

## Upcoming Events

Mon. February 22  
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Meeting

**Will Be Held Online**

### Virtual General Meeting Hosted on Zoom Until Further Notice.

Topic: BC Dems General Meeting  
Date & Time: **February 22, 2021, 12:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 858 1798 5750 (**corrected 2/17**)  
Password: 905825

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking the URL from your device, or  
dialing into the call number below.  
(312) 626-6799

## Our February Speakers

### Bonnie Miller

Chair, Arkansas Voters First  
President, League of Women Voters - Washington County

Originally from Southern California, **Bonnie Miller** received her B.A. in Sociology & Anthropology with a minor in Race & Ethnic Studies. In 2008, she moved to Arkansas to pursue a graduate degree in Sociology. She now considers herself an Arkansas native and has spent several years working on redistricting reform in the state.

Bonnie serves on the board of directors for the **League of Women Voters of Arkansas** and as president of the local **League in Washington County**. Bonnie also serves as chairperson of



Arkansas Voters First, a nonpartisan organization dedicated to ending partisan gerrymandering through the establishment of an independent citizen-led redistricting commission. Outside of her redistricting reform work, she helps coordinate voter registration drives, training programs, candidate forums, and education/advocacy programs around ballot issues and elections. She is passionate about civic education and engagement and considers herself a democracy reform and pizza enthusiast.

## Reverend Sara Milford

**All Saints Episcopal Church, Bentonville**

Rev. Milford will describe the Community Medical Debt Relief Campaign for Arkansas. **RIP Medical Debt** is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to removing the burden of medical debt for individuals, veterans, and families across America. Since its inception in 2014, RIP has helped donors **forgive over a billion dollars in Medical Debt**.

*Every dollar donated forgives one hundred dollars of medical debt.*



Watch this video to learn more about the Community Medical Debt Relief Campaign for Arkansas. [RIP Medical Debt](#)



## The President's Memo

*"To accept one's past—one's history—is not the same thing as drowning in it; it is learning how to use it. An invented past can never be used; it cracks and crumbles under the pressures of life like clay in a season of drought." – James Baldwin*

*Black History Month* is a month-long invitation to learn more about our shared past and its legacies. [The 1619 Project](#) and Isabel Wilkerson's [Caste](#), are just two recent groundbreaking publications that help us face our history more completely and provide a way forward toward reconciliation as a nation.

As Americans, we have trod a long path toward facing our history honestly. A nation doesn't heal by ignoring its past or attempting to whitewash it. It heals by acknowledging, correcting its ways, and making every effort not to go down that path again. As Congressman Jamie Raskin stated in his closing remarks in Donald Trump's second impeachment trial, "... inscribed in The Declaration of Independence and The Constitution [are] all the

beautiful principles that we needed to open America up to successive waves of political struggle and constitutional change and transformation in the country so we really would become something much more like Lincoln's beautiful vision of government of the people, by the people and for the people – the world's greatest multiracial, multi-religious, multiethnic constitutional democracy, the envy of the world.”

