



Texas Representative Mark Strama of Austin to headline July Dallas Young Democrats meeting

Young Democrats of America President, Executive Director will also speak

The Dallas County Young Democrats will be hosting three distinguished visitors at our organization's July 12 meeting — Texas Representative Mark Strama of Austin, Young Democrats of America President Chris Galloway and Jane Fleming, the executive director of YDA.

Mark Strama is a native Texan who has divided his career between public service and private business. A graduate of Brown University, he worked on Ann Richards' successful 1990 campaign for governor and he went on to become chief of staff for State Senator Rodney Ellis. In 1995, Mark left government to become director of programs at MTV's Rock the Vote, where he helped register more than

a million new voters.

Mark returned to Austin to found the first company to register voters online. His company's technology enabled Election.com to help over 700,000 Americans register to vote in the 2000 election cycle. Mark has also served on the Board of Directors of KidsVoting USA, a national non-profit organization that develops civics education programs for K-12 students.

Mark won a hotly-contested election in 2004, and now serves in Austin as a young, motivated representative supporting Democratic values and ideals.

Chris Galloway is a native of Kansas who presently lives in Virginia. Chris has worked in Democratic politics since 1998. In 2003, Chris was elected the president of the Young Democrats of America and he is seeking reelection at this year's National Convention in August. Chris will be speaking to the DCYDs about the importance of this upcoming event.

YDA Executive Director Jane Fleming is also the executive director of the Young Voter Alliance. During the 2004 election cycle, YVA worked with other progressive, youth-oriented groups to plan and implement a "non-traditional" get-out-the-vote strategy targetting young voters in critical swing states. YVA's efforts helped turn out the vote for the Kerry-Edwards ticket in 2004 — young voters were the only age category solidly won by the Democrats in that grueling race.

As we approach the critical 2006 midterm elections, Jane and YVA are working to expand their program to target youth voters in the states and districts that will determine who controls the next US Congress.

As always, the DCYDs will be meeting at the Elbow Room (3010 Gaston Ave). We hope we'll see you there at 7:00 PM on July 12! With three great speakers, this is one meeting you simply can't miss!

July 28 DCYD Happy Hour to be held at Nikita in the West Village

If you haven't been attending the Dallas County Young Democrats Happy Hours, you've been missing the best way to get to know other young progressives from the Dallas area. Every month, we gather at some of Dallas's finest establishments to relax, make friends and get motivated for the important work we do on behalf of the Democratic Party.

This month, we'll be meeting at

Nikita, a restaurant, bar and lounge in the West Village (3699 McKinney Ave) on Thursday, July 28.

Nikita will be offering DCYD members \$2-off drink specials from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

There's more to the Dallas County Young Democrats than speakers and meetings. Come by our happy hour to see just how fun politics can be.

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Stay informed! Be sure to check out dallasyoungdemocrats.org regularly for news and announcements from the DCYDs.

The Dallas Young Democrats is an organization open to 14- to 36-year-olds who believe in the Democratic way. The DCYD strives to build a better tomorrow for all Texans and all Americans. Our activities include happy hours, get out the vote drives, volunteering in the community, fund raisers, and volunteering on Democratic campaigns. We also have monthly meetings to discuss current local, state and national politics that affect you.

www.dallasyoungdemocrats.org

Summer remains busy for Dallas Young Democrats

School may be out, but the Dallas County Young Democrats have been as busy as ever over the past several weeks.

Detroit National Meeting (June 3 – 5). Once again, the Dallas County Young Democrats dispatched the largest guest delegation to a national meeting, this time in Detroit, Michigan. Members of the the DCYD delegation met, worked with and partied alongside young Democrats from around the country as final details were mapped out for this August's important national convention.

June Business Meeting (June 14). While the DCYDs often feature great speakers of noteworthy importance (such as this month's keynote speaker, Texas Representative Mark Strama), it's rare that world events and our schedule coincide as well as they did during our June Meeting. Chip Pitts, the chair of the board of Amnesty International USA, spoke to the DCYDs just days after his dramatic indictment of the Bush Administration's treatment of "enemy combatant" prisoners before the United States Congress. Pitts's remarks left an impression on members in attendance, and posed many hard questions regarding our nation's conduct in the War on Terror.

Juneteenth (June 17). The DCYDs hosted an information table at the annual Juneteenth celebration at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center.

