



VOTERS ★ GUIDE

by the League of Women Voters of Texas & League of Women Voters Austin Area

VOTING IN THE 2022 GENERAL ELECTION

INSIDE THIS VOTERS GUIDE

U.S. House of Representatives	4
Governor	7
Lt. Governor	8
Attorney General	8
Comptroller of Public Accounts	9
Commissioner of the General Land Office	10
Commissioner of Agriculture	10
Railroad Commissioner	11
Texas Supreme Court	12
Court of Criminal Appeals	13
State Board of Education	14
3rd Court of Appeals	15
State Senators	15
State Representatives	18
Travis County races	23
Williamson County races	26
City of Austin	32
City of Georgetown	40
City of Lago Vista	40
City of Lakeway	41
City of Manor	42
City of Pflugerville	43
City of Rollingwood	44
City of Sunset Valley	45
Village of The Hills	46
Austin Community College	47
Austin ISD	48
Del Valle ISD	50
Lake Travis ISD	51
Leander ISD	52
Manor ISD	55
Pflugerville ISD	56
Round Rock ISD	57

YOU MAY BRING A PRINTED VOTERS GUIDE INTO THE VOTING BOOTH.

Use of electronic devices is prohibited.

VOTER CHECKLIST

Here is everything you need to know before you go to vote. Complete all of the steps below, and you'll be ready and prepared to go to the polls.

☐ **Confirm voter registration:** Registered voters will have received a voter registration certificate (see **page 62** for an example). While this document is not needed to vote, it contains helpful information about your districts, precinct, and more. If you do bring it to the polls, a poll worker can use it to confirm your eligibility if there's any problem. Receiving the certificate is confirmation that you are eligible to vote. If you aren't sure you are registered, you can check online at **VoteTravis.com** or **apps.wilco.org/elections/**. Students, see **page 2** for more information. As of this printing, the deadline for new registrations for this election will have passed, but please register now for future elections.

☐ **Update your voter registration name or address:** To vote, you must update your registration every time you move or change your name. If you have not updated your voter registration information, you may be required to vote provisionally. That means your vote will not be tallied until the issue surrounding voter information has been resolved. **Be sure to update your voter registration BEFORE YOU COME TO THE POLLS:**

- You may correct your voter registration information on the back of the voter registration certificate and mail it to your local voter registrar.

Travis County:

Bruce Elfant
P.O. Box 149327, Austin, TX 78714-9327

Williamson County:

Williamson County Elections
P.O. Box 209, Georgetown, TX 78627

- You can change your address or name on the Texas Secretary of State's website:
<https://bit.ly/32E8QK8>

Complete information on updating your registration can be found at **VoteTexas.gov**.

☐ **Vote Early or on Election Day**

WHERE: Residents of Travis and Williamson Counties can vote at **ANY** polling place in their county. Locations and wait times are available at the following county voter information websites.

Travis County:

VoteTravis.com

Williamson County:

Wilco.org/elections

WHEN: Early voting is available October 24–November 4; times and locations may vary. On Election Day (November 8), polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

☐ **Bring Photo ID—You must use one of seven forms of ID to vote:**

- Texas driver license
- Texas Election Identification Certificate (EIC)
- Texas identification card issued by DPS
- Texas handgun license issued by DPS
- US military identification card with visible photograph
- US citizenship certificate with visible photograph
- US passport (book or card)

If you do not have one of the above photo IDs, as a registered voter you can still vote. You will be required to sign a Reasonable Impediment Declaration form and present one of the following documents:

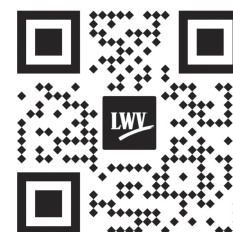
- Texas voter registration certificate
- Certified birth certificate
- Current utility bill
- Bank statement
- Government check
- Paycheck
- Any other government document such as an out-of-state driver license or an expired Texas driver license

☐ **Check ID expiration date:** You can still vote with an expired photo ID. IDs may be expired **up to four years**. For voters age 70 or older, there is **NO** limit on ID expiration.

☐ **Know your voting rights**

- If you are still in line at 7:00 p.m., stay in line. You will be able to vote past 7:00 p.m. as long as you stay in line.
- You may ask for another ballot if you need to make changes to your ballot after printing it.

VOTE 411.org
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED



VOTING IN THE 2022 GENERAL ELECTION (continued)

- If voting machines are down, you may ask for a paper ballot.
- If you run into issues on Election Day, call an Election Protection Hotline.

English: 1-866-OUR-VOTE / 1-866-687-8683

Spanish: 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA / 1-888-839-8682

Arabic: 1-844-YALLA-US / 1-844-925-5287

Asian languages: 888-API-VOTE / 1-888-274-8683

ASL (Video): 301-818-VOTE / 1-301-818-8683

Disability Rights TX: 888-796-VOTE / 1-888-796-8683

❑ **Vote safely:** The League of Women Voters encourages you to “Be a Safe Texas Voter!”

- **Vote at home by mail:** You must be 65 years or older, have a disability, be out of the county during early voting and Election Day, or be an eligible voter in jail. See **below** for more information on how to apply.
- **Vote early:** The early voting period is October 24–November 4. Take advantage of this to avoid busy polling places on Election Day. During early voting and especially on Election Day, vote during non-peak hours, such as mid-morning or mid-afternoon.
- **Vote with a mask:** That includes polling places anytime you go to vote. We encourage everyone to wear a mask at polling locations so everyone can vote safely.
- **Vote six feet apart:** Distance yourself from other voters and poll workers by at least six feet. It may seem that the lines are a bit longer, but that only means everyone is working to stay safe.

HOW TO VOTE BY MAIL

Any registered voter may vote by mail (VBM) if they:

- are 65 years of age or older (eligible for mail-in ballots for an entire calendar year).
- are sick or disabled (eligible for mail-in ballots for an entire calendar year).
- will be absent from the county during the entire early voting period and Election Day, AND provide an out-of-county address where the ballot can be mailed, AND include dates they can receive mail at the out-of-county address (eligible only for one election at a time). Voters who are absent from the county because they are active duty military or because they reside overseas should complete a Federal Post Card Application. Information and forms are available from county and state offices.
- are confined in jail, but otherwise eligible to vote (eligible only for one election at a time).
- are expecting to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day.

The procedure:

1. Request the application, which is available for download from the county elections or secretary of state websites, or by calling or emailing the appropriate office. The application is known as an ABBM (application for a ballot by mail). <https://bit.ly/2YL0Gi3>
 2. **IMPORTANT**—The application **MUST** be completed and **received** by the early voting clerk in the Travis or Williamson County Elections Division office **by October 28, 2022**. **NOTE:** If you submit an ABBM by fax or email, it must also be submitted by mail and received in the appropriate office within four business days of your electronic submission.
 3. Once received, the mail-in ballot **MUST** be completed and **received** by the appropriate early voting clerk **no later than Election Day, November 8, 2022, or post-marked on November 8 and received by November 9**. NEW VBM tracker and “Cure” process available at [VoteTexas.gov](https://www.votebymail.com).
- Track your VBM application and VBM ballot throughout the election process.
 - Provide contact information on your VBM application so the county may contact you if you need to fix an error with your application or ballot.

See **page 63** for more information on recent changes to election law regarding VBM. Please visit our websites for more detailed information: [LWVAustin.org/vbm/](https://www.lwvaustin.org/vbm/) and [LWV Texas.org/votebymail](https://www.lwvtexas.org/votebymail).

STUDENT VOTERS

Students may use either their parents’ address or their college address for voter registration, whichever they consider to be their permanent address. Students cannot be registered in both places. Those who will be away from their permanent address on Election Day and during early voting may request a ballot by mail from their county clerk’s office. Student voters should also know that college or university student photo IDs are not accepted at the polls. Be aware of the general ID requirements.

LEARN WHAT LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS DO

Are you curious about what local elected officials do? Do you want to learn more about the positions you vote on? Check out our self-paced modules on our website. These learning modules can be completed at your convenience and in multiple sittings. They are interactive and will have activities you must complete before you move on to the next section. You can take the module on your computer, tablet, or phone. Visit our website at [LWVAustin.org/LWV-AA-Civics-Sessions](https://www.lwvaustin.org/LWV-AA-Civics-Sessions).

VOTING SYSTEM

Both Travis and Williamson Counties are now using an ExpressVote Ballot Marking Device (BMD), which uses touch-screen technology but produces a paper ballot for tabulation. It is modern, secure, and allows you to verify your selections before casting your vote.

For more information, please visit:

countyclerk.traviscountytexas.gov/departments/elections/meet-your-new-voting-system/

or

[www.Wilco.org/wilcovotes](https://www.wilco.org/wilcovotes)

Steps to Vote

1. **VOTE:** At check-in you will receive a blank ballot. Insert this ballot into any ExpressVote BMD. Follow instructions on the screen to make your selections. Poll workers will be available if you need assistance.
2. **REVIEW:** When prompted, print your ballot. Carefully review all the selections printed on the card to be sure it accurately reflects your choices.
3. **SCAN:** You **MUST** then scan your ballot into the DS200 scanner to cast your vote. Do **NOT** leave the polling location with your ballot.



Williamson County announces the formation of a new local League: The League of Women Voters Wilco (LWV Wilco)

On September 3, 2019, LWV Texas President Grace Chimene approved the formation of a new League for a rapidly growing area of Central Texas. The League’s history in Texas now spans 100 years, and its first president was Williamson County resident Jessie Daniel Ames. The history of empowerment of voters and defending democracy has come full circle in Williamson County with the formation of this new League. LWV Wilco encourages anyone wishing to support this newly established League to visit the website at [LWVWilco.org](https://www.lwvwilco.org) for additional information and resources.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS VOTERS GUIDE

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas (LWVTX) and the League of Women Voters Austin Area (LWV-AA). We invite every candidate in competition for office to provide information. We list the names of unopposed candidates but do not send them questionnaires. Political affiliations in partisan races are abbreviated as follows: (D) Democratic Party, (R) Republican Party, (L) Libertarian Party, (G) Green Party, (I) Independent.

This *Voters Guide* and other educational League materials are funded by member and supporter donations. Donations may be made at [LWVAustin.org](https://www.lwvaustin.org). Donations enable us to print and distribute more guides and to offer translations into Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese. As LWV-AA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, each donation is acknowledged, appreciated, and deductible to the extent allowed by law.

VOTE411.ORG

More information about the candidates can be reviewed by visiting [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org), a one-stop online resource for upcoming elections made possible by the League of Women Voters Education Fund. Simply enter your address to find your polling place, build your ballot with our online *Voters Guide*, and compare candidates side by side. Answers from candidates who didn't respond by the print deadline may be available online.

HOW THE LEAGUE GATHERS CANDIDATE INFORMATION

To compile the *Voters Guide* information, the League of Women Voters Austin Area sends questions to all candidates in major **contested** races. League members verify accurate contact information provided by various election entities and the Texas Secretary of State. The League formulates all questions through a rigorous questions committee. Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification of content. Due to space restrictions, candidates are given strict character limits. The form into which they enter answers prohibits them from violating the limit. If a response has been cut off due to this constraint, the response has [...] inserted at the end. Candidates are also asked to avoid negative references to their opponents. We reserve the right to redact portions of responses that do not meet our guidelines. Those appearing without a photo failed to submit one. Candidates must submit answers by the deadline provided in order to be included in the printed version. Answers on [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org) may be updated after the print deadline.

HOW DOES THE LEAGUE HANDLE BALLOT MEASURES?

For each ballot measure (such as bonds, charter amendments, or other propositions), the League researches and analyzes the topic and provides information to help explain the background and effects of the proposed change. We do not always include pros and cons, and instead focus on explaining po-

tential effects of the measure's passing. If we do offer pros and cons, we make sure they are balanced and include both points of view. The following information is typically included:

- Background: How did this get on the ballot and what group brought it forward?
- Ballot language explainer: What does the ballot language really say?
- Potential effects: What possible effects will this ballot measure have on our area?

For a more in-depth explanation of ballot measures, or updated information that may be added after printing, please check [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org).

YOU MAY BRING A PRINTED VOTERS GUIDE INTO THE VOTING BOOTH

Mobile electronic devices are prohibited in the voting booth, but the law allows you to take a printed *Voters Guide* with you. You can also use the interactive version online at [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org) to print your choices to take with you.

ABOUT THE LEAGUE

The League of Women Voters Austin Area is a grassroots, all-volunteer organization promoting informed and active participation of citizens in government. Since 1919, both LWVTX and LWV-AA have helped voters cast informed votes when going to the polls. No League organization supports or opposes any political party or candidate. As a nonpartisan organization, the League believes that all of us are stakeholders in making democracy work. We host informative programs concerning important public policy issues, organize and offer voter registration efforts, engage in get-out-the-vote projects, work with local area schools and universities to promote civic participation, and conduct fair and open candidate forums.

LWV VISION STATEMENT

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

LWV MISSION STATEMENT

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

... MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU!

The *Voters Guide* is made possible by the generous donations of members and supporters. We gratefully acknowledge major contributions from:

Jane B. Abel, Alamo Community Fund, Anonymous, APAPA-ATC, Austin Firefighters Association PAC, Pamela Bixby, John and Patricia Boehm, Helen Brauner, Mia Hsu Burton, Dorsey Cartwright, Michelle Cheng and Chris Quaglino, Grace and Beau Chimene, Common Ground For Texans, Linda S. Connor, Valerie and Erik DeBill, Babita and Tom Deitrich, Gloria DeVere, Carol Eckelkamp and Darrel Gest, Mary Elzy, Marni Francell, Michelle and Andy Goerdel, William C Hamilton, Angela Hardy, Gina

Hinojosa, Donna Howard, Max Ivester, Joyce Jackson, Robena Jackson, Victoria Jalo, Hal and Judy Jennings, Johnson & Johnson, Jennifer Keyser, Joyce LeBombard and Benny Souder, Blake S. Locklin, Jennifer Loehlin, Marcia Neider and Ira Leichtman Family Fund, Julia Marsden, Carol Martin, Julie and Jodie Moore, Karen and Jim Nicholson, T. Michael O'Connor, Judy and Ed Parken, Patricia H. LaCombe Estate, Melissa Plicque, Anne Pope, Moriah Powers and Christie Smith, Jared and Linda Price, Velva Price, Katy Pruitt, John Robertson, Mari Robinson and Greg Ritzen, Patricia and William Rodriguez, Daniel Roesler, Martha Rogers, Gwendolyn and Joseph Santiago, Anna and Yan Azdoud Scott, Sarah Sederholm, Silicon Labs, Jan Soifer, Joyce Statz, Mary S. Steele, Karen Stotts, Chanin Them, Timothy and Karrie League, April Tucker, Deborah and Charles Voss, Mary Walker, David C. Warner, Cinde Weatherby, Kim Weatherby, Amy Webberman, Marla Whelan, Amy Willson, Kaye and Thomas Young

We especially thank those who provided reduced prices and made in-kind contributions of services and goods.



VOTERS GUIDE PRODUCTION

Voters Guide Editor: Gretchen Otto

VP, Voters Service: Pam Bixby

VOTE411 Coordinator: Jaci Collins

VOTE411 Assistant: Daniel Roesler

GIS Support: Britin Bostick

Questions Coordinator: Gretchen Otto

Designers: Amber Morena

English Copyeditors: Kate Abel, Katie DeRogatis, Lauren Gonzalez, Leslie Higgs, Lynne Marcus, Traci Reece, Janet Swisher, JoAnn Willis

Spanish Copyeditors: Susana Carranza, Louise Joy, José Skinner, Alexandra Wallace

Chinese Copyeditors: Alice Yi and APAPA-ATC team

Distribution Coordinators: Nancy Mossman and Polly Elrod

Spanish Translation: Inspirare Communications, LLC

Chinese Translation: Translapró

Vietnamese Translation: Translapró

WITH APPRECIATION FOR IN-KIND OR DISCOUNTED SERVICES:

Motto Publishing Services

Inspirare Communications, LLC

NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 10

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Elections: What federal laws should be passed to ensure free and fair access to the ballot while maintaining safe and secure elections?

Health Services: What is your position on reproductive rights and how would you address the impacts of the loss of local healthcare services?

Gun Safety: What steps, if any, should be taken by Congress to curb gun violence in our communities?

Immigration: What policy changes are needed so that the U.S. immigration system is effectively working with border states while treating immigrants humanely?

.....

Michael McCaul (R) No response received

Linda Nuno (D) No response received



Bill Kelsey (L)

Qualifications: I am a student of Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, among several other languages, and have worked overseas as a bush pilot for a twenty year period, mostly doing humanitarian work in war zones.

Elections: I am less interested in tampering with the laws than in addressing the consciousness and ethics of lawmakers. No matter what laws are made, officials of ill-will can find loopholes and ways to avoid the intended spirit of a law.

Health Services: Reproductive rights are a question between a woman and her physician and her conscience, not a subject for politicians. And local healthcare services should be locally funded.

Gun Safety: We need a transformation of consciousness addressing violence in our society, not more laws focusing on the tools of carrying out the violence. I am eyewitness to the dead in a massacre carried out by machetes.

Immigration: The system needs to be simplified radically from the current labyrinth which requires the genius of the most talented attorneys to navigate. The spirit of all laws and procedures must celebrate the talent and energy brought by those who choose to live among us. I welcome immigrants.

Campaign Website: <https://kelseyforcongress.com/>

DISTRICT 17

Pete Sessions (R) No response received

Mary Jo Woods (D) No response received

DISTRICT 21

Background: What in your background qualifies you to serve as the representative for US House Texas D21?

Election Laws: What federal election laws should be changed?

Immigration: What are your recommendations to improve the immigration system?

Healthcare: What legislation would you support to address access to and the cost of healthcare?

Priorities: What are the top three issues you would like to address if elected and why?

.....



Chip Roy (R)

Background: Experience. We have office infrastructure in place and staff with decades of experience handling constituent casework and legislative issues. Our team will have served two full Congresses operating during natural disasters, foreign conflicts and a pandemic. I currently serve in leadership positions in the Judiciary Committee, Republican Study Committee, and House Freedom Caucus. Former Chief of Staff to Senator Cruz, First Assistant Attorney General of Texas, and Senior Advisor to Governor Perry. Private Sector Experience includes Oil and Gas Attorney and Investment Banking Analyst.

Election Laws: Congress has a very narrow role in elections according to the Constitution, however I have introduced legislation to ensure only U.S. Citizens are voting in our elections by providing states with information to secure their election registration rolls.

Immigration: First, secure the border. Enforce all laws being ignored by current Administration. Build border infrastructure, bolster interior enforcement, zero migrant releases absent full detention for adjudication, and designate cartels Foreign Terrorist Organizations and target their assets. Our legal immigration system should welcome those willing to work hard and embrace the rule of law. Immigration reforms that are necessary should only take place after regaining operational control of the border.

Healthcare: I have introduced the Personalized Care Act, which would expand Healthcare Savings Accounts to millions, increase contribution limits, expand allowable expenses, and allow employer contributions. We need to reform the insurance driven system that drive up costs, increases bureaucracy, and restricts freedom.

Priorities: 1. Secure the Border and Our Communities 2. Limit Spending and work towards Balanced Budget 3. Abundant, Affordable Energy Policies – build infrastructure and support domestic production of energy, overturn federal regulations limiting nuclear expansion[.]

Campaign Website: <https://www.chiproy.com>



Claudia Andreana Zapata (D)

Background: I am an active non-profit volunteer and community organizer, former Texas legislative aide with a history of policy development, and I am an experienced workforce and budget analyst for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. I have dedicated hundreds of hours to our community by advancing democracy and volunteering on federal, state, and local campaigns to hosting PPE and vaccine drives for our most vulnerable to protesting human right’s violations across the State—I always show up.

Election Laws: We must address issues within our voting practices and mediums while protecting and encouraging civic engagement. Democracy is under attack, and we need to implement federal uniform voting laws that currently exist in the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. These Acts restore crucial protections against racial voter discrimination, create automatic and same-day voter registration, restore the full protections of the Voting Rights Act, combat voter suppression and gerrymandering. We must also overturn Citizen’s United. Additionally, I champion unique policies such as post-office voter centers and public library cards qualifying as voter identification.

Immigration: We need a complete overhaul of the inhumane immigration system to mitigate the humanitarian crisis that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 and climate crisis. I recommend we begin by rescinding Title 42, ending family separation, ending for-profit detention center contracts, upholding domestic and international asylum laws, providing funding to expedite asylum cases, creating an independent oversight commission of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency, and expanding protections for temporary and unauthorized workers. We must develop a roadmap to citizenship that is welcoming and does not inundate future citizens with prohibitive costs, fees, and penalties.

Healthcare: I support universal healthcare as access to healthcare should not be reliant upon insurance. In addition, rural counties also face a lack of access to healthcare facilities. I will establish a Care for America program that works with Veterans of Foreign War posts, American Legion posts, and other established community centers to provide routine and preventative care. The program will work similarly to Teach for America with medical students rotated into rural counties—providing more opportunities for healthcare jobs in rural communities allowing students in rural areas increased homegrown job opportunities.

Priorities: I would prioritize expanding food accessibility, ensuring that people have access to healthy food and grocery stores. No one should have to spend up to 3 hours commuting to their closest grocery store. I would prioritize environmental regulation to protect the beauty of Texas hill country and make sure folks have clean, drinkable water and

NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 21

Claudia Andreana Zapata (D) (continued)

air that is not contaminated by cement plants, rock quarries, and metal recycling facilities. I would prioritize universal healthcare and increased preventive and routine healthcare clinics in rural areas. Having insurance, Medicaid, or VA benefits does not benefit those who lack access to healthcare facilities.

Campaign Website: <https://www.conclaudia.com>

DISTRICT 31

John Carter (R)

Unopposed

DISTRICT 35

Priorities: What are the top three issues you would like to address if elected? Why? What would be your first priority?

Economy: What will you do to support a vibrant economy, consumer affordability and job opportunities for your constituents?

Abortion: How would you vote on legislation protecting abortion rights at a national level, and why?

Gun Laws: Do you think gun laws should be changed? If so, in what way? If not, why not?

Elections: Do you think voting laws should be changed, and if so, in what way? If not, why not?

.....



Dan McQueen (R)

Experience: CEO MIT, Lead Engineer Air Force One, Navy Combat SAR (Search and Rescue) Swimmer, Break Addiction Partnership, Master Martial Arts, Masters Degree CIS, Top Security Clearance, Retail Cooperative, JR Air Force One youth Engineering Program, Veterans Carry police backup program, Mentor at B&G, YMCA, Salvation Army, others, Mayor of Corpus Christi TX

Priorities: 1st is the Economic Decay, 2nd is the National Security, 3rd is the Unity of America! First place is the plan forward for the entire nation that encompasses opportunity for all American's. I have written white papers on the border as an Economic Development Zone and Elevate Texas Skyways Transport - Fix Immigration and Security. My education, experience and leadership will bring back the Value of America as we fight for Freedom not socialism. To Keep America the Land of Opportunity! God Bless

Economy: Short answer is Promote Technology, Transportation, Education in providing New Jobs and Industries. I am the example in the future of Computer Science and Aeronautics, not social programs. I continue to give opportunity in Jr. Engineering Programs & Entrepreneurial Business Growth for communities and from Austin to San Antonio. We are reaching into the Churches and Youth programs to bring creative methods of expanding Business and Opportunities to ALL across party lines. America is strong United[.]

Abortion: The life of the unborn is most important. We learn that the ignition of light occurs at conception and this begins to educate us more about God's plan for life. It is hard for me to understand the women's point of view, though I continue having this conversation. I think we need more education on all levels of this topic to help the before abortion battle for women and understand that we have an obligation to protect those that can not protect themselves. "So Others May Live" U.S. Navy SAR[.]

Gun Laws: Gun Laws do not seem to be the issue in the problem with mental illness or lack of security. I have promoted a Veterans Carry Program, in which we intensify the security of our nation, cities, schools by having a secondary and tertiary defense system. This promotes purpose for many veterans and brings a higher level of security to America. I am trained, as military special operator, NRA and DPS instructor, I see more need to address the true root cause, not media or extreme propaganda.

Elections: We know that the country is divided on this issue and I'm not sure if it is lack of transparency from law enforcement or media fake news propaganda. We have a real question into voter and election integrity. If elected I pray that I can take a closer & real in depth look at actual facts to get a knowledgeable perspective of the entire process that has caused such divisiveness in America. In many situations there is simple methods of validating votes. It perplexes me as to the why it seems broke!

Campaign Website: <https://www.mcqueenforcongress.com>



Greg Casar (D)

Experience: I am a progressive Democrat, organizer, & Austin Council Member. I successfully championed policies such as paid sick days, clearing the rape evidence kit backlog, protecting Planned Parenthood, investing in affordable housing, ending arrests/fines for personal marijuana possession, and fighting discriminatory Republican legislation.

Priorities: 1. An Inclusive Democracy: Working Texans deserve an inclusive democracy that respects the right to vote, the right to reproductive care, the right to be safe in your neighborhood, and the right to live free from discrimination. 2. Economic Justice: Working families deserve good jobs, Medicare for All, and affordable education. 3. A Sus-

tainable World: We must fix the grid, fight for a future for our children, and create a sustainable planet for us all.

Economy: Texans work hard every day to provide for their families. But in some of our wealthiest cities, many families continue to struggle to pay for child care, food, and rent while corporations and the ultra wealthy continue to pay too little in taxes. Our working families deserve better. We must fairly tax top earners and ensure corporations pay their fair share so that we can create more affordable housing and economic opportunity for working families.

Abortion: Texas is ground zero for the Republican attack on reproductive rights. When the State Legislature tried to close Planned Parenthood in East Austin, I led the effort that successfully kept it open. I also passed budget amendments to help Texans access abortion care with funding for travel, childcare, and more, delivering support to hundreds of people. I am dedicated to increasing access to abortion care, repealing the Hyde Amendment, and codifying Roe v. Wade.

Gun Laws: Yes. To prevent future gun violence, I support funding common sense gun violence intervention programs, passing universal background checks, ending permitless carry, creating safe storage rules, and banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines. I also support Ethan's Law, reinstating the Violent Crime and Law Enforcement Act, and repealing the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA).

Elections: Yes. Our democracy is under attack, especially here in Texas. In Congress, I'll ensure our democracy is protected at every level of government. I support federal legislation like the For the People Act and John Lewis Voting Rights Act, along with automatic voter registration. I do not accept any donations from corporate PACs and will work to overturn Citizens United through federal action.

Campaign Website: <http://www.casarforcongress.com>

INFORMATION ON WHERE TO VOTE

Voters can look up information on where to vote at your county's election website:

VoteTravis.com
www.Wilco.org/Departments/Elections

These websites list the most up-to-date information on the locations of polling places and their hours of operation.

For Travis County, there is also a live map with the current wait times for each polling location.

Remember, you can vote at ANY polling location in your county.

NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 37

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Elections: What federal laws should be passed to ensure free and fair access to the ballot while maintaining safe and secure elections?

Health Services: What is your position on reproductive rights and how would you address the impacts of the loss of local healthcare services?

Gun Safety: What steps, if any, should be taken by Congress to curb gun violence in our communities?

Immigration: What policy changes are needed so that the U.S. immigration system is effectively working with border states while treating immigrants humanely?

.....

Jenny Garcia Sharon (R)

No response received



Lloyd Doggett (D)

Qualifications: House Ways & Means Health Subcom Chair, Prior Texas State Senator, Texas Supreme Court Justice, Recognitions: “Best of Austin” Austin Chronicle readers 13 times, AARP twice,

Sierra Club, NAACP, HABLA.

Elections: We face the greatest threat to democracy in my lifetime. Texas is now ground zero for voter suppression. I support the “John Lewis Voting Rights” Act, uniform standards easing voter registration, vote by mail, ending unfair restrictions. The GOP is now less a political party and more a personality cult, willing to use violence or any other means to install authoritarian governance.

Health Services: Reproductive freedom is fundamental. Endorsed by Planned Parenthood Action. 100% pro-choice lifetime voting record. Rallied against Texas vigilante law, sponsored both Women’s Health Protection Act removing unjust restrictions and Access to Birth Control Act, opposed Hyde amendment & Global Gag rule. Leader on getting more Texans family physician access by closing GOP-created health coverage gap.

Gun Safety: Universal background checks. Ban assault weapons of war/high-capacity ammunition magazines. Repeal manufacturer immunity. Close Charleston loophole. Safety training and secure storage. Extreme risk protection orders. Close temporary restraining order loophole. trafficking. Better research and data. Continue working with Moms Demand Action, TX Gun Sense, Everytown, March for our Lives.

Immigration: Walls, Governor’s border policy, & inhumanity don’t work. Comprehensive immigration reform could boost our economy, provide legal entry for needed work-

ers and create a citizenship path for Dreamers & reasonable legalization for tax-paying families, who have long been here. We cannot accept everyone, but can treat all respectfully with timely asylum review & continue work with other countries.

Campaign Website: <https://www.votedoggett.com>



Clark Patterson (L)

Qualifications: I’ve been a concerned citizen and a strong liberty supporter since I was 21, when Ron Paul was my congressman. Only much more liberty, freedom, and rights can truly Make

America Great Again.

Elections: Libertarians oppose heavy federal and state regulation of political campaigns and elections. Libertarians believe that limits on campaign contributions and political expenditures are gross violations of the 1st Amendment. Libertarians also strongly oppose governmental funding of political campaigns. We cannot restore freedom in the US while increasing government regulation of political expression.

Health Services: Many libertarians support a woman’s right to terminate her pregnancy until fetal viability. Also, all libertarians oppose federal, state or local funding of abortion and reproductive and healthcare services. Libertari-

ans believe that one solution to the abortion culture war is to ban all government funding of abortion while allowing a woman’s right to choose during the early stages of pregnancy.

Gun Safety: Libertarians are strong 2nd Amendment supporters. Libertarians believe that the solution to gun violence is to ban violence, not guns. We cannot protect rights by restricting rights. Contrary to conventional wisdom, the US violent crime rate has fallen by 50 percent during the last quarter century during the same period that US gun production has tripled. Libertarians also oppose red flag laws.

Immigration: Most Libertarians support much more legal immigration. One of the 27 grievances in the Declaration of Independence was against Britain’s King George III’s limits on immigration into the 13 colonies. In the early 1950s, the US had a border crisis. By significantly increasing the legal levels of immigration, through more guest workers, by the late 1950s border apprehensions had fallen by 90 percent.

Campaign Website: <https://www.clarkpforcongress.com>

Sherri Lynn Taylor (Write-in)

No response received

IF YOU ARE A VOTER WITH A DISABILITY, YOU HAVE RIGHTS

You have the right to have reasonable accommodations under federal law.

You have the right to vote privately and independently under federal law.

You have the right to choose your assistant, if needed.

Polling places must be accessible, and one voting machine at each polling location must be accessible (including headphones for visual impairment, adjustable contrast or font, puff or switch, and wheelchair height).

Don’t hesitate to ask questions about accommodations. Call ahead to your polling place to ensure they have the accommodations you need ready to go.

If you aren’t receiving the support you need or you have any issues, call Disability Rights Texas at 888-796-VOTE (1-888-796-8683).

ALLEY CAT HAIR STUDIO



Hair Cut and Style Specialist for the Whole Family
Up Styles and Special Occasion Styles



www.alleycathairstudio.com

Text: 512-560-4945

Located inside Salons by JC
3801 N Capitol of TX HWY
D-200 STE 22

STATE GOVERNOR

Gun Safety: What steps, if any, should be taken to curb gun violence in our communities?

Economy: What can be done at the state level to address the high rate of inflation and other economic challenges faced by Texans?

Power Grid: What can be done to ensure that Texas has sufficient power during extreme weather conditions?

Elections: Considering the high rate of vote-by-mail ballot rejections in the 2022 Primary Elections, what changes, if any, are needed to election laws?

Immigration: What is the role of the state government in addressing immigration at the border?

Abortion: How would you address the economic and health consequences for those who cannot obtain abortions in Texas?

.....

Greg Abbott (R)

No response received



Beto O'Rourke (D)

Gun Safety: I will always prioritize the lives of our children and the safety of our fellow Texans over any special interest. As governor, I will fight for bipartisan, commonsense gun safety measures that the

majority of Texans agree on, like raising the minimum age to purchase an assault rifle to 21, implementing universal background checks, and establishing a red flag law system.

Economy: I'll lower property taxes by closing the loopholes that allow wealthy corporations to push their tax burden onto homeowners and small businesses. I'll reduce energy bills by fixing the problems with the Texas power grid, investing in energy efficiency, and providing direct bill assistance. And I'll raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour so that hardworking Texans can afford to support their families.

Power Grid: To prevent another deadly blackout and lower Texans' skyrocketing electricity bills, I will connect Texas to the national grid, weatherize all elements of our energy infrastructure, invest in energy efficiency, build out more transmission and storage capacity, and establish mechanisms to prevent energy companies from price gouging ratepayers.

Elections: I will ensure every eligible voter in Texas can freely and fairly cast their ballot, including by repealing onerous and purposefully confusing vote-by-mail procedures, implementing online and same-day voter registration, guaranteeing easy, equitable access to polling places, and establishing independent redistricting commissions to end gerrymandering.

Immigration: The state government should provide local communities the support they need to respond to migration

flows at the border in a safe and orderly fashion. That can include support for migrant processing, shelter, and transportation—as long as it is done in a way that reflects our values, upholds U.S. asylum laws, and refrains from wasting taxpayer dollars on political stunts instead of solutions.

Abortion: I will fight to repeal Texas' extreme abortion laws that endanger the lives of women and make no exception for rape or incest. I will also strengthen investments in women's health and family planning programs to increase access to contraception and cancer screenings, and combat Texas' maternal mortality crisis by expanding Medicaid and increasing pregnancy Medicaid to one-year postpartum.

Campaign Website: <https://www.betofortexas.com>



Mark Tippetts (L)

Gun Safety: To meet Texans' security and education preferences, I support a school choice system so all Texans can afford to send their children to private, public, or home school. Cut taxes and government spending to create a more vibrant economy that draws people away from criminal activity. Curb drug war-related violence by legalizing marijuana.

Economy: As a Libertarian, I'm in favor of reducing government spending and lower taxes at all levels. Inflation is caused by the federal government printing more money to cover its massive spending which devalues the dollar. Currently a few insiders grant targeted tax cuts and incentives to get businesses to move here. Instead, I support taxing all businesses at the same, but a lower rate overall.

Power Grid: I built a hydroelectric plant in Belize, Central America and know that bad decisions by government regulators have caused our power grid problems and outages. We need to get the governments out of the energy management business so one bad decision-maker can't harm the entire state. We need to eliminate the current taxes and subsidies on all forms of energy and allow new nuclear generation.

Elections: The Republican and Democratic parties passed laws imposing new fees on Libertarians which make it harder for Libertarians and others to run for office. I helped file lawsuits to overturn these bad laws. Republicans and Democrats shouldn't get to outlaw competition. Let the people decide who to vote for. I support efforts that make it convenient to vote, while protecting election integrity.

Immigration: It's nearly impossible to immigrate to America legally. We could end most illegal immigration by enacting a good comprehensive immigration policy, making it easier for honest, hardworking people to come work and live here legally. Reform requires federal action. Instead of seeing foreigners as a problem, we should welcome them as potential friends, business partners, and customers.

Abortion: Recognizing that abortion is a sensitive issue, and that people can hold good-faith views on all sides, I believe that government should be kept out of the matter, leav-

ing the question to each person for their conscientious consideration. A group of mostly men legislators should not be able to tell my daughters what they can and can't do with their bodies.

Campaign Website: <https://www.mark4gov.com/>



Delilah Barrios (G)

Gun Safety: Retailers must limit the amount and frequency of sales of guns and ammunition. The police budget should be limited as well and resources should go towards housing, childcare, education, gardens, transportation etc. I am a supporter of community police because the police criminalize poverty and mental health.

Economy: We need to halt all fossil fuel subsidies. We should use those funds for universal healthcare and a living wage. We also need public transportation, sustainable farming and renewable energy. Free education and work programs in high school would help boost job growth. As well as a just transition. Legalizing marijuana would boost our economy too.

Power Grid: Making all utilities publicly owned, investing more into wind and solar and expanding our grid to neighboring states or countries for better reliability.

Elections: Several changes are needed. I support ranked choice voting and also proportional representation. I support same day voting registration and voting mail, we need better protections for voters to have their voices heard.

Immigration: The role of our state is to be good neighbors. To have compassion and offer opportunities both here and in Mexico. We rely heavily on the exploitation of the global south. I would like to see Texas make amends and speed up the immigration process while also supporting Mexico's economy as well. A sustainable partnership would be ideal.

Abortion: Statewide single payer would eliminate the insurance companies ability to cause harm to patients. I would enact a law that would provide protection to patients and providers. Anyone deliberately interfering with patient care due to religious or other will face a 50k+ fine plus jail. This is only a short term solution while we set up statewide single payer and better patient rights for autonomy.

Campaign Website: <https://delilahfortexas.com>

VOTE

411

ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

STATE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Gun Safety: What steps, if any, should be taken to curb gun violence in our communities?

Economy: What can be done at the state level to address the high rate of inflation and other economic challenges faced by Texans?

Power Grid: What can be done to ensure that Texas has sufficient power during extreme weather conditions?

Public Education: What is your position on using public funds for school vouchers for private schools and why?

Elections: Considering the high rate of vote-by-mail ballot rejections in the 2022 Primary Elections, what changes, if any, are needed to election laws?

Abortion: How would you address the economic and health consequences for those who cannot obtain abortions in Texas?

.....

Dan Patrick (R)

No response received



Mike Collier (D)

Gun Safety: As Lt. Governor, I will work with community leaders and law enforcement to raise the age to purchase a firearm to 21, universal background checks, safe storage requirements, and a waiting pe-

riod to buy a semi-automatic firearms. These actions must be undertaken before the start of the next school year because the time to stop the next school shooting is now.

Economy: Over the last eight years, Texans have faced skyrocketing property taxes. Thanks to tax loopholes, Texans are paying more so that corporations can pay less. I will close those loopholes in order to bring down taxes for folks across the state and make corporations pay their fair share.

Power Grid: As a lifelong businessman and energy expert, I will make fixing the power grid amongst my top priorities. I will work to bring down energy bills for Texans by investing in producing more energy, investing in energy storage and smart grid technology, and establishing emergency tie-ins to the national power grid.

Public Education: As Lt. Governor, I will work tirelessly to fund our local schools. I am opposed to efforts to divert taxpayer dollars to unaccountable, private school vouchers that would raise our property taxes and defund our schools, especially hurting rural Texas.

Elections: Texas voters who make a good faith attempt to cast a ballot should not have their voice silenced due to discriminatory and opaque election laws past by the Texas Legislature. If I led the Senate as Lt. Governor, I would undo the suppressive changes made by SB1 and improve the ballot cure process.

Abortion: Under current law, all abortions are banned in Texas, including in cases of rape or incest. As Lt. Governor, I will work to codify the protections of Roe v. Wade into the

books of law—returning the power to make decisions to doctors and their patients, as well as invest in pre-natal and maternal healthcare for women across Texas.

Campaign Website: <https://CollierForTexas.com>

Shanna Steele (L)

Gun Safety: I support the Second Amendment. Ending the war on drugs, treating addiction, and improving economic conditions would curb gun violence.

Economy: Legalizing marijuana and eliminating property taxes would be a good start to increasing the GDP and improve the economic challenges faced by Texans.

Power Grid: There are several hydroelectric power plants that used to be connected to the power grid that are no longer in operation. By fixing these power plants and other parts of the power grid infrastructure we will be on the right track.

Public Education: Parents should be able to choose the school that best fits their child’s needs.

Elections: The changes needed start with removing the duopoly created by the Democrats and Republicans who make it difficult for those who want to vote. *[Portion of response removed; does not meet criteria.]*

Abortion: I would remove state government from health-care decisions that should be made between doctors and their patients. In addition, I would like to make the adoption process easier for those who choose adoption over abortion.

STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Elections: How would you protect Texans’ freedom to vote while maintaining safe and secure elections?

Ethics: How can voters be assured that campaign donations will not impact how the Attorney General interprets and enforces the law?

Children’s Health: Do you believe the government should become involved in healthcare decisions made for children by their parents and physicians? Please explain.

Immigration: What should be the role of the Texas Attorney General regarding immigration law and policy?

Priorities: What would be your highest priorities for the next four years, and how do you intend to accomplish them?

.....

Ken Paxton (R)

No response received



Rochelle Mercedes Garza (D)

Elections: As Attorney General, I will dismantle the wasteful “election integrity unit” — which is really about enforcing the GOP’s voter suppression measures, instead of protecting voting rights — and

replace it with a voter protection unit under a fully funded Civil Rights Division. I will ensure voting rights are protected, not undermined, especially for voters of color.

Ethics: We must bring about fundamental change in the office of the Attorney General. I’m running for Texas AG to restore integrity, transparency and trust to the office. That means ending the culture of corruption and pay-to-play politics. As AG, I will not be beholden to powerful industries; instead I will answer to the people of Texas and respect the rule of law.

Children’s Health: As a parent, I am deeply committed to ensuring the office of the Attorney General protects all Texans. Decisions about the health of children are extremely personal, and should only be made between parents, physicians and the child, when appropriate. Politicians have no

place in the decision-making process about a child’s medical treatment.

Immigration: Immigration enforcement falls under federal jurisdiction. As an immigration attorney and border native, I understand the complexities of our immigration system. I have litigated against bad policies that have created a humanitarian crisis at the border. Texas’ enforcement efforts at the border are unconstitutional, wasteful and only worsen the issue.

Priorities: As AG, I will protect the rights of all Texans. I’ll root out corruption and bring back integrity and transparency to the AG’s office. I’ll create a Civil Rights Division to protect the safety, privacy, and dignity of Texans, and I’ll prioritize consumer protections to hold bad actors accountable. Most importantly, I will fight to restore abortion rights in Texas.

Campaign Website: <https://RochelleGarzaforTexas.com>

Mark Ash (L)

No response received

STATE COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Rainy Day Fund: What is the optimal amount to be held in the Rainy Day Fund? How would you balance paying down the state’s debt vs. responding to urgent needs?

Taxes: What is the proper balance of tax revenues sources in order to fairly fund state government, including public schools?

Financial Obligations: How can we ensure that Texas meets its long-term financial obligations such as infrastructure maintenance, state employee pensions and health care coverage for public school teachers and employees?

Priorities: What would be your highest priorities for the next four years, and how do you intend to accomplish them?

.....



Glenn Hegar (R)

Rainy Day Fund: Texas is blessed to have a strong Rainy Day Fund, which is designed and should be used to smooth out the state’s revenues during an economic downturn, to assist in a disaster, and for one-time

expenses that are strategic for Texas’ economic health and well-being. I fought to manage these dollars more effectively to guard against inflation and protect them for generations.

Taxes: Funding public schools in Texas has been a shared burden split between state funds and local property taxes. Until recently the local share was allowed to grow unchecked creating increased pressure on local property taxes. I helped compress local property tax rates and rebalance the burden between state funds and local taxpayers. Our strong economic recovery now puts us in position to do more.

Financial Obligations: Since practically my first day in office I have sought to shine a light on the state’s balance sheet and the need to address our long-term obligations. I fought

to address threats to our state’s fiscal health and ensure Texas teachers can access quality healthcare. I helped lawmakers pass historic pension reform to put our state on firm footing and avoid credit downgrades.

Priorities: I will continue to focus on the core constitutional duties of my office and that means maintaining my attention on the Texas economy. Navigating the last few years has been difficult, but I have always remained focused on the trends, challenges and opportunities in our state economy. We must fight to keep Texas a place where freedom creates new opportunities for families and businesses to thrive.

Campaign Website: <https://glennhegar.com>



Janet T. Dudding (D)

Rainy Day Fund: Government Finance Officers Association recommends a minimum of 2 months of regular revenue or regular expenditures be maintained in a rainy day fund. Typically, rainy day monies mitigate the risk of unstable revenues or unexpected expenditures. Natural disasters fall into the 2nd category & Texas ranks 1st in these. The state of Texas’ general obligation debt currently is rated Aaa/AAA/ AAA/AAA.

Taxes: Find new revenue for Charter & 313. Texas Legislature added \$6.5 billion dollars in funding to public schools in 2019. Yet per a 2021 SPLC report, Texas currently ranks 40th in the nation. New rev streams are needed. Legalizing adult-use cannabis could bring \$1 billion in tax revenue (and decriminalization could save \$300 million). Look at “green” taxes to build revenue streams from green energy.

Financial Obligations: Re infrastructure, accept & leverage federal dollars. With fuel efficient vehicles, look at creating a revenue from alternative fuels to maintain roads. Pub-

lic school benefits: employees in all but ~18 school districts do not participate in social security and they should. Public school employees should have excellent healthcare w/o sharing premium costs. Reduce public school property tax reliance

Priorities: Statute defines Comptroller as state’s ‘sole’ accountant. We’ve never had a CPA as our Comptroller. I will be the watchdog over tax dollars, answerable to Texans not special interests. As a hurricane survivor, climate-disasters are personal to me and I will work to mitigate the root cause as well as our risk exposure through SECO. Expand broadband by partnering with local govt utilities & coops.

Campaign Website: <https://www.janetdudding4texas.com/>



V. Alonzo Echevarria-Garza (L)

Rainy Day Fund: I would suggest six months of operating expenses is a good start. However, this depends on the mitigating policies implemented by the state.

Taxes: I don’t believe there is, strictly speaking, a proper balance that policy makers should adhere to, or fix to fairly fund state government or public schools. The question is not the balance amounts, but what mechanisms are in place to adapt.

Financial Obligations: budget analyst and policy makers must utilize the social discount rate in performing cash discounting of projects, and cost benefit analysis.

Priorities: The highest priority is to implement policies that may improve operations, optimize benefits, and offer flexibility in dealing with financial challenges. These policies will not only improve conditions in four year, but beyond my own term in office.

Campaign Website: <https://www.alonzo-echavarria-for-texas-state-comptroller.com/>

IF YOU HAVE ISSUES AT YOUR POLLING LOCATION

Please call one of these nonpartisan hotlines if you have any issues at your polling location:

Election Protection Hotlines

ENGLISH: 866-OUR-VOTE (866-867-8683)

SPANISH: 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682)

ASIAN LANGUAGES: 888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683)

ARABIC: 866-YALLA-US (866-925-5287)

ASL (Video): 301-818-VOTE (301-818-8683)

DISABILITY RIGHTS TX: 888-796-VOTE (888-796-8683)

SAVE TIME—USE OUR INTERACTIVE VOTERS GUIDE

More information about the candidates can be reviewed by visiting **VOTE411.org**, a one-stop online resource for upcoming elections made possible by the League of Women Voters Education Fund. Simply enter your address to find your polling place, build your ballot with our online *Voters Guide*, and compare candidates side by side. Answers from candidates who didn’t respond by the print deadline may be available online.

JOIN THE LEAGUE—BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

Be part of a respected national, state, and local grassroots organization where individuals like you are actively engaged in creating positive change on all levels. Add your voice to more than 100,000 members and supporters across the country in Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy. Membership is open to everyone at least 16 years of age.

The Austin Area needs you to be part of the solution, to help ensure our communities are strong, safe, and vibrant places to live. Joining is easy online at **LWVAustin.org/join-us**.

STATE COMMISSIONER OF GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Allocation of Federal Funds: When federal funds for natural disaster relief are allocated, how would you ensure that communities with the highest needs are prioritized?

The Alamo: As the head of the agency that manages the Alamo, what story should it tell?

Coastal Planning: What measures would you implement to restore and protect the Texas coast, wetlands, and structures along the coast to minimize damage from major storms?

Priorities: What would be your highest priorities for the next four years, and how do you intend to accomplish them?

.....



Dawn Buckingham (R)

Allocation of Federal Funds: When catastrophe strikes the Texas coast, I'll be there every step of the way to help Texans recover. I grew up in a small town along the Texas coast, so I know firsthand just how devastating a major hurricane can be and what people need in its aftermath. As Land Commissioner, I'll make sure the GLO is fully prepared to respond to catastrophic storms that impact our coast.

The Alamo: I am, and always have been, a champion for the preservation of our Texas History. As a State Senator, I laid down the legal challenge to keep the Cenotaph in its rightful place out front. Our Alamo should tell the story of Texas' revolution and of course the battle at the Alamo itself.

Coastal Planning: Our coastal communities deserve a Land Commissioner that is as tough and resilient as they are. As a state senator, I am proud to have supported measures to fund flood mitigation, prepare for construction of a coastal spine, and more. Investing in coastal infrastructure to mitigate the effects of hurricanes is just smart. We can save lives and protect property with these investments.

Priorities: I'm running for Texas Land Commissioner to improve the lives of all Texans and protect the Texas we know and love for future generations. As the first female Land Commissioner in history, my priorities are unleashing Texas oil and gas production, keeping our communities safe by securing the border, and protecting the Permanent School Fund to ensure that every child has a great public education.

Campaign Website: <https://www.dawnbuckingham.com>



Jay Kleberg (D)

Allocation of Federal Funds: Centering the voices of communities most impacted by natural disasters and least-supported by our government is a priority for my campaign and will continue to be a priority for me as commissioner. As Land Commissioner, I will emphasize the reformation of disaster relief and recovery programs at the General Land Office. This will ensure Texans most affected have the proper funding.

The Alamo: The story of the Alamo is as far reaching and complex as Texas itself. The Alamo is a symbol of Texan and Tejano pride and we must honor those contributions to Texas. It's also important to consider the role of early Black Texans and slavery in our history, as well as indigenous groups who inhabited the site for centuries. All of these groups should have input in the conversation on the Alamo.

Coastal Planning: An example of measures I support is the nearly \$30 billion investment in protection measures for the Texas Gulf Coast, including a coastal storm barrier in Galveston and beach restoration efforts on South Padre Island. As Land Commissioner, I would prioritize projects like these and work with all stakeholders to secure funding for these projects and other disaster mitigation and recovery efforts.

Priorities: Reforming the GLO disaster programs to ensure all Texans can recover from the last storm and prepare for the next one. Expanding carbon storage opportunities by opening leases in Texas' submerged lands. Responsibly expanding renewable energy production on state lands to diversify our revenue base. Reforming and modernizing the Veterans Land Board to expand and improve Veteran services in Texas.

Campaign Website: <https://www.jay4tx.com/>

Alfred Molison, Jr. (G)

No response received

STATE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Inflation: What can be done to help Texas farmers face rising costs and supply chain disruptions?

Water Resources: As water resources become more scarce, what would you do to balance the needs of farmers and the growing demands of urban areas?

Opportunities: Should Texas diversify its agriculture to include cannabis, biofuels or other crops? Why or why not?

Priorities: What are the three most challenging issues for Texas farmers for the next four years, and what are your plans for dealing with number one on your list?

.....

Sid Miller (R)

No response received



Susan Hays (D)

Inflation: Accurate analysis of supply-chain choke points followed by government action to alleviate them. For example, the meat packing industry is a Wall Street-driven, near-monopoly with ranchers having to pay to reserve time to process their cattle. I will aggressively draw down federal dollars to help Texas entrepreneurs open and expand local operations which will in turn keep those profits in Texas.

Water Resources: The Republicans have failed to even try to solve this problem. The Department of Agriculture (TDA) can research & promote sustainable practices and less-thirsty crops, but must work across agencies such as the Land Office, the Water Development Board, local water districts, & others, and with the Legislature for a comprehensive state plan to protect water quality and supply.

Opportunities: Yes. As a cannabis attorney I understand the best way to legalize & regulate to protect public health & safety giving Texans an opportunity to share in the economic opportunity. Texas ag can flourish by growing more fruits, vegetables & high-value crops. California produces more than 70% of U.S. fruits and vegetables — too many eggs in one basket. We need to diversify & support small operators.

Priorities: Economic survival, rural health care, & climate change—and they are intertwined. I will look for opportunities, analyze the data, advocate to the USDA to change counter-productive policies, and help producers find a path to prosperity and environmental sustainability. Failing rural hospitals are an existential threat to rural communities. Texas must expand Medicaid to save them.

Campaign Website: <https://www.hays4ag.com/>

STATE RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

Natural Gas Facility Weatherization: What further changes, if any, are needed to ensure that Texas has sufficient power in times of extreme weather conditions?

Emissions: How important is the impact of methane emissions on climate change? What are effective ways to reduce methane emissions in the oil and gas industry?

Seismic Activity: How can the Railroad Commission reduce the risk of seismic activity or earthquakes caused by water disposal from oil and gas drilling?

Ethics: Since candidates for Railroad Commission often raise money from the oil and gas industry, how can citizens be assured that campaign donations will not influence how commissioners regulate that industry?

.....



Wayne Christian (R)

Natural Gas Facility Weatherization: During Winter Storm Uri, wind generated less than 6% of our electricity despite averaging 23% during 2020. Natural gas generated 67% of our electricity during the storm despite averaging only 46% in 2020. The RRC has designated natural gas facilities as critical during energy emergencies and put in place weatherization requirements to ensure even better performance in future.

Emissions: Oil and gas production and a clean environment are not mutually exclusive; the six-major pollutants regulated by the EPA have decreased by 77% over the last 50 years. The current Administration’s methane rule and natural gas tax could shut down oil and gas production in Texas which would kill jobs, harm our economy, increase costs to consumers, and reduce the reliability of our grid.

Seismic Activity: The RRC has in place some of the most stringent rules on disposal wells — the type of wells some link to earthquakes — in the country. In fact, Obama’s EPA stated in a report that the Railroad Commission is “commended for establishing new regulations specific to seismicity, including solidifying RRC authority to take appropriate action related to injection well operations.”

Ethics: I have never allowed a political contribution to influence my decisions in elected office. I have followed all Texas Ethics Commission rules regarding when I can accept contributions and have in full transparency reported every contribution I have received. I have never received an ethics complaint or violation as Railroad Commissioner.

Campaign Website: <https://ChristianForTexas.com>



Luke Warford (D)

Natural Gas Facility Weatherization: Strengthening our energy infrastructure is my number one priority because it is unconscionable that Texans have to live in fear that their power will go out the next

time it gets cold. I will establish a clear, substantive, and enforceable weatherization standard, identify critical gas producers, and ensure preparations for the next major storm are actually completed.

Emissions: Methane emissions play a large role in climate change, and the Railroad Commission has a tremendous capacity to address climate change by reducing methane emissions while strengthening the Texas economy. I will accomplish this by enforcing existing regulations, limiting the number of flaring exemptions the Commission grants, identifying and plugging methane leaks, and capping orphaned wells.

Seismic Activity: The Railroad Commission’s lackluster approach is responsible for the recent increase in seismicity in West Texas. And now, their response to what is happening is unscientific and out-of-touch with the realities on the ground. The Commission should work with affected communities and experts in the water disposal industry to develop a science-based response to the increase in seismic activity.

Ethics: My only priority will be to serve the people of Texas. This job is too important, and the stakes are too high to be influenced by the oil and gas executives we’re supposed to be regulating. Last winter’s storm is a prime example, where over 700 people lost their lives because the Commission failed to hold the gas producers that fund their campaigns accountable.

Campaign Website: <https://lukewarford.com>



Jaime Andres Díez (L)

Natural Gas Facility Weatherization: The RRC has taken good steps to fix issues concerning critical infrastructures designations with ERCOT and weatherization requirements. However, there continues to be issues with data management, transparency, and with outlining how they will deal with repeat non-compliance. Regarding repeat weatherization non-compliance, I think the RRC should consider waiving the maximum fine of \$1 million.

Emissions: Reducing methane is the most effective strategy for dealing with climate change. Imposing restriction on flaring will reduce methane in TX, but will increase overall methane emission. Flaring/barrel in TX is amongst the lowest in the world. Flaring restrictions will cause forced closure of wells and increases in foreign (less-green) extraction. Solution: Bitcoin mining pays operators to not flare

Seismic Activity: There’s no one-size-fits-all-solution since seismic activity resulting from water disposal varies greatly due to local geologic formations. However, the RRC must recognize that local entities have a disproportionate share of the risks and limited \$ benefit. I would favor moving authority downwards to allow local officials, who are more responsive to local voters, to determine the risk/trade-offs.

Ethics: I pledge that I will only serve one term. Once elected

on November 8th, I will stop fundraising. Also, if it ever comes up that as Commissioner I need to vote on an issue that pertains to some donor or associate, then I will recuse myself from that vote.

Campaign Website: <https://www.vote4diez.com/>



Hunter Wayne Crow (G)

Natural Gas Facility Weatherization: I would recommend that we invest taxpayers money toward the development of Renewable Energy Technology such as wind, solar, geothermal, conservation and small-scale hydroelectric. Once we have one or more of these methods fully utilized. We would be able to supply a vast amount of energy that would be able to resolve the State of Texas current energy demands.

Emissions: Methane is the second most abundant anthropogenic GHG after carbon dioxide (CO2), accounting for about 20 percent of global emissions. Methane is more than 25 times as potent as carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere. I will support the enactment of bans on hydraulic fracturing for natural gas and oil on the local, state and federal level and also ensure not further damage occurs.

Seismic Activity: I will support measures that will make Hydraulic fracturing in any form illegal. I will also support shutting down any drilling rig that would be considered to be located in unstable areas of Texas. I think if we ended the United States dependents on fossil fuels we would not have these problems any longer.

Ethics: I can’t speak for the other candidate’s but as the Green Party Nominee for the Texas Railroad Commission. I will say candidate’s in my party are typical disallowed from accepting any PAC, Super-PAC, or corporate contributions. Most Voters do end up supporting Green Candidates due to them having no connections or ties to the oil and gas industry and among other things.

Campaign Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/hunter-crow-for-txrrc2022/home>

AVAILABLE IN THREE ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES!

¡Disponible en Español!
有中文
Tiếng Việt

We now proudly offer translations in Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese on VOTE411.org. There are also downloadable and printable PDFs on our website: LWVAustin.org/voters-guide/

STATE TEXAS SUPREME COURT

JUSTICE

Ethics: Since judicial candidates solicit donations and raise money to be elected, how can voters be assured that campaign donations will not impact how judges interpret the law and/or review lower court decisions?

Standards: Texas requires that candidates for this Court be licensed in Texas for at least 10 years and have no suspensions or revocations in that time. What are the positive and negative impacts of this requirement?

Equity: What can be done to improve access to justice for all, including persons or groups who may be underserved?

Other Issues: What issues do you believe will be the most pressing for the Texas Supreme Court?

.....

PLACE 3



Debra Lehrmann (R)

Ethics: As Senior Justice on the Supreme Court of Texas, & after many years of judicial service, I have a proven record of fairly and impartially applying the law in every case. It is critical that we consistently

& rigorously apply the rule of law across the board, to supporters and non-supporters alike. The risk diminishes when judges employ sound & stable methods, as I have for many years.

Standards: This Constitutional Amendment raised the basic minimum requirements for this office. Because Texans deserve a high-quality judiciary, these standards are essential. But, they are not rigorous enough. I have over 3 decades of judicial experience & have received many awards for exemplary judicial service. Lawyers & non-lawyers have recognized my scholarly, consistent & responsible approach.

Equity: If justice is denied to one individual, it is denied to all. During my tenure on the Court, we have made great progress in improving access to justice for all persons, regardless of financial means. We have devoted much time & effort towards increasing public & private support for expanded representation of underprivileged Texans. Proud of these efforts, I intend to expand upon this work.

Other Issues: Regardless of the subject matter, enforcing the rule of law in a consistent, scholarly, methodical, impartial & fair manner is of utmost importance. As the overseer of the 3rd branch of government, the Court must also ensure that rules governing our court system, and members of the Bar & Judiciary, serve the public in an efficient and just manner. These Court responsibilities are essential.

Campaign Website: <https://Justicedebralehrmann.com>



Erin A. Nowell (D)

Ethics: It is incumbent on judges to conduct themselves in a manner that leaves no doubt as to their integrity and fairness. Judges should take steps to avoid both impropriety and the ‘appearance’ of impropriety. This could include not soliciting campaign donations from individuals with cases pending before them and/or refusing themselves from hearing cases where a ruling could be questioned.

Standards: Licensing and conduct requirements help to ensure that the individuals elected to be judges have the requisite experience and character to serve the individuals in their courtrooms. The only negative impact of this requirement may be the exclusion of candidates with extensive practice outside the state of Texas. Nonetheless, these qualifications help instill faith in the judiciary.

Equity: First, we need to increase the individuals in the pipeline who are available and willing to assist those in underrepresented communities – in every level of the judicial system. We also need to support (with both work and money) programs and initiatives that seek to provide equal justice access for all.

Other Issues: The U.S. Supreme Court has increasingly divested itself of jurisdiction over issues it has determined belong to the individual states. Examples include gerrymandering, voting rights, and a woman’s right to bodily autonomy. Accordingly, these issues will continue to arise within our state courts. As new laws are passed, interpreted, and even contested, the Texas Supreme Court will be the forum.

Campaign Website: <https://www.justicenowell.com>



Thomas Edward Oxford (L)

Ethics: They cannot, we see evidence of justice for sale on a regular basis.

Standards: The positive is obvious, we need experience on the bench. The negative is the clear restriction on the rights of voters to make the decision without arbitrary restrictions.

Equity: We must continue to support and improve the IOLTA program and the pro bono efforts of the local bar associations.

Other Issues: The Jury system has been under attack in Texas for years. Powerful special interest groups have funded judges who believe they are in a better position than juries to decide questions of fact. We must continue to push for a system in which judges decide questions of law and juries decide questions of fact.

PLACE 5



Rebeca Huddle (R)

Ethics: I have authored over 400 reasoned judicial opinions. This body of work demonstrates my fidelity to the rule of law. My opinions explain why I decided each case as I did and show that I apply the law

fairly, in every case, regardless of who the parties or lawyers are or whether they contributed to my campaign. My record also shows I have ruled against campaign contributors many, many times.

Standards: Supreme Court Justices should be experts in Texas law, with long experience. They must be persons of integrity and strong moral character, with sterling reputations. Texas’s licensure requirements weed out unqualified candidates, and I support them. Their only negative impact is that lawyers who are new or have been disciplined cannot serve. But that is appropriate in my view.

Equity: The Court’s Access to Justice Commission works to expand access to free legal services. More lawyers should volunteer pro bono (free) representation of poor Texans, and courts should encourage and recognize lawyers who do. Technology can also help. The Supreme Court now permits Zoom hearings in routine hearings, so Texans can participate in court proceedings without missing a day of work.

Other Issues: Court backlogs are a pressing issue in some big-city trial courts. If criminal judges don’t move dockets, dangerous offenders roam the streets instead of facing punishment. If civil judges don’t move dockets, Texas families and businesses wait too long for resolution. I believe Texas judges must always be accountable to the people and dispose of cases responsibly, but as promptly as possible.

Campaign Website: <https://www.rebecahuddle.com>



Amanda Reichek (D)

Ethics: While there is always the possibility of influence, strict limitations on judicial campaign contributions along with campaign finance disclosure requirements provide safeguards against abuse.

This possibility is also why it is imperative that we elect and retain judges with unimpeachable integrity and a demonstrated commitment to fair play and their oath of office.

Standards: The positive to this requirement is that in theory it is designed to ensure a qualified judiciary. The negative is that in practice it doesn’t. Many attorneys have practiced over 10 years and have never been inside a courtroom, and many have practiced fewer than ten years and have more courtroom experience than some attorneys see in a lifetime. But disciplinary requirements ensure integrity.

Equity: Increased access to pro bono services, more funding and resources available for legal aid organizations, simplify-



STATE TEXAS SUPREME COURT

PLACE 5

Amanda Reichhek (D) (continued)

ing the filing process, and removing other artificial barriers to accessing the legal system.

Other Issues: A slew of “hot button” issues that implicate some of our most basic liberties which counsels quick resolution, but at the same time are emotionally-charged and complicated.

PLACE 9



Evan Young (R)

Ethics: First, all Supreme Court decisions are published, so our rulings can be tested for consistency, legitimacy, and sound reasoning. Second, the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act strictly limits how much judicial candidates can receive from individuals, firms, and PACs. No source can be more than a small percentage of a judicial campaign’s funds, which helps reduce even the appearance of undue influence.

Standards: Texas deserves the highest quality judiciary. These basic standards, which the voters wisely approved by constitutional amendment, promote competence. One risk, though, is that some voters may assume that anyone who

meets these minimum requirements is automatically qualified. Longevity and a lack of formal discipline is not enough. Voters must remain fully engaged to elect the best Justices.

Equity: Ensuring open courts is fundamental to public confidence in our judiciary and to protecting individual rights. The Access to Justice Commission, Texas Legislature, and Texas Supreme Court have made great progress in marshaling public and private support and resources for expanded representation of underprivileged Texans and making judicial proceedings more efficient, comprehensible, and fair.

Other Issues: Among its most pressing work, the Supreme Court must ensure, even in times of crisis, and without fear or favor, that the U.S. and Texas Constitutions’ limits are respected—the lines between different branches of government, between the state and local governments, and between government power and individual liberty. The Court must make sure that the law is followed, wholly aside from politics.

Campaign Website: <https://JusticeEvanYoung.com>



Julia Maldonado (D)

Ethics: In my case, I know that my obligation is to follow the law and to serve all of the residents of the state without regard of any campaign donations made to my campaign. As a district judge, I have a record

of integrity and ethics that will continue when elected to the Supreme Court, I have never allowed any campaign donation to influence my decisions which are always in accordance with the law.

Standards: The positive impacts are, the experience practicing, learning about different areas of the law and improving professionally. It is important that the judges, charged with the interpretation of the laws have the utmost ethical behavior and no record of misconduct. The negative impact regarding the length of time is that young lawyers are unable to participate at this level of the judiciary.

Equity: Increase funds for nonprofits who provide services for low-income Texans, ensure that there are educational materials in different languages regarding the court processes. Motivate big firms to provide pro bono services and create partnerships with law schools so that law students can hone their skills while providing much needed legal help under the supervision of their professors.

Other Issues: Equity and access to justice are two of the most pressing issues. We have to ensure that the rights of every Texan are protected and that everyone, regardless of their socio-economic status, has access to justice. The justices have to ensure that Texans feel confident with the Court’s actions at all times.

Campaign Website: <https://www.maldonadofortexas.com>

STATE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

JUDGE

Ethics: Since judicial candidates solicit donations and raise money to be elected, how can voters be assured that campaign donations will not impact how judges interpret the law and/or review lower court decisions?

Philosophy: What is your judicial philosophy?

Standards: Texas requires that candidates for this Court be licensed in Texas for at least 10 years and have no suspensions or revocations in that time. What are the positive and negative impacts of this requirement?

Equity: What can be done to improve access to justice for all, including persons or groups who may be underserved?

.....

PLACE 2

Mary Lou Keel (R)

Unopposed

PLACE 5

Scott Walker (R)

No response received



Dana Huffman (D)

Ethics: The judicial conduct commission and the oath taken hopefully provide assurances that donations will not affect legal interpretation(s).

Philosophy: To see that justice is done.

Standards: Positive: ensures that a candidate has substantial years of legal experience needed. Negative: Some attorneys may have accumulated more practical experience specific to their bench than another attorney who has practiced longer but not necessarily in matters specific to the court.

Equity: More access to pro bono representation as well as access to language lines that cover all languages at every proceeding

Campaign Website: <https://judgehuffman.com/home-1>

PLACE 6



Jesse F. McClure, III (R)

Ethics: Judges take an oath to rule impartially, and should remove themselves from a case when they cannot. Voters should educate themselves about all candidates for elected office, including judges, and evaluate their track records and campaign promises. Since I have not knowingly received campaign money from a party appearing before me, voters can be sure that contributions have not influenced me.

Philosophy: I follow the text of the constitutional provision or statute in question. It is rarely, if ever, proper for a judge to depart from the plain, original public meaning of the text. When dealing with “non-textual” issues, I strive to bring common sense to my decision making, always keeping in mind that vindicating the rights of the citizen is paramount.

Standards: The positive impact of the requirement is that it helps promote experience (and ethical conduct) so that

STATE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

PLACE 6

Jesse F. McClure, III (R) (continued)

Judges have sufficient experience in the law before making very important decisions that effect the life and liberty of the litigants before the Court. The negative impact could be that a very qualified, but relatively inexperienced lawyer is unable to join this Court.

Equity: In the criminal justice system, indigent defendants at the trial court level are appointed counsel, and we need to ensure that such counsel are competent, fairly compensated, and have reasonable caseloads. In the civil system, other states have experimented with allowing non-lawyers to handle certain matters - an innovation worth evaluating to allow greater access to Texas courts.

Campaign Website: <https://VoteJudgeJesse.com>



Robert Johnson (D)

Ethics: The truth? There is no way voters can be one hundred percent certain campaign donations will not impact judicial decisions. That's why I favor a system that provides for equal public funding for judicial elections, just as I support a non-partisan judiciary. A judge's decision should be based on legal precedent. If you vote for me, I promise to decide cases according to the law.

Philosophy: My judicial philosophy can be summed up in three words: Less is more. The less a judge attempts to impose his or her will on judicial decision making the more consistent our application of the law will be. Ultimately, this job is not about me or my opponent. This job is about you and all of our fellow Texans. I will remain focused on upholding the letter and spirit of the law as it is written.

Standards: The Court of Criminal Appeals is the highest appellate court in the state concerning criminal matters. This court hears only criminal cases. Judges who serve on the highest criminal court should also have the highest level of experience in practicing criminal law. I have, nearly, two decades of criminal law experience. While ten years is adequate, I believe two decades is better.

Equity: I believe our State Bar has set high standards for the representation of indigent and underserved persons/communities, but we can do more. We should incentivize pro bono legal services for large law firms by providing discounted bar dues and continuing legal education fees for those who show a set minimum number of indigent defense hours. Our justice system is only as fair as it is perceived.

Campaign Website: <http://www.judgerobertjohnson.com>

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Charter Schools: What is the impact of independent charter schools on the funding for local public schools? And is there anything you would do to change that impact?

Inclusive Education: As the developer of Texas public school curriculum, how would you ensure a comprehensive history education that addresses the needs of all students?

Teacher Certification: Are you in favor of replacing the current teacher exam process? Why or why not?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be the most pressing for the State Board of Education?

.....

DISTRICT 5



Perla Muñoz Hopkins (R)

Charter Schools: As a parent & certified teacher all I know is public school. The impact of charter schools increasing in number is largely due to the lack of valuable resources & parental rights. Raising the bar,

strengthening the curriculum standards, & recommending the most educational texts will ensure a quality public education. I support parents' choice because we all want what's best for our children.

Inclusive Education: As a multi-ethnic & retired military family, my diverse children being taught proper Reading, Writing, Science, Math, Civics & History is crucial for their success. Inclusive Education should never involve identity politics & personal agendas. The SS TEKS need revision, I

recommend subject matter experts & work groups that include SBOE observers to provide the best framework, scope & sequence.

Teacher Certification: Teachers have a lot on their plate, especially in our current education climate. The SBOE opposed the EdTPA contract, and I agree with the decision, because the proposed substitute certification tests used by SBEC are not as comprehensive or desirable as the existing exams. As a teacher in TX, the current certification exams I took were rigorous & rendered the proper measurement & evaluation.

Other Issues: Communication & transparency with constituents & parents is a must & adheres to Ed Code Ch 26 Parental Rights & Responsibilities. Adopting engaging & high-quality materials & establishing curriculum standards centered on instruction that promotes a growth mindset & essential skills in Reading, Writing, Math, Science & Civics lends to meaningful learning & helps a child reach their American Dream!

Campaign Website: <https://www.PerlaHopkins.com>



Rebecca Bell-Metereau (D)

Charter Schools: Most charter schools take in money from tax payer funding for education that goes out of state, and they enroll significantly fewer special ed students with serious disabilities than traditional public schools do. Washington Post notes that "Rocketship has a narrow curriculum" on "reading, math, and test prep," and teachers are not prepared, with high turnover.

Texas policy favors them unfairly.

Inclusive Education: Teachers trained in inclusive education should make those decisions, and the state should fund schools well, in order to help all of our students. We have tried on the board to include all students, but the Republicans blocked our efforts to find a compromise on history curriculum, voting to put off having a review of the curriculum until after 2025, so we're operating on outdated biased history.

Teacher Certification: The current certification needs improvement, but I voted to put off making training more difficult because of the teacher shortage. Once we have more teachers willing to teach, we should revisit plans to change to a more rigorous certification system. For the time being, we need to allow multiple ways to qualify for certification; we shouldn't punish teachers who stop teaching out of necessity.

Other Issues: The influence of radical groups that disrupt the process of curriculum revision, without studying the changes being proposed, are a big problem. They fixate on a few items that they dislike and then manage to flood emails, testimony and meetings, convincing some to toss out curriculum created by hard-working teachers who volunteer their time and expertise. This discourages future volunteers.

Campaign Website: <https://voterebecca.com/>

DISTRICT 10

Tom Maynard (R)

Unopposed

STATE 3RD COURT OF APPEALS

JUSTICE, PLACE 4

Ethics: Since judicial candidates solicit donations and raise money to be elected, how can voters be assured that campaign donations will not impact how judges interpret the law and/or review lower court decisions?

Standards: Texas requires candidates for this Court be licensed in Texas for at least 10 years and have no suspensions or revocations in that time. What are the positive and negative impacts of this requirement?

Equity: What can be done to improve access to justice for all, including persons or groups who may be underserved?

Court System: What is your view of the Texas Courts of Appeals system and what changes, if any, would you recommend?

.....

Lesli R. Fitzpatrick (R)

No response received



Rosa Lopez Theofanis (D)

Ethics: The only tool we currently have that permits voters to assess the impact of campaign donations on elected judges is campaign finance reports that reveal the sources of campaign donations of each individual judge. For voters to be completely assured that campaign donations would not impact judicial decision-making, reform of our system of electing judges and financing campaigns is needed.

Standards: On its face, this new rule limits the pool of candidates to a smaller category of lawyers. Most significantly, the rule excludes younger candidates from being elected to this office. This rule has the positive impact of reinforcing

the benefits that come with longer legal experience, but the negative impact of not allowing voters to weigh this benefit against other qualities they may prefer.

Equity: We can improve access to justice for all, including underserved people, by increased public funding for counsel for low-income individuals, improved access to online filing and education on how to use it, and the expansion of self-help centers to assist pro se litigants.

Court System: The Texas Courts of Appeals provide litigants the ability to challenge previous legal determinations in their cases, ensuring that the proceedings were fair and that the relevant law was applied correctly. The goal of equal justice under law would be furthered by efforts, some of which are already ongoing, to expand access to courts of appeals to the underserved.

Campaign Website: <https://RosaforJustice.com>

STATE TEXAS SENATE

DISTRICT 5

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Elections: How would you ensure election laws provide all eligible voters with equal access to safe and fair elections?

Health Services: What is your position on reproductive rights and how would you address the impacts of the loss of local healthcare services?

Gun Safety: What steps, if any, should be taken to curb gun violence in our communities?

Funding Priority: What is your highest legislative priority for funding, and would you be willing to use Texas's budget surplus or "rainy day fund" to finance it?

.....

DISTRICT 14

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Elections: How would you ensure election laws provide all eligible voters with equal access to safe and fair elections?

Health Services: What is your position on reproductive rights and how would you address the impacts of the loss of local healthcare services?

Gun Safety: What steps, if any, should be taken to curb gun violence in our communities?

Funding Priority: What is your highest legislative priority for funding, and would you be willing to use Texas's budget surplus or "rainy day fund" to finance it?

.....

Charles Schwertner (R)

No response received



Tommy Estes (L)

Qualifications: As a trained leader from the US Army and as a local pastor who has stepped into peoples crisis has provided me the ability and experience to lead.

Elections: Transparency at the highest level.

Health Services: I am pro-life. Education.

Gun Safety: Encourage parents to teach their children to value life!

Funding Priority: Infrastructure and teacher salaries.



Sarah Eckhardt (D)

Qualifications: Commitment to Good Government - Masters in Public Affairs, Lawyer (25 yrs), Assistant County Attorney (8 yrs), County Commissioner (6 yrs), Travis County Judge (5 yrs), State Senator (2yrs)

Elections: Independent Redistricting Commission, Ranked Choice Voting, Automatic Voter Registration, expand early access (Mail, Drive-Through, Drop-Off, 24 HR), ban/fully prosecute willful voter & poll worker intimidation, auto-restore voting rights to those with past criminal convictions, expand list of accepted voter ID (including student ID), prevent improper purges of voter rolls, combat misinformation

Health Services: The Texas ban on abortion is an authoritarian act against Women's Right to choose whether, when and with whom to have children. We must restore that right and protect the privacy of the patient/doctor relationship, expand Medicaid, invest in public health, require vaccines (including COVID), provide support to children & families (childcare, eldercare, CHIP), and fix the Foster Care System

Gun Safety: Ban civilian trade in high capacity weapons of war irrespective of age, restore licensing requirement, inform/ enforce safe storage laws, remove civil liability shields, close background check loopholes, promote community/local law enforcement collaboration, expand mental health services, vigorously enforce family violence protective orders, create a mental health Extreme Risk protective order.

Funding Priority: I support using the surplus for on-going increased investment in the public education basic allotment, fixing Foster Care & Juvenile Justice, and expanding mental healthcare & Medicaid. I support using the Rainy Day fund for one-time infrastructure investments that make us more resilient in climate change e.g. water/waste water infrastructure, capping unused wells, transitioning to clean energy

Campaign Website: <https://saraheckhardt.com>



STATE TEXAS SENATE

DISTRICT 14 (continued)



Steven E. Haskett (L)

Qualifications: I’ve worked in many industries as a programmer including the US, Iraq, and Afghan governments. I’m a volunteer pilot for Angel Flight. But my best qualification is that I’m not a career politician.

Elections: I contributed to a successful Texas Supreme Court lawsuit to force the replacement of un-auditable electronic voting machines with the paper trail machines we currently use in Travis County. I want elections we can trust and verify. I will continue to fight for fair ballot access in Texas. I support voter ID and keeping accurate and up to date voter rolls.

Health Services: My children are the love of my life. I understand that there’s no middle ground for many on this issue. Politically we need a middle ground that will upset both sides of the debate. In Texas, in 2020, I will work to secure that compromise.

Gun Safety: The real first responder in any emergency is you. Guns are an equalizer. I’m against any law that would take away a woman’s right to defend herself against an attacker by any means necessary. In policing we should lead with de-escalation. We need to eliminate no knock raids. We need to look at sovereign immunity, taxpayers’ bailouts covering individual officer’s bad behavior.

Funding Priority: The “rainy day” fund represents excess taxation and needs to be returned to the taxpayers of Texas, whom I trust can spend it more wisely than the legislature. Parents should be able to guide the funding of their children’s education through school choice – both of location and curriculum. State funds should follow students and not just the public-school systems.

Campaign Website: <https://haskett4texas.com>

DISTRICT 21

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Elections: How would you ensure election laws provide all eligible voters with equal access to safe and fair elections?

Health Services: What is your position on reproductive rights and how would you address the impacts of the loss of local healthcare services?

Gun Safety: What steps, if any, should be taken to curb gun violence in our communities?

Funding Priority: What is your highest legislative priority for funding, and would you be willing to use Texas’s budget surplus or “rainy day fund” to finance it?

.....



Julie Dahlberg (R)

Qualifications: Training in legislative affairs, policy analysis and advocacy. Career-long professional experience in nonprofit management. Committed to Constitutional foundation of guarantee of

liberty given by God.

