

# Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women

Representing 13 Counties of  
Federated Republican Women



January 2021 Issue

## President's message



Dear GHC Family  
Welcome 2021!

I know we are all glad to welcome the new year after a tumultuous 2020. But despite its challenges, your Clubs and GHC persevered. We continued meeting (even by Zoom when needed), we continued efforts to get out the vote and worked hard to elect our Republican candidates. As I write this, many Republican women are in Georgia helping to secure the runoff. Thank you for your continued service and ability to adapt in a difficult year.

Please plan to join us for the first general meeting of 2021 on January 12th when we will hear from some of our county party chairmen on their plans for the future. Also, please save-the-date for Nuts and Bolts on March 16th. We will honor your Club Presidents at that meeting. Details will be announced soon.

There are a few changes on the GHC Board for 2021 to share with you. Edie Holland will be Corresponding Secretary, Mary Sage will be Recording Secretary, Alice Melancon will be TFRW Liaison, Dana Khan will be Hospitality Chair, Pearl Maggio will be Club Liaison for all member clubs, Deb Cupples will be Parliamentarian, and, Jennifer Knesek will be Historian and Social Media Chair. Congrats to these new officers who will be sworn in at our January meeting. Thank you to Cindy Wingo, Hon. Toni Lawrence, Hon. Theresa Kosmoski and Hon. Angelina Gooden for their service on the board in 2020.

We also want to congratulate our 2020 GHC Board member, Hon. Angelina Gooden, for her appointment as Associate Judge of the 257th Family District Court in Harris County. We wish her the best on her return to the bench in this capacity!

I look forward to working with all of you in 2021 to continue spreading our conservative message and working to elect our Republican candidates in the future!

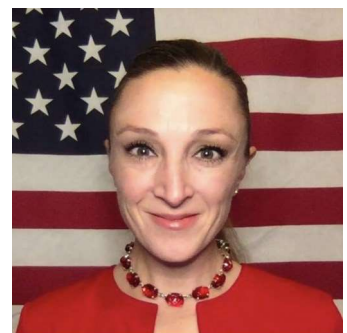
Warmest Regards,  
Sophia Mafrige  
President, GHCFRW 2020-2021



# Greater Houston Council General Meeting January 12, 2021

**Featured Program Speaker Panel Discussion**  
**Republican Women County Chairs and the Future of the GOP**  
**Greater Houston Council Officers Swearing In by Judge Michael Landrum**  
Trini Mendenhall Community Center  
9:30 am Coffee and Light Bites, 10:00 am Meeting

Please come to support our elected Republican Women officials as they discuss how they led their counties through this unprecedented election and the major challenges of their office. Learn how they plan to lead to victory in the coming years and how you will be called to lead with them. Campaign Consultant Jessica Colon will moderate the discussion panel with Cindy Siegel, Harris County Chairman, Cheryl Thompson-Draper, Lavaca County Chairman, Linda McKenzie, Walker County Chairman and Judy Nichols, Jefferson County Chairman.



Pictured: Cindy Siegel, Cheryl Thompson-Draper, Linda McKenzie, Judy Nichols and Jessica Colon.

## Hospitality



Hospitality gives special thanks to **Cy-Fair RW** and **Tomball RW** for providing coffee for the attendees at the November meeting.

For the January meeting, **Bay Area RW** and **Memorial West RW** will be providing coffee for all those attending. Greater Houston Council will continue to provide individually packaged snacks and clubs will be asked to provide coffee. If you have any recommendations for snacks, please contact **Dana**

**Khan** at [danak007@gmail.com](mailto:danak007@gmail.com). Thank you and we hope to see you at the January meeting.

## Greater Houston Council November Meeting Highlights

### Bunni Pounds and Steve Munisteri



Bunni Pounds of Christians Engaged spoke about her efforts to train honest candidates and how to be the righteous leader in these changing times.

Steve Munisteri, former Chairman of the Republican Party of Texas and Senator Cornyn's Campaign Advisor gave an update on why Texas remains RED. Below is an excerpt written in the Wall Street Journal by Karl Rove, also of the Texas Cornyn campaign with Mr. Munisteri, about how Republicans successfully kept Texas Statewide offices and added more in the State House and Senate and in Congress.

***Note the TFRW Shout Out!***

### How Republicans Kept Texas Red

**Democrats seemed to do everything right, but the GOP quietly carried the day.**

**By Karl Rove WSJ Nov. 18, 2020**

Democrats seemed to do everything right to turn Texas blue this year. Joe Biden won 5,211,406 votes, 1.3 million more than Hillary Clinton in 2016 and 1.9 million more than President Obama in 2012. The Democrats' Senate candidate this year, M.J. Hegar, received the second-highest vote total ever for a Democrat in Texas: 4,844,433.

