

JOHNSON-RICHARDS DINNER 2024

THE NEW BLUE SHINES THROUGH YOU

OCTOBER 5, 2024
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS





GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR



Good evening, everyone! Thank you for joining us tonight at this extraordinary celebration—the Second Annual Johnson-Richards Dinner. I’m Sheena King, your proud Collin County Democratic Chair, and I’m thrilled to welcome you all to this event as we come together to honor our party’s values and shared achievements.

This year’s theme, “The New Blue Shines Through You,” couldn’t be more fitting. Nothing we achieve would be possible without your commitment, your passion, and your belief in our Democratic policies and principles. It is your dedication that shines through in everything you do and drives the progress we’ve made—and will continue to make.

We gather here tonight not just to celebrate but to renew our commitment to building a better future for our county, our state, and our country. While we face many challenges, we are not discouraged. We are united by a shared vision of justice, equality, opportunity, and compassion. We stand stronger because we believe in each other and the power we hold when we come together.

With just one month until the election, now is the time to turn our shared vision into action. Every phone call, every canvass, every conversation helps move us closer to the future we believe in. Together, we will meet this moment, and together, we will achieve the change that our communities need.

As you look around tonight, I encourage you to see the incredible strength in this room. See the diversity, the passion, and the unwavering commitment that makes our party not only resilient but forward-thinking. Each of you represents the promise of our future, the hope of our party, and the determination to push for meaningful change.

We are not just the Collin County Democratic Party—we are the future. We are the “New Blue,” and we are here to stay. But more importantly, the New Blue shines through each and every one of you.

Thank you for your support, your faith, and your dedication to this movement. Enjoy the evening, and let’s keep working together to create a brighter, more equitable tomorrow.

God bless you, God bless the Democratic Party, and God bless the United States of America.

Let’s win this election!

Thank you.

JOHNSON-RICHARDS DINNER 2024



JRD COMMITTEE WELCOME



When we set out to design this year's JRD theme, we knew it had to reflect the spirit of the Collin County Democratic Party as a whole. That's when we landed on "The New Blue Shines Through You," and we knew it was perfect. After all, it takes every member of the CCDP to shine forth our values, share the great news of Democratic accomplishments, and encourage others to vote. And that's exactly what you do: you shine.

Please know that your hard work is deeply appreciated. Your time, talent, and treasure advance our mission every single day. Whether you're phone banking, knocking on doors, committing to a recurring financial contribution, ensuring fellow Democrats can get to the ballot box, or installing road signs, your efforts are bringing us closer and closer to flipping Collin County (and Texas!) blue.

Thank you for being here tonight. We're thrilled with the program we've put together, and we are energized by the incredible momentum we have here in Collin County.

Keep shining, friends.

Mary Higbe

JOHNSON-RICHARDS DINNER 2024



COLLIN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADERSHIP

COUNTY CHAIR
SHEENA KING

**PRECINCT OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE CHAIR**
MICHAEL CASAVANT

VICE-CHAIR
JEREMY SUTKA

**RULES & BYLAWS
COMMITTEE CHAIR**
SARAH MITCHELL

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
CHAIR**
JEREMY SUTKA

**VOTER REGISTRATION
COMMITTEE CHAIR**
BRANT BELAND

SECRETARY
MACEY BURNS

**VOTER RIGHTS COMMITTEE
CHAIR**
KC MCCLAIN

TREASURER
JARED FLORES

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
CHAIR**
PAUL HART

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR
JARED FLORES

**FUNDRAISING & EVENTS
CHAIR**
MICHAEL TIJERINA

**GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
CHAIR**
LARRY HEBEL

**COORDINATED CAMPAIGN
CHAIR**
MACKENZIE JENKINS

JRD COMMITTEE CHAIR
MARY HIGBE

**JOHNSON-RICHARDS
DINNER 2024**



COLLIN COUNTY 2024 GENERAL ELECTION DEMOCRATS IN BALLOT ORDER

U.S. FEDERAL OFFICES

KAMALA HARRIS / TIM WALZ FOR U.S. PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT
COLIN ALLRED FOR U.S. SENATE

ONE NAME BELOW WILL APPEAR DEPENDING ON YOUR DISTRICT:

SANDEEP SRIVASTAVA FOR U.S. CONGRESS DIST. 3
SIMON CARDELL FOR U.S. CONGRESS DIST. 4
JULIE JOHNSON FOR U.S. CONGRESS DIST. 32

TEXAS STATEWIDE OFFICES

KATHERINE CULBERT FOR RAILROAD COMMISSIONER
DESEAN JONES FOR SUPREME COURT PL. 2
CHRISTINE VINH WEEMS FOR SUPREME COURT PL. 4
BONNIE LEE GOLDSTEIN FOR SUPREME COURT PL. 6
HOLLY TAYLOR FOR COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS PL. 1
NANCY MULDER FOR COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS PL. 7
CHIKA ANYIAM FOR COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS PL. 8

