



The Platform of the Bexar County Young Democrats

Last Revised in July/August 2026

Preamble

The Bexar County Young Democrats look to the future with optimism. We are the future of the Democratic Party in Bexar County. As Bexar County Young Democrats, we believe in justice, opportunity, and equality for all. Our vision is simple: invest in our people, protect our freedoms, and build a stronger future where everyone in Bexar County can thrive. We will work tirelessly to put into practice the vision of this platform: a vision of a fairer, safer, more prosperous Bexar County.

1. EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION

Education is the most important investment we can make for our future, and it is a fundamental right of all Bexar County residents. We strive for a strong public education system that prepares children to be successful in the modern economy.

- I. We vigorously oppose voucher schemes that would take money out of our community schools to subsidize private and for-profit institutions.
- II. We advocate for the fair pay of teachers in Bexar County. Teachers are professionals, and they deserve to be paid like professionals. Many good teachers are lured away to the private sector because of low salaries, and many more never enter a classroom for financial reasons. For this reason, we support paying teachers a liveable wage. We also support increasing contributions toward teachers' retirement benefits.
- III. We strongly support funding for fine/performing arts programs in public schools.
- IV. We support bilingual education with a progressive use of English throughout a student's academic career. We also support incentives for teachers to achieve bilingual certification. We support the goal of English-speaking students becoming fluent in other languages, particularly Spanish.

- V. We encourage the implementation of multicultural components in education that reflect a greater accuracy of the cultural makeup of Bexar County.
- VI. We support efforts to connect every classroom to the Internet and provide the proper education in the usage of information technology. Such Internet access should be age-appropriate and supervised by teachers to that end.
- VII. We support laws that make our schools safe, gun-free and drug-free.
- VIII. We support the expansion of early childhood education and after-school programs. All children deserve quality early education in their formative years as well as safe after-school programs.
- IX. We oppose the banning of any constitutionally-protected literature, and recognize any actions thereof as a fundamental violation of free speech.
- X. We support vocational training in high schools.
- XI. We are in favor of teaching an accurate and balanced view of history based on widely accepted standards supported by historians and academic professionals. Thus, we oppose efforts to whitewash and revise history in an effort to impose personal social and religious agendas on the youth of Bexar County. We particularly oppose the 2026 revisions by the State Board of Education (SBOE) to Texas' state standards for K-12 Social Studies and English Language Arts.

2. PROTECTING OUR FUTURE THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

No Bexar County resident should be denied the opportunity to pursue postsecondary education. The doors to colleges should be open to all.

- I. We urge local colleges to keep higher education affordable by fighting tuition hikes so college can be affordable to all. We further oppose tuition deregulation.
- II. We support financial aid, scholarships, and debt relief for students including foreign students who pay taxes and believe that it should be available on equal terms to all forms of higher education, be it academic, technical, vocational, or professional.
- III. We seek greater diversity in our student bodies and faculty, because we understand that diversity is a strength. Thus, we disagree with the Hopwood decision, and agree with the University of Michigan decision, in that we do believe diversity to be a compelling state issue.

- IV. We support investment in local community colleges and vocational programs in Bexar County.
- V. We oppose efforts to silence educators from sharing their views and recognize that the First Amendment applies to everyone, educators included. We oppose monitoring educators' membership affiliations, speaking engagements, and/or political activity.
- VI. We support the federal GI Bill and believe in book stipends for veterans. We also support the Hazelwood exemption.
- VII. We oppose Texas ending the oversight of the American Bar Association when it comes to the accreditations of law schools.

3. PROMOTING HEALTH & WELFARE

More and more employers are failing to offer health insurance for dependents, and more and more wage earners cannot afford coverage, daycare, or even basic childcare. We support efforts to expand health coverage.

- I. We oppose cuts to Planned Parenthood that are politically motivated and not in the best interest of women.
- II. We support the full expansion in Texas Medicaid under the Affordable Healthcare Act.
- III. We support access to healthcare services for queer and transgender people, including gender affirming care.
- IV. We support a more equitable welfare system. San Antonio's poverty rate ranks second among the five largest cities in Texas. Almost 18% of Bexar County's population live in poverty (17.7%) which is significantly higher than the national average of 11.5%. Over the last decade the overall rate of poverty has barely changed in Bexar County, which implies that almost one in five individuals lack the necessary socioeconomic resources to meet their basic needs. Our residents are in need of welfare that aids them in getting out of the cycle of poverty.
- V. We believe that all women should have access to all reproductive options, including education, contraception, and abortion when necessary, regardless of socioeconomic status.