Democrats also mounted well-funded campaigns to flip six Texas congressional seats, outraising Republicans \$28 million to \$17 million. Anticipating a 2022 gubernatorial bid, Robert Francis "Beto" O'Rourke ran the Democrats' registration and turnout efforts.

Even more astonishing, Mr. Obama and his former attorney general, Eric Holder, led an effort to mobilize a galaxy of outside groups against a dozen Republican representatives, aiming to take control of the Texas House by defeating at least nine. These groups spent \$61 million.

It all came to nothing. President Trump received 5,860,096 votes, 1.2 million more than four years ago, and beat Mr. Biden by 648,690. Though Senator John Cornyn was outspent late in the race, he defeated Ms. Hegar by more than one million votes. Republicans kept those six congressional seats, most by big margins, and Messrs. Obama and Holder didn't win the Democrats any new state House seats, leaving the GOP majority intact for next year's redistricting. **Continued on next page:**



## How Republicans Kept Texas Red, continued from page 2:

Democrats did what they needed to do: increase their turnout dramatically. Give them credit. But it wasn't nearly enough, as Republicans did even better. How did Republicans do it?

First, with no public fanfare, Republicans undertook two big voter-registration drives. One, which I helped run, used big data, technology and volunteers from the **Texas Federation of Republican Women**, College Republicans and county GOP organizations. Mr. Cornyn lent a wily former state GOP chairman, Steve Munisteri, to travel Texas stirring up volunteers and enthusiasm while the program's director, Mitch Carney, led an effort that added 212,972 new Republicans to the voter rolls—at a cost of \$7.90 each. The other effort, by the super PAC Engage Texas, used traditional methods, hiring nearly 200 workers to stand outside Department of Motor Vehicles offices and knock on doors. Before it was shut down by Covid-19, it registered another 105,697 Republicans at a cost of \$70.10 each. The combined total of 318,669 new Republicans would constitute almost half of Mr. Trump's statewide margin of victory and one-third of Mr. Cornyn's. But both efforts focused on key congressional and state House districts. In one congressional seat and at least four state House races, the numbers of new in-district Republican registrations were more than the winning GOP candidate's margin.

Second, Texas Republicans mounted a big get-out-the-vote operation. Mr. Cornyn benefited from such efforts when he was elected a state Supreme Court justice in 1990 and state attorney general in 1998. Last year he directed his campaign manager, John Jackson, and Mr. Munisteri to re-create such an effort for this fall. They picked a young operative, Spencer Davis, to run it. The Texas Victory Committee used microtargeting to identify low-propensity voters who needed extra encouragement to turn out, as well as swing suburban voters (especially women) and persuadable Hispanics. Mr. Davis's staff of 40 worked with an army of volunteers to canvass 1.3 million doors, complete 3.1 million calls, and send 24.1 million text messages, supported by seven million pieces of mail, including slate mailers to encourage Republicans to vote for down-ballot offices, since Texas recently abolished straight-ticket voting. This totals 35.5 million voter contacts.

Third, Republican messaging was strong. Texas Republicans pummeled Democrats over their radical agenda: higher taxes, attacks on fracking and oil and gas, a federal takeover of health care, repeal of the state's right-to-work law, and flirtation with socialism and defunding the police. The Cornyn campaign used Ms. Hegar's declaration that "what Democrats need to do differently is not compromise and not become moderate" to show she was a left-winger. GOP candidates for the House and the state Legislature also made use of their opponents' ultraliberal views. State House Republicans found they could run on their records, pointing to increases in teacher pay and school funding, protections for pre-existing conditions and an end to surprise medical billing, property-tax reform, mandatory jail time for human and sex trafficking and a state constitutional amendment, approved last session, to ban a state income tax. The state's popular GOP governor, Greg Abbott, reinforced this message, campaigning for state House candidates and putting an unprecedented \$6 million into their races.

In short, Texas Republicans took the election seriously, returned to basic blocking and tackling, emphasized a winning conservative message, and contrasted it with the increasingly left-wing views of Texas Democrats. The result was a huge increase in turnout among targeted groups and a GOP win. Texas became even redder. Don't you love it when a plan comes together?



**Greater Houston Council FRW**  
**Minutes of General Meeting**  
**November 17, 2020**  
**Mendenhall Community Center, Houston**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 A.M. by President, Sophia Mafrige.

Cheryl Dalton, 4th VP of Finance, opened the meeting with a prayer & led the pledges.

