

Barb's Notes, Nov 21, 2024

Thank you, to each of you, for being here today. I have an increased admiration for you, for having the strength to make it here this evening. Welcome.

This is not a fight for the faint at heart. So, thank you for your strength. Let's exercise that strength, and make it grow.

I want to spend just a few minutes on *What Happened?!* I've been all over the spectrum, from thinking half the voting population is ill-informed, to it was rigged, and everything in between.

I've narrowed it down to three major factors, each contributing just enough to the other 2 to create a loss for Harris/Walz.

1) The lies about immigration. Trump has spent most of the last 10 years spreading lies and exaggerations about the dangers of migrants coming across the southern border, and that Democrats are solely responsible for letting them in. Those lies, plus the Biden/Harris administration not slowing down the influx sooner - that lost a lot of votes.

2) Hundreds of millions of dollars were spent on ads falsely making trans teens sound like a major problem facing girls sports. It is not. Less than 3 were located in the 20 states with anti-trans legislation proposed. Did you see the ads that ran on a continuous loop during the football games on the Sunday before the election?

3) Somehow, many people felt that Trump supports the working class more than Harris does. Exit polls showed that the reasons many people voted for Trump were actually policies belonging to Democrats, like higher minimum wages, paid sick leave, lower grocery prices, especially the price of eggs. We have to get better at our messaging.

Of course, there are other factors, like misogyny and racism. I don't think those made the difference though. Remember, Hillary received 3 million votes more than Trump in 2016, and Barack Obama was president for 8 years.

A fourth reason is systemic: voting must be made easier. Five million people who voted in 2020, didn't vote in 2024. What was different? Voting in 2020 was made easier because of Covid. Most states made voting by mail easier. In Texas, we had three weeks of early voting instead of our usual two. And Houstin had 24-hour voting and drive-through voting. (In 2021, Abbott Republicans passed state laws against those). Voting needs to be made easier and standardized nationally.

So that was then and this is now.

Over the last couple of weeks, as I was crawling out of the rubble of disappointment, depression, and despair, it began to be apparent to me that there is way too much happening for one person to handle alone, or for 2 or 3 to retreat together. We will not retreat. We will not surrender. We will hold our heads high. We will face these trying times together and we will forge ahead.

Contrary to what the numbers indicate, our candidates made inroads in local communities with their impactful messages.

Tiffany Drake for state house embodies her message of “Common Ground. Common Sense” and won the hearts of many parents with her “Readers to Leaders” book give-away.

Brandy Douglas for DA emphasized to Grayson County voters that experience matters and convinced many Republicans and Independents to vote for her, going door-to-door with Pamela McGraw in Sherman and Denison. And I do mean literally, door-to-door.

Andre Luper’s passion for good works, kindness, and common good struck a chord, and his team of volunteers were relentless.

George King for State Board of Education took a genuine message of public dollars for public schools all over his 11-county district.

Simon Cardell for U.S. Congress made unexpected inroads in areas of House District 4, and established himself as a young leader with a future in politics, if he should decide to take that route.

Dale Frey’s campaign for the people of State Senate District 30, and his passionate arguments against school vouchers were inspiring.

We’re proud of our judicial candidates and grateful that some of them came and spoke to us, especially Judge Kim Cooks and Judge Staci Williams.

We are incredibly proud of the dedication, passion, and hard work our candidates put into their campaigns. Their commitment to making a difference is truly inspiring, and we are honored to have stood alongside them every step of the way! Their campaigns have increased the respect our candidates receive in this community, and future Democratic campaigns will benefit from that for years to come, and we thank you!

Our amazing army of volunteers set records for voter registrations and get-out-the-vote activities, such as block walking, making calls, and writing postcards, thousands of postcards. We mailed over 1800 postcards to Priority 1 voters in Grayson County, plus countless postcards to swing states through national

organizations like MoveOn and others. Volunteers took our message to festivals throughout the county by working at our Grayson County Democratic Party booth. Wendy and Amy operated distribution hubs in Sherman and Denison for our online promotion of yard signs and highway signs.

Here's a news flash. I doubt that many of you know this. For the first time in recorded history, ok that's an exaggeration, for the first time since I've been paying attention, which is about 14 years now,

All of our Democratic candidates — Kamala Harris, Simon Cardell, Dale Frey, Tiffany Drake, Brandy Douglas, Andre Luper, and all our judicial candidates — won their races in one precinct in Grayson County. And it's one that we prioritized in our get-out-the-vote efforts. Precinct 102, with Karen Spencer as Pct Chair.

How about an enthusiastic round of applause for all our outstanding candidates and volunteers! You have a lot to be proud of!

You represented your party values well and you represented us well.

We, as a community of compassionate, warm and wonderful, patriotic citizens, who pledge allegiance to the United States of America, and who are dedicated to forming a more perfect union, will stand together and organize a force to be reckoned with. We will be heard. Are you ready to get tough? Are you ready to grow? Are you ready to be heard? Are you ready to make a noise in Grayson County? All right - Let's get to work.

I have some ideas to share with you about how to proceed. My ideas are expansive, not restrictive. New ideas and new members will fit in perfectly.

Sometimes, when a problem is too big, divide it into smaller problems and deal with them separately. To deal with the overwhelming set of problems we face today, I suggest, for your consideration, that we divide these challenges into four areas, and deal with those in separate, active working groups. The groups will evolve and morph, I'm sure, but here's how we'll start.

The first group will concentrate efforts on local issues and races. In odd numbered years, like 2025, cities and municipalities, school districts and school boards have elections. The first assignment for this group is to find out what local offices are up for election in 2025. Most of these elections are held in May. The filing deadline for those is in Feb. Sherman has its city elections in Nov. Report what you find out to the group at the January meeting. We'll need to recruit candidates for those offices. More on this in a few minutes.

The second group will concentrate on county issues and races. Most county office elections are held in even numbered years, so this group will concentrate on studying county issues, keeping an eye on county commissioners, and the several other county offices and issues. Perhaps some may attend the monthly commissioners' court.

The third group will concentrate on state issues. This includes keeping track of our newly elected State Representative, Shelley Luther, lobbying her to let her know what citizens of Grayson County need and want- and reporting back to us. Also, track & report State Senator Brent Hagenbuch. The Texas Legislature will be in session. Follow their proposed bills and rally us for protest letters or support letters. Petition our representatives in-person at town halls and local offices.

The fourth group will concentrate on national issues – focusing on bills supported or promoted by Senators Cornyn and Cruz, and Representative Pat Fallon. Follow, protest, & report on the Trump administration's unconstitutional actions.

Do you think we can do this? It's a tall order. While all that's going on, we'll still need to carry on with the usual business of the party- community outreach, teaming up with other organizations for protests, rallies, and issue-oriented actions; MLK Day parade, Earth Day in April, Hispanic Festival, Juneteenth Celebration, Austin College volunteer fair, Fall Festivals. Ron & Jeanne have resigned from their responsibilities managing our booth at the festivals. We must find a team to carry on our tradition of participating in these activities.

2025 promises to be a very busy year. Starting now.

We know we can rise to the occasion. That's why you're here tonight.

We know it's scary. We'll convert that fear into the courage to fight.

Let's resolve to give them hell every step of their wicked way.

Let's turn outrage into action! My assistants are handing out Immediate Action Items, things you can do right here, right now. We'll take 10 minutes for you to do this and then I'll call us back to order for a special guest to present to you a new kind of community action. Back in 10.

Thank you! It is now my honor to introduce to you, community activist,
Waynette Holman