Elections: Election laws apply equally to all people, with the intent to ensure that eligible people are encouraged to vote, educated on the process to vote, ensure their vote is counted, prevent ineligible persons from voting, and fraudulent votes are not counted. I would ensure this by strengthening enforcement, ensuring any true barriers to voting are removed by widespread education and advocacy outreach.

Health Services: I believe that every person has the right to reproduce or not reproduce and has the tools to carry out their choice, as they see fit. I do not believe that, once reproduction occurs, anyone has any right to end the life of a child for any reason. All healthcare is abundantly offered to care for the health of women. Terminating the life of a child is not healthcare for either a woman or her child.

Gun Safety: I believe that criminals that use firearms to commit crime will do so despite any law. There will always be people who have evil in their heart and will carry out evil acts. These criminals should be removed from our communities and kept in jail. I believe it is critically important that individuals have the ability to protect and defend themselves and their family against these criminals.

Funding Priority: My highest priorities that I would commit surplus funding to are supporting parents experiencing unplanned pregnancy to parent or navigate adoption; and, further supporting the effort to stop the drugs, trafficking, smuggling cartel enterprise consuming our southern border and strengthening the corruption organized crime devastating our communities. Additionally, electric grid and water security.

Campaign Website: <https://juliefortexasenate.com>



Judith Zaffirini (D)

Qualifications: My training as a communicator empowers me to advocate effectively, my Senate experience gives me deep knowledge of the issues, and my “Serviam” mantra (I shall serve) guides

me to assist constituents.

Elections: I believe election laws should provide all eligible voters equal access to fair and safe elections while making it easier, not harder, for them to vote. Ensuring proper paper trails are kept and improving voting equipment cybersecurity would enhance election security. My Senate Bill 1899 (2021) would reduce barriers to voting by establishing automatic voter registration and universal vote by mail.

Health Services: My position on reproductive rights is that women have a right to make decisions regarding our

health and that, especially given 50 years of precedence, Roe v. Wade should not have been overturned. The Legislature must provide exceptions for abortions in cases of rape, incest, and health complications and increase funding for family planning, reproductive health services, adoption, and foster care.

Gun Safety: As the senator for Sutherland Springs, where 26 persons were killed and 20 wounded, and having experienced the UT Tower shooting, I am too familiar with gun violence. We need action, including raising the age to buy a firearm from 18 to 21, requiring universal background checks and a “cooling off period” for firearm purchases, establishing “red flag” laws, and regulating high-capacity magazines.

Funding Priority: My highest priority is to fund the state’s share of expanding Medicaid in Texas, which would cost approximately \$600 million annually. I believe this should be funded with general revenue, but would support financing it with the “rainy day fund,” if needed. Such an investment would result in a reduction of uninsured spending and of long-term health care costs and in an increase in tax collection.

Campaign Website: <https://judithzaffirini.com/>



Arthur DiBianca (L)

Qualifications: I’m a Libertarian, and I think you should be able to live life according to your own priorities. I have held several positions in the Texas Libertarian Party over the last 20 years.

Elections: Texas election law needs to change. Under current law, it is almost impossible for new political parties to appear on the ballot. In recent years, the legislature has taken steps to make it much harder for the existing alternative parties to field candidates. When voters are literally prohibited from voting for the candidates they support, that is a very serious form of disenfranchisement.

Health Services: Regarding abortion, I would support legislation to allow abortion on demand during roughly the first trimester of pregnancy. After that, abortion would only be allowed in cases of medical necessity. Regarding healthcare, government interference has greatly worsened access. Mandates and subsidies have driven costs to outrageous levels. I support reducing the state’s involvement in healthcare.

Gun Safety: I am a strong supporter of gun rights and the Second Amendment. The single most effective step the legislature could take to reduce gun violence would be to end drug prohibition in Texas. Prohibition creates lucrative black markets, and black markets create violence.

Funding Priority: My highest priority is to cut the state budget across the board. I helped draft a proposal to cut the Texas budget by half over ten years. Cutting the budget would allow substantial tax cuts that would greatly improve the lives of Texans.

Campaign Website: <https://www.votedibianca.com>

STATE TEXAS SENATE

DISTRICT 24

Background: What in your background qualifies you to serve as the senator for Texas Senate District 24?

Elections: What legislation can provide eligible voters with access to fair and safe elections?

Education: What are your top priorities for public education?

Healthcare: What legislation would you support to address access to and the cost of healthcare in Texas?

Priorities: What are the top three issues you would like to address if elected and why?

.....



Pete Flores (R)

Background: As former leader of Texas Parks and Wildlife’s statewide law enforcement division and having served in the Texas Senate, I am equipped to address the issues facing this district, starting day one. I will bring strong managerial, budgetary, governance and leadership experience to the Texas Senate having been responsible for \$60-million budgets, managed more than two dozen field offices, and supervised more than 127 civilian employees and nearly 532 commissioned officers. Additionally, I have built a strong reputation for implementing community-based law enforcement protocols and successfully coordinating law enforcement operations with local, state and federal law enforcement officials.

Elections: SB 1 was a great start to securing our elections. It made it easier to vote and harder to cheat. We must continue to improve by enforcing the law and making election fraud a felony.

Education: I oppose including books in public school libraries that promote a particular political ideology or explicit sexual content. I believe parents have the right to know what goes on in public school classrooms and to determine what their children are taught. Local school boards should respect that parents know what is best for their children.

Healthcare: I support increasing access to telehealth as well as allowing healthcare providers to practice to the top of their licenses. I also support legislation to improve price transparency, and to end surprise medical bills. I oppose any legislation that would increase health insurance costs for either individuals or small businesses. Finally, I will support legislation to reduce drug and pharmacy costs, and oppose any legislation that would allow increases in prescription costs.

Priorities: 1. I have a proven record as a game warden and a senator of showing my dedication to securing our border and making public safety a top priority. 2. I will defend religious liberty and the right to practice our faith without government interference. 3. I will work to oppose the federal overreach being forced on Texans.

Campaign Website: <https://www.floresfortexas.com>

Kathy Jones-Hospod (D)

No response received

DISTRICT 25

Gun Safety: What steps, if any, should be taken to curb gun violence in our communities?

Elections: Considering the high rate of vote-by-mail ballot rejections in the 2022 Primary Elections, what changes, if any, are needed to Texas election laws?

Abortion: How would you address the economic and health consequences for those who cannot obtain abortions in Texas?

Children’s Health: Do you believe the government should become involved in healthcare decisions made for children by their parents and physicians? Please explain.

Power Grid: What can be done to ensure that Texas has sufficient power during extreme weather conditions?

.....

Donna Campbell (R)

No response received



Robert Walsh (D)

Gun Safety: We need to enforce the laws we have and consider common sense reform. Uvalde shows us that includes refreshing and correcting priorities for law enforcement. I am certain that raising the age to buy assault weapons would help them in their cause.

Elections: Considering this is a new law from last session, and there has been only one election governed by its power, I think the right answer is to measure the effects on the next election and use data to guide us. It certainly seems like the law was intended to reduce voter participation - I’m in favor of more voter participation, so if the numbers would show us it’s a continuing nuisance, then I think we should repeal it. And I would support virtually any law that would increase voter participation.

Abortion: I support a bill like SB8 (the bill creating a private cause of action for any citizen to sue anyone who receives or helps someone get an abortion) creating a private cause of action for anyone who has had their healthcare disrupted by that law - or any anti-abortion law - against all the representatives, senators, and executive branch actors who enshrined it in law.

Children’s Health: I do not. Bills like Florida’s HB241 (making it a misdemeanor to treat a minor without written consent) should not be imported.

Power Grid: The simplest answer is almost always the best one. We need to connect Texas’s grid to the national system. It didn’t make sense to disconnect and it doesn’t make sense to be disconnected now. It would give us the federal protections available to any other state in the Union. It would also likely reduce consumer electricity costs.

Campaign Website: <https://walshfords25.com/>

VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE/CARD

The Voter Registration Certificate/Card provides the district numbers for each race, or you may go to **VOTE411.org**, **VoteTravis.com**, or **Wilco.org/elections** to receive the list of all candidates you will consider. All citizens wishing to vote must be on the official list of registered voters in their county of residence and provide ID.

The precinct number of where you live

State Senate district

Congressional district

County Commissioner precinct

Justice of the Peace precinct/ Constable precinct

VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE (Certificado de Registro Electoral) TRAVIS COUNTY (Condado de Travis)		
VOID (VOID)	Gender (Sexo)	Valid from (Valido desde)
Year of Birth (Año de Nacimiento)	Pct. No. (Num. Peto)	thru (hasta)
	413	12/31/2023
Name and Perm. Res. Address (Nombre y direccion residencial permanente)		
Party Affiliation (Afiliacion del Partido)		
VOTER MUST PERSONALLY SIGN HIS/HER NAME IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT, IF ABLE. (El votante debe firmar esta tarjeta personalmente al recibirla, si puede.)		

U.S. REP. 37

ST. SEN. 14

ST. REP. 51

COMM. 4

J.P./CN. 4

ISD AISD

ISD SMD 6

SBOE 5

CITY AUSFP

CITY SMD 9

School district

School board member district

State Board of Education district

City Council district

Which city you may vote in

STATE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 19

Background: What in your background qualifies you to serve as the representative for Texas House District 19?

Election Laws: What legislation can provide eligible voters with access to fair and safe elections?

Education: What are your top priorities for public education?

Healthcare: What legislation would you support to address access to and the cost of healthcare in Texas?

Priorities: What are the top three issues you would like to address if elected and why?

.....



Ellen Troxclair (R)

Background: I have a proven record of lowering property taxes as a former Austin City Council member and Chief of Staff in the Texas House. As a small business owner, I have seen first-hand the destructive impact of frivolous regulations and excessive taxes and will fight against them. I served as a Senior Fellow at the Texas Public Policy Foundation and wrote a bestselling book, “Step Up!” to equip citizens with the tools they need to make a difference in their communities. I will put my experience and passion to work to preserve the resources and values of the Hill Country.

Election Laws: Free, fair, and secure elections are the cornerstone of our constitutional republic. Last year, following efforts by some to thwart it, legislation was passed to make it easier to vote and harder to cheat, ensuring that everyone has equal representation in voting. These reforms are critical to instilling integrity in our election process. As we have made our elections more secure, participation has increased year-over-year.

Education: Every child deserves access to an excellent education. We must ensure our education funding ends up in the classroom to benefit teachers and students and not lost in the bureaucracy. As a mom of three young children, parents should be empowered to be involved in their child’s education and have access to the content being taught. Sexually explicit and age-inappropriate materials have no place in our schools. We must our children are taught how to think instead of what to think, and that reading, writing, math, science, and history are prioritized in the classroom.

Healthcare: As with so many other things, free market competition provides the best products and services at the best prices. Yet, our current Obamacare system and takeover by the federal government hindered this. Almost universally rates are more expensive for individuals and the number of choices has decreased drastically. We should open the healthcare marketplace up across state lines so individuals can choose the best coverage for their individual needs.

We need to allow for states to take the reins in healthcare innovation.

Priorities: We must give Texans significant and lasting property tax relief by using a significant portion of our state’s huge surplus to reduce property taxes and fix our school finance system. We must secure the border and stop the hand-outs that encourage illegal immigration in order to keep our communities safe and our state secure. We must preserve the Hill Country’s natural resources and values in order to keep this region one of the best places to live, work, and raise a family.

Campaign Website: <https://www.troxclairfortexas.com>



Pam Baggett (D)

Background: I spent the first portion of my life in rural Archer County. After graduating from UT, one of my early jobs was for the Office of Economic Opportunity. And my boss? A woman who grew up in Johnson City where her restored home stands on the courthouse square. That long-term friendship and time spent in the Hill Country led to our retiring here from Austin. I have been a reporter, worked for state associations, and with FEMA. The latter gives me an eye toward potential natural disasters and the value of Texas Department of Emergency Management’s relationship with FEMA.

Election Laws: Increase access to the ballot box. This includes sending mail ballots to all registered voters 65 and older and expanding voting hours.

Education: According to Article VII of our constitution, it is my duty to make suitable provision for “public free schools.” This does not include vouchers to for-profit schools nor charter schools. It means adequately funding all public schools for all students. It includes significant pay increases for teachers and staff, and annual cost-of-living increases for retired teachers. Curricula is the responsibility of the State Board of Education and local school boards. The same is true of library books. Adequate funding comes from dedicated federal funds and monies appropriated by the state legislature and must not be redirected to other unfunded activities.

Healthcare: The 2023 legislature will have at least \$27 billion more revenue than expected. Now all we must do is spend it wisely, allocating to existing grossly underfunded agencies. All efforts to improve Texans’ health improves the health of all Texans. This includes increasing mental health care access, thereby reducing homelessness and unemployment, as well as reducing prison populations. We can improve family life to reduce Department of Family and Protective Services needs. Without a doubt, we must restore a woman’s right to control her own body and getting out of the way of parents and physicians taking care of children.

Priorities: Preserve water and protect air quality, i.e. climate change. This summer’s drought highlighted issues of depleted waterways and aquifers, problems that only worsen

with population growth. The Texas Water Development Board and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality need legislative support and perhaps also more legislative oversight. Establish and reestablish gun safety rules to save lives and injuries: Increase the age for purchasing a gun to 21, require background checks on all gun purchases whether at a store, gun show, or online, and mandate firearm training before open carry is granted. Restore a woman’s right to control her own body.

Campaign Website: <https://www.PamBaggettForTexas.com>

DISTRICTS 20-136

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Elections: How would you ensure election laws provide all eligible voters with equal access to safe and fair elections?

Health Services: What is your position on reproductive rights and how would you address the impacts of the loss of local healthcare services?

Gun Safety: What steps, if any, should be taken to curb gun violence in our communities?

Funding Priority: What is your highest legislative priority for funding, and would you be willing to use Texas’s budget surplus or “rainy day fund” to finance it?

.....

DISTRICT 20

Terry M. Wilson (R)

No response received



Raul Camacho (D)

Qualifications: I’m a former Police Officer, Red Cross Volunteer, Humanitarian, Activist for Common Gun Sense, LULAC Member, former business owner, and I serve as Chairman on the Leander Board of Appeals.

Elections: On 10/06/2020 I responded to Gov. Abbott’s executive order to limit absentee drop off locations to just one in each county. At that time I had a Senior Rideshare Company and I made a news announcement on KVUE News that I will offer FREE rides for Seniors to drop off their mail-in ballots. I ended up getting 30 volunteers to help out in Williamson and Travis County.

Health Services: No man, no religion, no corporation, no court, & no government have authority over a woman’s reproductive rights. Women have the right to control their own bodies, & thus they have a Human Right to be in charge

STATE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 20

Raul Camacho (D) (continued)

of their own reproductive decisions. And shame on those imposing their beliefs onto others. I will fight to restore women's reproductive rights in our state. We also need Medicaid Expansion[.]

Gun Safety: Close the gun-show loopholes, raise the minimum age from 18 to 21 to purchase high caliber rifles, ban the intimidation of open carry of high caliber rifles in public places, limit magazine capacity while carrying in public, mandate license to carry, I will also propose stiffer penalties for those committing crimes with guns. Make it harder for criminals & the irresponsible to get access to guns.

Funding Priority: My 1st priority is to fund our schools with smart security measures so that we will never have another School Shooting. We also need to make sure that the State start paying its fair share of our education system. I will also bring back large corporations to help fund our schools. 2nd, we need to invest in our grid and water shortage. Rainy-day funds need to be reserved for climate disasters. . . .

DISTRICT 46

Sam Strasser (R)

No response received



Sheryl Cole (D)

Qualifications: My life in public service began as a PTA President. Since that start, I served as chair for an AISD bond, on Austin City Council, including as Mayor Pro Tem, and two terms in the Texas Legislature.

Elections: In the previous legislative session, I filed 7 bills to protect and expand the right to vote, including automatic voter registration, same day voter registration, universal vote by mail, and expanded early voting opportunities. My team is preparing this legislation to file in 2023 as well.

Health Services: I am unequivocally opposed to the Texas abortion ban. I voted against every bill restricting access to abortion while also filing Rosie's Law, a bill that would expand abortion access by allowing insurance or Medicaid coverage. I have also supported increased funding in family planning services and prenatal and postpartum healthcare.

Gun Safety: I have supported several common sense measures to help prevent gun violence, including closing the gunshow and straw purchase loopholes, raising the minimum age to purchase a firearm, and banning the sales of assault style weapons. I also opposed the legislation allowing for the permitless carry of firearms.

Funding Priority: I have supported using the Economic Stabilization Fund (rainy day fund) in the past. A possible

large budget surplus is predicted for our 2023 Appropriations, so it remains to be seen if tapping into the fund will be necessary, but if needed, I would support it. Though health-care is a huge budget priority, public education spending has the greatest direct effect on our affordability crisis.

Campaign Website: <https://www.sherylcole.com>

Thomas Kost (L)

No response received

DISTRICT 47



Rob McCarthy (R)

Qualifications: I worked in local and state government before working for a member of Congress for five years, gaining experience in multiple policy areas. I then earned an MBA and started

in the private sector.

Elections: The Texas Legislature has made headway in modernizing and securing our state elections while expanding accessibility. I will ensure that we continue to have plenty of voting locations on Election Day and provide election schedules that maximize voting opportunities for eligible voters.

Health Services: The law should not limit access to abortion services in any way that would prevent access for a victim of rape or incest or in any circumstance that threatens the health of the mother. We can support victims and families by removing restrictions on doctors to allow them to prescribe and administer the treatment.

Gun Safety: As a parent, I support the Second Amendment and additional screenings for those under 21 and red flag laws to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and those with mental health issues. Additionally, schools in Texas should include self-harm in the school web filter policy to allow the existing web filter to increase safety in the school without an additional cost.

Funding Priority: Ending the unfair system of "recapture" for local property tax would be my highest priority for funding. I would be willing to use Texas' budget surplus to provide immediate relief while a transitional system is implemented. Families in the 47th district are the largest contributors to the Robin Hood recapture system in Texas and this practice must end.

Campaign Website: <https://mccarthyfortexas.com/>



Vikki Goodwin (D)

Qualifications: I'm serving my second term as state representative. I've been active in my community for over 30 years. I'm a small business owner, a mom & wife, a graduate of UT & the LBJ School of Public Affairs.

Elections: We should have provisions for online voter registration. Voting by mail should be widely available for those who are unable to vote in person. College student IDs should be acceptable forms of identification. High School classes should emphasize and expand civics education to prepare young adults for voting. Innovation such as drive-through and 24-hour voting should be encouraged, not outlawed.

Health Services: I believe women must have control of their own body and their own health care, in consultation with their doctors. Contraceptives should be accessible and affordable, free for those without the means to afford it. The state should move the \$100 million going to "Alternatives to Abortion" into a fund for local health care clinics that provide services to uninsured. Medicaid should be expanded.

Gun Safety: We should: 1) raise the age to purchase an assault-style weapon from 18 to 25, or to 21 at minimum to match the age requirement for purchasing a handgun; 2) close the background check loopholes, ensuring all gun sales go through a background check; 3) reinstate the requirement to go through safety and training courses before being able to carry a gun; and 4) increase mental health services.

Funding Priority: We must use this opportunity of surplus revenue to increase the pay of our employees and retirees - including teachers, CPS staff, employees who run our juvenile and adult correctional facilities, and state retirees. Turn-over among teachers and state employees is at an all-time high. I believe we must use the rainy day fund to address issues the state is facing with workforce shortages.

Campaign Website: <https://vikkigoodwin.com>

SAVE TIME—USE OUR INTERACTIVE VOTERS GUIDE

More information about the candidates can be reviewed by visiting **VOTE411.org**, a one-stop online resource for upcoming elections made possible by the League of Women Voters Education Fund. Simply enter your address to find your polling place, build your ballot with our online *Voters Guide*, and compare candidates side by side. Answers from candidates who didn't respond by the print deadline may be available online.



STATE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 48



Donna Howard (D)

Qualifications: Elected in 2006, Representative Donna Howard is a member of the House Appropriations and State Affairs Committees. A native Austinite, she is a nurse and former board

member of Eanes ISD.

Elections: Rep. Howard has championed common sense legislation to expand voting rights. She supports automatically sending high school seniors voter registration applications and voting by mail. Representative Howard opposed discriminatory voting legislation that unjustly impacts people of color, seniors, and people with disabilities. She and her colleagues blocked the bill twice by denying quorum.

Health Services: Representative Howard serves as Chairwoman of the Texas Women's Health Caucus. She was responsible for leading the charge against anti-abortion bills. Representative Howard has testified before Congress and has submitted an amicus brief to the United States Supreme Court on behalf of the caucus. She is a fierce advocate of expanding access to women's health services.

Gun Safety: Representative Howard draws on her background in nursing to find common sense solutions to curb gun violence. She led the effort in securing \$1.5 million for the Safe Storage campaign, which provides education on properly storing firearms to prevent firearm thefts and accidents.

Funding Priority: The Texas Comptroller is estimating a \$27 billion surplus and an overflowing Economic Stabilization Fund. It's crucial that these funds are used to shore up our infrastructure and workforce to ensure the state can best serve its people. The state must modernize its archaic IT infrastructure, invest in our public schools and healthcare workforce, and support retired teachers and public employees.

Campaign Website: <https://teamhowardtx.com>



Daniel Jerome McCarthy (L)

Qualifications: B.A. in Political Science, Vice Chair of Travis County Libertarian Party and, most importantly, not a member of the establishment.

Elections: The gerrymandering is out of control, I will push for fair a representative districts to ensure that 1 person = 1 vote regardless of historical voting records or demographics.

Health Services: Whatever course of action a patient (or their guardian) and doctor decide is best for the patient is their decision alone. The government has no business in the doctor's office, none, zero. I would draft legislation to override or abolish any law that goes further than that.

Gun Safety: An armed society is a polite society. We do it

need to make it more difficult for the most vulnerable to purchase weapons to defend themselves.

Funding Priority: School Choice is my highest priority, and it will actually save tax money. I'm not opposed to giving the rainy day fund back to the people.

Campaign Website: <https://RepDan.com>

DISTRICT 49



Katherine Griffin (R)

Qualifications: I worked as an engineer in the energy field and law clerk with a B.S. in Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin, J.D. from SMU, and M.S. from Texas A&M while listening to constituents.

Elections: I would prevent unmonitored drop boxes and unsolicited ballots while having pole locations within walking distance to voters with hours of operation that allow for more voter access. People who cannot drive or walk to the poles should have access to rides to the poles.

Health Services: The pre-born have reproductive rights as well as the mother with an exception for the life of the mother that should be further clarified in the Texas Legislature to protect the mother and her physician. To address healthcare services, the Texas Legislature can make healthcare services available for the pre-born and the mother to ensure their long term success.

Gun Safety: The right to bear arms thwarts tyrants who are responsible for most murders and gun violence in their communities. For example Mao killed more than 70 million of his own citizens in my life-time and is a prime example of how the right to bear arms can work as the ultimate deterrent to gun violence. Exceptions using court orders already exist to remove guns from people who threaten the innocent.

Funding Priority: The highest legislative priority should be the significant reduction of property taxes that can be accomplished by depreciating the appraisal district value of homesteads by 2% per year from the initial value and frozen land values at the time of purchase. This would protect homeowners from oppressive property taxes. I would be willing to fund this tax relief with the Texas budget surplus.

Campaign Website: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/katherinetgriffin/>



Gina Hinojosa (D)

Qualifications: I have served 3 terms in the TX House & passed laws on corporate reform, public education, access to contraception, public safety, etc. I served as President of the AISD School

Board. I'm a lawyer.

Elections: I support the creation of an Independent Redistricting Commission to draw fair maps in which voters elect representatives as opposed to politicians picking their voters. I support on-line voter registration, same-day voter registration, reinstatement of temporary, mobile voting sites to expand access to the ballot. I, also, support expanding eligibility to vote by mail.

Health Services: I am a strong supporter of reproductive rights and the freedom to make decisions about our healthcare, body, family, and faith. We must greatly expand access to contraception, expand Medicaid, and work to elect leaders who will reinstate and protect our freedoms.

Gun Safety: We desperately need reasonable gun safety reforms. I have and will continue to advocate for expanding background checks for gun purchases (including closing existing loopholes), red-flag laws, responsible gun storage, and restricting the sale of assault-style weapons. I'm proud that Texas has enacted a 'lie and try' law that I initiated and long championed, but much more needs to be done.

Funding Priority: As Vice Chair of the Human Services Committee in the TX House, I know Texas has underinvested in the safety net for our most vulnerable. Also, teachers need pay raises & public schools need adequate funding. State employees deserve pay raises. Retirees need cost-of-living increases. Rainy day funds should be infused into the education of needed workers, like, mental health counselors & nurses.

Campaign Website: <https://ginaforaustin.com>

INFORMATION ON WHERE TO VOTE

Voters can look up information on where to vote at your county's election website:

VoteTravis.com

www.Wilco.org/Departments/Elections

These websites list the most up-to-date information on the locations of polling places and their hours of operation.

For Travis County, there is also a live map with the current wait times for each polling location.

Remember, you can vote at ANY polling location in your county.



STATE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 49 (continued)



J. David Roberson (L)

Qualifications: Involved in local politics since highschool; Political Science Major in the Baylor Honors College; Member of Obama's street team in 2008 in Houston; Practicing Civil Attorney in Texas for 11 years.

Elections: Require photo ID; Extended early voting days and hours of operation; Provide transportation for handicapped or remotely located voters; Make Voting Day a State holiday; Have any vote counting software be fully vetted and the contract be bid on every election cycle; Require any hand recounts to be observed by each Party's representative - no exclusions.

Health Services: Government should have no say in controlling a woman's body. Medical decisions of any and all types should be made between the individual and their physician. Education and access to contraception should be available publicly. Pre-natal care and nutrition must be part of any public health program.

Gun Safety: Criminals and mentally ill people will not respect any laws made - those laws will only impair law abiding citizens. To protect against that, armed security guards should be posted at public locations where known violence has occurred. This has already been done elsewhere with efficacy.

Funding Priority: Reducing tax burdens on Texans is an absolute priority. A "surplus" means that the government overtaxed its citizens beyond its budgetary needs. That's the people's money, and it should go back to them by reducing taxes in the form of a direct refund, or a percentage reduction in property tax rates

Campaign Website: <https://www.facebook.com/DRobersonTXHD49>

DISTRICT 50



Victor Johnson (R)

Qualifications: My adult life has been synonymous with public service, leadership, and civic duty. I have served over two decades in the Army and, later, as a law enforcement supervisor.

Integrity is my virtue.

Elections: Elections are the key to our Republic. Despite our individual subjectivity, integrity is not a partisan issue. I fully support our election system and want it to remain as "user friendly" as possible while ensuring the integrity of the voting process. My mandate as legislator will be listening to my constituents concerns to identify gaps in the Texas Election Code and correct them.

Health Services: I fully support affordable healthcare for every Texan. We have taken steps to eliminate surprise billing and other hindrances but we still face critical problems with greatly inflated costs. There must never be a choice between food on the table and medicine, healthcare or housing. I will work hard to make Texas healthcare accessible, convenient, and affordable.

Gun Safety: I reject the idea that we have a gun problem; we have a criminal problem. As of now, measures are in place to ensure dangerous people cannot purchase firearms, yet that doesn't stop a dangerous person from getting their hands on guns. We have adequate waiting periods and background checks. We need proactive policing, gang and gun units, and adequate staffing levels to ensure public safety.

Funding Priority: I will support reducing the excessive property taxation using budget surplus funds. Further, we must ensure that our schools, streets, and communities are safe by adequately funding law enforcement. I want to see excellent teachers rewarded for their efforts and would encourage ISD's to fully fund our children's educational needs. We cannot use the "rainy day" funds for routine matters.

Campaign Website: <https://www.vicfortx.com>



James Talarico (D)

Qualifications: I'm a former public school teacher first elected in 2018 and one of Texas Monthly's 10 Best Legislators. I've passed historic legislation including caps on insulin copays and pre-K class size.

Elections: Our right to vote is sacred. I support online voter registration, expanding early voting periods and voting hours, more polling locations, expanding curbside voting, eliminating partisan and racial gerrymandering, county-wide voter centers, and repealing voter suppression laws. Voting is foundational to our democracy and I will support any effort to protect and expand the franchise for Texans.

Health Services: Reproductive justice and health care access are all top priorities of mine because they're foundational issues. A person's decision to have an abortion should be left up to them in consultation with their doctor — not up to politicians or judges. Health care should be affordable for every Texan. It's past time to put people over politics and finally expand Medicaid.

Gun Safety: Texas should lead the way in promoting safe firearm regulations, not continue to make it even easier for the wrong people to get a gun. We need to make our communities safer through common-sense gun safety measures. This means ensuring universal background checks, banning the sale of assault weapons, and restricting gun purchases for people convicted of felonies or violent misdemeanors.

Funding Priority: My highest priority is protecting public education. Particularly now, as we confront unprecedented

teacher shortages and learning loss, we need to defend the commitment we made to our schools. I would absolutely be willing to use budget surpluses or the "Rainy Day Fund" to properly fund our schools and will continue to work to provide a sustainable revenue stream for our public education system.

Campaign Website: <https://www.jamestalarico.com>



Ted Brown (L)

Qualifications: I'm a small business owner, husband, and father. I've been an activist for personal and economic freedom my entire life. I'm not beholden to any special interest groups or corrupt party officials.

Elections: Any voter should be able to apply for an absentee ballot for any reason, not just those who are disabled or over 65. The same security protocols would apply for all voters. Texas voters have to scramble for information on offices and candidates each election. They should receive an official Voter Information Pamphlet in the mail, including where and when to vote, plus candidate statements.

Health Services: I am pro-choice on everything and believe women have the right to reproductive freedom and to control their own bodies. Government should not interfere in the doctor-patient relationship and should not control women's uteruses. However, I don't favor taxpayer-funded abortions. Oral contraceptives and abortion pills should be available over the counter without prescription.

Gun Safety: I believe in our 2nd Amendment right to keep and bear arms for self-defense. If we lose this right, there's nothing to stop government from taking away all our other rights. The best defense against a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun, including on school campuses. That's why there should be no "gun free zones," since bad guys don't follow those kinds of rules.

Funding Priority: I believe in very limited government, so I would cut government spending across the board. There is a \$27 billion budget surplus. This should be returned to taxpayers by means of property tax relief and reduction of other taxes and fees. By reducing the size of government at all levels, we can permanently reduce and eventually end the property tax, which is excessive and burdensome to most Texans.

Campaign Website: <https://tedbrown.org>



STATE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 51

Robert Reynolds (R)

No response received



Maria Luisa "Lulu" Flores (D)

Qualifications: Lawyer with 25+ years Capitol experience. Former President, National Women's Political Caucus. Long-time community volunteer, including Planned Parenthood, YMCA Austin, and Austin Arts Commission.

Elections: We must reverse voter suppression laws, ban partisan intimidation at polling locations, and end voter purges. I support online, same day, and automatic voter registration as well as universal vote by mail. I will combat state interference of counties seeking to add polling places, extend voting hours, and increase access. I'll also advocate for federal passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

Health Services: As a former Planned Parenthood board member and longtime abortion rights advocate, I'll fight to repeal SB 8 and its invitation to harass patients and providers. I'll work to reverse the ban on Planned Parenthood from Title X funding and demand real accountability on so-called "crisis pregnancy centers." I support Medicaid expansion, CHIP access, and addressing the shortage of doctors and nurses.

Gun Safety: We need universal background checks with no gun shows or private sales loopholes, red flag laws, mandatory reporting of stolen guns, to repeal campus carry and restore gun free zones, and to raise the age for possession. I also support increased education on safe storage, leakage, and suicide prevention, as well as funding for community intervention programs and gun violence prevention research.

Funding Priority: Years of one-party rule have left a costly legacy of neglect. Smart moves, like Medicaid expansion, would allow us to tap into federal dollars to strengthen healthcare infrastructure. Ensuring an educated workforce and addressing the reliability of the electric grid requires private and public investment. The state's replenishing "rainy day fund," with \$10+ Billion in it, should be used as needed.

Campaign Website: <https://www.VoteLuluFlores.com>

DISTRICT 52



Caroline Harris (R)

Qualifications: If elected, I'll be the youngest Republican woman ever elected to the TX House. I have seven years experience as a policy advisor in the Texas House and Senate, thus know the legislative process well.

Elections: It must be easy to vote, but hard to cheat in our elections. If elected, I will fight to implement policies that

prosecute voter fraud as a felony and ensure the votes of law-abiding citizens are counted to uphold the principle of one person, one vote. I am the only candidate in this race that has directly worked on legislation to ensure comprehensive election integrity.

Health Services: We must ensure that Texas families have access to affordable, quality health care. We can and should ensure consumers have plenty of options for primary and specialty care, while also taking care of our most vulnerable citizens. I will fight to cut bureaucratic red-tape that prevents the growth of quality healthcare in our local communities.

Gun Safety: Parents should not have to worry about the safety of their children in our local schools. We must increase funding for school safety, including more officers on campus, hardening security to make sure dangerous individuals cannot enter campus, and invest more resources in preventative care and mental health.

Funding Priority: I have knocked over 5,000 doors, and cost-of-living is top of mind for families in our community. From out-of-control inflation increasing the cost of groceries and gasoline to skyrocketing property taxes, Texas families are having to do more with less. I will fight to cut and cap our property taxes to return excess revenue to families.

Campaign Website: <https://www.CarolineForTexas.com>



Luis Echegaray (D)

Qualifications: As a veteran, I have learned teamwork and commitment to service. As an educator, to teach and be adaptable. As a businessman, negotiation and corporate strategy. As a father,

humility and patience.

Elections: Making Election Day a state holiday would be a good start. Permitting online registration, same day in person registration and voting by mail. Voters with disabilities should be allowed to register and vote electronically.

Health Services: I believe that a woman's reproductive decision is a personal decision and taking that away violates a woman's right to privacy. We must get rid of the abortion ban as it has a direct impact on professional doctors leaving the state causing further loss of local healthcare professionals.

Gun Safety: here are many common sense steps that can be taken, such as, red flag laws, raising the age from 18 to 21 to buy a firearm, mandatory background checks even at gun shows, mandatory storage laws, mandatory waiting period (7 days) before receiving a firearm after a purchase.

Funding Priority: Funding Education appropriately, this includes Mental Health care in schools, teacher and support staff salaries, educational materials, and increasing the benefits for educators including a cost of living increase for retired teachers.

Campaign Website: <https://www.luisfortx.com>

DISTRICT 136

Michelle Evans (R)

No response received



John H. Bucy III (D)

Qualifications: Two-term state representative, former WilCo Dems chair, and small business owner. Consensus builder working for strong public schools, healthcare, voting rights, the environment, and equality for all.

Elections: The freedom to vote is non-negotiable. I've passed laws that put election info and polling places online, created a mail ballot tracking system, and ensure voters with disabilities are provided reasonable accommodations. I support online and same day registration, universal vote by mail, expanded early voting hours, restoring mobile voting, and modernizing our election systems.

Health Services: I support access to abortion. Every Texan deserves access to the full range of pregnancy-related care, from contraception and abortion to prenatal and postpartum care. Post-Dobbs decision, the insistence of statewide leaders to threaten doctors with criminal prosecution has put those with difficult pregnancies' lives in danger. The lack of exceptions for rape, incest, or health is unconscionable.

Gun Safety: I support red flag laws, universal background checks, closing gun show and private sales loopholes, restoring the federal prohibition on the sale of assault weapons, and repealing campus and permitless carry of handguns. We must develop and fund targeted, community intervention programs and provide more funding for gun violence prevention research, suicide prevention, and safe storage education.

Funding Priority: We must enroll the 350,000+ currently eligible but unenrolled kids in state healthcare programs; end the 16-year waitlist for community-based care for Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities; and give teachers, state employees, and retirees a raise. With a record budget surplus and \$13B+ in the "rainy day fund" expected, we must make overdue investments in healthcare, education, and workforce.

Campaign Website: <https://www.BucyForTexas.com>

DONATE!

Support the *Voters Guide* production with a contribution to the League of Women Voters Austin Area, a nonpartisan nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Mail to: 3908 Avenue B, Austin, TX 78751, or make a secure donation online at [LWVAustin.org](https://www.LWVAustin.org).

STATE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Burton Culley (L)
Qualifications: I am a citizen, Native Texan, Veteran (U.S. Army), Husband, Father. I have been and continue to be a student of History, Philosophy, Psychology, Design, Human Factors, the Arts, and people.
Elections: There must be a balance between ease of access and security. Each voter should be able to prove their cit-

izenship, and the validity of their voting right, and as citizens, we should welcome that challenge. At that point, there should be no impediment to cast a ballot.
Health Services: Reproductive rights should not be a political discussion. Government should have no say in this area. If government has caused a loss of healthcare services, government should be held accountable for that loss.
Gun Safety: Teach people how to be safe. People fear that

which they do not understand. To resolve the fear, people need knowledge and understanding. For those who commit violence of any form, the full weight of existing laws should be applied to the offenders. Violent activity is against current statutes. We should apply those statutes fully.
Funding Priority: To begin with, I think the “rainy day fund” should be returned to the people. The fund indicates there was an excess of taxes collected from the people.

LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

CIVIL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
Fairness: What quality is most critical for a judge to possess for fair administration of justice, and how have you demonstrated this quality?
Priorities: Explain how this office is important to your constituents and provide details of your plans for improvement.
Equal Access: How would you ensure that all individuals who appear before your court receive equal access to justice?
Efficiency: What steps would you take to address case backlogs?

.....

201ST CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Amy Clark Meachum (D)
Unopposed

250TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Karin Crump (D)
Unopposed

261ST CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Daniella DeSeta Lyttle (D)
Unopposed

419TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Catherine A. Mauzy (D)
Unopposed

455TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT



Cleve W. Doty (R)
Qualifications: I am the only candidate with judicial experience. I graduated from Yale University, the University of Chicago Law School, and have spent most of my career defending individual rights.
Fairness: Judges have to be able to treat everyone fairly, according to the rules, and also neutrally. I promise every litigant that I will give them a fair hearing and follow the rule of law. I demonstrate that daily and in full view of the public: you can come watch for yourself on the court’s YouTube channel, because seeing is believing.
Priorities: This court is the first place citizens look to when handling disputes under the rule of law. I ensure that citizens receive a fair hearing and that their case receives full attention, and I am also working hard to improve the court’s processes to make the courts even more efficient and accessible since the court belongs not to the judges, but to the people.
Equal Access: I helped pioneer remote proceedings and have worked to improve them since, because judges understand that people have lives outside of court. You can also watch me in court live on YouTube daily. Your courts are more open and more accessible than ever before, and I am working to keep them that way and even improve your access!
Efficiency: Currently, I have zero (yes, zero) pending cases awaiting a decision. I lead by example. I volunteer to take on more trials, but we have no backlog. I serve on the Court’s technology committee, where I leverage my background in technology and science to help create further improvements to the courts for our rapidly growing county. I advocate for every change possible to improve our efficiency.
Campaign Website: <https://www.dotyforjudge.com>



Laurie Eiserloh (D)
Qualifications: I’m a 28-year trial attorney and a lifelong Democrat. I’ll be the first openly gay civil district judge. I am a dedicated public servant and community volunteer, committed to equal justice for all.
Fairness: A good judge brings both legal expertise and empathy to the bench. Currently, I work on eviction and divorce cases with marginalized people, many of whom need resources to access the courts including mental health and addiction services. As a judge, I will strive to level the playing field and provide justice to every person, including the most vulnerable.
Priorities: Our civil courts play a crucial role in protecting democracy, defending the rights of workers, expanding voting rights, and protecting the environment. The use of virtual hearings during COVID has expanded access to the courts allowing people to participate regardless of work, health, or family obligations. I will continue to use these technologies to make the courts more open and welcoming.
Equal Access: Equal access to justice in the courtroom starts outside the courtroom. I will continue to be a strong advocate for resources like Volunteer Legal Services and the Travis County Law Library that provide free legal services to Travis County residents. Inside the courtroom, I will advocate for ADA accessibility, interpreters, and translators. To serve our democracy, the courts must be open to all.
Efficiency: During COVID, the civil courts used innovations, like Zoom hearings and the virtual submission docket, to resolve cases safely and efficiently. As we return to in-person trials, innovations, including lessons learned in COVID, will allow the courts to be more efficient so that more people can have their day in court.
Campaign Website: <https://www.laurieforjudge.com>

459TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Maya Guerra Gamble (D)
Unopposed

LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

147TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Cliff Brown (D)

Unopposed

299TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Karen R. Sage (D)

Unopposed

331ST CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Chantal Melissa Eldridge (D)

Unopposed

403RD CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Brandy Mueller (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY JUDGE

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Priorities: What are the top three countywide issues you would like to address over your next term, should you be elected?