Kittie Rice, 2nd VP of Membership, completed the roll call and a quorum was present.

Sophia Mafrige honored Immediate Past President, Hon. Cindy Seigel, as GHC's TFRW Tribute to Women honoree. Cindy had an opportunity to thank all the members and flowers were presented to Cindy.

Micheline Hutson, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

Gwen Withrow, VP of Programs, introduced our featured Speakers.

Hon. Steve Munisteri, former RPT Chairman, discussed the results & breakdown of voter numbers for the 2020 General Election.

Bunni Pounds, with Christians Engaged, spoke about her organization and their efforts.

Sophia made closing announcements and reminded the Executive Board that the Board's Christmas luncheon would be on December 1st, at The '77 Restaurant from 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 A.M.

Presented by Cindy Wingo, Recording Secretary

**Congratulations Cindy Siegel!**

**Harris County Republican Party Chairwoman**



Cindy Siegel, Past President of Greater Houston Council FRW was elected and sworn in at the Harris County Republican Party meeting on December 14th. She is one of a handful of Republican women in the Greater Houston area who are County Chairs.

Read the full press release on the Harris County Republican Party Facebook page below: or go to **[www.HarrisCountyGOP.com](http://www.HarrisCountyGOP.com)**

**[https://www.harriscountygop.com/harris\\_county\\_republican\\_party\\_executive\\_committee\\_elects\\_cindy\\_siegel\\_as\\_county\\_chair?fbclid=IwAR0Bxa-JeGwVvrFwsG7a4WcvoVLGw--N3leUvvkxSmLM5op1RC-nco5nJd0](https://www.harriscountygop.com/harris_county_republican_party_executive_committee_elects_cindy_siegel_as_county_chair?fbclid=IwAR0Bxa-JeGwVvrFwsG7a4WcvoVLGw--N3leUvvkxSmLM5op1RC-nco5nJd0)**

Cindy Siegel is a long-time conservative Republican grassroots activist, who has worked to support the Republican Party and get conservative candidates elected to office. Cindy has a long history of serving within the Party and auxiliary Republican groups. Cindy was recently elected as Harris County Republican Party Chairman to fill a vacancy. Prior to that Cindy has served as Treasurer, Vice-Chair and as a Precinct Chairman within the Harris County Republican Party.

Cindy is the immediate past President of the Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women. She served as the Texas Federated Republican Women's District Director for Senate District 17 for four years. She is a two-term past president of the Magic Circle Republican Women's Club. Cindy has served as a delegate several times to the Harris County Republican Senatorial Convention and the Texas Republican Party State Convention.

She also served as the Mayor of the City of Bellaire for 8 years and a Bellaire City Councilman for 6 years.

Cindy is a Certified Public Accountant with 35 years of experience. She owns a public accounting firm that provides accounting and tax services for small businesses and individuals.

## Greater Houston Council FRW Board Christmas Luncheon

December 1st at The '77 Restaurant



## Greater Houston Council Board at TFRW Tribute to Women Luncheon

November 14th at the Sheraton Georgetown

With Tribute to Women GHC Honoree Cindy Siegel and RWC of Katy Honoree Cindy Wingo

Pictured L to R: Dr. Milinda Morris, Jennifer Knesek, Board members Sophia Mafrige, Tina Gibson, Gwen Withrow, Kittie Rice, Cindy Wingo, Cindy Siegel, Alice Melancon, Pearl Maggio, TFRW President Glynis Chester with Cindy Siegel, RPT Vice Chair Cat Parks, Dr. Dana Myers.





## More Photos from the TFRW Tribute to Women Awards Luncheon

Sheraton Georgetown Hotel, November 14, 2020





# Braes Republican Women Celebrate Their 60th Anniversary!

## Celebrating 60 Years!



Braes RW formed in 1960 as the first Houston area Republican Women's club. Greater Houston Council FRW was formed under their direction and leadership.

Braes RW joined Texas Federation of Republican Women in 1965.

Greater Houston Council FRW is proud to support these ladies as our mentors and friends in their long battle to turn Harris County Red and now going to the fight ahead.

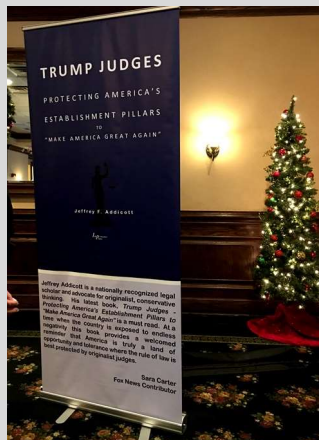
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Renee Windsor, 2nd Vice President, Cheryl Riedl, Recording Secretary, Dorothy Caram, outgoing President, Fleury Sommers, President, Tina Gibson, TFRW District Director SD 17, Evander McCleny, Treasurer, Dwilene Lindsay, member, Judy Spriggs, Eugenie Chen, member.



