



“Celebrating 100 Years of Women Winning the Vote”

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS – VICTORIA
106 S. De Leon Street – Victoria, TX, 77901
(361) 550-6552**

VOTERS GUIDE

March 3, 2020

**** PRIMARY ELECTIONS ****

LEAGUE NON-PARTISONSHIP

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. It works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and to influence public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose candidates or political parties. The League DOES publish and distribute factual information to help prepare citizens to cast an informed vote. The League DOES take action on selected governmental issues that it has studied, and which are in the public interest.

The information in this Voters Guide was obtained by means of questionnaire sent to all candidates certified to appear on the ballot in contested races. Candidate replies are printed without verification. In the interest of fairness and equity among candidates, the League asked that responses conform to word limits. Candidates were made aware that responses beyond word limits would be truncated as indicated by //.

Funding for this publication was made possible by local in-kind donations. Donations towards future Voters Guide can be mailed to LWV-Victoria at 106 S. De Leon Street, Victoria, TX, 77901

MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK... VOTE!! YOUR VOTE, YOUR VOICE

POLLS OPEN 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM ON TUESDAY, MARCH 3rd

VICTORIA COUNTY has COUNTY-WIDE VOTING on ELECTION DAY

Contact the Elections Office or visit their website to locate your home polling place

EARLY VOTING from FEBRUARY 18 – 28, 2020

***** Election Office Will Be Open for Early Voting *****

February 18 – 21 and February 24 – 26 from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday, February 22 from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

February 27 & 28 from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm

Last day to apply for ballot by mail is February 21, 2020

***** Victoria County Election Administrator's Office at 2805 N. Navarro – Suite 500 *****

361-576-0124 <http://www.vctx.org/elections/>

Uncontested Primary Races for Victoria County

U. S. Representative – District 27 Will face winner of Democratic primary in November General Election		Michael Cloud (R)
State Senator – District 18	Michael Antalan (D)	Lois Kolkhorst (R)
District Judge, 24th District		Jack W. Marr (R)
District Judge, 135th District		Stephen Kemper Williams (R)
County Tax Assessor – Collector Will face winner of Republican primary in November General Election		Jane Bernal (D)
County Commissioner – Precinct 1	Danny Garcia (D)	Kenneth Wells (R)
Constable – Precinct 1 Will face winner of Democratic primary in November General Election		Vincente Flores, Jr. (R)
Constable – Precinct 3		Kenneth Easley, Jr. (R)
<u>State-wide Races</u>		
Chief Justice, Texas Supreme Court Will face winner of Democratic primary in November General Election		Nathan Hecht (R)
Justice, Texas Supreme Court – Place 6 Will face winner of Democratic primary in November General Election		Jane Bland (R)
Justice, Texas Supreme Court – Place 7 Will face winner of Democratic primary in November General Election		Jeff Boyd (R)
Justice, Texas Supreme Court – Place 8 Will face winner of Democratic primary in November General Election		Brett Busby (R)
Justice, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals – Place 4 Will face winner of Democratic primary in November General Election		Kevin Patrick Yeary (R)
Justice, TX Court of Criminal Appeals – Place 9	Brandon Birmingham (D)	David Newell (R)
Justice, 13th Court of Criminal Appeals – Place 4	Migdalia Lopez (D)	Jaime Tijerina (R)
Justice, 13th Ct of Criminal Appeals – PI 6	Nereida Lopez-Singleterry (D)	Clarissa Silva (R)

Contested primary races for U. S. Senator, Texas Railroad Commissioner, Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice and other Texas Supreme Court Justices, and Criminal Court of Appeals relevant to Victoria County are covered in the LWV-TX Voters Guide. Go to www.lwvtx.org or www.vote411.org for information.

U. S. Representative – District 27

Republican Incumbent Michael Cloud is unopposed in the Primary. He will face the winner of the Democratic Primary in November General Election.

Questions to the Democratic candidates were posed by LWV – Corpus Christi, as the LWV-TX asks only one league solicit responses from candidates seeking State-wide or Regional offices.

No response was received from Ricardo de la Fuente (D)	
Charlie Jackson (D) https://www.charliejacksonforcongress.com/	

What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

Progressive Corpus Christi business leader, advocate for working families, and voice for change. Seventh-generation Texan, raised in Victoria then moved to Baytown. Worked on Congress' Energy and Commerce Committee. BA in Government, MS in Technology from UT. Led economic development groups, founded three businesses. Served in Rotary, chambers of commerce, and startup incubators.

What are your recommendations to improve the immigration system?

Trade with Mexico is critical to Texas' economy, creating \$500 billion one million Texas jobs. Immigration is vital to our region and anti-immigrant ideology not only doesn't make sense in economic terms ... it's also unkind. I'll work to reverse family separation and seizures of public property, while passing immigration reform and sensible border and security policies.

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

We live in the richest nation on earth, yet nearly 5 million Texans live without health insurance and rising costs are hurting small businesses. I'll expand Medicare access for Texans, address prescription drugs, keep the beneficial provisions of the ACA, and make sure we have clinics and services to provide critical care to women, especially in rural areas.

What are your recommendations to curb gun violence in our country?

Gun violence is a tragedy that has gripped our country for too long. Addressing the issue will require practical solutions that everyone can agree on, such as registration, testing, and insurance much like we require for cars. We also need safe storage in the home and criminal liability for adults who leave firearms accessible to children without supervision

State Representative – District 30

There are no Democratic candidates for this seat. Race will be decided in the Primary.

Vanessa Hicks-Callaway (R)

Preferred contact information:

Mailing address: P. O. Box 5304, Victoria 77903
Phone: 361-220-6298
Email: Vanessa.HicksCallaway@gmail.com



Background / Qualifications: (50 words)

- U.S. Army Retired, Lt. Col.; 26 years of honorable service
- Born and raised in Victoria
- Married more than 23 years to Jason Callaway; two sons: Eric and Edward Callaway; ages 14 and 20 years
- Bachelor's Degree: Political Science, Sam Houston State University
- Master's Degree: Human Resource Management; Central Michigan University

What are your top three goals if elected, and how will you pursue them during the next legislative session? (100 words)

(1): *Hurricane Harvey Recovery*

- a. Prioritize all construction/rebuild efforts for Hurricane Harvey recovery
- b. Simultaneously prepare for next disaster; be proactive

(2): *Obtain key committee assignments: redistricting, public education, and higher education*

- a. Fully leverage committee assignment process: network, and request committee assignments
- b. Attend desired committee meetings

(3): *Use state representative influence to promote pro- God, pro-life, pro-gun, pro-legal immigration, pro-limited regulation, pro-limited government, pro-small government and pro-Texas values to Keep Texas Red!*

- a. Write newsletters and respond to requests for visits
- b. Maintain, promote strong online presence and a mailout effort reflective of republican and conservative values

How can Texas best manage immigration? (100 words)

Texas can best manage immigration by enforcing current federal and state laws. Immigration laws must be understood by all through articles and other materials. All who violate immigration laws should be held legally accountable and placed either on a path to citizenship or deported especially if the person or persons are violent criminals. Efforts should be made to All immigrants who do not meet criteria for citizenship, work visas or student visas should be identified and removed. Texas should also consistently count the economic cost to taxpayers due to illegals and be prepared to share that information with the taxpayers.