Housing: How will you improve affordability and reduce the number of people who are unhoused or experiencing housing insecurity?

Transportation: How will you address current and future transportation needs in the county?

Healthcare: How will you improve the quality and accessibility of both mental and physical healthcare in the county?

.....



Rupal Chaudhari (R)

Qualifications: As a mother, a business owner, and an immigration attorney, I know how to deal with broken systems. I've done compliance law and accounting all of my life. Rare mix of education and business acumen.

Priorities: Public safety: Adequately staff law enforcement, better rehab efforts and workforce training. make recovery/treatment a priority for our unhoused. Affordability: Reduce and de-duplicate costs, modernize permitting, plan smarter, prevent evictions. Transportation: Approve alternative transit routes where practical, build new roadways to relieve traffic congestion.

Housing: Implement "tough love" policy. Move primary shelters and social services to central hub, working closely with the city of Austin with Haven For Hope in San Antonio and Community First Village as models. Make recovery and treatment a priority. Get innovative and pro-active at our correctional facilities. Audit and analyze all county-level and intergovernmental programs which address homelessness.

Transportation: As the non-Austin portions of the county continue to grow, the county has a unique opportunity to make our area the crown jewel of Texas transportation once again. Planning must temper land use and environmental concerns with the growing demand for new roads. The future focus must be centered around modernizing transportation planning, with the Austin area already half-a-century behind.

Healthcare: Let's focus on the immediate need: mental illness and substance abuse are twin problems threatening our health and lives. Recent city of Austin policies have attracted more people with severe needs from around the country. The county approved ~\$100 million in federal CARES Act dollars to Austin, which should be, and without question, dedicated to improving the health of our new unhoused neighbors.

Campaign Website: <https://www.rupalforcountyjudge.com>



Andy Brown (D)

Qualifications: I am running for re-election as Travis County Judge. In addition to serving as Travis County Judge, I am an experienced lawyer, community organizer, EMT, and former Travis Democratic Party Chair.

Priorities: Standing up for civil rights like abortion care and election integrity. Making our community safer by improving access to mental health, affordable housing, and good jobs. We need to invest in new mental and behavioral health facilities and focus on diversion programs for non-violent offenders before building new jail facilities. Finally, fighting climate change and building a resilient community.

Housing: I voted to invest \$110 million from Travis County's federal ARPA funds to help build almost 2,000 new units of supportive housing via a new campus of Community First, Foundation Communities, and a coalition of nonprofits working with ECHO. I will continue this work, as well as continuing to reduce the time it takes affordable and all housing developers to complete homebuilding to meet our needs.

Transportation: Work to strengthen relationships with Capitol Metro to expand access to multimodal transit options across the county. Develop coalitions with other counties to expand work on interconnectivity. Build on the commissioners court commitments to existing resources that serve our most vulnerable communities and not just those in the City of Austin, but in areas like Manor, Del Valle, and Pflugerville.

Healthcare: Our county jail, like most county jails across Texas, is both the single largest line item in our budget, and the largest mental health facility in the county. This is unac-

ceptable. We are working to establish a mental health diversion center to provide people the resources they need to stop circling through the criminal justice system ending back on the streets, and instead to find stability.

Campaign Website: <https://www.voteandy.com>

JUDGE, COUNTY COURT AT LAW

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 1

Todd Wong (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 2

Eric M. Shepperd (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 3

Bianca Garcia (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 4

Dimple Malhotra (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 5

Mary Ann Espiritu (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 6

Denise Hernández (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 7

Elisabeth Earle (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE

Guy Herman (D)

Unopposed

DISTRICT CLERK

Velva L. Price (D)

Unopposed

LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

COUNTY CLERK

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Elections: How would you manage the elections process to ensure safe and fair elections?

Education: How would you educate voters on recent changes to election law and the voting process?

Poll Workers: How would you encourage citizens to serve as poll workers and ensure they are fully trained and safe?

Other Issue: What other issue do you consider most important and how would you address it?

.....



Susan Haynes (R)

Qualifications: When elected, I will be the first conservative County Clerk that Travis county has had in almost 40 years. I am determined to get rid of voting machines and return to honest elections.

Elections: We will go back to sequentially numbered paper ballots, hand counted at the precinct level. No more voting

machines. We will clean up the voter roles and everyone will re-register to vote every 4 years. Election day will be one day, not a week or a month. Early or absentee voting will become very rare. We will have a forensic audit every election.

Education: I would like voter registration to start to include email addresses so voting information can be more easily disseminated. We will do interviews and reports in the media with the new information, perhaps signage if economical. The precinct chairs will be tasked with outreach to their precincts. Whatever we do, it needs to be done economically, keeping the taxpayers in mind.

Poll Workers: We currently have good training programs, but we need more participation. We will do a media blitz and email campaign to make people aware of the opportunities. This is another great place for the precinct chairs to educate their communities.

Other Issue: I am most concerned about election integrity. With electronic voting machines in the neighborhoods and electronic counting machines downtown, there is huge opportunity for election fraud, and I would go so far as to say they were implemented for that purpose. We need to go back to small 1000 person precincts that can monitor their election process and count their own paper ballots.

Dyana Limon-Mercado (D)

No response received

COUNTY TREASURER

Dolores Ortega Carter (D) Unopposed

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

PRECINCT 2

Brigid Shea (D) Unopposed

PRECINCT 4

Margaret J. Gómez (D) Unopposed

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Impartiality: Explain why you would make a fair and impartial Justice of the Peace.

Services: How will you improve the services of the Justice of the Peace?

Equal Access: How would you ensure that all individuals who appear before your court receive equal access to justice?

Evictions: How would you ensure landlords and tenants understand their rights regarding evictions and receive information on available resources?

.....

PRECINCT 1

Yvonne Michelle Williams (D) Unopposed

PRECINCT 2



Randall Slagle (D)

Qualifications: I have been practicing law for over 16 years, and have served as your Justice of the Peace for the past 8 year. I regularly teach and attend legal trainings to stay knowledgeable and proficient.

Impartiality: Treating every individual entering the courtroom with fairness and respect is a top priority. Justice Court is a place in which more often than not, the participants appear without legal representation. I work hard to explain the process, ensure that individuals understand their rights, and I provide everyone an opportunity to be heard and receive their fair day in court.

Services: Since taking the bench in 2015, I have transformed this Justice Court from a very inefficient courthouse to a modern Court in which we use less paper, send notices out much more quickly and provide a greater opportunity for individuals to participate in the legal process. From virtual court hearings to online dispute resolution, we strive to provide much greater access to justice.

Equal Access: Equal access to justice is very important to me. Offering virtual court hearings and online dispute resolution has allowed many individuals who are without transportation to attend their court hearing. In addition, ensuring that we provide as much information as possible about an individual's rights has led to increased participation in the legal process and greater trust in our legal system.

Evictions: We created an information page on our website dedicated to self-represented litigants. Information packets for both those who have an eviction case filed against them, and for those seeking to file an eviction case are available. We also created a resources page with information including

the rules for Justice Court, links to legal assistance, the Austin Tenants Council and the Law Library.



Christopher David (L)

Qualifications: Being an attorney is not a requirement to be a Justice of the Peace. However, I am a licensed Texas attorney who has represented clients in court and through trial to a jury verdict.

Impartiality: As an attorney I've seen people brought into the system unprepared and scared of what was happening around them. This experience has created a desire in me to make the process understandable for those brought into this system for civil and criminal issues. It's lost on some judges that an issue before the court is often life altering and the most pressing issue in a person's life at that time.

Services: The current JP made a significant push to bring services of the court online. With my background in IT and IT security, I'll look for ways to further secure the IT systems in place which hold sensitive public information that many must provide without choice. I will continue to expand upon this endeavor of modernization to ease public interaction with the JP court while keeping costs low.

Equal Access: Simple steps such as allowing a person to ask questions with follow-up to make sure they were heard or inviting feedback from individuals during and after the legal

LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

PRECINCT 2

Christopher David (L) *(continued)*

process. The goal for court staff should be to make sure that litigants can have questions answered and are not intimidated nor have to jump through undue hurdles to find guidance during the legal process.

Evictions: Ensure simple and concise handouts explaining rights & obligations of both parties is readily available. Information would explain not only the process but at what stages in the suit certain items happen and what is expected of each party at these stages. One item I see that is currently lacking is easy to find information in Spanish for our non-English speakers.

PRECINCT 3

Sylvia Holmes (D)

Unopposed

PRECINCT 4

Raúl Arturo González (D)

Unopposed

PRECINCT 5

Nick Chu (D)

Unopposed

**AVAILABLE IN THREE
ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES!**

¡Disponible en Español!
有中文
Tiếng Việt

We now proudly offer translations in Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese on **VOTE411.org**. There are also downloadable and printable PDFs on our website: **LWVAustin.org/voters-guide/**

LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

277TH DISTRICT COURT

Stacey Mathews (R) Unopposed

368TH DISTRICT COURT

Sarah Bruchmiller (R) Unopposed

COUNTY JUDGE

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Priorities: What are the top three countywide issues you would like to address over your next term, should you be elected?

Housing: How will you improve affordability and reduce the number of people who are unhoused or experiencing housing insecurity?

Transportation: How will you address current and future transportation needs in the county?

Healthcare: How will you improve the quality and accessibility of both mental and physical healthcare in the county?

.....



Bill Gravell (R)
Qualifications: Judge Gravell has served the last 4 years as Williamson County Judge. In 2016, He was chosen to be 1 of 24 county elected officials to attend the Texas Association of Counties leadership school.

Priorities: 1. He has provided law enforcement with the resources and training they need to keep Williamson County families safe. He will oppose any radical efforts to defund the police. 2. He has lowered property taxes and led the charge to raise the homestead exemption for seniors in Williamson County. 3. He has led the charge to bring new jobs and new economic opportunity to Williamson County.

Housing: You address affordable housing by attracting large companies to offset the tax burden on our local citizens. In Williamson County we increase property tax exemptions, providing tax relief to all residential homesteads in the county. Property tax exemptions for persons 65 and older increased from \$30,000 to \$125,000. Property tax exemption for disabled persons increased from \$20,000 to \$125,000.

Transportation: Judge Gravell believes Williamson County is the gold standard for transportation planning in Texas and will continue with that mindset in the years to come.

Healthcare: Williamson County has been a leader in our state in providing top quality and accessibility for mental healthcare. We will continue to lead our state in caring for our residence.

Campaign Website: <http://BillForJudge.com>



Blane Conklin (D)
Qualifications: PhD, University of Chicago. Sr Business Analyst at the University of Texas System. Our office serves a quarter of a million lives across Texas. I will work to serve everyone in our community.

Priorities: 1. Support for our first responders and public safety professionals: Making sure we have the numbers to keep up with our growth, that they are paid competitively, and that their jobs are not politicized. 2. Increased mental health resources for our community. 3. Building sufficient

infrastructure to handle the increased growth and development coming to Williamson County.

Housing: This is not something the county can do on its own. It requires a cross-jurisdictional and regional approach, including non-profits and governmental entities. We cannot continue to pretend that these issues are just an “Austin” problem. We must all work together to address these issues.

Transportation: This is one of the essential duties of county government, and it too will require a regional approach. In addition to constructing and maintaining roads and bridges, we need to be forward looking with infrastructure for EV charging stations, mass transit options, and (though not “transportation” per se) modernized and expanded broadband infrastructure, especially for our rural areas.

Healthcare: We need to strengthen our support of our county health district as well as our local mental health authority. This is one of the most critical duties of county government, and with a county growing as quickly as ours, we must make our investment in our community’s health and well-being a greater priority.

Campaign Website: <https://www.conklinforcountyjudge.com>

VOTE 411

ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

COUNTY JUDGE (continued)



Wes Benedict (L)

Qualifications: I was Republican but was disappointed taxes went up even where Republicans controlled. UT engineering degree. MBA U of M. National Executive Director of the Libertarian Party for 8 years. Small biz.

Priorities: Cut taxes and spending. Reduce tax rates enough so that the check for your property taxes gets smaller even when property values go up. Free markets, not corporate welfare. We shouldn't raise your taxes to subsidize new busi-

nesses to move here. That's unfair, prone to corruption, and it crowds our schools and roads. Stop wasting resources arresting marijuana users. Instead focus on real crimes.

Housing: More new housing will lower prices. We need low-rent apartment options which the free market will provide if we let them. I'd rather poor people live in cheap apartments than in tents under highways. Policies that forbid building low-cost housing cause homelessness. I'm disappointed when selfish wealthy people oppose affordable apartments near them. Please don't handout money at stoplights.

Transportation: I welcome natural population growth but the county and state approved another \$250 million to subsidize more businesses to move here. It's unfair and

causes congestion. The Wilco budget gives \$47 million to the Roads and Bridges fund but four times that to Judicial and Public Safety. Ending marijuana arrests will save on Judicial and Public Safety leaving more for transportation or tax cuts.

Healthcare: I don't smoke marijuana and I don't encourage its use. But ending marijuana arrests will provide peace of mind for the tens of thousands of Williamson County residents who use it for mental or physical healthcare or for recreational purposes. As a Libertarian, I favor free market healthcare solutions and voluntarily funded charitable services for the poor, not more taxpayer funded services.

Campaign Website: <https://wesbenedict.com>

JUDGE, COUNTY COURT AT LAW

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Fairness: What quality is most critical for a judge to possess for fair administration of justice, and how have you demonstrated this quality?

Priorities: Explain how this office is important to your constituents and provide details of your plans for improvement.

Equal Access: How would you ensure that all individuals who appear before your court receive equal access to justice?

Efficiency: What steps would you take to address case backlogs?

.....

impact their lives. I developed a docket for children aging out of the system focused on their safety and welfare.

Equal Access: In CPS cases, it is critical that the child and parent have legal representation at the onset which ensures fairness and a level playing field. I automatically appoint an attorney to represent the child and each indigent parent when the case is filed. This practice ensures the individual knows his/her rights and is able to make educated decisions during the early critical stages of the case.

Efficiency: Virtual hearing for CPS/Protective Orders began within a week of the pandemic allowing hearings to continue with the exception of jury trials. In March 2021, Williamson County resumed in-person jury trials. In-person criminal hearings resumed in August 2021, utilizing priority docketing by case type. CPS no longer has a backlog and the criminal cases are actively being resolved.

Campaign Website: <https://www.brandyforjudge.com>

are always different. I will give audience to each person and consider their individual facts before ruling on a matter. Each matter before the court is super important to the person standing in judgment. I will give each person their due respect and time.

Efficiency: Time to stop the never ending reset practice, particularly as it applies to the state. If the State brings a case they should be able to prosecute said case in short order. If the defense needs time to complete treatment, or classes in order to provide resolution for the defendant, time will be afforded, but steps toward resolution must be ongoing.

Campaign Website: <https://brianmcconnellforjudge.com>

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 1



Brandy Hallford (R)

Qualifications: Serving as judge since 2018; 26 years legal experience: former prosecutor/Criminal Division Chief, former legal practice-criminal defense, family, CPS; experience in each docket heard; trained lawyers[.]

Fairness: It is critical for the fair administration of justice that a judge is impartial and follow the rule of law. Our system of justice only works if litigants know that the laws enacted by the legislature will be followed and not altered by a judge's personal beliefs. As a judge, I am dedicated to ongoing legal education and continuing to be an impartial decision-maker in the pursuit of justice.

Priorities: Citizens have a vested interest in our children. This court is entrusted with CPS cases. Prior to being a judge, I dedicated my career to representing abused children and have represented the State and parents. Children are vulnerable and need a judge who understands how rulings



Brian McConnell (D)

Qualifications: I graduated Law School in the year 2000. My first job was as a prosecutor for the City of Austin. Beyond that I have defended the accused in Williamson County for more than 20 years[.]

Fairness: Enter each case with a blank slate as to guilt innocence. Fairness, equality, and the willingness/ability to apply the law under these tenets are qualities a judge must possess.

Priorities: People finding themselves in court are often experiencing their worst days. Though the courtroom requires dispute, debate, and sometimes disappointment, it is not a theater for abuse. My goal is for every person leaving my courtroom to leave feeling respected, even if the outcome of the matter before the court is decided against them.

Equal Access: Listening is key to the administration of justice. Though cases may appear the same, the individual fact

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 2

Laura Barker (R)

Unopposed

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 3



Doug Arnold (R)

Qualifications: Judge of CCL 3 for 12 years. Licensed attorney for 28 years. Law degree from Vanderbilt University. Board certified in criminal law and criminal appeals. Never been reversed in a criminal case.

Fairness: It is vitally important for the sake of fairness to consider things from the perspective of others, especially people who are different from me. I have been working on this for a lifetime and I try to improve every day. It is also extremely important to listen to both sides, not make up my mind too quickly, and avoid confirmation bias in judicial decision-making.

LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 3

Doug Arnold (R) (continued)

Priorities: This court hears criminal cases such as assault and DWI and family cases such as divorce and child custody. My primary concern is the safety and security of individuals and families in Williamson County. I will continue to innovate, improve and refine my ways of calendaring and hearing cases to make the court more accessible and efficient. I will continue to expand our capacity for jury trials.

Equal Access: I am committed to ensure that indigent criminal defendants and people of modest means in certain family cases receive court-appointed legal representation. Additionally, I must search my heart to ensure that every decision I make is unaffected by improper influences such as a person's resources, their position in the community, their access to people in power, or the lack of any of those things.

Efficiency: There are ongoing challenges in our courts, namely the effects of the pandemic and the explosive population growth in our county. It is tremendously important to keep experienced judges in office to meet these challenges. From the very beginning of the pandemic, I was committed to keeping this a working court. As a result of those efforts, there is no significant backlog in the court.

Campaign Website: <https://www.keepjudgearnold.com>



Thomas Velez (D)

Qualifications: I have been a prosecutor and lawyer for 10 years and prosecuted all over Texas. I've prosecuted everything from murder to misdemeanors - specializing in domestic violence, child abuse, & sex crimes.

Fairness: Education is key to equal justice under law. I have spent my career learning and developing best practices in and out of the courtroom and learning about the people the law serves. Judges are not kings and must educate themselves in administering justice to marginalized communities and people from diverse backgrounds. I work with survivors of trauma - who encompass every community and challenge.

Priorities: I will build and develop our first domestic violence specialty court program. I have built these programs as a prosecutor and I will create the Court for our community. I will work with stakeholders, survivors, and practitioners in offering programs and services that address domestic violence behaviors and establish a common sense, accessible network of support for survivors.

Equal Access: Equal Justice Under Law is the starting point, not the finish line. A Judge is a steward of the law and I will work to bring the 1st Public Integrity Office to our com-

munity and our Courts. I will continue to incorporate the fundamentals of Justice - which are transparency, inclusion, public access, and community service.

Efficiency: Due process is what guarantees efficiency and having practiced in courts all over Texas I have witnessed firsthand the best practices to maximize fairness and equity. I will take the games out of the courtroom and get cases moved with a coordinated community response. I'll use my experience to bring our courts up to date with innovation, best methods, and coordinated, accessible resources.

Campaign Website: <https://www.votethomasvelez.com/>

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 4

John B. McMaster (R)

Unopposed

COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK

Lisa David (R)

Unopposed

COUNTY CLERK

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Duty: What do you consider to be the most important responsibility of a County Clerk?

Record-Keeping: How would you improve public access to county records while maintaining necessary security?

Efficiency: What would you do to improve efficiency and customer service?

Other Issue: What other issue do you consider most important and how would you address it?

.....

Nancy E. Rister (R)

No response received



Erica Smith (D)

Qualifications: I am a current county employee for over 5 years, have private sector experience, lifelong county resident, graduated from Southwestern University on an academic scholarship, and enjoy public service.

Duty: The County Clerk is an important countywide position that maintains files for the courts, and important rec-

ords like land records, probate cases, and commissioners court minutes. The County Clerk also issues marriage licenses and other vital records, serves on the Bail Bond Board to oversee licenses for local bond companies, and also votes on the appointment of the local Elections Administrator.

Record-Keeping: I intend to manage and run the County Clerk's office in a bi-partisan manner while focusing on core functions. I have already worked on large procurement projects in Williamson County, and I am ready to help deliver cost-efficient services in a welcoming environment. This includes working with other county departments and officials to achieve modernization and listen to all stakeholders.

Efficiency: It is important to collaborate with the county's IT and Legal Departments to make county records more accessible using technology, including granting more online access to court records for the local legal community and public searches more user friendly. Customer service may be improved with a more welcoming environment.

Other Issue: Williamson County is a fast-growing urban county that needs new leadership for the future. The County Clerk's office specifically needs someone who will focus on core functions and not politicize the office.

Campaign Website: <https://www.ericasmithforcountyclerk.com>

COUNTY TREASURER

Scott Heselmeyer (R)

Unopposed

IF YOU HAVE ISSUES AT YOUR POLLING LOCATION

Please call one of these nonpartisan hotlines if you have any issues at your polling location:

Election Protection Hotlines

- ENGLISH: 866-OUR-VOTE (866-867-8683)
- SPANISH: 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682)
- ASIAN LANGUAGES: 888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683)
- ARABIC: 866-YALLA-US (866-925-5287)
- ASL (Video): 301-818-VOTE (301-818-8683)
- DISABILITY RIGHTS TX: 888-796-VOTE (888-796-8683)

LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Priorities: What are the top three countywide issues you would like to address over your next term, should you be elected?

Housing: How will you improve affordability and reduce the number of people who are unhoused or experiencing housing insecurity?

Transportation: How will you address current and future transportation needs in the county?

Healthcare: How will you improve the quality and accessibility of both mental and physical healthcare in the county?

.....

PRECINCT 2



Cynthia Long (R)

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree from Texas A&M. Started and operated a successful IT consulting company. Volunteered in the community my entire adult life. As Commissioner, and in life, I am a servant leader.

Priorities: (1) Public Safety - I always have and will continue to prioritize public safety by funding it – not defunding it. (2) Lower Taxes – I will continue to adequately fund core services while reducing property taxes. (3) Infrastructure - I will continue to enhance safety and mobility in the county by implementing transportation and road improvements.

Housing: People are moving to Williamson County because it is still affordable to live here. We have kept County government spending in check. I led the charge this year to increase the residential, over 65 and disabled persons exemptions. In addition, I voted to lower the property tax rate and that coupled with the exemptions means the average residential county property tax bill went down by \$100.

Transportation: I have led the County in improving our transportation network through the voter approved bond programs. As Chair of CAMPO, a six county transportation planning and funding organization, I have helped secure hundreds of millions of state and federal dollars for Williamson County and Wilco cities transportation projects. In my next term, I will build on that success.

Healthcare: I have supported funding for behavioral health case workers, treatment, law enforcement training, partnered with school districts in the County and much more. Through my leadership, we used federal funds to improve healthcare to uninsured and underinsured individuals. I also led the initiative to provide breast cancer screening and treatment to that same group of individuals.

Campaign Website: <https://www.cynthialong.com>



Brigid Lester (D)

Qualifications: I am a selfless servant leader. I attended West Point, served 24 years in the Army, retired as a LTC. My work experiences include Civil Eng, Proj Mgt. Most importantly, I am a leader with integrity!

Priorities: 1. Reduce property tax - not the tax rate, the actual amount we are paying. I think limiting the tax abatements this court routinely offers will help. 2. Protect property owners' rights - specifically water rights & the placement of county roads. Eminent domain is being used without compassion. 3. Show respect to our Sheriff's Deptment. Equip, train & staff them appropriately. Stop defunding them.

Housing: These issues are close to my heart, but not necessarily a responsibility of the court. The reasons for homelessness are varied, and so must be the solutions. I think providing jobs programs, mental health assistance and a living wage will go a long way to stemming this tide.

Transportation: Transportation has many facets. I am in favor of good, safe roads, but I am also an advocate for more public/mass transit. In conjunction with the cities, I would support more buses and rail lines. I am cognizant of the fact that routes selection needs to consider socioeconomic demographics. Many of our citizens who require public transportation are currently under served.

Healthcare: Our EMS, and first responders are terribly underfunded. That is unacceptable and my budget decisions will reflect my priorities. We need to increase the capacity of our healthcare and mental health agencies and that will require more money! I will fight for a larger portion of the county budget to go to these critical areas.

Campaign Website: <https://betterwithbrigid.com>

PRECINCT 4



Russ Boles (R)

Qualifications: As Commissioner I led my County through the Pandemic, Winter Storm Uri and tornados this March. Gov. Abbott appointed me to the Brazos River Authority. Board member of the Round

Rock & Hutto YMCA.

Priorities: Public safety. Public safety. I believe our community and neighborhoods should be a safe place for our families and kids. I have fought the defunding of the police and added new EMS/ambulance stations. I also have added new roads and arterials. I believe parents should have dinner with their family and not stuck in traffic. As Commissioner I will continue to build on my track record.

Housing: Through a number of boards I have worked to add hundreds of affordable housing units to Williamson County. These units provide great options for our starting teachers and public servants like firemen and women. Additionally, I have worked and brought companies/good paying jobs to

Wilco so parents and families can find work that pays a living wage. We all have to get there together.

Transportation: Transportation is key. Through the county's long-range transportation plan I have begun arterial projects like the Southeast Loop in Hutto and Taylor and improving CR 112 & CR 110 near Paloma Lake and Siena. I've worked to make key intersections like Chandler Road and CR 110 more efficient and safer as well as partner with the City of Round Rock on projects like Kenny Fort Blvd.

Healthcare: As Commissioner I have worked with Health District on public clinics like the Lone Star Circle of Care who regularly hold office hours in Round Rock, Georgetown and Taylor. Further, as the mental health crisis has risen, I've supported Bluebonnett Trails to provide critical mental health care to our families and citizens in need. A true need in our community.

Campaign Website: <https://voterussboles.com>



Jose Orta (D)

Qualifications: I am a disabled Air Force Veteran. I have a Master's Degree in International Relations. I have 30+ years in health, financial, political, minority, and empowerment issues and I want to work for you.

Priorities: I want to work for you in the office that has direct authority over your everyday lives in WilCo. I want to return the County Commissioners Court to "Bread and Butter" issues that impact our daily lives. The three core issues are safety, health and constituent services (communication). As the county grows, we must increase our Sheriff, EMS and Health Department services to serve the community.

Housing: There is a shortage of safe and affordable housing in WilCo. Affordable housing stock has not kept up with our growth. . In Taylor, it has been virtually dismantled due to flood damage. Williamson County needs a homeless shelter and a comprehensive plan to address increasing affordable housing. We also need to fully support the federal Home Investment Partnership Program (the "HOME Program").

Transportation: We are facing exponential growth in East WilCo and County Commissioners are the supervisors of the public road. Road maintenance is not glamorous but county government is charged with building, maintaining and fixing our roads and bridges. We must increase the maintenance budget to improve and maintain our county roads and we must respond to constituents about potholes and road safety issues.

Healthcare: County Commissioners through the County Health Department are responsible for establishing, maintaining, and funding services that support mental and public health of the community. I have experience working in Mental and Public Health. I believe in public health. They are there to protect us. In order to promote a healthy community, our public health system needs to be supported and funded.

Campaign Website: <https://VoteOrta.com>

LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Impartiality: Explain why you would make a fair and impartial Justice of the Peace.

Services: How will you improve the services of the Justice of the Peace?

Equal Access: How would you ensure that all individuals who appear before your court receive equal access to justice?

Evictions: How would you ensure landlords and tenants understand their rights regarding evictions and receive information on available resources?

.....

PRECINCT 1



Russell Winston Collins (R)

Qualifications: I have a scientific and business education, combined with over 40 years experience as a businessman and entrepreneur. I have been married to my true love for 37 years, and we have raised 4 children.

Impartiality: We attend church regularly and I try to live a Christian life. While I probably carry the usual baggage of opinions and some prejudgement, I promise to always approach the facts of a case with open eyes and an open mind. It's important to be a good listener and appropriate in one's comportment I promise not to dishonor the Court with shoddy or tardy attendance to death duties, or others.

Services: As the current Pct. 1 Court is hearing and clearing less cases than any other in the county, I will open the court more and work harder to get the caseload of the Precinct 1 court up to a proper level of efficiency and verdicts. The "people's court" deserves the full attention of the Judge, rather than the current somnambulant and lethargic status quo. Why are our Republican-run courts leading?

Equal Access: In this first level of our judicial system, all must be heard! I have read the Texas Constitution and that of the United States, and all will receive the justice they deserve and should expect. Justice delayed is Justice denied! Those who call upon the justice court for redress of grievances shall be heard. Citizens of our Precinct should not settle for the "get by" when they can have the "good" [...]

Evictions: There are few things as serious as an eviction proceeding. At the same time, it is also vitally important to assure that binding and legal contracts are enforced. In addition to online resources already in place, I suggest to offer seminars in-house to cover the requisite information to assure proper compliance by landlords and tenants, along with a simplified "one sheet" lease contract form.

Campaign Website: <https://www.russcollinsforjustice.com>



KT Musselman (D)

Qualifications: I currently serve as Justice of the Peace, running an office that is accessible, transparent, and fair. I am committed to continuing to modernize the court and increase access to justice for all.

Impartiality: My record here is clear. Justice must be accessible and fair. While this position is elected, I do not bring partisanship into the courtroom. A far more valuable tool is to learn to listen carefully and completely in order to arrive at fair and impartial judgements.

Services: We need to ensure our courts are accessible, equitable, and innovative. In my first term we made the office paperless, integrated virtual hearings, and hired additional Spanish language staff. We also cross trained all clerks in civil and criminal matters to ensure services available during the pandemic. In my second term, I want to work towards implementing online dispute resolution.

Equal Access: For many people a justice court may be the only interaction they have with the legal system. We should support pro se litigants—folks who are representing themselves—in understanding the law and how to protect themselves. We need to adopt trauma-informed practices and work to break the school to prison pipeline as well as ensure indigent fees are waived when allowed by law.

Evictions: Many landlords and especially tenants do not understand their rights and obligations, especially when there are issues with repairs, which often leads to unintentional lease violations. We should provide information in court and online in plain language. We are working to clarify tenants rights to Repair and Remedy in advance of an eviction hearing through community education efforts.

Campaign Website: <http://www.ktforjp.com/>

PRECINCT 2



Angela Williams (R)

Qualifications: For the last year, I've been sitting in the JP 2 courtroom observing all the various cases filed. This has provided insight into civil and criminal cases brought before the courtroom.

Impartiality: As your next Justice of the Peace, I will uphold and administer the law with respect, compassion, and concern for all people. My duty as your Justice of the Peace will be to stand for the rights and laws that preserve justice and harmony in our community determined to be vigilant yet fair while acting in the people's best interests.

Services: I would like to see more bilingual services provided for individuals who don't speak English. Many of the truancy cases I witnessed in the courtroom were non-English speaking parents. Also, I would like to create a proactive program that brings awareness to the dangers of fentanyl. This program would be offered to those

offending juveniles who commit some type of Class C misdemeanor.

Equal Access: Having been active in my community for 34 years, I can provide a list of free resources to help individuals in need and ensure they receive equal access to justice. Also, these free resources will be listed on the JP Pct 2 website. Such as access to computers, mentor programs, food pantries, infant supplies, clothing, mental health, transportation, etc.

Evictions: To ensure landlords and tenants understand their rights regarding evictions, I would make sure the Justice of the Peace Pct 2 website is up-to-date with all the available resources and information. This would include tenant assistance, legal links, how to file an eviction, confirming a precinct, petitions, answers, and other civil documents.

Campaign Website: <https://angelawilliamsforjp2.com/>



Sara Groff (D)

Qualifications: District Director, Rep. John Bucy III. Chair, Cedar Park Planning & Zoning Commission. Prioritizing problem solving, clear communication, and making people feel heard.

Impartiality: As Chair of the Cedar Park Planning & Zoning Commission, I've demonstrated an ability to synthesize complex information, hear both sides, and work toward a decision. I also have professional experience in crisis customer service, where tensions are already high before even beginning to solve a problem. I will administer the law fairly and equally without bringing in biases or preconceived notions.

Services: First, I will modernize the office by making services available electronically and going paperless when possible. Second, I will remove barriers to the court, including eliminating certain dress codes, ensuring resources and paperwork are available in multiple languages, and offering virtual court proceedings. Third, I will perform weddings for all those eligible, which is not currently done.

Equal Access: Many people come before justice courts without a lawyer. It's critical to provide access to lawyers and legal resources for those who cannot afford them as even low level offenses and evictions can affect jobs, housing, and otherwise. Additionally, I would like to divert low-level marijuana and traffic offenses to keep people out of the criminal justice system before these matters may escalate.

Evictions: Landlord-tenant disputes can be complex, especially for those representing themselves. Communicating processes and expectations clearly and providing equitable access to legal resources that already exist within our community would ensure a level playing field and a smoother process for all litigants. I will send all information to litigants in advance of their case as well as put it online.

Campaign Website: <https://www.saraforjp.com>

LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

PRECINCT 3



Evelyn McLean (R)

Qualifications: I have 26 years of law enforcement, 20 years of real estate, a college degree and almost 4 years as the Justice of the Peace. I believe all of this experience makes me a well-rounded judge.

Impartiality: I don't believe a judge should be a political position. We are here to serve all impartially. I also strive to make sure everyone has time to speak and feel heard regardless of the outcome. On numerous occasions I've had defendants ask me if they can hug me after a hearing. I know I'm making a positive difference and will continue to seek ways to do so.

Services: I'm always striving to improve our services. We have won 3 state awards and 2 national awards for programs we provide. Our court has also applied to be a Center of Excellence which is an initiative by the Texas Judicial Council to identify, support, and highlight the excellent work done by courts across the state.

Equal Access: We've found that virtual court works best for certain hearings and we are continuing that service. We also utilize language line to ensure people understand in their native language. In addition, we offer devices to improve hearing for individuals who may need that. We even tried curbside service to make paying a fine easier and have after hours options.

Evictions: Our court puts information on both our website and in the hearing notices that are sent out. In addition, our court verbally advises (not legal advice) landlords and tenants of area resources available. Evictions are sensitive for both parties and we are mindful of that.



Renee Schalk (D)

Qualifications: My B.A. from Columbia University in NYC and major in sociology led to my work as a Family-Based Safety Services Caseworker for Texas Child Protective Services and led to my work as a public servant.

Impartiality: As Justice of the Peace (JP), I will judge cases equitably, be a committed JP without dual roles or relationships, and be diligent about recusing myself to avoid conflicts of interest. I am a reflection of the demographics of Williamson County at this time, and as such, I would bring a unique perspective to the position of Justice of the Peace.

Services: My first improvement to the services of the Justice of the Peace would be to shorten the time that a respondent is entangled in the court. Constituents should be encouraged to settle fines with a realistic agreement that will not put them in jeopardy of incurring more penalties. I would streamline the process and encourage virtual hearings when possible and offer information for other services.

Equal Access: Justice of the Peace is bound by Texas State Law; however, there is room for some discretion. I will make sure that all my constituents are treated fair and equitably. How I will measure whether my rulings are equitable and fair is by implementing an independent and transparent review system of my cases to make sure I am consistent with my rulings. I believe in transparency.

Evictions: I would provide both landlords and tenants with informational materials and online links for available resources for additional support, for information about their rights, and for resources to help navigate them through the eviction process. These resources would be available in several languages. In addition, I will assess whether either party needs an interpreter.

Campaign Website: <https://reneeforjp3.com/>

PRECINCT 4



Rhonda Redden (R)

Qualifications: 20+ years of broad range court experience, master's degree in law, Certified Public Manager, multiple certifications applicable to court and over 3600 hours of TCOLE training[.]

Impartiality: I have dedicated decades of my career to due process and procedural fairness. I will be objective and impartial in the processes of the court. I will work cooperatively, effectively, and professionally with citizens, other courts and related agencies.

Services: The court will be open to the public and will be responsive to the needs of the citizens and agencies who depend on the court services. Cases will be processed and weighed on evidence/testimony, decisions will be rendered based on established law.

Equal Access: Every case will receive due process and procedural fairness. The court will hear all sides of any issue and weigh evidence/testimony before rendering any decisions.

Evictions: Information on evictions will be available in both print and digital formats. Will include links and contact information for additional resources. Without giving legal advice, the court/staff will provide explanations on processes so citizens know what to expect and what is expected of them.

Campaign Website: <https://reddenforjp4.com/>



Stacy Hackenberg (D)

Qualifications: As an incumbent, I've received over 100 hours of training specifically covering the duties of a Justice of the Peace. I strive at all times to remain fair and impartial.

Impartiality: I pledge now to never hear a case where a family member or close friend is a party. I further pledge to hear all cases on their merits and uphold the relevant law at all

times. My politics, personal faith, and any other personal identities will not influence my judgment.

Services: I've already done so by upgrading our Court Management system to align with the rest of the county, transitioning to a paperless office, and making standing orders to assist in determining an individual's ability to pay a fine. I've begun opening late one day a week to allow easier access for filing and making payments. I will continue to look for new and innovative ways to improve the court.

Equal Access: We use live translation services as needed, and make sure to offer key documentation in both English and Spanish. I explain in clear language what rights and further actions are available and make every effort to accommodate pro se defendants.

Evictions: I hope to work with the Texas Legislature and the Texas Apartment Association to update Repair and Remedy laws as needed and to educate tenants about their rights under the law. Landlords, especially those with few properties and no TAA backing, need to understand what is necessary for a lease and the proper rules for filing.

Campaign Website: <https://www.judgestacy.com>

COUNTY CONSTABLE

PRECINCT 3—UNEXPIRED TERM

Matthew Lindemann (R)

Unopposed

IF YOU ARE A VOTER WITH A DISABILITY, YOU HAVE RIGHTS

You have the right to have reasonable accommodations under federal law.

You have the right to vote privately and independently under federal law.

You have the right to choose your assistant, if needed.

Polling places must be accessible, and one voting machine at each polling location must be accessible (including headphones for visual impairment, adjustable contrast or font, puff or switch, and wheelchair height).

Don't hesitate to ask questions about accommodations. Call ahead to your polling place to ensure they have the accommodations you need ready to go.

If you aren't receiving the support you need or you have any issues, call Disability Rights Texas at 888-796-VOTE (1-888-796-8683).

LOCAL CITY OF AUSTIN

MAYOR

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Housing: How will you improve affordability and reduce the number of people who are unhoused or experiencing housing insecurity?

Growth: What are your top concerns related to rapid growth and how do you plan to address them?

Consensus Building: What role should the mayor have in building consensus and bringing together diverse groups?

Other Issue: What other critical issue do you think is important to your community, and how will you address it?

.....

Anthony Bradshaw

No response received



Phil Campero Brual

Qualifications: I am a government major at UT spending years studying policies and government issues related to Austin as well as Texas. My work at the capitol and the attendance at city hall also keeps me up to date[.]

Housing: Rewriting the development code is only the first step. Rewriting the code will allow for more multifamily properties to be built across the city to meet the high demand. However, Austin must take advantage of its property wealth in order to drive prices down for the people of Austin. Demand keeps climbing and without government involvement, it will only continue.

Growth: The biggest concern Austin should be focusing on is public transportation. Austin needs to work towards the goal of becoming a noncar commute city. Increasing buses and Cap Metro serve as a temporary solution. Project Connect and the Expansion of I-35 are offered as permanent solutions. However, they destroy the overall culture of this town and cost more than it's worth. They must be re-evaluated.

