

Benton County Dems' World



David Bernstein, Editor

Upcoming Events

Mon., Sept 28
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Meeting

Will Be Held Online

Virtual General Meetings Hosted on Zoom Until Further Notice.

Topic: BC Dems General Meeting
Time: **Sept 28, 2020, 12:00 PM** Central Time (US and Canada)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 869 4885 1107
Passcode: 521987

This Month's Speakers

Celeste Williams

Celeste Williams is the Democratic candidate for the 3rd US House District. Celeste Williams has over 24 years of experience as a nurse caring for the people in her community. Becoming a nurse and then a nurse practitioner was an answer to a calling to reduce suffering through compassionate care and service, to work to improve the lives of people.

Her formal education has been in nursing, She obtained an undergraduate degree at Southern Nazarene University and her Masters Degree at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Early in her career, she worked in the hospital setting in cardiac care, the emergency department, and the intensive care unit. For the past 9 years, She has worked as a family practice nurse practitioner in primary care.



She and her husband Kirk have lived in NW Arkansas for 16 years. They have 2 biological children, 2 adopted children, and 1 foster daughter.

Celeste sees people struggling to afford healthcare every day. Often people have to make the difficult decision to choose between paying for medical care, rent, or food, Celeste believes working Arkansans shouldn't have to struggle to meet their basic needs. This is why she ran for State Representative in 2018 and has now become chairwoman of the Democratic Party of Benton County. She hopes to build on the infrastructure built this past election cycle and offer better solutions for Arkansas families by getting Democrats Elected.

Daisy Bonilla

Daisy Bonilla is running for Arkansas State House of Representatives for District 93 in Bentonville. Daisy was born and raised in California but has considered Bentonville her home for the last 13 years.

Daisy is a Social Worker providing mental health services, where she gets to help empower people to change their own circumstances. She has worked with nonprofit organizations across the community, including children's welfare, community defense centers, and other nonprofits focused on helping families in need, particularly those in the immigrant community.

Daisy is passionate about using her background as a social worker to see the big picture, and advocate for the change we need so everyone in our community can succeed. Most recently, this has included meeting with the CDC during their visit to Arkansas, alongside other members of the NWA Latinx Community Task Force, to share the concerns and needs she's seen in our community.



Signs, Bumper Stickers & Buttons



Lawn Signs: 24"x18" with H frame. \$10 each. Signs will be delivered within Benton and Washington Counties only.

Buttons (only the Biden Harris 2020) \$1
Each. Delivered or mailed locally
(Benton Co).



Biden Bumper stickers \$3 for one or \$5
for two stickers. Mailed within the U.S.

Now Is The Time

We can no longer take for granted that folks will do the right thing. Let the hidden Democrats know they are not alone by putting up a yard sign.

[ORDER YOUR ITEMS NOW!](#)

Get the latest information on COVID in Arkansas



[Arkansascovid.com](https://www.arkansascovid.com)

Do you know...

...of a member who is sick or in need of our assistance, please forward requests or information to our corresponding secretary at dao.bcdems@gmail.com.

General Meeting Minutes

Benton County Dems

General Meeting Minutes

ZOOM Virtual Meeting – approx. 30 attendees

Monday, August 24, 2020

I. Call to order by President Julia Kilbourne Bailey at 12:00

II. ZOOM Manners and Etiquette

A. Members, except Walter Hinojosa, will be muted (to avoid dogs' barking, side conversations, and other home noises interrupting the speaker)

B. Send questions via the chat icon

III. Business

A. Reminder to renew memberships

B. BC Dems are still supporting candidates so Blue Bowl Contributions are still important—donate online at the webpage or by mail

C. Maritza Munich reported on the voter registration activities in Benton County

1. August 28-29, 2020, volunteers registered new voters and provided absentee ballot information from 9-1 both days at the Hibachi Grill in Rogers.

2. 149 new voters registered

3. Drive-in format employed all COVID precautions: masks, shields, sanitizer, etc.

4. Next event is Saturday, August 29 in Centerton at the City Building close to Main Street and 102

IV. Speakers

A. Walter Hinojosa introduced Jon Comstock, Democratic candidate running for Arkansas State Representative, District 96 (East Benton County, East of Second St. in Rogers to Beaver Lake south to Lost Creek to the north and south of the Washington County line in the south

1. History—Currently a Circuit Court Judge

a. Running because the young man who had planned run, dropped out

b. Comstock worked 18 years with Walmart and learned it only takes one to speak out to get things changed

