

THE BOERNE STAR  
**VIEWPOINTS**

# Coming soon: the March primary election

Scott Kramer's "Write of Center" column last week included an excellent rundown of the details of our "great election system," and we at the Kendall County Democratic Party (KCDP) agree. Kendall County elections administrator Staci Decker runs one of the best elections offices in the state. Staci and her outstanding staff provide thorough training for all election workers, and they are very organized and detail oriented.

You can rest assured that your vote will be recorded and counted accurately and that the voting machines are secure.

The dedication and ability of poll workers to step beyond partisanship and work together to serve the citizens of Kendall County is one of the most inspiring experiences in today's politics. I wish more people would rightfully trust in it, so we could shift focus and resources to solving the real problems our community faces.

The March 5, 2024, primary

is only 12 weeks away. Kendall County will hold both a Democratic and a Republican primary, so voters can decide which candidates will appear on the ballot in November's general election.

Topping the ballot for the March primary will be candidates for U.S. President, U.S. Congressional District 21, and U.S. Senator. Candidates for Texas House District 19, Texas Senate District 25, State Board of Education District 10, and Railroad Commissioner will also appear.

Candidates for county-wide offices (such as county commissioners for precincts 1 and 3, and others) will appear, as will a number of judicial races.

Texas holds an "open primary." According to Ballotpedia, an open primary "is a type of primary election where voters do not have to formally affiliate with a political party in advance to vote in its primary. Voters declare their affiliation with a party at the polls on the



day of the primary."

Texas has no requirement to declare one's party when one registers to vote. A voter "declares" their party affiliation by choosing which primary to vote in. When you visit your polling place (or when you request your ballot-by-mail), you will tell the voting clerk which primary you want to vote in.

Once you've voted in one party's primary, you cannot vote in the other party's primary or runoff election. Voters will see only the candidates for the primary of their choice. In other words, if you vote in the Democratic primary, your ballot will not include any Republican candidates.

Texas is one of only 11 states

that does not permit online voter registration. To be eligible to vote in the March 5 primary, voters must register by Monday, February 5. Register to vote at the Kendall County Elections Office (KCEO) at 221 Fawn Valley Drive in Boerne. You can also request a form online (which you must then print and mail) at [www.vote411.org/register](http://www.vote411.org/register).

If you're already registered, you will receive an updated voter registration card in the mail in mid-January. This card will list your current voting precinct and the various districts you live in.

If you're eligible to vote by mail (find out requirements by googling "vote by mail in Texas"), you can request an application beginning January 1, 2024. To request an application, call the KCEO at 830-331-8701.

Early voting runs February 20 through March 1. Early voting is held at the KCEO office on Fawn Valley. Election Day is

Tuesday, March 5.

Kendall County will have 11 polling locations, and you can vote at any site. A list of locations will be available on the KCEO website and in the Boerne Star in mid-February.

Sample ballots listing all the candidates and races for each primary will be available online (at the KCEO website) or at their office on Fawn Valley by mid-February.

By early February, the KCDP website will have all the information you need to know before you vote.

We encourage all local Democrats to vote in the Democratic primary, so we can field the strongest slate of candidates for the November election. For more information on voting or the March primary, call our office at 830-331-1243 or visit [www.kcdems.us](http://www.kcdems.us).

*Laura Bray is Chair of the Kendall County Democratic Party. Michele Smith contributed to this column.*