Consensus Building: The mayor of this city needs to be the bridge between communities. Someone who has interacted with the many people of Austin and grown around them. They must also build a platform for the communities to speak for themselves rather than being represented. Representation can sometimes cause misunderstanding. If elected mayor, every Austinite and every community will be lifted up and understood.

Other Issue: Public Safety is another issue our city needs to focus on. Our officers are struggling to cover this city effectively due to the loss of staff. Task forces have been closed, forcing officers to cover too many issues without in-depth training. In summary, our officers are overworked, ex-

hausted, and spread thin. As a result, everyone in this city suffers. We need to help APD improve for all.

Campaign Website: <https://www.PhilforAustin.com>



Celia Israel

Qualifications: TX State Rep. HD-50, experienced local leader, UT grad, LGBTQ Latina. Child of working-class parents, I know firsthand how Austin's affordability challenges affect our families, workers, and students.

Housing: We are experiencing a housing supply crisis - housing of all types and sizes. The City can creatively utilize city-owned land that currently sits vacant and collaborate with regional partners to build deeply affordable housing and workforce housing. We must have greater rental assistance and home repair support to prevent displacement, and speed up city processes for all housing options.

Growth: Austin has a history of "if we don't build it, they won't come." We have delayed those infrastructure upgrades, whether it's water supply, housing, or transportation. We must work urgently to expand housing options for working and middle-class families so everyone who works in Austin can afford to live here. We must also provide meaningful access to transportation options as our region grows.

Consensus Building: Throughout my professional career, including my time in the legislature, I have brought people together and found creative solutions. The mayor plays a vital role in supporting culture and community, and as an LGBTQ Latina, I also understand the importance of creating space for people with different backgrounds to actively participate in their government as we find these solutions.

Other Issue: We are one of only a few major American cities that lost diversity after the last census. I'll fight to ensure everyone who works to build and support Austin has a place to call home by expanding housing that is affordable, improving public transit, ensuring access to quality child care, increasing wages, and strengthening healthcare, including standing up for abortion access.

Campaign Website: <https://celiaforaustin.com>



Gary S. Spellman

Qualifications: 25 years of problem solving ; leadership and community building , honesty integrity and transparency[.]

Housing: By working and listening to the whole council. Then creating the best plan based on our ideas[.]

Growth: We need to slow this down . We must focus on our infrastructure. My top concerns with rapid growth , safety ,education and housing[.]

Consensus Building: We are 10/1 split .. the only role the mayor can play is to listen to all the ideas and get the the

whole council to come together . That's why I feel austin is need of the purple party[.]

Other Issue: The relationship between our peace officers and city council[.]

Campaign Website: <https://Spellmanformayor.org>



Jennifer Virden

Qualifications: Lifelong Austinite, UT Austin grad, 40 yrs. bus. exp., RE broker/ builder w/excellent project mgmt. skills working w/diverse teams toward common goal. On-time & on-budget. Parliamentary Procedure exp.

Housing: I'm the only mayoral candidate who has detailed positions & common-sense solutions regarding housing/ LDC/permitting & solving homelessness; who has over a decade of experience w/an Austin low-income housing development; and who actually has a plan to cut property taxes to help renters, seniors, & businesses, & to help Austinites become home buyers. See position papers @ www.JenniferForAustin.com.

Growth: My biggest concern w/rapid growth is the reactivity/obvious lack of proactivity by the City of Austin regarding construction & maintenance of basic infrastructure & core services like pipes, parks, potholes & police. We must do the basics well. Mayor & council must focus on core services - w/an eye to the future of Austin for next generations. I'll bring proactive leadership to the mayor's office.

Consensus Building: Consensus building is important - at which I'm an expert w/diverse groups. More importantly, though, something a mayor must do well is lead or push back when the consensus would be to do something that harms our city. For example, I would have lead over building consensus regarding repeal of the homeless camping ban & the effort to defund the police.

Other Issue: Public safety/reducing crime. 9-1-1 response times must improve. I'm the most vocal mayoral candidate regarding Austinites' call to reduce crime - and to solve our police staffing crisis, which has increased response times, eliminated important units, & which has led to many of our best, most senior officers leaving APD. Please see my Public Safety position paper @ www.JenniferForAustin.com.

Campaign Website: <https://www.JenniferForAustin.com>



Kirk Watson

Qualifications: I am an attorney, former Austin mayor, and former state senator. During that time, I have earned a reputation for bringing people together to get positive, progressive things done for Austin.

Housing: My top priority will be to reduce the cost of housing. I've proposed many approaches, including scrubbing our development review process and reducing fees, reform-

LOCAL CITY OF AUSTIN

MAYOR

Kirk Watson (continued)

ing our land development code, and building affordable housing on City-owned land. More housing options will reduce costs and help mitigate housing insecurity, while we take more direct action to help those currently unhoused.

Growth: Austin’s rapid transformation into a big city has resulted in rising housing costs, increased traffic, more crime, air and water quality problems, and growing inequity,

among other challenges. As a public servant, my approach to problem-solving has always been to listen carefully, ask good questions, offer new ideas, gather feedback, work to build consensus, and take action to get things done.

Consensus Building: Too often Austin has “all or nothing” policy debates, where someone has to win and someone else has to lose, or nothing gets done. But every policy choice does not have to be binary. Austinites are smart and can understand more than two sides of an issue. As mayor my goal would be to help our communities find new ways to come to-

gether, talk together and work to get things done that benefit us all.

Other Issue: After housing, the second-biggest monthly expense for many Austin households is childcare. When parents can’t find affordable, acceptable childcare, it can impede their career growth. As mayor I’ll launch a new Task Force to fully explore options – potentially including a dedicated tax rate election – to remake Austin into the best place in America to raise kids.

Campaign Website: <https://www.kirkwatson.com>

CITY COUNCILMEMBER

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Housing: How will you improve affordability and reduce the number of people who are unhoused or experiencing housing insecurity?

Public Health: What additional steps can the city council take to address drug overdoses and improve mental health services?

Growth: What specific actions related to city infrastructure (such as roads, utilities, etc.) would you introduce to the city council to effectively manage growth and improve traffic safety?

Other Issue: What other critical issue do you think is important to your community, and how will you address it?

.....

tions and increased economic opportunities to lower income neighborhoods, together we can raise the standard of living for all Austinites while ensuring that the most marginalized members of our community are not left behind.

Growth: I will continue to champion Equitable Transit-Oriented Development (ETOD.) By placing dense new growth in close proximity to city transportation, we leave a smaller carbon footprint, reduce road traffic, lower Austinites cost of transportation, and increase the return of our city’s transportation infrastructure investment. ETOD is the right approach for the city, the people, and our environment.

Other Issue: Our antiquated and obsolete land development code is rooted in exclusionary policies that no longer serve in the city’s best interest. We must make sensible and pragmatic changes that responsibly and equitably guide the growth and development of our city. I have taken a first step by proposing an in depth analysis of our code to identify unnecessary roadblocks that hinder our growth potential.

Campaign Website: <https://www.natashaforaustin.com>

& proactively reach out to those groups. Monitor programs for effectiveness & sanction when ineffective; Evaluate budget to determine if it meets community needs & allocate accordingly.

Growth: Request study of District 1 arterial roads that are dangerous to traverse. Eliminate the execution of plans based on outdated studies & implement new plans that reflect growth. Make adjustments for pedestrians, cyclists & drivers. Study impact of new projects on flooding by surveying nearby residents & measuring the runoff during downpours to determine changes to protect homes, businesses & parks.

Other Issue: Improve relationship between the City of Austin and AISD as it relates to (1) developing & implementing improved education standards and improve teacher retention (2) repurposing old schools into affordable housing for teachers and/or other community use. Re-establish open door policy between City of Austin & District 1 residents so the community’s concerns are addressed directly & consistently.

Campaign Website: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100084942067854>

DISTRICT 1



Natasha Harper-Madison

Qualifications: I’m a lifetime Austinite, mother, cancer survivor, and the second black woman to serve as Austin Mayor Pro-Tem. I remain a fierce advocate for equitable housing development and economic opportunity.

Housing: We must make a concerted effort to responsibly and equitably increase the amount of both our market-rate and affordable housing supply. Growth should be placed in close proximity to city transportation and we must work on equitable and transit-oriented growth development. Increased workforce development programs are also needed to bring forth more economic opportunity to those seeking better jobs.

Public Health: As policymakers we must focus on addressing the underlying root causes of drug addiction and mental health issues. By starting with more affordable housing op-



Melonie House-Dixon

Qualifications: Fueled by compassion for others, I work as a Crimes Victim Services Volunteer, neighborhood association president, East MLK Contact Co-Chair & President of Bethany Cemetery historical preservation.

Housing: Endorse programs incentivizing affordable units; target lower MFI; implement income sliding scale for households \$55,000 or less; For unhoused & housing insecurity, examine current protocols, evaluate city transportation and collaborate with nonprofits for vocational training, food pantries, childcare services & medical & mental health services to develop a working infrastructure.

Public Health: Recognize the paradigm. Recommend regular open dialogue with law enforcement & medical community to invoke understanding; Recognize scope of behaviors & develop an effective response. Identify high risk groups



Misael D. Ramos

Qualifications: As a Business Analyst Leader at Indeed, I manage a team of BAs, work with various leaders to identify problems and drive solutions. I’m also President of the Blackland Community Development Corp.

Housing: At Blackland CDC, I help create affordable housing by identifying plots of land we owned or could purchase and partnered with developers to maximize the amount of units we could build. Affordable to me means, 60% AMI and below so not only would I create housing for folks to rent and in some instances purchase, but I would also increase transitional housing on major corridors for the unhoused[.]

LOCAL CITY OF AUSTIN

DISTRICT 1

Misael D. Ramos (continued)

Public Health: I believe that stable housing is at the center of any community's solutions across issues. I would create more housing for our unhoused and emulate the approach Houston has taken. Their model is built on the idea "People can't address their issues if they're on the street" and it's proven effective. Housing units for the unhoused should also be built close to facilities that are able to help them.

Growth: In high accident areas, additional roundabouts could be added to make areas safer while allowing traffic to flow. I'd partner with CapMetro on making public transport more accessible, rapid, and effective too. We have more rapid busses now but it still takes awhile to get from point A to B. I'd work with the community to understand which stops are vital and create bus routes that shorten ride time[.]

Other Issue: Displacement is a major issue and our city often forgets there are black and brown people still in East Austin, specifically D1. We need to look into ways to help those that are here while breaking the low income cycle. We can do this via Universal Basic Income, community land trust for affordable housing rentals and ownership, and working with the state to implement income based tax assessments.

Campaign Website: <https://www.misaelramos.com>



Clinton Rarey

Qualifications: I'm a 4th generation Army veteran who grew up in a household of public service. Sitting in meetings w/ my mother who sat on the boards of Parks & Rec, Planning Commission &

Board of Education.

Housing: Providing guaranteed housing does not solve the problem as we've seen these programs fail in CA, OR, and WA. Moving to a treatment + temporary shelter approach so we can identify the specific needs of each individual in order for them to become self sustainable and not dependent on the government should be the top priority. Unless the cities goal is to create a dependent class of individuals.

Public Health: Fentanyl is a major problem in America right now. We are seeing overdoses in the homeless populations & in our schools. 3 CISD students died in the last month from fentanyl overdose. We need to shutdown our open drug market & go after drug dealers and not the victims they sell to. Combined with Central Health to provide mental health services to those who maybe depressed or self medicating.

Growth: Currently Austin leaks 6.5 billion gallons of water each year. The last decade we've lost enough water to fill lake Travis 1.5 times. Compounded with boil water notices nearly every year we need to prioritize our water infrastructure so it can sustain future growth of a potential population that will surpass 3 million possibly by 2040 to maintain safe drinking water for the city.

Other Issue: Austin's Climate Equity Plan is a utopian fallacy that will lead to power shortages as we're currently seeing in CA. While we ignore the environmental damage currently happening in our greenbelts and water ways. I will focus on real core issues that face Austinites. c02 makes up 0.0425% of the earth's atmosphere where humans are only responsible for 35% of that.

Campaign Website: <https://www.clintonrarey.com>

DISTRICT 3



José Noé Elías

Qualifications: I am a teacher and serve on the Austin CDC, Project Connect CAC, Montopolis CDC, Burditt Prairie Preservation Association, Ecology Action, Education Austin, and Montopolis Neighborhood Association.

Housing: We need to focus on building, preserving and acquiring truly affordable housing and permanent supportive housing in order to help the unhoused and to prevent those experiencing housing insecurity from becoming unhoused. Data shows that we need more affordable units available to families making less than 50% MFI, who include teachers, cafeteria workers, and service employees.

Public Health: The city can take money from harmful initiatives, like license plate readers, and invest it on programs to reduce overdoses and increase the amount of mental health workers. We should provide medical advice, referrals to drug treatment, medical treatment and other support services. These initiatives would save the city money by reducing the need for emergency medical services.

Growth: We need to improve and build more sidewalks, pedestrian pathways, crosswalks and traffic signals to allow people to move around their community safely. We must also improve our public transportation system by building or remodeling every bus stop to include a shelter, and reducing transit prices. These changes will encourage transit ridership and help reduce traffic.

Other Issue: In district 3, many long-standing residents live in older and substandard homes that are both unsafe and emit more carbon. We can fight climate change and help them stay in their homes by expanding and coordinating existing programs that rehab and weatherize homes. Preserving these homes would help fight the affordability crisis and help us take a step toward climate justice.

Campaign Website: <https://www.josenoeeliasd3.com>



Gavino Fernandez Jr.

Qualifications: Commissioner Marcos de Leon, Chief of staff 1991-2004, Governance experience. 50 years of neighborhood advocacy. lifetime Dist 3 resident. English/Spanish. Effective communicator. Savvy[.]

Housing: Secure Federal, State, and County funding to increase housing stock at an affordable and accessible cost. Passage of \$350 mil housing bond. Unhoused families housing. Collaboration with the unhoused committee, Urban League, United Way Community, and Resilience Trust Atx nonprofit's to deliver resources to the unhoused as job referrals, access to Mental health, Transportation and Food. Respect[.]

Public Health: Education of prevention resources available to assist our community mitigate drug use. Thru an extensive media outreach, City of Austin Chanel 6, to surrounding Colleges and University and High School students. Increase bed capacity for mental illness. Reduce bureaucracy in accessing services. Secure Federal, State, and County Funds to further increase Mental Health services. Therapy help[.]

Growth: As we develop new communities they need to include in the design spacious safe roads and bike lanes, sidewalks, underground buried utilities, Traffic Signal Synchronization, speed limit reductions in neighborhoods to embrace neighbors, walking, jogging, walking the dog. Density construction should be developed spread out, better control of traffic flow, infrastructure capacity. Safe[.]

Other Issue: Gentrification, displacement, unhoused, Jobs, closing of our Schools, increase in property taxes, no access to additional capitol to meet increases. Working in collaboration with all Taxing jurisdictions in District 3 and the private sector in providing Financial assistance thru grants, partnerships to help mitigate impact of gentrification to long time homeowners Seniors and Veterans. Together[.]



Daniela Silva

Qualifications: I am a working-class renter and daughter of an immigrant who pursued a graduate degree and career in public service. I am compassionate, empathetic, and driven to create positive

change in the world.

Housing: I will take pragmatic, research-driven, and compassionate action to both prevent and treat the housing crisis in our city. I will work with the VA and local clinics to ensure at-risk communities are supported, and will promote the creation of affordable housing on existing public properties. Through zoning and permitting reform and an equitable tax code, I will employ a "housing first" policy.

Public Health: I believe addiction is a mental health rather than legal issue. I will advocate for greater support of prevention and harm reduction services, including the expansion of free Narcan fridges across the city, as well as more funding for housing, recovery centers, and wrap-around services. Finally, I would like to work with the healthcare community to build a hospital in D3.

Growth: As a pragmatic environmentalist, I support I-35 initiatives that expand green space and create a more connected community for all Austinites. I will prioritize fixing deteriorating roads, weatherizing homes and buildings to

LOCAL CITY OF AUSTIN

DISTRICT 3

Daniela Silva (continued)

protect them against increasingly drastic weather crises, expanding equitability in solar and water conservation programs to save people money on their utilities.

Other Issue: Another issue raised to me by many residents I have spoken with is access to healthy, affordable, and culturally-relevant food. I will work with local partners to incentivize and support neighborhood grocery stores, food forests, community gardens, the expansion of the Double Up Food Bucks program, and strengthening our local food system throughout the district and Austin as a whole.

Campaign Website: <https://www.danielaforaustin.com>



José Velásquez

Qualifications: Being an active member & advocate of my community. I bring the lived experience of a 4th generation Austinite and have lived the tale of two cities. I have put in the work to bridge new & old Austin.

Housing: My Affordable Austin plan calls for investments in Full Day Pre-k, increasing access to broadband, encouraging remote work, & a Holistic Approach to our Housing Crisis. Friends that are advocates insist that the best way to ensure unhoused neighbors get the resources & housing they need is by ensuring that subject matter experts, those with lived experience, are at the table. I'll ensure that.

Public Health: I have long been an advocate for mental health and expanding mental health services. I lost a brother to gun violence, so I know firsthand the impact untreated trauma can have on an individual. One of the ways we'll address this issue is by ensuring we draw more attention to it and help to end the stigma. We'll also work to bring the Trauma Recovery Centers online and that they are fully funded.

Growth: Encourage more pedestrian and cycling traffic by ensuring safer streets, bike lanes, green space, walking trails and equitable access to public transportation. While not all residents are have the privilege of going without cars, the more transit, cycling or pedestrian traffic we can offer, the safer our streets will be.

Other Issue: Displacement. We'll address this by building broader coalitions, that truly represent the lived experiences of native Austinites and newcomers alike. Affordability can no longer be feckless campaign jargon.

Campaign Website: <https://velasquezforatx.com>



Yvonne Weldon

Qualifications: Recently earned a Paralegal Certificate from UT and have a BBA in Accounting. Formerly a purchaser with the Texas Attorney General. My main goal will be to promote fiscal accountability/ transparency.

Housing: "Housing will never solve homelessness, but community will," Alan Graham is fond of saying. We must 1) re-examine and modify all city-imposed fees and regulations, 2) change the Land Development Code, 3) create a hub for various alternative housing choices. Alternatives include communities with onsite services and programs that encourage breaking cycles of dependency and building accountability.

Public Health: Discourage drug use and implement zero tolerance programs where appropriate. Recovery and rehabilitation programs should be incentivized to expand. Ensure mental health services are implemented, prioritized, and embedded in all aspects and components in city services to ensure the well-being and safety of the employees and residents of Austin. Study other cities to determine best/worst practices.

Growth: Boil water mandates and power outages have become too common. Operations and oversight at Austin Energy and Water utilities must be improved, incentivized, and prioritized to ensure Austin maintains consistent water and electricity. Reinvest revenue from Austin Energy/Water to improve their infrastructure or reduce utility fees. Learn from successful companies and co-ops.

Other Issue: The shortage of staffing of police and 9-1-1 call center workers are exacerbating the crime rate and traffic accidents/deaths in Austin. We must prioritize efforts to ensure the Austin Police Department and the 9-1-1 call center is fully staffed and specialty units are restored. Constituents in District 3, and all over Austin, should not be put on hold when their lives and property on the line.

Campaign Website: <https://yvonneforaustin.com>



Esala Wueschner

Qualifications: I am a legal U.S. immigrant that grew up in mud homes in Sri Lanka. Growing up poor in Alabama while learning English, as well as my USAF military experience, has given me an understanding of the Amer[.]

Housing: Austinites that've lived at their property for at least 5-10 years will pay tax rates of 5+ years prior depending on 1st or 2nd generation status. For the homeless, I would allocate self-sustaining land with access to water and public transportation at a designated location. For people on parole, I would offer a shorter parole time based on their efforts to maintain cleanliness throughout the city.

Public Health: Educate our youth on the side effects of SSRI's and Amphetamines that cause mental issues. Create yoga/meditation courses in schools. Reduce the areas of people that are begging for money that incentivize more homeless migrations. Create a program that will help reduce drug dependence as well as volunteering programs to clean up the rivers that will feed them based on hours of participation.

Growth: I would create a train system that encompasses a 15-mile radius from the Austin capital with a stopping point at the intercardinal directions from the center of the radius.

Other Issue: I would fix the green algae in the rivers that has been growing exponentially over the past years excessively. Additionally, I would reduce how many campaign donations the local political candidates are receiving from the Non-Texas residents. Moreover, economic expansion must not come at the expense of local businesses and long-time Austin homeowners, since I prioritize the reduction of their taxes[.]

DISTRICT 5



Ryan Alter

Qualifications: I am a native Austinite, engineer, and attorney who has spent my career in public service with Sen. Watson and Hinojosa fighting for progressive policies that improve the lives of

everyone in Austin.

Housing: We need to take bold action to create housing for everyone, everywhere. This means more allowable housing types, more transit-oriented development, and streamlining the permitting process to make it easier and cheaper to build. We also need more robust solutions to helping our unhoused neighbors that provide necessary services to the thousands who need it in a more efficient and effective manner.

Public Health: We can lead in coordinating with local partners to provide services to those in need including (1) working with local criminal justice agencies to divert those suffering from mental health or addiction issues away from our jails to receive treatment instead; (2) connecting the unhoused with mental health/substance use treatment; and (3) supporting our schools to reach kids when/where they need it.

Growth: The most effective way to manage growth and improve traffic is to allow for more housing to be built across the city so that we are reducing environmentally hazardous sprawl and reducing the time/distance someone needs to travel to get to school/work. If we build on our existing infrastructure network, developers will actually foot a large portion of the bill in upgrading our infrastructure needs.

Other Issue: Austinites want better results from their council. Whether it's housing affordability, homelessness, transportation, the environment, or function of our city government, we need a council that will plan for our future to ensure our best days lie ahead. I have the experience necessary to both craft effective policies and achieve results that make Austin a place where everyone can live and thrive.

Campaign Website: <https://www.RyanforATX.com>

LOCAL CITY OF AUSTIN

DISTRICT 5 (continued)



Brian Anderson II

Qualifications: I'm a progressive pragmatist who's worked for 10+ years in Congress, the International Monetary Fund, retail coffee, and consulting. I'd be honored to work for you to see equity and justice in Austin.

Housing: We need more affordable housing and commercial development. But we also need every tool at our disposal to assist victims of recessions/depressions caused by banks, wars, and pandemics. Research on recessions shows people unemployed during a downturn struggle to reenter the labor force and fall into a "poverty trap." We need to treat both the symptom (homelessness) and the illness (poverty).

Public Health: My focus here is on the long-term financing for the initiatives currently funded by the opioid settlement. Putting those funds in an endowment ensures permanent funding with greater effect well into the future. This will keep the budget ahead of not only inflation but increases in service demand, as is bound to happen in a city that grows 85 percent in 20 years, with no sign of slowing down.

Growth: I've lived without a car for 10+ years and used transit everywhere: Hong Kong, DC, London, and Austin! Between now and Project Connect we need a DC-"Circulator" type bus system, with bus line transfers at singular stops and connections to primary destinations: Domain, Austin-FC, UT, the Capitol, downtown, East 6th, and Zilker. I would also make existing bike lanes and sidewalks protected.

Other Issue: To address inequality, we need to think in decades instead of years. I'd establish: 1) a city-managed insurance fund for worker sick leave/disability, 2) a match program for workers' retirement, and 3) a people's endowment to finance the city's future social services. Combined, in the long run, these policies would decrease demand for services, increase service capacity, and reduce the tax burden.

Campaign Website: <https://www.andersonforaustin.com/>



Stephanie Bazan

Qualifications: A proven leader who's worked in education, healthcare, law and homeless services. I led the HIF charge to fund the millionth \$ of impact to support Pre-k, equitable healthcare & workforce development.

Housing: Homes - both Affordable and market-rate for renters and buyers. Support climate friendly urban infill projects and equitable transit-oriented development for working people. Help seniors stay in the city by revising policy on ADU's. Increase the pace of units for the unhoused and vulnerable and also look to best practices and the Housing First model for people experiencing homelessness.

Public Health: Preventative measures are key. The City has programs which can be amplified and expanded to provide access to care and screen the most at risk residents to get people treatment before our EMS/Fire is called to respond to many of these types of calls. Invest in programs that train behavioral health providers and other health workers. Communicate the new mental health crisis service hotline - 988.

Growth: Charge city staff to conduct a study of our aging water & electricity infrastructure so we can be more proactive concerning these critical utilities - many of which are set to fail if not failing already. For traffic safety, I would support Vision Zero policies and encourage implementing more speed display devices and expanding the Shared Streets program, which uses traffic calming treatments.

Other Issue: I will continue to advocate for equitable health care and reproductive rights, and work to end period poverty. There is no greater champion standing up for these issues in the District 5 race. I show up and I'll continue to fight.

Campaign Website: <https://www.stephaniebazan.com>



Ken Craig

Qualifications: I offer the expertise to achieve results from 7+ years as Sr. Policy Advisor for DS and decades as a small business manager & community leader; endorsed by firefighters, labor, and

Democratic leaders.

Housing: Preserving existing affordable housing; denser housing, commercial and recreational space on transit corridors will help affordability. Expanded ownership/rental support and home repair programs reduce housing insecurity. To reduce homelessness, expand HEAL and strengthen cooperation among the city, county, non-profits and private philanthropy to coordinate and expand solutions (Finding Home ATX).

Public Health: First, fully implement the entire Austin-CARES program which diverts mental health crises from law enforcement to health care responses, but would also connect patients to continuing care, breaking the crisis cycle. The overdose crisis can be addressed by collaboration with Travis County and harm reduction organizations to make Narcan and safe supplies more available as part of a whole care model.

Growth: Sustainability is key in managing infrastructure. I will address water supply leaks and expand water re-use and reclamation. Addressing traffic, I will ensure the street impact fee is effectively used; transportation infrastructure meshes efficiently with transit, including safe multi-modal access; conduct regular speed limit reviews; fully implement VisionZero and Project Connect transit plan.

Other Issue: Transparency and inclusivity are necessary for true representative self-government. I will pursue robust legislative tracking available to council and the public to track

the progress of council actions from agenda to implementation. I will also pursue real community engagement which demonstrates that community input is not merely sought, but valued in policy development and implementation.

Campaign Website: <https://www.kencraigforcouncil.com>



Aaron Velazquez Webman

Qualifications: Immigration law, film and music, and setting up businesses gives me unique insight into peoples' needs, and has led to eclectic experiences and diverse relationships that would be unique in City Hall.

Housing: These are two separate issues. For Austin's homeless, we must institute pay-for-performance contracts, reform mental health admission criteria, and affordable shelter and service alternatives. To tackle affordability, we must study upzoning without rapidly changing Austin's character, further tax exemptions, and which affordable housing initiatives have been successful in the past.

Public Health: We must reduce the number of people who are living on the street and make sure they have access to basic shelter and programs with proper incentive structures. Some people require ongoing care, but others can be healthily reintegrated into society. We must stop imitating San Francisco and Los Angeles's approach because they are counterproductive and making life more dangerous for everyone.

Growth: Although Austin's transportation infrastructure needs major improvements, a thoughtless bias towards action will lead to even more problems in the long run. I understand the desire for people to want solutions like Project Connect to work, but it's badly thought out and would ultimately serve an insignificant percentage of the population while increasing congestion and taxes. We can do better.

Other Issue: District 5 is as diverse as the entire city of Austin. It spans from Barton Springs to Onion Creek. Some areas are focused on the homeless population near schools and homes, others are worried about crime and public safety. The only issue that is unifying everyone is outrageously high property taxes. City council should focus on the city as a whole while listening closely to its constituents.

Campaign Website: <https://www.aaronwebman.com>



Bill Welch

Qualifications: Retired USAF General officer, businessman, and entrepreneur. Experienced, pragmatic, solution oriented. Running for Austin City Council to restore common sense reasoning to our municipal government.

Housing: Don't raise taxes and fees to maximum allowable percentage. Freeze taxes for age 65 and over, the handicapped, low-income homeowners. Lift zoning and impervious coverage limitations along primary transit corridors. Reduce bur-

LOCAL CITY OF AUSTIN

DISTRICT 5

Bill Welch (continued)

densome and unnecessary rules, fees, and costs associated with new construction and remodels. Speed up the inspection process. More availability produces more affordability.

Public Health: Mental health issues, drug and alcohol abuse are key contributors to homelessness and rising crime. Don't fund the lifestyle instead fund the solution. Plans to provide locations to "safely" engage in these abuses are ridiculous. Public safety is the fundamental priority of municipal government. Council should direct budget funding priority to solving these issues. Compassionate enforcement!

Growth: Build and improve roads, grade separate bikes and scooters. Finish Southern portion of SH45. Move existing Missouri Pacific rail line from District 5 to East of the Airport and repurpose to light rail serving communities South. Replace outdated water lines to reduce leakage of precious drinking water. Establish long range plan for ample clean water and electricity. Hold departments accountable.

Other Issue: I pledge to do all I can to provide you: -A safer Community. -Better transportation options with better roads. -Cleaner and more plentiful water and electricity. -Affordable options for housing and business startups. I will work to: Enforce the Camping Ban! Make Austin Safe Again! Reduce Our Tax Burden! Make Austin Affordable Again! Keep Austin Weird! Save Live Music!

Campaign Website: <https://billwelch.org>

DISTRICT 8



Paige Ellis

Qualifications: I was elected to Austin City Council in 2018, and my priorities are: affordability, environmental protection, road safety, park improvements, and improving emergency service response time.

Housing: Housed population: I co-sponsored the effort to double the Homestead Exemption to 20% and increased the Seniors/Disabilities Exemption to \$113,000. Unhoused population: I expanded the city's Workforce First program and the Clean Creeks Crew offering paid work as an alternative to panhandling, support the purchase of hotels in business districts, and The Other Ones Foundation and Community First.

Public Health: Mental Health: We must continue the Mental Health option for those who call 911, increase support for Integral Care (our local partner for mental health response), and advocate for the expansion of healthcare by the State of Texas. Drug Overdoses: Drug overdoses are a public health crisis, and I am working with a colleague on other measures the city can take to protect individuals from overdose.

Growth: Roads: Austin's roads were designed for fewer vehicles than we have now. To address this, I've voted to reduce speeds on neighborhood streets, add speed bumps,

crosswalks with hybrid beacons, and protected bike lanes. Utilities: I called the special council meeting to address Austin Water's boil water notices, increased funding for more staff at treatment plants, and upgraded old facilities.

Other Issue: I am passionate about environmental responsibility on housing and road projects. I believe that Austin can be a leader in gun safety, and I authored the city's policy on free gun locks. And I am pro-choice and I co-sponsored the city's GRACE Act which directs police to deprioritize state laws on abortion.

Campaign Website: <https://www.paigeforaustin.org>



Kimberly P. Hawkins

Qualifications: I am an experienced manager with team building and financial skills. I am also focused and passionate about voting rights activism. My experience as a mother also sets me apart.

Housing: I would play an active role in supporting the HEAL team to help find shelters for unhoused citizens. I want Austin to purchase at least one hotel/building in SW Austin for this purpose. I would also propose a grant program to help at-risk persons to avoid eviction. I would also like to see a similar facility to the Community First Village in south central Austin.

Public Health: I want the city to support clean needle programs, which are proven to provide benefits not just for a person addicted to drugs, but also for the public at large as it is a proven way to encourage drug users into medical programs. This should also include more investment in social workers and programs. I would like to see a program to help people train as social workers.

Growth: I will propose an initiative I call "More Routes, More Buses." I would like to see the large-scale buses replaced by the smaller electric 15-passenger vans that run every 15 to 20 minutes. I believe the key to getting people to use the bus system is reducing trip ETAs. I also think that some sections of the city should be closed off to cars allowing only buses, bikes and scooters in these areas.

Other Issue: I believe that most of the city's chronic issues boil down to a lack of investment in mental health care. I would like to see community social programs that promote health care and talk therapy for everyone. I believe this would alleviate homelessness, crime, and even affordability and foster a stronger sense of community.



Antonio D. Ross

Qualifications: I am a resident of Austin, A taxpayer, and a father that is very active in my community. I have studies in early childhood education, and a military background. (US Army).

Housing: Navigating through the rising cost of housing has been difficult but can be achieved. My focus on this issue is to propose rezoning, and expansion of where land can be de-

veloped. Also partnering with land developers to bridge the pricing gap that exists between the wealthy and the working class. Doing so without compromising quality, or equity.

Public Health: Putting efficient and effective systems in place. for example: placing more licensed mental healthcare workers in places like public schools, law enforcement agencies, and making them more accessible with a hands-on approach, and also providing the budget to do so.

Growth: I will Assess all related infrastructure issues: freeways, roads, etc. and accordingly propose any necessary and effective improvements that need to be put in place. traffic movement, and safety will be my main focus on this issue

Other Issue: The safety of our schools and students has always been very important to me. Even more so now with crime and gun violence on the rise. Proposing a safety day for all schools in AISD district, will be a focus of mine that would include not just staff and students, but Law enforcement and healthcare workers as well



Richard Smith

Qualifications: I am a patent attorney, former judge and grandfather. I am on Austin's Board of Adjustment and have worked with Mobile Loaves & Fishes for five years. I am a problem solver and work well with others.

Housing: I would reduce property taxes and permitting and development fees. I would also require all multifamily developments to include a percentage of units to be set aside for those at or below 40% MFI. I would focus homelessness efforts on recovery and underlying causes of homelessness, such as trauma or addiction, not simply a lack of housing. I would also focus on more private sector involvement.

Public Health: Additional steps include a focus on rehabilitation of those with drug dependencies (not just harm reduction) and a closer working relationship between APD and the State to target dealers and traffickers. APD's narcotics unit should also be fully staffed. Mental health services can be improved by increasing funding for drug addiction and trauma recovery, particularly for the homeless.

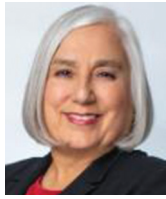
Growth: Managing growth first requires proactively taking care of the infrastructure we already have, including fixing roads, sidewalks, and utility deficiencies. I would oppose developments that do not comply with Austin's environmental protections. Traffic safety is improved primarily by speed reduction. I would include APD traffic enforcement as part of Austin's speed reduction efforts.

Other Issue: Public safety. The 911 call center, APD, and EMS are woefully understaffed, leading to longer response times and more crime. I would increase APD classes and focus on hiring and pay for our public safety personnel. I would focus on retention of experienced public safety personnel. I would also pursue an independent audit of Austin Water and Austin Energy.

Campaign Website: <https://www.richardsmithatx.com>

LOCAL CITY OF AUSTIN

DISTRICT 9



Linda Guerrero

Qualifications: AISD Teacher (28 years); Chair Environmental Commission; Chair, Parks Board; Co-Chair I-35 Coalition; Vice Chair Austin Downtown Comm.; Member, Bond Oversight Comm.; Member, Waterfront Overlay Comm.

Housing: Anti-displacement efforts must focus on helping Austin residents purchase housing using tools such as land trusts, building housing for purchase, and education programs to help low income residents become home buyers. Underutilized commercial space and parking lots should be assessed for housing potential. Austin should work to make income restricted housing equally available citywide.

Public Health: It is critical to fund Austin-Travis County EMS efforts to track overdose outcomes & locations to provide emergency care and divert individuals to the sobering center. Some public housing slots should be reserved for individuals released from state hospitals combined w/Integral Care. The City should partner with non-profits that are providing supportive housing (such as Community First Village).

Growth: District 9 has the oldest infrastructure in the city. Roads, sidewalks, water supply, drainage capacity, and electrical power all need to be maintained and expanded as density increases. Deferred maintenance often causes safety hazards, boil notices, power failures, and flooding – all of which ultimately increase costs. As CM, I will prioritize an improvement plan on infrastructure projects.

Other Issue: We need stronger policies across the board to deal with climate change to reduce carbon emissions, improve resiliency, and better manage and conserve our limited natural resources. As Chair of the Environmental Commission, I have a proven record working with environmentalists throughout the city, and I will continue to be a champion. My door is always open to the environmental community.

Campaign Website: <https://LindaGuerrero.net>



Ben Leffler

Qualifications: I've dedicated my life to serving Austin. I studied Public Affairs at UT, worked in the Auditor's Office and as a council aide, served on the Cherrywood NA, and advocated for many progressive causes.

Housing: We need to update the land development code to make it easier to build all housing types across Austin. We must streamline the permitting process, better incentivize affordable housing development, and partner with the private sector and other entities. We need a strategic regional plan to reduce homelessness with a housing first approach and sufficient temporary and permanent supportive housing.

Public Health: We must increase EMS funding and training for first responders, and add Narcan machines in high drug

use areas. We should invest in communities and initiate pilot programs for income assistance, community health centers, and food and medical aid. We must also build more affordable housing, and temporary and permanent supportive housing to get people off of the streets and into treatment.

Growth: We must invest in all travel modes to safely manage growth. Fixing I35 will improve traffic safety and efficiency. Implementing Project Connect and dedicating right-of-way for buses on corridors will greatly improve transit. Completing the sidewalk system and the urban trail network, and adding protected bike lanes will make it safer and easier for pedestrians and bikers to traverse the city.

Other Issue: Austin will be increasingly impacted by climate change, and we must be prepared. We need to improve water efficiency, collection, storage, and retention to offset droughts, and enhance drainage infrastructure to minimize flood damage. Extreme heat events and wildfire risks will become frequent, and we should increase incentives for planting trees and clear high-risk areas of excess wildfire fuel.

Campaign Website: <https://www.benleffler.com>



Zena Mitchell

Qualifications: I'm progressive and put people's needs first. I don't just talk, I act. I've written policies at work and in my community. I've taught students at an ECHS in AISD and will fight for equity.

Housing: Limit the number of properties a person can own. No more buy-to-flip or AirBnB. Push for growth of Foundation Communities and Communities First! villages within the city limits. Both provide on-site support & housing. Move the ARCH to the old Home Depot location @ St. Johns and I-35. Educate to end stereotypes of the homeless and encourage the public to accept homeless people as a community issue.

Public Health: Support funding the Austin Harm Reduction Coalition/Vivent Health, providing harm reduction strategies to reduce negative consequences of drug use. City health department can coordinate with AHRC to distribute fentanyl test-strips; inexpensive, easy-to-use tests which reliably detect fentanyl in recreational drugs bought on the street to prevent first-time and frequent users from deadly overdoses.

Growth: Incentivize truck traffic to toll roads in order to alleviate congestion on I-35 in Austin. Propose car-free days and weekends on SoCo and downtown and support Safe Street Austin's initiative to make the Drag car-free. Work with Capitol Metro to make public transportation a better option than private transportation. Continue the growing bike path routes and walkability.

Other Issue: City-wide Rent-to-Own Program: Give renters a chance to build equity with apartment ownership. City-wide Workers' Rights: Require companies operating within the city limits to pay workers fairly and provide safe working conditions. Improve public transportation now: Provide 3 direct airport shuttles. Actionable Ideas for Critical Times.

Campaign Website: <https://zenamitchell.com>



Kym Olson

Qualifications: MPA from LBJ School, UT. Policy work since with proven success. Received award for pro-bono policy work for homeless youth. Captain, Texas State Guard, serving as Protocol Officer, Deputy PAO.

Housing: Proper thorough research lacking. "Affordability" and at what levels determine "affordability" must be defined and standardized to correctly assess the size and scope of the problem. Knowing how and why they are coming to ATX would help us address issues prior to becoming this sad state of affairs. Without full comprehension & understanding, we will go broke buying band-aids.

Public Health: Drug Overdose and mental health services is now a full blown crisis. Austin has no community mental health services. This was discovered by many in need during COVID, not just the economically disadvantaged or the unhoused, this affects almost everyone at some level. We must have a community mental health facility and resource added to 911, 411 to assist everyone. This is very sad & dangerous.

