



VOTERS ★ GUIDE

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

VOTING IN THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

WHEN

Travis County:

Early Voting:

Monday (10/21)–Saturday (10/26): 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

Sunday (10/27): 12:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Monday (10/28)–Wednesday (10/30): 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

Thursday (10/31)–Friday (11/1): 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.*

*Some locations open until 10:00 p.m.

Election Day:

Tuesday (11/5): 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

Williamson County:

Early Voting:

Monday (10/21)–Saturday (10/26): 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

Sunday (10/27): 12:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Monday (10/28)–Friday (11/1): 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

Election Day:

Tuesday (11/5): 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

WHERE

Travis County:

See a list of polling locations here:

<https://elections.traviscountytexas.gov/current-election-information/current-election/>

Williamson County:

See a list of polling locations here:

<https://www.wilcotx.gov/elections>

STEPS FOR VOTING

1. Verify you are registered to vote:

<https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do>

Questions? See our voter registration guide:

<https://lwvaustin.org/voter-registration>

2. Find your sample ballot to see what races and ballot measures will be on it:

Travis County:

<https://votetravis.gov/voter-lookup/>

Williamson County:

<https://apps.wilco.org/elections/default.aspx>

3. Research the candidates and ballot measure topics by using this *Voters Guide*, online at **VOTE411.org**, or using any other method you want.

Learn what each elected position does at:

<https://lwvaustin.org/lwv-aa-civics-sessions>

4. Print your sample ballot, this *Voters Guide*, or your **VOTE411.org** printout, and mark your selections. If you don't have a printer, you can write down your selections on a piece of paper.

5. Take your ID and your printout with your selections to a polling location during Early Voting or on Election Day.

What IDs are allowed:

<https://www.votetexas.gov/voting/need-id.html>

6. Walk up to the reception desk at the polling location and show your ID. They will ask you to confirm you still live at your registered address, then you'll sign your name to get an empty ballot.

7. Take your empty ballot, walk over to an open voting machine, slide your ballot into the machine, and use the touchscreen to make your selections (you can use your printout with your selections as a reference).

NOTE: Using electronic devices (e.g., mobile phones) at polling locations is prohibited (this is why you should bring a paper with your selections).

8. When you're done, print your completed ballot, review your printed selections, walk over to the ballot box, and slide your completed ballot into the ballot box.

Congratulations! You voted! Take an "I Voted" sticker and wear it proudly!

More detailed instructions are available online at:

<https://lwvaustin.org/vote-in-person>

Want to vote by mail? See instructions at:

<https://lwvaustin.org/vote-by-mail>

INSIDE THIS VOTERS GUIDE

U.S. President	3
U.S. Senator	3
U.S. Representatives	5
Railroad Commissioner	8
Texas Supreme Court	9
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals	11
Texas State Senate	12
Texas Representatives	12
State Board of Education	15
Justice, 3rd Court of Appeals	16
Travis County	17
Williamson County	19
City of Austin	21
City of Bee Cave	26
City of Jarrell	27
City of Lago Vista	28
City of Liberty Hill	29
City of Manor	29
City of Pflugerville	30
City of Rollingwood	31
Village of the Hills	31
Austin Community College (ACC)	32
Austin Independent School District	34
Del Valle Independent School District	36
Lago Vista Independent School District	36
Leander Independent School District	37
Liberty Hill Independent School District	39
Manor Independent School District	40
Round Rock Independent School District	41

You can print this *Voters Guide* and bring it with you into the ballot box when you vote!

VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE/CARD

The Voter Registration Certificate/Card provides the district numbers for each race, or you may go to **VOTE411.org**, <https://votetravis.gov/current-election-information/>, or <https://www.wilcotx.gov/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

County Commissioner precinct

Justice of the Peace precinct/ Constable precinct

Congressional district

State House district

VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE
(Certificado de Registro Electoral)
TRAVIS COUNTY (Condado de Travis)

VOID (VUID)	Gender (Sexo)	Valid from (Válido desde)
[REDACTED]		1/1/2024
Year of Birth (Año de Nacimiento)	Prec. No. (Núm. Pcto.)	thru (hasta)
[REDACTED]	413	12/31/2025
Name and Permanent Residence Address (Nombre y dirección residencial permanente)		
[REDACTED]		
Party Affiliation (Afiliación del Partido)		
X		
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	5	5	AUSFP	CA9

School district

School board member district

State Board of Education district

City Council district

Which city you may vote in

NATIONAL U.S. PRESIDENT

All candidates for U.S. President who will appear on the ballot or qualified as a write-in candidate in Texas are listed below.

Donald J. Trump (R, Republican)

Kamala D. Harris (D, Democrat)

Chase Oliver (L, Libertarian)

Jill Stein (G, Green)

Shiva Ayyadurai (WI, Write-in)

Jessie Cuellar (WI)

Claudia De la Cruz (WI)

Cherunda Fox (WI)

Peter Sonski (WI)

Cornel West (WI)

See [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org) to compare candidates for President. Candidates invited by the League of Women Voters of the United States to provide biographical information and to respond to questions were required to meet certain qualifications:

1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of their intention to run for President.

2. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds based on the most recent date publicly available on the Federal Elections Commission website.
3. The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes.



NATIONAL U.S. SENATOR

Democracy: What needs to be done to protect our democracy and restore faith in our institutions?

Immigration: What policy changes are needed so the U.S. immigration system is both effective and humane?

Cost of Living: What actions can Congress take to bring down the cost of living for Americans?

Reproductive Rights: What should Congress do to protect reproductive rights?

Climate Change: What measures need to be taken at the federal level to address the impacts of climate change?

Freedom of Speech: What is the role of the government in protecting freedom of speech while combating disinformation in the public sphere?

International Relations: What is the role of the U.S. in protecting democracy across the world and how do we balance that position against our economic interests?

Ted Cruz (R)

No response received



Colin Allred (D)

Democracy: Texas is sadly one of the hardest states to vote in. As a former voting rights attorney, I have seen firsthand the devastation on the faces of Americans when they are disenfranchised. I'm committed to ensuring that it is easy and safe for all eligible Americans to vote in our elections, which is why I have been a proud cosponsor of the John Lewis Freedom to Vote Act.

Immigration: My mom was raised in Brownsville where

I often spent summers visiting my grandmother. I support comprehensive reform that includes securing our border, reforming our asylum process, protecting Dreamers and providing a pathway to earned citizenship and matching our immigration system to the needs of our economy. I am a co-sponsor of the bipartisan Dignity Act, and the Bipartisan Border Bill.

Cost of Living: I was raised by a single mom and it wasn't always easy. I know what it is like when costs go up. I was proud to champion legislation to lower health care and energy costs and cap the cost of prescription drugs and insulin for folks on Medicare. We also must cut the cost of child care, work towards universal pre-k and establish nationwide paid family and medical leave.

Reproductive Rights: My wife and I were blessed to have two healthy boys in Dallas, and I cannot imagine if the doctor at one of those appointments had said that something was wrong with our baby but there was nothing they could do about it because of Texas' abortion ban. Among the first pieces of legislation I plan to support is the Women's Health Protection Act, which will codify Roe v. Wade as the law of the land.

Climate Change: We can address the climate crisis, lower energy costs and incentivize economic growth simultaneously. We need an all-of-the-above energy approach that keeps costs low, creates jobs and strengthens our grid. For the last hundred years Texas has been an energy leader and I will continue to support responsible oil and gas production as well as our fast-growing wind, solar and hydrogen sectors.

Freedom of Speech: Protecting the freedom of speech is paramount, as that freedom is foundational to other freedoms. The government has a role to play in ensuring that this freedom is protected from bad actors and foreign adver-

saries. The rise of disinformation is incredibly concerning, and we must put in place guardrails and ensure our social media platforms counter harmful disinformation.

International Relations: These core values are not in tension. Smart trade policy is great diplomacy. This is one of the reasons I championed the USMCA agreement, to strengthen labor standards and grow our own economy with high-paying jobs. By creating trade agreements with other democracies, we can strengthen our own prosperity and independence while standing up to bad actors with a multilateral approach.

Campaign Website: colinallred.com



Ted Brown (L)

Democracy: The two party system has not served our country at all. Voters need more choices and then be willing to vote for alternative parties that will present new ideas in Washington and at the State Capitol. It's hard to have a democracy when so many voices are not heard. The only voices that most politicians listen to are big contributors and corporations. Declare your Independence! Vote Libertarian.

Immigration: Immigration is good for our country's economy and society. Immigrants just want a better life and have a much lower crime rate than native-born Americans. We need an Ellis Island-style immigration system that welcomes people who want to come to any point of entry, sign in, identify themselves, and be confirmed as not being a criminal. They should work from Day One and not be on welfare programs.

Cost of Living: The \$35 trillion national debt is unsustainable. The Federal Reserve printing money to pay the debt

NATIONAL U.S. SENATOR

Ted Brown (L) (continued)

is what causes inflation. We need massive cuts in federal spending across the board in every department, agency, and program, including the military. I support the free market over taxes, spending, and regulation. The less government there is, the more prosperous and happy the people will be.

Reproductive Rights: 99% of abortions are performed in the 1st and 2nd trimesters, not late term, which is rare. Government should not get between women and their doctors on a completely personal decision about their own reproductive systems. I support a federal law to protect access to abortions nationwide, since so many red states (like Texas) want to limit women's personal choices.

Climate Change: While climate change is happening, most proposals to counter it will do little or nothing to actually lower temperatures. Instead, the proposals want to damage Western economies while ignoring China's major emissions. We need a free market in energy, without government subsidies or controls. If we want less carbon emissions, we need to build more nuclear power plants, which have no emissions.

Freedom of Speech: I am a 1st Amendment free speech absolutist and oppose any government attempts to limit free speech. Government should never decide what information is accurate or true, since they are likely covering up their own misdeeds. Both my opponents want to ban Tik Tok. I say no to censorship. The solution to bad speech is more speech. We also have to protect Section 230 from any more attacks.

International Relations: I believe we should engage with every nation in free trade, diplomacy, and travel, but not militarily. I believe in a non-interventionist foreign policy where we are not involved in foreign conflicts. We interfere in every war (and cause a few) and sell or give weapons to various sides, leading to untold death and destruction around the world. Our economic interests are served by free trade.

Campaign Website: www.tedbrown.org



Tracy Andrus (WI)

Democracy: To protect our democracy, we need to be more transparent and reduce racism and bigotry. America is a great nation but some people like are turning America into a rogue nation by trying to overthrow the government. There are some Justices who are acting like puppets and seem to be scared to interpret the law if it offends certain party members. We have work to do to restore faith in our institutions

Immigration: Let the immigrants into America, give them legal status and let them pay taxes like everyone else. It is hypocrisy to act like we dont need the hispanics who come into this country. These people perform jobs that no one else want to do. We let them into our country and give them individual tax identification numbers and then cry foul! implement comprehensive immigration reform and keep it moving.

Cost of Living: Hire more people and produce more products! We have more consumers and less producers. Over 117,000 illegal immigrants crossed the border in May 2024. These people need food, medicine, houses, schools etc. If we are allowing these many people to cross the border each month of course we will have a problem with supply and demand.

Reproductive Rights: Codify Roe Vs. Wade and make it federal law so states cannot restrict a woman's right to make decisions regarding their bodies. I also believe that women should be responsible and accountable. If a woman have sex without using contraceptives and get pregnant, I believe that they should have the baby even if they give the baby up for adoption.

Climate Change: We need to continue to research renewable and green energy while phasing out the use of fossil fuels. Our ozone layer has thinned and we see the collateral consequences it has had on our weather patterns. The last threwe years have been the hottest years on record. This is no coincidence. We've had more tornadoes and hurricanes than ever! All of this is a result of climate change!

Freedom of Speech: The government should protect free speech but not hate speech or speech that misinform the public. With the advent of AI and social media, it is more important than ever that we protect free speech! Public information can be lethal. America must combat disinformation in the public sphere.

International Relations: The United States is not the World's Police! I believe that we should work to preserve democracy all over the world but we must not meddle in international affairs that do not threaten our way of life. We must balance and be good stewarts of our resources in America.

Campaign Website: www.tracyandrusforsenate.com

Analisa Roche (WI)

Democracy: We need to elect people of integrity who we trust to work together in solidarity for the common good, regardless of which way they lean politically.

Immigration: All policies must respect the infinite dignity of the life of every human being. Comprehensive reform is needed that both preserves border security and treats people humanely. Undocumented immigrants need workable pathways to citizenship. Family unification should be a top priority, as should protection of refugees and asylum seekers.

Cost of Living: Congress can require workers be paid a living wage. Congress can also pass funding and tax incentives for affordable housing programs. It should consider rent control in some areas. Universal healthcare and other healthcare reform measures that reduce out-of-pocket costs for health should be passed. Social safety nets should be expanded and strengthened. The tax system should be reformed.

Reproductive Rights: This question assumes that reproductive rights should be protected. I believe the inherent dignity of all human life should be protected, from the pre-

born child to the mother carrying it. Congress should expand support for those expecting children in the forms of assistance with healthcare, education, child care, and housing. I believe we can create a society where abortion is not necessary.

Climate Change: Development of renewable energy needs to be funded. A carbon pricing system could reduce carbon footprints. Green infrastructure projects need to be invested in & sustainable agriculture needs to be promoted. Large-scale reforestation and protection of biodiversity is essential. The US should lead international climate agreements. Marginalized & vulnerable communities should receive particular aid

Freedom of Speech: Freedom of speech is a fundamental human right essential for democracy. Government must protect it. Censorship should only ever be used cautiously. Government must promote truth by fostering a culture of truthfulness and critical thinking. Election of people with integrity will go a long way towards this effort. Encouraging media literacy and education will also help.

International Relations: The US has a responsibility to support human rights and democratic values worldwide; we should, however, be cautious about military intervention. Foreign aid is our best tool for promoting human rights and democracy. Work with international organizations such as the UN is important. Fair trade agreements must protect labor rights and environmental standards. Targeted economic sanctions are a tool.

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 (866-687-8683)

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

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

ARABIC: 844-YALLA-US (844-925-5287)

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

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

NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 10

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

Immigration: What policy changes are needed so the U.S. immigration system is both effective and humane?

Reproductive Rights: What should Congress do to protect reproductive rights?

Climate Change: What measures need to be taken at the federal level to address the impacts of climate change?

.....

Michael T. McCaul (R)

No response received



Theresa Boisseau (D)

Qualifications: I am a mom, former teacher and successful realtor in Austin. Throughout my life, I have strived to empower people and bring community together. I work with everyone who

wants to find solutions.

Immigration: Our current immigration policy has resulted in the problem being bottled up at the Texas border. We need stricter border controls, a path to citizenship, protections against exploitation and stronger pathways to legal immigration in needed areas. Also, we must tackle the challenges of immigration at source; create stability and opportunity in central America through diplomacy and investment.

Reproductive Rights: Codify abortion as the law of the land using Roe v. Wade as the basis. Additionally, wider women's healthcare should get legislative protection, this includes IVF, contraception and access to life-saving medicine that has been widely available and safe.

Climate Change: Federal legislation must be focused on protecting what we have, driving dramatic change through opportunity, and ensuring that everyday Americans do not bear the brunt of such change. We need stronger protections for local water sources. Locally controlled renewable power generation. Greater investment in research. A preservation and increase in energy sector jobs through investing in hydrogen.

Campaign Website: www.theresa4texas.com



Jeff Miller (L)

Qualifications: I am qualified because I am citizen of Texas in the United States, over 25 years of age. In addition, I have lived here for 42 years under all the laws and regulations imposed by the government.

Immigration: People obviously still WANT to come to America, and the vast majority of them want to work. We

need to make it easier to immigrate here legally and stop treating immigrants as a political football to be thrown back and forth by the two old parties for their campaigns and fundraisers. A huge improvement could be made by decriminalizing the drug trade and removing the power of the cartels.

Reproductive Rights: What Congress can do best to protect rights is to repeal all the federal laws that violate them. The federal government should stop intruding in every area that it has no business in. I would oppose any federal abortion ban bill as well as any attempt to codify a "right to abortion" in federal law. In addition, I would not support any budget or appropriations bill that funded "family planning."

Climate Change: The federal government should once again stay out of it, and allow private citizens to find solutions to the problems in every area possible. By promoting innovation, incentivizing sustainable practices, and respecting property rights, it is possible to address the impacts of climate change while upholding principles of personal liberty and limited government intervention.

Campaign Website: votemiller.org

DISTRICT 17



Pete Sessions (R)

Qualifications: Born, raised, and live in Waco, Texas. Eagle Scout. Married to Karen Sessions. 16 yrs private sector and 2 terms member of Congress for Congressional District 17.

Immigration: I've seen the chaos at the border firsthand and in America's cities. We must secure the border, so we know who is entering our country. Illegal entry is causing criminal behavior at the price of American lives. I support a border policy that protects and respects our sovereignty and ensures the safety of law enforcement and the citizens of our country.

Reproductive Rights: The Supreme Court in 2022 ruled to defer abortion policy to the states.

Climate Change: Climate does change. The U.S. has worked successfully to create an economy with clean industries and reduced pollution. We can and should lead the world in finding new sources of climate-friendly energy production to share like hydrogen power cells and advanced nuclear power.

Campaign Website: Petesessions.com



Mark Lorenzen (D)

Qualifications: I am a Pediatrician. I will bring my heart for service to others to Congress. I will also bring integrity, strong communication skills and collaborative problem solving skills to my work in congress.

Immigration: Rampant misinformation about undocumented immigrants and asylum seekers must be replaced

with a fact based approach. We must increase funding for more immigration judges. Children brought to the U.S. without documentation at an early age and who have grown up in the U.S., should be given an expedited path to citizenship. We should never permit the separation of minor children and their parents,

Reproductive Rights: Congress should pass a law re-establishing the reproductive freedoms established by Roe v. Wade (which were recently revoked by the U.S. Supreme Court). Congress should also provide the federal funding needed to ensure good access to a full range of safe and affordable reproductive healthcare services, including but not limited to, abortion medications, various forms of contraception and IVF.

Climate Change: Congress should focus on continued development of green energy production capacity, energy efficiency measures, cleaner transportation options and urban design measures which will increase our quality of life while providing a more prosperous future. Congress should also ensure protection of all of our federal natural resources in order to reduce the negative impact of global climate change.

Campaign Website: marklorenzen.org

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).

NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 21

Background: What background and/or education do you have that would make you an effective House member?

Reproductive Health: Regarding women's reproductive health, please state and explain your position on each of the following: Abortion, contraception, IVF, and mailing of reproductive medications.

Immigration: What immigration reform legislation, if any, would you support?

U.S. Supreme Court: Do you think any changes should be made to the U.S. Supreme Court structure or practice? Explain.

Economic Policy: What changes, if any, in foreign or domestic economic policy do you support?

Electoral College: Do you think the Electoral College should remain or be replaced by a national popular vote?

Guns: Do you support the current legal status of semi-automatic weapons and/or bump stocks? Why or why not?

Chip Roy (R)

No response received



Kristin Hook (D)

Background/Experience: I am not a polished politician. I grew up in a working-class family in Texas. Against all odds, I earned two degrees from UT-Austin and a PhD from Cornell. When the pandemic

hit, I left my research career in reproductive biology to serve the public as a science & tech expert in our federal government (U.S. Senate, NIH, GAO). As a scientist and former teacher, I am trained to solve problems and will bring sensible leadership and compromise to Congress to help solve the critical issues we face.

I've spent most of my career as an educator, scientist, and public servant. I served the public as a middle school teacher through Teach For America and as a science and tech expert in our federal government. I also spent ten years as a reproductive biologist, proudly earning my PhD despite being raised by a single mom who never went to college.

Reproductive Health: As a woman, I believe we should have the freedom to make our own reproductive health-care decisions. I support protecting and restoring Roe v. Wade and expanding access to birth control, IVF, and reproductive medicines. I believe family planning decisions should be made by patients and medical experts, not politicians or government. I trust Texans to make their own reproductive health decisions and believe you and your doctor are smart enough to make the best decisions for you and your family.

Immigration: Growing up near the border, I'm dedicated to supporting bipartisan solutions for the border crisis and fixing our immigration system. To curb illegal crossings and address safety concerns, I support enhancing border security and enforcement, improving case processing, and addressing the root causes of migration. Additionally, I will advocate for new legal pathways to citizenship, especially for Dreamers and hardworking immigrants who contribute to our society and economy while obeying the law.

U.S. Supreme Court: When I served as a scientist at the Government Accountability Office, I took an oath of loyalty to our Constitution, which outlined a system of government with checks and balances. No branch of government should be responsible for policing itself, and no one in public service should hold a position for life. Thus, I support instituting term limits and legislation that strengthens the impartiality and ethical integrity of the federal judiciary, including a binding and enforceable code of conduct.

Economic Policy: I grew up living paycheck to paycheck and understand the strain of rising costs. I believe to build a stronger America, we must ensure a fair economic system for all by strengthening the middle class and abolishing poverty. Thus, I support protecting Social Security, raising the minimum wage, paid family and sick leave, access to affordable childcare, tax reform so billionaires and corporations pay their fair share, empowering workers' rights to organize, and bolstering small business owners.

Electoral College: I believe in fair representation and that the presidency should be decided by the candidate who receives the most nationwide votes. Under our current system, the presidency is decided by the Electoral College, which dilutes the power of voters based on where they live. I support reforms to the Electoral College that would make presidential elections more democratic. A national popular vote would help ensure that every voter counts equally and would make the U.S. a more representative democracy.

Guns: I come from a family of responsible gun owners and hunters. Like them, I support common sense gun safety laws that protect the Second Amendment. I will work across the aisle to pass evidence-based legislation that keeps Texans safe while supporting responsible gun ownership, such as expanding background checks, licensing laws, waiting periods, red flag laws; restricting bump stocks; and raising the age for gun purchases and possession.

Campaign Website: www.drkristinhook.org/



Bob King (L)

Background/Experience: I have had the privilege of having two distinct careers: the first, from 1983-2004, as a banker and then as a senior financial executive in the oil and gas industry; the second, from 2004-2020, as a nonprofit executive and consultant. I also have more than 40 years of experience as a taxpayer.

I have a BA in Economics and an MBA in Finance, both from SMU in Dallas. I worked for 20 years in the energy finance industry, and another 15 as a nonprofit leader, board member and consultant. The financial background gives me an understanding of markets and of budgeting and accounting; the nonprofit background (plus my Christian faith) taught me that society must assist the neediest among us. I also have 40+ years experience as a taxpayer, so I know that money doesn't grow on trees.

Reproductive Health: Abortion policy should be a balancing of rights, with the presumption in favor of choice, at least until the fetus is equipped to survive outside of the womb. Therefore, abortions should be legal until the 20th week of gestation; the States should be able to regulate them if they choose ONLY after week 20. Tax dollars should NEVER be used to pay for abortions. All contraception choices and IVF should remain legal. The two parties do not seek a solution. I do. See my website for more.

Immigration: Border security comes first, but we need more legal immigrants. Let's (1) tighten rules for asylum, (2) grant legal status to Dreamers, (3) create a guest worker program, and (4) simplify/increase green cards granted to workers and college grads. Then, defer implementation of these liberalizations until violations of our border are under control. This approach gets both sides paddling in the same direction. The two parties do not seek a solution. I do. See my website for more.

U.S. Supreme Court: The Supreme Court is the only branch of government that defends our liberties. Congress passes laws restricting our freedom and redistributing our money; the President takes us to war without constitutional authority and regulates us to death. Only SCOTUS stands in their way. We can all argue with one ruling or another, or have our most and least favorite Justice. But we should not add more politics to the Supreme Court, it is already politicized enough. Leave it as it is.

Economic Policy: Govt is too big, spends too much money. It has created a mountain of debt for our children to pay. Deficits are generational theft and a sin. Eventually (and soon) our economy will be destroyed by it. Yet neither party wants to fix it. I will. Govt must be forced to live within its means. All departments should be cut dramatically, some eliminated, and all but a few dispersed out of DC and to the four corners of the USA. It will be painful, but it must be done. See my website for more.

Electoral College: The Electoral College was part of the compromise that led the 13 colonies to agree to our Constitution. Without it, the USA would not exist. The EC balances the power of small and large states. There is no reason to even consider changing it unless those who seek to abolish it have something to offer in trade that pushes more authority back to the States. I have ideas on such a trade, but those who seek a national popular vote have no desire to trade — only to take. Accordingly, no deal.

NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

Bob King (L) (continued)

Guns: The Second Amendment is clear: we have a right to defend ourselves, not just from criminals, but also from the rise of a tyrannical government. This right safeguards all of our liberties. Mass shootings are terrible. Convicted felons and the mentally ill should not be able to purchase firearms. Violent felons need to be incarcerated until they are too old to hurt anyone, or for life if necessary. But this problem should not be “solved” by taking away the rights of law-abiding Americans.

Campaign Website: www.BobKingforTexas21.org

DISTRICT 31

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

Immigration: What policy changes are needed so the U.S. immigration system is both effective and humane?

Reproduction: What, if any, role should the federal government have in regulating abortion and access to contraception and IVF?

