

FIRING UP IN 2024!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Primary Election

Early Voting Starts

February 20th

Ends March 1st

March 5th Election Day

Dinner, Drinks & Discussion

February 22nd

4:30 - 7 PM

The Railhouse

107 E. Center St

Kyle, TX 78640

Precinct Conventions

March 9th

See Page 14 For Precinct
Information

SD Conventions

March 23rd

9am

SD 21 Location

Calvary Baptist Church

1906 IH-35 N. Frontage

Rd

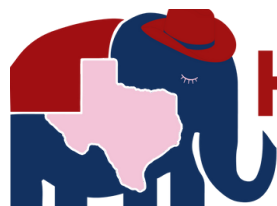
San Marcos, TX 78666

SD 25 Location

Hays Hills Baptist Church

1401 N. FM 1626

Buda, TX 78610



HAYS COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN

Dinner, Drinks, & Discussion



JOIN US!

THE RAILHOUSE
107 E. CENTER ST.
KYLE, TX 78640

Thursday, February 22 from 4:30 - 7:00
Drinks and food available for purchase.

Firing Up In 2024!

THE ROAD TO CONVENTION

By: Becky E. Hites

The Texas Federation of Republican Women held its "Road to Convention " Leadership Day training the last Saturday in January at the Georgetown, TX, Convention Center. The event kicked-off with a Friday night Patron reception featuring speeches from RNC National Committeewoman & RNC Convention 2020 Chair Toni Anne Dashiell, Republican Party of Texas Vice Chair Dr. Dana Myers, who has announced her intention to challenge Incumbent Chair Mat Rinaldi at the Republican State Convention to be held in San Antonio May 23rd-25th, and Mary Jane Avery, SREC SD24 Committeewoman and TFRW Victory Chair. TFRW has a convention participation goal of 3,000 women from the organization to incorporate our voices into the leadership and strategic direction of the state party.



The path to the convention starts with the precinct conventions held after the March 5 elections followed by the county or senate (in the case of Hays County) conventions. The details of these conventions will be posted on the Hays County GOP website at hayscountygop.org. The Patron Reception was followed by the Conference Welcome Reception with remarks from TFRW President Zenia Warren, conference co-chairs Debra Harper and Sarah Bolton, reception sponsor Representative Briscoe Cain, and live music from Riley Oldmixon resulting in a quite inspiring Conga line (RPT VC Myers took a video!).

The convention training the following morning included presentations on political activities, candidate fairness, parliamentary procedure, the newly launched Coalition For Texas, and Caring for America initiatives. Governor Rick Perry spoke at the lunch about the importance of a strong energy program. The afternoon breakout workshops focused on club leadership & issue management, treasurer & PAC reporting rules, growing & retaining membership, fundraising, digital marketing strategies, how awards can help a club, leadership tips and the success framework provided through instructive bylaws (including a cheat sheet to Robert's Rules of Order).

THE ROAD TO CONVENTION

(Cont.)



As a first-time attendee to a TFRW event, I was impressed with the content and the esprit de corps. Everyone I spoke to took the time to hear my concern and offered their “tribal knowledge” support to enable me to succeed

as the incoming club treasurer and as an invested Republican. I’m excited thinking about being one of the 3,000 voices that will represent our cause at the state convention in May.

BE THE DIFFERENCE BY BECOMING A PRECINCT CHAIR

Precinct Chairs are the grassroots leaders who help promote and grow the local county party, work to elect Republican candidates to office and maximize the Republican vote in Hays County.

In the role, you’ll have the opportunity to interact with your neighborhoods to discuss issues important to them.

It’s also a platform to have a say in government matters, and the route to participate in the Republican Party of Texas’ San Antonio Convention in May.

Texas GOP Precinct Chair Duties

OPERATION LONE STAR

Latest Updates - Taken From The Governor's Website

The State of Texas is working collaboratively with communities impacted by the border crisis to arrest and detain individuals coming into Texas illegally. Our efforts will only be effective if we work together to secure the border, make criminal arrests, protect landowners, rid our communities of dangerous drugs, and provide Texans with the support they need and deserve.



News on Operation Lone Star

CANDIDATE SPOTLIGHT

CONTESTED RACE PROFILES

On the following pages, HCRW developed candidate questions for each Republican contested race and submitted them to ALL of the candidates. On the following pages are the responses we received.



