



## Tulsa County Democrats Newsletter



### Statement on Proposed Tax Changes

Recently, the Governor called the state legislature into a special session to “begin the process of eliminating the state income tax.” Currently, nine states have no income tax. In Oklahoma, this tax reflects roughly 40% of our state budget - four billion dollars this past year alone. It’s interesting to think about. How are we going to make up the difference in lost revenue?

In Texas, having no state income tax means significantly higher property taxes. In Tennessee, they are looking at moving back to a state income tax model due to disastrous outcomes. So, is this right for Oklahoma? Without careful strategic planning, the results could prove destructive. On day one of the special session, the Pro Tem of the Senate invited the Governor to the committee to present his plan, citing concerns about how to pay for such a thing. The Governor did not appear, and the Senate adjourned, effectively ending the special session.

The call for a tax cut is unsurprising. Oklahoma is sitting on five billion dollars in our savings accounts. Democrats called for a more measured approach that focuses on helping working families. Ending the state portion of the grocery tax, restoring the earned income tax credit (EITC), and providing sales tax credits for lower-income families would keep dollars in the pockets of those who need it most day-to-day. Each of these proposals has a much smaller price tag that could easily be accounted for in future state budgets.

Yet investing in our state is also long overdue.

We continue to underfund our state agencies despite charging them with increasing responsibility. Of note: The Ethics Commission and the State Auditor’s office both requested

a one million dollar increase to their budgets but were denied. This is despite increasing efforts by national and state actors to compromise the effort to fight dark money campaigns and make transparent questionable spending of our tax dollars. The requests by both agencies could have easily been fulfilled with the annual budget we had to work with. Locally, the call for more support in mental health funding came this past week from both sides of the aisle. The Tulsa sheriff and district attorney hosted a forum to discuss the serious needs here in our county.

It's time to invest in our people. The time is now for careful planning and making smart financial moves.

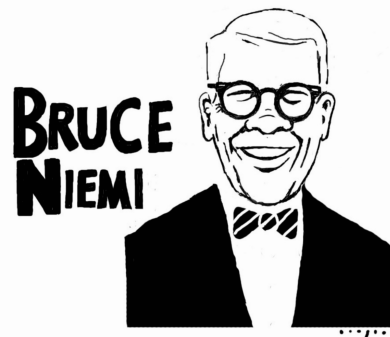
We can and must do better.

Rep. Melissa Provenzano  
Assistant Minority Leader  
Oklahoma House District 79

## Letter from The Chair:

It's a great time to be a Democrat in Tulsa County!  
Your Central Committee is moving forward on so many fronts. We are proud to be part of a national, state, and local leadership.

President Biden is showing his leadership every day with a willingness to go into war zones to restore peace in the Levant and Eastern Europe. We appreciate the President's work to build a strong economy in our recovery from the Pandemic through low unemployment and high wage growth offsetting the effects of inflation.



Contrast this with the inability of the GOP to elect a Speaker of the House in Congress or the Governor calling the Legislature into special session and then not present it with a coherent tax reform plan. With this governance dysfunction, our Party is in an excellent position to take the case to the American electorate in 2024 and win victories from the White House to the Courthouse.

Meanwhile, here in Tulsa, county Democrats and Republicans joined forces with the Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce to introduce the "Adopt a Precinct" project to recruit Tulsa business CEOs to release their workers with comp time to serve as polling officials on Election Days 2024. As Democrats we seldom agree on anything with our GOP fellow citizens, but we certainly believe in free and fair elections. To accomplish this goal Tulsa County must maintain a complex election apparatus to collect and tabulate the vote. There are 251 precincts in our Tulsa County with three Poll Workers in each with at least one registered Republican and Democrat on deck. The Election Board currently lacks 300 workers to make this happen next year. We are hopeful that corporate citizens will step forward to recruit among their associates these essential election officials for this important election year.

The Tulsa County Democrats are partnering with the Tulsa Athletics, our city's soccer team,

in sponsoring their November 5th game date at 2:00 P.M. with Kansas City Sporting SC. This game will be played at Hicks Park Community Stadium, 3443 South Mingo Road. Tickets are \$12.00 with a portion of the proceeds going to our Party's coffers. Please go to the ad for this event in our newsletter, scan the QR code, and buy your ticket to see this exciting match. Support our local team and our Party's efforts to turn Tulsa County Blue.

Save the date of Oklahoma Statehood Day on November 16th for our next Party for the Party fundraiser. Details will follow.

Your county party officials are actively recruiting candidates for offices across Tulsa County. Vice Chairwoman Cing Nuam developed a list of offices, incumbents, and potential challenges. Candidacy filings will begin in municipal and school board races in December; federal, state and county filings in April; and Tulsa city mayor and council race filings in June. If you have political ambitions or those of your friends and neighbors, give us a call. We need a complete ticket to present to the Tulsa County electorate next year.

Democratically Yours,

Bruce Niemi, Chair

## **Statement of Hire!**



3930 E. 31st St.  
Tulsa, OK 74135

October 17, 2023

The Tulsa County Democratic Party is excited to announce the hiring of a new Executive Director, Briana Shea! Briana will be responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the TCDP office, as well as planning and preparing our fundraising events. In addition, she will facilitate donor call time with party leadership to ensure that our supporters are engaged and informed about our efforts to promote Democratic values and events across Tulsa County.

Briana had this to say, "I am so incredibly honored and thrilled to be the new Executive Director of the Tulsa County Democratic Party. I have volunteered my time for the party to raise funds and I know we need to continue in order for the party to function at the level we need in 2024, I am beyond honored to have this role. I will continue to do my best for the party and our voters. Thank you all for your support and confidence!"