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

John Carter (R)

No response received



Stuart Whitlow (D)

Qualifications: As a 5th generation Texan and experienced attorney, I’ve spent 35 years fighting for justice and providing legal aid to thousands. I understand our needs and will deliver real results for all Texans.

Immigration: We need an immigration system that is secure and compassionate. I support modernizing visas to reduce backlogs, improving security at ports of entry, and reforming the asylum process. Balancing security with dignity ensures we reflect our values while maintaining safety. I’d support the bipartisan, common-sense border legislation, SB 4361, that was killed by Trump in the Senate earlier this year.

Reproduction: The federal government should protect individuals’ rights to make their own healthcare decisions, including access to abortion, contraception, and IVF. As a father of two children born through IVF, I know how personal these choices are. Politicians shouldn’t interfere in these decisions. Congress must safeguard these freedoms and ensure everyone has the right to make their own healthcare choices.

Gun Safety: As a gun owner myself, I believe Congress should enact common-sense gun safety measures that the majority of Americans support. This includes universal

background checks and closing loopholes in gun sales. We must also invest in mental health services and community-based violence prevention programs. These steps will help protect our communities while respecting responsible gun ownership.

DISTRICT 35

Background: What background and/or education do you have that would make you an effective House member?

Reproductive Health: Regarding women’s reproductive health, please state and explain your position on each of the following: Abortion, contraception, IVF, and mailing of reproductive medications.

Immigration: What immigration reform legislation, if any, would you support?

U.S. Supreme Court: Do you think any changes should be made to the U.S. Supreme Court structure or practice? Explain.

Economic Policy: What changes, if any, in foreign or domestic economic policy do you support?

Electoral College: Do you think the Electoral College should remain or be replaced by a national popular vote?

Guns: Do you support the current legal status of semi-automatic weapons and/or bump stocks? Why or why not?

Steven Wright (R)

No response received



Greg Casar (D)

Background/Experience: As the current Congressman for TX-35, my work is centered on delivering for the heart of Texas. My office has helped deliver hundreds of millions of dollars to the communities I represent from Austin to Hays County to San Antonio. We’ve returned more than \$7 million directly to constituents — all while fighting to expand Social Security, stand up for workers, care for our veterans, and restore basic rights for everyone. My goal will always be to make our government work for working people.

Reproductive Health: I strongly support restoring abortion rights nationwide. With Texans having to travel hundreds of miles to get the care they need, it’s more important than ever before that we pass the Women’s Health Protection Act. I strongly support the right to abortion care, contraception, IVF, and the mailing of reproductive medications.

Immigration: All families deserve to live dignified lives without fear of being separated, deported, or discriminated against. In Congress, I’m a co-leader of the New Way For-

ward Act, which would roll back harmful anti-immigrant laws and stop Abbott’s militarization of the border. I also support bills like the American Dream & Promise Act and the American Families United Act. We can protect immigrant families with a pathway to citizenship — while expanding pathways for legal, orderly, and safe immigration.

U.S. Supreme Court: We must reform and expand the Supreme Court to add justices who want to protect our rights, instead of taking them away. I also support President Biden’s plan to implement term limits for Supreme Court Justices, a binding ethics code, and a constitutional amendment limiting presidential immunity. Our democracy can work for everyday people, not just the powerful and rich.

Economic Policy: I support policies that center human rights and labor rights around the world. In our own country, we must fairly tax top earners and make sure big corporations pay their fair share of taxes. We must stop rewarding corporations with tax breaks that bust unions while offshoring jobs, and instead support thoughtful trade policies that lift up workers in our own country and abroad. With a fair tax system, we can fully fund health care, child care, schools, and good jobs for all Americans.

Electoral College: For our democracy to work for everyday people, we need to make sure that every vote counts. Because of that, I support the Electoral College being replaced by a national popular vote. I also support the Freedom to Vote Act, which ends partisan gerrymandering, cracks down on dark money in politics, establishes automatic voter registration, and combats voter suppression. I also don’t accept donations from corporate PACs, and support overturning Citizens United.

Guns: I’m committed to ending the epidemic of gun violence in our country. I support banning assault weapons, bump stocks, and high-capacity magazines, as well as common sense gun violence intervention programs, universal background checks, ending permitless carry, and creating safe storage rules. I am a proud co-sponsor of the Assault Weapons Ban, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act, and support reinstating the Violent Crime and Law Enforcement Act, among other reforms.

Campaign Website: casarforcongress.com

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NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 37

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

Immigration: What policy changes are needed so the U.S. immigration system is both effective and humane?

Reproductive Rights: What should Congress do to protect reproductive rights?

Climate Change: What measures need to be taken at the federal level to address the impacts of climate change?

.....

Jenny Garcia Sharon (R)

No response received



Lloyd Doggett (D)

Qualifications: A life-long Austinite, I've served in Texas State Senate, Texas Supreme Court, U.S. House, Senior Dem Ways & Means Health Subcommittee, Budget Comm, 15 times "Best of Austin" Austin Chronicle award.

Immigration: Security doesn't require cruelty, wasting millions on useless border measures, stirring anti-immigrant hysteria. Comprehensive immigration reform will boost economic growth, benefitting all Americans. Ease citizenship path for Dreamers, who came as children, and longtime taxpaying residents obeying laws. Match immigrants with unfilled jobs. Invest in timely determining validity of entrant claims.

Reproductive Rights: With 100% lifetime prochoice voting record, I trust women to make their own decisions. Now sponsoring: Women's Health Protection Act, codifies Roe v Wade; Stop Comstock Act, repeals misused 1873 law; Right to Contraception Act; Right to IVF Act; EACH Act to ensure insurers cover abortions. Reject Texas extremist ban endangering lives. Whether your body or ballot, I'm fighting for right to choose.

Climate Change: This is a crisis! Less fossil fuels & less fossilized thinking. I'm active Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition member. 2022 Climate law on which I worked encourages innovative Centex entrepreneurs to offer answers, but much more needed: renewables, EVs, greater efficiency, upgrading transmission & grid resiliency, reduc-

ing pollutants, including microplastics. Accurate emission reporting.

Campaign Website: votedoggett.com



Girish Altekar (L)

Qualifications: I have a background in technology, working for large companies as well as running my small Austin tech services business. I am a strategic thinker and manager, capable of comprehensive problem solving

Immigration: We need to separate migrant workers from those seeking permanent status in the US as immigrants. While the latter requires debate, the former is a no brainer and a technology based solution can make it easy and humane for all workers to come and go as they please.

Reproductive Rights: Reproductive decisions should be an issue of discussion only between a woman and her physician. The federal and state governments should not interfere.

Climate Change: None. Markets and entrepreneurs will recognize what impacts need to be alleviated and will create solutions to mitigate/alleviate the impacts.

STATE RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

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

Oil and Gas Wells: What can the Railroad Commission do to mitigate the harm to the health of people and animals and to land caused by producing and abandoned oil and gas wells?

Emissions: What should the Railroad Commission do to reduce the amount of flared gas from oil and gas wells in Texas?

Carbon Capture: Should the Railroad Commission be granted authority to regulate wells and underground storage facilities in Texas that trap and store carbon dioxide? Why or why not?

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

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

.....

Christi Craddick (R)

No response received



Katherine Culbert (D)

Qualifications: I am a Process Safety Engineer who helps Oil & Gas companies operate safely to protect communities and workers and follow regulations. I care about my fellow Texans and want everyone to thrive here.

Oil and Gas Wells: The RRC needs to continue to monitor plugged and abandoned wells in perpetuity. They need to take responsibility for all old wells in the state, whether they were drilled for production or water and they need to hold the companies that drilled the wells responsible for continuing to monitor and confirm the integrity of the well plugs and repair leaking or damaged wells to protect our communities.

Emissions: Flaring releases methane (natural gas) and other hazardous air pollutants and contributes to ground-level ozone. RRC needs to update Rule 32 to define when a flaring permit should be granted, remove flaring applications from the consent agenda, and hold companies accountable for the

environmental damage they are doing to all of us. They have only denied 44 out of >8000 permits since May '21.

Carbon Capture: No, CCUS presents new risks to drinking water from harmful materials like lead, arsenic, and strong acids. The RRC is not funded to allow adequate oversight of this new technology, which is not fully developed, adding more complexity. The RRC is unable to control the oil, gas, and injection wells that are already under its control, we should not add more to further put our communities at risk.

Seismic Activity: The limits the RRC are putting on the injection wells are not working. We need to further limit the number of injection wells and the locations by not injecting disposal water near natural fault lines. Additionally, we need to hold the companies accountable for treating the water so it is not toxic and can be reused elsewhere.

Ethics: There is a difference between receiving income from working in an industry and making windfall profits from corporate investments with the companies you are regulating, having your actions directly increase your profits. Many agencies prohibit investments in companies that are affected by agency actions and Texas needs to implement the same rules. Industry experience is an asset for regulators.

Campaign Website: www.katherine4texas.com

STATE RAILROAD COMMISSIONER



Hawk Dunlap (L)

Qualifications: 30+ years domestic and international oil and gas experience specializing in well control (well fires and blowouts) critical well integrity and risk management.

Oil and Gas Wells: Strictly enforce statewide rules, hold oil and gas operators accountable, and aggressively change the way we plug wells.

Emissions: Ensure there is more gas take away capacity and storage as well as push for new markets for our resources.

Carbon Capture: Not with the way the agency is currently operating presently. Texas needs to deal with the over injection of produced water before taking on a serious risk like ccus.

Seismic Activity: Produced water recycling and a reduction in produced water injection will need to be addressed. Furthermore a reduction in ground water use for oil and gas operations will be required.

Ethics: I am not raising money for this campaign.

Campaign Website: Hawk4texas.com



Eddie Espinoza (G)

Qualifications: Eddie Espinoza is not a politician or oil-industry insider. He's an Army veteran, retired elementary teacher, and climate activist. Eddie wants to lower your electric bill with renewable energy.

Oil and Gas Wells: Eddie Espinoza wants the Railroad Commission to regulate the oil and gas industry effectively and enable our transition to cheap, clean renewable energy. Eddie is the only center/left choice in this race. His oppo-

nents all get income from the oil and gas industry, and the "Democratic" challenger for Railroad Commissioner is actually a Republican – she has voted in Republican primaries for years.

Emissions: Gas flaring and venting should be banned. Period. Scientists report that communities within 60 miles of flaring have increased rates of hospitalization for respiratory issues. Gas flaring and venting is a significant cause of global warming. We must stop releasing methane into the atmosphere.

Carbon Capture: The Railroad Commission should ban carbon capture schemes, because carbon capture is NOT a real climate solution. Carbon capture will cost billions of dollars and raise energy bills for consumers, but will barely contribute to global warming mitigation. The only climate solution is to transition away from fossil fuels to clean renewables like wind, solar, and utility-scale batteries.

Seismic Activity: Ban fracking. Ban injection wells. Oil and gas extraction contaminates enormous amounts of water, which is then disposed of by injecting the toxic water underground, harming freshwater sources and causing earthquakes. Cheap, clean renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and utility-scale batteries don't cause earthquakes or contaminate our soil, water, and air.

Ethics: Candidates who say fundraising and income don't influence them are lying! Eddie Espinoza hasn't taken any oil and gas industry donations, and he never will – unlike his opponents. Eddie Espinoza receives no oil and gas industry income, and he never will – unlike his opponents. You can trust Eddie Espinoza to work for you, not for the oil and gas industry, as Railroad Commissioner.

Campaign Website: espinoza4tx.com



Richard McKibbin (WI)

Qualifications: I am the American Solidarity Party candidate for Texas Railroad Commissioner. I live in Ector, Tx with my wife and daughter. I attended the University of Ulster and Grayson County College.

Oil and Gas Wells: I strongly believe in the polluter pays principle and that those who leave wells posing a health hazard to local communities must be financially responsible for cleaning them up. I also believe our inspectors need to be more proactive in identifying such wells. Additionally, I would increase the surety bonds on wells from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Emissions: I believe we should explore ways to turn flared gas into something useful, such as liquefied natural gas or compressed natural gas.

Carbon Capture: I believe there is more research to be conducted in the area of carbon capture with regard to the regulation of carbon capture and the safety to local communities.

Seismic Activity: I believe the Railroad Commission could conduct a thorough survey of the state to identify areas with the highest risk of seismic activity and pinpoint fault lines. Additionally, I believe that those wishing to drill within 50 miles of a fault line should pay a premium surety bond.

Ethics: Being a member of a very small, environmentally aware party, I have no donors with corporate links to the oil and natural gas industry. I believe such donations could constitute a conflict of interest and should not be allowed for campaigns for this position.

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089249035314&mibextid=LQQJ4d

STATE TEXAS SUPREME COURT

JUSTICE

Qualifications: What characteristics and experience qualify you to serve as a 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 review lower court decisions?

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

Judicial Elections: How would the administration of justice be impacted if judges ran in nonpartisan races?

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



PLACE 2

Jimmy Blacklock (R)

No response received



DaSean Jones (D)

Qualifications: Judge DaSean Jones is a decorated combat veteran, district judge, and former civil rights attorney with broad voter support. His legal and military experience uniquely qualify

him to defend the U.S. a

Ethics: Judge DaSean Jones, with 23+ years of service, assures voters that his rulings are based solely on the law, not influenced by campaign donations. His deep commitment to loyalty, duty, and fairness ensures impartial decisions,

rooted in the ethical standards he has consistently upheld throughout his career as a decorated Army veteran and district judge.

Equity: Judge DaSean Jones believes improving access to justice starts with eliminating barriers and ensuring fair treatment for all, especially underserved communities. He advocates for expanding legal resources, increasing public legal education, and fostering inclusivity in the justice system. By addressing systemic inequities, Judge Jones is committed to ensuring everyone has equal access to justice.

Judicial Elections: Nonpartisan judicial races could potentially enhance justice if party influence is fully removed. Without party labels, judges might focus more on the law, leading to what could be perceived as fairer decisions. However, if party influence continues through endorsements or funding, the effort may be hollow. Some judges may bravely

STATE TEXAS SUPREME COURT

PLACE 2

DaSean Jones (D) (continued)

maintain impartiality, while others might still lean towards party.

Other Issues: The Texas Supreme Court's similar backgrounds raise concerns about adequately representing the state's diverse population. As Texas diversifies, the Court must ensure its rulings address all communities. Without broader representation, public trust and the Court's legitimacy could continue to decline. Diverse perspectives are essential for delivering impartial and equitable decisions for all Texan

Campaign Website: www.daseanfortexas.com

PLACE 4

John Devine (R)

No response received



Christine Vinh Weems (D)

Qualifications: I have been a civil district judge in Harris County since January 1, 2019. I am double-board certified in civil trial law and personal injury trial law. I practice judicial discretion and equity.

Ethics: It is standard for lawyers who practice in courts to donate and support judicial races. They just want good judges who will make decisions either way and let them try their case. Even after 5 1/2 years on the bench, ruling for and against these lawyers, I am honored to still have their support because they know I am just doing my job and will be fair. It will be the same on the Supreme Court.

Equity: There needs to be greater efforts made to educate the public about the numerous services available. Between non-profit organizations, pro-bono legal services, legal clinics at the law schools, there are so many opportunities for free or low-cost legal assistance that most citizens do not know about. There needs to be an investment made to publicize the efforts of these organizations to citizens.

Judicial Elections: The judicial canons prohibit candidates and judges from talking about their position on crucial issues the voters want to know about. For example, I can't tell you my position on abortion or election reform because those kind of cases come before the Court. But I can tell you that I'm a democrat and that gives the voters some guidance as to my values and what I believe.

Other Issues: The Texas Supreme Court routinely considers so many issues that affect all Texans, like women's reproductive health, voting rights, the constitutionality of state laws. I think the most pressing issue is recusal. Judges are supposed to recuse themselves from a case if there is even the

appearance of a conflict of interest and that is not happening. It erodes confidence and trust in the Court.

PLACE 6



Jane Bland (R)

Qualifications: I have served as a judge for 25 years at three levels of the state judiciary (5 on the Court). Board certified in trial and appellate law. I study the facts and faithfully apply the law in each case.

Ethics: I work hard to act with honesty, integrity, and respect toward all who come before the Court. Judges promise to fairly apply the constitution and laws to the facts. This oath requires that we set aside any outside influence and follow the law. It is a solemn responsibility. I have been honored for my professionalism and integrity throughout my career.

Equity: We must reduce the cost of legal help with innovation, secure legal aid for those in need, and remind the public that access to justice for all Texans is essential. Recently, our Court launched a licensing program for paralegals and court access assistants to help underserved people. I represented people in need and served on a legal aid board. It is the obligation we have as lawyers.

Judicial Elections: The work of the Court would not change, but it may change public perception of the judiciary. No change can happen without the support of voters and their elected representatives. The Governor and the Legislature formed a bipartisan commission that has made recommendations to them about judicial selection. I support this process and efforts to improve public trust and confidence in the judiciary.

Other Issues: Increasing access to justice is a top priority. Also: improving outcomes for children and those with mental health needs who appear in court, increasing transparency in court operations, and fostering innovation. Responsiveness to the challenges facing Texans who are parties to a dispute and respect for all who encounter our courts will help maintain public trust and confidence in our judiciary.

Campaign Website: www.justicejanebland.com



Bonnie Lee Goldstein (D)

Qualifications: A 33 year varied civil and municipal law practice; 20 years judicial experience: 11 years as a municipal judge, 6 years as a civil district trial judge and 3.8 years as intermediate appellate justice.

Ethics: Transparency through the Campaign Finance Reports detailed disclosure requirements, updated periodically according to the reporting schedule, along with stringent limitations imposed upon campaign contributions for judicial races, help safeguard against the appearance of im-

propriety and protect the integrity and independence of the judiciary.

Equity: Prioritize continued vigilance to identify the underserved, and the resources necessary to improve access to justice. Update and adapt pandemic-tested solutions for improved access through increased use of technology, virtual platforms and hybrid proceedings, as well as the development of user-friendly informational or instructional materials to help navigate the judicial system.

Judicial Elections: The Canons prohibit a judge from being swayed by partisan interests. Politicizing the judiciary by party affiliation or ideology has had a negative impact on public opinion of our system of justice. Public perception of the administration of justice may be best served by non-partisan judicial races that will further preserve, protect and promote the independence and integrity of the judiciary.

Other Issues: As a judicial candidate for the Texas Supreme Court, I cannot comment on issues that may come before me. The Canons prohibit a judge from being "swayed by partisan interests, public clamor, or fear of criticism" therefore transparency in judgment, clarity and consistency of opinions, are critical to preserve and protect the constitution, the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary.

Campaign Website: justicegoldstein.com



J. David Roberson (L)

Qualifications: I have been practicing complex civil litigation and business tax law advisory for nearly fourteen (14) years, with clients from individuals to Fortune 50 companies. This requires

circumspect review.

Ethics: Judges must hold themselves to strong ethics and behavior. However, making donations public and presented would serve as an outside check on ethical behavior.

Equity: Our system does a poor job of properly funding public defender offices throughout Texas. It would behoove those in the Judiciary to consider supporting legislative allocation of funding towards improving the courthouse access and proper representation for all.

Judicial Elections: Given the average voter's level of political awareness, I would expect that a non-partisan race may cause either confusion or inquisitiveness - to determine which candidate is their choice. As to the administration of justice, I would expect any person elected would comport themselves under the law, with some deference to personal positions that the record would quickly reveal.

Other Issues: Two pressing social issues that will generate litigation are exceptions to abortion restrictions, and the I-35 corridor construction through Austin. I expect those issues to rise to the Supreme Court's attention rapidly, and it behooves the Court to consider the impact of their decisions on individual Texans when considering these cases.

Campaign Website: www.roberson4texas.com

TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

JUDGE

Qualifications: What characteristics and experience qualify you to serve as a 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 review lower court decisions?

Judicial Elections: How would the administration of justice be impacted if judges ran in nonpartisan races?

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

Philosophy: What is your judicial philosophy?

.....

PRESIDING JUDGE



David J. Schenck (R)

Qualifications: I served for 8 years as an appellate justice, chaired the state's judicial conduct commission and have specialized in appellate work for 30 years.

I served also as Deputy Att'y General

Ethics: Please see my website and my 2005 U.S. Supreme Court brief in Dimick. This has been a core concern of mine for 2 decades and why I have called for reforms, including limits on contributions, immediate disclosure when made during a case and mandatory recusals depending on the amounts and timing.

Judicial Elections: We would have judges selected with the assent of far fewer voters and perhaps (but by no means certainly) less allegiance to the parties. Municipal elections are non-partisan and yet people still figure out which mayoral candidate is aligned with which party. Local (county wide) judicial races might be different, but statewide races will always attract heavy attention/spending, etc..

Equity: I think the issue here is more about quality of access than quantity; people, esp. the wealthy and very poor) can get to court on their own or via programs to provide counsel but everyone (not just the underserved) need meaningful access. It's the middle class that is really under served here. In civil cases, we have rules to expedite cases but few judges are aware of or adhere to them.

Philosophy: Simple: follow the law, don't make it up and treat everyone fairly.



Holly Taylor (D)

Qualifications: I have practiced criminal law for over 25 years as a prosecutor and as an attorney for the Court of Criminal Appeals. I have been an adjunct law professor and I worked to remedy wrongful convictions.

Ethics: Our Code of Judicial Conduct requires judges to perform their "judicial duties without bias or prejudice" and avoid "the appearance of impropriety." Judges should recuse themselves in cases where their "impartiality might reasonably be questioned." I will recuse myself in any case that I worked on as a prosecutor and in any case where they could be an appearance of impropriety.

Judicial Elections: The Code of Judicial Conduct bars judges from taking a position on political issues. Commentators have said that nonpartisan judicial elections would allow judicial candidates to maintain the appearance of impartiality. Others have insisted that voters should have the right to know the party affiliations of judicial candidates. This is an issue for the Legislature.

Equity: Appellate courts can prioritize working toward an impartial and fair justice system, free of bias or prejudice based upon race, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or any unconstitutional ground; fostering a government that serves all the people and treats all human beings with dignity and respect.

Philosophy: Courts should give full and fair consideration to the text of constitutional and statutory law. I support an impartial and fair justice system that is: • free of bias based on race, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or any unconstitutional ground; • founded in the rule of law, with due consideration given to the doctrine of stare decisis.

Campaign Website: hollyforjudge.com

PLACE 7



Gina Parker (R)

Qualifications: My experience as both a prosecutor and criminal defense attorney qualifies me to serve. Also, I served as Commissioner and Chairman of TDLR and heard thousands of administrative law appeals.

Ethics: In my opinion, this is an issue that definitely should be addressed by the legislature. On a personal level, I believe that my faith in God and my commitment to justice are anchors that will ensure that my decisions are not influenced by donors.

Judicial Elections: I do not favor this approach.

Equity: There has been progress in this area through the pro bono efforts of the State Bar of Texas. Also, if someone is indigent in a criminal case, they may request a court-appointed attorney. We should continue to pursue these endeavors to ensure access to justice, especially in criminal cases.

Philosophy: My commitment is to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Texas and to never legislate from the bench and thereby undermine the will of the voters. I will not betray the trust of the voters.

Campaign Website: www.ginaparkercampaign.com

Nancy Mulder (D)

No response received

PLACE 8

Lee Finley (R)

No response received



Chika Anyiam (D)

Qualifications: I am the Presiding Judge of a State Criminal District Court hearing serious felony cases. I am Board Certified in Criminal law, fair, impartial with 20 years of prior criminal law trial experience.

Ethics: Judicial candidates should file their campaign finance reports timely, publish all campaign donations, donor names and be transparent to the public and parties appearing before the judge. I am not influenced by donations to my campaign. The Texas Code of Judicial Conduct ensures that judges who break campaign finance laws are sanctioned by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Judicial Elections: Unlike appellate judges trial judges have a discretion to order rehabilitative/mental health services for defendants in need, and punitive prison sentences for violent dangerous criminals. Democratic judges are known to strike a healthy balance between rehabilitation and punishment, unlike their conservative counterparts. For this reason, voters need to know a trial judge's political affiliation.

Equity: Judges should come to work timely, appoint competent attorneys to indigent defendants and translators for non-English speakers. Low level offenders should be released quickly with low or PR bonds and only come to court when their case is set for disposition. Cases should not be set far out to ensure timely justice. Probationers should report to nearer offices and conditions that help them succeed.

Philosophy: I believe our laws should be interpreted strictly according to the legislative intent, not colored by the judge's individual biases or prejudices. Everyone has a right to equal justice, fair and impartial treatment and true and timely justice. In trial courts where the judge has the discretion, I believe in drug and mental health treatment for low level offenders and prison for violent criminals.

Campaign Website: judgechikaanyiam.com



STATE TEXAS STATE SENATE

DISTRICT 14

Sarah Eckhardt (D)

Unopposed

DISTRICT 25

Q1: What is the best use of state funds and resources to address immigration in our border communities?

Q2: What are your top priorities for public education?

Q3: What should the Texas Legislature do to protect reproductive rights?

Q4: Under what circumstances should the state government limit the authority of elected local officials?

.....