Stay safe and well,

*Julia K. Bailey*

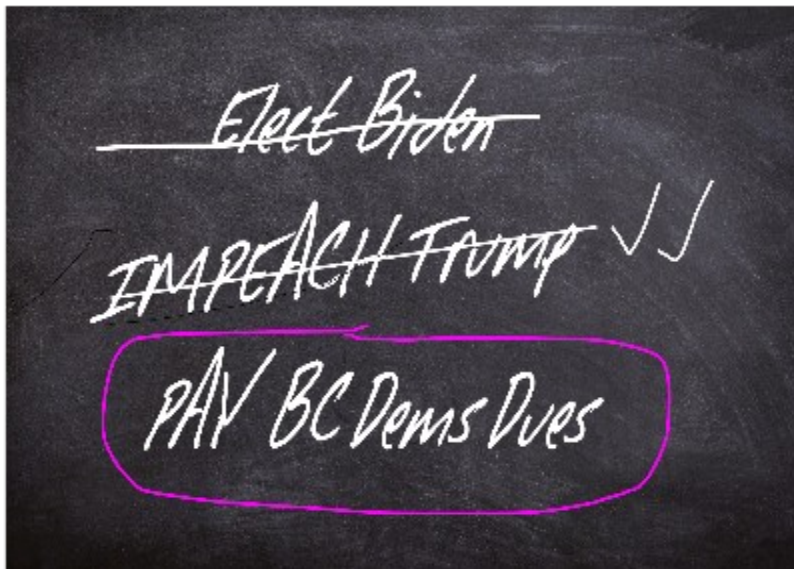
Julia K Bailey

February 14, 2021



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## Still on Your To Do List



Your membership dues help fuel our ability to support local Democratic candidates.

A lot has happened, but there is still a lot left to do. Now we turn our attention to the local, state, and congressional election in 2022.

Your contribution to your local Benton County Dems (BC Dems) Political Action Committee (PAC) is your opportunity to talk directly to the people who are on the front line for those issues. BC Dems also puts nearly all your money into the hands of local candidates.

[RENEW NOW](#)

# State Legislature Update

Saturday, Feb 27, 2021, at 9 AM CST – 10 AM CST

**Event Tickets:** None required.

**Who can Attend:** Anyone on or off Facebook



The Government Affairs Division of the Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Bentonville Area Chamber of Commerce, and Northwest Arkansas Emerging Leaders will once again be hosting **Legislative Forums**.

These are designed to provide Chamber members the opportunity to learn more about the upcoming meeting of the 93rd General Assembly. Forums are moderated with the opportunity for interaction with Chamber members and the general public. The format will be simple and similar to the forums we have held in the past. We will begin with some discussion about the week's events and then open the last half of the program to questions from the audience. The forums will be recorded and broadcasted on social media as well.

The sponsors for the forums this year are Tyson Foods, Walmart, The Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, Cox Communications, Black Hills Energy, AEP/SWEPCO, AT&T, Visit Bentonville, and Visit Rogers.

The meetings will be conducted by Zoom at 9:00 am on Saturday mornings beginning on January 30, and every two weeks after that except for Spring Break and Easter.

[Click here to go to the forum:](#)

The password is 263402.

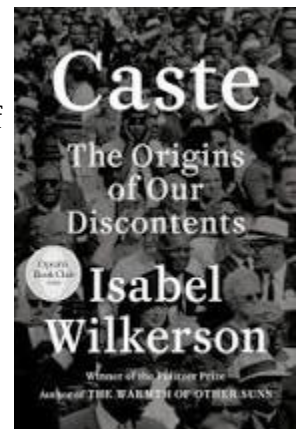
## Book Recommendation

### Black History Month - An “Instant American Classic”

by Julia K Bailey

[Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents](#) by [Isabel Wilkerson](#) describes racism in the United States as an aspect of a caste system - a society-wide system characterized by notions such as hierarchy, inclusion and exclusion, and purity. She explores the impact of caste has on societies, shaped by them, and their people, asking the question, "Why the white working classes in America vote against their economic interests?"

“She runs further with the notion of white resentment than many commentators have been willing to, and the juices of her argument follow the course of her knife. What these pundits had not considered, Wilkerson writes, “was that the people voting this way were, in fact, voting their interests. Maintaining the caste system as it had always been was in



their interest. And some were willing to accept short-term discomfort, forgo health insurance, risk contamination of the water and air, and even die to protect their long-term interest in the hierarchy as they had known it.” (New York Times 07/31/20)

## BLUE BOWLS

When we were meeting in person, Blue Bowls were placed on every table to collect funds. Those funds are used during both off-election and election years to support Democratic candidates for office within Arkansas.