Growth: Repairing and updating power/water facilities/plants & pipes/transmission should've been done years ago, now critical. City basic responsibilities include power and water. Miraculously the city has just worsened transportation situation. Removing car lanes while adding flowers & fancy curbs, not helpful. Plans that relocate a third of population & destruct ATX favs, a complete abomination.

Other Issue: City is filthy to the point it's hazardous to the environment. The water is toxic and kills dogs. Blue algae just now a monitor and not a fix after 2+ years? This town screeched to a halt over salamander. No-one cares about our dogs? There is trash everywhere and you still have tents around every trail, even right across from city hall. We have to clean this up. Sense of safety DT is gone.

Campaign Website: <https://KYM4ATX.com>



Zohaib "Zo" Qadri

Qualifications: I have spent my career working in city governments & as a community organizer. Austin is at a crossroads, we need a new leader who not only can craft and pass policy but also bring people together.

Housing: Our affordability crisis is only worsened by antiquated zoning restrictions that prohibit the city from building missing-middle housing, ensure units are allocated for low-income residents, and that we innovate how more abundant, affordable housing can be built. Additionally, we must invest in supportive housing & a social safety net to prevent displacement and housing insecurity at its source.

Public Health: Investing in harm reduction solutions and public health services is critical to ensuring that our city proactively engages in solutions that tackle problems at their source. Our city can fund grants to organizations providing drug education, supportive housing options, and managing

LOCAL CITY OF AUSTIN

DISTRICT 9

Zohaib “Zo” Qadri (continued)

overdose prevention centers, in addition to ensuring EMS can sufficiently staff their mental health services.

Growth: Austin is the 11th largest major city, and we continue to grow—we need to act to meet our growing transportation needs. From ensuring efficient and equitable development of bus and rail lines that ensure Austinites can access high-quality, frequent public transit – to investing in safe bus shelters and street lighting, all work towards shifting car-dependent culture and tackling traffic safety.

Other Issue: Our city must work for workers, especially those that keep it running, which requires tackling wage theft, raising wages for city employees, and ensuring every worker can organize without fear of retaliation. Additionally, as threats to our democracy continue to heighten and worsen, uniquely in Texas, our city can and must do more to expand voting rights and voter education to all eligible voters.

Campaign Website: <https://zoforaustin.com>



Greg Smith

Qualifications: VP of Business Development for a insurance firm; Organizational experience managing over 1000 employees; Confidence in my ability to lead and build consensus; Born and raised in Austin, familiar[.]

Housing: We must address the root causes, like our mental health and addiction crisis, and demand that our investments produce results. Austin also has to stop treating the developers that are actually building the housing as enemies and bring them into the process as partners.

Public Health: The city council needs to begin to rebuild a workable relationship with Texas legislators. Partnering with Texas to provide mental health and addiction facilities is a start. The state is the only agency able to provide the necessary resources for those that need more than just shelter. We must make sure our taxpayer funds are utilized responsibly and assess results.

Growth: We must continue to invest in public transportation so we can continue to manage growth and improve traffic safety. The more accessible we make Austin’s public trans-

portation system, the more likely commuters will utilize CapMetro to get to and from work and throughout our city.

Other Issue: Public safety is the top issue facing Austin. Maintaining public safety is the most important function of city government, and to make sure we stay safe we must make sure our EMS, fire, and police departments are fully staffed. The staffing shortages we have seen have resulted in slower response times and worsening crime rates. We must likewise support accountability and transparency efforts.



Joah Spearman

Qualifications: I have served as a founder & CEO of multiple ventures, vice chair of the Austin Music Commission, board chair of AIDS Services of Austin and on the board of directors for Austin PBS and ZACH Theatre.

Housing: Affordability is the #1 issue in Austin today and deserves real solutions, not just more politics. I will focus on 1) creating more policies that help seniors age in place, 2) developing workplace housing for public safety and other essential workers in our community, and 3) eradicating the environmentally- and racially-harmful policies deeply embedded in our long-outdated land development code.

Public Health: As someone with family members who’ve suffered from both substance abuse and mental health issues, I understand these issues personally. As a City Councilmember, I would work steadfastly support regional health authorities and local nonprofits such as SIMS that emphasize the most empathetic and innovative approaches to addresses these critical issues in our community, including access to housing.

Growth: Project Connect is an important investment Austin voters approved in 2020, and I would support this project to ensure its on-time completion and full community benefits to reduce reliance on cars. Water infrastructure is a key issue today and in the years ahead, and I will work closely with Austin Water, Travis County, LCRA and others to ensure Austinites have uninterrupted access to clean water.

Other Issue: We are rapidly losing our public school teachers and our local schools are experiencing dis-enrollment even as demands on our local workforce grow. It is imperative that we put forth the kind of housing and inclusion pol-

icies to ensure our communities of color, especially, are able to stay in Austin, be well educated in Austin, and our economic stability and vitality remains in tact as we grow.

Campaign Website: <https://joahforaustin.com/>



Tom Wald

Qualifications: For the last 16 years, I’ve led Austin efforts to improve our mobility, affordability, quality of life, environment, and equity. I have a record of bringing people together and getting things done.

Housing: Austin has a housing crisis. Our city needs more housing for all incomes and needs, including families, students, seniors, those with disabilities, and those currently unhoused. I will push for more housing of all types across Austin, income-restricted units, subsidized housing, and temporary shelters. We also must improve renter protections, e.g. anti-displacement & building code safety measures.

Public Health: The city should further develop its emergency response by adding resources to EMS and providing emergency trained mental health clinicians, and provide more resources for harm reduction strategies, e.g. Narcan and needle exchanges. We also need more robust walk-in psychiatric emergency services, including 24/7 service. Also, providing stable housing is essential to improve these outcomes too.

Growth: Many great projects have momentum, and I would ensure they are implemented: Project Connect transit system, sidewalks, bikeways, reclaimed water “purple” pipes, and flood controls. In addition, I would expand transit into other local cities, reduce the time any bus spends in traffic, partner with TxDOT to prioritize safety, and expand access to green space and tree canopy.

Other Issue: Protecting our environment is critical. I would prioritize action on the Austin Climate Equity Plan, both reducing carbon emissions, e.g. from transportation and by shutting down our coal plant, and increasing resiliency, e.g. more trees and green space, and disaster preparedness. I would also take action on the Water Forward Plan, including water quality, conservation, and runoff measures.

Campaign Website: <https://tomwald.com>

BOND ELECTION—PROPOSITION A

Background

A political action committee made up of local non-profits called the Affordable Housing Bond PAC lobbied the Austin City Council to approve a \$300 million bond proposal to combat Austin’s affordability crisis. A majority of the city council voted to increase the bond package to \$350 million and place it on the November ballot. The last City of Austin affordable housing bond was in 2018 when voters approved a \$250 million bond.

Ballot Language

The issuance of \$350,000,000 in tax-supported general obligation bonds and notes for planning, designing, acquiring, constructing, renovating, improving and equipping affordable housing facilities for low and moderate income persons and families, and acquiring land and interests in land and property necessary to do so, funding loans and grants for affordable housing, and funding affordable housing programs, as may be permitted by law; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.

Explanation

Proposition A, if passed, will cost \$350 million for housing priorities such as low-income rental housing and homeownership, permanent supportive housing, home repairs for low-income residents, preservation of existing affordable housing, land acquisition, and the development of affordable housing on public land.

The city estimates that if the bond passes, taxpayers with a home worth \$448,000 would pay approximately \$46.60 more in taxes per year.

LOCAL CITY OF GEORGETOWN

SPECIAL ELECTION

PROPOSITION A

Ballot Language

The reauthorization of the local sales and use tax in the City of Georgetown, Texas at the rate of one-fourth of one per-

cent to continue providing revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets.

Explanation

Georgetown voters initially approved a dedicated quarter-cent sales tax for street maintenance and repairs in 2002. State law requires that voters approve the reauthorization of the sales tax every four years. The sales tax applies to all pur-

chases made within Georgetown's city limits by residents and non-residents. The reauthorization will not increase the sales tax rate in Georgetown.

If voters cast their ballots against the reauthorization, that sales tax will expire "on the first day of the first calendar quarter occurring after the fourth anniversary of the date the tax was last reauthorized." Texas Tax Code, Section 327.07.

LOCAL CITY OF LAGO VISTA

CITY COUNCILMEMBER

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Housing: How will you improve affordability and reduce the number of people who are unhoused or experiencing housing insecurity?

Public Health: What additional steps can the city council take to address drug overdoses and improve mental health services?

Growth: What specific actions related to city infrastructure (such as roads, utilities, etc.) would you introduce to the city council to effectively manage growth and improve traffic safety?

Other Issue: What other critical issue do you think is important to your community, and how will you address it?

.....

PLACE 2

Thomas Burlew

No response received



Dave Stewart

Qualifications: I spent over 33 years working for the City's utility department and know our water and wastewater inside and out. I have a TCEQ "A" Wastewater license, and a TCEQ "B" Surface Water license.

Housing: N/A.

Public Health: The current protocols are sufficient.

Growth: No one in Lago Vista knows how the City's water and wastewater infrastructure is supposed to work, how it is put together, and what future improvements that it needs to handle the ongoing current growth better than I do. If I am elected, I will fight to restore the funding to the abandoned water distribution improvement programs and work with the current City Engineer to see them completed.

Other Issue: Nothing in the City is more important than

fixing the fire flow issues that the City currently faces. It is a matter of public safety which must be resolved.



Kevin Sullivan

Qualifications: I'm the only candidate in my race that has experience on the Lago Vista city council. I have 4.5 years in office, TML training while in office, and have served with energy, dedication, and ethics.

Housing: The main method city council members can use to help in this regard is to ensure that there is a wide variety of housing choices. With options at all price points, the threat of citizens being left unhoused is lowered. While in my first term, I fought for and voted to pass an endorsement for affordable housing in Lago Vista which expanded housing options and specifically lower priced options.

Public Health: Fortunately, Lago Vista has not experienced a huge problem with drug overdoses. Drug abuse and mental health issues have not swamped the community, and as a result, have not been on the council's radar. Issues with infrastructure and managing growth have been far more pressing in our community and have correctly taken up the bulk of our time and focus.

Growth: I'm not going to bring these to the table, I already have brought them to the table. I, along with other council members, have fought to have our focus squarely placed on growth in our community and how we manage that. We have pushed for master plans to be created for roads, water, and wastewater assets so we can guide citizen tax dollars to the correct investment in all our infrastructure.

Other Issue: Lago Vista is evolving from what was a retirement community to one that is far more diverse. Many families are moving to Lago Vista and the council will need to make sure all constituencies have their hopes and dreams for the city addressed. In support of that, the current council is pushing to update the Comprehensive Master Plan so we can hear all viewpoints prior to investing in our future.

Campaign Website: <https://www.facebook.com/KevinForPlace2>

PLACE 4



Chelaine Marion

Qualifications: I've served on city council and as liaison to 3 City committees since 2020. I'm a parent of 7 and an educator/leader of 25 years. I'm well informed about issues and bring a fresh perspective to council.

Housing: Significant increases in real estate appraisals are pricing people out of their homes. Increased rent to cover higher taxes has a significant impact on our housing/rental market. I recognize the need for and support offering housing options that appeal to a range of citizens. It is important to the economic development of our city that those who work in our community can also afford to reside here.

Public Health: Our police department statistics do not indicate that drug overdose has increased. We can ensure our police department is properly staffed and officers remain well trained in drug prevention/mental health strategies. Before we propose a program to improve those services, we must determine the extent to which they are needed. I support private groups (i.e., local churches) who try to fill the gap.

Growth: Rapid growth and additional stress on aged infrastructure is a major concern for our community. I support securing a comprehensive traffic analysis and water model and securing bonds to assist with funding major infrastructure projects such as water/wastewater expansion and street rehabilitation. I am fiscally conservative and support accomplishing the most with the least impact on our citizens.

Other Issue: Effective planning for growth by ensuring our infrastructure can support added developments is critical. Our demographics have changed, so we need to focus on maintaining and adding community amenities, such as investing in parks and other city-owned amenities and expanding our trail systems. I support offering incentives to attract new businesses to our city that will increase our sales tax base.

Campaign Website: <https://www.facebook.com/Chelaine4Lago>

LOCAL CITY OF LAGO VISTA

PLACE 4 (continued)



Shane R. Saum

Qualifications: I possess nearly a decade worth of experience working in public service in and around the Legislature including in the Texas House of Representatives, the Senate and for the Governor of Texas.

Housing: No response.

Public Health: As the greater Austin area continues to grow, public health is not an isolated issue Lago Vista needs to address alone. The State, County and our neighboring communities need continuous access to public health ser-

vices and we must work together to ensure no community is left behind. We can pool resources and ensure their is coverage across our region.

Growth: I have spent years helping local cities & counties with this in the Legislature. I would immediately strengthen Lago's relationships with the Legislature & state agencies. There has been a historic level of infrastructure funding since 2020 being funneled through the State. The squeaky wheel gets the grease & Lago Vista can help mitigate our local tax burden by seeking these funds & assistance.

Other Issue: Smart growth. Lago is growing & we need to ensure our infrastructure does not fall behind & we are adding value to our community. Having worked on the Gov-

ernor's economic development team, I know how to build strategic partnerships to help smaller communities stretch their dollars and grow their needed infrastructure. I will fight for transparency & the publics right to be heard & involved.

Campaign Website: <https://www.facebook.com/Lago4Shane/>

PLACE 6

Paul Prince

Unopposed

SPECIAL ELECTION

PROPOSITION A: Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority Continuation

Background

The Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority, known as CapMetro, is a public transportation provider based in Austin. The City of Lago Vista pays one cent of the city's sales tax to CapMetro and in return is served by a bus route that takes passengers to the Lakeline MetroRail Station and by CapMetro's on-demand pick-up services.

Ballot Language

Shall the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority be continued in the City of Lago Vista?

Explanation

If Proposition A passes, Lago Vista will continue to pay one cent of the city's sales tax to CapMetro and continue to receive the currently offered services. If the proposition fails, Cap Metro will stop providing services, and Lago Vista will need to pay an exit fee of \$6 million, but will stop paying sales tax to CapMetro. Additionally, if Proposition A fails, voters will reconsider the sales tax rate in Proposition B.

PROPOSITION B: General Revenue Sales Tax

Background

The City of Lago Vista collects a two cent sales tax for every dollar spent in the city. One cent goes to CapMetro and one

cent goes to the general fund. If Prop A fails, voters will reconsider the sales tax rate for the city.

Ballot Language

Conditional Upon a Majority "NO" Vote on Proposition A

The adoption of a local sales and use tax in the City of Lago Vista at the rate of two percent (2%).

Explanation

If Proposition B fails and Proposition A passes, the city will continue to have a 2% sales tax, but all the sales tax revenue will go to the city's general fund.

LOCAL CITY OF LAKEWAY

BOND ELECTION

PROPOSITION A

Ballot Language

The issuance of \$17,500,000 bonds by the City of Lakeway, Texas, for streets, sidewalks, pathways, bike and pedestrian system improvements. Taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds will be imposed.

Explanation

This transportation bond package authorizes the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds in a principal amount of

not more than \$17,500,000 for various transportation projects that may include, but are not limited to: right-of-way acquisition for the future widening of RM 620, traffic signalizations, culvert improvements, sidewalk construction, and road construction projects and road resurfacing work on Lakeway Boulevard, Lakeway Drive, Lohman's Crossing, Main Street, and Birrell Street.

City Staff analysis of the package indicates that this bond would increase the taxes the average homeowner in Lakeway pays by an estimated \$6.58 per month.

DONATE!

Support the *Voters Guide* production with a contribution to the League of Women Voters Austin Area, a nonpartisan nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Mail to: 3908 Avenue B, Austin, TX 78751, or make a secure donation online at LWVAustin.org.

LOCAL CITY OF MANOR

CITY COUNCILMEMBER

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Housing: How will you improve affordability and reduce the number of people who are unhoused or experiencing housing insecurity?

Public Health: What additional steps can the city council take to address drug overdoses and improve mental health services?

Growth: What specific actions related to city infrastructure (such as roads, utilities, etc.) would you introduce to the city council to effectively manage growth and improve traffic safety?

Other Issue: What other critical issue do you think is important to your community, and how will you address it?

.....

PLACE 2

Anne Weir

Unopposed

PLACE 4

Sonia Wallace

Unopposed

PLACE 6

Deja Hill

No response received



Todd R. Shaner

Qualifications: I’ve served the City of Manor previously. I’ve served on The City of Manor Planning and Zoning board and also served as Council Member

Housing: We need to tackle the problems causing affordability, while still providing Assistance, Support and education to the people in need. Affordability is a product of something bigger - let’s work to fix the root of the problems. Manor has seen explosive growth. Incentives to corporations to build does not mean the residents supplement the incentive by making up the difference and paying more tax

Public Health: City Council can take steps to make sure the appropriate funding is available and allocated for education and prevention services. Making sure the agencies providing health services have the education and resources as well as the full backing of City Council.

Growth: With the growth Manor has seen in recent years, the infrastructure has not stayed pace - City infrastructure needs to be #1 top priority. The city is going to grow - roads, utilities and infrastructure need to grow in pace with population. The City needs to work with the County and TXDOT immediately. Anticipate the growth and plan for it. it’s time to stop being reactive and start being proactive

Other Issue: Keeping taxes low and addressing the infrastructure & congestion on the roads. Keeping Manor safe and affordable for all. These all need to be top priority!



William Willner

Qualifications: Christian missionary kid in Congo, speak 4 languages, companies in three countries, 30+ years public servant, rescuing children + animals. Consistently attacked for exposing corruption, do it anyway!

Housing: End corrupt contracts between consulting companies and the City of Manor, then put them out for open bid. Last October Goldman Sachs, (world’s largest private bank,) stated that their high-density housing project, (aka. a new slum,) in Manor was their highest % profit per square foot project in the US in 2021. Imagine bragging about taking the most from the poorest! Predators must be stopped!

Public Health: People will spout off on all kinds of grand ideas that they’ll never actually do. My top public health concern affects every child’s life in Manor, every day! You can’t drink the water that comes out of the taps here! That’s a real, hands on challenge to address. We also need to get mental health professionals working with cops, so that fewer mental health emergency calls end with shots fired.

Growth: Exposing the backroom dealings with private consulting firms which take equity positions from the very companies/developments which they are under contract to review for the City! What is happening now is a huge sell-off of the public trust. It has to stop.

Other Issue: Public safety & mental health. Where’s the \$1million+ in green space funds that have been collected by the City of Manor, but aren’t on the public ledger? That \$ must be invested in a careful green spaces for families plan. We also desperately need better trained/equipped police. No more “Bully Bubbas with Badges.” We need a professional, TCOLE-trained and certified force able to serve the public.

SPECIAL ELECTION

PROPOSITION A: Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority Continuation

Background

The Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority, known as CapMetro, is a public transportation provider based in Austin. The City of Manor pays one cent of the city’s sales tax to CapMetro and in return is served by an Express bus route, a Park & Ride facility, and CapMetro’s on-demand pick-up services.

Ballot Language

Shall the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority be continued in the City of Manor?

Explanation

If Proposition A is passed, the City of Manor will continue to pay one cent of the city’s sales tax to CapMetro and continue to receive the currently offered services. If the proposition fails, Manor will immediately stop receiving CapMetro services but will continue to pay CapMetro the 1% sales tax until the city’s net financial obligation is met. The city estimates this will be in 2026. Additionally, if Proposition A fails, voters will reconsider the sales tax rate in Proposition B.

PROPOSITION B: Sales Tax for General Revenue Purposes

Background

The City of Manor collects a two cent sales tax for every dollar spent in the city. One cent goes to CapMetro and one

cent goes to the general fund. If Prop A fails, voters will reconsider the sales tax rate for the city.

Ballot Language

Conditional Upon a Majority “NO” Vote on Proposition A

The adoption of a local sales and use tax in the City of Manor at the rate of two percent (2%).

Explanation

If Proposition B is passed, the city will continue to have a 2% sales tax, but all the sales tax will go to the city’s general fund after the city pays its financial obligations to CapMetro, estimated to be in 2026.

LOCAL CITY OF MANOR

CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Background

The Manor city charter is required to be reviewed every two years. A municipal charter is a legal document that establishes a town and defines its powers, rather like the constitution of a city. City council and staff reviewed the charter in 2022, and eight amendment propositions were approved by the city council to be placed on the ballot.

PROPOSITION C

Ballot Language

Shall Section 3.05(c) of the City Charter be amended to delete the requirement that vacancies must be filled within 45 days from the date the vacancy occurs?

PROPOSITION D

Ballot Language

Shall Section 3.06 of the City Charter be amended to require that: Council members attend each committee meeting to which the council member is assigned; Council adopt a policy for determining whether an absence is without good and sufficient cause; Council may revoke a prior-excused absence for a Council member who is absent from thirty percent of all regular, special, and committee meetings for the

purposes of removal under Section 3.04 of the City Charter; and providing that a member of Council may not have an excused absence revoked during the first six months in office?

PROPOSITION E

Ballot Language

Shall Section 3.09 of the City Charter be deleted (which provides that the mayor and city councilmembers shall not be paid, shall be entitled to reimbursements for expenses incurred in the performance of official duties as budgeted, and shall not be provided staff or assistants) and Section 3.10. Automatic Resignation be renumbered as Section 3.09?

PROPOSITION F

Ballot Language

Shall Section 4.01 of the City Charter be amended to add that the Mayor may take command of the police and maintain order and enforce all laws during the time of a declared emergency?

PROPOSITION G

Ballot Language

Shall Section 4.02 of the City Charter be amended to clarify that the appointment of the Mayor Pro Tem occurs at the

first regular meeting following the canvass of the general election and any runoff election associated with that general election?

PROPOSITION H

Ballot Language

Shall Section 4.02 of the City Charter be amended to provide that the Mayor Pro Tem shall serve a two-year term?

PROPOSITION I

Ballot Language

Shall Section 7.10 of the City Charter be amended to establish the department of the Municipal Court and provide that the City Manager's appointment of the presiding municipal judge and associate judges are subject to confirmation by the City Council?

PROPOSITION J

Ballot Language

Shall Section 10.10. Community Committees of the City Charter be amended to be Section 10.11 to correct a scrivener's error in the original numbering of the section?

LOCAL CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE

MAYOR

Victor Gonzalez

Unopposed

CITY COUNCILMEMBER

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Housing: How will you improve affordability and reduce the number of people who are unhoused or experiencing housing insecurity?

Public Health: What additional steps can the city council take to address drug overdoses and improve mental health services?

Growth: What specific actions related to city infrastructure (such as roads, utilities, etc.) would you introduce to the city council to effectively manage growth and improve traffic safety?

Other Issue: What other critical issue do you think is important to your community, and how will you address it?

.....

PLACE 1



Doug Weiss

Qualifications: Having served two terms, I continue to build on my experience and knowledge. I have served in leadership roles with several organizations including president of the economic development corporation.

Housing: I continue to support residential and mixed-use developments that provide high quality housing with increased density to help address affordability concerns. In addition, I support the acquisition of new, high-paying employment to create income opportunities which provide support for individuals and families to afford the increasing home prices across our region.

Public Health: I'm working to ensure we have trained mental health professionals on staff and available to respond to incidents which would otherwise be handled by law enforcement. I'm also working to equip our law enforcement personnel with life-saving materials and training to enable life-saving response to potential drug overdose cases.

Growth: We have a long and comprehensive plan for road and utility infrastructure. I will continue to work towards affordable financing to fund these improvements. More importantly, I will continue to advocate for the timely implementation of these projects. My main focus will be ensuring we deliver the projects that our citizens expect.

Other Issue: Our parks, trails, and library are the crown jewels of our city. I will continue to support these programs and move forward on the new construction and development of programs and facilities that serve our citizens and bring pride to our community.

Campaign Website: <http://dougweiss.com>

Nicole Kosich (Write-in)

No response received



LOCAL CITY OF ROLLINGWOOD

MAYOR

Gavin Massingill

Unopposed

COUNCILMEMBER

2 at-large seats; choose 0, 1, or 2

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Housing: How will you improve affordability and reduce the number of people who are unhoused or experiencing housing insecurity?

Public Health: What additional steps can the city council take to address drug overdoses and improve mental health services?

Growth: What specific actions related to city infrastructure (such as roads, utilities, etc.) would you introduce to the city council to effectively manage growth and improve traffic safety?

Other Issue: What other critical issue do you think is important to your community, and how will you address it?

BOND ELECTION

PROPOSITION A

Ballot Language

The issuance of bonds in the amount of \$5,300,000 and the imposition of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds for waterworks system facilities and improvements, including fire flow improvements and acquiring lands and rights-of way for such purposes, and all matters incident or necessary thereto.

Explanation

The Rollingwood City Council voted in August to call an election for two bonds in November. Proposition A, if passed, will cost \$5.3 million for improvements to the city’s water system including fire flow availability and upgrades to water mains.



Barry Delcambre No response received



Kevin Glasheen

Qualifications: I’m a lawyer and a real estate developer, but I have no personal interest in any development in or around Rollingwood.

Housing: Those are not issues that the small municipality of Rollingwood can address. We should not allow unhoused persons to camp in public places.

Public Health: This is not an issue that The small municipality of Rollingwood can address.

Growth: I support the proposed bond issues for water infrastructure, and for a fire station.

Other Issue: We need to keep working on our development plan to revitalize our commercial corridor along Bee Caves Road while protecting the quiet residential nature of Rollingwood.



Sara Hutson

Qualifications: 30 year resident, 13 years on RW city council, 3.5 years on RW Utility Commission. BS in Civil Engineering from UT, VP of small engineering firm. Ability to work well with diverse groups of people.

PROPOSITION B

Ballot Language

The issuance of bonds in the amount of \$2,500,000 and the imposition of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds for a combined City Hall and Public Safety Building and related infrastructure.

Explanation

Proposition B, if passed, will cost \$2.5 million to build a combined City Hall and public safety building. Additionally, if proposition B passes and the city reaches an agreement with the emergency services district, a fire and EMT station could potentially be housed at the new public safety building.

Taxpayers with a home worth \$1 million would pay approximately \$355 to \$370 more in property tax a year. However, if proposition B passes and a fire and EMT station is housed in Rollingwood, homeowners could theoretically see a decrease in insurance premiums.

Housing: Council has been working diligently to be responsible stewards of the city’s money and is very aware of the impact of increasing taxes and utility costs on our long-time residents. As we consider financing for infrastructure maintenance and improvements in the city plan to look for options to temper the impact on our vulnerable citizens.

Public Health: Council can encourage our police department to work with Eanes ISD to support drug education in our local schools. We can also ask that our police officers receive training on responding to mental health crises and continue to patrol our public places to maintain a safe community.

Growth: Our hilly topography, residential redevelopment and limited drainage infrastructure are contributing to potential public safety issues on our roads during heavy rainfall. We have a good start on assessing our drainage improvement needs and have to prioritize actions to stem the increase in runoff volume, find funding for the necessary projects, and move on the projects that are identified.

Other Issue: We have a bond proposition on the ballot to address needed water projects to ensure adequate fire protection and reliable service. Our frequent water line breaks and the recent drought really highlight the need to upgrade our water system. We have completed a study to identify the recommended projects to address our most urgent needs and can start design work once funds are available.

IF YOU ARE A VOTER WITH A DISABILITY, YOU HAVE RIGHTS

You have the right to have reasonable accommodations under federal law.

You have the right to vote privately and independently under federal law.

You have the right to choose your assistant, if needed.

Polling places must be accessible, and one voting machine at each polling location must be accessible (including headphones for visual impairment, adjustable contrast or font, puff or switch, and wheelchair height).

Don’t hesitate to ask questions about accommodations. Call ahead to your polling place to ensure they have the accommodations you need ready to go.

If you aren’t receiving the support you need or you have any issues, call Disability Rights Texas at 888-796-VOTE (1-888-796-8683).

LOCAL CITY OF SUNSET VALLEY

MAYOR

Marc Bruner

Unopposed

CITY COUNCIL

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Housing: How will you improve affordability and reduce the number of people who are unhoused or experiencing housing insecurity?

Public Health: What additional steps can the city council take to address drug overdoses and improve mental health services?

Growth: What specific actions related to city infrastructure (such as roads, utilities, etc.) would you introduce to the city council to effectively manage growth and improve traffic safety?

Other Issue: What other critical issue do you think is important to your community, and how will you address it?

.....

CITY COUNCILMEMBER

2 at-large seats; choose 0, 1, or 2



Phil Ellett

Qualifications: Managing and empowering personnel at various levels during my 40+ year corporate career taught me the value of people-focused leadership.

Housing: By ensuring that the City of Sunset Valley never enacts a city property tax

Public Health: Work with our community-based police force to focus attention on those areas and individuals that maybe at risk

Growth: A long range Economic Development Plan Full implementation of Capital Improvement Plan Consultative sessions with our major retail businesses

Other Issue: Preservation of our open spaces and conservation of our natural landscape.

Robert Johnson

No response received



Charles Young

Qualifications: 4 years on Sunset Valley Budget & Finance committee, Chairman last 2 years. Software architect and manager for 30+ years. President of animal welfare non-profit. Teaching at UT School of Information.

Housing: Homelessness is an increasing problem in our communities. I support the current Council/Police Department's efforts in this area. However, our city doesn't have the resources to significantly impact affordability or housing insecurity. Our Police Dept and Staff directs people in need to available resources in Travis County. Staff is aware of the rights of individuals and respects their property.

Public Health: Sunset Valley collaborates with entities in Travis County that deal with issues of mental health and drug overdoses. We greatly appreciate the support and the strong interface we have with the county. I support having all our police officers and first responders receiving critical incident training and training in de-escalation techniques in order to protect public safety and health.

Growth: Focus on refining long-range planning to ensure sustainability of roads, utilities, and other infrastructure. Careful financial management to ensure proper funding of repairs and improvements well into the future using Sunset Valley's traditional pay-as-you-go system. Maintenance of Brodie Lane needs to be managed to avoid impacting businesses and residents while improving existing infrastructure.

Other Issue: Updating the Comprehensive Plan, finishing and implementing the Parks and Open Space Master Plan, and continuing our branding efforts are vital to the future of Sunset Valley. We need to invest in our public infrastructure such as parks, trails, and playgrounds. We need to renew our commitment to fiscal discipline, transparency, community building, and citizen involvement in our city government.

Campaign Website: www.sunsetvalley.us

CITY COUNCILMEMBER (UNEXPIRED 1 YEAR TERM)

1 seat; choose 1



Karen Medicus

Qualifications: Thirty years of leadership experience, over twenty years of volunteer experience in Sunset Valley, including serving two years on City Council. Certified in Mediation and

Appreciative inquiry.

Housing: No response

Public Health: No response

Growth: No response

Other Issue: No response



Horacio Zambrana

Qualifications: I think no experience is as important and as relevant as a love for the city of Sunset Valley. My wife and I have felt from the start that we had moved to a special place. We are committed to SV.

Housing: Sunset Valley is a small 1 square mile community and within its boundaries there are a little over 250 res-

idences, beautiful open spaces and trails, and a thriving business community. These are the three focus areas that I believe we need to focus on and they are areas that we have the greatest ability to impact.

Public Health: My approach as your City Council representative will be to focus on those areas that we can ultimately affect. A top priority I'd like to focus on is the sustainability of our beautiful green areas; continue to provide a community where young and old can feel safe to walk, to shop, and play; and intentionally work to strengthen the partnerships with our business community.

Growth: As part of the CED committee I have had the opportunity to participate in multiple conversations around the ongoing beautification plans for our city. I believe it is important to continue those conversations and ensure that we execute and deliver.

Other Issue: Following are some highlights of my professional experience: 1. Aerospace Engineer, worked for NASA for seven years and was awarded the Public Service medal; 2. Work two decades in Silicon Valley doing multiple roles - Engineering, Operations, and Talent Management, my longest tenure was with Cisco Systems (19years); 3. Chief of Talent for Teacher Retirement System Investments division.

INFORMATION ON WHERE TO VOTE

Voters can look up information on where to vote at your county's election website:

VoteTravis.com
www.Wilco.org/Departments/Elections

These websites list the most up-to-date information on the locations of polling places and their hours of operation.

For Travis County, there is also a live map with the current wait times for each polling location.

Remember, you can vote at ANY polling location in your county.

DONATE!

Support the *Voters Guide* production with a contribution to the League of Women Voters Austin Area, a nonpartisan nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Mail to: 3908 Avenue B, Austin, TX 78751, or make a secure donation online at LWVAustin.org.

LOCAL VILLAGE OF THE HILLS

MAYOR

Greg Wharton

Unopposed

CITY COUNCILMEMBER

3 at-large seats; choose 0, 1, 2, or 3

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Housing: How will you improve affordability and reduce the number of people who are unhoused or experiencing housing insecurity?

Public Health: What additional steps can the city council take to address drug overdoses and improve mental health services?

Growth: What specific actions related to city infrastructure (such as roads, utilities, etc.) would you introduce to the city council to effectively manage growth and improve traffic safety?

Other Issue: What other critical issue do you think is important to your community, and how will you address it?

.....

Ray Hatch

No response received

Marty Khait

No response received

James Nelson

No response received



Hilda C. Potsavich

Qualifications: B.S. Edu, U of Houston; Village of The Hills City Councilmember since 2010, currently Mayor Pro Tem; Texas City Management Asso. (TML) City Council of the year 2019; City Liaison to the Hills POA

Housing: Our community is built out and is at capacity.

Public Health: We participate in the Emergency Management program along with Lakeway and Bee Caves. The City has a history of public and private partnerships to address regional concerns.

Growth: During my tenure, the City Council has constructed over 4 miles of walking trail for the safety of our community. The City contracts with the Travis County Constables office for our traffic safety needs. Council ac-

tively looks for fiscally responsible ways to expand this service.

Other Issue: The Village of The Hills has transitioned from a gated golf course retirement community to a vibrant small City with a changing demographics to one of young families who are attracted by our schools and the welcoming quality of life found in The Hills. I feel it is vital for the City Council to stay attuned to the current and future wants and needs of all of our residents.



Peter Rispoli

Qualifications: After serving in the Marine Corps, I attained an MBA at Harvard before working at Apple for the past 6 years. I've lived in Texas for a decade and am eager for an opportunity to serve my

community

Housing: We need to craft better policies and allocate resources more efficiently such rent-to-own programs, increased access to equitable lending, better mental health resources and military veteran care, rather than be resigned to superficial actions and that do little to resolve underlying issues.

INFORMATION ON WHERE TO VOTE

Voters can look up information on where to vote at your county's election website:

VoteTravis.com

www.Wilco.org/Departments/Elections

These websites list the most up-to-date information on the locations of polling places and their hours of operation.

For Travis County, there is also a live map with the current wait times for each polling location.

Remember, you can vote at ANY polling location in your county.

Public Health: More often than not, these challenges can be solved by better access to medical recourses, stronger ties to a community, and ability to earn a living wage. We need to ensure that these core areas are accessible for populations that need them most.

Growth: In order to better manage our future growth, we need to make critical infrastructure investments now. I have direct experience in helping cities across Texas and the nation in applying for federal funds. We cannot afford to let our community miss out on these valuable opportunities.

Other Issue: To me, these unfortunate issues derive from a breakdown in communities. I have witnessed first-hand the immense impact a strong community can have. If elected to City Council, my top priority will be creating an environment where as many residents can feel proud to be a part of. Similar to my time in the military, I will be on the front-lines working everyday to achieve these goals.

James W. "Jim" Vick

No response received

Amy Ovlen Wharton

No response received

IF YOU HAVE ISSUES AT YOUR POLLING LOCATION

Please call one of these nonpartisan hotlines if you have any issues at your polling location:

Election Protection Hotlines

ENGLISH: 866-OUR-VOTE (866-867-8683)

SPANISH: 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682)

ASIAN LANGUAGES: 888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683)

ARABIC: 866-YALLA-US (866-925-5287)

ASL (Video): 301-818-VOTE (301-818-8683)

DISABILITY RIGHTS TX: 888-796-VOTE (888-796-8683)

VOTE

411

ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

LOCAL AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Skilled Workforce: What is your role as a trustee in leading ACC toward meeting the region’s need for a skilled and educated workforce?

Student Success: What will you do to help students enroll and succeed in the Austin Community College District?

Campus Safety: What steps, if any, should be taken to improve physical safety on ACC campuses?

Other Issue: What other critical issue do you think is important to ACC, and how will you address it?

.....

PLACE 4

Sean Hassan

Unopposed

PLACE 5

Manny Gonzalez

Unopposed

PLACE 6

Nathaniel Hellman

No response received



Steve Jackobs

Qualifications: As Executive Director of Capital IDEA for 23 years, I supported thousands of low-income adults to succeed at ACC and enter high-skill careers. I am deeply familiar with ACC’s strengths and challenges.

Skilled Workforce: I will support ACC to innovate in increasingly disruptive labor markets. I will support increased resources when safe-to-fail experiments show positive results. I will support ACC to learn and move on when they do not. Throughout, I will ensure that ACC continues to integrate the technical competence of STEM education with the intellectual skills of the liberal arts tradition.

Student Success: ACC serves students of all backgrounds with different goals, needs, and challenges. I will support

ACC and ISDs to work together closely with high school students. I will ensure that ACC supports the needs of returning adults. I will advocate for ACC to upskill underemployed adults for emerging opportunities. I will advocate for ACC to reach out to residents needing GED, ESL, and basic education.

Campus Safety: Designing ACC’s physical plant to contain and minimize potential threats is key. My participation in the 2014 safety-minded redesign at Highland Mall will guide ACC’s proposed \$770 million of new construction and renovation. To free up uniformed officers for higher-value duties, I will advocate for the delegation to other staff of routine tasks such as unlocking doors and monitoring occupancy.

Other Issue: Textbooks can cost more than tuition. I will support staff to convene faculty, the bookstore, the library, vendors, and other stakeholders to pilot strategies to reduce costs without reducing the quality of instruction. The portfolio of alternatives may include recycling, digital resources, lending, used materials, renting, alternative materials, and selective reproduction.

Campaign Website: <https://www.Steve4ACC.org>

BOND ELECTION

PROPOSITION A

Background

In early 2022, Austin Community College (ACC) Regional Advisory Committees recommended a bond election for new construction and current facility upgrades. The Board of Trustees voted to call an election for a \$770 million general obligation bond for November 2022. The last ACC bond election was in 2014 when voters approved \$385 million in bonds.

Ballot Language

The issuance of \$770,000,000.00 bonds for the purpose of constructing, improving, renovating, and equipping college buildings districtwide for workforce training and general education programs which will include, but not be limited to nursing, advanced manufacturing, skilled trades, and information technology, and for student support services such as onsite child care and student health services, and for the modernization of technology, and with such construction, improvement, renovation, and equipping of college buildings to include, but not be limited to: (1) construction of a new campus at the Pinnacle site in southwest Austin for instructional programs including software development and healthcare; (2) construction of a new campus at the southeast Travis County site for instructional programs including skilled trades, such as welding and automotive technology, and advanced manufacturing; (3) expansion of the

Hays campus for instructional programs including nursing and healthcare; (4) expansion of the Highland campus in central Austin for instructional programs including advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, and software development; (5) expansion of the Round Rock campus for instructional programs including nursing, advanced manufacturing, and skilled trades such as welding and automotive technology; (6) expansion of the Cypress Creek campus in Cedar Park for instructional programs including cybersecurity and software development; (7) expansion of the downtown Austin Rio Grande campus for instructional programs including computer science and cybersecurity; (8) expansion of the Elgin campus for instructional programs including advanced manufacturing and skilled trades such as welding; (9) expansion of the San Gabriel campus in Leander for instructional programs including advanced manufacturing and skilled trades such as welding; and (10) technology and facility improvements at various campuses including but not limited to Riverside, Northridge, South Austin, and Eastview; and the levying of the tax in payment thereof.