Donna Campbell (R)

No response received



Merrie Fox (D)

A1: More than \$3 billion dollars have been allocated to Operation LoneStar to pay for a military presence at the border and to transport migrants to other states, both of which are short-term solutions. It has also

funded 34 miles of a wall along the 1,254-mile Texas border, which will take decades to complete. A significant portion of this money should be spent on additional judges and asylum officers to help clear the backlog of cases, more border patrol officers to expedite current processing, and support for the Southwest Border Coordination Center that works with federal, state, and local entities to help manage immigration.

A2: As a retired school principal, public education is very important to me. Funding for public schools has not kept up with inflation for years, ranking Texas 43rd in the nation for per-student funding. Vouchers will make the issue worse by funneling millions of taxpayer dollars to students who are already attending private schools. I will not support vouchers

because public funds must stay in public schools. I will also oppose any effort to embed religion in public schools beyond curriculum that is designed to teach multiple religious doctrines equally and is aligned with state curriculum standards.

A3: Girls and women in Texas are not free citizens because they do not have control over their own bodies. This is unacceptable. I will advocate for the repeal of all legislation that prohibits female citizens from making their own health-care decisions. This includes the Texas Heartbeat Act and HB 1280, which will make abortion illegal in Texas if the Supreme Court overturns the Roe v. Wade decision. I will also advocate for the repeal of any legislation that prohibits the use of medicinal and medical services that allow female citizens to control decisions about if, when, and how they choose to grow their family.

A4: Because federal, state, and local governments in America are 'of the people,' I strongly support local control. I believe that those who are most directly impacted by a situation should have the most influence about how it is handled.

STATE TEXAS REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 19

Background: What in your background qualifies you to serve as a state representative in Texas?

Pressing Issues: What are the most pressing issues facing the next session of the Texas Legislature?

Top Priorities: What are your three top priorities for the next session of the Legislature?

Water: What are your priorities in the next session of the Legislature for ensuring that there are adequate water resources in the future for agriculture and for humans?

Local Issues: What are the citizens in your district telling you about issues?

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Ellen Troxclair (R)

Background: In addition to running a successful small business and raising three 9th-generation Texans with my husband, I have a proven record of being an effective lawmaker who follows through on campaign promises. In just my first session, I have been a key advocate in passing the largest property tax cut in United States history, providing unprecedented funding to secure our border, and protecting women's ability to compete fairly in sports, to name a few. It is an honor to work tirelessly and passionately to keep Texas a beacon of liberty for generations to come.

Pressing Issues: We must use our state's surplus from our thriving economy to reduce property taxes, fix our broken

"recapture" school finance system, keep more of our local school tax dollars in our local communities, fully fund our schools, and ensure that every child receives an excellent education. In light of our federal government's failures at the border, we must continue to step up and fill the gap through installing border barriers and funding more boots on the ground. We must address our growing water crisis in order to keep Texas a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Top Priorities: Border security remains a top issue. In order to keep our communities safe, we must stop the trafficking of humans and drugs into our country. Ensuring that Texas land is protected from ownership by hostile foreign governments like China is imperative in order to protect our food supply. In addition to protecting our water supply and managing development responsibly (discussed below), other priorities include ensuring that every child in Texas receives an excellent education, that our constitutional rights are fiercely protected, that our police are funded, that kids are safe from predators, and that property taxes are reduced.

Water: I am a founding member of the Texas Water Caucus and supported the creation of the Texas Water Fund and New Water Supply for Texas Fund, which will help Texas develop and protect new water supplies for our state. I also sponsored a bill that would provide a property tax reduction for homes with rainwater capture and other conservation methods. Protections against the over-development of the Hill Country, the robust investment in securing water supply and infrastructure, and the promotion of conservation efforts will help protect Texans' water for generations to come.

Local Issues: We are passionate about preserving the values and natural resources that make Central Texas such a special place to live. We want to leave our children a Texas that is even better than we found it, instilling in them an appreciation of God's creation, respect for the rule of law, the difference between right and wrong, and an understanding of truth. In an increasingly chaotic world, we want to continue building thriving communities that are safe and full of opportunity, with leaders who are honorable and humble. Every day spent working to this end on their behalf is a blessing.

Campaign Website: www.troxclairfortexas.com



Dwain Handley (D)

Background: I'm a lifelong Texan, educated in Texas public schools, earning bachelor's and master's degrees in Finance at Texas A&M. I put myself through grad school on a research assistant's pay because back then, Texas invested its vast resources into public education.

Today's students get saddled with crippling student debt. Texas was a better place when young adults were free to strike out on their own instead of owing their life's earnings to greedy bankers. I was taught the values of democracy and freedom; not of being shackled to billionaires. We must preserve that freedom for future generations.

Pressing Issues: Public education is being privatized to enrich billionaires and to make sure future voters won't be able to figure out they've been robbed of their freedom.

STATE TEXAS REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 19

Dwain Handley (D) (continued)

We must restore the teaching of civics in public schools so the next generation will understand how our government works. Public school districts currently must fork over their tax collections to the state government, leaving them with not enough money to cover the cost of educating our students. This is why our taxes keep going up. We must restore local control of public schools' tax dollars.

Top Priorities: Protections for women's reproductive rights must be fully restored. Elected officials shall not enforce their ideology to prevent medically necessary healthcare or to infringe on the freedom of couples to plan their families. Voting rights for ALL Texans must be vigorously restored, protected, and upheld. The First Amendment must be reinforced in its entirety. The state must not mandate the observance of religion, nor may it exalt one religion over any other. Freedom of speech and the press must not be abridged, meaning that neither books nor public presentations may be banned.

Water: People want solutions to the problems of water equity. We must regulate ground water rights in the same manner as surface water rights. It's a shared resource and must be governed as such. We must pursue solutions in technology and infrastructure, finding ways to transport water from areas of surplus to areas of deficit. We have both of those right here within our own state. We're entirely capable of devising these solutions. All that's needed is the commitment to it.

Local Issues: Voters in HD 19 are tired of the childishness and adolescent stunts put on by the party in power. They want grown-ups in charge. Using taxpayer money to line the Rio Grande with razor wire just so they can "look tough" while REAL solutions to the migration crisis are rejected turns people off. Voters are tired of sold-out public officials and their networks of cronies lining their own pockets while public problems and concerns go unaddressed. They are tired of public corruption. They are tired of gerrymandering and feeling their vote doesn't count. They want change.

Campaign Website: www.handley4texas.com



Kodi Sawin (I)

Background: I craft public strategies for landowners, utilities, and private companies in the policy areas of water/wastewater, land use, and rural economics. People recognize me for my work at the urban-rural policy nexus, especially on water-related issues.

Pressing Issues: School finance and border security will return as pressing issues during the next legislative session. However, increasing local control over that growth is paramount for the fast-growing communities in Texas House District 19 (HD19). Issues that must be addressed include water, wastewater, and land use.

Top Priorities: Independent candidates must gather signatures for a ballot access petition from qualified voters in the District. This petition process allowed me to speak to voters of all persuasions in this District—with no political consultant or party boss in the way. Mostly, I heard people's concerns about the failure of partisan and ideological politics to address their day-to-day issues—especially concerns about water, wastewater, and land use. I intend to focus on these top-priority issues for the voters of HD19.

Water: I wish I had more than 100 words for this one. Here are the top issues: Support for groundwater districts—no more unfunded mandates and provide funds for mandates that exist; Outline management best practices at river authorities to better serve competing interests within any given river basin—from agriculture to municipal demand to ancillary localized economies; Shore up the new Texas Water Fund—state leadership must be honest about the real-world costs of Texas' constant population boom; Place wastewater management and treatment as a priority to shore up supply; Implement a statewide water utility evaluation and stress test.

Local Issues: Interestingly, I based much of my policy priorities on what I heard directly from voters during the petition-gathering process to access the ballot. That is the most rewarding part of running as an Independent. I learned directly from voters their most significant concerns.

Campaign Website: www.kodifortexas.com

DISTRICT 20

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

Immigration: What is the best use of state funds and resources to address immigration in our border communities?

Reproduction: What laws, if any, should the legislature pass to change Texans' current access to abortion, contraception, and/or IVF?

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

.....

Terry M. Wilson (R)

No response received

Stephen M. Wyman (D)

Qualifications: Parents were both teachers; Bachelors Degree and Communications Tech Certificate; 25 yrs. as Geophysical Systems, Network and Computer Tech Support; Soccer Dad; Substitute Teacher; School Bus Driver.

Immigration: International borders are a federal government responsibility, and when a bi-partisan, federal bill is stopped at the behest of the Republican Presidential nominee the ball has been dropped; intentionally. Republican

campaigning on self-inflicted problems is only on the southern border. If all borders were treated the same the problem disappears.

Reproduction: A federal bill allowing women control of their own maternal health issues is all that is needed.

Gun Safety: Training, licensing, registration and insurance for all guns owned (if it's on your property it's your gun/responsibility). One cycle of the chamber (by lever, pump or bolt) loads one bullet. One trigger squeeze fires one round.

Campaign Website: www.wymanusa.org

DISTRICT 46

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

Public Education: What are your top priorities for public education?

Abortion: What changes would you support to Texas abortion laws?

Elections: What measures can be taken to protect free and fair access to voting in Texas?

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Nikki Kosich (R)

No response received



Sheryl Cole (D)

Qualifications: Before the legislature, Rep. Cole served for 3 terms on the Austin City Council, becoming the first African-American female Mayor Pro Tem. Before this, she was involved in the AISD PTA.

Public Education: Rep. Cole believes that the state must fully fund public education by raising the basic allotment, reforming recapture so school districts like AISD don't have to give so much money back to the state year after year, and ensuring that the state doesn't pass a school voucher program that would greatly harm public schools across Texas.

Abortion: Rep. Cole believes that the bare minimum that the State of Texas can do is include exceptions for the abortion ban in Texas such as rape or incest. Each legislative session, Rep. Cole has filed "Rosie's Law" which would add abortion services to Medicaid, and she plans on filing the bill again for the 89th Legislative Session. Rep. Cole believes every woman has a right to bodily autonomy.

Elections: Rep. Cole has long been a champion for expanded voting rights in Texas. She has consistently filed bills related to same-day voter registration, extending the early voting period, codifying late-night voting into law, and so forth. Rep. Cole has been steadfast in this support but also in opposition to any legislation that restricts the right to vote.

STATE TEXAS REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 47



Scott Firsing (R)

Qualifications: As a husband, father, professor and business owner, I'm a listener and problem solver with extensive international, leadership and multi-cultural experience. I demand accountability and real results.

Public Education: As a former K-12 School Principal and University Professor, education is a very important issue for me. Moreover, I'm a father of 5 children ages 12-19. As State Rep, I will demand smarter spending for public schools: to know how well our resources are being deployed to meet student needs. Moreover, Parents must be provided with transparency, and quality educational options for their children.

Abortion: No response received

Elections: There is still a lot to do, but requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote is absolutely vital. Other measures that can be taken include the Counties and the Secretary of State updating the voter rolls at least quarterly. Furthermore, requiring a mandatory photo ID for every election and restricting mail-in ballots to only certain citizens are steps in the right direction.

Campaign Website: scottfirsing.com



Vikki Goodwin (D)

Qualifications: I'm serving my third 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.

Public Education: We must fund our public schools appropriately, and stand firm against vouchers. With additional funding, educators would receive a professional salary commensurate with their work, class sizes could be smaller, resources could be added for our special needs students as well as for programming for gifted students. We must revamp our accountability system and ensure tests are age appropriate.

Abortion: We should allow Texans to vote to amend our state constitution to allow women to make their own personal, private health care decisions in consultation with their doctors. We must provide exceptions for rape and incest even if the voters choose not to allow women dominion over our bodies. At the very least, we must ensure doctors have the ability to provide care when mom's health is at risk.

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.

Campaign Website: vikkigoodwin.com

DISTRICT 48



Donna Howard (D)

Qualifications: Former RN, Eanes School Board. Elected to HD48 in 2006. House Appropriations Member since 2013, Vice-Chair Select Committee Health Care Reform, Chair Tx

Women's Health Caucus.

Public Education: My top priority is to fully fund our public schools by increasing the basic allotment and tying it to inflation. I'll work tirelessly with my colleagues to ensure school vouchers are not passed. We need to revisit the cost of education and ensure our teachers are paid a salary that reflects cost of living and the value of their work. Funding our public schools is the best investment we can make.

Abortion: Ideally, the Legislature would restore full access to abortion healthcare. But, at the very least, we must clarify current law so physicians can provide necessary emergency care to pregnant Texans and I plan to refile legislation to do this. I will also refile legislation that provides an exception to the abortion ban for survivors of rape and incest.

Elections: I support policies that ensure all eligible voters have access to the polls, including refiling legislation that allows 17 year olds to participate in primary elections if they will be 18 by the November election. I will always support measures that expand the number and availability of polling places, making it easier for Texans to vote by mail and establishing online voter registration in Texas.

Campaign Website: teamhowardtx.com



Daniel Jerome McCarthy (L)

Qualifications: After getting a BA in Political Science I immersed myself in business, particularly the startup world. I'm a lifelong learner with a passion for my community and better

government for all Texans.

Public Education: We've got to find a better solution than the exorbitant property tax increases that end up being recaptured anyway. That may mean ESAs for all.

Abortion: When does the state get to insert themselves into the doctor's office and be the arbiter of care? In my opinion, never. Texas abortion laws have had a chilling effect on care that even women carrying nonviable fetuses can get. It's outrageous, and doing more harm than good. Go back to 16 weeks at the very least.

Elections: Stop the gerrymandering. Also while we're at it, institute term limits, and repeal the new law requiring 3rd parties to pay the filing fees, thereby subsidizing the major party primaries.

Campaign Website: repdan.com

DISTRICT 49

Gina Hinojosa (D)

Unopposed

DISTRICT 50

James Talarico (D)

Unopposed

DISTRICT 51

Maria Luisa "Lulu" Flores (D)

Unopposed

DISTRICT 52

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

Immigration: What is the best use of state funds and resources to address immigration in our border communities?

Reproduction: What laws, if any, should the legislature pass to change Texans' current access to abortion, contraception, and/or IVF?

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



Caroline Harris Davila (R)

Qualifications: I was raised in our community and worked in the Capitol for eight years. My colleagues honored me with the Freshman of the Year award because of my work ethic and commitment

to our community.

Immigration: State funds and resources should go towards strengthening border security. By investing in security measures, we can prevent the billions of dollars in recurring costs associated with illegal immigration.

Reproduction: I want to continue to increase funding for expecting and new mothers and babies so that they have access to quality healthcare as well as continue to work to end maternal mortality. IVF is legal in Texas and should remain that way.

Gun Safety: Increasing police and access to mental health will help to prevent gun violence. Additionally, we must take firm action to keep firearms out of the hands of gangs and criminals.

Campaign Website: www.CarolineForTexas.com

STATE TEXAS REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 52 (continued)



Jennie Birkholz (D)

Qualifications: National healthcare expert with 20+ years in community health. Created local and national policy frameworks. Small business owner, public education advocate, proud public school mom, volunteer.

Immigration: The federal government, not the states, is responsible for overseeing our nation's border. Urging federal lawmakers to enact crucial immigration reforms is essential. I'll work with leaders at all levels for a comprehensive, compassionate solution, advocating for safe pathways to citizenship that ensure Texas's security and continued commerce while fighting against inhumane enforcement practices.

Reproduction: I oppose Texas' restrictive abortion ban, which harms women and worsens provider shortages. I support policies that expand healthcare access, reduce uninsured rates, address provider shortages, and improve maternal care for better health outcomes. I will advocate for laws that protect a woman's right to access healthcare and make personal decisions about family planning.

Gun Safety: As a parent, I'm deeply concerned about gun safety, as firearm-related incidents are the leading cause of death among children. Addressing gun violence requires comprehensive, data-driven approaches focused on public health, safety, and prevention. We must reduce gun violence while protecting Texans and respecting Second Amendment rights. I support common-sense solutions like background checks.

Campaign Website: www.birkholzfortexas.com

DISTRICT 136



Amin Salahuddin (R)

Qualifications: I am an author, with over 25 years' experience implementing health-care laws. I am an innovator, tech-entrepreneur, servant leader and a founder of a nonprofit that has launched 14 medical clinics.

Immigration: Border area operations by our state, designed to fill in for our Federal government's lapses in its responsibilities, have been somewhat successful, but more could, and should be done so that border towns and cities don't bear the brunt of migrant settlement issues and associated costs.

Reproduction: The legislature should ensure access to legal methods of contraception so that abortion isn't used as the method of birth control of last resort for those seeking to postpone or avoid pregnancy. IVF should be encouraged as a way to grow families.

Gun Safety: Gun bans - often presented as a solution - are ineffective, short-term fixes that only keep guns out of the hands of law-abiding citizens. Keeping guns out of the hands of the mentally ill and those who have had restraining orders taken out against them during domestic disputes are other steps local law enforcement officials can keep doing to prevent gun incidents.

Campaign Website: www.aminfortexas.com



John H. Bucy III (D)

Qualifications: Three-term state representative, fmr WilCo Dems chair, small business owner, proud father. Consensus builder working for strong public schools, healthcare, voting rights, the environment, & equality.

Immigration: Immigration by law is the federal government's responsibility. The state's role is humanitarian, supporting infrastructure and refugee services, especially in historically-underserved border communities. I support comprehensive immigration reform that upholds public safety, protects the right to seek asylum, and provides pathways to citizenship and humane treatment for those seeking a better life.

Reproduction: 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. I support funding for family planning and contraceptives as well as teaching medically accurate sex ed and protecting IVF. We must expand Medicaid, increase reimbursement rates for providers, and invest in community health centers.

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

Campaign Website: BucyForTexas.com

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

History Education: As the developer of Texas public school curriculum, how would you ensure students are taught a comprehensive and accurate history of our state and country?

Religion in Public Schools: Should Christian or any other religious beliefs be incorporated into the public school curriculum? Explain your position.

Teacher Certification: Should teachers who are not certified be allowed to teach in Texas classrooms? Why or why not?

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



DISTRICT 10



Tom Maynard (R)

Qualifications: Served on State Board of Education since 2013. Current chair: Committee on School Finance, Permanent School Fund Corp. School board trustee. 30 years in career and tech ed.

Parent to 5 in public ed.

History Education: The State Board of Education creates curriculum standards from which curriculum, instructional material and assessments are based. The board has a robust, transparent process that engages content experts, classroom practitioners from the field and stakeholders through our public comment and testimony.

Religion in Public Schools: There are a number of faith

traditions that are embedded in our common language and traditions. We cannot erase the impact of the Judeo-Christian tradition from our nation's founding, values and culture. For example, the common term "good Samaritan" originates from the Christian Bible's New Testament. Why wouldn't we want students to understand the origin and the associated moral lesson?

Teacher Certification: The State Board of Education implements laws created by the Legislature. Currently law provides some flexibility for school districts, particularly in the area of career and technical education and for those pursuing alternative certifications. The SBOE will work with the Legislature and the State Board for Educator Certification to ensure Texas classrooms have the most effective teachers available

Other Issues: Continue the development of the Permanent

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

DISTRICT 10

Tom Maynard (R) (continued)

School Fund as a freestanding governmental corporation, maximizing returns for Texas public schools and continue saving taxpayers more than \$400 million annually by guaranteeing school district debt. Continue efforts to ensure high quality instructional material to classrooms through the IMRA process. Work with legislature and schools to protect students.

Campaign Website: www.maynardfortexas.com



Raquel Saenz Ortiz (D)

Qualifications: I have a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction and currently teach future teachers. I was a secondary Social Studies teacher, as well as a guidance counselor and school administrator, in public schools.

History Education: Many states have moved away from standards that focus heavily on specific historic events to focus more on social studies skills and analytic abilities. I believe it is important to look at these models, which often have a more inclusive view of U.S. and world history to include the stories of various communities, which I would advocate for, along with centering analytic skills.

Religion in Public Schools: Separation of church and state has been a foundational part of the United States government and is upheld by the first amendment to the constitution. The first amendment prohibits the establishment of a national religion. It is clear that the promotion of a single religion within public schools would be unconstitutional. Religions can be taught in a historical context, but not in a moral context.

Teacher Certification: I believe that all teachers should have to be certified in order to teach. Certification programs provide essential training in child development and pedagogy, which is necessary for becoming an effective educator. I do believe that emergency licensure should continue in allowing teachers temporary certification while they are completing any necessary requirement for a certification program.

Other Issues: I believe another key area that is important within the State Board of Education is ensuring that charter schools are held to a high standard, particularly in ensuring that they are able to meet the needs of students with IEPs and 504s, along with emerging bilingual students.

Campaign Website: drsfortexas.com



STATE JUSTICE, 3RD COURT OF APPEALS

Qualifications: What characteristics and experience qualify you to serve as a 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 review lower court decisions?

Judicial Elections: How would the administration of justice be impacted if judges ran in nonpartisan races?

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

Court System: What effect will the new business court and statewide court of appeals have on the administration of justice in Texas?



PLACE 2

John Messinger (R)

Qualifications: I am a career prosecutor who has done almost nothing but appeals for about 17 years. I review the opinions of justices statewide and challenge them in the highest criminal court. I am good at it.

Ethics: Donors give because they like what the candidate says (or implies) about their judicial philosophy. People who give to candidates who run on diversity and identity are not impacting how those candidates approach the law. They are enabling it.

Judicial Elections: Partisan races are a big problem for

courts in large, blue cities. It encourages under-qualified people to run with the hope that winning a short, low-turnout Democratic primary will lead to an easy victory in November. That has largely been the case in recent elections. Everyone suffers when that happens.

Equity: I am aware of no one who is denied access to the courts. If “access to justice” means a better court experience, the best way to serve everyone—not just selected groups—is to elect judges who understand the law and apply it fairly. No amount of money for appointed lawyers will help underserved people who go before ignorant or biased judges.

Court System: Specialty courts should enhance the efficiency of the justice system in two ways. First, the people on those courts should be experts who can more quickly and correctly dispose of cases. Second, reducing the workloads of the other courts should result in their remaining cases being decided more quickly. That is, if we elect people who know what they’re doing.

Campaign Website: messingerforjustice.com

Maggie Ellis (D)

Qualifications: I have handled thousands of cases and hearings in court as a judge, a civil, criminal, and appellate prosecutor, and as an attorney representing individuals in five of the counties this court serves.

Ethics: Experience working on cases from all sides is a good indicator of a candidate’s likeliness to be fair and impartial. I have handled thousands of cases from all sides, including: presiding over cases as a judge; defending individuals at risk

of losing their liberty, their children, and their homes; and advocating for justice as a prosecutor in cases such as murder, robbery, and sexual assault.

Judicial Elections: While some voters may wish to elect judges who share a similar political ideology, as in a partisan system, the administration of justice should be the same, whether a judge is elected in a partisan or nonpartisan race or appointed. It is critical that judges remain fair and impartial in their decisions. A nonpartisan race should not affect a judge’s duty to see that justice is done.

Equity: I will bring my lived understanding of growing up transient and homeless to this bench. With about 15% of Texans living below the poverty level, access to justice is crucial. I have been awarded for my work helping our most vulnerable have access to and be successful in the court system through drafting legislation, establishing pro bono clinics, and advocating for the use of remote hearings.

Court System: These courts will remove voter input within local jurisdictions and will remove the ability to have cases heard by local and regional justices. The judges of the business courts are appointed by the governor rather than elected, and the justices of the 15th Court of appeals will ultimately be elected statewide rather than district-wide like the current appellate courts.

Campaign Website: www.maggieforjustice.com/

PLACE 3

Chari Kelly
Unopposed

PLACE 5

Karin Crump
Unopposed

PLACE 6

Gisela D. Triana
Unopposed

LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

CIVIL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

53RD CIVIL DISTRICT

Maria Cantú Hexsel (D)

Unopposed

98TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Sandra Avila Ramirez (D)

Unopposed

126TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Aurora Martinez Jones (D)

Unopposed

200TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Jessica Mangrum (D)

Unopposed

345TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Jan Soifer (D)

Unopposed

353RD CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Sherine Thomas (D)

Unopposed

CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

167TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Dayna Blazey (D)

Unopposed

390TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Julie H. Kocurek (D)

Unopposed

427TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Tamara B. Needles (D)

Unopposed

450TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Brad Urrutia (D)

Unopposed

460TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Selena Alvarenga (D)

Unopposed

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

53RD DISTRICT

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

Challenges: What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the office? How would you address them?

Bail: What principles would you apply to the amount you request for bail to be set?

Relationships: How can you improve the relationship between your office and law enforcement, victims, and other stakeholders?



Daniel W. Betts (R)

Qualifications: Criminal defense attorney in Travis County for 14 years, with a strong reputation and key relationships. I'm a UT Law grad, former mock trial coach, and President of Hope Lutheran Church.

Challenges: The DA's office has lost 80% of its experienced prosecutors under Mr. Garza, now relying on inexperienced hires. With leadership lacking trial experience, the office is failing to prosecute serious crimes. I plan to restore expertise and implement mock trials to train new attorneys.

Bail: My opponent forces prosecutors to argue for the "least restrictive bond conditions," which is misguided. Prosecutors should prioritize victim safety, not advocate for criminals. While bail shouldn't oppress, it must reflect the offense's seriousness and threat to the community. My office will ensure strict bond compliance, holding judges accountable if they endanger public safety by being too lenient.