2. Personal beliefs
 - a. Believes Democrats need a voice to be heard in Little Rock
 - b. Government should do things that are good for people, families, and communities
 3. Key issues
 - a. Criminal Justice Reform — Too many people sentenced for too long
 - b. Landlord-tenant laws needed in Arkansas
 - c. Habitability laws need reform
 4. The campaign focuses on radio interviews and spots
 5. More information at www.joncomstockforarkansas.com and jon@joncomstock.com
- B. Walter Hinojosa introduced Michael Bennet Spears, running for State Representative District 87 (Elm Springs, Tontitown, Silome Springs, and West Springdale)
1. History
 - a. From northeast Arkansas
 - b. Currently employed in the restaurant business
 - c. Life experience is his political experience—health care system failed both parents
 2. Personal beliefs
 - a. No one should die because of a broken healthcare system
 - b. Public should be supported by their government
 3. Key issues
 - a. Healthcare reform is needed in Arkansas
 - b. Living minimum wage—in 2018, 64% of voters wanted to raise the minimum wage, Republicans in Little Rock voted it down
 - c. Fee reductions for people returning from incarceration
 4. Believes his area can flip to Democratic using data from the 2018 election results
 - a. Fee reductions for people returning from incarceration
 - b. In 2018, 18% of District 87 was Hispanic, yet only 5% voted
 - c. Working hard to enfranchise all voters in District 87
 5. More information at www.michaelforArkansas.com
- C. Betsy Harrell, Benton County Clerk
1. In-person voting sites
 - a. 5 sites were closed because of mandated separate ingress and egress points
 - b. 1 new site has been opened
 - c. Plenty of poll workers are ready
 - d. Check vote@bentoncountyar.gov to find voting locations
 2. Requesting absentee ballots
 - a. As of August 24, 5200 absentee voter applications have been processed, receiving 200+ more each day
 - b. COVID protection concerns are a valid excuse for requesting an absentee ballot
 - c. Please, apply for absentee ballot now
 - i. In-person at the County Clerk’s office
 - ii. Online at absentee@bentoncountyar.gov
 - iii. No photo identification required with request

- d. Ballots should arrive within one week of the date Clerk received the request
 - e. First mailing will be September 18-19, 2020
 - f. Last date to request absentee ballot by mail is October 27, 2020
 - g. Last date to pick up absentee ballot in person is November 2, 2020
3. Checking on your absentee status at www.voterview.ar-nova.org/voterview or email the County Clerk at absentee@bentoncountyar.gov
 - a. Envelopes with ballots are not colored, but are clearly marked
 4. Returning absentee ballots
 - a. Drop off at any Benton County Clerk's Office or Annex in Rogers
 - i. Take into the office or call and someone will come out to pick it up
 - ii. Last two weeks before Nov. 3, drop boxes outside the County Clerk's Office will be manned to check designated barer will have ID checked (returning someone else's ballot)
 - iii. Return signed ballot with photo identification OR signed provisional ballot request which is included
 - b. Mail ballot—Not sure yet envelope will require extra postage to mail
 - c. County Clerk's Office is working to be sure instructions sent out are clear with important details highlighted in yellow
 - d. A video of instructions will be available on the County Clerk's webpage
 - e. Mailed ballot must include a photocopy of a picture identification with actual signature
 - i. If no photo is available, the voter may fill out the enclosed "Provisional Status" page, and the ballot will not be counted until the registration is checked by the County Clerk's Office (name, address, birthdate)
 - ii. Ballots mailed without a photo will be given "provisional" status, and voter registration will be checked before the ballot will be counted by the County Clerk's Office (name, address, birthdate)
 5. Other information
 - a. County Clerk's Office has hired extra people to have enough people to count ballots
 - b. County Clerk's Office has permission to open the outer envelope before November 3, to consolidate the ballot-envelopes to be checked on Election Day
 - c. NO ELECTION RESULTS CAN BE CERTIFIED UNTIL ALL BALLOTS ARE COUNTED
 - d. If signatures do not match an attempt to contact voter will be made, if possible
 - e. Individuals can get a list of absentee voter requests as public information
 - f. IF BALLOT IS NOT COUNTED, VOTER WILL BE NOTIFIED
 - g. No current move to revamp voter registration forms
 - h. Information will be posted on all social media sites, newspaper, and other media outlets
 6. For more information -- absentee@bentoncountyar.gov
 7. To become a poll worker, contact Benton County Election Commission

V. Meeting adjourned 1:02.

Treasurer's Summary

August 2020

by Timothy Boyer, Treasurer



Beginning Balance: \$504.11

INCOME:

Dues \$20.00
Blue Bowls \$30.00
Yard Signs Sales \$361.48

Total Income: \$411.48

Ending Balance: \$745.59

EXPENSES:

Yard Signs Expense \$170.00

Total Expenses: \$170.00

2020 Benton County Dems Officers & Committee Chairs

Position	Name
President	Julia K. Bailey
Vice-President	Walter Hinojosa
Treasurer	Tim Boyer
Recording Secretary	Deb Ostas
Past President	Eunice Van Tuyl
Membership Chair	David Bernstein
Social Media Chair	Joel Ewing
Newsletter / Publicity Chair	David Bernstein
Corresponding Secretary	Deb Ostas
Reservations Chair	Betty Cauldwell
Publicity Chair	Catherine Deeley