- VI. We believe that abortion should be safe, legal, and accessible. We believe that decisions regarding contraception and abortion are private decisions between a woman and her doctor. We oppose any restrictions on a woman's right to legal abortion procedures.
- VII. We oppose abstinence-only sex education and sex education programs which exclude information on the effectiveness of contraception and condoms.
- VIII. We support continuation of funding for prenatal care programs to assist expectant parents and families in need.
- IX. We support medical research for the major health concerns facing Bexar County residents including, but not limited to: cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and child immunizations.
- X. We support expanding Medicaid and believe in advocating for universal healthcare coverage. In addition, Medicare and Medicaid should be continued and administered effectively so the elderly and poor may have the same level of healthcare that is enjoyed by other citizens.
- XI. HIV/AIDS continues to be one of the greatest health threats to our community. It must continue to be a priority to fund medical research and treatments. Every person with HIV/AIDS has a right to have access to treatment and affordable healthcare without discrimination.
- XII. We support access to affordable healthcare and community clinics.
- XIII. We support expanding mental health services, especially for our youth and veterans.

4. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR BEXAR COUNTY RESIDENTS

We believe in the notion that taxes are an investment in society and should only be in place to benefit that society. We strongly disagree with any form of regressive or so-called flat taxes that unfairly burden the poor and benefit the rich. Any discussion of new taxes or cuts in taxes should follow with the previous statements. Taxes should be used to fund projects that benefit the public good.

- I. We believe housing must be recognized as a basic human right and a necessity for families and individuals to move forward in life. We support housing subsidies based on need relative to the cost of living in their community.

- II. We oppose discrimination in housing or lending practices as they are an attack on a basic human right.
- III. We support the enforcement of existing antitrust laws and other laws protecting competition.
- IV. We support funding for the growth of small businesses and entrepreneurs in our community.
- V. We support the creation of new jobs in our community.
- VI. We support the expansion of affordable housing and fight predatory lending practices.
- VII. We support small businesses and entrepreneurs in San Antonio and across Bexar County.
- VIII. We vigorously oppose tax policies that favor the wealthy over working families. We strongly support closing the many loopholes in our state tax code; These allow corporations and the rich to avoid paying their fair share of taxes; and creates a structural deficit for our state.

5. PROTECTING WORKERS RIGHTS

An honest day's work should be rewarded with a livable wage, adequate health insurance, retirement benefits, and life insurance. In a time where parents often have to work more than one job, affordable childcare and health insurance can make the difference between poverty and a chance at prosperity.

- I. We support raising the minimum wage because all full time employees should earn a fair wage, one that provides families with an adequate standard of living. The minimum wage should be a livable wage.
- II. We believe that large companies should be required to provide their employees with reasonable healthcare options.
- III. We support the right to unionize and collectively bargain. We endorse the right of all employees to organize, collect dues, and to collectively negotiate freely with their employers. We favor providing equal access to labor unions to the political process as is given to other groups.

- IV. We believe that companies should be held responsible for providing a safe work environment for their employees.
- V. We support making childcare more affordable for working families.
- VI. We continue to support the use of tax incentives to encourage employers to offer health insurance benefits to every employee and other beneficiaries, regardless of part-time or full-time status. We also encourage employers to provide substance abuse counseling to their employees.
- VII. We believe all workers should be protected from unsafe work conditions and wage theft.

6. PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY

Bexar County Residents deserve clean air and water, and they should have their energy needs met in ways that are clean, sustainable and affordable.

- I. We believe Bexar County must fully comply with the Federal Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, and we express our disapproval with those that have strayed from those policies leading to unacceptable levels of pollution in our city.
- II. We believe that polluters must pay for their pollution, not the taxpayers. We believe that polluters who have been grandfathered by existing laws must become compliant. We believe that the punitive damages should greatly exceed the cost of preserving the environment in the first place.
- III. While we recognize the importance of oil and gas to the Texas economy, we support developing alternative and renewable energy sources.
- IV. We believe in protecting Bexar County's air, water, and green spaces.
- V. We support investing in renewable energy and green jobs in our community.
- VI. We support expanding public transit and sustainable infrastructure.

