



**BOD Meeting Minutes  
Sept. 6, 2014; 4:00-5:30  
La Mancha restaurant**

In attendance: Joanne, Stewart, Dan, Diane, Teresa, Dave; plus non-board members: Ham, Mike

1. Treasurer's Report.

Diane reported that we collected \$5 at today's meeting, bringing our current balance to \$389.57.

2. Update on the ThinkVoting App.

Stewart let us know that ThinkVoting has gotten funding and developed a prototype, which they showed him. They are aiming to launch in early October. We'll have them give us a brief update at our Oct. 11 meeting, and plan to have them as the main topic at our December meeting.

3. Planning for October's Meeting.

We decided to have another candidate forum for the Travis County Commissioners Court at our meeting on Oct. 11. We hope to get the majority of candidates running for judge and for Precinct 2. (In Precinct 4, Margaret Gomez has no serious competition, so we don't expect that she would attend.)

4. Other Upcoming Actions.

- We'll spread the word about Austin City Council district forums, ASAP after finding out details for all of them (or as many as we can). Dan will write a blog post containing the information, drawn from [this page](#) and [this page](#).
- We still need to look out for potential new board members. A couple of names were mentioned but we didn't decide to extend an invitation yet.
- Joanne suggested that we need a "rapid response" strategy for sending email or posting to the blog, when urgent action is needed concerning legislation or other events. Dan said he'd be glad to help write emails when needed, but might need help determining what the basic message should be. We should also take care that we don't send too many emails to our members. Currently, we usually don't send more than 3 per month (one of which is a reminder), and we should never send more than 5 (in Dan's opinion).
- We need to think about topics for future "across the political spectrum" conversations. We tentatively plan on doing the next one in January. Teresa suggested we might consider various definitions of corruption -- something that relates to current news about Rick Perry and Bob McDonnell, and also to Lawrence Lessig's ongoing work. Everyone liked this idea. Also suggested was the topic of water in Texas, which was also considered worthwhile.
- We'd like to have a blog post about the Austin Fair Campaign Contract and the candidates who are participating. Ham found that Jason Meeker (district 10), Todd Phelps (running for mayor), and Fred L. McGee (district 3) have signed up. We recruited Ham to write the blog post.

5. White Paper Progress Reports.

- Congrats to Dan on the publication of "Better Choices for Voters" in mid-summer.
- No other updates.