What is your vision for public education in Texas? (100 words)

My vision for public education in Texas is to promote preparing students to not only pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics, but to also pursue courses promoting marketable skills: welding, refinery jobs in the oil and gas industry, electronic careers, agriculture-including farming and ranching jobs, and plumbing. I call it WREAP; we will either 'WREAP' what we sow into today's youth, or we will WREAP what we don't sow. I want to be sure teachers and those who support teachers all receive a real pay increase. HB3 only brings teachers up to baseline pay. Eliminate Pre-K all day.

How can Texas address growing mental health challenges? (100 words)

Texas should first conduct an in-depth analysis to determine root causes of growing mental health challenges: i.e. moral decay, legal and illegal drug use (including alcohol abuse), sexual promiscuity, and apathy toward education. Steps then must be taken to circumvent root causes. Healthy behavior and good life choices should be promoted and taught through free seminars, conferences and classes. Consequences for poor behavior must be maximized to encourage those needing help to obtain it. All laws currently on the books must be enforced as this will be a deterrent also. Continue conversation about mental health through conferences and articles.

State Representative – District 30

There are no Democratic candidates for this seat. Race will be decided in the Primary.

Geanie Morrison (R)

Preferred contact information:

email geanie.morrison@house.texas.gov

address 1908 N. Laurent, Suite 500, Victoria 77901

phone (361) 572-0196



Background / Qualifications: (50 words)

I have served District 30 in the Texas House for 11 terms. I am endorsed by Governor Abbott, NRA, Alliance for Life and Texas Farm Bureau AGFUND. I was recognized by National Federation of Independent Business, Texans for Lawsuit Reform and Texas Association of Business for keeping the economy strong.

What are your top three goals if elected, and how will you pursue them during the next legislative session? (100 words)

I will ensure our region gets the resources we need to recover from Hurricane Harvey. Last session I secured \$2 billion for our region's recovery and I passed bills to better prepare our state for future disasters.

I will continue the fight to lower local property taxes. Last session I passed a bill that gives voters a veto over large tax increases passed by local government.

Texas is the economic engine for our country because we keep taxes low, regulations reasonable and our court system fair. I will continue to encourage job creation in our community.

How can Texas best manage immigration? (100 words)

We must secure the border. The federal government has failed to act. I have added over \$2 billion in funding for border security for more border patrol agents and better technology on the border to keep drug cartels, gangs and human traffickers out of our state.

I also passed a bill to stop Texas cities from harboring illegal immigrants and allows our law enforcement officials to stop those who are breaking our immigration laws.

What is your vision for public education in Texas? (100 words)

We need a strong, well-funded education system that prioritizes spending in the classroom.

Last session, I helped pass the first major overhaul of public education finance in decades. I increased funding for public education, gave our teachers a well-deserved raise and provided our retired teachers a 13th paycheck and the benefits we promised to them.

To ensure all children have an opportunity to succeed, I passed a bill that improved education options and increased career training programs for students who don't plan to attend college.

How can Texas address growing mental health challenges? (100 words)

We can save lives by improving communication between community groups to identify people with mental health problems and get them the help they need before they become a danger to themselves or others.

We need to improve the resources available to people struggling with these challenges.

Victoria County Sheriff

There are no Democratic candidates for this seat. Race will be decided in the Primary.

Philip Dennis (R)

Preferred contact information:

Email: pdennis46@yahoo.com

Cell phone: 361-935-2065



Background / qualifications (50 words)

Marine Corps Combat veteran. 26 years of Law Enforcement experience 23 of those years with Victoria County Sheriff's Office. Retired Captain over Jail Division. Responsible for 126 employees and a 532-bed maximum security facility along with court security and warrants unit. Commanded SWAT team. Master Peace Officer and Jailer License.

What are your top three goals if elected, and how will you pursue them? (100 words)

1. Filling the current vacancies that plague the Office through aggressive recruitment Statewide
2. Take real look at the budget and the spending of the office. Get rid of wants and start taking care of needs that provide for the safety of the citizen and the Officers.
3. Provide all honorably retired peace Officers with retired credentials as mandated by the occupations code 1701. 357

What are the key challenges faced by the Office of Sheriff and how can they be addressed? (100 words)

Regaining public confidence in the Office and this can be addressed with professional policing and with a sheriff that's in the office and available to all the citizens not just a select few.

What potential opportunities are there to improve operations, address staffing, and deliver cost effectiveness within this department? (100 words)

With the current budget I know through re-alignment of position and staff the operations can be greatly improved. Once staffed, maintaining a hiring pool to fill positions as personnel are promoted throughout the Office.

What is your position on red flag gun laws? (100 words)

I am not a proponent of the red flag laws. I'm pro 2nd Amendment.

Victoria County Sheriff

There are no Democratic candidates for this seat. Race will be decided in the Primary.

Dale Fowler (R)

Preferred contact information:

Phone: 361-935-7928

Email: dalefowler100@gmail.com.



Background / qualifications (50 words)

Bachelor's Degree, with concentration in Business Management UHV. Victoria College Police Academy. Joined VCSO 1986. Peace Officer's License 1989, Master Peace Officer's License since 2001. Master SWAT Operator, over 12 years active service. Special Assistant to Sheriff O'Connor throughout his administration. Sheriff's Citizen Advisory Board. Legislative, business and leadership experience.

What are your top three goals if elected, and how will you pursue them? (100 words)

- ***Proactive Law Enforcement*** - Continue proactive pressure on drug dealers in Victoria County. We must continue building the regional cooperation of local, state and federal law enforcement. The Crossroads Area Taskforce is a force multiplier for law and order. We do not have to fight crime alone and we are better together.
- ***Employee Retention*** - Work with Commissioner's Court to develop career ladder / step pay programs to facilitate the professional development of officers and build their leadership capabilities for the sustainability of our Sheriff's Office.
- ***Strategic Long-Term Planning*** - Develop a responsible long-term jail facilities improvement plan.

What are the key challenges faced by the Office of Sheriff and how can they be addressed? (100 words)

Recruitment and Retention – Most major issues stem from this ongoing issue. Part of the challenge is lower than average pay. While some improvement has been recognized through commissioner's court 2020 budget, it is important to identify how we can reward good performance and increases in responsibility. Providing staff with education opportunities and challenging them to learn and implement modern law enforcement techniques will help maintain their interest in being part of the VCSO family, thus better providing for the safety and security of residents in Victoria County. Additionally, this strategy can show improved value for taxpayers.

What potential opportunities are there to improve operations, address staffing, and deliver cost effectiveness within this department? (100 words)

Humanitarian – People suffering from mental health do not belong in the criminal justice system. The VCSO and Gulf Bend developed a collaborative that has this goal in mind. Under my leadership, we will continue to expand and improve this program for the benefit of those suffering.

Jail – We must continue to improve the conditions in the Jail for the continued safety of inmates and employees. This will be done with improved contracted services, technology and long-term strategic facilities planning.

Regardless of the area, we will look for new and improved methods.

