

BAHEP extends its sincere appreciation for the continued support of the *Houston Chronicle* through this monthly supplement.

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Dr. Robert Stein of Rice University presents election wrap-up and consequences to BAHEP members

Rice University's Robert Stein, Ph.D., gave a presentation titled "Election Wrap-Up and Policy Consequences" to a General Membership Meeting of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership on Nov. 10, 2014. Stein is a well-known and respected political analyst and an expert on urban politics, public policy and voting behavior.

In regard to the mid-term election, he stated, "Nobody came out for this election. In fact, in this country, this turnout had the lowest percent of eligible voters to vote since 1942, and that was a war year." Stein explained, "The election was over probably six or seven months ago. No one was persuaded. No one

changed their mind. This was not an election about persuasion. It was an election about turnout, and that's important to understand."

He reported that the people who showed up in the election were decidedly older, whiter, home owners, approaching retirement and/or at retirement. Exit polls determined that the most important issues were a stable economy, border security and immigration, although these ranked higher for Republicans than Democrats.

Hispanic vote notable
Stein said that Hispanic voters represent 24 percent of the registered voters in

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Robert Stein, Ph.D.

the state of Texas, and they cast 9½ - 10 percent of the votes in the election. Most voters in the Hispanic population were in the 18-34 age group. This is unique to the Hispanic population. As a general rule, younger people don't vote.

Stein noted that during the years that these voters were born, Texas went from a blue state to a red state. Young Hispanics grew up in an environment that was overwhelmingly Republican. They know that Republicans always win in Texas, and, except

for the recession, the economy has always been good. They vote Republican in Texas and will continue to do so. Stein declared that Texas can be won by Democrats, but it won't be won by voter turnout. "It's going to be won by convincing people to vote for a candidate on issues," he said.

National policy solutions needed

Stein noted that nationally the Republican win was largely structurally driven in reference to "how the game is played." He said that by 2016 in a presidential year election with a higher turnout, the Democrats will probably come back. He stated that he was going out on a limb by predicting there's a 4-1

chance that Democrats will retake the Senate, although the House will probably not change hands.

In this election, Stein explained, establishment Republicans beat out Tea Party insurgents in every election. He feels that the Republican Party will stay a conservative course but not a "Ted Cruz" course with movement on immigration and tax reform and perhaps some movement on health care.

When asked what he thought the Republicans should do on a national level to remain effective in the 2016 elections, Stein responded in closing, "Now that the Republicans hold the House and the



Robert Stein, Ph.D.

Senate, they have to prove that they can govern this country. They have to come up with reasonable policy solutions that can be implemented and that the people will stand by."

BAHEP showcases Bay Area Houston region to brokers and developers during reception at HESS Club

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership hosted a commercial broker and developer reception in late October at the HESS Club in the Galleria area to showcase opportunities that are available in the Bay Area Houston region. Many of the offices of large national and international real estate brokerage houses are located in the Galleria area.

Dan Seal, BAHEP executive director of Special Initiatives, explained, "The Houston region covers 10,062 square miles. BAHEP wants to make sure that our region's real estate opportunities are on their radar. The broker and developer reception is a great way to make this happen."

HEP Real Estate marketing manager, said that the event was a tremendous success. Approximately 135 attendees heard the Bay Area Houston story, which is one of profound growth projections over the next five years.

The audience included representation from some impressive companies including Colliers International, Falcon Group, Griffin Partners, JA Billip Company, Transwestern, and Vantex Commercial



Dan Seal, BAHEP executive director of Special Initiatives, gave a presentation to real estate brokers and developers representing large national and international brokerage houses during a reception held at the HESS Club in the Galleria area.

Property Group. These brokers focus on office, industrial, and retail opportunities.

Seal gave a presentation on the Bay Area Houston region and said, "Our region is literally firing on all

cylinders in its major industries, which include medical/life sciences, specialty chemical, manufac-

turing, maritime, aviation/aerospace, and tourism."

