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Notice: WOW during the COVID crisis

Hello, WOW friends! We hope this finds you well and staying healthy during this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. For the foreseeable future, WOW Dems' general member meetings and other activities will likely be held online. This is to ensure everyone's safety while still allowing us to work on turning Texas - and America - blue in November. Keep an eye on our social media, website, and future newsletters for announcements regarding upcoming virtual WOW meetings.

MJ Hegar Town Hall!

Exciting news!

WOW is holding a virtual Q&A with U.S. Senate candidate MJ Hegar on *Sunday, April 5, from 3-4 p.m.* Just like an in-person Q&A, you'll be able to see and hear MJ and ask questions.



Anyone can join in from anywhere. Simply register via the [Mobilize link](#) and you'll receive instructions on joining the virtual town hall. No sign-in or existing account is required to join the call, and you can join in from your computer or your mobile device.

Get your questions in ahead of time by emailing communications@wowdems.org. WOW wants to have a strong showing for this, so please spread the word by sharing our [Facebook event](#) and forwarding this information on to your friends and family.

Learn more about MJ at MJforTexas.com.

Council of Clubs Challenge: Flip Your District!

Six Texas State House Districts in Denton and Collin Counties need to be flipped this year. Democratic clubs in both counties - including WOW Dems - have joined a Council of Clubs Challenge to see who can identify and register the most Democratic voters. The Challenge is only through May 1, so join now! To get involved in the Challenge, ask to join the private [Collin / Denton Co Clubs Challenge Facebook group](#).



Learn more about the Challenge from WOW President Debbie O'Reilly in this [great video](#). Join now and let's turn Denton and Collin Counties blue!

Programs Committee: Help WOW Combat Hunger During the COVID-19 Crisis

Not surprisingly, restrictions on daily life due to COVID-19 disproportionately affect the poorest and most disadvantaged members of our community. With massive layoffs from the closures of schools, restaurants, and numerous businesses across the area, many of our neighbors are struggling to meet the basic requirements for food. Even before the COVID-19 crisis, *one in six North Texans was food insecure* and didn't know where their next meal would come from. The "COVID-19 Relief Bill" just passed by Congress provides comprehensive support for displaced workers, but even those eligible for unemployment compensation will experience significant delays before receiving financial help.

Through the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB), WOW Dems created a fundraising site to help fight hunger: wowdems.causevox.com. NTFB is a nonprofit hunger relief organization headquartered in Plano that distributes nutritious food across a 13-county area using a network of partner agencies.

We are pleased to announce that an anonymous WOW Dems donor contributed \$1,000! Though we may never learn who that donor was, please know how deeply we appreciate your generosity, thoughtfulness, and selfless caring for others.

Every dollar donated to NTFB provides three meals. Only a few can donate \$1,000 or more, but if 40 people donate \$25 each (or if 100 donate \$10 each), we can have the same positive impact on the health and well-being of our North Texas neighbors who need this help during this difficult time.

We ask for your support at any level! Even the smallest donation can help the North Texas

Food Bank provide meals to hungry children, senior citizens, and needy families. Please hold our neighbors in your heart and help WOW Dems fight hunger by making a tax-deductible donation to NTFB at wowdems.causevox.com.

Legislative Committee: Primaries, COVID, Redistricting, and More

In the March 3 Texas primary, Democratic turnout was higher and Republican turnout lower than in 2016. Here in North Texas, Collin and Denton Counties saw a record-breaking number of Democratic voters in the primary, likely due to rapid population growth and increased diversity. This may mean momentum is on our side, but Texas Republicans still don't feel threatened by the Dem surge and believe Trump will be re-elected in November.

WE NEED TO GET OUT THE VOTE! REGISTER AT VOTETEXAS.GOV.

About 16.2 million Texans are currently registered to vote. We must register everyone we can and continue to engage non-voters and get them to show up at the polls in November. However, COVID-19 precautions may pose unique challenges to this year's elections. Contact Gov. Abbott (gov.texas.gov/contact) and demand vote by mail!

The Texas runoff election is scheduled for May 26, with early voting slated for May 18-22. Democratic runoffs will be for the U.S. Senate, U.S. CD 3, TX HD 67, and Texas Railroad Commissioner. Note: These dates may change due to concerns over COVID-19. *The deadline to register to vote in the runoff is April 2. Visit VoteTexas.gov to register!*

Census questionnaires should have arrived in your mail a couple weeks ago. Once you receive the information (which will have a Census ID number on it) you can fill out the questionnaire at www.census.gov. Keep an eye on our WOW Legislative Committee reports to find out how YOU can encourage others to complete the census questionnaire.