What is your position on red flag gun laws? (100 words)

I am opposed to red flag gun laws as I believe they have the potential to infringe on our 2nd amendment right, which is fundamental to keeping a free nation. The vast majority of mass murderers are suffering from some form of mental illness. I believe as a nation we must focus on better solutions that provide prevention of crime through better treatment options for families and patients.

Victoria County Sheriff

There are no Democratic candidates for this seat. Race will be decided in the Primary.

Justin Marr (R)

Preferred contact information:

Email: Marrforsheriff@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.justinmarrforsheriff.com/>



Background / qualifications (50 words)

20 plus years of full-time law enforcement experience at the sheriff's office working my way up from jailer to supervisor in the enforcement division. A decade of serving on the SWAT team. Law enforcement administrative experience including payroll, approving offense reports and preparing cases for presentation to the DA's office.

What are your top three goals if elected, and how will you pursue them? (100 words)

My top goal as Sheriff is and always will be the safety and security of Victoria and its citizens. I will address the man power shortage that has far too long plagued the Sheriff's Office. I will do this through effective recruitment and retention. We need to hire the best people available, period. I will institute a "step pay" plan that will allow the Sheriff's Office to remain competitive with other law enforcement agencies our size. I will also institute a career progression plan for all officers and deputies emphasizing promoting from within and the continuity of the Sheriff's Office.

What are the key challenges faced by the Office of Sheriff and how can they be addressed? (100 words)

One of the responsibilities of the Office of Sheriff as prescribed by law is maintaining and supervising the county jail. This is a challenge faced by every Sheriff in the State of Texas. Legislatively, the duty of running a jail becomes more burdensome every two years with increased mandates to provide more in the way of mental health screening and intervention prior to incarceration. These challenges will be met by increased training for staff members and partnering with local mental health providers.

What potential opportunities are there to improve operations, address staffing, and deliver cost effectiveness within this department? (100 words)

I'm a fiscal conservative and I will be a trustworthy steward of the Sheriff's Office budget. It is my intention to implement a grant writer position at the Sheriff's Office. This person will be responsible for finding and bringing home as much federal and state tax money as possible. Supplemental funding of certain aspects of the Sheriff's Office will help improve operations in a cost effective way.

What is your position on red flag gun laws? (100 words)

The right to keep and bear arms is a God given right that shall not be infringed upon. The 2nd Amendment of the Constitution ensures that civil governments safeguard this right. I will not enforce any law that is contrary to the United States Constitution.

Victoria County Sheriff

There are no Democratic candidates for this seat. Race will be decided in the Primary.

Melissa Rendon-Wasicek (R)

Preferred contact information:

Email: Rendonforsheriff@gmail.com

Facebook: Melisa Rendon Wasicek for Victoria County Sheriff



Background / qualifications (50 words)

- BA Criminal Justice UHV
- 24 years Law Enforcement:
 - VPD- Sr. Patrol Officer & Patrol Sgt., Detective
 - VCSO- Sgt. Investigator
 - DA's Office- Felony Investigator
- Cases- violent crimes, murders, organized crime/gangs, drug/human trafficking (State/Federal agencies).
- Task Force Officer Homeland Security Investigators
- 1st VP Texas Gang Investigators Assoc. - 10 yrs.

What are your top three goals if elected, and how will you pursue them? (100 words)

1. Building an Efficient Victoria County Sheriff's Office
 - Recruiting, Supporting and Retaining Employees at the VCSO - Ensuring consistent, professional training development. Building a strong and positive work culture
2. Creating Community Outreach Service Unit
 - Improve Jail Facilities - Proper Staffing. Ministry Collaboration
 - Safer Schools (Pre-K through Higher Ed) - Awareness of Dating Violence, Drugs, Alcohol for teens and parents
 - Sex and Drug Trafficking -Targeting Criminals
3. Fiscally Responsible Accountability Measures of Our Budget
 - Emphasizing good stewardship with the community's money - Proper distribution of funds for all of Victoria County. Exploring, building revenue generating opportunities

What are the key challenges faced by the Office of Sheriff and how can they be addressed? (100 words)

All of the significant challenges are addressed in question 2; however, the point that must first be addressed to better serve the community is by *Building an Efficient Victoria County Sheriff's Office*. In addition, my plan is to build upon the successes of the former administration and enhance and strengthen all other areas to a high level of excellence. This will be done by creating a positive work culture at the VCSO and developing leaders through extensive training. The overarching goal focus is to unite our citizens and law enforcement to move Victoria County in the right direction.

What potential opportunities are there to improve operations, address staffing, and deliver cost effectiveness within this department? (100 words)

My first focus is to provide quality training to improve operations. Other candidates have addressed current staff shortage and blamed misappropriation of funding. I, however, prefer not to speculate, and if given the privilege to be sheriff, would investigate all possibilities like funding, leadership issues, or poor training to determine the accurate cause for short staffing. Changing the culture within the VCSO and retaining well trained staff who are enthusiastic about performing their job duties and working towards their goals, will create a more cost effective office. Turnover is detrimental to morale and impacts the organization financially at every level.

What is your position on red flag gun laws? (100 words)

I am a Second Amendment supporter respecting the right to bear arms. I am not in favor of any laws that attempt to circumvent The Constitution of the U.S. Conversations of The Red Flag Laws were intended to address violent gun acts in attempt to keep communities safer; however, the reality is it only makes people *feel* safer. Good law enforcement would act on any tip beginning an investigation closely monitoring individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others. This is what will help keep our communities safe along with proactive patrolling and investigations.

Victoria County Tax Assessor - Collector

Jane Bernal is the Democratic candidate for this seat. Race will be decided in General Election in November.

David Hagan (R)

Preferred contact information:

e-mail david4taxassessor@gmail.com
Mailing address is P.O. Box 7407, 77903
phone number is 361-570-8355



Background / qualifications (50 words)

Fought hard for the taxpayers as a consistent conservative on Victoria City Council for nine years and served as Mayor Pro-Tem of Victoria. Earned a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration and a Master's Degree. Currently works as a contractor while pastoring LifeWay Baptist Church. Married with two children.

What are your top three goals as Tax-Assessor Collector and how will you pursue them? (100 words)

Goal one is to improve services and think about people who come into the Tax Office as valued customers, and I'll closely review every area of office operation to find ways we can serve people more effectively. A second goal related to the first is to cut red tape, and I'll use my background in business to make things in the Tax Office as simple and effective as possible. A third goal is to bring technological innovation to the Tax Office and ensure the technology systems used by the office are up to date.

What are the key challenges faced by the Office of Tax-Assessor Collector and how can they be addressed? (100 words)

A key challenge faced by next Tax-Assessor Collector will be finding ways to better serve the public as people are increasingly busy and looking to do things online as much as possible. I'll be creative and think outside the box about ways to better serve taxpayers, including examining all ways people could take care of things without having to go downtown and stand in line. An ongoing challenge for Tax Assessor-Collectors is staying in compliance with constantly changing rules and regulations from state. I believe in education, and keeping people informed about upcoming changes can help reduce confusion and frustration.