You can still toss a few dollars into our virtual Blue Bowls. We only ask for a contribution of \$5 or more to offset those unavoidable transaction fees. Give to BlueBowl Fund



# General Meeting Minutes

## Benton County Dems ZOOM Virtual Meeting

### Monday, January 25, 2021

- I. Call to order by President Julia Kilbourne Bailey at 12:00
- II. Welcome
  - A. New attendee recognition: Anna Good, Anna Knecht, Brooke Sanders, Zeb Undernehr
  - B. Renewals are going well—If you haven’t renewed, please do so
- III. Speaker—Judith Tavano, Generational Scholar, “Who Elected Biden?”
  - A. Studied generational trends for the past 30+ years
  - B. Examined the last two Presidential elections and the midterm
  - C. Terms
    1. Older generation—40 years and older
    2. Set 1 Younger generation—24-39
    3. Set 2 Younger generation—18-23
    4. Silent Generation—born before 1946
    5. Boomers—1946-1964 (78 million)
    6. GenX—1965-1980 (40 million)
    7. Millennials—1981-1997 or 2000 (80 million)
    8. GenZ—2001- (still growing)
  - D. Key ideas
    1. Silent Generation is aging out, moving elections toward younger generations to decide
    2. Today United states aging is at the tipping point to favor Democratic Party
    3. Diversity in electorate and voter age must be considered when planning strategy

<b>Millennials and GenZ—2020 Election</b>		
Ethnicity	% vote for Biden	% vote for Trump
White	43	53
Black	89	10
LatinX	69	28

4. Surveys of Millennials and Gen Z, majority show the biggest need in politics is the involvement in daily life
5. Perhaps the empathy depicted on social media and ads for Biden attracted younger voters
6. What happens in the world when people come of age, greatly affects how those people perceive life and needs of people and government as adults
7. To win, politicians must appeal to the younger generation using social media to drive the electorate
8. Hypothesis about Georgia run-off elections going to Democrats because
  - a. More young people got to register
  - b. Newly registered caught the enthusiasm
  - c. Strategy targeted young, new voters
  - d. Strategy targeted democracy
9. 2020 Presidential Election had highest voter turnout since the Civil War
10. Predictions:
  - a. Net growth in electorate has been of “minority” voters (Black, LatinX, etc)
  - b. Cannot rely on appealing to only Caucasian voters
  - c. By 2028, Millennials and GenZ will outnumber the Older Generation voters

F. Questions for Judith Tavano at [judithtavano@gmail.com](mailto:judithtavano@gmail.com)

#### V. Business Meeting

- A. Acceptance of November Minutes—Tim moved / Diana seconded / passed unanimously
- B. Acceptance of Treasurer’s Report – Joel moved / Eunice seconded / passed unanimously
- C. Acceptance of Bylaws Amendments—David moved / Bill seconded / passed unanimously

#### VI. Announcements--

- A. HB1218 bans schools and academic institutions from having classes, events, or activities that focus on race, gender, political affiliation, social class, or any class or group of people. This bill would strip schools of their funding if they don’t comply.
- B. HB1231 bans educators in Arkansas from analyzing and teaching anything related to the 1619 Project. 1619 refers to the year that African slaves first were forcibly brought to the shores of what would become the United States.
- C. Next meeting February 22, 2021—Bonnie Miller of the League of Women Voters will speak about the redistricting plans for Arkansas

VII. Meeting adjourned 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Ostas

# Treasurer's Summary

## January 2021

by Timothy Boyer, Treasurer



<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$2,433.04</b>	
<b><u>INCOME:</u></b>		<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b>
Dues	\$219.12	\$0.00
Blue Bowls	\$0-	
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$219.12</b>	<b>Total Expenses: \$0.00</b>
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$2,652.16</b>	

## 2020 Benton County Dems Officers & Committee Chairs

<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>
President	Julia K Bailey
Vice President	David Bernstein
Membership Chair	Suzanne Miltich
Secretary	Deb Ostas
Treasurer	Tim Boyer
Social Media Chair	Joel Ewing
Publicity Chair	Catherine Deeley
Communications Chair & Events Coordinator	Anna Knecht