Explanation

Proposition A, if passed, will cost \$770 million and will pay for a new campus for manufacturing and skilled trades in Southeast Travis County, technology and facility improvements at various campuses, and the expansion of the following campuses:

- Hays County campus for health sciences;
- Highland campus for manufacturing, cybersecurity, and software development;
- Round Rock Campus for nursing, manufacturing, and skilled trades;
- Cypress Creek Campus for cybersecurity and software development;
- Rio Grande campus for computer science and cybersecurity;
- Elgin campus for manufacturing and skilled trades; and
- San Gabriel campus for manufacturing and skilled trades.

New taxable growth (such as new neighborhoods and commercial developments) and increasing property values in the ACC district will pay for most of the bond. However, some taxpayers may see a small increase. For example, taxpayers with a home worth \$500,000 would pay up to \$5 a year over the first five years, maxing out at \$25/year for the remainder of the bond.



LOCAL AUSTIN ISD

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Student Outcomes: What will you do to address the academic, social, and emotional effects of the pandemic on students?

Libraries: What is your position regarding the removal of specific books from school libraries?

School Safety: What steps, if any, should be taken to improve physical safety on school campuses?

Other Issue: What other critical issue do you think is important to your community, and how will you address it?

.....

DISTRICT 1



Roxanne J. Evans

Qualifications: I am a long-time D 1 resident, public education advocate and AISD volunteer who has worked for two school districts and knows how school systems work. I also have experience working with parents.

Student Outcomes: By providing the social and emotional supports needed, particularly to students who need extra support, we put children in a much better place to succeed academically. This whole child approach can help us accelerate learning to compensate for the time students lost during the pandemic. And, providing additional emotional support for teachers, helps them help our students.

Libraries: I oppose giving into political pressure to remove books from school libraries. I yield to experienced educators to be the ones to determine what books best supplement the curricula and what books are best for their students.

School Safety: There should be very limited outside access to campuses. There are ways to limit access that include physical barriers, technology and so on to keep students safe in our schools. I support all reasonable measures be implemented so that students feel safe in the schools and parents are comfortable with them being there.

Other Issue: Because AISD is forced to send back so much money to the state as part of recapture, I want to be one of the trustees to work with legislators to reduce this unfair burden and to increase the per pupil allotment for schools, so that more is invested in our students. Dollars sent back to the state are dollars taken away from AISD students. The system needs to be improved.

Campaign Website: <https://www.roxanneforaisd.com>



Candace Hunter

Qualifications: I've been an educator and advocate for public education for 25 years. I earned a M.Ed in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and actively support teachers, students, and families in my district.

Student Outcomes: I will initiate and support policies that center students social and emotional well being. I will support policies that fund programs that accelerate student learning without losing extra curricular classes or overburdening teachers, but also build capacity so caregivers can support their students.

Libraries: I do not support the removal of any books from school libraries.

School Safety: It is import to evaluate existing school buildings and retrofit them for modern safety standards as well as design clear safety plans for campus staff and students. Also needed is a clear plan for communication and chain of command between district, city, county law enforcement and other safety personnel.

Other Issue: I believe that curriculum design and implementation should be left to grade level experts and educators.

Campaign Website: <https://hunterforaisd.com>

DISTRICT 4



Kathryn Whitley Chu

Qualifications: I'm a public school teacher with the knowledge of AISD processes and policies, an accountant with the financial expertise to review AISD's billion dollar budget, a Democrat, and mother of two kids.

Student Outcomes: We need more counselors and to maximize ability to serve our students by relieving them of excess administrative duties. Young students should be engaged in play-based learning that is evidence-based in healing trauma and builds brain connections for academic learning. Robust social and emotional support gives students the foundation to learn and challenge themselves academically.

Libraries: I do not support book bans. School librarians and educators have professional expertise in curating appropriate books that spark curiosity and provide a window to a world of experiences and knowledge that they can access without leaving their hometown. Books teach kids empathy and resilience. Wide access to books is necessary for student research projects and creating lifelong learners.

School Safety: Provide evidence-based emergency training for staff. Conduct timely safety audits that result in quick completion of needed repairs and improvements. Campuses must be safe from hate and discrimination by creating an inclusive environment and focusing on social emotional learning. We need adequate school nurses, PE staff, SPED staff, lunch monitors, and crossing guards.

Other Issue: AISD faces a teacher shortage and is in the midst of a search for a permanent superintendent. I will honor our community's desire for transparency in hiring a superintendent who respects teachers, honors all students, and has a long-term commitment to our community. I am a pro-

fessional educator with the knowledge and expertise to work with my fellow trustees and staff without a learning curve.

Campaign Website: <https://www.KathrynForAISD.com>



Clint Small

Qualifications: AISD student. AISD parent for 13 years. Serve on AISD Long Range Planning Committee. Served on several city boards and commissions - appointed by two different mayors. Lauded as a consensus maker.

Student Outcomes: I believe priorities must prevail over politics. The pandemic and remote learning had a huge and diverse impact on the academic achievement level and emotional well-being of all students. We need to identify academic gaps and provide resources to bring affected students back up to grade level and beyond, while continuing to evaluate and respond to the emotional needs of all students.

Libraries: When reviewing books, we need to implement a review process that balances academic value and grade level appropriateness. We need to develop a formal process, that includes community involvement and input, to assess each, so that the board can make educated and consistent decisions.

School Safety: Each campus should be assessed individually to determine deficiencies. Most schools were built a long time ago and planners did not consider the level of security that is required at this time. We need to determine campus policies, sometimes specific to the campus, and improve safety infrastructure where necessary. We also need to search for state and federal dollars for support.

Other Issue: Teacher and Staff Retention and Recruitment. We must find new ways to support our teachers and staff. One measure that I plan to implement is to provide toll tags to all of our teachers and staff. Many of our teachers and staff cannot afford to live in Austin and this is a means to help them in their commute without costing them during their commute.

Campaign Website: <https://www.smallforaisd.com>

AVAILABLE IN THREE ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES!

¡Disponible en Español!
有中文
Tiếng Việt

We now proudly offer translations in Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese on VOTE411.org. There are also downloadable and printable PDFs on our website: LWVAustin.org/voters-guide/

LOCAL AUSTIN ISD

DISTRICT 6



Andrew Gonzales

Qualifications: I've served as an AISD teacher (winning Teacher of the Year), as a member and presenter at the National Council for Social Studies, and a student teacher supervisor at Huston-Tillotson and UT Austin.

Student Outcomes: Prioritizing the mental health of students and teachers and ensuring available and accessible support is one of my biggest priorities. Academic outcomes correlate directly to mental health. Our district must have an inclusive model of education, focusing on improving experiences and outcomes for all students—specifically Special Education, multilingual, and economically disadvantaged students.

Libraries: I don't believe in the banning of books. Books are essential to students' social, emotional, and academic development and even the most debated texts can offer value in opportunities for learning. The diverse youth that our district serves deserve developmentally appropriate access to resources that can help with their self-understanding, just as much as any other student.

School Safety: Many of our older buildings do require updates to ensure that our students are safe. We must also address the root cause of violence, and ensure that mental health support is abundant, de-stigmatized, and accessible. Common sense gun reform must also be at the top of the list of AISD's legislative priorities in the upcoming legislative session.

Other Issue: The teacher shortage is a critical issue. Our teachers are woefully underpaid, devalued, micromanaged, and mistrusted. Until we provide relevant professional development, accountability for administrators, and adequate compensation, we will continue experiencing staff shortages. I will exhaust every avenue to keep our staff appropriately supported and our schools well-resourced and open.

Campaign Website: <https://www.gonzalesforaisd.com>

Geronimo M. Rodriguez Jr.

No response received

DISTRICT 7

David Kauffman Unopposed

AT-LARGE POSITION 9



Arati Singh

Qualifications: I'm a former 4th grade bilingual teacher, program evaluator, inventor with 8 tech patents, and Board Secretary. I have an MS in Curriculum & Instruction (UT) and endorsements from 26 local electeds.

Student Outcomes: Advocate policies that do this: Attract and retain the best teachers who will nurture students' curiosity, focus, and joy. Deepen college/career pathways so all students can see what's possible. Allocate dollars equitably. Track academic data to see who needs more support, and provide it. Expand mental health and wraparound services for families. Grow arts and athletics to nurture the whole child.

Libraries: I oppose book bans; books are a form of protected speech. If a parent doesn't want their child to read a certain book, our librarians—who are highly skilled professionals—should work with the parent to find a suitable replacement. I would not opt to remove the book in question.

School Safety: Build a strong culture of caring focused on trust and communication. Expand mental health services to support students in crisis. Continue police de-escalation training. Make sexual harassment/assault reporting easier. "School hardening" such as secure entries, cameras, and locking doors are important investments in the 2022 AISD bond. Provide safe firearm storage info. Advocate gun safety laws.

Other Issue: Texas has chosen not to invest fully in public education. Texas' per student funding is \$6136, about \$4k less than the national average. Unacceptable. I will continue fighting at the Capitol for increasing funding and decreasing

ing overreliance on recapture. I strongly support the AISD bond, which is also on the November ballot and will be a historic investment in our schools.

Campaign Website: <https://SinghForAISD.com>



Heather Toolin

Qualifications: I am a 35 year resident of the district, mother of two kids in the district, and taxpayer. I am currently very engaged in education of my children and have a strong pulse on the community.

Student Outcomes: My main concern is identifying children who have fallen off grade level, or worse, and ensuring that this district prioritizes its resources to remedy this as quickly as possible. If we allow these dips to become permanent, we are accepting an economic future for these children that is far less than their potential.

Libraries: Whether it is a required classroom reading, on a summer reading list, or simply something on a district library shelf, AISD needs a fair, neutral process for flagging and reviewing materials and books that may be inappropriate. And while no one person should ever be the sole arbiter of what is "appropriate," I will be a strong advocate for concerned parents and guardians on this issue.

School Safety: We must ensure that every campus has appropriate infrastructure to control the flow of people in and out of their buildings. Additionally, we must ensure that there are processes in place that put the safety of the children and staff inside our buildings above convenience and ease of access for visitors. We have the resources in this district to harden our schools; it must be a budget priority.

Other Issue: I truly believe that as a largescale institution AISD has lost its primary focus on education. We must critically review everything this district does and scrutinize it through a lens of, "Does this advance the goals of diffusing a public education or inhibit it?" Additionally, we must ensure that the politics and attitudes of adults are not taking precedence over needs of children.

Campaign Website: <https://www.heatherforaisd.com>

LOCAL BOND ELECTION

Background

In the Spring of 2022, AISD's Bond Steering Committee, comprising both appointed and elected members, held 15 meetings and recommended that a bond election be called to address infrastructure issues. The committee recommended several bond proposals; the AISD administration also released recommendations. The Board of Trustees voted to call an election with three separate propositions based on a combination of the steering committee and the

administration's bond proposals for a total of \$2.25 billion. The last Austin ISD bond election was in 2017 when voters approved a \$1.05 billion bond.

PROPOSITION A

Ballot Language

The issuance of \$2,316,025,000 school building bonds for the design, construction, acquisition, rehabilitation, renovation,

expansion, improvement and equipment of school buildings in the district (including but not limited to improvements to enhance safety, security, and energy efficiency) and the purchase of the necessary sites therefor and the purchase of new school buses, and levying and imposition of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the costs of any credit agreements. Required statement for all school district bond propositions pursuant to Section 45.003, Texas Education Code: this is a property tax increase.

LOCAL AUSTIN ISD

PROPOSITION A (continued)

Explanation

Proposition A, if passed, will cost \$2.3 billion for district-wide infrastructure improvements including full or phased modernizations of eight high schools, five middle schools, and thirteen elementary schools; safety improvements including upgraded doors, locks, fencing, and secure entry vestibules at every campus; energy efficiency updates including HVAC, plumbing, and roof repairs; the expansion of career and technical space; and bus upgrades.

PROPOSITION B

Ballot Language

The issuance of \$75,541,000 school building bonds for the design, construction, acquisition, rehabilitation, renovation, expansion, improvement and upgrading of technology sys-

tems, infrastructure and equipment and levying and imposition of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the costs of any credit agreements. Required statement for all school district bond propositions pursuant to Section 45.003, Texas Education Code: this is a property tax increase.

Explanation

Proposition B, if passed, will cost \$75.5 million for technology infrastructure upgrades and the purchase of new equipment.

PROPOSITION C

Ballot Language

The issuance of \$47,434,000 school building bonds for the design, construction, rehabilitation, renovation, expansion, improvement and equipment of stadium facilities in the dis-

trict and levying and imposition of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the costs of any credit agreements. Required statement for all school district bond propositions pursuant to Section 45.003, Texas Education Code: this is a property tax increase.

Explanation

Proposition C, if passed, will cost \$47.4 million for athletic improvements including turf, lighting, and seating at every high school athletic facility and the full renovation of Nelson Field.

Will this include a tax increase? If all three propositions were to pass, the debt service portion of the school district's tax rate would increase by 1 cent per \$100 of value. However, the Board of Trustees has voted to decrease other tax rates, resulting in a decrease in the overall tax rate even if the entire bond package passes.

LOCAL DEL VALLE ISD

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Student Outcomes: What will you do to address the academic, social, and emotional effects of the pandemic on students?

Libraries: What is your position regarding the removal of specific books from school libraries?

School Safety: What steps, if any, should be taken to improve physical safety on school campuses?

Other Issue: What other critical issue do you think is important to your community, and how will you address it?

.....

DISTRICT 3



Charles W. Diggs, Jr.

Qualifications: Since '85 I've served on DVISD committees, driven a bus & been a Trustee/8 yrs. Collaboration is essential & I work diligently with my colleagues to serve the best interests of our District & scholars.

Student Outcomes: I expect our Superintendent, as our educational leader, to identify & tell Trustees what our scholars and families need to heal, move forward, & succeed, and the steps they'll take in order to reach that goal. If I have concerns about the plan, I'll make suggestions for her con-

sideration. I'll collaborate with my Trustee colleagues to insure the needs are met. Our motto is "Whatever It Takes".

Libraries: I believe that school libraries should contain books that are age appropriate. I don't believe that pornographic books describing sex acts have a place in any school library. That said, keep other books that have been deemed controversial by a DVISD committee in the library, but move them to a specific location. Leave it up to the parents to let their child read a specific book.

School Safety: Of course, safety is our number one priority, and we have followed current safety recommendations from TEA and our own Safety team. All our schools have been upgraded and we are in compliance. We continue to review and evaluate safety protocols on a daily basis.

Other Issue: Historically, job opportunities in Del Valle have been limited. Due to the innovative programs DVISD has implemented in the past few years, our scholars & community members now have opportunities for high paying jobs in multiple fields - IT, medical, technical, mechanical etc. I'll continue to collaborate with my colleagues to bring even more opportunities to the community as we continue to grow.



Kim McMenamin

Qualifications: I am knowledgeable in research and interviewing techniques; skilled in project management, data analysis, and report writing; and, able to draw conclusions and make recommendations from test results.

Student Outcomes: The community of students' parents is one of the very best resources for direct knowledge about effects of the pandemic on their children's needs. I plan on actively soliciting input from this community and personally responding to their concerns to identify the most efficient and effective means to meet those needs while significantly improving student outcomes across the board.

Libraries: Any book containing content that cannot be either read aloud or presented uncensored at a school board meeting in front of all participants, has no place in a school library and should be removed.

School Safety: School safety measures should require that any student with identified behavioral issues causing classroom disruptions, aggressive displays, or violence on campus receive appropriate treatment. Examples of treatment might include mental health assessment, referral to mental health resources, suspension from classes, and/or expulsion. Armed security should always be present and available on campus.

Other Issue: Schools need to focus on their primary mission of preparing students to achieve a successful future. According to a recent worldwide study (OECD 2019) of the educational aptitude of 15-year-olds, the United States ranked 13th in reading, 18th in science, and 37th in math. Our students have to compete globally with countries that impose a far-greater academic rigor to their children's studies.



LOCAL DEL VALLE ISD

DISTRICT 3 (continued)



Shaira Ramzanali

Qualifications: MS in Human Resources, 15 years of Corporate Learning. Troop Treasurer for Central Texas Girl Scout for 3 years. Active parent of an 11 year old daughter/DVISD student and an 18 month old son.

Student Outcomes: I have seen firsthand how virtual learning challenged the drive for academic success and isolated children from their peers. This has instilled anxiety and uncertainty in our students. We need to ensure that our children are equipped with the tools to succeed. They should have adequate support and guidance to manage and overcome these feelings with confidence and comfort to excel academically.

Libraries: Any books being considered for removal must be thoroughly vetted and, if determined to not be socially or intellectually appropriate for specific age groups, should

be removed. Children can access a curated and appropriate array of topics through many publicly available online platforms, whereas controlling the content of books can only be achieved by filtering the entire publication.

School Safety: School campuses have been taking measures to keep students and faculty safe on school campuses. Continuing to maintain these safety protocols, as well as implementing more modern technologies and standards will ensure that our children and educators are truly safe.

Other Issue: Parental involvement is a critical issue that our community should focus on. Our district is a dynamic socio-economic community, and it is important to provide as many accessible avenues as possible for families to have the opportunity to contribute, be unified, be informed, and be supported.

DISTRICT 5

Matt Worthington

Unopposed

DISTRICT 7

Susanna Ledesma Woody

Unopposed

DISTRICT 8

Darla Wegner

Unopposed

DISTRICT 9

Elvia Guadian

No response received

Amber Handley (Write-in)

No response received

LOCAL LAKE TRAVIS ISD

BOND ELECTION

Background

In the spring and summer of 2022, Lake Travis ISD's Facilities Planning Committee made up of parents, community members, and business owners held five meetings and afterward recommended that a bond election be called to expand facilities, upgrade technology, and improve athletic infrastructure. The Board of Trustees voted to call an election with three separate propositions based on the committee's recommendations, for a total of \$703 million. The last Lake Travis ISD bond election was in 2017 when voters approved \$253 million in bonds.

PROPOSITION A

Ballot Language

The issuance of \$548,410,330 of bonds by the Lake Travis Independent School District for school facilities, the necessary sites for school facilities, and new school buses, and the levying of a tax in payment thereof. This is a property tax increase.

Explanation

Proposition A, if passed, will cost \$548.4 million and will provide elementary shade structures, additional classroom space for special programs, door hardware replacement, new science classrooms, architectural and structural improvements, a new basketball arena at Lake Travis High School,

additions to the administration building and educational development center, a new maintenance and food and nutrition services building, and a facility condition assessment.

PROPOSITION B

Ballot Language

The issuance of \$60,790,110 of bonds by the Lake Travis Independent School District for school technology improvements and the levying of a tax in payment thereof. This is a property tax increase.

Explanation

Proposition B, if passed, will cost \$60.79 million and will provide technology upgrades to existing facilities and new buildings. Technology items include staff and student devices; improvements to existing facilities in cabling, wireless, cameras, access controls, classroom and campus AV; and network, telecommunications and classroom and campus AV for new campuses.

PROPOSITION C

Ballot Language

The issuance of \$93,799,560 of bonds by the Lake Travis Independent School District for school stadium facilities and the levying of a tax in payment thereof. This is a property tax increase.

Explanation

Proposition C, if passed, will cost \$93.8 million and will provide school stadium facilities including a football stadium, track, concession stands, field house, baseball and softball fields, and tennis courts at high school #2, athletic turf replacement, PE space, and sound system at Hudson Bend Middle School, athletic turf replacement at Lake Travis Middle School, and baseball and softball turf replacement, concession stands, stadium renovations, field house additions, golf hitting bays and putting greens, light replacements, new fencing, and other facility upgrades at Lake Travis High School.

None of the propositions are projected to raise the school district's property tax rate; new taxable growth (such as new neighborhoods and commercial developments) and increasing property values in Lake Travis are projected to cover the cost.

Why does the proposition say this is a tax increase if it will not increase the tax rate? The passage of the bond will increase the amount of debt the ISD owes and, in the long-term, how much tax Lake Travis will collect.



LOCAL LEANDER ISD

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Student Outcomes: What will you do to address the academic, social, and emotional effects of the pandemic on students?

Libraries: What is your position regarding the removal of specific books from school libraries?

School Safety: What steps, if any, should be taken to improve physical safety on school campuses?

Other Issue: What other critical issue do you think is important to your community, and how will you address it?

.....

PLACE 1



Trish Bode

Qualifications: Trustee 2015; President since 2019; Chair: Legislative Priorities Comm.; Member: School Safety & Security Comm.; President: CTSBA; Region 13 Legislative Advocacy Comm. Member;

TASB Leg. Comm. Member

Student Outcomes: As LISD Board President, I will continue to prioritize student safety and creating an environment for learning. Students were impacted by the unprecedented events of the last two years - the concern now is helping students grow and accelerate their learning during uncertain times. I will continue to focus on student voice and connecting students to their passion.

Libraries: We listened & responded to concerns by updating the policies regarding books. Those policies provided for notification to parents of reading selections & a process for reconsideration while recognizing our diverse community's desire for a variety of reading selections for their children. I urge parents to connect with their campus & make use of the procedures and guidelines we have established.

School Safety: We have completed construction of security vestibules on our campuses and, as a member of the LISD School Safety & Security Committee, I get to witness firsthand our district working alongside local law enforcement to increase school safety & security. To help create the safest possible environment for our kids requires all of us working together - staff, teachers, community members and students.

Other Issue: How do you pick just one?! The issue is student learning (engagement; critical thinking; class ratios) - but it doesn't stand alone. A focus on learning requires that attention also be placed on teachers and staff (fewer mandates; retention; benefits and pay), school finance (growth planning; efficient and informed budgeting), and community needs (academic aims; parent support; good governance).

Campaign Website: <http://www.TrishForLISD.com>



David Doman

Qualifications: I have teaching experience at the middle school, high school & college level (I even have written a college level textbook). I have been active with the SBOE, and have

run for a position on it.

Student Outcomes: The pandemic lockdown has delayed our students by 2 years. We need to evaluate each student, individually, to determine per student needs, and then partner with the students parents/guardians to design unique per student remedial coursework in order to bring the student along, to appropriate gradelevel performance, as fast as possible.

Libraries: Illicit and explicit graphical content is not literature and needs to be removed from our high school and middle school libraries. This is not censorship, said content remains available outside of our schools, but that content cannot be left in place within our schools.

School Safety: We need to improve the physical security of our schools (doors locking from the inside, doors with alarms if/when propped open, sequential locking double doors on all entrances and exits to name a few), plus increased police presence around the schools and in the parking lots during morning and afternoon arrival/departures (and randomly during the day).

Other Issue: Fentanyl is a threat directed at our children. We need to more stringently educate our children on its dangers. We need to have, per school, sufficient supplies of NARCAN antidote., together with proper training of the school nurses on administration of said antidote.

Campaign Website: <https://daviddoman.org>



Mike Sanders

Qualifications: Marine Corps Sergeant (veteran), Electronic Engineer with over 30 years experience creating unique electronic circuits (thinking outside the box), writing and modifying contracts, pas-

sorted 3 churches.

Student Outcomes: Offer support outside of regular class hours for students who have fallen behind academically. I would like to see programs encouraging volunteers to help students with homework for an hour or two each day after school. Free teachers to focus on academics and not spend so much time on SEL. Stop giving invasive surveys to kids and stop giving their data to private companies.

Libraries: Books that the Superintendent would be ashamed of reading in a public setting should not be in our classrooms. This is a litmus test that can be used along with other methods to ensure pornographic and sexually graphic material is not being provided to minors by adults in our

school district. Policies need to be changed so that educators have clear guidelines in this area.

School Safety: Every campus should have an armed police officer. We live in unique times and we must be prepared for the worst to happen. All classroom doors must be able to be locked from inside. If proper training and oversight can be provided, I would be in favor of allowing certain staff to carry a concealed weapon, only with the knowledge of all administrators and local law enforcement.

Other Issue: LISD is \$2.6 Billion in debt. This excessive debt results in interest payments in excess of \$70 million each year. This debt must be paid down. Incumbent Trustees continue seeking to dig us deeper into debt. The TEA recently gave LISD a Financial Integrity Rating of 2/10 due to the ratio of long-term liabilities to total assets in our school district.

Campaign Website: <http://www.MikeForLISD.com>

PLACE 2



Brandi Burkman

Qualifications: I have 18 years of experience in healthcare, including clinical research, contracting and negotiations. I have been an active volunteer for Destination Imaginations, PTA, and

booster executive roles.

Student Outcomes: Teachers should be provided with age appropriate, academically rigorous core curriculum to use in classrooms. I have had concerns that none of the LISD curriculum is SBOE or TEA approved and have requested additional information on how the district designed curriculum aligns with the TEKS. I would like to see psychological exams being conducted in the form of Social Emotional Surveys stopped.

Libraries: Sexually explicit content has no business in schools. If children can't buy similar content at a store or view at a theater, the school should not provide. Per policy EF(LEGAL) the district can remove books that are pervasively vulgar, and I believe it's time to get in compliance.

School Safety: Texas Education Code 37.109 has mandated the School Safety and Security Committee. We need more transparency regarding this committee, including having all the agendas, minutes, and notices posted so that the community can be engaged. Through this avenue we need to augment discussions on secure schools, anti-bullying, and fentanyl awareness programs.

Other Issue: The lack of academic excellence and ability to retain quality teachers is not an issue that can be resolved just by throwing more money at the problem. We need to steer our educational system back to a focus on education.

Campaign Website: <https://www.brandiforlisd.com>

LOCAL LEANDER ISD

PLACE 2 (continued)



Gloria Gonzales-Dholakia

Qualifications: Current VP of the LISD Board. I am a former teacher, former professor, former head of the Leander ISD Educational Excellence Foundation (LEEF), and a longtime school, district, and PTA volunteer.

Student Outcomes: We have seen signs of an academic rebound, but many students are still struggling and need support. Teachers need to be freed to focus on relationships with and facilitating learning for students. We need more counselors to identify troubled students and coordinate assistance as needed. Teachers and staff also deserve tailored professional development to foster student interests for the future.

Libraries: There should be a high bar for removing a book from the library, and it is not the role of trustees to decide. It is concerning that most of the books protested are written by authors of color & LGBTQIA community. I support the process to request a book be reviewed by a committee of both educators and community representatives. I am thankful for our thoughtful & talented teachers and librarians.

School Safety: We need more than just the secure vestibules and lockdown mechanisms LISD has installed in schools. We need to invest in counselors and mental health support for struggling students. We need more training for staff so they can connect students with specialists and resources. Multiple approaches to school safety and ensuring everyone feels valued, connected, and supported are required.

Other Issue: The school finance system underfunds schools, burdening local taxpayers. We need strong advocates to convince the state to pay its fair share, fully fund LISD, and reduce property taxes. Students and teachers are more than a single test, given on a single day. We must replace STAAR with a community accountability system, developed by educators, parents, and other community representatives.

Campaign Website: <https://www.gloriaforlisd.com>

PLACE 5



Sade Fashokun

Qualifications: A servant leader, committed to the district before my kids attended. An engaged volunteer and knowledgeable current Trustee, I'm committed to learning all there is, and I desire to continue serving.

Student Outcomes: Academically, I will work to provide funding for supplemental resources that assist students in closing their gaps. I will advocate to fund increased tutorials and rethink school options for additional interventions. Socially and emotionally, I will support guidance and counseling with additional funding for SEL frameworks training and staff to provide students with social and emotional support.

Libraries: Librarians select books that have been vetted using guidelines from TEA and professional educational standards. These standards are determined by those with the skills and qualifications to select grade and age-appropriate literature for all students. Library books are used for voluntary inquiry. Removal should not be based on personal standards, which implicate students' First Amendment rights.

School Safety: Partner with local cities on safety on and near campuses. Authorize access for teachers and students using secure doors and badges. Train educators and students to recognize, report, and respond to strange occurrences with safety protocols. Reduce risk of safety issues by addressing behavioral, bullying, and mental health issues. Advocate for funding of mental health and security solutions.

Other Issue: Our community values academic success and innovative program offerings. These will require continued high-quality instruction facilitated by qualified and caring teachers with the necessary resources. All of this can be achieved with adequate funding. This presents a unique opportunity to advocate during this legislative session for improved funding formulas to benefit student programs and staff.

Campaign Website: <https://sadeforlisd.com>

Shawn Legee

No response received

Kevin Leverenz

No response received

PLACE 6

Sharon Bell

No response received

Scott Reese

No response received



Francesca Romans

Qualifications: I have lived in Leander ISD for almost 17 years and have two kids enrolled. I spent my career working in school law defense and am familiar with the complexities of the TX public education system.

Student Outcomes: I want to ensure that all students and teachers have access to everything they need to help everyone move forward from COVID. This includes materials, programs, trainings, and most importantly, time. We need to value our teachers' input on classroom structure and time. They work directly with our students and have great insight on how to best teach them.

Libraries: I trust our teachers and librarians, who have done a wonderful job of creating libraries that reflect the diversity of our student body. Removing books because some don't

like them is not a solution. Parents have always been able to work with their individual campuses if they would like certain boundaries in place for their own children, but the options should remain for those who want them.

School Safety: I believe that the district has done a good job of ensuring our students' safety. All of our campuses have secure entrances, and they have been subject to safety audits over the summer to ensure doors are working properly and that staff is familiar with the protocols. I would like to see more emphasis put on procedures for the students in portables, as these are not publicly reviewed as often.

Other Issue: Outreach is a critical issue in LISD. As a trustee, I want to be out in our communities more often so that they know what is going on. We have already experienced the damage that misinformation on social media can do with the failure of our Nov. 2021 bond, and I want people to have access to facts coming directly from our district.

Campaign Website: <https://www.francescaforlisd.com>

PLACE 7



Paul Gauthier

Qualifications: I have been following Leander ISD meetings & attending them for almost 2 years. I want to help fix it. & as a parent in the community & tax payer, that make me qualified. I care.

Student Outcomes: We need to give teachers the ability to teach the kids without distractions. Put back the dress code. Allow the teacher to flunk a child in a grade so the student has an opportunity to catch up. Summer courses or whole year. Remove SEL, it is unnecessary in the classroom & focus on Math, Reading, writing, & Science.

Libraries: It is paramount to a good education you have Books that are at the child's reading level & LISD is not. It is illegal to put sexually explicit content material in the hands of minors without parental consent. Both are happening at LISD & need to be remedied immediately. The kids are not being challenged in reading & the books being promoted are unnecessarily sexual in nature.

School Safety: An in depth response to safety starts with the kids themselves. Who is acting out & Why? Do the kids feel loved & appreciated at school? Remind them they do. Then go to the parents & community, if you see something, say something. Last go through drills & protocols (Locked doors) so a unknown can't get in easily. & pray. . . . We are in the Lords hands. With prayer & Action we can Help.

Other Issue: Parents are concerned with their childrens education & their rights as parents. We need to review & renew that trust. These are their children not the schools. A trust has been broken & the debt being built by the school to educate is Ridiculous. In 2018 it cost 8k to teach a child. Now its 10k. Why so much higher costs? With terrible educational outcomes.

Campaign Website: <https://paul4lisd.org>

LOCAL LEANDER ISD

PLACE 7 (continued)



Joseph Gorordo

Qualifications: I was raised in a family of educators and was always taught that education is the key to a good future. I am also a licensed chemical dependency counselor and have devoted my life to helping others.

Student Outcomes: I will ensure that our teachers are equipped with the training and language necessary to identify students who may be struggling and build the rapport necessary to be a trusted support for our students academically, socially, and emotionally.

Libraries: I am completely against any books, which have been deemed by our librarians to have educational value, being removed from our school libraries. Books with challenging content are a vital part of teaching our students to become critical thinkers.

School Safety: I believe safety protocols should be in place and enforced regarding only having one point of entry into schools when students are present as well as updating all schools to have vestibules at their front entrance. I would also work to increasing access to counseling services

on campus for students who may be struggling with mental/emotional issues.

Other Issue: I am strongly in favor of creating equitable access to our students and families. Particularly by ensuring that all families receive communications from the district in their preferred language, creating solutions for non-english speaking families to communicate with their student's teachers, and supporting music and the arts programs throughout the district.

Campaign Website: <https://www.josephg4lisd.com>



Elexis Grimes

Qualifications: I served on the LISD Financial Leadership and 2017 Bond Steering Committee. Currently serve as Secretary, Chair of Long Range Facilities Committee and Safety & Security Committee Member as a Trustee.

Student Outcomes: Students come from all walks of life and have varied learning styles, wants and needs. I am committed to providing each student with the tools and programs it takes to achieve at their highest potential both in academics and in extracurriculars. By empowering teachers to reach all students, we will elevate student achievement through meaningful engagement in our schools.

Libraries: It is essential that each library has age-appropriate resources tailored to a learning environment that contributes to aiding students to meet or exceed academic expectations. In curating our library collections, we must ensure these principles. Parents involved in reviewing materials offered at our campuses helps to ensure their children receive a quality education in a safe environment.

School Safety: As a member of our school safety & security committee, I have worked very hard to help make sure that all law enforcement agencies are included in planning and provide feedback to district audits. Our highest priority is keeping our students safe through these partnerships. Secure vestibules were added to each campus and I will continue to advocate for additional state funding to increase safety.

Other Issue: I believe that we need to be fiscally responsible with property taxes. Every year in office I have voted for a tax rate decrease. I have worked to decrease construction spending on future projects by maximizing our existing facilities with a plan that could save \$500 million. I have also worked to increase the homestead exemption. School finance experience is vital for Trustees today.

Campaign Website: <https://www.ElexisGrimes.com>

SPECIAL ELECTION

PROPOSITION A: Attendance Credit Election (ACE)

Ballot Language

Authorizing the board of trustees of Leander School District to purchase attendance credit from the state with local tax revenues.

Explanation

When a school district's tax revenue exceeds its entitlement under various provisions of the Texas Education Code, the state is entitled to "recapture" those amounts. State Law requires that voters approve the process of making mandatory recapture payments in an Attendance Credit Election (ACE).

According to the Leander ISD website, if the measure passes, "the school district would make its mandatory recapture payments to the state as required under Texas law. The vote would not change anything within the school district."

If the measure fails, the Leander ISD website states that "the school district would be subject to a 'Detachment of Territory,' meaning the state will detach a portion of the school district's total property value equal to the amount de-

termined through recapture. However, this Detachment of Territory is permanent and irreversible, even if in future years the property values within the district make it no longer subject to recapture. As a result, the school district might need to raise the I&S tax rate to pay existing debt." "I&S" refers to Interest & Sinking and this portion of collected taxes cannot be used to fund salary increases or maintenance and operations.

PROPOSITION B: Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election (VATRE)

Ballot Language

Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate of \$1.2746 in Leander Independent School District for the current year, a rate that will result in an increase of 35 percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the district for the current year as compared to the preceding year, which is an additional \$99,041,063.

Explanation

According to the Leander ISD website, "if the Board of Trustees adopts an M&O (Maintenance and Operations)

tax rate that is greater than the calculated rate set by law, this triggers a VATRE. If the voters do not approve the VATRE, then the M&O rate reverts to the maximum allowed under state law."

If LISD voters, by approving Proposition B, ratify the tax rate adopted by the Board of Trustees, the district would see a \$30 million increase in revenues to support the increases in pay approved by the Board on May 19 in the 2022–23 compensation plan. The additional revenues would also reduce the amount of cuts needed from existing personnel and programs. **Importantly, even if the VATRE is approved, the overall property tax rate in LISD will be 6 cents lower than last year's rate, due in part to a decrease in the I&S portion of the tax rate.**

If Proposition B (the VATRE) does not pass, the district would lose out on any additional revenue and could be left with a budget deficit of nearly \$35 million for the 2022–23 school year. While the fund balance would cover the costs for that school year, the school district would need to make spending cuts that could result in fewer teachers working in the district. LISD would also consider restructuring or eliminating certain programs that LISD students and families have come to expect.

LOCAL MANOR ISD

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Student Outcomes: What will you do to address the academic, social, and emotional effects of the pandemic on students?

Libraries: What is your position regarding the removal of specific books from school libraries?

School Safety: What steps, if any, should be taken to improve physical safety on school campuses?

Other Issue: What other critical issue do you think is important to your community, and how will you address it?

.....

PLACE 1



Coretta Bell

Qualifications: As a mother of two scholars in the district I understand the needs of the community. Being in EdTech has allowed me to partner with districts on the academic success of all scholars.

Student Outcomes: I will adopt a whole child approach by focusing on the needs of the scholar, their support system and educators. I will advocate for educator training and resources. I will prioritize quality and purposeful resources such as diagnostic assessments that provide insight into the scholar's emotional and academic state, which will allow the educator to focus on the most salient areas of concern.

Libraries: I am against the removal of books. Scholars moving into adulthood will encounter diversity. Classrooms can be a safe and welcoming environment to explore controversial concepts. The classroom is a place to develop and strengthen academic discussions and higher order thinking. Books provide the basis for these discussions. Caregivers should have the chance to align family values to class lessons.

School Safety: Students deserve to feel and be safe at school. I will advocate for proactive responses to safety, including caregiver and scholar education, conflict resolution, anti-bullying campaigns, strong support systems (including counselors versed in mental health), conducting threat assessments on a regular cadence and publishing results. Increased communication with the community.

Other Issue: Neurotypical and neurodivergent scholars deserve access to an equitable education. I will advocate for neurodivergent scholars to ensure access to opportunity is not limited due to diversities. Including, certified educators and meaningful curriculum. I will work to strengthen the relationship between the district, local businesses and state agencies to provide post-graduation job options.

Campaign Website: <https://austxbella.wixsite.com/seat1>



Stephanie Rodriguez-Barnett

Qualifications: Two of my kids (9 & 11 yrs) attend MISD schools. I serve on PMEs Campus Advisory Team to assist in setting and monitoring campus goals. I'm a Director of Operations for SaaS grants management company.

Student Outcomes: I will advocate for initiatives focused on whole-child well-being and academic advancement. Our instructional landscape approach must build upon existing systems, practices and partnerships. I will work with trustees, administrators and the community to recommend and implement optional push-in, afterschool, digital learning and high-dose tutoring and resources to support scholars.

Libraries: 1 of Manor ISD's 15 schools earned TEA's distinction in English, Language Arts and Reading. We're focused on literacy! Reading is fundamental for scholars' success. If book banning becomes an issue, I'll listen to parents and follow guidance from TEA, TASB, and review existing laws. Also, I would offer solutions such as library profiles so parents can determine what books their child can checkout.

School Safety: Since 2018, I've had children on four MISD campuses and believe our schools are safe. Last year, my children's campus executed their offsite evacuation and reunification plan. Community education on execution of emergency plans would be helpful. Additional safety measures to consider include perimeter fencing, metal detectors and participation in disaster training programs and simulations.

Other Issue: Transparency and accountability are important to the MISD community. Our Board is beginning a superintendent search. If elected, I will assist in identifying a leader who can work collaboratively with our community, is a visionary who can deliver outcomes, has led through major changes and values fiscal responsibility. I'd also implement an interactive dashboard to report metrics for the district.

Campaign Website: <https://www.StephForMISD.com>

PLACE 2



Shekema S. Dunlap

Qualifications: My 17 years as a national award-winning educator, administrator, and Educational Leadership doctoral candidate uniquely qualify me to hold the position of Manor ISD Board of Trustees, Place 2.

Student Outcomes: In-person learning is preferred by the U.S. DOE. To prevent outbreaks, multilayered safety measures must be implemented during in-person learning. Moreover, I will ensure that remote options are available wherever quarantine and isolation are necessary. In addition to equitable access to technology, I will focus on trauma-informed pedagogy and remote learning best practices in my strategic plan.

Libraries: Parents have a First Amendment right to opt out of texts/assignments that violate their religious beliefs. However, parents do not have a right to opt out others' chil-

dren. Regarding the removal of specific books from school libraries, I stand in solidarity with educators who are trying to educate, not indoctrinate. I will support and trust teachers as they exercise their professional judgment.

School Safety: NSBA holds schools accountable for maintaining safe learning environments. If students pose a danger to themselves or others, Manor ISD must collaborate with community agencies and mental health professionals to ensure students receive appropriate treatment. I will advocate for cross-disciplinary threat assessment responses to alleged threats and as well timely communication with all stakeholders.