APPEARS IF YOU LIVE IN THE DISTRICT:

GEORGE KING FOR STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PL. 12

TEXAS SENATE AND HOUSE

ONE NAME BELOW WILL APPEAR DEPENDING ON YOUR DISTRICT:

RACHEL MELLO FOR SENATE DIST. 8
DALE FREY FOR SENATE DIST. 30

ONE NAME BELOW WILL APPEAR DEPENDING ON YOUR DISTRICT:

TONY ADAMS FOR REPRESENTATIVE DIST. 61
DAVID CARSTENS FOR REPRESENTATIVE DIST. 66
MAKALA WASHINGTON FOR REPRESENTATIVE DIST. 67
MIHAELA PLESA FOR REPRESENTATIVE DIST. 70
DARREL EVANS FOR REPRESENTATIVE DIST. 89

TEXAS 5TH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS

STACI WILLIAMS FOR CHIEF JUSTICE
ROBBIE PARTIDA-KIPNESS FOR PL. 2
ERIN NOWELL FOR PL. 5
TINA CLINTON FOR PL. 9
AMANDA REICHEK FOR PL. 10
KIM COOKS FOR PL. 11
KEN MOLBERG FOR PL. 12
TONYA PARKER FOR PL. 13

COLLIN COUNTY OFFICES

STEPHANIE COOKSEY FOR TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

APPEARS IF YOU LIVE IN THE DISTRICT:

YVETTE JOHNSON FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER PCT. 3
CESAR AVILA FOR CONSTABLE PCT. 3

JOHNSON-RICHARDS DINNER 2024



DALE HANSEN

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Dale Hansen is a celebrated American sportscaster, renowned for his influential career as the weeknight sports anchor during the 10 p.m. newscasts on ABC's Dallas affiliate, WFAA. He also hosted the popular "Dale Hansen's Sports Special," a show that regularly captivated over 300,000 viewers. As the station's sports director, Dale became a prominent voice in sports journalism.

He garnered national attention with his impactful commentary on Michael Sam, delivering the now-famous line: "I'm not always comfortable when a man tells me he is gay; I don't understand his world. But I do understand that he is part of mine." Dale continued to speak out with powerful commentaries on critical issues like equality, racism, and domestic violence, resonating widely across platforms like YouTube.

Known for standing up for what's right, Dale Hansen has built a legacy of speaking truth to power. We are beyond excited to welcome this Texas legend as our emcee for the Johnson-Richards Dinner this year!

JOHNSON-RICHARDS DINNER 2024



LISA WEST



Lisa West calls herself "just a mom from McKinney," but she is far more than that. A fierce political activist and key admin for the Liberal Women of Collin County Facebook group, Lisa plays a pivotal role in uniting Democrats within a sea of red. With a gift for researching intricate topics and distilling them into clear, accessible information, Lisa empowers her community with knowledge and helps foster meaningful connections among like-minded individuals.

**JOHNSON-RICHARDS
DINNER 2024**



GEORGE KING



George is a candidate for State Board of Ed, District 12. He spent 40 years as a public school educator, most of those within Plano ISD.

As campus principal, George collaborated with colleagues on the important issues facing public education including school accountability, college, career and military readiness, school district strategic planning, campus and district improvement planning, and meeting the needs of an increasingly diverse student community.

Upon retiring in June 2023, George began work as an adult education instructor at Grayson College. He sees that the challenges facing public education in Texas today have grown more complex, including safety and security of our children, school funding and finance, and the politicization of curriculum. He's the experience voice in school leadership that Texas desperately needs.

**JOHNSON-RICHARDS
DINNER 2024**



REP. VENTON JONES



State Representative Venton Jones (Dallas) is currently serving his first term in the Texas House of Representatives. District 100 serves parts of South Dallas, West Dallas, East Dallas, Buckner Terrace, Victory Park, and Oak Cliff.

Representative Jones serves as a member of the House Committee on Public Health and the House Committee on Corrections. In addition to his committee appointments, He serves as the Legislative Chairman of the Aggie Caucus, member of the Texas House Democratic Caucus, the Texas Legislative Black Caucus, the Texas House LGBTQ Caucus, the Texas Energy & Climate Caucus, and the Legislative Study Group. Representative Jones was honored by his peers in the Texas House by being named the LGBTQ Caucus "Freshman of the Year" during the 88th Legislative Session.

Professionally, Representative Jones is a non-profit CEO, Texas Realtor, and a demonstrated servant leader. He is the Founder and CEO of the Southern Black Policy and Advocacy Network (SBPAN), where the mission of the organization is to improve health, social, and economic conditions impacting Black communities in the U.S. South. Since the beginning of his career, Representative Jones has been a tireless advocate working to improve healthcare access, fighting for marginalized communities and middle-class families, and protecting voting rights.

Representative Jones received his Bachelor of Science degree in Community Health from Texas A&M University, his Master of Science degree in Health Care Administration from The University of Texas at Arlington, and also holds a global certification as a Project Management Professional (PMP).