Dave Graham Candidate for Constable Pct 4

1. What differentiates you from your opponent?

My opponent and I have a lot in common, actually, including a desire to serve the public and keep our area safe. However, I'm ready to execute on that responsibility on Day 1 because of my experience and background, which includes:

- 6 years/10 months service as a Deputy Constable in Constable Hood's office, working criminal, civil, and traffic issues.
- 26 years/10 months of experience with the Dallas Police Department, retiring as Lieutenant with responsibility for Tactical Operations such as SWAT, Bomb Squad and other units, Patrol Division Watch Commander, Personnel and Development Unit Commander, and Internal Affairs Unit Commander.
- 6 years/7 months of experience with the Garland Police Department as a field training officer and criminal detective.
- Extensive experience budgeting and more importantly, maximizing bang for the buck and being a prudent steward of tax dollars.
- Training police, sheriff, and other law enforcement organizations across the United States as an instructor for Law Enforcement Seminars LLC.
- Extensive experience as a patrol officer, community relations officer, detective, and training officer.
- Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Master Peace Officer.
- Certified Crime Prevention Specialist.
- More than 100 Commendations and Awards.

2. Name 3 attributes you feel are necessary for an effective Constable and why?

This is a great question; it's important for voters to understand the Constable role before casting their vote.

First, the Constable must be able to fulfill the responsibilities of the office; that is, lead an accomplished team of eight Deputy Constables and an Administrative Assistant in civil and criminal law enforcement and traffic enforcement - all while interacting with the public, helping resolve conflicts between neighbors, and listening to feedback on various community issues. It's a challenging job that requires experience, competence, and the ability to relate with the public. I have led hundreds of police officers and have been tested (and decorated for my actions) in emergency situations. I've also served as a Community Relations officer and have received numerous commendations from the public during my years in service.

Dave Graham--Constable Pct 4 Continued

Second, as an elected official, the Constable is accountable to the citizens and must be a public figure and community leader. Showing presence is important in keeping crime down, minimizing conflicts, and helping the community maintain a good quality of life. I am constantly volunteering, giving presentations, conducting safety training, attending and participating in various civic events and being an active member of our community. I have been endorsed by more than one hundred local residents - including community leaders and volunteers, Republican officeholders, police and military veterans, and everyday citizens.

Third, the Constable must be a prudent steward of our tax dollars, using them efficiently and effectively. I have extensive experience with budgeting and have obtained millions of dollars of tax-free grants, getting needed equipment without spending tax dollars. And I will be an assertive advocate at the county level for the resources funded by our tax dollars.

3. Given Hays County's exponential growth in the last 10 years, crime will become a major issue within our community. What role would your office play in confronting the crime rate and crime prevention?

Many people aren't aware of the PCT 4 Constable's Office role in responding to and preventing crime, so I appreciate this question. The Constable's Office is composed of experienced and dedicated police officers and when an emergency happens, we respond. We are fully authorized to make arrests throughout the county and adjacent counties, whereas municipal police departments are restricted to their city. We will continue to do so.

Likewise, there are several crime prevention activities already underway in Precinct 4 and I will definitely continue them - for example, house checks for residents who are traveling.

I'll also continue to grow our public presence. Community and public awareness are a huge factor in controlling crime, and I have been volunteering for the past six years teaching crime prevention classes, citizen response to active shooter events, and situational awareness and personal safety classes. I've conducted classes for the educators at 3 private schools in Dripping Springs, the staff at Dripping Springs YMCA, Dripping Springs Women's Club, Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class, and multiple venues in Hays County for the Hays County Office of Emergency Management. We have many well-qualified officers at the Constable's Office, and I would expand community engagement opportunities to them as well.

Another option is to expand the Citizens on Patrol Program, which I established in Sunset Canyon. I've trained 43 residents so far on how to be a visible presence and patrol their neighborhood in a non-confrontational manner. This program unites citizens and law enforcement for the common goal of improving the quality of life for residents by preventing, reducing, and eliminating crime, and it is very effective.

