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# More than you think

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## PROGRESSIVE VIEWS

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DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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Progressives in Kendall County: rare as a snowball during a Texas July, right?

Wrong. There are more of us than you think.

Democrats believe that investments in education, infrastructure and science lead to economic growth and provide everyone with an equal opportunity to succeed. Where you start should not determine where you end up.\*

To install political leaders who advance those principles, Progressives must cast off the "my vote doesn't count" inertia and *vote* for such leaders.

Sen. Ted Cruz won his 2012 primary (and therefore his Senate seat) with only 632,000 votes (less than 5 percent of the eligible voting population) in a highly motivated and organized effort.

Our current state leaders are pursuing spurious legal action against DACA, illegally suspending rules for special elections and appointing to a medical task force a person who has faced medical disciplinary action in three states.

Over the past several sessions, the Texas Legislature has significantly reduced the state's funding of public schools even as Texas school populations grow, while giving tax breaks to wealthy corporations (such as a 30 percent reduction in the business margins tax).

Since 2002, a teacher's share of healthcare premiums has more than doubled (the state contribution has remained the same). And Texas ranks last in the US in teacher retirement funding.

Contrast that with the positions of our current Democratic candidates:

- Providing adequate funding to public schools, not voucher programs.
- Creating a path to citizenship for hard working people who have lived here as law-abiding citizens for decades.
- Expanding voting rights to *all* eligible voters and ending

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FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2018

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partisan gerrymandering (on either side).

- Supporting sustainable agriculture and the ability of our farmers and ranchers to provide it.
- Applying equal rights under the law to everyone.

A motivated and organized Progressive electorate can install new leaders who work from compassion, not greed.

And 2018 is our chance. People are energized and ready for a change. Kendall County is growing rapidly, adding to our Progressive base. Last February in Boerne, Beto O'Rourke drew a crowd of nearly 300 – on a workday afternoon.

Attendance at monthly Boerne Area Democrats meetings continues to climb, and new members join each month. And after more than 10 quiet years, the Kendall County Democratic Party (KCDP) is emerging from the shadows and making its voice heard.

Democrats have strong and qualified candidates (several of whom are veterans or educators) for seats in the US Senate, US House of Representatives, the Texas House and Senate, as well as all statewide offices. Take some time to look into their positions on issues important to you.

So what you can *you* do to advance this cause? Get involved.

- Are you registered to vote (and is your address current on your voter registration)? Check now, when there's plenty of time before the November election. Visit the Kendall County Elections website to check.

- Commit to vote in November (and beyond). Talk to your family, friends and neighbors and encourage them to vote.

- Visit the website of the Texas Democrats and sign up for their expanding list of online classes (including "Activist 101" and "Introduction to Digital").

- Join the Boerne Area Democrats (see this paper's "Calendar" section for more information).

- Tell your precinct chairman (look it up online) that you want to volunteer. We need help with block walking, phone banking, hosting events, administrative work and more.

The KCDP has new leadership, new volunteers and a burning desire to drive change in Kendall County. Watch the KCDP, Boerne Area Democrats and Texas Democrats' websites to find out more about our activities (and join our mailing list), and help us create the wave.

\*(acknowledgement to Bill Clinton and Barack Obama for the paraphrased quotes)