## Club Events and Officer Installations 2020



Above: **Brazosport RW** Officers with GHC President Sophia Mafrige, SREC SD 17 Becky Green, outgoing President Gayla Baker, Pam Mahon BRW President 2021, Gloria Moore Angleton RW President and Yvonne Dewey. Middle: **Magic Circle RW** Board Officer Installation with President Dr. Dana Myers, speaker Jeffrey Addicott. Below: **Fort Bend RW** Officer Installation by Congressman-Elect Troy Nehls, outgoing President Marilyn Davis and new President Kristin Tassin.



**Congratulations to Judge Angelina Gooden  
on Her Appointment as  
Associate Judge of the 257th Family District Court in Harris County**



We are proud to announce that former 2020 GHC Board member and San Jacinto RW member Judge Angelina Gooden has been appointed to serve as Associate Judge in the Texas 257th Family District Court in Harris County. Judge Gooden is a former judge of the Texas 280th District Court.

Congratulations, Judge Gooden!



**MORE CLUB EVENTS!!**



**RW Club of Katy** December meeting with RNC Committeeman Dr. Robin Armstrong, Board Christmas Lunch and Volunteer of the Year Mari Velasquez and Jennifer Haar, President.

# Legislative Report

By SJ Swanson



2021 brings new representatives, partisan splits, and challenges to the state and federal legislative branches. Here are some highlights:

## Texas Legislature

The 87th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature will gavel in on January 12th, the second Tuesday in January, at noon in the newly-reopened Texas Capitol. Due to continued novel coronavirus concerns, there will be a significant reduction in the number of people allowed on the floor and in the galleries for the opening sessions. Governor Abbott announced before Christmas that the Capitol building would open January 4th ahead of the Session, following a lengthy closure associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The regular session is set to last 140 days, ending on May 31, 2021. After that, the Governor has until June 20th to sign or veto bills that arrive to his desk.

Republicans thankfully again have the majority in both the Texas House and Senate. Bill pre-filing began November 9, 2020, and Texas lawmakers set a new record of more than 500 bills filed in the House and 150 in the Senate on the first day. At this writing on January 5th, 1033 bills have been filed so far in the House, and 265 more in the Senate. Thousands of bills will be filed during the session, but the vast majority will not become law. For comparison, of the more than 7,000 bills filed in the 86th session, 820 became law.

In addition to the plethora of bills, the Legislature will take up the issue of redistricting as it does every ten years. This is a huge issue as the Texas Leg will redraw Texas district maps not only for the state representatives, but also for our U.S. congress districts. Federal census population data is to be provided to the Texas Legislature by April 1st following each decennial census. Once received, the members of the legislature and other interesting parties begin drawing plans. Redistricting bills follow the same process as other bills. If the districts are not enacted during the first regular session, the Texas Constitution calls for the Legislative Redistricting Board be convened with five-member body of state officials, including the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House, and adopt its own plan.

Texas lawmakers also have to pass a budget. It's been reported that Texas faces a shortfall of more than \$4 billion from the last biennial session.

You can learn more and keep up with the goings-on in the Texas Legislature, follow certain bills, look up legislatures, and more. The Texas redistricting process has its own website at <https://redistricting.capitol.texas.gov>

## United States Congress

Texas has two Senators and 36 Representatives to the U.S. Congress. The 117th Congress is in session.

The House of Representatives is currently majority Democratic party with 222 Representatives, and 211 Republicans. There are currently 2 vacancies – Luke Letlow (R Louisiana) died December of the coronavirus. The election for his replacement is set on March 30th. Due to the failure of New York to submit an election certificate, there is a vacancy in NY's 22nd Congressional District. Although not official yet, another Louisiana Representative Cedrick Richmond (D), will be replaced in an election likely the same day. Richmond is set to join the Biden administration as a senior White House advisor.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was reelected to that position on January 3rd to what she has promised will be her 4th and final term as she plans to step down at the end of the next congress in 2023.