Keep an eye on our upcoming newsletters and social media for info on this year's *redistricting*, which is being handled by a committee chaired by Rep. Phil King. Redistricting happens only once every 10 years, so be on the lookout for calls to action about contacting the redistricting committee regarding a fair process. Public hearings regarding redistricting were cancelled in March and the one public hearing scheduled for early April has been cancelled as well, but visit redistricting.capitol.texas.gov to keep up with the process and any public hearing notices.

With so much going on, the legislative committee could use your help keeping up and communicating with our members and with the public. Email legislative@wowdems.org to learn more about joining the committee!

COVID-19 headlines are coming fast and furious. America now leads the world in the

number of confirmed cases, and everyone's been affected by this pandemic in some way. Coronavirus relief bills were signed into law during the last few weeks, but whether the aid intended in those packages will be enough for Americans struggling through this crisis remains to be seen. Further, the president has voiced a desire to ease restrictions aimed at protecting public health, like social distancing, by Easter, which could mean a rise in the number of coronavirus cases AND could set a dangerous precedent for local lawmakers seeking to do the same in their cities or counties. In fact, the McKinney mayor has just recently gone head to head with conservative Collin County Judge Chris Hill regarding the former's desire to maintain shelter-in-place mandates, which Hill seeks to override in the interest of the local economy. Contact the president ([whitehouse.gov/contact](https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact)) and Judge Hill (chill@collincountytx.gov) and remind them they are responsible for the public health. Therefore, shelter-in-place mandates must stay in place until we are clear of this danger!

Candidates Committee: Endorsement applications!

The WOW Dems Candidates Committee has approved the Candidate Endorsement Application for release. It will be emailed to candidates on April 15 and is due back to WOW Dems by May 15. If you're a candidate interested in receiving an application, email candidates@wowdems.org.

If you have any questions about WOW Dems endorsements or if you're interested in joining the Candidates Committee, email candidates@wowdems.org.

Help us support women Democratic candidates: [wowdems.org/donate](https://www.wowdems.org/donate)

Communications Committee: 'Our Stories'

The Communications Committee is so pleased to announce the launch of "Our Stories," a blog series devoted to telling your individual stories within the context of the critical issues of our time. We've launched this series by telling the stories of those impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.



After inviting people to share their coronavirus experiences, we shared our first post about a family suffering from unemployment in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis on March 20 (<https://wp.me/p37hr4-bOd>). Our second post came directly from a WOW Dems Legislative Committee member who lives in China and has witnessed the coronavirus crisis unfold. Check it out at <https://wp.me/p37hr4-bP0>.

Each post includes the individual's firsthand account of their experience as well as calls to action related to that experience; for instance, lobbying for expanded unemployment benefits during the COVID-19 crisis or ways in which you can help the healthcare workers who are on the front lines of this pandemic.

As the COVID-19 crisis (hopefully) abates, we will move on to other critical issues our members care about, such as gun sense and reproductive rights. In the meantime, please share your coronavirus experiences at communications@wowdems.org.

Check out our weekly posts and share them across your social media or forward them to your friends and family members. We want to get stories from a broad spectrum of people so that we can put a personal touch on our calls to action.

Again, share your story and invite others to do the same by emailing communications@wowdems.org. We look forward to hearing from you and helping each other get through this crisis together.

The Communications Committee could still use some help with content, social media, and graphics. If you have even just half an hour to spare a week, email communications@wowdems.org to find out more about how you can help!

Membership Committee: Time to Step Up

A hearty THANK YOU to all who have paid 2020 dues! Our current membership total is now 140. There are still many 2019 members who need to renew; our regional progressive candidates need support more than ever, and your membership dues help WOW Dems do just that!

With life as we knew it in disarray, imagine the difficulty of planning and adapting an election campaign strategy to this new reality. That's why it's so critical that WOW Dems provide all the financial support possible. WOW Dems makes it easy for you to do this while giving you access to the great information our Candidates Committee provides. Step up now and join or renew your WOW Membership: [wowdems.org/join](https://www.wowdems.org/join).

Fundraising Committee: It's a Critical Time

Campaigns all across the country are taking a financial hit during the COVID-19 crisis. Understandably, many folks can't give as much as usual - or at all - due to unplanned loss of employment. So, we're asking those of you who can to dig deep and donate to WOW Dems so that we can carry out our critical mission of supporting women Democratic candidates: [wowdems.org/donate](https://www.wowdems.org/donate).

We still have a state, a Senate, and a White House to flip in November, so we hope that if you can give, you will. We appreciate all you do to support our mission!

For those of you who haven't yet seen photos of our Feb. 29 Women of Courage Gala, check out the [gallery](#) put together by Angel Fire Media. The gala was a great time, and we're so lucky we got to see you all for one last great night of solidarity and fun before the coronavirus outbreak. Stay well and hopefully we'll all see you again soon!

WOW Dems | president@wowdems.org | [wowdems.org](https://www.wowdems.org)

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Women Organizing Women Democrats, 1963 Fox Glen Dr, Allen, TX 75013

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