Lastly, I am a firm believer in "broken glass" policing - that addressing minor crime such as porch piracy, vehicles being broken into etc. can prevent more serious crime. I encourage people to report crime whether it's big or small; 911 is there for you and they will prioritize your call appropriately, so don't be worried about calling in for "just" a theft or graffiti. Crime statistics are a big help in determining trends and (cont. on next page)

anticipating what will happen next, so I will carefully review them to determine what resources to place and where.

4. Traffic along the Hwy 290 corridor is and continues to be a major issue. Do you see your office addressing this issue, and if so, how?

I definitely see the Constable's office continuing to address traffic enforcement and safety issues. Constable Hood created a traffic unit and hired 4 motorcycle deputies in response to the increase in traffic congestion, complaints and accidents stemming from rapid growth. Our Constable deputies will continue responding to and investigating any type of vehicle accident, and I'll review TxDOT's accident data to determine where the accidents are occurring and the contributing factors (speeding, passing in turn lanes, texting etc.) and deploy our motorcycle deputies to those locations in an effort to reduce accidents and injuries.

Traffic congestion is a trickier question. The Texas Department of Transportation has preliminary plans under consideration to expand Highway 290 to a six-lane divided highway with access roads, from Oak Hill to RR 12. If it's completed, it would reduce congestion but would definitely be a change for our community, and the disruption during the long build process would be significant. (I encourage all residents to review and weigh in on those plans, [here](#).) Expanding Highway 290 would require careful planning and coordination to minimize the effect on already strained commuters during construction, and I anticipate the Constable's office would be part of that.

5. The role of the Constable Offices within Hays County has changed over the past 10 years. Where do you see, or what is your vision for the Constable's Office in: a. 4 years? b. 8 years? c. 12 years?

If elected, I plan to serve two terms (or eight years, assuming the voters re-elect me), and then decide whether to pursue a third term or not. The population in Precinct 4 is expected to keep increasing for at least that first term, and the Constable's office must continue to be flexible and evolve to meet the ever-changing needs of our community whether it be related to crime, traffic, accidents, investigations, or civil processes.

That caveat aside, I intend to focus on the following priorities:

First, to continue to provide the highly professional, responsive, and personable service established by Constable Hood.

Second, continue to expand and enhance crime prevention and public safety efforts as described in my answer to question 3.

Third, I would like to explore both the feasibility and desirability of moving towards a 24/7 model. Right now, we provide service from generally 6 am - 6 pm during the week. To me, it makes sense to have officers that are assigned here permanently and that residents know serving the community.

Dave Graham--Constable Pct 4 Continued

Fourth, the Dripping Springs Independent School District is presently utilizing the School Marshall Program (see here for more details) using trained civilians to provide armed security at several schools; I'm optimistic about the program but if additional School Resource Officers are needed, Deputy Constables should be ready to backstop.

Bottom line: I have extensive experience in both a large city, working with many different entities and agencies, and working in Dripping Springs, where anyone can just walk in the door and say hello. I'll be an asset as we work to develop the proper systems and processes associated FOR US here in Dripping Springs. We all want both a safe community, and to retain that ability to just stop by the Constable's Office.

6. Due to staffing issues with the Sheriff's Office, the community relies heavily on Constable's Office for service.

- a. Would your office continue this service? b. Would you expand your services?
c. If so, what type of service do you see that being?**

I'm going to refer folks to my answer for question five for a fuller response, but the short version is:

- a) Absolutely
- b) If it's appropriate to do so and
- c) 24/7 service or expanded hours, and presence in the Dripping Springs Independent School District schools.

7. The fulfillment of the office for which you are running will be required to have read and understood all pages of the RPT Rules; the Texas Constitution (specifically the Bill of Rights and the Election Code); and the US Constitution (Bill of Rights), as stated in the HCRP Bylaws. Please give us your understanding of how willing and able you are to understand and uphold the bodies of covenants between you and the voters you represent.

I am a sworn law enforcement officer and I believe in treating all people with respect and dignity. My duties as Constable are to uphold, defend and support our Texas Constitution and U.S. Constitution and I am willing and able to do so.