We are thrilled to welcome our new Executive Director to the TCDP team. With her passion for progressive values and their attention to detail, we know that Briana will be an asset to our organization as we work to build a better future for all Oklahomans. We look forward to introducing her to our members and working together to make a positive impact in our community!

Democratically Yours,  
Bruce Niemi, Chair

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+918-742-2457

Chair@tulsacountydemocrats.org

[Volunteer!](#)

[Donate Here!](#)

## Join a Committee!

The TCDP executive team voted to enhance our impact by forming three new committees! We are seeking enthusiastic Democrats from all backgrounds and walks of life to help shape the direction of our party. Join us today and contribute your skills to any of the following committees:

**Candidate Recruitment:** The Candidate Recruitment Committee is responsible for identifying and recruiting Democratic candidates to run for office in Tulsa County. [Sign Up Here!](#)

**Community Action:** The Community Action Committee is responsible for identifying volunteer activities and county initiatives that TCDP volunteers can take part in. This Committee plays a vital role in building and sustaining relationships in communities across the county. [Sign Up Here!](#)

**Education:** The Education Committee is a place for public education advocates to come together and promote our party's values. This committee will work closely with the Legislative Advocacy Committee and will help engage the membership in events and initiatives that support public education in Tulsa County. [Sign Up Here!](#)

**Events:** The Events Committee is responsible for planning, organizing, and executing successful events that align with the organization's mission and goals, providing memorable experiences for participants. [Sign Up Here!](#)

**Fundraising:** The Fundraising Committee is responsible for developing and implementing strategies to secure financial resources and support for the Tulsa Democratic Party's (TCDP) activities, programs, and projects. [Sign Up Here!](#)

**Legislative Advocacy:** The Legislative Advocacy Committee is responsible for tracking and updating our membership on happenings at the state legislature and training members on how to find their representatives, track active legislation, and effectively communicate with their legislators. [Sign Up Here!](#)

**Marketing & Outreach:** The Marketing & Outreach Committee will be responsible for developing and implementing strategies to promote the Tulsa County Democratic Party's (TCDP) values (a reflection of our resolutions passed in the convention), events, candidates, and to grow the party through traditional and digital media. [Sign Up Here!](#)

**Volunteer Recruitment:** The Volunteer Recruitment Committee is responsible for identifying, recruiting, training, and retaining volunteers to staff the office, staff events, and help candidates during the election cycle. [Sign Up Here!](#)

Joining a committee gives you a unique chance to collaborate with like-minded individuals, make a tangible difference, and contribute to our success in Tulsa County!

[Join a Committee!](#)



# Future Events



## MONTHLY MEETING

TUESDAY OCTOBER 24TH

6:00PM SOCIAL

6:30PM MEETING

*Guest Speaker:*  
Oklahoma House Representative  
John Waldron (District 77)

Schusterman-Benson Library  
3333 E 32nd Pl  
Tulsa, OK 74135



Our October monthly meeting will be at the Schusterman-Benson Library on Tuesday, October 24th, 6-8 P.M. Monthly meetings are a way for Democrats to meet up and hear presentations on important issues of the day.

The featured speaker for our September meeting is State Representative John Waldron! (HD 77)

We hope you will put this on your calendar. See you there!

## September Monthly Meeting

*All Democrats are welcome to attend the monthly meeting of the Tulsa County Democratic Party!*

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Tuesday, October 24th  
6:00pm Social Gathering  
6:30pm Program / Speaker Begins

Schusterman-Benson Library  
3333 E 32nd Pl  
Tulsa, OK 74129

Campaign  
Website

Official House Profile

Contribute to Rep.  
Waldron!

A fundraiser with



**Tulsa Athletic - 2:00 P.M.**  
3443 S. Mingo Road  
Tulsa, OK 74146



**Grab Your  
Tickets!**

# Tulsa Athletic!

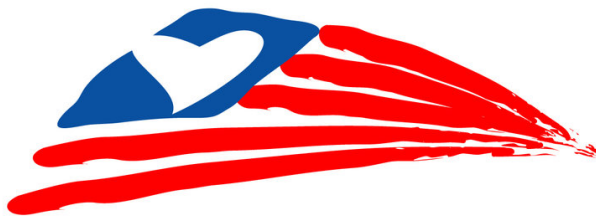
Please join us for a Voter Registration Drive and a Fundraiser Hosted by Tulsa Athletic!

Tickets include a hot dog, bag of chips, bottled water, and a Si Se Puede cerveza beer.

Kick-off is at 2:00 but we hope you will arrive early to watch the warm-up and enjoy the field.

Make sure to use Promo code:  
**DEMSTULSA** at checkout!

## HEART OF THE PARTY



Oklahoma Federation of Democratic Women

**Join HOP on  
November 6th!**

Join the Heart of the Party for their August monthly meeting at Baxters Interurban Grill Monday, November 6th, 6-8 P.M.

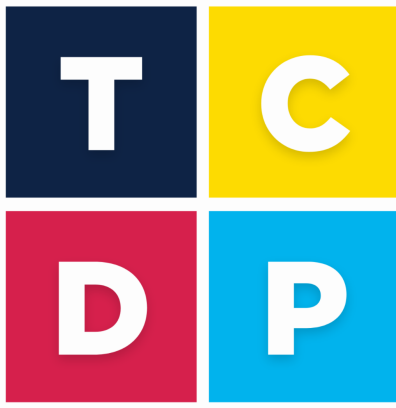
**We hope to see you there!**

**Monday, November 6th**  
6:00pm - Order Dinner /Social  
6:30pm - Meeting Begins

**Baxters Interurban Grill**  
717 S Houston Ave #100  
Tulsa, OK 74127

[www.tulsacountydemocrats.org](http://www.tulsacountydemocrats.org)





Tulsa County Democratic Party | 3930 E. 31st St., Tulsa, OK 74135

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