.

Comprehensive Plan Open House (City of Galveston) – Members were informed that the city is updating its Comprehensive Plan (originally created after Hurricane Ike) with a current emphasis on resiliency and flooding. An open-house style community input session will be held on Saturday, August 29, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at Galveston College, Abe and Annie Seibel Wing (near Ave 2½ and 39th St.). Members were urged to attend and advocate for explicit inclusion of environmental protection, wetlands preservation, and wildlife preservation in the updated plan.

UTMB “Island Vibes” Voter Registration – The League of Women Voters will staff a voter-registration table at UTMB’s Island Vibes welcome-back event (4:00–6:00 p.m., Health Education Center). VDRs were requested to volunteer; all materials needed will be provided.

Clean Galveston Walkabout – Clean Galveston, which supports local beautification and quality-of-life projects, announced its Walkabout fundraiser on October 17. A ticket allows participants to visit approximately 30 local businesses and bars, collect tickets, and compete for prizes. Proceeds support Clean Galveston’s grants to local groups (about \$55,000 given over the last three years).

Book Club – Sylvia (in absentia) announced a book club meeting weekly starting September 1, from 10:30–11:45 a.m. at Niffany’s Sweet Store Café (at the Pride Center). Information and book details are available on the table.

F. Talarico Hotspotting

Hector Arias presented on ‘hotspotting’ using the Reach Progressive Organizing app from Powered by People, which allows volunteers to check voter registration status and stay in touch with friends and community contacts. He noted that 79% of voters contacted through Reach vote, compared with 39% of the general public, and encouraged members to download and use the app at events such as GID meetings, markets, and health fairs.

G. City of Galveston Comprehensive Plan

Carol Holloway reported that the City of Galveston is updating its Comprehensive Plan, originally developed in 2011 after Hurricane Ike with a focus on recovery. The current update, funded in part by the Texas General Land Office, is officially scoped around resiliency and protection from hurricanes and flooding, but will also guide future decisions on housing, employment, transportation, and city services. A public open house will be held on Saturday, August 29, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at Galveston College (Abe and Annie Seibel Wing, near Ave 2½ and 39th St.), where residents can speak with city staff and consultants and share priorities for Galveston’s future. Carol urged members to attend, emphasize the need to include environmental protection, wetlands preservation, and wildlife preservation explicitly in the updated plan, and noted that such language is essential groundwork for any future wetlands protection ordinances. She also referenced prior work adding “families, children,

and youth” issues into the earlier plan, encouraging members to use this process similarly to embed the community’s values.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Next meeting will be September 29th, 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
MarMo Innovation
2121 Market Street
Galveston, TX 77550