8. Do you agree to abide by the contract below to support the HCRP:

- 1. I will support unity in our party in 2024. The division ends with me.**
- 2. I will not disparage my fellow Republican. We may have different approaches, but we agree on our fundamental principles.**
- 3. I will tell my neighbors that our candidates stand for these fundamental principles:**
 - I. Keeping Hays safe**
 - II. Being responsible with your tax dollars**
 - III. Leading with integrity and the highest ethical standards**

I appreciate the desire to encourage unity and congeniality within the Hays County Republican Party. I wholeheartedly agree to abide by the HCRP contract and support the Republican slate of candidates.



Ben Gieselman Candidate for Constable Pct 4

1. What differentiates you from your opponent?

I am the hometown guy in this race. Dripping Springs is where I have spent almost my entire life and that brings a better understanding of our people than anyone who may have moved here just a few years ago.

2. Name 3 attributes you feel are necessary for an effective Constable and why?

Dedication, Commitment, Honesty - these are all important not just to set the standard for the entire Constable's office to follow but so our community is assured they are both our priority and our accountability mechanism.

3. Given Hays Counties' exponential growth in the last 10 years, crime will become a major issue within our community. What role would your office play in confronting the crime rate and crime prevention?

I will ensure that we work well with our County counterparts and make all available resources available to both our immediate community and the surrounding areas when necessary. Community engagement and new technology will be the tools necessary for crime prevention. I plan to implement social media access for the office and educate the community on new crime prevention technology that works such as Flock.

4. Traffic along the Hwy 290 corridor is and continues to be a major issue. Do you see your office addressing this issue, and if so, how?

Traffic enforcement will be necessary especially with the plan for expansion of US 290 into 6 lanes with feeder roads in the upcoming years. I will need to expand the motor division to assist with this enforcement and provide faster response times to accidents. There are currently 4 motor officers; I would like to grow the number to at least 10 within my first term. This number of officers would be able to cover all school zones both morning and afternoon, and allow more directed enforcement in neighborhoods or problem areas of US 290 more frequently.

Ben Gieselmen--Constable Pct 4 Continued

- 5. The role of the Constable Offices within Hays County has changed over the past 10 years. Where do you see, or what is your vision for the Constable's Office in:**
a. 4 years? b. 8 years? c. 12 years?

Whether I am given the privilege of serving this community for one term or 7, my vision will remain the same: Lead the office with dedication and honesty while being a responsible steward of our taxpayer's money.

- 6. Due to staffing issues with the Sheriff's Office, the community relies heavily on Constable's Office for service.**

- a. Would your office continue this service?**

Yes

- b. Would you expand your services?**

I will work with our county partners to provide whatever support is required. If that is taking on new responsibility I'll consider it along with if it is a responsible way to send taxpayer dollars.

- c. If so, what type of service do you see that being?**

Determining this is something that will require input from more leaders than just the constable.

- 7. The fulfillment of the office for which you are running will be required to have read and understood all pages of the RPT Rules; the Texas Constitution (specifically the Bill of Rights and the Election Code); and the US Constitution (Bill of Rights), as stated in the HCRP Bylaws. Please give us your understanding of how willing and able you are to understand and uphold the bodies of covenants between you and the voters you represent.**

I'm happy to read whatever documents I am encouraged to read, and I will always try and make decisions with as many perspectives of interested parties. When I take office, I do so by taking an oath to protect and defend the constitution of the United States. So I am legally and ethically bound to make every decision with that and the taxpayers who fund the office in mind.

- 8. Do you agree to abide by the contract below to support the HCRP:**

- 1. I will support unity in our party in 2024. The division ends with me.**
- 2. I will not disparage my fellow Republican. We may have different approaches, but we agree on our fundamental principles.**
- 3. I will tell my neighbors that our candidates stand for these fundamental principles:**
 - I. Keeping Hays safe**
 - II. Being responsible with your tax dollars**
 - III. Leading with integrity and the highest ethical standards**

Yes.

VoteBenG.com

Political statements or advertising by candidates on any HCRW platforms do not represent an endorsement, position or policy of HCRW.