Relationships: Trust is earned through transparency and consistency. Frequent turnover in the DA's office prevents building trust. I've been a criminal defense attorney hostile language toward police and lenient sentences undermine safety. My office will prioritize strict prosecutions, publish trial transcripts for transparency, and hold quarterly town halls to ensure accountability and restore trust in the community.

Campaign Website: bettsforda.com



José Garza (D)

Qualifications: I've been serving as DA since 2021 to defend everyone's rights to safety and justice. I started my career as a Public Defender, served in the Obama Administration, and ran the Workers De-

fense Project.

Challenges: Our greatest challenge is to fix and rebuild trust in our criminal justice system. We do this by standing with survivors, leading on gun violence prevention and delivering real justice. When we listen to the people, partner with the community, and defend the right of everyone—no matter their pocketbooks, race or walk of life—to be safe, we ensure that justice belongs to all in Travis County.

Bail: Currently, bail is set by a municipal judge outside the presence of prosecutors and defense attorneys. I'm working with county stakeholders to change the process and, starting in October, prosecutors will be able to make recommendations in some cases. If a person poses a threat to public safety, they should be in custody. If not, they should be out. This approach is based on data and common-sense.

Relationships: The DA's office has partnered with local and national law enforcement to improve law enforcement's ability to solve gun crimes, improve our response to sexual assault, and prevent domestic violence in our community. The DA's office has also worked to build a criminal justice system where survivors of crime are treated with dignity and respect by increasing access to victim services.

Campaign Website: www.joseforda.com

JUDGE, COUNTY COURT AT LAW

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 8

Carlos H. Barrera (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 9

Kim Williams (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY PROBATE COURT NO. 2

Nick Chu (D)

Unopposed



LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

PRECINCT 1

Jeffrey Travillion (D)

Unopposed

PRECINCT 3

Ann Howard (D)

Unopposed

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

PRECINCT 5 (UNEXPIRED TERM)

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

Philosophy: How do your values inform your judicial philosophy and decision-making?

Self-Represented: How would you ensure your court is accessible to those who are unable to afford to hire an attorney?

Management: How would you balance efficiency and procedural fairness in your court?

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Tanisa Jeffers (D)

Qualifications: I've served 7 years as Associate Judge in Austin Muni Court. I've practiced family & criminal law for 24 years, focused on clients who are indigent or suffer mental illness and/or substance abuse.

Philosophy: I view JP Courts as Opportunity Courts. Thus, my judicial philosophy is to improve the lives of people who come to court. Here is our opportunity to help you resolve

whatever issue is bringing you into the justice system in the first place. If we can begin to treat the underlying issues – be it poverty, substance abuse, undiagnosed mental issues, etc. then we greatly reduce recidivism.

Self-Represented: We can help folks prepare for court with a strong technology plan that provides reminders on filing requirements, and a self-help website on the eviction and collections process (how to prepare for hearing, what to expect, examples of documents they will use, etc.) I also want to create an Eviction Diversion Court where we limit default judgments by continuing to offer virtual court dates.

Management: I want to expand what justice looks like here in Austin. I'd consider short delays to allow parties time to reach agreement on eviction or debt collection cases, while still following the law. New diversion tracks for theft & misdemeanor drug cases, especially for 1st-time offenders & cases that involve substance abuse, poverty or mental illness as an underlying issue would increase efficiency.

Campaign Website: www.tanisaforjudge.com

Sherri Lynn Taylor (Write-In)

No response received

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Delia Garza (D)

Unopposed

SHERIFF

Sally Hernandez (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY CONSTABLE

PRECINCT 1

Tonya Nixon (D)

Unopposed

PRECINCT 2

Adan Ballesteros (D)

Unopposed

PRECINCT 3

Stacy Suits (D)

Unopposed

PRECINCT 4

George Morales III (D)

Unopposed

PRECINCT 5

Carlos B. Lopez (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

Celia Israel (D)

Unopposed

PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION A

Ballot Language

Approving the ad valorem tax rate of \$0.344445 per \$100 valuation in County of Travis for the current year, a rate that is \$0.025 higher per \$100 valuation than the voter-approval tax rate of County of Travis, for the purpose of increasing access to affordable and high-quality child care and after-school/summer programming and related services for low-income families and developing and administering related workforce and economic development programs. Last year,

the ad valorem tax rate in County of Travis was \$0.304655 per \$100 valuation.

Explanation

This ballot referendum proposes a tax rate increase to expand access to early childhood care and after-school and summer services for low-income residents. The childcare situation in Travis County is dire.

- Average annual cost of childcare is \$13,000, the highest in the state.

- 2,000 children under the age of three in low-income families need child care right now.
- People wait approximately two years to access affordable child care.
- Options available to parents whose schedules are outside of the 9-to-5 workday are extremely limited.

The money raised would go toward increasing the number and quality of childcare providers, providing scholarships to families in need of assistance, and incentivizing businesses to offer childcare stipends to their workforce. It would also

LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

PROPOSITION A (continued)

help current childcare providers survive the loss of federal pandemic funds in 2026. The program will be overseen by a contractor(s) that would procure more childcare providers. The majority of eligible children are residents of the City of Austin. Equitable distribution of funds through-

out the County will be determined before the program is launched.

This tax rate election would raise almost \$75 million for Fiscal Year 2024-25. The tax increase would amount to about \$123 annually for the average homeowner. This would be in addition to their roughly \$162 property tax bill (\$285 total).

Disclosure

The Voters Guide is neutral and non-partisan. We are committed to offering clear, objective, and unbiased explanations of all ballot propositions. In the spirit of transparency, the Austin Area League of Women Voters is part of a coalition that has taken a stance on this bond.

LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

26TH DISTRICT

Donna King (R)

Unopposed

395TH DISTRICT

Ryan Larson (R)

Unopposed

425TH DISTRICT

Betsy Figer Lambeth (R)

Unopposed

480TH DISTRICT

Scott K. Field (R)

Unopposed

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

26TH DISTRICT

Shawn Dick (R)

Unopposed

JUDGE, COUNTY COURT AT LAW

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 5

Will Ward (R)

Unopposed

COUNTY ATTORNEY

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

Priorities: What are your top priorities?

Legal Reasoning: What steps, if any, would you take to reduce the rates of detention/incarceration, and/or reoffending?

Relationships: How can you improve the relationship between your office and law enforcement, victims, and other stakeholders?

.....

Dee Hobbs (R)

No response received



Amy Lyn Lefkowitz (D)

Qualifications: I am an attorney licensed to practice law in Texas. I have been practicing in the areas of criminal law and mental health commitment for the past twelve years in Williamson County.

Priorities: My top priorities are to bring change to the office of County Attorney by increasing opportunities for diversion of criminal convictions for low risk offenders. I will focus on protecting the community by increasing focus on violent crime and preserving the future of youthful offenders by offering access to services to put them back on the right track.

Legal Reasoning: I would increase opportunities for access to affordable mental health and substance abuse treatment for the citizens of Williamson County. Meaningful treatment can change the course of a person's life, and often offenders do not get the opportunity for meaningful treatment until they have offended at the felony level.

Relationships: I will have a more transparent and cooperative relationship with the offices of District Attorney and law enforcement to reduce obstacles the current administration has with these agencies. We will dedicate personnel to work with law enforcement agencies from the moment of arrest to ensure protection of citizen's rights and protection of county resources.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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

Infrastructure: What are your top concerns and how do you plan to meet the infrastructure demands caused by development and demographic change?

Housing: How would you improve housing affordability and reduce the number of people who are unhoused?

Water and Energy: How do you plan to assure current and future adequate year-round water and energy supplies?

.....

PRECINCT 1

Terry Cook (D)

Unopposed

PRECINCT 3



Valerie Covey (R)

Qualifications: My almost 18 years as Williamson County Commissioner Pct. 3 makes me uniquely qualified. I am also a CPA and use those skills to help balance the budget, pay down debt saving tax-

payers over \$100M.

Infrastructure: I think we meet the needs of our growing community by following through on our long-range transportation and strategic plans. Residents expect to live in a safe community; this means continuing to build safe roads and providing excellent services. I supported a study to ensure the county's justice services are sufficient for the next 25 years and for max buildout in the FY 25 budget.

Housing: In early 2024, I supported an initiative to allocate ARPA funding to Mobile Loaves & Fishes (MLF) to build micro-homes in Community First! Village which provides affordable, permanent housing and a supportive community for men and women experiencing chronic homelessness. I also support bringing in companies that will hire residents and pay a livable wage with benefits.

LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

PRECINCT 3

Valerie Covey (R) (continued)

Water and Energy: Although Wilco does not provide utilities like water and electricity, I will continue to be a partner to those providing those utilities. I also supported a measure to make sure developers and incoming utility districts adequately show their ability to provide water through the plating process.

Campaign Website: www.valeriecovey.com

Wes Benedict (L)

No response received

SHERIFF

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

Trust: How would you build community trust and promote transparency in your office?

Excessive Force: How do you plan to minimize excessive force, officer-involved shootings, and other death-in-custody situations?

Fairness: How would you ensure that all individuals, regardless of race or socioeconomic status, receive fair law enforcement and opportunities to participate in programs that reduce rates of detention/incarceration, and/or reoffending?



Matthew Lindemann (R)

Qualifications: I am a retired Texas Ranger Lt. with 39 years of experience in law enforcement. I was a previous WilCo jailer, DPS State Trooper, sergeant investigator with the WilCo DA, and now

the PCT 3 Constable.

Trust: As your next Sheriff, I promise to manage the department professionally. I will lead with integrity and accountability and require the same from staff. The WCSO will provide operational transparency to the public. We will provide timely news releases & utilize multiple channels to communicate with the public. I believe transparency and trust are crucial to creating a Sheriff's Office that serves.

Excessive Force: By upholding standards of professionalism in the WCSO. I've conducted many public corruption and officer-involved shooting cases as a Texas Ranger, so I've seen firsthand how important it is to set standards, uphold those standards as a leader, maximize training opportunities for officers, and have a relationship with the community that allows all residents to feel safe.

Fairness: Follow the law as it is written. Policing is about en-

forcing the law without regard for the demographics of the individuals involved. I will ensure that all officers are trained in the latest de-escalation tactics and work to provide officers with quality tools and training to reduce the use of force. I will also work closely with our courts to support programs that reduce recidivism.

Campaign Website: www.lindemannforwilcosheriff.com



Mike Gleason (D)

Qualifications: I have been employed by the Williamson County Sheriff's Office since 1993. I have held almost every position in the Agency up to Assistant Chief and then ran and won the Office of Sheriff.

Trust: When I took office, I created a Citizens Training Advisory Board where the community has a say on training, interaction, de-escalation techniques, and how they would like to be policed. I engaged with leadership from the NAACP, LULAC, and other groups and garnered input on recruiting, hiring, discipline, and retention of all employees. We also increased the size of our Community Engagement Unit.

Excessive Force: My record speaks for itself. While in office my uses of force have declined as that of my predecessor. We have increased our training measures and increased tools in de-escalation techniques and less lethal tools such as the "glove". We have also recognized that a lot of our daily contacts are with citizens suffering from mental health issues or substance abuse, we recognize the empathy, not force

Fairness: We offer a very robust pretrial program so that low level and non violent offenders can get out of jail on bond or probation programs that allow them to continue to work, be with their support program and help their counsel in their defense. Incarcerated inmates can participate in AA courses, GED Course, my award-winning CIT and Jail Based Competency Restoration program, and Food Handlers cert.

Campaign Website: Sheriffgleasonwilliamsoncounty.com

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有中文
Tiếng Việt

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COUNTY CONSTABLE

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

Trust: How would you build community trust and promote transparency in your office

Enforcement: How would you ensure that all individuals, regardless of race or socioeconomic status, receive fair law enforcement?

Training: What kinds of training and education would you prioritize for yourself and your staff?

PRECINCT 1



Vinnie Cherrone (R)

Qualifications: I am a 30 Year Law Enforcement Veteran all within Williamson County. 22 Years with the city of Round Rock, 8 Years with the Williamson County Precinct One Constable's Office, 4 as the Constable.

Trust: As the Constable from 2017-2020 our Team was the most proactive Constables Office in the County. We attended most Community Events throughout the Precinct. We sponsored movie nights throughout the Precinct and were very active in combatting mail theft in Rattan Creek. I will promote transparency and accountability with the Team and will be part of our culture.

Enforcement: All of us in Law Enforcement must be honest enough to acknowledge that much our history is not pretty. We must move past the status quo and be able to not only speak with constituents but also listen and come up with solutions that will serve all. We must put our unconscious biases behind us and move forward for all that we serve.

Training: I believe that as the Constable it is my duty to build future leaders. I would like to help the deputies advance in their careers and broaden their knowledge by allowing them to attend leadership, cultural diversity, interview and interrogation, field training and any training they feel will make them more productive and efficient in their role in the agency.



Mickey Chance (D)

Qualifications: I am a Master Peace Officer with over 23 years law enforcement experience. I have had the pleasure of serving as the Precinct One Constable for the past three and a half years.

Trust: I believe community trust hinges on Transparency; public agencies have a duty to operate in a transparent manner. Law enforcement agencies must commit to the universal use of body and dash cameras. Video of critical incidents should be released as soon as possible, and all officers should be held accountable for violations of policy and law.

LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

PRECINCT 1

Mickey Chance (D) (continued)

Enforcement: I will ensure that all members of the public are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve by holding my staff accountable for their actions and maintaining strict hiring and training standards at all levels. The office will continue to review our policies and procedures to ensure that the necessary systems are in place to identify and address any bias to ensure fairness in our actions.

Training: By focusing primarily on Civil Process, the office can greatly improve its service to the courts. Although Constables are peace officers, their primary duty is service to the courts. I believe the service of civil process should take precedent over service of low-level arrest warrants and all staff members at the Constable's office should receive high level civil law training.

PRECINCT 2

Jeff Anderson (R)

Unopposed

PRECINCT 3

Kevin Wilkie (R)

Unopposed

PRECINCT 4



Paul L. Leal (R)

Qualifications: 27 years in Law Enforcement. I hold a Master Peace Officer License with over 2000 training hours. I've earned my FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Award, and am a graduate of the Texas Constable Leadership College.

Trust: For trust to be built you must serve during the hard times. During my first term in office my precinct faced two winter storms, along with two tornado's. I was there for all of it, housing strangers in my home, delivering food, medications, firewood, water and so on. I was awarded the State of Texas Law Enforcement Achievement Award for Public Service. My office is an open book for all to see.

Enforcement: We are "People serving People", no better no worse. You treat everyone like family until a reason is given not to. We are the mailman you never want to see. We let you know you are getting a divorce, being sued, losing your home or business, up to removing your children. I believe this can be done while showing compassion, and understanding regardless of race, or socioeconomic status.

Training: I'm all about leadership, I believe if we cultivate better leaders we make better police officers, neighbors, parents and spouses. All of my sworn personnel have earned the prestigious FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Award, making us the only constable's office in the nation to receive the FBI-LEEDA Agency Trilogy Award. Cultural diversity, de-escalation, along with specialized mental health training is a must.

Campaign Website: paulleal.com



Kenneth Guerrero (D)

Qualifications: As a Law Enforcement Officer, I have supervised units such as Patrol, Warrants, Narcotics, Community Outreach, and Internal Affairs. - TCOLE Instructor - Mental Health Officer - Advanced SWAT

Trust: Community trust begins with good leadership. Leaders must create trust and transparency within their community. A strong community-oriented agency begins with knowing and understanding the community you serve. I plan to involve the community in the decision-making process, seeking their input and feedback to develop fair and comprehensive solutions to the issues facing our community.

Enforcement: As a minority, I understand the need for fair treatment, regardless of race or status. Building trust and transparency with the community is key. Education not only for law enforcement personnel, but members of the community, can help bridge the gap and allow us to create an environment in which all are treated fairly and equally. Integrity, honesty, professionalism, and fairness for all.

Training: Education is of the utmost importance and a top priority of mine. Well trained law enforcement officers create trust and cohesion within their community. I plan to work with our community leaders to provide the best training possible for Deputies. These trainings would include topics such as mental health, de-escalation techniques, community policing, active shooter response, and crime prevention.

COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

Larry Gaddes (R)

Unopposed

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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.

LOCAL CITY OF AUSTIN

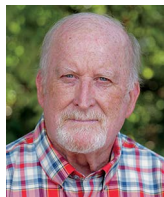
AUSTIN MAYOR

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

Utility Services: How would you ensure reliable and affordable water, energy, and other utility services?

Public Safety: What would be your priorities in maintaining public safety?

Other Issues: What other critical issues do you think are important to your community, and how will you address them?



Jeffery L. Bowen

Qualifications: If you're looking for "Political" experience, those people are a dime a dozen. If you want to get the job done, I am your guy. Sixty eight years of life experience are my best qualifications.

Utility Services: I cannot personally guarantee these items. I can only work with the entities providing the services to provide reliability and affordability. Timely identification of issues that impact reliability and affordable utilities need to

be addressed as soon as possible. There should be gradual increases versus major increases which impact all of us.

Public Safety: Get a signed contract for Austin Police Department and start filling the open positions. Provide Austin Fire Department the needed personal and equipment for the different fire protection needs across the city this will include the Wildland areas which cover 60% of the City of Austin. Fill the open positions within Travis County EMS.

Other Issues: Out of control budget. There is no clarity or transparency on city spending. Policy drives everything.

LOCAL CITY OF AUSTIN

AUSTIN MAYOR

Jeffery L. Bowen (continued)

Sound policies help you make systems work, including safety and utilities. Threats caused by H.O.M.E., including infrastructure issues, fire, tree canopy issues and flooding which impacts all of Austin. Ending the series of lawsuits against the City of Austin, attributed to the council.

Campaign Website: jeffbowenforaustinmayor.com



Doug Greco

Qualifications: With over 25 years' successful experience as a grassroots organizer, AISD teacher, and LGBTQ advocate, I will fight for working families and stand up against state leaders' attacks on civil rights.

Utility Services: I played a key organizing role in killing the state's largest corporate tax giveaway program for polluters in the oil and gas industry. I will fight just as hard for resiliency and sustainability in our city's public utilities, ending sweetheart rates for the largest industrial users of water and power, and ensuring that working families pay no more than their fair share for utilities.

Public Safety: Public safety officers should be paid competitively, with benefits and a contract, especially for the type of work they do. This will help us fill vacancies, reduce response times, and save lives. We should immediately implement the Police Oversight and Accountability Act - which was approved overwhelmingly by voters - and support community policing strategies and continue race equity training.

Other Issues: Austin's fight over the next decade is to build a strong and diverse middle class. We are the fastest growing city for millionaires, but our income inequality continues to increase, and we are becoming less diverse. We need robust investments in workforce, education, living wage jobs, affordable housing, and childcare, and to fight to protect our civil rights from attacks by state leaders.

Campaign Website: www.grecoforaustin.com



Carmen D. Llanes Pulido

Qualifications: With 20 years of experience as a community organizer, city commissioner, and nonprofit leader, I bring inter-generational voices & expertise from across Austin together for accountable leadership.

Utility Services: I'll listen to frontline staff and communities, and implement overdue plans & policies that secure our water & power utilities. I'll welcome local organizations to leverage federal dollars for updates that lower the costs of operations and expand community solar & water conservation. I'll bring back utility elections, so that we vote on renewable energy investments, rate changes, & sale of assets.

Public Safety: 1) Reduce 911 wait times: Work with first responders & advocates to fund appropriate training and re-

sponse for specific needs. 2) Negotiate a new police contract: Implement the overwhelmingly voter-approved Austin Police Oversight Act. Collaborate with the new chief to relaunch the Academy for APD. 3) Improve basic services & infrastructure to promote positive use of public spaces & reduce crime.

Other Issues: True affordability is missing from current housing & land use policies. Communities are asking for lower rents, neighborhood protections, and the right to negotiate truly affordable housing, green space, and adequate infrastructure. It can be done! I've co-authored policies to preserve affordability & culture and negotiated beneficial new development, including quality, dense, affordable housing.

Campaign Website: www.carmen4mayor.com



Kathie Tovo

Qualifications: Austin Mayor Pro Tem (2015-19), City Council Member (2011-23), UT Adj. Prof. (23-24), Mother.

Proven commitment to transparency, community-driven policy, and a city that

works for everyday Austinites.

Utility Services: To ensure Austin thrives, we must prioritize conservation, our most cost-effective strategy. I helped initiate and pass Water Forward, Austin's 100-year water-smart plan. Now, it's time to implement its recommendations and emphasize drought-tolerant policies. As Mayor, I will ensure Austin Energy reviews outages and upgrades systems to meet the demands of extreme weather and climate change.

Public Safety: Creating a safer, more resilient community starts with providing access to resources, violence prevention programs, mental health care, and programs like the Sobering Center, which I led in creating. These initiatives help prevent crime, while we also work toward strengthening police training and recruitment and securing a police contract with the accountability measures voters passed in 2023.

Other Issues: I will prioritize climate resiliency, work to reduce taxes and fees, and expand access to childcare and public transportation. I will preserve and expand affordable housing, ensuring it's accessible to all, and create new opportunities on city-owned land. I will champion land use plans that protect our environment, uplift our communities, and prioritize people over profits.

Campaign Website: www.kathieforaustin.com



Kirk Watson

Qualifications: I'm currently Austin's mayor. I was mayor from 1997-2001 and State Senator from 2007-2020. I've been consistently recognized as a strong leader who get things done in an open

and collaborative way.

Utility Services: I acted very quickly to bring in a new Austin Energy manager for better results. Energy rates are some

of the lowest in TX and water rates are far below the EPA's affordable definition. I commit to maintaining low costs as we balance reliability and focus to protect against climate change. I've led on cost saving conservation items and will continue to fight for Austin Energy at the legislature.

Public Safety: The EMS and Firefighter unions have endorsed me. We've deeply reduced 911 response times, meeting national standards. We're negotiating with police for the first time in a while. I'm hopeful. Absent a contract, we raised police pay, created incentives for recruitment and retention, established a reserve police force, and protected the people's vote in 2023 on police oversight from preemption.

Other Issues: Austin must focus on Affordability First. After years of inaction, we've passed the most ambitious housing reforms in decades and created the Austin Infrastructure Academy with unions and others to train for family supporting careers, even if folks don't have a 4-year degree. I've successfully led on improving homeless response. I've successfully defended Project Connect.

Campaign Website: www.kirkwatson.com

CITY COUNCIL

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

Utility Services: How would you ensure reliable and affordable water, energy, and other utility services?

Libraries: What do you believe the role of public libraries should be in your community?

Budget: What are your specific priorities for the municipal budget?

DISTRICT 2



Vanessa Fuentes

Qualifications: My background in public service and my term on the City Council, where I raised the minimum wage, expanded paid parental leave, and prioritized constituent services, prepare me to serve effectively.

Utility Services: Power and water reliability are critical concerns for Austinites after recent storms. I authored a resolution for Austin Energy to bury more power lines, improving grid resilience. Additionally, we must address rising utility costs, especially for low-income families in energy-inefficient homes. By enhancing infrastructure and exploring affordability strategies, we can build a more resilient city.

LOCAL CITY OF AUSTIN

DISTRICT 2

Vanessa Fuentes (continued)

Libraries: Public libraries are crucial hubs for civic engagement and education, hosting meetings, programs, and events. In my district, they support community dialogue and collaboration. During the pandemic, libraries served as vaccination sites, proving their adaptability. As we look ahead, we must continue to invest in our libraries. We need a new library in Southeast and South Austin.

Budget: Budgets reflect our community's values. My priorities as a City Council member include addressing homelessness through expanded services like Permanent Supportive Housing, rapid re-housing, and prevention programs. Public safety efforts focus on expanding EMS services and violence prevention. Other priorities include park maintenance and ensuring quality and reliable city services.

Campaign Website: www.vanessaforaustin.com

Robert Reynolds

No response received

DISTRICT 4



Monica Guzmán

Qualifications: I'm running for Council because Austin needs new leadership. District 4 needs a leader with an open door policy and rolls up her sleeves to work alongside them while fighting to protect their rights.

Utility Services: I'll fight against privatization to maintain our public utility services and assets. I support shutting down the Fayette Power Plant as soon as possible; prevent Texas Gas Service's frequent price increases; and invest further in water efficiency, reuse, and conservation, and replace outdated underground PVC pipes to ensure infrastructure can support future growth from the HOME Initiative.

Libraries: Public libraries are resources for students of all ages. During climate stressors, they serve as warming/cooling shelters for less than 24 hours when residents cannot stay safely in their homes; and during blue sky days they are spaces for: community gathering, job trainings, informational hubs the all - especially the vulnerable and immigrants; vaccine clinics, community gardens, etc.

Budget: My municipal budget priorities are community investment for services, programs, and critical needs. APD has 35% of the FY2025 budget and needs to stay flat. They don't and can't: house the homeless, feed the hungry, buy our groceries, provide emergency financial assistance for rent, utilities and other basic needs. Community investment addresses needs and allows officers to do their jobs.

Campaign Website: monicaford4.com



Louis Herrin

Qualifications: I have been working in state government for 45 years helping cities solve their environmental problems. I am a civil/environment engineer.