Other Issue: COVID-19 and the Uvalde shooting tragedy have exacerbated mental health issues among students and teachers. Children cannot thrive without safe and emotionally nurturing environments. In the absence of those spaces, our students' collective trauma often manifests as anger, apathy, and truancy. I will advocate for mandatory, ongoing training on SEL and trauma-informed leadership and pedagogy.

Campaign Website: <http://www.shekemadunlap.com>



Sam Matildy V. Samaripa Jr.

Qualifications: I attended many trustee training sessions in my 14 yrs. Working at Tx-DOT & the City of Austin has provided extensive experience in const. & prof. svcs contracts needed for new district construction.

Student Outcomes: First, make all campuses safe and secure to provide proper learning & social interaction. This provides for students' emotional stability. Continue providing tutoring, summer learning programs and afterschool programs. Increase number of trained counselors, nurses and other staff to interact with students and provide assistance to parents and community. Partner with community health providers.

Libraries: I have supported the model from the Texas Education Agency. Even though the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides for "Freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition", the Board of Trustees must determine what books should be made available to students since not all books are appropriate to a particular student based on his/her age, religion, and sexual preference.

School Safety: Employ more police officers to handle all district's needs and to reduce response time. Additional cameras to be installed to reduce blind spots. No person is allowed to enter except through the front door. Covid virus monitoring throughout the district with increased safety measures. Engage the community to reduce bullying, vandalism, student fights, etc. Partner with other local agencies.

Other Issue: Not enough teachers but recently the new teachers coming to MISD are the highest paid in central Texas. The retention of good teachers by providing a bonus for them to return and using a survey to determine why they returned. Superintendent needs to reduce the number of staff in Administration. We need to increase the number of transportation employees by providing a bonus to new employees.

LOCAL MANOR ISD

PLACE 2 (continued)

Mary L. Thomas

No response received

PLACE 3



Ben Arellano

Qualifications: I served on the MISD SB as board pres., vice-pres. and member. I acquired extensive training while I served. I am a former electrical teacher, Project. Mgr., Inspector and am a Master Electrician.

Student Outcomes: I would like to see that we offer our

students all the resources needed for them to meet their educational goals whether at school or at home. We also need to support our staff as they too feel the stress of adapting to different forms of teaching. We need to remember that not every student is alike and some need additional support both educationally and mentally.

Libraries: I feel that we would as a board review the specific books and come to a consensus on whether or not to remove certain books.

School Safety: We need to provide extensive training to personnel at every campus for different scenarios that might occur. It is very important that we upgrade and install additional monitoring equipment. We need to partner with our local, state and federal law enforcement.

Other Issue: We need to find ways to serve the diverse community of Manor ISD. The importance that student's see themselves in the teachers and staff of their campus. We need to host job fairs in order to recruit a diverse staff along with the help of social media to recruit the best staff needed.

Ana Cortez

No response received

PLACE 4

Fabian Martinez

Unopposed

LOCAL PFLUGERVILLE ISD

SPECIAL ELECTION

PROPOSITION A

Background

In 1993, the state of Texas passed the Robin Hood law, a law that recaptures tax dollars from property-wealthy districts and redistributes the dollars to less wealthy districts across Texas. Pflugerville ISD is now considered a property-wealthy district by state standards. The state of Texas will require voters to approve Pflugerville ISD to make the mandatory recapture payments through the purchase of attendance credit at a required, one-time election.

Ballot Language

Authorizing the board of trustees of Pflugerville Independent School District to purchase attendance credit from the state with local tax revenues.

Explanation

If Prop A is passed, Pflugerville ISD will make the mandatory recapture payments required by the Robin Hood law through the purchase of attendance credit. If Prop A fails, the Texas Education Agency will send a portion of Pflugerville ISD's land to another school district in order to reduce Pflugerville's total property value. The Texas Education Agency will select the portion of land, and students who live in that area will be annexed to the new school district.

PROPOSITION B

Background

School districts have different types of tax rates that can fund different parts of the district. A Voter Approved Tax

Ratification Election (VATRE) is an election required by the state of Texas to ask voters to approve a modified tax rate.

Ballot Language

Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate of \$1.2646 per \$100 valuation in Pflugerville Independent School District for the current year, a rate that will result in an increase of 21.37 percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the District for the current year as compared to the preceding year, which is an additional \$38,146,329.

Explanation

If Prop B is passed, Pflugerville ISD will increase the tax rate to \$1.26 per \$100 valuation, and this will fund an increase in the maintenance and operations budget that is used to fund everyday operating expenses like teacher salaries and classroom materials.

Will this include a tax increase? Technically, yes, this will include a tax rate increase. However, the Pflugerville Board of Trustees voted to reduce another tax rate, the Interest and Sinking (I&S) tax rate, causing an overall decrease in the tax rate even if Proposition B passes.

PROPOSITIONS C-H

Background

In early 2022, Pflugerville ISD's Citizens Facilities Advisory Committee met eight times and recommended that a \$323,680 million bond election be called for campus improvements. The Pflugerville ISD Superintendent recommended an additional \$43.9 million be added to the bond to purchase land and build affordable teacher housing due to increasing teacher shortages and the rising price of real estate. The Board of Trustees voted to call an election based

on the committee's and Superintendent's recommendations. The last Pflugerville ISD bond election was in 2018 when voters approved \$332 million in bonds.

PROPOSITION C

Ballot Language

The issuance of \$190,280,000 school building bonds for the design, construction, acquisition, rehabilitation, renovation, expansion, improvement and equipment of school buildings in the district and the purchase of the necessary sites therefor and the purchase of new school buses, and levying and imposition of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the costs of any credit agreements. Required statement for all school district bond propositions pursuant to Section 45.003, Texas Education Code: this is a property tax increase.

Explanation

Proposition C, if passed, will cost \$190,280 million and will provide district-wide safety and security upgrades, additions and renovations to current campuses, the purchase of land for future projects, HVAC and mechanical upgrades, and capital improvement projects designed to address aging conditions and equity across campuses.

PROPOSITION D

Ballot Language

The issuance of \$54,000,000 school building bonds for the design, construction, acquisition, rehabilitation, renovation, expansion, improvement and upgrading of technology systems, including network security improvements and related infrastructure and equipment, and levying and imposition of taxes

LOCAL PFLUGERVILLE ISD

sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the costs of any credit agreements. Required statement for all school district bond propositions pursuant to Section 45.003, Texas Education Code: this is a property tax increase.

Explanation

Proposition D, if passed, will cost \$54 million for technology devices for students and staff and district-wide network security upgrades and technology infrastructure improvements.

PROPOSITION E

Ballot Language

The issuance of \$3,000,000 school building bonds for the design, construction, acquisition, rehabilitation, renovation, expansion, improvement and equipment of performing arts facilities in the district, and levying and imposition of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the costs of any credit agreements. Required statement for all school district bond propositions pursuant to Section 45.003, Texas Education Code: this is a property tax increase.

Explanation

Proposition E, if passed, will cost \$3 million for renovations to the Pflugerville High School Performing Arts Center and sound system upgrades at all high schools.

PROPOSITION F

Ballot Language

The issuance of \$400,000 school building bonds for the design, construction, rehabilitation, renovation, expansion,

improvement and equipment of stadium facilities in the district, and levying and imposition of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the costs of any credit agreements. Required statement for all school district bond propositions pursuant to Section 45.003, Texas Education Code: this is a property tax increase.

Explanation

Proposition F, if passed, will cost \$400,000 for stadium improvements such as the wiring of the Pfield for headsets and microphones and a scoreboard replacement at Hendrickson High School.

PROPOSITION G

Ballot Language

The issuance of \$76,000,000 school building bonds for the design, construction, acquisition, rehabilitation, renovation, expansion, improvement and equipment of a district-wide career and technical education center, and levying and imposition of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the costs of any credit agreements. Required statement for all school district bond propositions pursuant to Section 45.003, Texas Education Code: this is a property tax increase.

Explanation

Proposition G, if passed, will cost \$76 million for a centralized location for career and technical education (CTE) and creation of additional instructional space for CTE programs.

PROPOSITION H

Ballot Language

The issuance of \$43,924,000 school building bonds for the design, construction, acquisition, rehabilitation, renovation, expansion, improvement and equipment of housing for teachers and the purchase of the necessary sites therefor, and levying and imposition of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the costs of any credit agreements. Required statement for all school district bond propositions pursuant to Section 45.003, Texas Education Code: this is a property tax increase.

Explanation

Proposition H, if passed, will cost \$43.92 million for the purchase of land and development of up to one hundred 1- 2- and 3- bedroom units for teachers.

None of Propositions C–H are projected to raise the school district’s property tax rate; new taxable growth (such as new neighborhoods and commercial developments) and increasing property values in Pflugerville are projected to cover the cost. Pflugerville ISD also decreased other tax rates this year, reducing the overall tax burden.

Why does the proposition say this is a tax increase if it will not increase the tax rate? The passage of the bond will increase the amount of debt the ISD owes and in the long-term, how much tax Pflugerville ISD will collect.

LOCAL ROUND ROCK ISD

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Student Outcomes: What will you do to address the academic, social, and emotional effects of the pandemic on students?

Libraries: What is your position regarding the removal of specific books from school libraries?

School Safety: What steps, if any, should be taken to improve physical safety on school campuses?

Other Issue: What other critical issue do you think is important to your community, and how will you address it?

.....

PLACE 1



Kevin Johnson Sr.

Qualifications: My experience as a classroom teacher, district administrator, high school administrator, TEA coordinator, and national education non-profit senior advisor and parent of two RRISD graduates.

Student Outcomes: I will emphasize data-driven decision making, the implementation of evidence-based practices, and a commitment to supporting board decisions that support the academic success of all students. I will work with fellow board members and district administration to use quantitative and qualitative measures of success to improve school-based experiences and maintain a safe school environment for all.

Libraries: Library materials, accessed by students in a school environment should be free of vulgarity and aligned to current stages of student’s development socially and emotionally. Parents should also be afforded the right to opt out of or disallow their students access to materials opposed to their cultural or moral beliefs.

School Safety: In line with data-driven assessments and use of evidence-based practices, after an external audit of the district’s safety and security procedures any steps gleaned from the audit identified to keep students and staff safe need to be taken with the highest priority.

Other Issue: Teacher recruitment, retention, pay, and career progression. Retention of district talent. Timely interventions for learning loss. Integrated mental health services. District benefits. Fiscal accountability and equitable allocation of district resources. Forecasting for population growth.

LOCAL ROUND ROCK ISD

PLACE 1

Kevin Johnson Sr. (continued)

I will work with fellow board members and district administration and solicit community input.

Campaign Website: <https://www.drkevinjohnson4rrisd.com>



John Keagy

Qualifications: I am husband and father of 3, Troopmaster for Trail Life USA, Top Dog of WatchD.O.G.S. in PTA, earned MBA & MS in Chem Eng, and, most importantly, have strong Christian values

which direct my life.

Student Outcomes: The academic struggles must be addressed by the school district. As a trustee, I will set high academic goals to ensure the administration focuses on closing the learning gaps across all demographics. [Portion of response removed; does not meet criteria.] Parents, students, and teachers all need to feel safe in the schools.

Libraries: School libraries should only contain materials necessary to complete TEKS learning requirements and foster a love for reading. Schools should not be the center for social and societal upheaval or controversial topics. Children, especially K-5, should focus on the fundamentals of learning - how to learn, not what to learn. There must be a process to review and maintain books in school libraries.

School Safety: RRISD must address concerns related to the findings from the Uvalde tragedy. Bond money from 2018, as already approved, must be spent to complete interior locks on all classrooms. RRISD must consider placing armed guards on every campus or defining criteria to allow LTC holders to carry on campus. Students and teachers are the most valuable resources in our community - they must be protected.

Other Issue: Division is what is hurting us the most. It comes in many forms: political, religious, racial, economic, gender, etc. Instead of highlighting these divisions, we should embrace what unites us. Schools should focus on creating unity and harmony among our diverse communities, and we need leadership that shares those values. I will ensure we have strong leaders with high moral character in RRISD.

Campaign Website: <https://johnkeagy.com>



Yuriy Semchyshyn

Qualifications: Ph.D. in Computer Science with numerous professional certifications; 15 years of industry experience and 5 years of experience lecturing at a national university; father to three children aged 8, 7, 5

Student Outcomes: Will ensure that our children's rights to attend school and to breathe freely are never violated again

Libraries: Will implement a district-wide automated system of parental controls, enabling each individual parent to pre-

approve the list of books that are available for each of their children to check out

School Safety: Will bring campus safety and physical security to the highest levels seen nationwide

Other Issue: Will hire a qualified superintendent [Portion of response removed; does not meet criteria.]; will focus on academic excellence and keep politically divisive topics out of our classrooms; will curb out-of-control spending on items that do not affect academic outcomes

Campaign Website: <https://www.semchyshyn.com>



Estevan Jesus "Chuy" Zárate

Qualifications: I'm on the PTA at local, council and state levels and chaired Arts and Diversity programs. I participated in the Emerging Leaders Academy at state. I'm a District Level Committee and

CARES Team member

Student Outcomes: Access to therapists and social workers that are trained to deal with the trauma that the pandemic has inflicted on our students is only the first step. We must recognize that learning happens on different levels and flexibility in evaluations is required during tumultuous times.

Libraries: Students are diverse and come from varied backgrounds. Our libraries should reflect that so we can properly serve all of our students. We need to trust the well-trained librarians to guide our students as they explore different and challenging perspectives. Concerned parents already have control over their child's access by talking to their librarians; their choices should not affect all students.

School Safety: The district does a good job of keeping our students physically safe, but the presence of police in classrooms can be mentally harmful to our children, Black and Brown students particularly. We should fund more school therapists and counselors to address mental health. Social and emotional wellness are just as critical for student safety. We want kids to stop worrying so they can keep learning.

Other Issue: Every student learns differently and there is no one size fits all solution for measuring success. Our diverse communities require an innovative approach to compiling and analyzing testing data to identify trends and opportunities for improvement. We should also offer personal and career development opportunities for teachers and staff so we can attract and develop top talent within our district.

Campaign Website: <https://Chuy4rrisd.com>

PLACE 3



Amber Feller

Qualifications: I have had children in RRISD for the past 18 years in TAG, GenEd and SPED. I also have over 200 hours of public education CEU's while serving as a Trustee. Finally, I have a Master's in Education.

Student Outcomes: Recovering from the COVID learning loss is the biggest issue facing public education currently. RRISD must look at the individual student, identify their deficiencies and develop a targeted plan for significant growth. While standardized testing is important, we must ensure we do not just "teach to the test" and make certain that our students have a robust skill set after high school.

Libraries: I understand and respect that citizens may not always agree with curriculum decisions. As a result, RRISD has a robust book review process that allows parents/guardians to voice their concerns and give feedback. A collaborative review with the community and staff should occur to make decisions best for students and ensure decisions made are within the bounds of law.

School Safety: RRISD had already made substantial investments in school safety including bullet proof film, bus surveillance and GPS monitoring, cameras and panic buttons in portable buildings and visitor access controls, to name a few. RRISD also has their own PD connected with MH services to identify and address threats. However, daily and ongoing vigilance is necessary to ensure the safety of our students.

Other Issue: Another issue our community is facing surrounds teacher staffing and morale issues. I will advocate at the legislature for increased funding for public education and ensure that money passes directly to staff. While a pay raise would certainly be appreciated, RRISD must also focus on teacher morale/retention due to the fact that stress/pressures are greater than they ever have been since 2020.

Campaign Website: <https://www.facebook.com/AmberFellerForRRISDSchoolBoard>



Orlando Salinas

Qualifications: I have over seven years of experience in law enforcement support and have coordinated multi-agency operations around the state. My leadership, communication, and negotiation skills most qualify me.

Student Outcomes: The board sets the goals for the district and the current board has set the goal of 35% of African American and 42% of Hispanic third grade reading at grade level by 2023. I will vote to raise those goals to a minimum of 70% on day one. The RRISD budget is over \$500 million dollars and I want to see money diverted to directly improving student outcomes, student safety, and student wellbeing.

Libraries: A robust and diverse library fosters intellectual growth. At the same time, parental rights must be respected. I believe all RRISD personnel have a duty to protect children from harm, including inappropriate or obscene materials. I would like to see loopholes in Texas Penal Code §43.24 closed to ensure that children are not exposed to sexually explicit materials in school libraries.

LOCAL ROUND ROCK ISD

PLACE 3

Orlando Salinas (continued)

School Safety: In 2018, the community voted and approved a bond with monies to enhance school safety, but RRISD has failed to prudently utilize these funds to address security vulnerabilities. RRISD must provide locks for each classroom door. I would like to see a safety rating given to each campus based on random audits of the school's safety measures and I would like for these safety ratings to be made public.

Other Issue: I believe everything rises and falls on leadership and it is imperative that the newly elected board employ a qualified Superintendent. Also, I am a staunch supporter of parental rights and believe that parent's best know the needs of their child.

Campaign Website: <https://Salinas4RRISD.com>



Maryam Zafar

Qualifications: I interned with a Congressional campaign in 2020 and was in Student Government at UTA. I also led an initiative for sexual assault prevention and awareness and led advocacy for trans students' rights.

Student Outcomes: Punitive measures harm students and fail to address their stressors which are only exacerbated by the pandemic. I will reinvest from policing and punishment and put that money towards mental health and disability services. I will maintain health measures as necessary for the most vulnerable members of our community and keep in transparent communication about what measures are in place and why.

Libraries: Book bans disproportionately target books by Black, brown, and LGBTQIA+ authors. I believe that equitable access to knowledge means that students have multiple books from multiple perspectives available to them, and those that are systematically oppressed—namely, books by marginalized authors about marginalized experiences—should be elevated to the same level as those not as oppressed.

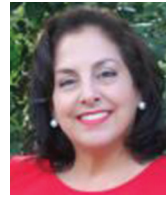
School Safety: Administrations must also be accountable when it comes to reports of threats to safety. In the case of many school shootings, students reported the perpetrator's behavior far before the shooting occurred. Every report must be taken seriously and given weight, and preventative measures—such as mental health care—must be implemented to make our campuses safe.

Other Issue: The rate of sexual assault/harassment in our schools is appalling; it must be addressed through comprehensive sex ed including consent and the experiences of LGBTQIA+ individuals. We must also take our students' futures seriously by adopting thorough sustainability goals and reducing our waste as a district. The teacher shortage

must be addressed by giving every educator higher respect and pay.

Campaign Website: <https://votemaryam.com>

PLACE 4



Linda Avila

Qualifications: An educator with 30 yrs. experience, I hold certifications in Special and Bilingual Education and as an Educational Diagnostician. I know the value of teachers and the need to individualize learning.

Student Outcomes: It's no surprise students endured learning loss, greater challenges with mental health, and poor coping skills resulting from lowered academic standards, accountability measures, and social isolation. We need to return our focus to academics while also addressing their social/emotional needs. We must pursue parental involvement which is critical to ensuring a holistic approach to student welfare.

Libraries: There should be a standard protocol for the approval and removal of books. The school district must identify the age-appropriate reading materials from clearly identified criteria established by TEA. Once a book has been flagged as objectionable, it must immediately go through the proper established vetting process.

School Safety: A safety and security audit should have been completed by RRISD PD and threats to campus safety identified. We need to take the results of that audit and address where the greatest threats exist. One of the areas that needs immediate attention is the safety of students and staff who are still currently in portables.

Other Issue: One issue of grave concern is the disparity in reading and math scores across our minority populations. I also feel the academic bar is set too low and the expectations set for them to reach their fullest potential are not in place. Initiate forums that can address and reach out to specific communities.



Jill Farris

Qualifications: Former IT recruiter, wife, mom of three, active volunteer serving as the Serteen parent advisor for Zoi Ora Filos, on several RRHS booster and non-profit boards and in National Charity League.

Student Outcomes: We need to address the academic learning losses caused by the pandemic. Several of our campuses (Forest North and Chisholm Trail) showed marked improvement in closing those learning gaps. We should evaluate those campuses, find out what is working and replicate those strategies throughout the district.

Libraries: If a book can not be read by adults in a public meeting, it should not be read by our children in private. We need to implement the standards set by TEA in their new li-

brary content policy. We should have a well defined process in place to address any parent or community concerns in a timely, respectful manner.

School Safety: We need to bring in a third party security consultant to evaluate each campus. This community needs to know that we have the most effective strategies in place to protect our most vulnerable. We should review all of the recommendations set forth by the Safety and Security Committee and establish a process to prioritize and implement those recommendations in a timely manner.

Other Issue: Our district has failed too many students. 40% of our 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th graders are testing below grade level in math and over half of our African American and Hispanic 3rd graders are reading below grade level. When academic excellence becomes a priority, everyone wins. We need to show this community that RRISD cares about these students and that starts with improving those test scores.



Alicia Markum

Qualifications: Collaborative volunteer serving the district as a PTA President, diversity and inclusion leader, and special education advocate to build community and equitable opportunities for student success.

Student Outcomes: Promote an aggressive plan to close learning gaps for all students, including resources to educate district leadership about equity and accessibility issues for historically underserved student populations. Drive clarity on how to access district mental health centers and training on social-emotional tools such as restorative practice and trauma-informed care to improve and maintain well-being.

Libraries: Parents have the right to determine what their child reads, and schools have mechanisms in place to ensure this right. Librarians have the expertise to determine what books should be available for all students at their schools. Our world is vast and diverse, and we need to give our kids an opportunity to see themselves in it and as well as learn that there are different ways to move through it.

School Safety: Expand mental health resources with more staff and community partnerships, equity training for staff on inclusive best practices and language, and increase early identification rates for special education services. Ensure effective safety protocols that consider the unique populations on each campus. Strengthen student community which leads to lower incidences of violence and bullying.

Other Issue: RRISD has done a great job growing the opportunities offered to students, but it is not always clear how to navigate those choices. The community wants transparency and simplicity in the various academic paths to better prepare students for post graduation goals. We need to look at common patterns in course selections to determine issues that may be working at a disadvantage to some students.

Campaign Website: <https://www.markum4rrisd.com>

LOCAL ROUND ROCK ISD

PLACE 4 (continued)



Cory Renee Vessa

Qualifications: RRISD Trustee since 2018; Bachelor's of Political Science from Trinity University; Master's of Public Affairs from LBJ School at UT Austin; Served as Policy Analyst for Texas Senate[.]

Student Outcomes: I'll continue to fight for the financial resources to attract and retain the best qualified, skilled educators needed to address the effects of the pandemic, as well as the funds for mental health services by advocating for an increase to the Basic Allotment and Safety and Security Allotment at the Texas Legislature. Neither allotment has increased since 2019, not even for inflation.

Libraries: The district has a robust policy regarding the challenging of library books and is working to improve it. And some books have been removed using that policy by administration due to inappropriate content. Parents always have the right to restrict the books their children can check out. But when someone wants to restrict what others can have access to, a thorough process is vital.

School Safety: Currently, a district safety audit is underway, and our new Chief of Police is meeting with campus admin teams to find ways to improve. But I believe the key is prevention, which is why I voted for a \$10M+ annual investment in mental health services and support the RRISD PD school policing model, which partners with social workers for prevention and promotion of positive student outcomes.

Other Issue: Affordability in RRISD is a critical issue. Skyrocketing property values have resulted in rising ISD property taxes. Lawmakers passed property tax protections in 2019, but those laws are proving insufficient, especially for renters. I'll advocate at the Texas Legislature for revisions, so RRISD taxpayers aren't shouldering the burden of adequately financing public schools with little state help.

Campaign Website: <https://www.vessa4rrisd.org>

PLACE 5

Joshua Billingsley

Withdrawn



Stefan Bryant

Qualifications: I was an educator for 24 years, and 16 of those years as a middle and high school Assistant Principal. Leaving RRISD in 2019, as an Assistant Principal at McNeil High School.

Student Outcomes: I would research and find resources to train/develop our teachers and campus leaders to identify and address certain triggers that may cause social emotional

stress. This affect alone effects how our children will learn, retain and excel academically.

Libraries: I would have to research which specific books, and determine the cause and effect these specific books will have in the community and on our children. I think literature can be a great vehicle for knowledge, it just depends on the delivery of the material.

School Safety: I think physically we need to do more to add deterrents around the perimeters of our schools, such as; taller gates with monitored access points at certain times of the day. The schools are easily accessible for perpetrators to knock on the front door of the school house and literally walk right in.

Other Issue: There should be more accountability of progressive discipline systems within the learning communities. Discipline actions among minority students aren't aligned with the infraction across the district.

Campaign Website: <http://www.SB4rrisd.com>



Christie Slape

Qualifications: Former High School Spanish teacher, Parent of 4 children in RRISD schools for 17 yrs, Board Certified Productivity and Organizing Professional, Church and Community leader & volunteer[.]

Student Outcomes: The current board has failed children by setting tragically low district-wide goals for 3rd grade literacy and math at 56% and 55% of students scoring at or above grade level. I will elevate student expectations to at least 70% of students performing at or above grade level for all grades and subjects. When students are engaged and successful, they will gain self-confidence and well-being.

Libraries: Reading opens doors to learning about different eras, cultures, subject matter and life experiences. Reading is essential; however, I believe in firm boundaries within public school libraries that will protect children from explicit sexual content. I am in full support of the Texas Education Agency's model policy for removing obscene and harmful materials from public school libraries.

School Safety: The lives of children are precious, therefore RRISD campus administrators, staff and teacher should have regular trainings to review matters of campus safety. School and classroom doors should lock from the inside and stay closed and locked when students are in the building. District police should be thoroughly trained to identify and act in a moment's notice to take down an active shooter.

Other Issue: Parents should be the first and final authority in their child's education. Parental Rights were violated during the pandemic when parents were not allowed to enter their child's school or make decisions about their child wearing a mask. I will support policies in favor of Parental Rights and give parents access to reviewing ALL sup-

plementary curriculum and surveys administered to their child.

Campaign Website: <https://www.christieslape4rrisd.com>



Amy Weir

Qualifications: I have been a volunteer leader across RRISD since 2004 and on the RRISD Board of Trustees since 2018. Recently I earned the title of Master Trustee from the Texas Association of School Boards.

Student Outcomes: I will continue to support our teachers and the administration with district goals and budget decisions that focus on positive student outcomes and giving raises, bonuses and other incentives to help us retain our amazing staff. I will continue to advocate for our Title I campuses especially, and for all campuses to get the individualized funding, resources, and support they deserve and need.

Libraries: All books in RRISD go through a robust screening process per Board policy that includes age & developmental appropriateness. I firmly believe parents are entitled to decide what their own child will read and RRISD allows parents to request an alternate text for their child. I also firmly and adamantly believe that parents should not be able to limit access to books for other students.

School Safety: RRISD does an amazing job regarding school safety. We have badged safe and secure entrances at all our schools. We are implementing new technologies in all classrooms and upgrading exterior doors. We have a new police chief who will begin implementing new response procedures. We need to work as a district on having a mindset and culture of safety that includes all students, parents, and staff.

Other Issue: Board division and school finance are both big issues I hear from our community. Without fixing division, finance gets lost in the noise. I will address these issues by educating the public on the roles and responsibilities of Trustees, school finance and use my learned leadership skills to try to build consensus on the Board to do our jobs as outlined by TEA, TASB, and the State of Texas.

Campaign Website: www.amyweirplace5rrisd.com



LOCAL ROUND ROCK ISD

PLACE 6



Tiffanie N. Harrison

Qualifications: Proud RRISD graduate, two-time RRHS teacher of the year, numerous RRISD & community committees and boards, RRISD board Vice President, Baylor BSED & MBA with marketing/finance concentrations.

Student Outcomes: Budgets are moral documents. RRISD has significantly invested in mental and behavioral health. Educators report student social and emotional behavior lagging 2-3 years so we should invest in positive, safe and supportive school climates. My priority is teacher compensation. We must hire and retain highly skilled and experienced educators for academic achievement, student support and recovery.

Libraries: I vehemently oppose the censorship of literature. Policies EF (Legal, Local, Regulation & Exhibit) outline parental rights and responsibilities around instructional materials. Parents should have oversight over their own children's literature consumption but not over that of other children. Students should be able to see themselves in books and have access to culturally relevant learning material.

School Safety: School safety planning, training & execution are everyone's responsibility. I want to tighten plans

as they relate to disabled students and those with other access needs. Stress safety protocols including: identification of campus visitors, badge wearing, threat assessment & reinforced entry/exit doors. We must also address the trauma of active shooter drills & random security audits.

Other Issue: The chaos of political extremism - from both in & outside RRISD. Individuals & PACs from hyper partisan, extremist groups hoping to influence our local election. So far this resulted in costly litigation for the district & dangerous harassment for employees. It is alarming. Children are not red or blue. Will address this with elected board members driven by love for public education & not hate.

Campaign Website: <https://www.tiffanie4rrisd.com>



Don Zimmerman

Qualifications: BS, MS in Mechanical Eng. (Texas A&M); 35 years in high tech, working in electron microscope R&D. My successes as MUD President and Austin Councilmember prove I can solve complex political problems[.]

Student Outcomes: The "effects of the pandemic" were amplified by partisan political agenda - to quote: "... forthcoming CDC guidance and for your openness to the suggestions made by our president, Randi Weingarten, and the AFT" - a union request to a federal bureaucracy to support

school closures which did great damage to student's achievement and mental health. As Trustee I will battle such partisan apparatchiks.

Libraries: What's worse than the pornographic materials in libraries is the shocking dishonesty and evasiveness of those responsible for this outrage - unelected high level bureaucrats exercising power without accountability. No elected trustee ever ran on platform of porn in libraries, boys in girls showers, transgender coaching of minors, etc. My position is to investigate and prosecute the bureaucrats[.]

School Safety: We know what does not work: "gun free zones"! I also do not support transforming the school into a prison with daily searches, see-through backpacks, and "counselors" who presume to "treat mental illness" with humanist ideology and psychotropic drugs - none of this works! We must return sound moral instruction to warn kids against evil, and have more trained armed personnel to protect students[.]

Other Issue: Students are minors whose parent/guardian have the right and responsibility to educate. The "District" bureaucrats presume ultimate authority over student's books, content, programs, curriculum, counseling, etc. because they are "experts" and parents are not. My position is parents are the rightful authority of all education policy and "staff" may offer "input" - not the other way around!

Campaign Website: <http://www.DonZimmerman.com>

LOCAL TAYLOR ISD

BOND ELECTION

PROPOSITION A

Ballot Language

The issuance of an amount not to exceed \$82,470,000 school building bonds for the safety improvement, construction, renovation, acquisition, and equipment of school buildings in the district, the purchase of the necessary sites for school buildings, and the purchase of new school buses and the levying and imposition of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the costs of any credit agreements. This is a property tax increase.

Explanation

The Taylor ISD Community Advisory Committee (CAC) met over several months to review the needs of Taylor ISD, from maintenance and upgrades to new projects. The CAC, a group of stakeholders that included citizens, parents, and school employees, unanimously recommended that the Board of Trustees hold a bond election for the aggregate amount of just over \$82.4 million. The Taylor Board

of Trustees accepted the CAC's recommendation and voted in August 2022 to call a bond election to be held on November 8, 2022.

Proposition A, if passed, will cost 82,465,778 and improve facility safety, acquire land for new schools, add Career and Technical Education (CTE) classrooms at Taylor High School, and assure that Taylor's elementary schools have adequate space and furniture.

The bond will not increase the Taylor ISD tax rate. However, Texas law passed in 2019 requires that ballot language for bond elections includes this phrase: "This is a property tax increase."

Taylor ISD's total tax rate for the 2022 tax year, is **\$1.28** per \$100 of assessed valuation. This rate is divided between M&O (Maintenance and Operations), \$0.94, and I&S (Interest and Sinking), \$.034, and represents the **lowest** district tax rate since **2008**.

The bond election should not affect the tax bill for anyone over the age of 65, provided the eligible homeowner has applied for the exemption that includes a tax ceiling freeze that is available for homeowners aged 65 or older.

IF YOU ARE A VOTER WITH A DISABILITY, YOU HAVE RIGHTS

You have the right to have reasonable accommodations under federal law.

You have the right to vote privately and independently under federal law.

You have the right to choose your assistant, if needed.

Polling places must be accessible, and one voting machine at each polling location must be accessible (including headphones for visual impairment, adjustable contrast or font, puff or switch, and wheelchair height).

Don't hesitate to ask questions about accommodations. Call ahead to your polling place to ensure they have the accommodations you need ready to go.

If you aren't receiving the support you need or you have any issues, call Disability Rights Texas at 888-796-VOTE (1-888-796-8683).

VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE/CARD

The Voter Registration Certificate/ Card provides the district numbers for each race, or you may go to **VOTE411.org**, **VoteTravis.com**, or **Wilco.org/elections** to receive the list of all candidates you will consider. All citizens wishing to vote must be on the official list of registered voters in their county of residence and provide ID.

The precinct number of where you live

State Senate district

Congressional district

County Commissioner precinct

State House district

Justice of the Peace precinct/ Constable precinct

VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE (Certificado de Registro Electoral) TRAVIS COUNTY (Condado de Travis)				
VOID (VOID)	Gender (Sexo)	Valid from (Valido desde) 1/1/2022		
Year of Birth (Año de Nacimiento)	Pct. No. (Num. Pcto)	thru (hasta) 12/31/2023		
Name and Perm. Res. Address (Nombre y direccion residencial permanente)				
Party Affiliation (Afiliacion del Partido)				
VOTER MUST PERSONALLY SIGN HIS/HER NAME IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT, IF ABLE. (El votante debe firmar esta tarjeta personalmente al recibirla, si puede.)				

U.S. REP.	ST. SEN.	ST. REP.	COMM.	J.P./CN.
37	14	51	4	4
ISD	ISD SMD	SBOE	CITY	CITY SMD
AISD	6	5	AUSFP	9

Name and Mailing Address (Nombre y direccion de correo)

School district

School board member district

State Board of Education district

City Council district

Which city you may vote in

FIRST-TIME VOTER CHECKLIST

VOTE 411

✓ Register to vote

✓ Find your polling place

✓ See what's on your ballot

✓ Check if you need an ID

✓ Vote!

MAJOR CHANGES TO TEXAS ELECTION LAW AND HOW THEY MIGHT AFFECT YOU

In 2021, the Texas legislature passed a new law, Senate Bill 1, that significantly changes election law and voting in Texas. Note: This article does not include all the provisions of SB1. For a more comprehensive overview of the changes, visit the Texas Secretary of State's website here: www.sos.texas.gov/elections/laws/advisory2022-08.shtml

1. Public Officials/Election Officials Are Silenced Regarding Ballot By Mail (BBM)

Public officials and election officials **CANNOT**:

- **Solicit a BBM application** from a person who did not request an application
- **Distribute a BBM application** to a person who did not request the application
- Authorize or approve the **expenditure of public funds to facilitate third-party distribution of a BBM application** to a person who did not request the application
- **Complete any portion of a BBM application** and distribute the application to an applicant.

Since the LWV and other nonprofit organizations that conduct voter registration and voter education activities are not public officials, we may distribute VBM applications and provide information about them, including educating voters about how to fill them out correctly. If you have any questions about Ballot By Mail or need an application, please contact the LWVAA at LWVaustin.org or 512-451-6710. There is a clear, step-by-step instruction sheet at LWVTexas.org/votebymail.

In addition, the LWV TX collaborated with the Center for Civic Design to redesign the BBM application, and it is now available in a much more readable format. This version was approved by the Secretary of State, and it is officially acceptable to apply for your ballot using the new, cleaner form with a larger font size. To get that form, go to LWVTexas.org/votebymail.

2. The ID Requirements for Ballot By Mail Have Changed

Voters must now include identification numbers on their application for a ballot (in Box 1) and on the ballot return carrier envelope (underneath the flap). **Applications and/or Ballots will be rejected** if the number provided doesn't match what's in the official voter file, if you left the spaces blank, or if you used an old application that doesn't have the spaces for the ID numbers.

You must provide:

- Either your TX driver license or TX personal ID card (if it's an expired card, that's OK)
- or
- The last four digits of your social security number
 - If you have none of the above, you can check a statement to that effect on the application

Prior to the new Election law, ID was not required to apply for a mail ballot: elections officials checked BBM applications against the voter record, and issued mail-in ballots when they matched. This new requirement led to thousands of BBM applications and ballots being rejected during the March primary because voters either forgot which ID they originally used to register, or they used old forms, or they missed the question all together.

To be safe, the LWVAA recommends that you provide BOTH NUMBERS—your Texas driver's license number AND the last four digits of your social security number (see illustration from LWV TX resources).

3. Pregnant Women Near Their Delivery Date Are Now Entitled to Vote By Mail

The new law adds a fifth reason you are permitted to vote by mail: if you are expected to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day. As a reminder, Ballot by Mail

is not open to everyone in Texas. You must fall into one of the following categories in order to be eligible to do so:

- 65 years of age or older (If you are over 65, you can apply just once for the year and be enrolled in Vote By Mail for every election in that year. If you're under 65, you must apply each election.)
- Have a disability, defined in Texas Election Code 82.002(a)
- Expect to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day
- Expect to be absent from the county for the entirety of early voting and on Election Day (reasons you might be out of the county include for school, military service, work-related or leisure travel, and so forth. You must be able to provide the dates of your absence and an address where your ballot can be sent.)
- Confined in jail or involuntary civil commitment but otherwise eligible

4. Providing Assistance with BBM Now Requires More Information

Those who help someone fill out a Ballot by Mail application—for example, an elderly family member, a non-English speaker, or someone who has a disability—have additional fields to fill out on the form, including:

- Relationship to the voter
- “Whether the person received or accepted any form of compensation or other benefit from a candidate, campaign, or political committee in exchange for providing assistance”

Those providing assistance to voters must still provide information in fields previously included on the form:

- Signature
- Printed name
- Residence address

5. You Must Complete Additional Paperwork if You Are Helping People Access Curbside Voting

People who assist with curbside voting and are not related to the voters they are helping—such as a driver for an assisted living facility or church group—must fill out a new form if they provide transportation to the polling place to seven or more curbside voters at the same time. The new form requires:

- Name and address
- Whether the person is only providing transportation, or also assistance

6. DPS Is Conducting Monthly Voter Roll Checks

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is now conducting monthly voter roll checks to “verify” citizenship status.

- Those voters flagged by the DPS database as non-citizens must submit proof of citizenship if the record from DPS is dated **AFTER** the person's voter registration became effective.
- Proof of citizenship is one of the following:
 - Voter's birth certificate
 - US passport
 - Certificate of naturalization
 - “Any other form prescribed by the secretary of state”



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Founded in 1919, the League of Women Voters® Austin Area is a nonpartisan, all-volunteer political organization striving to *Make Democracy Work*.®

JOIN US

Membership is open to **everyone at least 16 years or older**. Annual dues are \$60 per person, \$90 for two people in the same household, and only \$5 for high school and college students.

Become a Sustaining Household for \$150 or Sustaining Individual for \$100 annually, and ALL of the extra dues amount stays with our local league.

For more information, please visit LWVAustin.org/join-us/

DONATE

Because we are an all-volunteer organization, your support goes a long way in helping us to

- **Register** eligible voters
- Produce a nonpartisan **Voters Guide** every election season
- Host informative **Candidate Forums** and promote voter education
- Fund programs like **First Vote!** offering high school students voter registration and civic education
- **Advocate** at the local level to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy

LWV-AA is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations to LWV-AA are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. For more information, please visit LWVAustin.org/donate/

VOLUNTEER

Our exciting group is on the front lines of voter engagement. LWV-AA **Volunteer Deputy Registrars (VDRs)** and others promote voter registration and work on getting people to the polls. We conduct **Candidate Forums** and we develop voter education campaigns and materials. Most importantly, we produce the **Voters Guide** for Travis and Williamson counties.

LEAGUE WEBSITE