What potential opportunities are there to improve operations and cost effectiveness within this department? (100 words)

I believe there are several potential opportunities to improve, the largest of which is opening a satellite Tax Office on the North side of town. This has been discussed before, and I believe it's time to move forward. Modernizing technology within the office could increase efficiency for both employees and customers in the office. Also, ways to improve cost effectiveness can often be found by looking at things with fresh eyes and a willingness to make positive changes.

Would you consider expanding the hours of operation for this office to better accommodate citizens? Why or why not. (100 words)

Finding ways to make Tax Office hours more flexible to match people's busy lives, including possibly opening the office on Saturdays, is something I'm very interested in and is one of the innovations I'll start working on my first day in office. I think this can be partly achieved in low-cost ways such as a pilot program allowing some employees to work four ten-hour days instead of the current 8:15-4:45 Tax Office hours.

Victoria County Tax Assessor - Collector

Jane Bernal is the Democratic candidate for this seat. Race will be decided in General Election in November.

Ashley Hernandez (R)

Preferred contact information:

Phone: 361-541-8244

Email: amhernandez0211@gmail.com



Background / qualifications (50 words)

- 13-year employee at the Victoria County Tax Office working with Rena Scherer
- Assistant Chief Deputy
- Familiar with the Property Tax Code and their procedures
- Responsibilities include titles, registration of motor vehicles, accounting for various funds and revenue, the disbursement of those funds to Victoria County and the State of Texas.

What are your top three goals as Tax-Assessor Collector and how will you pursue them? (100 words)

- One goal is to maintain the efficiency provided by our office employees; this can continue to be achieved by keeping their training up to date
- Second goal would be to provide guidance for all citizens regarding property tax and motor vehicle. This can be achieved maintaining customer service relations, understanding the customer's needs, and going the extra mile to find the answers and solutions to the issues at hand.
- Third goal would be to add webagents to our county, this will allow the citizens of Victoria County to renew their registration at the local HEB's.

What are the key challenges faced by the Office of Tax-Assessor Collector and how can they be addressed? (100 words)

- Helping the citizens of Victoria understand the tax assessor does not set the tax rate, the Appraisal District does. Many times, irate customers arrive in our office, it is our job to help citizens understand the process.
- Making sure all reports are filled correctly to the last penny. Having well training assistant Chief deputies will allow an ease of process.
- Advising homeowners to try to pay taxes throughout the year or apply for quarterly payments if they qualify, this will diminish the amount of taxes to be paid by the tax deadline.

What potential opportunities are there to improve operations and cost effectiveness within this department? (100 words)

- Creating an express-line for renewals and handicap placards
- Crosstrain willing employees
- All equipment is provided by the TXDMV for the motor vehicle dept, an update in technology is something that only happens when approved by the state. Currently the state allows dealers to have the option to be involved in Webdealer, this allows the dealers to scan all titlework for approval into our database verses bring the physical hard copies, getting more dealers involved would allow for less employees to be tied up with dealers bring in work to be waited on. This would cost the department nothing.

Would you consider expanding the hours of operation for this office to better accommodate citizens? Why or why not. (100 words)

Possibly during our busiest times of the year just one day out of the week divide two shifts one from 8am-5pm the other from 9am-6pm, but there is not enough constant volume in our office to expand hours, working Saturdays would not allow us to be connected to outside sources if any problems should occur. We are constantly contacting our Regional Service Center, State Comptroller, and RTS IT system which are all operated weekdays from 8am -5 pm. The state also occasionally releases updates over the weekends. There is always online 24/7 access for renewals and tax payments.

Victoria County Tax Assessor - Collector

Jane Bernal is the Democratic candidate for this seat. Race will be decided in General Election in November.

Gracie Sosa Mendoza (R)

Preferred contact information:

Email: graciesosa@sbcglobal.net



Background / qualifications (50 words)

Occupation: Sergeant –Criminal Investigations, Calhoun County Sheriff’s Office (2011-current); Correctional Officer/Inmate Services Liaison for Victoria County Sheriff’s Office (2001-2011); Motor Vehicle Deputy for Victoria County Tax Assessor/Collector (1995-2001) Graduate of Victoria High School 1985, Victoria College Police Academy 2007 (Valedictorian), SWAT Certified 2015. Age (52)

What are your top three goals as Tax-Assessor Collector and how will you pursue them? (100 words)

- If elected, I will be accompanied by my treasurer Marilyn Davis (bringing over 24 years of our combined experience to the Tax Office.) Marilyn was my Supervisor in the Tax Office and will be Chief Deputy. Marilyn has always been a tremendous asset to Victoria County and served in Victoria County Auditor’s Office for many years as well.
- Hours of operation will be 8am-5pm (giving residents 10 extra hours a month at no cost to them.)
- Excellent and Professional Customer Service at all times from staff; HIRE Vets Program (2017) (Honoring Investments in Recruiting and Employing), Hiring College Interns.

What are the key challenges faced by the Office of Tax-Assessor Collector and how can they be addressed? (100 words)

- Change of leadership is never easy for any current staff. A meeting will be held to allow opinions/goals and to ensure them of positive changes and what is expected. Staff will be offered the opportunity to go to different training courses regarding the department and not just the same people. If some staff members decide to retire, there are experienced (prior staff) which have expressed eagerness to serve the Tax Office again for Victoria.
- Parking to be addressed with Commissioner’s court for easier access to our taxpayers.
- Encouraging all ethnicities and gender to apply (possibly hosting job fair booth)

What potential opportunities are there to improve operations and cost effectiveness within this department? (100 words)

- Improving and updating on-line payment service enabling taxpayers to pay several property locations at a time and other possible options if they are unable to drive downtown. (On-line service will have to be evaluated from within office to actually see if there is a newer up to date version available.)
- Assigning a title checking staff member to assist customers already waiting in line to ensure they have all of their title paperwork prior to reaching the next available staff member.
- My assistance to taxpayers to show staff members I am a team player. (Lead by example.)

Would you consider expanding the hours of operation for this office to better accommodate citizens? Why or why not. (100 words)

- I give my word I will change the current hours back to normal business hours of operation to 8am-5pm without costing the taxpayer’s money. This will add 10 more hours of operation a month. (It’s not much, but a start in the right direction. A few minutes can make a huge impact on customers’ time to handle their business.
- I’m open to suggestions regarding extended hours of operations in the future, however will have the staff’s safety first due to large amount of taxpayer’s funds in this office. All other surrounding offices close at 5pm.

Victoria County Tax Assessor - Collector

Jane Bernal is the Democratic candidate for this seat. Race will be decided in General Election in November.

Richard "Richie" Williams (R)

Preferred contact information:

Email: RichardWilliamsfortaxassessor@gmail.com

Phone: 361-212-0013



Background / qualifications (50 words)

48 years old. Army Combat Veteran. Associates Degree in Criminal Justice and graduate of the Constable's Leadership College. Served 12 years in law enforcement. Served as Constable Precinct 1 for Victoria County from July 2012 - December 2016 and currently work as a Deputy Fire Marshal for Victoria County.