Utility Services: I would audit all the utilities services, reviews their long-term planning to see if it will meet the city future needs, and to make sure that they are managing all their assets. I believe in asset management as a way to save money.

Libraries: The roles of the modern day library should be a community gathering place that citizens can get and exchange information. It needs to be setup to meet the needs of the local communities. It needs to have the resources to provide educational needs, children programs, and electronic equipment (computers and reading aids).

Budget: My budget priorities are to back to the basis, starting with funding health and safety first, then utilities, transportation, parks and libraries, etc. In short, I would vote to fund the city required needs and would not vote for the pet programs unless they can show how they are needed and can improved the city as a whole. I would also try to get an independent audit of all the city programs

Campaign Website: Louisherrin.com

Jim Rabuck

No response received



Eduardo "Lalito" Romero

Qualifications: To be effective in city council a blend of training, experience, and personal characteristics is needed, but to me it boils down to a genuine commitment to reducing taxes for city residents.

Utility Services: Ensuring reliable and affordable water, energy, and other utility services involves a combination of strategic planning, investment in infrastructure, and community engagement. Here are some key strategies to achieve these goals: Infrastructure Investment, Sustainable Water Management & Diversified Energy Sources. By focusing on these areas, Austin can work towards maintaining reliable services.

Libraries: Public libraries have a crucial role in any community. They're not just places to borrow books; they're community hubs that offer a range of services and opportunities. Here's a broad view of what they can and should be: Access to Information, Educational Support & Community Engagement. In essence, public libraries should be adaptable to providing resources to taxpayers.

Budget: In Austin, as with any growing city, there are several key priorities that could be considered for the municipal budget to address both immediate needs and long-term goals. Here are some critical areas that might be emphasized: Affordable Housing, Transportation and Infrastruc-

ture & Public Safety. Balancing these priorities requires engaging with residents and important stakeholders.



Jose "Chito" Vela

Qualifications: I'm a leader on council and have been involved in state/local politics for decades. I was a Planning Commissioner and president of the boards of Workers Defense Project and the Blanton Elementary PTA.

Utility Services: Austin is lucky to have city-owned utilities instead of private companies. Our public utilities improve the lives of Austinites via progressive pricing, customer assistance programs and climate-friendly power sources. But climate change is a challenge. We must invest in our utility infrastructure to be prepared for emergencies. And we must invest in solar, batteries and a stronger electric grid.

Libraries: Public libraries facilitate learning for the entire community. That doesn't just mean books and lectures (though those are great!). It means helping our homeless residents navigate their situation. It means providing a safe, temperature-controlled space during weather emergencies. And it means providing accessible, language-diverse education resources to any and all who might need them.

Budget: I value social services. I got \$3.6 million/year for rent assistance & increased services to prevent homelessness. I value parks. I got \$2 million for shade structures at parks (with \$2 million more from Austin Parks Foundation) and a Senior Center at Gus Garcia Park. I value our city employees. I gave them a 4% raise each year I've been on Council and raised our minimum wage from \$15 to \$21.63.

Campaign Website: www.chitovela.com

DISTRICT 6



Mackenzie Kelly

Qualifications: As the incumbent City Council Member for District 6, I bring over a decade of experience in emergency management and public safety, ensuring informed decisions for our community.

Utility Services: Ensuring reliable and affordable utility services is crucial for our community. As your District 6 Council Member and former vice chair of the Austin Energy Oversight Committee, I am committed to this goal. To secure reliable water services, I support continued infrastructure modernization, including expanding the Purple Pipe program, which conserves potable water by reusing treated wastewater.

Libraries: Public libraries play a vital role in our community, serving as more than just repositories of books. They are dynamic centers of learning, connection, and access that provide essential services to residents of all ages and backgrounds. In today's digital age, libraries have evolved into

LOCAL CITY OF AUSTIN

DISTRICT 6

Mackenzie Kelly (continued)

hubs of information and technology, bridging the gap for those who may not have access to these resources.

Budget: My priorities for the municipal budget focus on delivering essential services efficiently while ensuring we do not overburden taxpayers. Balancing fiscal responsibility with the needs of our community is key to maintaining Austin's quality of life and ensuring that our city remains affordable for all residents.

Campaign Website: www.mackenzie4austin.com/



Krista Laine

Qualifications: I am a Columbia University graduate with 10 years professional experience analyzing the Austin housing market. I led the winning effort against disruptive extremists in RRISD school board elections.

Utility Services: Reliability requires consistent investment in maintenance and infrastructure, not privatization. I would like baseline reliability data for power and wastewater, with less reliable areas prioritized for investment, then regular data updates to monitor goals progress. Austin's Water Forward plan defines investments needed to safeguard clean water access, but implementation will require leadership.

Libraries: Libraries offer access to books, internet, and other media. They also serve as meeting places, community centers, resource centers, polling places, and a source of emergency support in times of crisis. District 6 has just one library, which is one of the highest-volume libraries in Austin. We need to support Spicewood Springs Library and also expand access to community resources in D6.

Budget: - Basic city services like safe streets, 911 response times for critical emergencies, reliable utilities, efficient transportation, libraries, parks and pools - Expanding effective programs for the city's most pressing problems like housing stability, mental health and homeless response - Staff compensation and job satisfaction - Streamlining regulations and processes - Protecting civil rights

Campaign Website: www.kristalaine.com

DISTRICT 7



Edwin Bautista

Qualifications: As a certified urban planner with years of community advocacy, I bring a fresh perspective with experience in affordable housing, sustainable development & a deep commitment to serving all Austinites.

Utility Services: I'll champion innovative initiatives like

expanding solar microgrids, implementing advanced water recycling & promoting smart meters to reduce waste. I'll push for equitable rates to protect low-income households & foster public-private partnerships to fund green infrastructure. The goal is sustainable & efficient services that meet our needs today while preparing Austin for future challenges.

Libraries: Public libraries should be vibrant hubs of learning & community engagement. They provide access to technology, lifelong education & cultural programs. Libraries should be inclusive, welcoming spaces where everyone (regardless of income or background) can gather, learn & connect. They're vital in bridging the digital divide & supporting Austin's values of inclusivity, sustainability & innovation.

Budget: My priority is to ensure every dollar is well-spent & strategically invested. I'll focus on diversifying revenue through mixed-use developments, grants & public-private partnerships. Transparency & fiscal responsibility are key to ensuring increased revenues enhance public services. My goal is to maximize community benefits, minimize financial burdens & ensure equitable access to resources.

Campaign Website: EdwinForDistrict7.com



Gary L. Bledsoe

Qualifications: I am a Civil Rights lawyer who has lived in District 7 for 41 years. My skill set includes not just critical analysis and advocacy but working with diverse stakeholders to

address difficult community

Utility Services: (1) Do not privatize; (2) Make utility supplier focus low cost and reliable services; (3) Promote the use of Community MicroGrids; (4) Provide resilience centers that can handle community needs; (5) Create a rebate program for purchase of environmentally friendly back-up batteries or generators; (6) Conduct audits regularly to identify potential service issues; (7) Educate community about conservation;

Libraries: Improve literacy, enlightenment, cross-racial and cross-cultural understandings; equalize access to information, resources and technology across the community to enhance deep learning, providing a place of solitude, building community collaboration and exposing community to different points of view through the collection of varied and different materials illustrating various points of view.

Budget: Public Safety and safe neighborhoods, public engagement and open government, public health and human services, Environment and climate control, affordable housing for those below 80% MFI, public education on city policy, local arts and music, Parks, Heating and cooling centers, resilience centers, effective audit program, infrastructure maintenance and development, code enforcement

Campaign Website: bledsoeforaustin.com



Pierre Huy Nguyễn

Qualifications: Raised by two refugees in a system not built for them, I've led as an EMT, firefighter, nonprofit leader, and veteran. I'm ready to bring my experience in public health, safety, and equity to Austin.

Utility Services: Ensuring reliable and affordable utilities is priority. By emphasizing education, accountability, transparency, and proactive updates, we can prevent or minimize issues before they arise. It requires forward-thinking to consistently meet and protect our community's needs. My experience in responding to infrastructural failures equips me with the insight needed to lead these efforts effectively.

Libraries: Libraries should be the heart of the community, offering a safe space for learning, exploration, and connection. As a kid growing up in NYC, I found refuge in libraries, discovering cultures and my own heritage that schools didn't teach. They should provide access to diverse resources, support lifelong learning, and be a welcoming hub for all, especially those seeking knowledge and understanding.

Budget: My specific priorities for the municipal budget are to focus on essential services like public safety, affordable housing, and infrastructure, while ensuring that every dollar spent is accountable, transparent, and equitable. I aim to balance the budget in a way that meets the community's needs and drives positive outcomes, without sacrificing long-term fiscal health.

Campaign Website: www.pierre4atx.org



Adam Powell

Qualifications: I've worked as a union organizer, teacher recruiter, and within state government. I'm the only Austin-born candidate in this race, and I've served my community in many volunteer

and leadership roles.

Utility Services: Winter storms and heatwaves have led to severe disruptions in our publicly owned energy and water utilities, and I've heard extreme concern from Austinites about power outages. In response, I've developed specific policy proposals that will Fix Austin Energy, ranging from long-term solutions like burying power lines to short-term upgrades like streamlining Austin Energy's incentives and rebates.

Libraries: Public libraries are irreplaceable community infrastructure that need consistent investment to truly serve as holistic resource hubs. I advocate for robust partnerships with schools and intergenerational engagement by supporting digital equity initiatives, cooling centers, and inclusive programming. Additionally, I stand firmly against book bans and censorship across our library system.

Budget: We must prioritize raising city staff wages to match Austin's cost of living, enabling them to live in the city they serve. Additionally, we need to secure ongoing funding for essential services like libraries, parks, animal protection, and

LOCAL CITY OF AUSTIN

DISTRICT 7 Adam Powell (continued)

other essential programs that must be safeguarded. Finally, wherever possible we must invest in affordable housing for our most vulnerable populations.

Campaign Website: adamforaustin.com



Todd Shaw

Qualifications: I've been an environmental engineer in the energy industry for 30 years and a proven consensus builder on tough, divisive, issues from service as Planning Commission Chair & leader at Austin Energy.

Utility Services: I will lead to keep our utilities public and secure federal funds for innovative changes such as greater energy and water conservation and behind-the-meter solar, data-driven preventative maintenance, strengthen infrastructure resilience to extreme climate events, add transmission lines from renewable energy sources to lower congestion costs, and increase green dispatchable energy sources.

Libraries: Great cities have great libraries. Libraries ensure equitable access to information and are designed to meet needs of the communities served. They provide access to computers and the internet so everyone can connect to resources that support learning, research, and culture. Finally, they offer space for gathering and sharing ideas.

Budget: I will focus on affordability by raising wages for city staff so they can stay in Austin and increasing funds to address housing shortages and affordability, for child care assistance, and to advance our transit and mobility plans. I will champion reducing carbon emissions and preparing our utilities from severe weather events. I support a well-trained, community driven, fully staffed Police Dept.

Campaign Website: todshawforaustin.org



Mike Siegel

Qualifications: I've worked for 25 years as a public school teacher, union organizer, civil rights lawyer and Austin City Attorney. My goal is to build community coalitions and win progressive policies at City Hall.

Utility Services: Austin must maintain local control of its electric, water, and waste management utilities, and continue to be a national leader in renewable energy, water conservation, and climate action. We must implement Water Forward, our long-term water management plan, and push Austin Energy to adopt an electric generation plan that emphasizes wind, solar, geothermal, and battery storage.

Libraries: As a public school teacher, I saw how schools and libraries are the foundation of democracy and civic life. A great city like Austin should have great libraries across its diverse communities and neighborhoods. Libraries are places for books and computers, community programs and social gatherings, arts and entertainment, learning and empowerment. We must protect and expand our Austin libraries.

Budget: My priority is to maintain essential public services despite the Texas Legislature actively sabotaging our city budget through spending caps and regressive policies. A budget is a moral document, and although Austin faces revenue shortfalls in the years ahead, we must continue to employ outstanding civil servants and gather resources to address challenges like climate change and affordability.

Campaign Website: www.siegelforaustin.org

DISTRICT 10



Marc Duchon

Qualifications: I'm a 28-year Austin resident, MBA & small business owner with 20+ years work experience in public policy, management, and tech, and a decade of community advocacy and service on local civic boards.

Utility Services: Ensuring reliable, affordable utilities is crucial. I advocate for infrastructure resilience with targeted investments and precise project scoping to control costs. Using Design-Bid-Build for major projects can offer better cost control than CMAR. To meet demand, we must enhance grid reliability and incentivize water conservation, and expand 'purple pipe' systems for sustainable water management.

Libraries: Public libraries are the heartbeat of Austin neighborhoods, providing access to information, services, and

community gathering spaces. They help the public stay connected to news, technology, research, and current media. They are hubs for collaboration, public health info, voter reg., career resources, and a place where people of all ages can explore and fall in love with or rediscover learning.

Budget: My priority is to enhance accountability and ensure public spending benefits our community. With Non-General Fund spending up 45% in 4 years, we must slow this growth to maintain affordability. I propose regular audits and a 'sunset' commission to phase out ineffective programs. My budget focus is on essential services like public safety, parks, mobility, flood mitigation, and wildfire prevention.

Campaign Website: marcforaustin.com



Ashika Ganguly

Qualifications: I have crafted legislation as a Legislative Director and advocated for changes at all levels of government. As a lifelong Austinite and former AISD teacher, I know the diverse needs of our community.

Utility Services: Our public utilities should put customer affordability and reliability first, but the climate crisis and aging infrastructure continue to increase utility costs for all Austinites. We must improve our utility infrastructure, expand our green energy resources, and invest in long term resiliency. I also support programs that reward conservation and help all residents afford to keep the power on.

Libraries: Public libraries are unique and essential anchors for every community. They serve people of all ages and backgrounds and provide education, resources, and meeting spaces. On the City Council, I will expand library services, including literacy programs, tech training, and community events. We should invest in our libraries to promote lifelong learning and meet the diverse needs of all Austinites.

Budget: The City budget should reflect our City's values and priorities. We must use our limited tax-dollars to address our most pressing needs and invest in the long-term well-being and sustainability of our communities. I will prioritize affordability and effective government spending, emergency services and disaster prevention, and parks and green spaces.

PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION P

Ballot Language

Shall an untaxed area in the City of Austin's extraterritorial jurisdiction, containing 35 lots on approximately 96.9 acres of land on Menchaca Road south of Slaughter Lane, be released from the City of Austin's extraterritorial jurisdiction and into unincorporated Travis County, with the result that the Area will no longer be governed by the City's environmental and development regulations?

Explanation

A change in Texas state law in 2023, offered the opportunity for individuals in a City's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) to call for an election for voters to decide future status. If passed, the property would no longer be in the City of Austin's ETJ. It would revert to being in unincorporated Travis County. Under the new law, a validated citizen petition was presented to the City, calling for the removal of the outlined 96.9 acres from the City of Austin ETJ. That territory will revert back to unincorporated Travis County sta-

tus if approved. The petition was signed by three (3) individuals, with only two (2) of them valid. According to the City Clerk's Election Office, five percent of the registered voters in the area were required to sign the petition to be able to request the measure be added to the ballot. In this case, only one (1) valid signature was required to request the election question and that satisfies the requirements.

ONLY residents in the 96.9 acres are allowed to vote on this ballot question.

LOCAL CITY OF BEE CAVE

PROPOSITIONS

Background

What is a Charter? A municipal charter is a legal document that establishes a town and defines its powers. Think of it like the constitution of the city. On August 13, 2024, the Bee Cave City Council adopted Ordinance No. 539 ordering a special election in the City of Bee Cave, Texas concurrent with the election of the City Council. Most of the propositions pertain to changes in the functioning of the Mayor, City Council and staff members.

More information can be found in Ordinance No. 539 on the Bee Cave website: <https://beecave.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/AttachmentViewer.ashx?AttachmentID=8874&ItemID=4330>

PROPOSITION A

Ballot Language

Shall sections of the City Charter be amended to consolidate provisions regarding altering boundaries of the City of Bee Cave through annexation and disannexation?

Explanation

The City Secretary maintains the correct and complete description and official map of the city boundaries and limits. If Prop A is adopted, the City Council shall have the power by ordinance to set the City boundary limits and acquisitions of additional territory, as well as disannex property. The amendment declares annexed property shall be part of the city for all purposes and bear its pro rata part of taxes levied. Property inhabitants will be entitled to all rights and privileges of all citizens and bound by acts, ordinances and resolutions of the City. As the title implies, it consolidates the annexation and disannexation policies and eliminates Charter Chapter Subsection 1.03. Disannexations.

PROPOSITION B

Ballot Language

Shall sections of the City Charter be amended to allow adjustments to compensation of Mayor and Council by ordinance only submitted to voters?

Explanation

If Prop B passes, any future increases in Mayor or City Council compensation may only happen if set by ordinance approved by City Council and be submitted to the voters for approval during a uniform election date.

PROPOSITION C

Ballot Language

Shall sections of the City Charter pertaining to duties and responsibilities of specific officers be amended and to au-

thorize the mayor to sign only specific contracts unless otherwise directed by counsel and other signatory obligations if the city manager is unable; clarifying mayor's authority during emergency or disaster; providing for election of mayor by plurality; authorize the city manager to appoint interim officers until council confirmation, conduct financial and operational audits, assign subordinates to assist mayor and council with official schedules and official communications only; prevent interference with city manager performance; establish city secretary as a city manager subordinate except for agenda formation and elections; establish municipal court as a court of record to clarify jurisdiction with state law; provide for associate judges, and all judicial terms; and clarify the city attorney as the attorney for the city as a whole and as the municipal court prosecutor, require reporting from other legal counsel, and authorize City Attorney to designate special counsel and special prosecutors?

Explanation

Proposition C makes the following changes in the Charter regarding several City officers' duties and responsibilities including municipal court.

If passed, the duties of the Mayor will be amended:

- The Mayor shall sign all contracts or conveyances approved by the City Council.
- The Mayor may sign bonds, warrants, and any other obligations issued in the event the City Manager is unable to perform such a task.
- In case of emergency or disaster, the Mayor shall have the power to enact emergency measures in order to enforce the laws of the City, or to avert danger, or to protect life or property, including but not limited to a case of riot, outbreak, calamity.
- The Mayor shall proclaim the emergency and shall utilize such powers and authorizations allowed by local, state and federal law needed to keep the peace and respond to such emergency.
- The Mayor shall be elected by a plurality of the vote, the same as City Council. [Note: "Plurality" means there are no run-off elections; the person with the most votes wins the office.]

If passed, there will also be changes related to staff duties and Council interaction with staff:

- There are a range of very specific actions that will be required of the City Manager and the interaction with the Mayor and Council members. Most changes offer greater autonomy to management, others establish rules of engagement between the Manager and elected officials. If passed, the City Secretary would be a subordinate to the Manager for work other than setting the agenda or elections. The City Secretary would no longer be able

to name an interim City Secretary in the Secretary's absence.

Pertaining to Municipal Court Judge:

- If passed, Municipal Court "Associates" must also meet the requirements for the Judge of Municipal Court. The changes will direct the municipal judge, alternates and associates have terms concurrent with the term of Mayor.

Pertaining to City Attorney:

- There are several changes in the expectations for City Attorney responsibilities, including representation of the entire City Council; reviewing and approving as to form all documents, contracts, resolutions, ordinances, and legal instruments; and oversee all legal counsel working for the City. Additionally the City Attorney would be the designated attorney for the state in municipal court and any designated prosecutors hold such positions subject to City Attorney's direction.

PROPOSITION D

Ballot Language

Shall sections of the City Charter regarding finances be amended to clarify auditor obligations and repeal provisions pertaining to failure to adopt a budget to be consistent with State Law?

Explanation

If passed, the Charter language on what to do if the City fails to adopt an annual budget will be removed, as State Law covers that possibility.

PROPOSITION E

Ballot Language

Shall sections of the City Charter pertaining to certain administrative provisions be amended to allow additional media for notices and to clarify notices and liability limits for claims against the City?

Explanation

Prop E adds additional media as alternatives for publication of official documents. If passed, the traditional "newspaper of record" will allow the use of additional media. If passed, Prop E also changes the amount of time an injury claim against the City can be accepted for consideration. A claim must be filed within six months after the damage is alleged. It also explicitly states that no City-owned property shall be subject to garnishment or execution of any kind or nature except as provided by state law.

LOCAL CITY OF BEE CAVE

PROPOSITION F

Ballot Language

Shall sections of the City Charter pertaining to petitions and charter amendments be amended to allow additional time for certification, clarify applicable state law, permit non-substantive organizational and corrective revisions to the charter by ordinance, and provide procedures for charter amendments by petition?

Explanation

If passed, once a citizen-filed petition calling for charter amendments is filed, the time period for the City Secretary to determine if the petition is valid would change from five days to twenty days. How signatures would be checked would also change using different State Law guidelines than currently in place. The State Law method for checking signa-

tures would change and provide the opportunity for Council, by ordinance, to renumber and rearrange all articles, sections, and paragraphs of the Charter, or create and adjust the table of contents, or correct grammar or spelling errors. Upon passage of any ordinance caused by a petition, the City will also forward a copy to the Secretary of State for filing.

PROPOSITION G

Ballot Language

An amendment to the Bee Cave City Charter requiring voter approval for the city to take any action or pass any ordinance addressing subdivision, significant physical change or alteration, sale, purchase, donation, exchange, or certain leasing of city real property; requiring all deliberation

of such action by the city council or city boards and commissions be done in public, disclosing all conditions and specifics of such proposal; not requiring voter approval of the city purchase of real property but requiring all conditions and specifics of such purchase be disclosed in an open meeting.

Explanation

The proposed Proposition G resulted from a citizen's petition by a group known as "Bee Cave Vote to Amend." The intent of Prop G is to force City Council discussion at an open meeting with the public in attendance about any City-involved property sale, donation, exchange, leasing purchase or physical change. There have been local differences of opinion about the law governing this interaction. If passed, there has been discussion about attaining legal opinions on open meeting laws.

LOCAL CITY OF JARRELL

MAYOR

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

Growth: How will you balance development with increased stress on infrastructure?

Water and Energy: What steps would you take to assure a stable water and energy supply year-round?

Public Safety: What policies would you prioritize in maintaining public safety?

Thomas Hertel

Qualifications: I'm a multi-passionate individual and have acquired an array of skills in the trades, IT, HR, management, public service, and service industries, all of which will help guide Jarrells growth.

Growth: Responsible and strategic growth is the key, with a focus on bringing in business that will provide more to the community than it consumes. I will focus on manufacturing, distribution, tech, and industrial growth to provide an increased tax base without burdening our citizens, which will allow for increased spending on roads, water, wastewater, and much needed parks and recreation facilities.

Water and Energy: Partnerships are key to providing a sustainable water supply. I want to see stronger partnerships with the MUDs around us in the form of interconnects, as well as expanding our involvement in regional water projects through our partner agencies. Jarrell has little control over energy grid reliability and resilience beyond promoting conservation, and ensuring city services have backup power.

Public Safety: Jarrell faces a difficult situation due to the neighboring communities lack of police departments. I would work with the MUDs and City Council to secure a contract to provide police services for Sonterra and other MUDs. This allows for increasing department size, increased patrol, & a proactive community focused policing as opposed to reactive policing. We are simply stronger & safer together.

Daniel Islas

No response received



Patrick Sherek

Qualifications: I hold a degree in applied mathematics, own two local businesses, and have served as Mayor for two years, actively participating in community and family life here.

Growth: As Mayor, I will prioritize sustainable development by closely aligning new projects with infrastructure upgrades. This will include planning enhancements to roads, utilities, and services to support growth while ensuring our city's infrastructure meets the demands of our expanding community efficiently.

Water and Energy: Building on our successes in diversifying water sources, I will continue to enhance our city's water management plans. My focus will be on fully implementing these strategies to ensure a reliable and sustainable water supply for Jarrell, meeting our community's needs for years to come.

Public Safety: I will continue to strengthen our police force by supporting the addition of three new officers in the 2025 budget. Building on our progress with a new police chief and

assistant chief, I'll prioritize policies that enhance training, community engagement, and rapid response capabilities to maintain public safety.



Shailey Tripp

Qualifications: A variety of skills and experiences such as Civil Air Patrol, serving in a neighborhood association of over 4000 residents, serving on boards of banks, and organizations, my work all have prepared me.

Growth: I plan to reach out to our local neighbors in Austin and Round Rock for support, advice and guidance to see how we want to grow Jarrell, as well as considering the residents of Jarrell's well being and their interests. It's important to have the correct staff in place to balance and grow. You need to know and understand your communities needs such as our farmers versus our residents as we prepare.

Water and Energy: Jarrell has water issues as we are growing. I plan to get to know the exact issues and concerns better so I can help address them and propose ways to grow and provide safe water supply to our businesses, schools, residents and community at large. Water towers, water filtration and management is a big part of that.

Public Safety: Meeting regularly with the community and schools to understand their safety concerns, and coordinating those concerns with our local police department, I know illegal drug use and distribution is a concern many locals have brought to my attention over the last year as well as increased incidents of petty theft. Working with the community and police and public awareness and action is key.