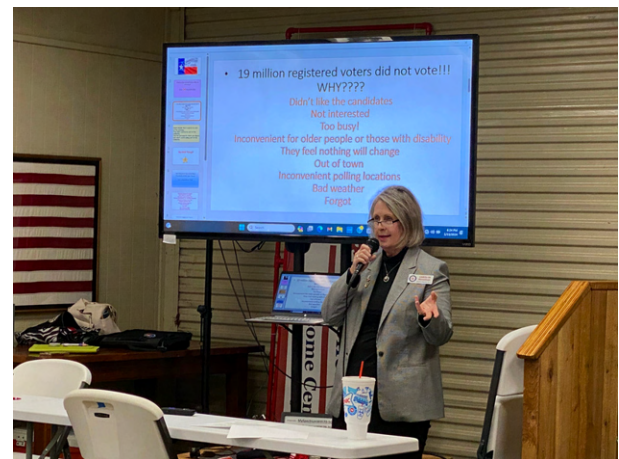
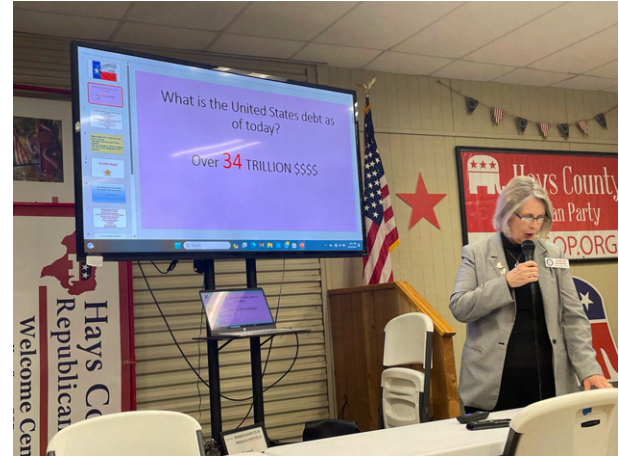
"DO ONE THING" To Invest in Hays County During This Election Year

By Becky E. Hites

The Hays County Republican Women General Membership meeting held on February 13th featured a presentation by TRFW SD25 District Director Carolyn Besselman focused on ways to be involved in the election process.

Mrs. Besselman listed all the reasons folks use for not voting including that they got busy, forgot, weren't interested, didn't like the candidates, inconvenient travel to polling place, didn't know where the polling place was, the weather, forgot when polling was taking place, and are too old to get to polling place. Responding to these issues, the speaker highlighted how important our voting rights are to the proper functioning of our country and the accommodations including early voting, multiple polling sites and curbside voting for those requiring assistance that have been put in place to remove hurdles in the process. From the audience, it was pointed out that Hays County has also instituted a very accommodating absentee ballot system that is already available today for the primary vote.

One of the most compelling reasons to get involved in the political process is our country's current debt of \$34 TRILLION. Our future generations will be responsible for repaying this debt. Mrs. Besselman shared several charming stories about her mother (a staunch Democrat) teaching her about civic duty and how she was now grooming her grandchildren. She shared that when she retired from Houston and moved to the Hill Country, her greatest desire and focus was "to move rocks". But eventually, she got involved with her local Republican club and is pleased to serve as our district director under TFRW. She mentioned how inspiring it was to flag wave on the I-35 overpass when the recent border convoy was headed south.



"DO ONE THING" To Invest in Hays County During This Election Year (Cont.)



The first recommendation for getting involved was to join a Republican Women's Club. There are many groups in Hays County and we would encourage you to get involved with us at Hays County Republican Women (reference link at the bottom of this page).



There are many other options, and we'd encourage you to pick the one that you find compelling and to which you can commit your time and energy. Opportunities include (alphabetically): attend club meetings, block walk, donate an item to our silent auction, fundraise (one of the more challenging functions), join a club committee, phone bank, sign wave, volunteer at a club meeting (for set-up, check in table, hospitality, breakdown), volunteer to work on the club's silent auction committee, write a submission for the newsletter and/or work on a Republican candidate campaign.



The meeting concluded with a "fashion show" of branded t-shirts from our speaker's husband's collection and the importance of being a public presence despite the peer pressure to stay hidden. Mrs. Besselman also had a quiz on historic presidential trivia rewarded with presidential bumper stickers!

MEETINGS LIKE THESE KEEP US "FIRED UP" FOR 2024!

Be sure to join us at future meetings and Happy Hour events to get involved with the Hays County Republican Women!

[Join Hays County Republican Women](#)

PRECINCT & SD CONVENTION INFORMATION

KNOW YOUR PRECINCT

Precinct Conventions are just around the corner! As a voter, it's important to know where your precinct is and who your precinct chair is. To find out your precinct, click the the link below to view the precinct map.