What are your top three goals as Tax-Assessor Collector and how will you pursue them? (100 words)

- Work to find deductions and payment plans to better assist Senior Citizens, Handicapped, and Disabled veterans. This would allow citizens on fixed incomes to adjust their monthly income to ease stressing over quarterly payments.
- Have more accessibility to office by having a satellite office with a drive thru window available. Having this satellite office would alleviate the stress of the downtown parking and allow citizens with disabilities to conduct business without exiting their vehicles.
- Having the hours of operation extended to accommodate the constituents. This would allow the working class citizens to pay their taxes at a more convenient time.

What are the key challenges faced by the Office of Tax-Assessor Collector and how can they be addressed? (100 words)

Key challenges are congested parking area, location, hours of operation and helping finding deductions to better assist our community. Parking area of the tax office is shared with several entities within the county. I feel that by allowing to have at least one satellite office, we could limit the traffic downtown during business hours. I feel that the Citizens Imaging building would be a great starting point to assist with the already drive thru window. Allow the hours of operation to be extended and find tax deductions to help keep money in the constituent's hands.

What potential opportunities are there to improve operations and cost effectiveness within this department? (100 words)

- Potential opportunities to improve the operations and cost effectiveness within this department, would be to have the staff cross trained so that to limit the amount of time waiting in line. Having staff cross trained would help expedite service faster and speed the process up.
- Allow for the option of email receipts when applicable. This would allow to save on the mail out costs of envelopes, stamps and paper and ink used to print.
- Allow for archiving on secure computer main frame read only option to general public rather than indexed cards for easier access.

Would you consider expanding the hours of operation for this office to better accommodate citizens? Why or why not. (100 words)

This tax office is there to help and assist the community and the hours of operation need to be accommodating. I would entertain the idea of expanding the hours of operation and a Saturday option to accommodate the citizens. I feel that in today's economy, it takes two incomes to make it work. By extending the hours it would allow the working-class citizens to have access to their tax office. I would work with staff to accommodate their needs and at the same time help better serve our community.

County Commissioner – Precinct 3

There are no Democratic candidates for this seat. Election will be decided in Primary.

Gary Burns (R)

Preferred contact information:

Phone: 361-220-2284



Background / qualifications (50 words)

- Raised in the Hill Country working on ranches
- Worked my way through college / degree in business
- Supervisor in a large steel mill running crews (working supervisor)
- Supervisor for major trucking firm
- Opened and owned three businesses
- Own numerous rental properties and run a horse and cattle operation

What are your top three goals if elected, and how will you pursue them? (100 words)

1. Plan for the future. Pct 3 has over 1.5 million dollars in reserve. This is questioned but we recognized need to have money available for emergencies. Quail Creek subdivision is built over WW11 storm drains and there are concrete roads around the subdivision. An engineer's estimate for the roads is over a million dollars, not counting the storm drains. Don't spend just to get votes. Address issues.
2. Continued involvement with quality of life issues. This includes economic development, improvement of Patriot Park, membership on various Boards and committees, and cooperation with other agencies.
3. Support and develop airport.

What are the key challenges faced by the Commissioners Court and how can they be addressed? (100 words)

- Attract and retain quality employees. Example - Crisis with Sherriff's Office -- Understaffed and hard to be competitive with other areas. Other departments as well.
- Keep qualified people on all our boards. Not "yes men" but members not worried about questioning our actions. Eager to give their opinions.
- Working with limited budget and still providing superior services.
- We have to grow our tax base (attract new business and investment) and carefully look to save money in all areas. Don't invest in unneeded projects but be open to investing in areas that would save in the long term.

What potential opportunities are there to improve county operations and infrastructure? (100 words)

- Always look to operate more efficiently and ways to save tax dollars. During Hurricane Harvey, we didn't use the construction firm doing the repairs for the rest of the County. Pct. 3 demolished damaged buildings and, doing the work ourselves, built back bigger and better. We gave over \$50,000 back to the general fund for use on other needs.
- Pct 3 tries to save tax dollars wherever we can We build our own roads. This allows us, not only to save money, but assures us of the best road we can build with what limited resources are available.

How can the Commissioners Court assure citizens of transparency and fiscal accountability? (100 words)

- Keep public informed on how we spend their tax dollars. All substantial payments should be run through court for examination and approval. You have a concern, we get the answer.
- We all make mistakes, but the challenge is to learn from these mistakes. Believe me, it's not fun to disagree with the rest of Commissioners' Court but if the taxpayers want answers, we owe it to them. We should be concerned with answering these taxpayers and not each other.
- We must be willing to look at our actions with a critical eye and always look to improve and better serve.

County Commissioner – Precinct 3

There are no Democratic candidates for this seat. Election will be decided in Primary.

James Kurth (R)	
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Preferred contact information:

Phone: 361-302-2525

Email: JamesKurth4VCCPCT3@gmail.com

Background / qualifications (50 words)

Native of Victoria County. Served over 22 years in the Army, Navy, and National Guard. Earned Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. Owns and operates an oilfield services company. Married to Katy for over 20 years with two daughters, and everyone helps with the family cattle operation. Member of First Baptist Church.

What are your top three goals if elected, and how will you pursue them? (100 words)

Improving roads and drainage is a priority. I know how rough some Precinct 3 roads are because I drive on them. We need to make a real plan for maintaining and rebuilding our roads, and get to work pronto. Keeping the public safe is a priority. I know from military service how first responders often face unpredictable situations. I want to partner with our law enforcement and fire fighters to provide support and resources they need to keep us safe. Another priority is to make sure that along with working hard, the county works smart through innovation and using technology.

What are the key challenges faced by the Commissioners Court and how can they be addressed? (100 words)

Over 22 years of military service taught me how to take on challenges and get things done. I believe leading by example can help the county address many of the challenges it faces. I know leadership is more than just talk. While there's been lots of talk from certain people for years about economic development and jobs, many of us are still waiting to see real results from all those promises. It's time to stop talking about problems like lack of economic development, jobs, or poor roads and start solving them. Our military taught me to be a problem solver.

What potential opportunities are there to improve county operations and infrastructure? (100 words)

Having studied Information Technology Management and concentrated on digital forensics and information security management in graduate school, I have unique skills and experience from the military and business that can help spur innovation in how our county operates. We should ensure that the county is using technology to the fullest in operations and to enhance county services. Knowledge is power, and it's vital that the county have realistic plans in place for how it will operate in the next 5, 10, and even 20 years. As we say in the military, "When we fail to plan, we plan to fail".

How can the Commissioners Court assure citizens of transparency and fiscal accountability? (100 words)

Commissioners' Court can assure citizens of transparency and fiscal accountability by listening to county residents and continuing to be open in how the county conducts business. Transparency is enhanced through things like being able to watch Commissioners' Court meetings online, and we should build on that. I work hard and pay taxes, and want the county to keep a close eye on every dime. People should expect good services from the county, and that when they have problems the county will respond. I answered my country's call for years in the military, and I'll answer your call as County Commissioner.

County Commissioner – Precinct 3

There are no Democratic candidates for this seat. Election will be decided in Primary.

James Soderholtz (R)	
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Preferred contact information:

Campaign phone: 361-237-9341



Background / qualifications (50 words)

Worked for county for 17 years. Great understanding of how county operates. Voice my opinion about spending - why departments personal and budgets are cut, while others grow. Work and manage family ranch on tight budget - same for county budget, only certain amount of tax dollars to allocate.