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/shailey.tripp

LOCAL CITY OF JARRELL

ALDERMAN

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

Growth: How will you balance development with increased stress on infrastructure?

Water and Energy: What steps would you take to assure a stable water and energy supply year-round?

Public Safety: What would be your priorities in maintaining public safety?



PLACE 1

Daniel Klepac

Unopposed

PLACE 2



Lori Allen

Qualifications: I am a natural born leader having a bachelor degree in restaurant, hotel and institutional management and a doctorate in the field of pharmacy. I own my own pharmacy and love serving the

community.

Growth: Jarrell is booming! I recognize the needs of the city as it continues to grow and will focus on voting for plans that support future infrastructure improvements that will enhance the community.

Water and Energy: I understand the importance of a stable water supply for our community as we grow and attract commercial business to our town. I have a circle of support-

ers with years of experience as councilmen and mayor that are focused on educating me on matters that are important in maintaining the growth of Jarrell through a stable water supply.

Public Safety: Jarrell is a wonderful community with a growing police force. Maintaining public safety is a top priority and is achievable through supporting the department's needs through budget approval as they continue to grow. Ensuring the force has enough officers to maintain our safety is very important. I back the blue!

Jeff Seidel

No response received

PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION A

Background

Jarrell voters initially approved a dedicated quarter-cent sales tax for street maintenance and repairs in 2009. State law requires that voters approve the reauthorization of the sales tax every four years. The most recent reauthorization was in 2021. The sales tax applies to all purchases made within Jarrell's city limits by residents and non-residents.

Ballot Language

Reauthorization Of Local Sales And Use Tax At The Rate of One-Fourth (1/4)% To Continue Providing Revenue

For Maintenance And Repair Of Municipal Streets For Said City

Explanation

If Proposition A passes:

Jarrell has been using funds from the quarter-cent sales tax for street maintenance and repairs since voters first approved the tax in 2009. The city's current proposed budget for street repairs is based on the assumption of a continuation of this revenue. Reauthorization will not increase the sales tax rate in Jarrell. The city will be able to continue using the revenue it produces for street maintenance.

If Proposition A fails:

This portion of the 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. The portion of the overall sales tax rate that the city controls (capped by law at 2%) would drop by a quarter percent, to 1.75%, reducing the total sales tax in Jarrell from 8.25% to 8%. With the lower tax rate, the city would lose revenue for road maintenance.

LOCAL CITY OF LAGO VISTA

COUNCIL MEMBER

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

Utility Services: How would you ensure reliable and affordable water, energy, and other utility services?

Libraries: What do you believe the role of public libraries should be in your community?

Budget: What are your specific priorities for the municipal budget?



PLACE 2

Adam C. Benefield

Unopposed

PLACE 4

Norma Owen

Unopposed

PLACE 6

Stephen R. Liebel

No response received



Paul Prince

Qualifications: I've owned a home in Lago Vista for over 20 years. I've been on City Council for four years and city committees before that. I'm a retired engineer and business manager who understands budgets well.

Utility Services: Lago Vista provides water and sewer services to our citizens. Growth is nearing the point that we must expand both the sewer and water supply. I continue to

focus on the best financial approach and the right timing for these expansions.

Libraries: The library in LV is a key part of the community and will be both maintained and expanded as funding allows. Citizens appreciate the programs, especially for children. The city has a strong relationship with the non-profit Friends of the Library.

Budget: We must be efficient in spending to allow funding of critical infrastructure improvements without raising taxes.

LOCAL CITY OF LIBERTY HILL

PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION A

Background

The City of Liberty Hill is currently a General Law City governed by the laws of the State of Texas. General Law cities are restricted to doing what state statutes direct or permit them to do. A specific grant of authority or permission must be provided in the state statutes to initiate a particular action.

Because the City of Liberty Hill has grown to a size greater than 5,000 inhabitants, the Texas Constitution allows the City to establish its own rules for municipal government by adopting a Home Rule Charter. Home Rule cities have the full power of self-government and may take any action in the interest of the citizens' health, safety and welfare that is not contrary to the Texas and U.S. Constitutions or federal or state laws.

Home Rule cities are required to write and adopt a char-

ter that specifically enumerates the structure, power, duties and authorities the people of the community wish to grant their local government.

In the November 2024 election, voters will choose to remain General Law or adopt the charter to become Home Rule.

Ballot Language

The City of Liberty Hill, Texas shall adopt the proposed Home Rule Charter.

Explanation

What this means: Voters will choose to either be "for" or "against" the home rule charter. In general, a home rule charter provides for local control over city governments. The Liberty Hill charter provides for a Council-Manager government, in which Liberty Hill's powers are vested in an elected six-member city council that hires a city manager and is presided over by a mayor. Liberty Hill will have all of the powers granted by Texas, including annexation, public property

management, and street regulation. The charter provides for city-related elections processes, how citizens can propose and challenge ordinances, financial accountability, and how amendments to the charter can be made and approved by voters.

If Prop A passes: The City of Liberty Hill will become Home Rule. The proposed charter will be adopted, and all power, duties, structures and authorities defined in the charter will be granted to the local government of Liberty Hill.

If Prop A fails: The City of Liberty Hill will remain a General Law City governed by the laws of the State of Texas, and will continue to be restricted to doing what state statutes direct or permit them to do.

Further details about the Home Rule process can be found on the City of Liberty Hill's website at <https://www.libertyhilltx.gov/632/Home-Rule-Charter>. The full text of the proposed Home Rule Charter for the City of Liberty Hill is Exhibit A of Ordinance No. 2024-O-029 at this link: <https://ecode360.com/LI6389/laws/LF2127349.pdf>

LOCAL CITY OF MANOR

MAYOR

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

Utility Services: How would you ensure reliable and affordable water, energy, and other utility services?

Public Safety: What would be your priorities in maintaining public safety?

Other Issues: What other critical issues do you think are important to your community, and how will you address them?

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Robert Battaile

No response received

Tricia Campbell

No response received



Christopher Harvey

Qualifications: I have 5 years experience as Mayor & Councilman, and 5 years of TML training. I've served on state and regional committees. My education & work experiences prove I am People & Future-focused.

Utility Services: The key to reliable and affordable water, energy, and other utility services is planning 15-30 years out. Building sustainable communities, incentivizing energy efficiency, and using city code and ordinances to guide

the work. As Mayor, we have already secured \$850,000 in grants for water projects. The next term we will lock in water sources for the city that we will need in about 30 years.

Public Safety: We have a great police department that is fully committed to building relationships with students and adults. Our officers train more than any offer in central Texas to ensure they have respectful interactions with all members of our community. My biggest focus will be on Highway 290 and FM 973. We already have some big announcements coming for these road ways and I will see them through.

Other Issues: Manor needs to gain control over the sales taxes so the city can fund their specific public transportation needs & invest in the city. We need a regional hospital facility & regional employment centers east in order to support thriving industries & reduce traffic on HWY 290. We must add more commercial development, strategically, to reduce the tax burden on our residential development.

Campaign Website: www.buildmanorstrong.com

CITY COUNCIL

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

Utility Services: How would you ensure reliable and affordable water, energy, and other utility services?

Libraries: What do you believe the role of public libraries should be in your community?

Budget: What are your specific priorities for the municipal budget?

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PLACE 1

Emily Hill

No response received



Steven D. Rushing

Qualifications: Community service leader, nonprofit board member, health-care manager, marriage counselor, and bilingual. Successful entrepreneur, passionate about community engagement and father of 7 children.

Utility Services: Prioritize infrastructure maintenance, explore rainwater harvesting, and implement water regulations. Invest in renewable energy sources and promote energy efficiency programs, and negotiate favorable rates with



LOCAL CITY OF MANOR

PLACE 1

Steven D. Rushing (continued)

suppliers. Implement smart grid technology for improved reliability and cost-effectiveness. All of this combined with strategic planning and community involvement.

Libraries: Library should provide books, e-books, magazines, and online resources. Hosting workshops, classes, and literacy programs. Serve as a meeting place for local groups and organizations. Offer computer access, Wi-Fi, coding and digital literacy training. Present exhibits, author talks, and cultural events. The library should be a welcoming and inclusive space that empowers residents to learn and grow

Budget: Invest in road maintenance and water systems, emergency services, and the town's basic needs are met. Support local schools and build a library for residents of all ages. Invest in parks, recreation centers, park and ride to Austin, and trails for healthy lifestyles to provide community engagement. Support local businesses and attract new businesses to create jobs and boost the local economy.

PLACE 3

Maria D. Amezcua

No response received



Todd Shaner

Qualifications: As a former Manor City Council member, I offer experience in governance, decision-making, and community engagement. My leadership, project management, and communication

skills qualify me for this role

Utility Services: To ensure reliable and affordable utility services, I would invest in upgrading infrastructure and adopt sustainable practices. Partnering with renewable energy providers can help lower costs and boost efficiency. I'd support transparent pricing and fair regulations and explore public-private partnerships. Additionally, I'd promote water conservation programs to maintain long-term affordability.

Libraries: Public libraries should serve as inclusive community hubs that provide free access to information, technol-

ogy, and educational resources. Beyond books, they should offer programs that promote literacy, digital skills, and social engagement. Libraries can foster lifelong learning, support underserved populations, and be safe spaces for cultural exchange and community building.

Budget: My budget priorities emphasize public safety with adequate resources for police and emergency services. I'd invest in infrastructure like roads and transit, support economic development through small business and job creation, and work to lower taxes where possible. Funding education and youth services to foster future opportunities would also be a key focus.

John Strange

No response received

PLACE 5

Aaron W. Moreno

No response received

Armando Samaniego

No response received

LOCAL CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE

CITY COUNCIL

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

Utility Services: How would you ensure reliable and affordable water, energy, and other utility services?

Public Safety: What would be your priorities in maintaining public safety?

Budget: What are your specific priorities for the municipal budget?

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PLACE 3

Kimberly Holiday

Unopposed

PLACE 5



Jim McDonald

Qualifications: Served 6 years on Council. 5 years on PCDC, 2015 Bond Committee, 2021 Charter Review Committee (Chair), small business owner for 6 years. I maintain strong relationships with

County and State leaders.

Utility Services: Our biggest concern is water. I am currently working on ways to diversify and expand our water

supply, including adding a second pipeline to the Colorado river. As a Councilmember, I have worked with City leaders to create investments in our infrastructure to secure our water future. We must foster opportunities to use water unsuitable for drinking for irrigation. We must not waste a drop!

Public Safety: The Pflugerville Police Dept continues to have an excellent reputation in our community. We conducted annual reviews and I supported new "body cams" that provide an added layer of protection. I personally engage with our officers to develop a real understanding of their needs and recognize them out of uniform. This resulted in our new take home vehicle program, improving retention and morale

Budget: Our budget must prioritize fiscal sustainability. A penny saved today can cost thousands in additional expense tomorrow. An investment today can also save future dollars. We have to make the right choices with longevity and growth in mind. "You get what you pay for" never runs more true than with roads riddled with pot holes. We don't need disposable solutions or a "quick fix".

Campaign Website: www.jimmcdonald.com



Melody Ryan

Qualifications: I'm a CPA with financial expertise and Mom of two in Pflugerville ISD. I know how to stretch a dollar! I've served as PTO President & Treasurer, and on Parks & Rec, Finance & Bond

Committees, & PCDC.

Utility Services: Through strategic planning and responsible budget management, I will prioritize projects that deliver real value. I'll advocate for maintaining high water quality and expanding capacity for our growing community. Providing reliable utility services while identifying efficiencies to minimize financial strain on residents is critical, with a focus on smart growth and a sustainable future.

Public Safety: We have to equip our police and ambulance services with the necessary resources, enhance community-based policing, and foster collaboration between local agencies. I'll advocate for smart investments, like training and technology for police officers, to enhance safety, achieve rapid response times, and focus on proactive solutions to foster a strong, united Pflugerville community.

Budget: My priorities for the City budget include responsible spending, investing in critical infrastructure like roads and water, supporting public safety, focusing on economic development, and completing projects efficiently. I'll focus on strategic investments that benefit our community, enhance quality of life, address affordability, and strengthen Pflugerville's long-term financial stability.

Campaign Website: www.melodyryan.com



LOCAL CITY OF ROLLINGWOOD

MAYOR

Gavin Massingill

Unopposed

COUNCIL MEMBER

Vote for none, one, or two.

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

Utility Services: How would you ensure reliable and affordable water, energy, and other utility services?

Libraries: What do you believe the role of public libraries should be in your community?

Budget: What are your specific priorities for the municipal budget?



requirement for voter approval. Which is fine with me. I'm a low tax guy.



Wendi Hundley

Qualifications: With 4 years on Council, I've led initiatives in safety, infrastructure, and economic growth. I'm committed to property rights, transparency, and fostering a collaborative, inclusive government.

Utility Services: Prioritize bond funding for water infrastructure fixes, improve procedures to prevent line breaks by contractors, better collaboration with utilities on tree maintenance to reduce electrical outages.

Libraries: Public libraries should be welcoming spaces for learning, access to information, digital resources, and community engagement, fostering education, creativity, and connection for all residents.

Budget: Public safety, infrastructure upgrades, quality staff, maintaining public spaces, economic growth, keeping taxes low, paying off debt, and prioritizing bond funding for essential projects.

Campaign Website: www.wendi4rollingwood.com

idents are served by the Westbank Community Library. The library is an invaluable resource for our children and all residents in providing a wide array of reference, reading material and resources.

Budget: City council is finalizing the 24/25 fiscal year budget now. Keeping our great city staff and police officers is a high priority, so I support competitive salaries and benefits. Funding for infrastructure maintenance (water, wastewater, streets, drainage) is critical, as is caring for our city park. Budgeting for recurring costs is vital so funds are on hand and the budget stays more consistent.



Amy Pattillo

Qualifications: With previous experience on the Rollingwood Council and local boards, I have led in transportation, parks, and green space projects.

I am a connector and strive to listen and find common ground.

Utility Services: I prioritize building strong relationships with utility providers, exploring Rollingwood-led control options, and engaging in long-term planning. By preparing for potential bond funding and staying proactive, I aim to ensure reliable and affordable water, energy, and utility services for Rollingwood's future.

Libraries: I'm grateful for visionaries who started the Westbank Library system, including Rollingwood residents whose volunteer and financial commitments have been vital. Thanks to strong leadership, the library remains a welcoming space for our community to gather, create, dream and learn.

Budget: My budget priorities include enhancing public safety through roadway and bike/ped improvements and law enforcement support, maintaining infrastructure and green spaces, and ensuring reliable water service. Prioritizing waterline replacements and upgrades is crucial until all homes have consistent, drinkable water and adequate pressure.

Campaign Website: www.amy4rollingwood.com



Kevin Glasheen

Qualifications: We love Rollingwood. I've served on council for almost 2 years, and learned a lot. My experience as a trial lawyer, rancher and real estate developer give me a practical

understanding of government.

Utility Services: We are completing a water line replacement project, along with new electronic water meters. We are working with LCRA to secure a longer term water contract.

Libraries: Public libraries are great! Rollingwood is too small to support a standalone library. We have a few "tiny" library boxes in the neighborhood where people exchange books.

Budget: To keep taxes low. The reality is that the legislature has limited our ability to increase taxes to the point that our revenue barely keeps up with inflation without triggering a



Sara Hutson

Qualifications: -32 year RW resident -RW city council for 15 years - RW Utility Commission for 3.5 years - BS in Civil Eng. from UT -VP of small engineering firm -All directly applicable to city council duties.

Utility Services: RW purchases water from the City of Austin who also treats our wastewater. We have begun the process of securing water rights from alternate sources to ensure an uninterrupted water supply. Electricity is provided by Austin Energy and natural gas by Texas Gas Service. Maintaining good relationships with these entities is crucial. Google Fiber is being installed in RW for reliable internet service.

Libraries: Rollingwood does not have a city library, but res-

LOCAL VILLAGE OF THE HILLS

MAYOR

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

Utility Services: How would you ensure reliable and affordable water, energy, and other utility services?

Public Safety: What would be your priorities in maintaining public safety?

Other Issues: What other critical issues do you think are important to your community, and how will you address them?



Karthik Naralasetty

Qualifications: With 20 years of experience and a heart for service, I'm dedicated to nurturing The Hills. I'll listen to our elders, honor their wisdom, and work to create a thriving community for all generations.

Utility Services: I'll ensure our utilities are reliable and affordable by staying closely connected with the community, understanding your needs, and collaborating with providers. My goal is to find practical, cost-effective solutions that keep

The Hills thriving, ensuring that everyone has access to essential services without financial strain.

Public Safety: Safety brought my family to The Hills, and I'm deeply committed to preserving that sense of security for my kids and everyone else's. My priority is to enhance and maintain strong security measures, ensuring our community remains the safe haven we all cherish. I'll work closely with law enforcement and residents alike to address concerns, strengthen protections, and keep The Hills a safe heaven.

LOCAL VILLAGE OF THE HILLS

MAYOR

Karthik Naralasetty (continued)

Other Issues: My slogan, “No closed doors, just open conversations,” means no resident should have to dial into meetings to stay informed. Elected officials have a responsibility to reach out and involve everyone in decision-making. I’ll ensure that all voices are heard and that information is accessible, keeping our community engaged and informed every step of the way. Together, we’ll make decisions.



Kevin Proud

Qualifications: Having grown up in The Hills and now a resident with extensive financial markets experience, I’m uniquely qualified to represent all community members while adeptly navigating multifaceted issues.

Utility Services: Ensuring sustainable and reliable utilities is a critical priority. We must balance water quality, infrastructure maintenance, conservation, and drought preparedness, all while advocating for fiscal responsibility to avoid burdening our residents with excessive costs. I strongly believe our community must have an active voice in shaping policies that affect resources via advocacy.

Public Safety: As a current Council member, I’ve been one of the strongest advocates of public safety in our community. I’ve continually advocated for the enforcement of our traffic laws and ordinances, and I have requested extra budget to increase patrol hours. Speeding, running stop signs, and tailgating continue at a reduced rate but can also be further curtailed through enforcement and community awareness.

Other Issues: I believe it’s crucial to advocate for the Village of The Hills beyond our gates. Although we may not have an official vote in Lakeway and neighboring communities, we must take an active role in shaping them. Collaboration and

communication are vital for addressing issues that transcend city boundaries. I am committed to ensuring our community’s unique needs and values are heard and represented.

COUNCILMEMBER

Vote for none, one, or two.

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

Utility Services: How would you ensure reliable and affordable water, energy, and other utility services?

Libraries: What do you believe the role of public libraries should be in your community?

Budget: What are your specific priorities for the municipal budget?



Sarah Carroll

Qualifications: Currently serving as Mayor has brought reality to the importance of collaboration and communication; I entered into the role with 3 years council experience and I remain an engaged member of the team.

Utility Services: With time spent navigating city contracts and understanding the history of our service providers, I have a clear pathway of ensuring reliable and affordable water, energy and utility services. I have three years experience of detailed city budget and planning which have proven successful. Where negotiations have been possible, I have been a part of those conversations.

Libraries: While we don’t have a dedicated library, our ability to utilize Lake Travis Community Library enriches our Village. To me, libraries serve as bridges across genera-

tions, providing a safe haven for all, irrespective of age, background, or circumstance.

Budget: My dedication to “Neighborly Values, Lasting Care” extends to preserving our Village’s essence while fostering harmonious growth. As Mayor, we aim to lower the tax rate while continuing to maximize our output for where it matters such as police presence, efficient city administration, on going maintenance and community events. With our city’s size, there is no room for wasted expenses or projects.



Marty Khait

Qualifications: Marty Khait is the Co-Founder and Managing Principal of Yukon Real Estate Partners, a real estate development and investment firm. Marty is a proven thought leader in construction and real estate.

Utility Services: We actually have to work hard and stay disciplined in our water usage. Though the utility is under the MUD’s control, the city government has an important role to keep the public aware of resource issues.

Libraries: My family might be one of the highest frequency users of the Lakeway public library. It is a huge part of our lives and we are power users. I am so thankful for the programming and resources we have at our library. It is truly a great contribution to our local community.

Budget: My priority is that we don’t treat it as “fun money.” We have to be extremely precious with it. Some candidates have proposed we have an investment arm into local businesses. I very much oppose this recklessness. The city has worked extremely diligently to have such a healthy war-chest. We need to keep it for strategic initiatives and emergencies. Not for high-risk investments.

Matt Marietta

No response received

LOCAL AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE (ACC)

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 prioritize to help students enroll and succeed in the Austin Community College District?

Other Issues: What other critical issues do you think are important to your community, and how will you address them?



PLACE 7

Sherri Lynn Taylor

No response received



Cole Wilson

Qualifications: I’m a proud ACC alumnus, worked as a college-access counselor with at-risk youth, fought for student healthcare access at the Texas Legislature, and published articles on workforce access at Harvard.

Skilled Workforce: First and foremost, ACC must be af-

fordable. If a student can’t afford to attend ACC, then ACC can’t help that student access the workforce. On a broader scale: workforce partnerships must be forged with employers and small businesses alike. Micro credentials ought to be based on regional workforce needs. Early college high schools should be expanded with vigor across Central Texas.

Student Success: Degree/credential attainment is at the core of everything ACC has to offer. Making sure students have the wrap-around supports they need and access to the information needed to earn a credential is the bedrock of a successful college. Earning an education in 2024 requires reliable transportation, accessible housing, and so much

LOCAL AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE (ACC)

PLACE 7

Cole Wilson (continued)

more. ACC has a role to play in providing these and other supports.

Other Issues: ACC is only as strong as its faculty and staff. From IT staffing shortages to faculty juggling multiple jobs, ACC must improve efforts to recruit, retain, and advance its workforce. As ACC strives to offer the best for students, we must also advocate for our dedicated and overworked faculty and staff. As the workforce engine for Central Texas, ACC's workforce should reflect that strength.

Campaign Website: www.coleforaustin.com/

PLACE 8

Stephanie Gharakhanian

Unopposed

PLACE 9

Julie Ann Nitsch

Qualifications: I have been both a student and a staff member at ACC. However, I believe my most significant contribution is that of a non traditional student who lived in poverty.

Skilled Workforce: Working to expand programs that both provide salaries that students can raise a family, and are needed in central Texas.

Student Success: I have expanded transportation, child-care, emergency resources, and now, cost free tuition. My next step is workforce housing.

Other Issues: Utilizing land and development opportunities to expand workforce housing, and ADA housing for seniors. Reworking out site to include all resources national to municipal.



Joe Sefton

Qualifications: Graduated from Dallas Baptist University. Technology Systems Board member for Southwest University in El Paso, Texas, Latino, 30 year career in Info. Tech, leadership, retired ACC CISO

Skilled Workforce: Technology, cybersecurity, and AI are becoming integral parts of everyone's lives and represent a significant job market for students to pursue while supporting their communities. The board needs to be flexible in understanding these technologies to support students who want to pursue these careers. As an ex-employee with insights into ACC's ecosystem, I will strive to infuse technology in 2025

Student Success: Provide free tuition for high school students and remote classes. Fix broken internship processes and policies to establish paid internship and mentoring programs that help students become marketable for jobs. Infuse new technologies, education, training, and policies to better support students so they can build or enhance their core competencies.

Other Issues: As a former employee with insights into ACC's ecosystem, I will leverage my leadership skills to be actively engaged and infuse technological opportunities in 2025 to support students, employees, and the community. With the rise of cyber threats targeting colleges to steal personal information, I will work to support the ACC board and its leadership to counter critical cyber threats.

INFORMATION ON WHERE TO VOTE

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

<https://elections.traviscountytexas.gov/current-election-information/>

www.wilcotexas.gov/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.

PROPOSITIONS

LOCKHART ANNEXATION

Ballot Language

Approving the annexation by the Austin Community College district of the following territory: the territory in the Lockhart Independent School District, and authorizing the imposition of an ad valorem tax for junior college purposes, which is currently set at a rate of \$0.0986, per \$100 valuation of taxable property.

Explanation

Residents who live within the Lockhart ISD (LISD) will vote on the proposed annexation of LISD by Austin Community College District (ACC). ACC will provide programs on LISD property in the evenings and on weekends and will

work with LISD to support its development of an Early College High School. Later, with stakeholder involvement, ACC will develop a 15,000-20,000 sq.ft. property located near Lockhart HS as its first facility. Eventually, ACC will purchase land to build a permanent facility.

An ACC campus in Lockhart will decrease commuting time and expenses. If voters approve the measure, residents within the LISD will become part of the ACC district and will be eligible for all in-district benefits:

- Lower tuition rates, possibly free tuition for some high school graduates, home school students and certain GED® completers.
- Customized training for local jobs that are in demand now, academic degrees for university transfer, Continu-

ing Education workforce-certificate credentials and entry-level and reentry job-training programs at ACC that take one year or less.

- Access to ACC student support services.
- Voting rights in elections for the ACC governing Board of Trustees.

Voters will have to approve a tax rate increase to pay for the annexation. If approved, homeowners of average value homes would see a monthly increase of about \$19 in property taxes, or roughly \$226 per year. For seniors and disabled residents, the ACC tax levy is frozen at the amount they paid the year they qualified for the additional exemption.