Howard Dean Rally (June 17). The Chair of the Democratic Party, Governor Howard Dean, came to Dallas, and the DCYDs helped organize and organize a rally with him at the home of DCYD friend Fred Baron. Hundreds of DCYDs and allies showed up in support of Dean and the Democratic Party. DCYD President David Hardt spoke to the assembled throng of loyal Democrats and Dallas media, and Governor Dean stressed the importance of the youth vote in retaking our country.

Happy Hours (June 17, June 30). The DCYDs held two great happy hours this past month. The first coincided with our rally with Howard Dean. After the event with the governor, DCYDs retired to the Beagle for drinks, food and pool, rounding out a great evening.

Two weeks later, our regular happy hour drifted from Pepe & Mitos to the Bone on Elm Street as DCYDs quite literally danced the night away as the busy month of June came to a close.

July 4 Parade. Nearly a dozen DCYDs made our presence and patriotism known in the heart of Republican Dallas by marching in the annual Park Cities Fourth of July Parade. Drawing a lot of cheers, and the occasional jeer, the DCYD delegation waved flags, passed out candy and celebrated the Fourth with style.

And that's just the beginning. There are more great events to come, and you won't want to miss out on your chance to participate. Please come by the July 12 meeting to learn more about what's in store for the DCYDs this summer.



From the Top:

- Chip Pitts speaks as President Hardt and other DCYDs look on.
- DCYDs meet with Howard Dean after the rally.
- Members and friends gather at the Beagle Happy Hour on June 17.

Proposed resolution on Gov. Perry, "marriage amendment" to be considered at July meeting

From time to time, the Dallas County Young Democrats will take formal positions on issues facing our county, state or nation.

These positions are often taken in the form of resolutions that are proposed to the group by individual members, through the board of directors, and finally approved or rejected in an up or down vote by those in attendance at a business meeting. Proposed resolutions can also be amended during the discussion period immediately prior to the vote.

In April, the Dallas County Young Democrats took a policy position opposing legislation in the Texas House that would amend the Texas Constitution to define marriage in such a way as to totally exclude same-sex couples. That bill narrowly made it through the Texas Senate, and will be presented to voters this November.

Members of the DCYDs have been working with the Stonewall Democrats in an attempt to defeat this initiative. A resolution has been proposed that would specifically call for the DCYDs to oppose this ballot measure, while also addressing Governor Rick Perry's conduct during the superfluous signing ceremony he held for the proposed amendment in conservative Christian church..

The text of this proposed resolution is available at right. Discussion regarding and a vote on the text will be held at the July 12 meeting.

YDA National Convention to be held in San Francisco

The Young Democrats of America will gather in San Francisco on August 3 to August 7 for the 2005 National Convention. Officers for the national organization will be elected by the delegates to this national convention.

Delegates will also have the opportunity to serve on committees that will shape the future of YDA and participate in training to learn the sorts of skills and abilities needed to win victories for Democratic candidates in 2006.

As one of the largest Young Democrats organizations in the country, the Dallas County Young Democrats intend to assemble a large delegation to this Convention.

We are working to keep down the costs to our members. Everyone who can is free that first week in August should consider joining the Young Democrats at this meeting.

Registration is now open, with a website for this event available through the Young Democrats of America homepage, www.yda.org.

Please contact President David Hardt if you would like to be part of the DCYD delegation to San Francisco.

PROPOSED TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION

Whereas;

The Texas Legislature has passed a proposed Constitutional Amendment that would bar same-gender couples from accessing the legal institution of marriage,

And whereas;

This Legislation merely restates prohibitions already codified in state law, and opens the way to ever more egregious discrimination against members of the GLBT community,

And whereas;

Governor Rick Perry chose to sign this proposed Amendment, even though his signature is not required, at a ceremony held in a conservative Christian church, thus mocking the separation of Church and State that is fundamental to the freedoms we enjoy as Americans,

And whereas;

Governor Perry made disparaging remarks about gay and lesbian Texans, including those presently serving their country in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars,

And whereas;

Governor Perry's remarks implied that GLBT citizens are not welcome in the State of Texas, despite the myriad ways in which such citizens enrich and serve our communities,

Therefore, be it resolved;

That the Dallas County Young Democrats call for an immediate apology by Governor Perry for his hateful remarks and his egregious violation of separation of Church and Sate,

Be it further resolved;

That the Dallas County Young Democrats call upon all members, and all Texans, to work to defeat the discriminatory amendment that will be on the ballot this November.

Texas Representative Mark Strama of Austin
will be our keynote speaker!

***Please join us for our next meeting
on July 12 at 7:00 PM at the
Elbow Room at 3010 Gaston.***

The Dallas County Young Democrats
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