### **Legislative Report continued from page 12:**

As is much in the news, there is an election for both Georgia Senate seats on January 5th as we go to press. Until that election is certified, per the U.S. Senate's own data, currently the Majority Party is Republican with 50\* seats filled, and the Minority Party is Democrat with 46 seats. Other Parties/Independents hold 2 other seats, but caucus with the Democrats. The world is watching the Georgia run-off election today where the Class 2 seat held by Senator David Perdue, and the Class 3 seat held by appointed senator Kelly Loeffler will be decided. \*Senator Perdue's term expired on January 3, 2021, resulting in a vacancy in that seat until the run-off election results are certified. If the Democrats are successful in gaining the two Georgia seats, the 50/50 makeup will likely tip in most instances via the tie-breaker vote of the Vice President. However, most bills need a 60-vote supermajority to pass in the Senate, so even if they get 50, they would need to have ten Rs join them to get something done. But similarly, even with a Republican majority of 51 or 52 Senators, the Majority still would need to gather eight or nine Democrats to pass.

### **Supplemental COVID Relief Legislation**

On December 21, 2020, Congress passed, and President Trump later signed, a long-anticipated coronavirus relief bill as well as a government funding plan in the Consolidated Appropriations Act. \$1.4 trillion goes to the 2021 appropriates omnibus, and \$892 billion goes to emergency coronavirus relief. The bill includes \$166 billion for direct payments of \$600 per adult and child, \$600 for individuals making up to \$75k per year, and \$1,200 for couples making up to \$150k per year. Checks have reportedly been arriving in individuals' mailboxes already.

While much has been reported about the huge payments being made to other nations for programs there that far exceed the relief aimed at Americans, the coronavirus relief package and the omnibus spending bill are in fact two separate packages that fall under the year-end funding package for fiscal year 2021.

Please continue to pray for our country and for all of our elected representatives.







## **GREATER HOUSTON COUNCIL OF FEDERATED REPUBLICAN WOMEN**

### **2020/2021 Board of Directors**

President	Sophia Mafrige, Magic Circle RW
1st VP Programs	Gwen Withrow, Spindletop RW
2nd VP Membership	Kittie Rice, Spindletop RW
3rd VP Special Events	Dr. Milinda Morris, Central Houston RW
4th VP Finance	Cheryl Dalton, Magic Circle RW
Recording Secretary	Mary Sage, Magic Circle RW
Corresponding Secretary	Edie Holland, Bay Area RW
Treasurer/PAC Treasurer	Micheline Hutson, Cy Fair RW
Immediate Past President	Hon. Cindy Siegel, Magic Circle RW

#### **STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN (VOTING)**

Bylaws	Barbara Tague, Tomball RW
Campaign Activities	Gayla Baker, Brazosport RW
County Chair Liaison	Emely McHattie, Village RW
Legislative	SJ Swanson, Village RW
Newsletter	Tina Gibson, Fort Bend RW
Public Relations	Carmen Crenshaw, Magic Circle RW

#### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN EX-OFFICIO (NON-VOTING)**

Hospitality	Dana Khan, NW Forest RW
Historian	Jennifer Knesek, Magic Circle RW
Club Liaison	Pearl Maggio, Montgomery County RW

#### **PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES EX-OFFICIO (NON-VOTING)**

Advisor to President	Jessica Colon, Texas Tea Party RW
Chaplain	Ann Lee, Memorial West RW
Protocol	Barbara Tague, Tomball RW
TFRW/NFRW Liaison	Alice Melancon, Montgomery County RW
GOTV	Rachel Redus, Tri-County RW
Social Media	Jennifer Knesek, Magic Circle RW
Parliamentarian	Debbie Cupples, Memorial West RW

## Greater Houston Council Calendar of Events



All General and Executive Committee Meetings at  
Trini Mendenhall Community Center  
1414 Wirt Rd. Houston 77055

### General Meetings 9:30 am—noon

January 12, 2021

March 16, 2021

May 18, 2021

September 21, 2021

November 9, 2021

### Executive Committee Meetings 2021, 10:00 am

February 16, 2021

April 20, 2021

August 17, 2021

October 19, 2021

For more information go to [www.ghcfrwpac.org](http://www.ghcfrwpac.org), or contact President Sophia Mafrige at  
[ghc2020prez@aol.com](mailto:ghc2020prez@aol.com)

## Victory 2021 Calendar



- ☆ January 3— 117th United States Congress Convenes
- ☆ January 6—Congress Votes to Confirm State Electoral College Results
- ☆ January 12— 87th Texas Legislature Convenes
- ☆ January 20—Presidential Inauguration Day
- ☆ February 3-5— TFRW Legislative Day and Board Meetings, Sheraton Georgetown
- ☆ **March 16 — SAVE THE DATE! GHCFRW Nuts 'N Bolts Workshop**



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