LOCAL AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

Budget: How would you prioritize school budget spending for staff and facilities?

Charter Schools: What do you see as the role of charter schools in public education?

Parental Input: What is your position regarding parental input in book selection in school libraries?

SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT 2



Sarah Ivory

Qualifications: I have served as a teacher, a coach, a behavior specialist, and an administrator in public schools. I have a masters degree in education. I am also a current AISD parent and longterm D2

resident.

Budget: Having spent almost 10 years as a classroom teacher, I am emphatic that increasing staff compensation has got to be a top priority for a district to be successful. Competitive pay brings and retains quality staff, and quality staff produce better results in the classroom. It is unacceptable that AISD pays dramatically less than ALL surrounding districts, and for that reason it must be a priority.

Charter Schools: I have three kids, all of whom will attend public schools for their entire education. My family is biracial, and I also know the stress of finding a place where I feel safe sending my own children and confident in their inclusion. I think choosing a school is nuanced and scary, so I never judge a parent's choice. That being said, I believe the state should prioritize funding for public schools.

Parental Input: I love libraries and I think the funding of libraries should be a top priority for public schools. I support parents being involved in their student's education and creating meaningful relationships between school and home. I also believe librarians are uniquely trained to choose quality literature for students, and should be given full responsibility to do so.

Campaign Website: ivoryforaisd.com



LaRessa Quintana

Qualifications: As AISD graduate from East Austin, community advocate & having career in policy, I believe my lived experience and my policy experience, makes me uniquely qualified to be

on the school board.

Budget: I see the budget as a reflection of our values. I believe our teachers are career professionals and deserve to be paid as such. No one should be living paycheck to paycheck, especially those who impact our student's lives daily. AISD has wisely used bond dollars to upgrade our campuses that need it most, but there is still progress to be made in District 2.

Charter Schools: I do not believe charter schools should have a role in public education.

Parental Input: We have wonderful librarians who know what they are doing. If a parent would like to keep certain books out of their student's hands, there are protocols in place to respect that and make that happen.

Campaign Website: laressaforaisd.com

SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT 3

Kevin Foster

Unopposed

SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT 5

Lynn Boswell

Unopposed

AT-LARGE POSITION 8

Nick Franke

Qualifications: A life long Austinite, born and raised, I spent 13 years in public schools here in AISD. I graduated from Texas State University with a Bachelors in Public Administration.

Budget: The most important priority for me would be to increase the amounts available to spend on teachers, aides, and interventionists that directly serve students in the classroom and have the largest impact on student outcomes (including class size). Beyond that, I would want to continue to focus funding on improving and modernizing facilities to support our students and staff to ensure they are safe.

Charter Schools: I believe that public education and schools are where the vast majority of students and dollars should be allocated. I think charter schools have an important role within the system to serve as "laboratories" to test new and exciting approaches to education. It's more efficient to implement and measure significant changes

Parental Input: I think it's important to clarify there is a difference between the materials available for students to check out at the library and the materials used directly in the classroom that are being taught to students. In both cases, I believe it is the role of teachers, educators, and librarians to decide what content should be available. Existing review processes in AISD from staff is sufficient.



Nathaniel Hellman

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree from the University of Texas - Austin, Texas. Valedictorian - Skyline High School - Dallas, TX. I believe in courage, compassion, dignity, respect, and a decent

living for all people.

Budget: People first. I believe in the infinite human potential of all people. People when properly supported can achieve anything. We must also protect our public land, buildings, and resources so people and families have a safe place to thrive. We must provide basic needs for students, families, and the whole entire community. We need transparency, communication, and feedback to address specific issues

Charter Schools: Charter Schools do not have publicly elected School Boards. Charter School Boards are appointed. Charter Schools can also form police departments. The biggest difference appears to be appointment of school boards instead of being voted by the local community. Charter Schools also receive funding from the state but does not directly receive local taxes like a school district. Performance matters.

Parental Input: The constitution and freedom of speech protect all people the right to have their ideas expressed in society, newspapers, and libraries. Children are more exposed to social media and technology applications before they make it to school libraries. Freedom of speech should be protected. Society's interest for freedom of speech and freedom of press should be protected. Parents always deserve input.

Campaign Website: HeLLmanVote.com



Fernando Lucas de Urioste

Qualifications: 9yrs in AISD, 6 in special education. 10yrs in education advocacy. Director of Advocate Services at the Cirkiel Law Group. Vice President of the Texas Organization of Parents Attorneys and Advocates.

Budget: Staff, facilities, and infrastructure directly servicing students are prioritized first. Staff retention should be encouraged by improving pay and staffing to allow for realistic workloads. As a Progressive Democrat I believe all stakeholders should have equitable agency and representation in budget decisions so that we can have community buy-in and ownership regarding any cuts that are made.

Charter Schools: I believe that that current implementation of charter schools in Texas has failed to offer a compelling and sustained experience of success for all students as a whole. I see too many families leaving public schools for charters only to return to public schools. I am deeply concerned that the profit motive for charters is fundamentally compromising the promise to serve all students equally.

LOCAL AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

AT-LARGE POSITION 8

Fernando Lucas de Urioste (continued)

Parental Input: I work as a professional advocate; and my role is educating my clients, offering my advice and expertise, and then assisting them in having their voices heard. While I personally believe that the current concerns regarding book selection in libraries are a distraction from larger issues, my role as a school board trustee will be to listen to and represent the desires of my constituents as a whole.

Campaign Website: fernandoforaisd.com



Dylan "Sky" MacAdams

Qualifications: I have been an organizing leader for years in both our schools, and our local community. Through my experience as a community organizer I learned how to work with all types of people to make change.

Budget: I believe we need to invest in providing more resources to all students, regardless of race, class, or identity. My biggest priority as a school board member would be to enact a free lunch policy across all campuses in our district. I would also fight to boost spending for title one schools and underfunded programs in our district.

Charter Schools: I see the ideal role of charter schools as existing to fill niches that the public education system is unable to fill. However, I believe that the current expansiveness of charter schools is more of net harm than benefit. This is due to the fact that they pull funding away from the regular public school system that is already criminally underfunded.

Parental Input: I believe it can be a positive to listen to parental input regarding possible gaps in the library catalog or additional titles to add, but I disagree that parents should have any say on what books should be allowed or removed

from campuses. It is important that students are able to obtain information that they seek and banning books risks harming the ability of students to properly learn.

Campaign Website: Skyforaisd.com



Amy Moore

Qualifications: I am a former math teacher, finance manager, non-profit program manager, and mom of 3 AISD graduates. I've supported student learning as a non-profit partner and parent across

AISD for over 20 years.

Budget: I will prioritize spending for teachers and facilities because they impact student learning the most. Teachers inspire the next generation and facilities set the stage for learning. I've been in classrooms without AC or heat, and they are not conducive to learning. We must prioritize paying our teachers and creating environments where our children can thrive.

Charter Schools: There is no question that charter schools take money from public education. The lack of public oversight and local accountability make them bad investments for taxpayer money, and very few of them perform better than public schools. I will spend my time on the AISD Board working on policies, programs, and engagement that make AISD the best and most inclusive option for families across the city.

Parental Input: School librarians are highly skilled professionals who curate collections for all students in their community, and the librarians I know welcome parental involvement. Parents should not have input on limiting what is available in school libraries for all children. They can use existing school policies to have input on content made available specifically to their child at the school library.

Campaign Website: amyforaisd8.com



Lindsey Stringer

Qualifications: I have 19 years of professional experience working in multiple parts of public education. I have advanced degrees in education and public policy, and I'm an AISD graduate,

parent and volunteer.

Budget: AISD has one of the lowest starting salaries for new teachers in our region. I would focus on increasing salaries for teachers and other campus-based staff who are essential to improving student outcomes. We also have school buildings that need major safety improvements, such as reliable AC and roof repairs, and I would prioritize fixes where campus funding has historically been inadequate.

Charter Schools: Charter schools exist because the needs of students and families have not been met by some of our traditional public schools. I am focused on improving AISD for everyone, especially for groups that have not been served well, so that the demand for charter schools in our area decreases and we are actually living out our mission to prepare every student for college, career and life.

Parental Input: A good school librarian is going to select books that are developmentally appropriate and reflect the interests and needs of their community, including getting input from parents. A parent should be able to determine what books their own children can access from a school library, but they do not have the right to determine what other children can access.

Campaign Website: lindseyforaisd.com

PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION A

Ballot Language

Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate of \$0.9505 per \$100 valuation in the Austin Independent School District for the current year, a rate that will result in an increase of 8.3 percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the district for the current year as compared to the preceding year, which is an additional \$184,628,049.

Explanation

Texas ranks 42nd in the nation in per-student spending. No additional funding to keep up with inflation was approved

by the last Legislature and new unfunded mandates from the State were added to the district's expenses. The situation is grave. AISD estimates that it will have a \$99M budget deficit for the 2024–2025 school year. If Prop A is approved, the budget deficit would be reduced to approximately \$78M. (FAQ - <https://www.austinisd.org/propa>)

This ballot measure would raise \$171 million total. AISD would use about \$41M in the following ways:

- \$17.3 million to increase teacher and direct service staff salaries.
- \$3.5 million to provide direct instructional and mental health support to campuses.
- About \$21 million to reduce the deficit.

Texas permits school districts to keep some of the money they raise through taxes. However, some of the money raised by wealthier districts goes to the State to allocate among poorer school districts. This is a complex funding formula and is called recapture. Part of the revenue raised (\$130M) in this election would be subject to recapture by the state. See more about recapture at <https://www.austinisd.org/propa>.

If approved, homeowners of average value homes would see a monthly increase of about \$34 in AISD property taxes, or roughly \$412 per year. The tax increase does not affect homeowners with an over 65 exemption.

LOCAL DEL VALLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

Budget: How would you prioritize school budget spending for staff and facilities?

Charter Schools: What do you see as the role of charter schools in public education?

Parental Input: What is your position regarding parental input in book selection in school libraries?



SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT 1

Samuel Franco

Unopposed

SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT 2

Damián Pantoja

Unopposed

SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT 4

Melinda Cisneros

No response received



Martha Lujan

Qualifications: My qualifications for the Del Valle Board of Trustees position include a deep commitment to community service, extensive experience as a CHWI-MHPSS, and a strong understanding of

systemic challenges.

Budget: When prioritizing school budget spending, I would focus on two key areas: ensuring competitive salaries and benefits for staff to attract and retain quality educators, and maintaining safe, modern facilities that foster an optimal learning environment. Investing in staff development and classroom resources should also be prioritized to enhance educational outcomes.

Charter Schools: Charter schools play a crucial role in public education by offering diverse learning environments and innovative approaches that can address the unique needs of students. However, it's essential that they work collaboratively with traditional public schools to ensure equity and access for all students, while upholding accountability and transparency.

Parental Input: Balancing parental concerns with the need for diverse and inclusive literature is crucial. It's essential to create an environment where parents feel heard, while also maintaining the integrity of a broad and enriching curriculum that exposes students to a wide range of perspectives.

Richard Rendon

No response received

SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT 6

Richard Franklin III

No response received



Chante Wright-Haywood

Qualifications: I currently sit on the Board of Trustees for DVISD SMD6 and have also sat on the parent board as president for my children's preschool with 5 plus years of community and welfare advocacy experience.

Budget: When it comes to district budgeting, my first thought, instinct, and question to myself is "How will this vote, decision, and/or policy, be equitable for all students and in what way will it affect our students?" In order to meet the needs of the district we must take pride in the care and support of our staff and facilities fostering a community of equitability and pride. I prioritize students!

Charter Schools: Character schools are becoming more popular and sought after for many reasons. The result of its popularity is having a negative effect on our public school system and cutting into funding. This in return is threatening the equity, quality, and budget of the public school system as a whole.

Parental Input: Equity is my position. I feel that all should have the freedom to pick and choose what one wants to study, research, and/or read.

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61564471784810

LOCAL LAGO VISTA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

Budget: How would you prioritize school budget spending for staff and facilities?

Charter Schools: What do you see as the role of charter schools in public education?

Parental Input: What is your position regarding parental input in book selection in school libraries?



PLACE 6



Brian Caller

Qualifications: 20+ years experience working in large organizations focusing on financial excellence, strategy creation/execution, and people development; Director on two non-profit boards serving as the treasurer.

Budget: Prioritizing budgets for staff and facilities should focus on maximizing student outcomes and creating a safe, optimal learning environment. Investing in teachers and support staff, who directly impact student success, is top priority. However, this should not compromise maintaining and improving the learning environment, including modern classrooms, technology, and extracurricular spaces.

Charter Schools: Charter schools can play a unique role in public education by offering alternative models that foster innovation in teaching, curricula, and collaboration. Tailoring

their approaches to student needs, they can become hubs of innovation. They must be held to the same standards as traditional schools regarding performance, complement public education, and contribute to maximizing student achievement

Parental Input: School libraries are vital for student development and require a clear, transparent book selection process. This process should be inclusive, allowing parents to voice suggestions and concerns. Ultimately, educators should make the final decisions to ensure alignment with educational goals and to include diverse topics and perspectives that foster curiosity and critical thinking.

David Scott

No response received

PLACE 7

Kevin Walker

Unopposed

LOCAL LEADER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

Teacher Retention: How would you attract, retain, and cultivate effective and highly-qualified teachers?

Student Outcomes: What would you do to improve academic, social, and mental health outcomes for all students?

School Safety: How will you implement the state mandates for safety on school campuses?

.....

PLACE 3



Nekosi Nelson

Qualifications: I am a value-based and forward-looking leader focused on student learning and outcomes. I know the profound impact of education as a public school graduate, K-12 educator, LISD

parent, and volunteer.

Teacher Retention: Educators are LISD's heartbeat. I'll promote respect, support, and value by addressing pay disparities, reducing burnout, and enhancing teacher autonomy. Key actions include: offering performance-based rewards, improving work conditions, increasing teacher voice, investing in professional development, and translating LISD's "It's Different Here" program into real, tangible benefits for educators.

Student Outcomes: I'm committed to individualized, whole-child education. I'll advocate to expand competency-based, personalized learning, integrate STEM, and increase access to select programs. I'll also support early childhood education and stronger family partnerships. These steps, along with improved mental health services and high expectations, will ensure each student reaches their full potential.

School Safety: Ensuring every child's safety is non-negotiable. I will enforce Texas mandates—armed security, panic buttons, mental health training, and emergency planning—despite funding challenges. We'll advocate for full funding, conduct audits to identify implementation gaps, and provide comprehensive training to ensure our schools are safe, secure, and fully prepared to protect our students and staff.

Campaign Website: nekosiforlisd.vote



Jim Sneeringer

Qualifications: Dr. Jim Sneeringer is a retired software engineer who was on the LISD board from 1996-2014. He created the iVoterGuide website, which provides information about political

candidates nationwide.

Teacher Retention: Maintain the LISD reputation as a great place to work. Give teachers flexibility in how they teach, provide them needed training & pay them well.

Student Outcomes: Frequently remind the superintendent that academic excellence is job one, communicate frequently with parents, encourage a supportive culture, and protect children from bullying.

School Safety: All doors to LISD schools are kept locked and police are frequently on campus and available as needed.

Campaign Website: www.jim4lisd.com

PLACE 4



Brandi Burkman

Qualifications: I'm a mom of three, having held positions in PTA, booster clubs, and managed a Destination Imagination team. I have spoken at numerous school board meetings and ran for a seat in

2022, narrowly losing

Teacher Retention: Over 1500 teachers have left the district since 2021. Salary data reveals that schools have only seen a 28% salary increase since 2018 while superintendents & chiefs of depts. have increased 92%. While many other administrative departments have ballooned, LISD is not investing in teachers. Wasteful spending, \$120k for lobbying for example, needs to stop and funds redirected to the classroom.

Student Outcomes: Software spend was \$4M in 2018 and jumped to \$13.5M in 2023. Every digital platform is aligned to Common Core State Standards, despite common core being banned in TX, and all infuse SEL into lessons. SEL allows 3rd parties to collect identifiable student data related to attitudes and emotions and poses a major privacy risk. Moving back to traditional textbooks could potentially save \$94M as well

School Safety: On May 23rd, the current school board approved the LISD police force and refused to allow for deliberation. While I don't know if the police force is the best fit, I do know that community conversations should have been had and teacher and staff given an opportunity to share concerns and feedback. With issues coming to light with RRISD police, school police forces should be considered cautiously



Anna Smith

Qualifications: With the passion and experience of a parent, current board member, former PTA President, and special education advocate, I bring strong governance in student achievement and

advocacy leadership.

Teacher Retention: I support competitive pay, increase stipends, expand the "Grow Your Own" program, and provide tailored professional development for individual student success. We must decrease classroom sizes and advocate for better teacher pay and respect. It's essential that teachers have the tools and time needed to create a supportive environment where both educators and students can thrive in LISD.

Student Outcomes: I support early intervention and enhanced academic support via personalized instruction. We must invest in academic and mental health resources for struggling students, along with staff training to connect with specialists. By increasing individualized learning, access to mental health services and fostering strong family engagement, we create a comprehensive support system for better outcomes.

School Safety: I fully supported the 2023 bond, which included TEA-mandated security updates such as upgraded locks and surveillance. Many of the bond projects have already been implemented but I will ensure LISD stays current with TEA audits, and keep parents informed and engaged throughout the process. Regular updates and community involvement will be key to maintaining a safe and secure environment for all.

Campaign Website: www.annaforlisd.com

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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.

LOCAL LEANDER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

PLACE 4 (continued)



Zach Zayner

Qualifications: I've been a successful educator in some of the most difficult schools in the nation, Baltimore City. I was in education for 10 years, 1 in Adult ESL, 6 in K12, and 3 in

education technology.

Teacher Retention: Resources. Since salaries are such a difficult topic, the least we can do is support our teachers and guarantee them the resources and support services. My most difficult times in the classroom were because I personally couldn't afford what I needed or the district refused to provide resources and support services for students who were struggling academically or emotionally.

Student Outcomes: Resources. The previous LISD School Board has been focused on stemming the growth in the district and did not begin a concrete plan until this year. While growth is a major obstacle for the district, we should also be investing in what we have. Better training and more available service providers to meet the needs of all of our students.

School Safety: We need to provide more resources for schools to address these issues. While the method may be controversial, it does ask the district to provide more resources to schools to protect against this violence. It's encouraging to see that mental health is a part of the requirements as our students should have easy access to these services.

Campaign Website: zachzaynerforlisd.schoolboard.com

PLACE 5



Sade Fashokun

Qualifications: Committed to impacting student success and helping teachers, I began volunteering in LISD a decade ago. As a trustee, I ask the right questions with input from students, educators, and families.

Teacher Retention: Gov. Abbott's TVTF identified compensation, training & support, and working conditions as fundamental areas to allocate funding for a thriving teacher workforce. I advocated for state funding (which has been stagnant) and encouraged legislators to vote No on Vouch-

ers! Provide teacher raises with differentiated pay, mentorships, high-quality relevant professional development, and positive culture.

Student Outcomes: Share best practices of highly effective educators. Screen early for Special Ed service / G & T needs, outreach to students and families on available academic & enrichment programs, set high expectations for all students. Early Childhood Education is important for closing the gaps. Provide social-emotional learning and escalate with families and community partners when needed.

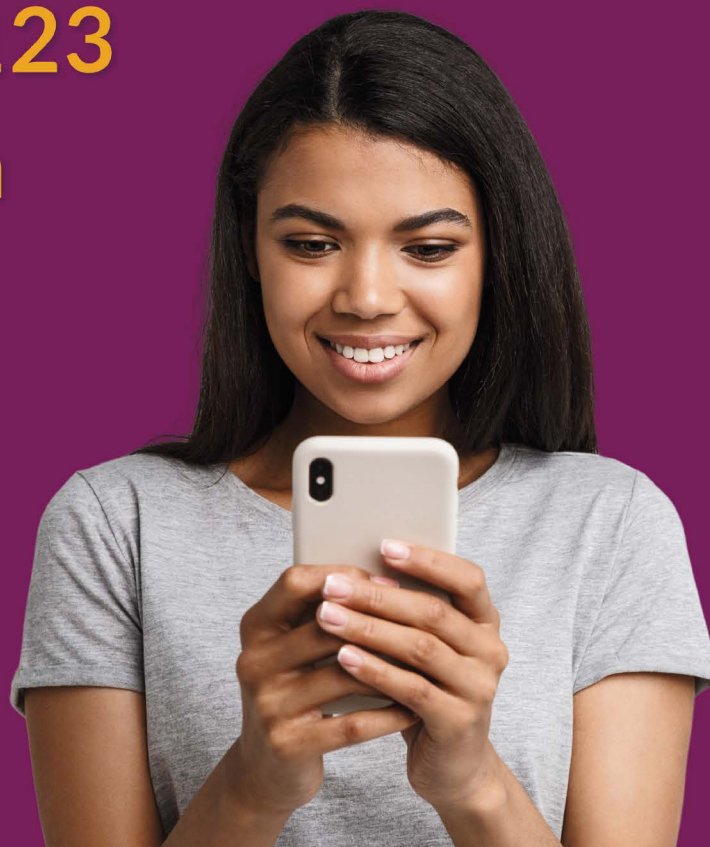
School Safety: The legislature underfunded HB3 safety mandates. Local law enforcement recommended an LISD police department. Board policy should ensure clarity of PD role. Careful hiring and training to ensure positive interactions with all students. Continue security audits that exceed state requirements. Technology solutions must be reliable and tested. I supported bonds for security upgrades.

Campaign Website: sadeforlisd.com

Gerald Prater

No response received

Text VOTERINFO to 80123
to receive nonpartisan
voting reminders!



LOCAL LIBERTY HILL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION A

Background

Liberty Hill ISD has been able to lower its tax rate over the past several years. However, changes in other funding sources are affecting the district's ability to maintain its current level of operations without raising property taxes. The state provides basic funding for public education, known as the Basic Allotment. But the state legislature has not increased this basic per-student allotment since 2019. Meanwhile, inflation has reduced its value. Since 2019, utility costs have increased by 83%; fuel has gone up 176%; and insurance costs have gone up 172%. In 2024, the allotment provides only a little more than 60% of what it currently takes to educate a student.

Additionally, other funding sources the district has relied upon are providing less. The state has capped the amounts available through the Fast Growth Allotment, a funding program that helps districts with rapidly growing enrollments (like Liberty Hill ISD) to keep up with the costs of rapid expansion. Pandemic-era federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief resources are coming to an end this fall. The district is losing approximately \$900,000 in Medicaid reimbursements for special needs students.

In the face of declining resources, the district has cut \$2 million in expenses by reducing department budgets, increasing class sizes, freezing hiring, reallocating instructional personnel, and cutting administrative positions. Further cost-cutting would involve teacher lay-offs.

Ballot Language

Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate of \$1.226900 per \$100 valuation in the Liberty Hill Independent School District for the current year, a rate that will result in an increase of 21 percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the District for the current year as compared to the preceding year, which is an additional \$13,334,196.

Explanation

The purpose of this measure is to increase funding for LHISD's Maintenance and Operations to support the adopted district's 2024-2025 budget without serious reduction to the district's fund balance. The proposal would add 6 pennies to the current tax rate, bringing the total tax rate to \$1.22 per \$100 property valuation.

If Proposition A Passes:

For the school district, passage of the proposition will provide resources to avoid teacher lay-offs and to support a 2% increase in teacher salaries. Keeping salaries competitive helps to attract and retain good teachers. The district will

also have funds to protect its instructional and extracurricular programs.

For taxpayers, passage of the proposition will mean an increase in taxes. For a median-value home in the district (valued at \$462,264), the homeowner's tax bill would increase by \$18.11 per month. Homeowners who are over 65 or who have a qualifying disability will not see a tax increase unless they make improvements that increase the value of their homes.

If Proposition A Fails:

For the district, failure of the proposition will mean further cuts, including teacher lay-offs and the reduction or termination of some instructional and extracurricular programs. Teacher salaries will not be increased and the district may experience teacher retention problems.

For taxpayers, failure of the proposition means that their tax bills will not increase.

PROPOSITION B

Background

The Texas Legislature enacted a plan for school finance in 1993 to make funding levels more equal in school districts across the state. The plan establishes "entitlements," which are levels of funding per student, achieved by a combination of state funds and local tax revenue. When a wealthier school district collects an amount of taxes that causes it to exceed its entitlement, the state can "recapture" those excess amounts of locally collected taxes. There are various ways that a school district can pay its recapture bill to the state, but most do so by purchasing so-called "attendance credits." If a district wants to use this method of paying its recapture bill, the voters in the district must approve this in an Attendance Credit Election (ACE).

If voters in a school district do not approve attendance credits to make recapture payments, the state may force the

district to "detach" portions of its tax base and assign them to less-wealthy districts. This means that another, different school district will be selected to collect taxes on the detached property to support its schools. This detachment is permanent. In effect, the original school district permanently loses part of its tax base.

Ballot Language

Authorizing the Board of Trustees of the Liberty Hill Independent School District to purchase attendance credits with local tax revenues.