7. PRESERVING JUSTICE AND PROMOTING LIBERTY

The judicial system must work to uphold the civil liberties of all people, and we must ensure the restoration of the Constitutional rights eroded by previous and current Presidential Administrations.

- I. We take a firm stand against all forms of discrimination including but not limited to race, gender/gender identity, gender expression, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, disability, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religious belief, or age.
- II. We defend religious freedom for all people and uphold the separation of church and state. We also do not believe that the Ten Commandments should be displayed in the classrooms of public schools.
- III. We believe that affirmative action programs remain necessary in all areas in order to foster inclusive and equitable workplaces and school environments, to ensure equal access to economic resources, and to bring our nation closer to racial and gender equality.
- IV. We support the enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- V. We believe hate crimes (i.e. crimes motivated by personal bias) deserve harsher punishment under law. We also support the addition of gender identity to the list of classes protected by the Texas Hate Crime statute.
- VI. We believe that bullying poses a direct threat to the safety of all students. We support ongoing solutions to combat this issue and to ensure that students have a safe, secure, inductive learning environment.
- VII. We support public access to meetings and records of government at all levels unless there is a legitimate need for confidentiality as determined by law.
- VIII. We support substantive and immediate reform of the Texas penal system with an emphasis placed on the rehabilitation of the incarcerated.
- IX. We believe same-sex couples should have the same rights to marriage, benefits, foster parenting, and adoption as heterosexual couples.
- X. We oppose all profiling, based on but not limited to, race, gender/gender identity, gender expression, ethnicity, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religious belief, or age by all levels of law enforcement in Texas.

- XI. We strongly oppose the Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. Corporations are not people. Furthermore, we support the implementation of campaign finance reform, including the public financing of campaigns.
- XII. We oppose any English-only legislative initiatives.
- XIII. We continue to oppose the efforts to mandate identification cards for voting, on the grounds that they will deny access to the polls for the following groups: persons with mobility and/or disability issues and persons who cannot afford to pay identification card fees.
- XIV. We support the legalization, regulation, and taxation of marijuana in a manner similar to that of tobacco or alcohol.
- XV. We support universal background checks for firearm purchase.
- XVI. We support a ban on high capacity magazines.
- XVII. We support a ban on assault rifles.
- XVIII. We oppose police brutality and believe that officers who engage in brutality should be held accountable and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law and lose their positions.
- XIX. We oppose racial profiling.
- XX. We oppose legislation that criminalizes the status of undocumented workers and those who support them.
- XXI. We believe in expanding voting access and fighting voter suppression.
- XXII. We believe in ending gerrymandering and ensuring fair maps. We strongly oppose the 2025 racial redistricting in Texas.
- XXIII. We support campaign finance reform to limit corporate influence.
- XXIV. We demand transparency and accountability in our local and state governments.

8. IMMIGRATION

The current immigration system is broken and comprehensive immigration reforms are needed.

- I. We support humanizing and dignifying immigrants by amending immigration laws so that they reunite families and allow immigrants to seek work, a better life for their families, and a commitment to the United States.
- II. We support immigration laws that are not discriminatory, including equal human rights for immigrants and an earned pathway to citizenship.
- III. We support temporary legal status for undocumented higher education students through direct support of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act.
- IV. We support the rights of undocumented immigrants to remain united with their families.
- V. We support increasing immigration quotas to bring them more in line with reality.
- VI. We support a pathway to citizenship through service in the United States military.
- VII. We support the rights of individuals to report crimes without facing criminal retribution for undocumented status.
- VIII. We support the de-privatization of immigration detention centers and the eventual eradication of such centers, such that no dehumanizing nor demoralizing institutions exist.
- IX. We believe in the right for our municipalities to declare ourselves “sanctuary” without the fear of federal and state reprimands.
- X. We oppose human trafficking in all of its forms.
- XI. We oppose immigration laws directed at penalizing children.
- XII. We oppose states and municipalities unconstitutionally enacting their own immigration policies, particularly the deputation of officers to behave like federal immigration agents.

The Bexar County Young Democrats believe in a fairer, more just future for all San Antonians and Bexar County residents. Together, we will organize, mobilize, and fight for a county that reflects our values: equality, opportunity, and democracy for everyone.

For all issues not otherwise enumerated here, we defer to the platforms of the Texas Young Democrats, Texas Democratic Party, and the national Democratic Party.