[Hays County Precinct Map](#)

PRECINCT CONVENTIONS

Each precinct will also be having their own precinct convention throughout the county. To find out your precinct date, time, and location, click the link below!

[Precinct Convention Information](#)

KNOW YOUR SENATE DISTRICT

Senate District Conventions are also on the horizon! To find out your Senate District (SD), click either link below to view each SD map. Hays County is covered through SD 21 (Judith Zaffrini) and SD 25 (Donna Campbell).

SD Conventions will take place on March 23 at 9am!

SD 21 INFO:

Calvary Baptist Church
1906 IH-35 N. Frontage Rd
San Marcos, TX 78666

SD 25 INFO:

Hays Hills Baptist Church
1401 N. FM 1626
Buda, TX 78610

[Senate District 21 Map](#)

[Senate District 25 Map](#)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

[The 2024 Primary Election
in a Nutshell
Dates & Times
Click Here!](#)

**What were the results of
November 2023 Election?**

[Click Here.](#)

What is Commissioner's Court?

It is the Hays County governing body which oversees the functions and budget for county-related business. Click below for schedule of Commissioner's Court dates, agenda, live video feed and minutes. Stay informed.

[Find out Here!](#)

BORDER SUPPORT

Upon hearing the truck convoy was stopping in Dripping Springs, several women jumped into action to spread the word about their idea to present these patriots with a gift from our community. We received lots of community donations and had volunteers bagging the items to hand out Friday, February 2, as the convoy embarked on its journey south. Everyone was so appreciative of our efforts. We handed out 250 bags to the patriots!



VOTE
The Whole Ballot

[Hays County GOP](#)

HCRW Executive Board Spotlight



BECKY E. HITES Treasurer

Becky E Hites, HCRW treasurer, is a small business owner providing strategic direction to the steel industry. A lifelong Christian conservative, she was first introduced to political activism while attending Dr. Jerry Falwell's Liberty Baptist College (now Liberty University) in the 1980s. Working on Wall Street and eventually in NYC didn't accommodate opportunities to be involved in grassroots campaigns, but that changed in 2020 when Becky put her business on hold to run for Congress in Georgia's District 13 against an 8-term incumbent in a district ranked by the Cook Partisan Voter Index (2018) as D+20.

Despite COVID, running in the most gerrymandered district in the USA, and being a complete political newbie, she won 69% of the Republican primary vote and 89% of the precincts across 6 counties. She won 100% of the districts in the county where she lived.

In late 2022, Becky moved with her elderly mother to San Marcos to be closer to her brother and is very excited to be joining the HCRW leadership team.

She holds an MBA in business with a minor in finance from Georgia State University and is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the National Society United States Daughters of the War of 1812, the National Society Daughters of the Union 1861-1865, and the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

TEXAS STATE EDITORIAL



***Did you know that
Texas State College Republicans
is the largest College Republican
Club in Texas?***



The Importance of Involvement

By: Carly French

Being involved on campus is incredibly important, be it politically or even socially. As we get back into the swing of things with the start of the spring semester, I am reminded of this daily. What we learn here at Texas State from our experience in our organizations and work follows us into our future careers. Our generation is the future of America, and I am glad to participate in organizations that help me learn more in order to better that future.

When I first joined College Republicans my freshman year, I had no clue I'd become this involved. I had no plans of joining the CR board and I had absolutely no plans to join the Hays Women, either. I was really just looking for like minded individuals that I wouldn't mind spending time with. I am extremely glad I did though. Through both organizations, I have made wonderful friendships, found great connections, and grown in not just a leadership role, but also as an individual. I feel that joining groups such as these and others are essential to learning transferable skills for the workforce.

Having our voices be heard and speaking on what matters to us as we become adults is super important. We enjoy helping our local candidates and community because it matters to us and our future. Volunteering is the easiest way we can get involved and is something we all enjoy doing. We may only live in Hays County and San Marcos for a short time, but knowing we had some choice in impacting our future is really cool. As we head into election and campaign season, the College Republicans are eager to help out our candidates and our community in any way we can! We are the voices of the future, and we will do anything we can to better that future for the next generation.

[Texas State University Presidential Debate Link](#)