Explanation

Liberty Hill ISD personnel anticipate that if Proposition A passes and the tax rate increases, the district will need to make recapture payments. In the future, the increasing property valuations in the district would soon bring it to the point of recapture anyway, even without the proposed tax rate increase. This proposal will allow the district to use the Attendance Credit method when that time comes.

If Proposition B Passes:

Liberty Hill ISD can make any mandatory recapture payments it owes using the Attendance Credit method.

If Proposition B Fails:

The district risks having portions of its tax base detached and assigned to another district if it becomes liable for recapture payment. As the Liberty Hill ISD website states, "If the district does not vote to purchase attendance credits, the state can permanently remove some property from LHISD for tax purposes. For example, the state could direct some of the largest businesses in Liberty Hill to pay their school taxes to a different school district, rather than keeping those dollars in LHISD."

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LOCAL MANOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

Budget: How would you prioritize school budget spending for staff and facilities?

Charter Schools: What do you see as the role of charter schools in public education?

Parental Input: What is your position regarding parental input in book selection in school libraries?



PLACE 5



Jayme Mathias

Qualifications: An author & education advocate, I served the Austin ISD Board for 8 years, passing \$1.54B in bonds & overseeing \$12.4B for the 86,000 students & 11,000 employees in 130 public schools.

Budget: We must focus funding on enhancing student performance. 24% of Manor 3rd-graders read at grade level & only 19% perform grade-level math. Middle school performance is more troubling, with 2% of African-American 7th-grade students performing at grade level in reading & math. 20-25% of grads fail their first semester of postsecondary studies. We must prioritize funding to address such challenges!

Charter Schools: The Texas Legislature has created dual education systems, with charter schools draining higher-performing students & resources from our publicly-run public schools. In 2012, I helped reverse the privatization of Austin's public schools, sending a charter packing & strengthening a high school after 13 years of underperformance. We now brace for the fight of our lives against vouchers in 2025!

Parental Input: Parental input & involvement is essential in all aspects of their children's education. Statistically, most parents trust school librarians to choose appropriate books for our schools, and they consider book bans an infringement on their right to expose their children to a variety of perspectives. I certainly stand with progressives on this issue.

Campaign Website: jaymemathias.com

Patrick Patterson

No response received

PLACE 6



Caitlin Lowery

Qualifications: I have 15 years of experience in education. I hold eight teaching certifications and my doctorate in education. Also, I have four children in Manor ISD and have served on numerous advisory committees.

Budget: We need to invest our funds into our students first and foremost. My top priorities for our district are students' safety and education. It is integral that we put our funds toward attaining and growing high-quality educators and leaders. We must dedicate our budget to providing the highest-quality education that our students both need and deserve.

Charter Schools: Charter schools offer families more choice in their children's education than ever before, providing families with options outside of their local school district. This means that we must remain competitive in areas such as academics, equitable resources, athletics, fine arts, and more. As a district, we must provide a well-rounded, high-quality education that families seek for their children.

Parental Input: I believe education is most successful when there is a partnership between schools and parents. Parents can provide unique perspectives and insights that would benefit schools, in many areas such as the selection of books and curriculum. Including our stakeholders in the conversation builds trust, provides transparency, and creates a learning environment where our children will thrive.

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61564399629142



Sam Samaripa

Qualifications: I was a Manor ISD Trustee (14 years), served as a Manor City Councilman, a UT Alumnus, & athletic coach. Present am American Legion Post Commander, Manor Education Foundation VP and Chamber member.

Budget: The District budget deficit needs to be resolved. Funding increases are needed to increase teachers and staff wages, for new hires, to increase student performance, to increase the graduation rate, and to increase security for students and staff. A quality education needs to be provided for all students. Also need to address racism concerns, LGBTQ and gender issues and delay further construction.

Charter Schools: Charter Schools give parents an option for the education of their children. There are some benefits to charter schools but parents should choose wisely. Manor ISD provides a traditional high school setting, the Manor New Tech High School, and the Manor Early College High School. Funding for charter schools has been a question and charter schools are usually exempt from some rules and regulations.

Parental Input: There should be parental input in book selection but the parental input should be informed and responsible. There can be many opinions regarding this, so all information should be provided to the Texas State Board of Education for final determination. Each district can then choose the books needed in order to provide the best education for all students.

Campaign Website: [facebook.com/samsamaripamanor](https://www.facebook.com/samsamaripamanor)

PLACE 7



Janie (Serna) Guerrero

Qualifications: It's been an honor serving my community as a Manor ISD Board Trustee for 8 years and advocating for all students. I have complied with all required trainings; I am a person of honesty and integrity.

Budget: Having a healthy budget to be able to provide teachers and all staff a raise and at the same time have a balanced budget, to ensure that our facilities are being well maintained for our students to be comfortable while in a learning setting classroom.

Charter Schools: While I support public education, charter schools are another option for parents. Parents have choices when it comes to their children's education.

Parental Input: I believe that parent input with books in the library is essential as well as the professional input of educators, and librarians. It is crucial that all libraries maintain a diverse collection of books for families.

Campaign Website: [facebook.com/sernaforManorISD](https://www.facebook.com/sernaforManorISD)



Stacy Howard

Qualifications: Over the past 11 years, my professional journey in Manor ISD has equipped me with a comprehensive understanding of the educational needs and strengths within our community.

Budget: I know how important it is to make sure that our teachers feel seen, heard and supported. This means that our teachers need to be prioritized when the budget is being considered. When we put teachers first, they will make sure that students succeed. Utilizing the budget to make sure that teachers are equipped with everything they need to run a successful classroom will be my priority.

Charter Schools: We are all aware of the severe lack of funding for public schools in Texas. I envision charter schools to be a partner to public education They can offer the specialized education that some students need to successful that public schools do not have the funding to support.

Parental Input: School libraries should be able to house all books. Public education is for all students and should not be limited by personal opinions. We want our children to be exposed to new materials and sensitive topics in a safe setting. Reading books provides a safe space for learning about new topics and gives students exposure to new language and themes in a controlled environment.

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565314940661

LOCAL MANOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION A

Ballot Language

Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate of \$1.0814 in Manor Independent School District for the current year, a rate that will result in an increase of 8.2 percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the district for the current year

as compared to the preceding year, which is an additional \$6,318,206.

Explanation

MISD asks voters to approve a tax rate increase so the district can raise teacher and direct service staff salaries, hire additional police officers and mental health support staff, and purchase needed equipment and resources.

If passed, Prop A will generate \$4.8 million of new funding in 2024-2025 and at least as much each year going forward. None of the money raised would be subject to recapture and all would remain with the district. The \$1.0814 tax rate would be the lowest that Manor ISD has had since 2015. The tax rate change does not affect homeowners with an over 65 exemption.

LOCAL ROUND ROCK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

Teacher Retention: How would you attract, retain, and cultivate effective and highly-qualified teachers?

Student Outcomes: What would you do to improve academic, social, and mental health outcomes for all students?

School Safety: How will you implement the state mandates for safety on school campuses?

PLACE 1



Joshua Escalante

Qualifications: Leadership in business and family life has allowed me to work across the aisle, work as a team to achieve success, monitor spending, manage Federal compliance, two-way communication and transparency.

Teacher Retention: Support higher salaries to help offset out-of-pocket costs teachers are incurring toward enrichment in their classrooms. I would support compensation for the low wages of incoming teachers due to the current cost of living. Also, I would work with the Superintendent to allow teachers the flexibility when teaching subjects such as reading, writing, and math, and other core subjects.

Student Outcomes: To ensure that each student feels safe while at school. We must allow for mutually respectful and active dialogue between parents (guardians) and teachers/administrators. On a personal level, my children's teachers and I are actively engaged and invested in my children's academic, physical, social, and emotional well-being. Student, teacher, and parent engagement are key to a student's success.

School Safety: Ensuring adequate funding and enforcement of current policies on all campuses within the dis-

trict according to local, state or federal mandates requires vigilant oversight. If mandates need to be updated, it is imperative to consider community voices as well as to work with fellow trustees and the Superintendent to ensure successful implementation of mandates relevant to student safety.

Campaign Website: www.escalante4rrisd.com



Estevan Jesús (Chuy) Zárate

Qualifications: As incumbent, I bring experience and continuity. I have attended Leadership Round Rock ISD, Emerging Leaders Academy for Texas PTA and TASB, NASB and Mexican American

School Board Ass. conferences.

Teacher Retention: We don't have a teacher shortage. We have a funding shortage. When reelected, I will continue to advocate for increased public education funding- raising the Basic Allotment and adding a mechanism to adjust the funding formulas for inflation. Once fully funded, we can attract and retain talented teachers by compensating them at a level that shows how much pride and appreciation we have for them.

Student Outcomes: Students learn better when they feel like they belong. I was proud to have supported the passage of our Identity Based bullying policy that will empower more students to feel safe at school. Our district is championing this policy, which focuses on a restorative and reformative process to identify and address the root causes of bullying, rather than a punitive approach.

School Safety: School safety is an unfunded mandate in this state. As Trustee, I have worked to leverage the limited funding our district received to its maximum effectiveness but that is not enough. In my next term, I will pressure the State legislature to adequately fund these programs. If the state truly wants to make a commitment to safety, they should be required to adequately fund safety.

Campaign Website: chuy4rrisd.com

PLACE 2



April Guerra

Qualifications: My background in finance, with an MBA in Data Analytics, equips me to manage budgets, analyze educational data, and drive strategic improvements. My community roles reflect

my dedication to education.

Teacher Retention: I would ensure competitive salaries and benefits, invest in ongoing professional development, and create a supportive work environment with manageable class sizes. I would also regularly recognize achievements, promote work-life balance, and community engagement. Partnering with UT for recruitment and mentorship will further support teacher growth and retention.

Student Outcomes: I would focus on individualized support of military, career, and college readiness. I am committed to increasing access to mental health resources, promoting inclusive practices, and fostering a supportive environment that will address academic, social, and emotional needs and ensure all students have the resources and opportunities to succeed.

School Safety: I am committed to active compliance through regular safety audits, staff training, and clear communication of protocols. I will promote collaborating with local law enforcement and emergency services to enhance preparedness, maintain updated safety plans, and involve the community in promoting a secure environment for students and staff.

Campaign Website: www.aprilguerra.com



LOCAL ROUND ROCK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

PLACE 2 (continued)



Melissa Ross

Qualifications: I bring 10 years of teaching in RRISD, mentoring teachers, serving on committees, and being a parent in the district—experiences that equip me to be an effective advocate on the school board.

Teacher Retention: Round Rock ISD excels in attracting and retaining quality teachers with competitive pay and strong support programs. To improve, we should continue to boost pay in line with cost of living, diversify recruitment, and expand outreach to underrepresented communities. Additionally, we must focus on meaningful staff development and reduce unnecessary tasks to ensure teachers feel valued and supported.

Student Outcomes: Support recruiting and retaining visionary teachers and administrators who can enhance mental health support, ensure early identification for accessibility services, and focus on the whole child—socially and academically. Align the budget and district goals with these priorities, led by a superintendent who ensures all students are college and career ready by graduation.

School Safety: HB3 requires strategic use of resources and partnerships. I'll prioritize increasing mental health professionals, staff training, and moving students from portables to secure buildings. Some infrastructure upgrades, funded by the current bond, enhance safety - fencing, surveillance, and secure entry points. These measures ensure daily protection and swift emergency response, maximizing safety.

Campaign Website: www.melissaforrрисd.com

PLACE 7



Jim Steele

Qualifications: Veteran. Bronze Star. Husband, father, grandfather. 24-year resident. Served on Bond Committee. Decades leading multi-million-dollar programs, projects, contracts, and teams in public/private sectors.

Teacher Retention: Promote incentives, salaries, and benefits that are competitive to surrounding districts. Take every opportunity to recognize teachers for their work in and outside the classroom. Recognize achievements, results, and promote rewards whenever possible. Support options that contribute to reducing administrative tasks, allowing teachers additional time to focus on in-classroom duties.

Student Outcomes: Promote Policies that enable students to read at grade level by third grade and perform above state standards, focusing on the basics. Zero tolerance for bullying. Endorse collaborative practices enabling mental health professionals and parents/guardians working together to serve the best interest of the student.

School Safety: This is a top priority. Texas has established school safety mandates; these mandates are either funded or unfunded. As a Trustee, it would be my duty to do everything within my power to support the funding of all state mandates, developing strategies to satisfy requirements for the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

Campaign Website: steele4students.com



Mingyuan "Michael" Wei

Qualifications: -BoD of the Williamson Central Appraisal District (appointed by RRISD) -VP of the RRISD PTA Council (2023-2024) -Member of various RRISD committees -Round Rock ISD Leadership

Training (Class of 2024)

Teacher Retention: I will be committed to advocate for increased state funding for public schools and teachers' salaries. Seek alternative funding avenues, such as partnerships with local organizations and businesses to initiate professional development programs. Work with local officials (such as city council members) to improve the affordability of living. Offer a competitive salary and benefit packages.

Student Outcomes: I will advocate for increased funding and seek partnerships with local businesses for providing classroom supplies and continuous professional development for our educators. Ensure essential programs to narrow learning gaps and enhance the accessibility of special education programs. Implement comprehensive safety protocols and ensure that mental health resources are readily available.

School Safety: The state mandated 1 officer/campus by offering < 20k/yr. Many districts cannot pay it out of pocket and seek to delay implementing the rule. I will advocate for sufficient funding from the legislature in 2025 and seek alternative revenues to obtain funds. Ensure sufficient officer coverage for all campuses in the district, and seek coordination from city and county security departments.

Campaign Website: DrWeiForRRISD.com

PROPOSITIONS

Background

Since April 2024, a Citizen Bond Committee (CBC) worked with Round Rock ISD (RRISD) staff, reviewing suggested projects and the district's Long Range Master Plan. The committee prioritized deferred maintenance as the district's greatest need. The Board of Trustees considered the CBC's findings in called meetings in July and August. On August 15, the Board called for a \$998 million bond election for the November 5 General Election by a vote of 5-2. The proposal is broken into four propositions: General, Technology, Performing Arts, and Athletics.

Board president Amber Landrum acknowledged that the dollar amount of the bond, the district's first in six years, is significant, but pointed out that the proposed projects are necessary. Superintendent Hafedh Azaiez explained the cost by comparing it to owning a home. Items in the home need maintenance and repair. At the end of their lifecycle,

they must be replaced before bigger issues develop. "The last thing we want during the middle of the school year is the HVAC to break down and take us a month or two to fix," Azaiez said.

The Board of Trustees is committed to maintaining, repairing, and improving existing infrastructure and facilities and strives for equity, fairness, and impartiality in providing each campus with what is needed to make students successful. All 56 campuses in the district have projects in this bond.

Before approving the bond propositions, the Board discussed their tax implications. RRISD has been fiscally responsible in handling debt, basing its models on conservative growth estimates. The district has made defeasement payments regularly to pay off bond debt early, saving taxpayer interest costs. RRISD has a AAA rating from both Moody's and Fitch. These ratings will allow the district

to get good interest rates, though they will be higher than in the past because overall interest rates have increased. Still, assuming moderate growth at 5% in the district's tax-assessed value, and a plan to extend the bonds' loan periods to 20 years (rather than 15), the projections show that these proposals will not require an increase in the district's tax rate. In September the Board will consider cutting the Interest and Sinking (I&S) tax rate by one cent.

(Note: Each proposition contains the sentence "This is a property tax increase" because this language is required by law. A bond issue is borrowing money, and taxes must be collected to repay the loan and to cover the interest. However, the district does not necessarily have to collect these taxes through a higher tax RATE. If a district's tax BASE is growing, the district can collect more taxes without increasing the rate, and can sometimes even reduce the rate while still collecting more taxes.)

LOCAL ROUND ROCK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROPOSITION A

Ballot Language

The issuance of \$798,305,000 of bonds for the construction, acquisition, rehabilitation, renovation, expansion and equipment of school buildings (including projects that address facility deficiencies, growth, and safety and security), the purchase of necessary sites for school buildings, the purchase of new school buses and vehicles for emergency, safety, or security purposes, and the retrofitting of school buses with emergency, safety, or security equipment, and the levy and imposition of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds. This is a property tax increase.

Explanation

This proposition, totaling \$798,305,000, will provide funding for deferred maintenance throughout the district. Projects are slated for all 56 campuses in the district. It includes repairs to critical systems such as roofing and plumbing, electrical, and HVAC systems. It also includes facility and equipment upgrades and replacements. Portables would be refreshed or removed and classroom additions built. Upgrade plans include ADA upgrades across the district (including playgrounds), replacement of outdated school buses, and safety and security upgrades, including improved fencing, in part to comply with state mandates.

The largest line item is for Round Rock High School's fourth and final phase of renovations. Since its opening in 1971, the campus has grown to meet growing enrollment. Over time RRHS developed into a sprawling campus of separate buildings and inadequate parking, creating security issues that no one could foresee before school shootings became a concern. The proposition includes campus renovations to address these safety and security concerns.

One of the few "growth" projects in this proposal is the purchase and equipping of a new facility for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs. The growth in these programs, especially for non-college-bound students, necessitates more capacity. Creating a central facility for the district requires less space and will be less expensive than duplicating facilities at all high schools, although existing CTE facilities at some campuses will remain.

Proposition supporters point out that most of the projects are deferred major maintenance projects, which are necessary to preserve the existing value of the district's investment in its physical facilities. If these repairs and improvements are not made proactively, the district will face increasing numbers of unplanned, costly emergency repairs. These could disrupt instruction and will have to be funded using Maintenance and Operations (M&O) funds, reducing funds available for other district expenditures like teacher salaries, educational programs, and supplies. They also point

VOTE 411

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Learn more about ballot measures and where candidates stand on the issues.



SHARE YOUR PLANS!

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LOCAL ROUND ROCK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROPOSITION A (continued)

out that labor and material costs are rising, and that some of these expenditures have been postponed for years.

Opponents of the proposition cite its size and its impact on the district's debt load per student. Some think that more maintenance should be paid for using M&O funds, since this practice would not increase the district's debt, with accompanying debt service costs. Although staff projections indicate that the district can manage this level of indebtedness without raising the I&S tax rate, some opponents are concerned that their taxes will increase.

PROPOSITION B

Ballot Language

The issuance of \$125,300,000 of bonds for the acquisition, improvement and upgrading of technology systems, including related infrastructure and equipment, and the levy and imposition of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds. This is a property tax increase.

Explanation

This proposition, totaling \$125,300,000, addresses two major areas of technology—technology infrastructure and instructional technology. Technology infrastructure supports the district's students, teachers, and administrators in their everyday technology use. Infrastructure includes storage systems (servers, data centers), connectivity systems (network cabling, fiber networks, wireless access points), and security devices and software (firewalls, content filtering). Like all types of infrastructure, technology infrastructure needs periodic maintenance and upgrades, and this bond proposal targets these.

Instructional technology devices for staff and students, such as computers, Chromebooks, iPads, printers, and projectors, are vital to modern instruction but also require regular replacement. The state in effect requires all students to have access to individual devices for mandatory state testing. During the pandemic, students were provided with Chromebooks. While these devices are durable and inexpensive, their expected lifespan is about four years. The district plans to replace about a quarter of the devices a year as they reach the end of their life cycle. The district must also periodically replace administrative technology, such as time clocks, cafeteria registers, and phone systems, to provide functions needed for school operations.

Planned regular investment in technology allows implementation costs to be spread systematically and reduces service outages and security vulnerabilities that outdated technology infrastructure can cause. For students and teachers, up-to-date devices prevent the frustration that users often experience when using outdated equipment.

PROPOSITION C

Ballot Language

The issuance of \$8,620,000 of bonds for the construction, acquisition, and equipment of performing arts facilities, and the levy and imposition of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds. This is a property tax increase.

Explanation

This proposition, totaling \$8,620,000, calls for a major refurbishment of the Raymond Hartfield Performing Arts Center (PAC) at the McNeil High School campus. The PAC will receive flooring, plumbing, and roof improvement, along with HVAC replacement. Upgrades also include the facility's PA system and fire alarm systems.

The other two large performing arts centers for the district, Cedar Ridge Auditorium and Stony Point Auditorium, need lighting and sound system improvements. Both auditoriums need upgraded infrastructure and instructional technology.

PROPOSITION D

Ballot Language

The issuance of \$65,910,000 of bonds for the construction, renovation, expansion and equipment of athletic stadium facilities, and the levy and imposition of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds. This is a property tax increase.

Explanation

Prop D is the only prop with a major "growth item" in the bond.

The district currently has two competition stadiums, Dragon Stadium at Round Rock High School and Kelly Reeves Stadium on the west side of the district. This prop-

osition includes upgrades for both. Kelly Reeves Stadium needs flooring, plumbing, and roof improvements; furniture replacement; safety and security upgrades; and turf replacement. Dragon Stadium at RRHS also needs stadium renovations and scoreboard upgrades to continue as a competition stadium, but these upgrades, though necessary, will not resolve its capacity, parking, or safety issues, and the stadium's site limits full solutions to these problems. However, the district needs Dragon Stadium as a competition stadium until a new stadium is built.

This proposition designates \$50 million for the construction of a new stadium on A.W. Grimes property owned by the district. Extensive future growth is projected for the east side of the district, where room for substantial population growth remains and is expected because of new semiconductor facilities east of Round Rock.

Proponents of this proposition point out the inadequacy of Dragon Stadium and the impact that the lack of another stadium has on students. Currently, the lack of space necessitates Thursday night football games. This means that hundreds of students and staff are out very late on school nights. A new stadium would provide more flexibility in scheduling for the five high schools and allow for more activities for both middle and high schools to use competition fields and tracks. Proponents also point out that construction costs will not decrease if the project is postponed.

Some who have expressed concern over this proposal indicate that they believe the district does not need an additional competition stadium.

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).

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 (866-687-8683)

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

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

ARABIC: 844-YALLA-US (844-925-5287)

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

DISABILITY RIGHTS TX: 888-796-VOTE (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**, <https://votetravis.gov/current-election-information/>, or <https://www.wilcotx.gov/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

County Commissioner precinct

Justice of the Peace precinct/ Constable precinct

Congressional district

State House district

VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE
(Certificado de Registro Electoral)
TRAVIS COUNTY (Condado de Travis)

VOID (VUID)	Gender (Sexo)	Valid from (Válido desde)
[REDACTED]		1/1/2024
Year of Birth (Año de Nacimiento)	Prec. No. (Núm. Pcto.)	thru (hasta)
[REDACTED]	413	12/31/2025
Name and Permanent Residence Address (Nombre y dirección residencial permanente)		
[REDACTED]		
Party Affiliation (Afiliación del Partido)		
X		
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	5	5	AUSFP	CA9

School district

School board member district

State Board of Education district

City Council district

Which city you may vote in

ADDITIONAL VOTING INFORMATION

VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS

You must use one of the seven forms of ID to vote:

- Texas driver license
- Texas Election Identification Certificate (EIC)
- Texas identification card issued by aDPS
- 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.

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.

KNOW YOUR VOTING RIGHTS

- If you are still in line when the polls close, stay in line. You will be able to vote past poll closure as long as you stay in line.
- You may ask for another ballot if you have made a mistake.
- 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

VOTING SYSTEM

Both Travis and Williamson Counties are now using an Express Vote 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:

<https://votetravis.gov/voter-information/travis-county-voting-system/>

or

<https://www.wilcotx.gov/192/Voting-System>

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).

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

✔ Make it count in November!

LWV



- 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://www.sos.texas.gov/elections/voter/reqabbm.shtml>
 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 25, 2024. 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 and completed, the mail-in ballot MUST be mailed and postmarked by 7pm on Election Day and received by 5 p.m. on the 1st mail day after Election Day, or if civilians abroad the 5th day after Election Day, or if Military voters the 6th day after Election Day. A VBM tracker and "Cure" process is available at VoteTexas.gov.
- 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.

Please visit our websites for more detailed information: LWVAustin.org/vbm/ and LWVTexas.org/votemail.



ADDITIONAL VOTING INFORMATION

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.



Text **VOTERINFO** to 80123
to receive nonpartisan
voting reminders!



CANDIDATE RESPONSES

The League of Women Voters Austin Area reviews all candidate responses carefully for adherence to our guidelines. The league reserves the right to redact portions of a candidate's response, but avoids doing so as much as possible. Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification of content. The league takes first amendment rights seriously and believes that the public has a right to know what the candidates think and what they stand for, even if it may be considered offensive. Each candidate is personally and solely responsible for the content of their response.

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 potential 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).

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).

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.



EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

ABOUT THIS VOTERS 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 (LWVAA). We invite every candidate in competition for office to provide information. We list the names of unopposed candidates but do not send them questionnaires. The League reserves the right to redact portions of a candidate's response, but avoids doing so as much as possible and any redactions are noted. Ballot measure explanations are written by League volunteers with a focus on being informative and unbiased.

Learn more about our process at:

<https://lwvaustin.org/voters-guide>

ABOUT THE LEAGUE

The League of Women Voters Austin Area is a grassroots, all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization promoting informed and active participation of citizens in government. Since 1919, both LWVTX and LWVAA 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.

Available in multiple languages!

<https://lwvaustin.org/voters-guide>

You can use **VOTE411.org** to get a personalized *Voters Guide* for your address.

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