What are your top three goals if elected, and how will you pursue them? (100 words)

1. Transparency on where tax payer's monies are spent and where it is spent.
2. Rural development, roads and infrastructure.
3. Strong volunteer fire dept

What are the key challenges faced by the Commissioners Court and how can they be addressed? (100 words)

Biggest challenge I see is working together. There have been many citizens concerned about the animosity with the current commissioner's court. This will have to be overcome as it is not good for the county.

What potential opportunities are there to improve county operations and infrastructure? (100 words)

Biggest challenge I see is working together. There have been many citizens concerned about the animosity with the current commissioner's court. This will have to be overcome as it is not good for the county.

How can the Commissioners Court assure citizens of transparency and fiscal accountability? (100 words)

The taxpayers of Victoria county need to know what projects and entity's money is spent. Making sure that it will benefit the county. Working with our economic development to bring companies in that will provide jobs and growth to our area.

County Constable – Precinct 1

Vincente Flores, Jr. is the Democratic candidate for this seat. Race will be decided in General Election.

Jeff Meyer (D)

Preferred contact information:

Cell: 361-935-4313

Email: jeffmeyer2020@yahoo.com



Background and Qualifications (50-words)

I have 36 years of law enforcement experience all in Victoria County. Approx 26 yrs, Criminal Investigations. 2,900 hrs TCOLE Training hrs. Master Peace Officer License. Supervisory experience as Lieutenant of both CID and Patrol Division at VCSO.

What are your top three goals if elected, and how will you pursue them? (100 words)

My goals if elected as Constable is to gain the trust of the residents in Precinct 1. I will patrol the Precinct as much as possible to reduce criminal activity. I will perform the Constable duties in a fair and professional manner. I promise to serve civil process in a timely manner and perform bailiff duties of the JP Court.

What are the challenges faced by the constable's office and how can they be addressed? (100 words)

I would say patrolling the Precinct as much as I would like. The Sheriff's Office, Civil Unit has shifted service back to the Constables Office because of manpower shortages. I will manage work hours to try and accommodate all duties of the Constable and serving the people of Precinct 1 effectively.

How much time will you be able to devote to constable duties? (100 words)

I will be a FULL TIME CONSTABLE. I am currently retired and I can and I am willing to devote as much time within reason to serve the residents of Precinct 1. Precinct 1 deserves a Constable that has the experience and time to serve them.

What potential opportunities are there to improve operations in the office of the constable? (100 words)

I feel that there is always the potential and opportunities to improve the operation within the Constables Office. At the present time it is hard to answer the question in my opinion without actually being the Constable. I assure everyone that, that it is my desire to serve as the Precinct 1 Constable for the people of Precinct 1. The people of Precinct 1 deserve a Constable with the experience and willingness to serve them in a fair and dependable manner.

County Constable – Precinct 1

Vincente Flores, Jr. is the Democratic candidate for this seat. Race will be decided in General Election.

Scott Townsend (D)

Preferred contact information:

Email: sgt_townsend@yahoo.com



Background and Qualifications (50-words)

Lifelong residence of Pct. 1. 1980 Graduate from Bloomington High School. 1981 T.S.T.C. graduate. Worked for the Victoria Co. Sheriff's Office for 23 yrs., 13 yrs. as a patrolman. Member of the DaCosta VFD since 1981, currently serving as Fire Chief. Served on the Bloomington School board for 7 yrs.

What are your top three goals if elected, and how will you pursue them? (100 words)

To patrol the pct. so that the people will see that there is someone out there other than the Sheriff's Office who is looking out for their interests. To serve any and all process that comes into the office efficiently and quickly. To enforce the laws of the State, criminal and traffic, fairly and without bias with a focus on reducing littering along the highways and patrolling the school zones to help ensure the safety of our children.

What are the challenges faced by the constable's office and how can they be addressed? (100 words)

Due to the actions of the previous constable, which led to him being removed from office, the community lacks trust in this office. My goal is to bring honesty, integrity, and respect back into the office. Once the people see that these are there, then we can start building trust between the people of pct. 1 and the constable office. Then the people will see that the constable is someone who will be there to help them, not to take advantage of their trust.

How much time will you be able to devote to constable duties? (100 words)

Currently, I'm employed by the federal government as a protective security officer assigned to the U.S. FEDERAL BUILDING in Victoria. If elected, by that time, the current contract will have expired which will allow me to devote the time that would be expected to the office to ensure that all process is served in a timely manner and provide the justice court with a full time bailiff so that court can be conducted in a safe and efficient manner.

What potential opportunities are there to improve operations in the office of the constable? (100 words)

There are always opportunities for improvement in any given situation and the constable's office is no different. With an increase in workload, there would be an opportunity to request the commissioner's court expand the office to include a fulltime deputy constable. This in turn would put two officers on the street serving papers instead of one which would reduce the amount of time required to serve the papers and allow the constable and the deputy to spend more time patrolling the community.

County Constable – Precinct 2

There are no Democratic candidates for this seat. Race will be decided in Primary.

<p>James Calaway (R)</p> <p><u>Preferred contact information:</u> Phone: 361-649-1987</p>	
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Background and Qualifications (50-words)

- Master Peace Officer's certification
- All state-mandated criminal & civil process training hours
- Additional education as deemed beneficial to the office
- Nearing 50,000 hours on-the-job experience
- Precinct 2 resident since 1953
- Contributed to Victoria economy as a small business owner for many years
- Property – owning, tax paying citizen of the County

What are your top three goals if elected, and how will you pursue them? (100 words)

- Continue to work with the Commissioners' Court on issues of concern within the county; without their support, nothing can be accomplished
- Continue to be a visible presence throughout the area, in school zones, neighborhoods and rural areas, accessible & available to address concerns in a timely manner.
- Continue to serve this office with fairness, honesty and integrity

What are the challenges faced by the constable's office and how can they be addressed? (100 words)

Victoria County Constables each run a one-man office. Constables are paid a salary by the County. There is no budget money to pay for deputies to expand coverage in any precinct. Constables are liable for volunteer officers they deputize to represent them in the County. There are only so many SO and PD officers on the street at any given time; Constables are available to be that additional LEO to help address rural and county needs. A one-man office does not have the manpower to properly manage investigations the way a fully staffed law enforcement department does.

How much time will you be able to devote to constable duties? (100 words)

- Continue to be available and responsive to the public 24 / 7
- Regularly serving at least 40 hours per week, averaging 8 to 10 hours per day, including but not limited to street time and handling issues that arise in rural areas of the county that, if not addressed, may pose hazards to motorists
- Serving as JP Court Bailiff
- Time spent serving civil process – including but not limited to addressing student truancy with parents, supervising evictions, and serving warrants, summonses and subpoenas.

What potential opportunities are there to improve operations in the office of the constable? (100 words)

Grow the office with additional paid deputies and equipment for those officers to operate safely and effectively. Equipment would include fully equipped law enforcement vehicles, computers, and bulletproof vests. This is accomplished by following procedures as specified by the Commissioners Court and County Grant Writers.

County Constable – Precinct 2

There are no Democratic candidates for this seat. Race will be decided in Primary.

