

The Republican era of domination of Collin County is beginning to come to a close. There are huge numbers of Democrats in Collin County, and we have a real opportunity to re-engage our local Democrats to effect change. That includes the 72,000 voters that cast ballots in the Democratic Primary in Collin County on that historic day in March 2008, and especially including the 20,000 Collin County citizens that made the effort to come out to Democratic Precinct Conventions the night of March 4, 2008.

I have been active in Democratic politics for over 20 years, but the turnout that night was one of the most encouraging things I have ever seen in politics -- besides the coming together of our national party in 2008 and the election of Barack Obama as President -- because it made it clear once and for all that everyone had more Democrats in their neighborhoods in Collin County than folks had realized before. I can not think of any other event in the history of Collin County where there were more citizens participating together all at one time, and in the process meeting and talking to their neighbors, and what happened was a Democratic event!

Since being elected Chairman of the Democratic Party of Collin County just six months ago, we have retired the Party's debt, the County Executive Committee unanimously passed a Strategic Plan, we have been organizing and building the infrastructure of the local party, and we have some strong candidates running for local office. The Democratic Party is moving forward together in Collin County, and I am honored to be a part of that progress.

As our party becomes more prominent, there is apparently more interest on the part of some to be the elected leader of our party as an emerging force. I see that as a sign of growth. As Party Chairman, I welcome the involvement of new activists and volunteers. However, being Chairman of the Democratic Party of Collin County is much more than holding a title. The County Chair must run the Democratic Primary election funded by the State of Texas, organize and raise private funding for the County Convention, preside over and lead the County Executive Committee, and fulfill a multitude of other responsibilities. In contrast to the other candidate for County Chair for the May 2010 - May 2012 term, whose history with the Democratic Party is apparently limited to having voted in the Democratic Primary in 2002 and filing for the office of County Chair recently, I would hope the Democratic Primary voters in Collin County are most comfortable with my history working to build the party, both locally and at the state level. For example, my personal history with the Democratic Party includes the following:

- Voting in every Democratic Primary since 1988;
- Working for the election of Ann Richards as Governor in 1990;
- Initiating the registration of the Texas Democratic Party Internet domain in 1996;
- Establishing the first website for the Texas Democratic Party;
- Serving as the TDP's first webmaster from 1996 - 1998;
- Serving as a Precinct Chair member of the County Executive Committee of the Harris County Democratic Party from 1996 - 2002;
- Serving as a pollwatcher and member of the Ron Kirk for U.S. Senate Campaign Legal Team in 2002;
- Serving as a Precinct Chair member of the County Executive Committee of the Democratic Party of Collin County from 2003 - 2009;
- Serving as Vice-Chair & General Counsel of the Democratic Party of Collin County from 2003 - 2008, etc.);
- Serving as Chairman of the Democratic Party of Collin County from July 2009 - present.

I ask for the vote of every Collin County Democrat in my bid for re-election. Together we can be a significant force in Collin County, the broader DFW region, and the entire state of Texas, ultimately having an impact on national politics!

Shawn Stevens  
Chairman, Democratic Party of Collin County