In his free time, Representative Jones enjoys karaoke, do-it-yourself home improvement projects, gardening, and spending time with family and friends. In addition, he is an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, and a lifetime member of the NAACP.

JOHNSON-RICHARDS DINNER 2024



REP. MIHAELA PLESA



Mihaela Plesa has been a powerful advocate for the people of Collin County, fighting to fully fund public schools, expand women's rights, and improve healthcare access. In her first term as State Representative for District 70, Mihaela's legislative successes earned her recognition as Freshman of the Year by the Texas Legislative Study Group. She authored or co-authored over 230 bills, with 20 of her bills and 90 co-sponsored bills becoming law. These laws address critical issues such as public education, healthcare, and community safety.

A lifelong Texan and daughter of Romanian immigrants, Mihaela is deeply committed to her community. Her background as a small business owner and former legislative director prepared her to hit the ground running in Austin, where she has consistently delivered results for her constituents. Mihaela's leadership in securing \$6.2 million in Early Childhood Intervention funding demonstrates her focus on improving the lives of families across the district.

Mihaela's independent voice and dedication to serving the people—not party lines—are more important than ever. Her proven track record of success in the Texas House makes her the leader Collin County needs to keep fighting for a brighter future. Keeping Mihaela in office ensures continued progress on the issues that matter most to our community.

**JOHNSON-RICHARDS
DINNER 2024**



CONGRESSMAN COLIN ALLRED



Colin Allred, a fourth-generation Texan, was raised in Dallas by his single mother, a public-school teacher. With support from his community, Colin earned a scholarship to play football at Baylor University, where he captained the team and graduated with honors. After a five-year NFL career ended due to injury, he pursued his dream of becoming a civil rights attorney, defending voting rights and working in the Obama administration's Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In 2018, Colin was elected to represent Texas' 32nd District in Congress, defeating a 22-year Republican incumbent. He has since prioritized bipartisan solutions, securing a new VA hospital, improving infrastructure, and passing gun safety legislation. He has been a leading voice on protecting healthcare, capping insulin costs, and expanding voting rights.

Now, Colin is running to be your next senator for the great state of Texas. He remains a champion for veterans, passing legislation to improve VA facilities and expand care for those exposed to toxic burn pits. Colin lives in Dallas with his wife Aly and their two sons.

**JOHNSON-RICHARDS
DINNER 2024**



KEYNOTE SPEAKER HON. GINA ORTIZ JONES



The Honorable Gina Ortiz Jones served as the 27th Under Secretary of the Air Force, the second-highest civilian in the Department of the Air Force.

Appointed by President Joe Biden and unanimously confirmed by the Senate in July 2021, Jones made history as the first woman of color and the first out-lesbian to serve as the under secretary of any military department.

Jones is credited with driving some of the most progressive personnel policy changes in the Department of Defense aimed at addressing inequities and improving recruiting, readiness, and retention.

Jones serves on the Advisory Council for The Asian American Foundation, is an Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America Board Member, and is a Council on Foreign Relations Life Member. She is the Founder of Find Out PAC.

**JOHNSON-RICHARDS
DINNER 2024**



SPONSORS

BLUE CARPET SPONSORS

DON FLANARY
ERIN & JEREMY SUTKA

FRIENDS OF EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON & ANN RICHARDS SPONSORS

HOLLY TAYLOR

MICHAEL & CATHERINE CASAVANT

CHRISTY ALBANO

JOHN SONG

GET OUT THE VOTE SPONSORS

JUSTICE BILL PEDERSEN III

JIM AND LINDA FOY

VIKKI GOODWIN

JOHNSON-RICHARDS
DINNER 2024



SPONSORS

EVENT PLANNING SPONSOR



IN YOUR POCKET
INYOURPOCKETEVENTS.COM

BEVERAGE SPONSOR



GUITARS & GROWLERS
GUITARSANDGROWLERS.COM

FLORAL DESIGN SPONSOR



BAD AND BLOOMING FLORAL
DESIGN
BADANDBLOOMING.COM

PHOTOBOOTH SPONSOR



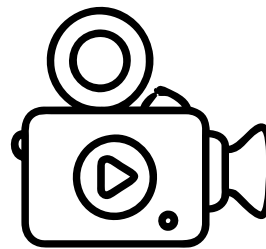
INSPECT 360
INSPECT360.COM

PHOTOGRAPHER SPONSOR



P MEDIA
PIPPYSMEDIA.COM

VIDEOGRAPHER SPONSOR



VIZIONZ BY AG

JOHNSON-RICHARDS DINNER 2024



THE NEW BLUE SHINES THROUGH YOU

Thank you for attending the **Johnson-Richards Dinner!**

We hope you had a great time and that we'll see you at future events.

To learn more about the **Collin County Democratic Party** and contribute to the effort of electing Democrats and *turning Collin County BLUE*, visit

txdp.cc/CCDPCConnect

or scan the QR code below.



**JOHNSON-RICHARDS
DINNER 2024**