Alton Johnston (R)

Preferred contact information:

Email: ajforpct2victoria@gmail.com

Facebook: @johnstonforconstable



Background and Qualifications (50-words)

I have been a licensed Texas Peace Officer since 1988. I retired from full time service in 2013 and continue as a reserve peace officer. I hold a Master Peace Officer proficiency, Mental Health Peace Officer Proficiency, Instructor proficiency, firearms instructor proficiency, have completed 3995 continuing education hours.

What are your top three goals if elected, and how will you pursue them? (100 words)

- Move office of Constable Pct. 2 into modern era of law enforcement. Accomplish by bringing technology to the office to better track crime trends and record keeping. Apply for grants for better technology and communicating with other agencies. This will address almost all areas lacking at this time.
- Patrol neighborhoods concentrating on specific problems. Address issue by monitoring crime trends, communication with people living in the neighborhoods and communicating with other law enforcement agencies to determine what issues are occurring.
- Serve all process issued out to the Justice court in a prompt and professional manner. Keep accurate records on service.

What are the challenges faced by the constable's office and how can they be addressed? (100 words)

The main challenge for the office of Constables in Victoria County is the lack of respect for the position. This comes from years of some of the Constables not serving in a professional manner or just not performing the duties of the office. This can be corrected by electing people to the position based upon qualifications and self-motivation. The office should be run as any other small law enforcement agency with the state. By this I mean that the Constable should serve papers, patrol, handle cases work traffic and communicate with the public.

How much time will you be able to devote to constable duties? (100 words)

I have never worked any career where I have a standard 40-hour work week. I have worked having two jobs at one time. Just as in all my other professional positions I will work as many hours as necessary to accomplish the tasks at hand.

What potential opportunities are there to improve operations in the office of the constable? (100 words)

As previously stated, the office of the Constable of Pct. 2 needs to be moved to the modern era of law enforcement. This can be accomplished by electing a person to the position that has the capabilities and desire to do this. The office needs to utilize modern technology something as simple as a computer-based record keeping system which is not being done would be a giant step forward. If the Constable is professional and up to date on changes within the profession then the respect for the office can be restored.

County Constable – Precinct 2

There are no Democratic candidates for this seat. Race will be decided in Primary.

Michael Parkinson (R)	
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<u>Preferred contact information:</u>	
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Did not receive response to questions in time for first printing.

County Constable – Precinct 4

There are no Democratic candidates for this seat. Race will be decided in Primary.

<p>Aaron J. Burleson (R)</p> <p>Preferred contact information: e-mail: ajburleson1318@yahoo.com cell: 361-571-6039</p>	
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Background and Qualifications (50-words)

Over 30 years of experience in Law Enforcement. I began my Law Enforcement career in January, 1983. I have worked for several different agencies. I have been a Patrolman, Senior Patrolman, DARE Instructor, Detective, Police Instructor, and Patrol Sergeant. I was also a Police Adviser in Iraq and Afghanistan.

What are your top three goals if elected, and how will you pursue them? (100 words)

My first goal is to be as visible in my precinct and community as much as possible, this can be done by frequent patrols in my police unit. My second goal is to monitor and enforce speed limits in our school zones, I will be monitoring and enforcing slower speed limits in the school zones in my precinct. Third goal is to make my office accessible to the people I serve. I do this by having my contact information readily available by social media and contact information that I give to my constituents on a daily basis.

What are the challenges faced by the constable's office and how can they be addressed? (100 words)

The only challenge I have experienced while being the Constable in Precinct 4 is a large amount of civil process to be served. I have overcome this challenge by devoting more time, varying my hours and working 6 days a week to serve the civil papers in a timely manner.

How much time will you be able to devote to constable duties? (100 words)

Since I was appointed Constable of Precinct 4 last August, 2019, I have devoted 7 days a week to the job. I believe that it's the type of job outside the realm of 8-5, Mon-Fri. Certain aspects of the job requires you work different hours of the day and night and 7 days a week. As your Constable I do that now, and will continue to do so in the future.

What potential opportunities are there to improve operations in the office of the constable? (100 words)

When it comes to opportunities to improving operations in the Constable office I would say to be active in the community. I taught Drug Abuse Resistance Education to our children in our Elementary schools and Jr. High school. Our children are important, and I plan to be spending more time with them. My training and experience will enable me to reach out to them in a positive manner.

County Constable – Precinct 4

There are no Democratic candidates for this seat. Race will be decided in Primary.

Harbour Holliday (R)

Preferred contact information:

Phone: 361-652-8309

Email: hdholliday@gmail.com



Background and Qualifications (50-words)

After graduating Industrial HS, I was self-employed in oilfield transportation and sales while earning my Business degree. I graduated the Police Academy in 2011, and was a Deputy at VCSO in the jail, then promoted to the Courts and Extradition Unit until 2018. I'm currently a Deputy at JCSO.

What are your top three goals if elected, and how will you pursue them? (100 words)

1. Increased visibility in the community with more patrol presence, especially in school zones and rural areas of our Precinct.
2. Establish and maintain an open dialogue with the citizens by being available and accessible to listen to concerns and suggestions.
3. Serve the Civil Processes of JP Court #4 professionally and without delay.

What are the challenges faced by the constable's office and how can they be addressed? (100 words)

The Constable's office has many duties and responsibilities, which can present challenges. It is important to be available and visible within the community to deter crime and respond appropriately. I want to have a good working relationship with other agencies, such as the VPD and VCSO, to collaborate as needed within the precinct.

How much time will you be able to devote to constable duties? (100 words)

I will dedicate myself full-time to perform all duties as Constable of Precinct 4. This position demands such commitment and should not be treated as a part-time or side job. I will not neglect my duties as Constable in order to maintain a full-time position elsewhere.

What potential opportunities are there to improve operations in the office of the constable? (100 words)

There are several opportunities to improve operations in the Constable's office. I believe it is vital to improve the visibility of the Constable, as increased patrol presence deters potential crime. This, along with maintaining accessibility and establishing trust with the citizens in our community will improve upon operations that the current office is lacking. Other duties, such as serving civil papers and acting as bailiff for Judge Miller's court, are both areas that I am both familiar and proficient, thanks to my experience in the Courts and Extradition Unit at VCSO.

Party Ballot Propositions

These are not Texas Constitutional Amendments. They are propositions from the State offices of the Republican and Democratic parties that are used to measure public opinion on key issues or platform planks. The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any of these – they are only provided as information items to voters.