In addition to Seal's presentation, many Bay Area Houston member cities were represented and had a chance to talk to the brokers and developers about real estate opportunities in their cities and to display their cities' amenities, as well.

BAHEP wishes to thank CDS Market Research for providing an informative demographic update, which was distributed to the audience.

Seal's presentation and the update are available to view online at www.bayareahouston.com/content/BusinessAssistance/real-estate/Real%20Estate%20Reports by clicking on the Real Estate Reports link.

Capt. Penoyer gives BAHEP members amazing opportunity to learn about Coast Guard's response capabilities

One of the many benefits of membership in the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership is having the opportunity on occasion to see, hear, and do things that would not normally be possible. This

includes touring the new multi-million dollar Coast Guard facility at Ellington Field.

On a recent fall afternoon, more than 150 BAHEP members drove past barricades and through a security checkpoint to attend a General Membership Meeting held at the facility where Capt. Brian Penoyer, Sector Commander and Captain of the Port, United States Coast Guard, gave a very informative presentation on "A Day on the Bay."

Following his introduction by Dr. Brenda Hellyer, chancellor, San Jacinto College District and BAHEP board chair, Penoyer expressed his gratitude to BAHEP saying, "Everybody at BAHEP has been a guide and pathfinder for us as we relocated here." He credited BAHEP's Ellington Field Task Force for having the foresight and vision to see that Ellington could be more when that was not so clear. EFTF formulated a campaign to relocate the Coast Guard to Ellington when Hurricane Ike "literally annihilated" its facilities across the region. "You are sitting in the

product of the generosity of the United States Congress following Ike," Penoyer said. "Forty-three million dollars later you have the finest installation in the United States Coast

450 towboats and barges, 297 ferry crossings and one to three cruise ships per week. Regarding personal craft, Galveston Bay has the third largest concentration of recreational

Wind collided with the oil tank-barge Kirby 27706. The incident occurred in Galveston Bay near Texas City, Texas. The barge contained approximately 1,000,000 gallons of intermediate fuel oil in multiple tanks. The M/V Summer Wind was stable and not leaking oil; however, the barge's #2 starboard tank was punctured, spilling approximately 168,000 gallons of oil. It couldn't have happened at a better place.

Penoyer stated with a great amount of pride, "You are sitting on top of the entire national locker of oil spill and hazardous materials response capability in the country and probably in the world. If there is a problem out there involving oil spill response, if it can't be done here, it can't be done by man. All those capabilities, all those companies, all those professional responders – the best in the world – they're all here. They're based on the Galveston Bay."

The vessels collided near the tip of the Texas City Dike, in an area known as the Texas City Y. That is where the Hous-

ton and Texas City ship channels and Intracoastal Waterway intersect. The breach in the tank resulted in what has been called Texas' worst inland oil spill in decades. On March 23, the Houston Ship Channel and Intracoastal Waterway were closed to traffic, including ferries and cruise ships. It was a "disaster on top of a disaster." The U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Texas General Land Office and other agencies responded immediately.

The clean-up was complicated and extensive, but the Coast Guard had repeatedly planned and trained for such a disaster. Due to exhaustive federal and local agency efforts, the heavily trafficked Port of Houston reopened after three days.

Following the captain's presentation, BAHEP members broke into several groups and were each given a personal tour of the "four-deck" building.

The capabilities shown were impressive, cutting-edge, and formidable for those on the wrong side of the law. The tours concluded a General Membership Meeting that won't soon be forgotten.



Capt. Brian Penoyer, Sector Commander and Captain of the Port, United States Coast Guard, and Bob Mitchell, president, Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, are shown prior to Capt. Penoyer's presentation.

Guard, bar none."

Penoyer then gave a brief description of the daily activity that the Coast Guard oversees on Galveston Bay. He explained that the average daily transits include 60 deep draft freighters and tankers, 350-

boaters in the U.S.

With that much activity, it stands to reason that at some point in time an accident is going to happen, and it did. On March 22, 2014, at approximately 12:30 pm, the 585 foot bulk carrier M/V Summer

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