Democratic	Republican
1. Should everyone in Texas have a right to quality healthcare, protected by a universally accessible Medicare-style system that saves rural hospitals, reduces the cost of prescription drugs, and guarantees access to reproductive healthcare?	1. Texas should not restrict or prohibit prayer in public schools.
2. Should everyone in Texas have the right to high-quality public education from pre-k to 12th grade, and affordable college and career training without the burden of crushing student loan debt?	2. Texas should reject restrictions on the right to keep and bear arms
3. Should everyone in Texas have the right to clean air, safe water, affordable and sustainable alternative energy sources, and a responsible climate policy that recognizes and addresses the climate crisis as a real and serious threat that impacts every aspect of life on this planet?	3. Texas should ban the practice of taxpayer-funded lobbying, which allows your tax dollars to be spent on lobbyists who work against the taxpayer.
4. Should everyone in Texas have the right to economic security, where all workers have earned paid family and sick leave, training to prepare for future economies, and a living wage that respects their hard work?	4. Texas should support the construction of a physical barrier and use existing defense-grade surveillance equipment along the entire southern border of Texas.
5. Should everyone in Texas have the right to a life of dignity and respect, free from discrimination and harassment anywhere, including businesses and public facilities, no matter how they identify, the color of their skin, whom they love, socioeconomic status, disability status, housing status, or from where they come?	5. Texas parents or legal guardians of public school children under the age of 18 should be the sole decision makers for all their children's healthcare decisions including, but not limited to, psychological assessment and treatment, contraception, and sex education.
6. Should everyone in Texas have the right to live a life free from violence – gun violence, racial hatred, terrorism, domestic violence, bullying, harassment, or sexual assault – so Texans can grow in a safe environment?	6. Texas should ban chemical castration, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and genital mutilation surgery on all minor children for transition purposes, given that Texas children as young as three (3) are being transitioned from their biological sex to the opposite sex.
7. Should everyone in Texas have the right to affordable and accessible housing and modern utilities (electricity, water, gas, and high-speed internet) free from any form of discrimination?	7. Texans should protect and preserve all historical monuments, artifacts, and buildings, such as the Alamo Cenotaph and our beloved Alamo, and should oppose any reimagining of the Alamo site.
8. Should every eligible Texan have the right to vote, made easier by automatic voter registration, the option to vote by mail, guaranteed early and mobile voting stations, and a state election holiday – free from corporate campaign influence, foreign and domestic interference, and gerrymandering?	8. Texas election officials should heed the directives of the Office of the Governor to purge illegal voters from the voter rolls and verify that each new registered voter is a U.S. Citizen.
9. Should everyone in Texas have the right to a fair criminal justice system that treats people equally, uses proven methods for de-escalating situations instead of excessive force, and puts an end to the mass and disproportionate incarceration of people of color for minor offenses?	9. Bail in Texas should be based only on a person's danger to society and risk of flight, not that person's ability to pay.
10. Should there be a just and fair comprehensive immigration reform solution that includes an earned path to citizenship for law-abiding immigrants and their children, keeps families together, protects DREAMers, and provides workforce solutions for businesses?	10. Texas should limit our state legislators' terms to 12 years.
11. Should Texas establish equitable taxation for people at all income levels and for businesses and corporations, large and small, so our state government can fund our educational, social, infrastructure, business, and all government services to improve programs necessary for all Texans to thrive?	

QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOTING

You must be a citizen of the United States, registered to vote, and at least 18 years old on Election Day. You must not have been declared mentally incompetent by a court. If you have been convicted of a felony, you may register to vote after you have completed the punishment phase of your conviction, including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, or period of probation ordered by the court.

VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

You must register at least 30 days prior to an election. Your registration will remain in effect and a new certificate will be sent to you every two years. It will not be forwarded to a new address, so if you move, you must notify your County Clerk or Elections Administrator of your new address. If you move to another county, you must reregister. Take your registration certificate and another form of identification to the polls. The current certificate, sent in January 2020, is peach / white.

Use this link to the *Am I Registered?* webpage: <https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do> If you are registered to vote, you will see a screen with your personal information listed. If you are NOT registered to vote, a pop-up window will state that your voter registration was not found. In some cases, the response might be incorrect. In that case, call the Victoria County Elections office to confirm your voter registration status. As the webpage states, the website is NOT your official voter registration record.

WHAT VOTER IDs ARE ACCEPTABLE AT THE POLES?

Voters are required to use one of seven (7) forms of photo ID listed below. IDs may be expired up to four years.

- Texas Driver License
- Texas Election Identification Certificate(EIC) issued by the Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by the Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas license to carry a handgun issued by the Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- US military identification card containing the person's photograph
- US passport
- US citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph

ADDITIONALLY, registered voters without a photo ID may sign a one-page form titled "Voter's Declaration of Reasonable Impediment or Difficulty" and present it with one of the following documents to vote a regular ballot: Valid voter registration certificate (card), Certified birth certificate. Current utility bill, Bank statement, Government check, Paycheck, any other government document with the individual's name and address.

LOST VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

If you have lost or misplaced your voter registration certificate, you may vote by providing some form of identification (see list below) and signing an affidavit at the polls. You will be allowed to vote if your name appears on the rolls in your county of residence. Acceptable forms of identification are: a driver's license or personal identification card issued by the Dept. of Public Safety, a form of identification containing your photograph, a birth certificate, United States citizenship papers, a United States passport, official mail addressed to you from a governmental entity, a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and address.

VOTING IN TEXAS PRIMARIES

When you vote in a political party's primary, you become a member of that party for the next two years or until the next primary election. Your voting certificate will be stamped, at the time you vote, with the name of the party in whose primary you vote. You may vote in only one party's primary. If there is a runoff, you may vote only in the same party's runoff election. Only party members may participate in the precinct, county or senatorial district, and state conventions of a particular party. Proof of party affiliation (i.e., your stamped voting certificate) is needed in order to be admitted to a party's convention. Precinct conventions are held after the polls close on Election Day, and county conventions will be held after primary elections. Parties other than those whose candidates are listed in this Voters Guide are not holding primary elections; instead, their candidates are nominated and selected in their precinct, county, and state conventions. Party precinct conventions are the first step in the process that: adopts the state party platform; certifies the party's nominees for state office in general elections; selects delegates to the party's county or senatorial district, state, and national conventions; nominates presidential electors; elects national party committee members; writes the national party platform.



Readers, you may have noticed that this printed Voters Guide only contains information about candidates in local and Victoria County races. You can find information about all the other Texas candidates seeking election in Texas by accessing www.VOTE411.org. Launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) more than 10 years ago, VOTE411.org is a "one-stop-shop" for election related information.

The League of Women Voters-Victoria has also sent local voters guide to League of Women Voters – TX for on our page at <https://my.lwv.org/texas/victoria>.

In addition, both general and state-specific information on various aspects of the election process can be accessed in VOTE411.com., including

- Early voting and mail-in ballot information
- Important dates to remember during the election cycle
- General information on such topics as how to watch debates with a critical eye
- ID requirements
- Polling place locations and voter registration deadlines, plus voter qualifications, voter registration forms, and voting machine details. Voters throughout the nation are encouraged to utilize this resource to become more informed about the voting process and candidates' opinions.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO LWVUS AND LWVTX FOR MAKING VOTE411
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL LEAGUES AT NO COST**

If you experience problems when registering to vote or when you show up to vote the Election Protection Project can help. Learn more at:

<https://866ourvote.org/state/texas/> or Call 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683)

***** JOIN THE LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of VICTORIA LAL (League at Large) *****

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Donations to help fund future Voters' Guides can be sent to LWV-Victoria at 106 S. De Leon St., Victoria 77901

For More Information call 361-550-6552 or email kathyhunt@suddenlink.net

Find us on Facebook at League of Women Voters - Victoria