

VOTERS GUIDE

EARLY VOTING: October 22–November 2, 2018 » ELECTION DAY: Polls open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., November 6, 2018

» EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

The November 6 General Election is competitive, exciting, and important! Voters have a chance to make a difference for their family, community, state, and nation!

» HEY! TEXAS VOTERS! NEVER FORGET AN ELECTION! SIGN UP FOR VOTING REMINDERS!

- Text LWVTX to 80123 to receive voting reminders on your phone.
- <https://my.lwv.org/texas/get-voting-reminders>

» VOTERS GUIDE RULES

- Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification.
- Candidates are listed alphabetically by party.
- This Voters Guide is organized by office.
- The names of unopposed candidates are also listed.
- Questionnaires are sent to all candidates unless they are unopposed.
- Candidates are asked to avoid references to their opponents
 - Sentences that did not meet this criteria are indicated with the following:
(Sentence does not meet criteria)
 - Videos that do not comply are removed.
- Candidates with no photo did not submit a photo by the print deadline
- Candidates who do not respond to our questionnaire by the print deadline are listed with the notation, “No response received.” Their information may or may not be in VOTE411.org.
- Ballot order at the polls will vary from county to county.

» ABOUT THIS VOTERS GUIDE

This Voters Guide is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund. The League never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties. For a hundred years, the League has been helping voters cast an informed vote when they go to the polls.

VOTE411.org
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED



» HELPFUL CONTACTS AND WEBSITES

<https://www.VOTE411.org>

Comal County Elections Office: www.comal.tx.us/elections.htm

League of Women Voters - Comal Area
lwvcomal.org

Secretary of State
sos.state.tx.us
VoteTexas.gov

Election Protection Voter Hotline!
866-OUR-VOTE English
888-Ve-Y-Vota Spanish
888-API-VOTE English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese, Bengali, Urdu, Hindi, and Tagalog

Republican Party
texasgop.org

Democratic Party
txdemocrats.org

Libertarian Party
lptexas.org

U.S. SENATOR

Six-year term. One of two members of the U.S. Senate from Texas. The Senate has the exclusive power to advise and consent on presidential nominations to executive and judicial offices, to ratify U.S. treaties, and to try impeachments. With the U.S. House, the Senate adopts budgets, levies taxes, borrows money, regulates interstate commerce, provides services, adopts regulations, and declares war. Current annual salary: \$174,000

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Health Care: What specific reforms, if any, would you propose in health care policy to address the cost of and access to health care?

Immigration: What changes, if any, should Congress make in immigration policies?

Public Safety: What do you see as the best way to address mass shootings such as the ones in Santa Fe, Sutherland Springs, and Las Vegas?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of Congress, and what is your position on these issues?

» **Ted Cruz (R)** No response received



» Beto O'Rourke (D)

Background: As a member of the City Council, I balanced a budget each year and ensured we were creating opportunity for everyone—fighting for public schools, good paying jobs and a community that treated everyone with respect. As a Congressman, I've worked with both parties to write legislation including laws that improve access to health care for veterans.

Health Care: As the least insured state, we should be working to ensure every Texan can see a doctor, afford their prescriptions, and get the care they need so they are healthy enough to go to school, work a job, and live to their full potential. We must also work together to end the maternal mortality crisis in this country. Finally, let's lower prescription costs, safeguard Medicare, expand Medicaid, defend protections for those with pre-existing conditions and achieve guaranteed, universal health care.

Immigration: We need to rewrite our immigration laws to reflect our interests, our values, and the reality on the ground in Texas. Recognizing we are a nation of laws that can maintain order at the border without dehumanizing anyone, we have to put a stop to family separation, ensure that every separated family is reunified, pass the DREAM Act, provide immigrants with a fair path to work and citizenship, and ensure that everyone who comes to this country can contribute to their full potential.



» Neal M. Dikeman (L)

Background: I'm a 6th gen Texan with a young family, active in my church and community. I've founded 7 tech startups, held every executive job from CEO, CFO, to Board member. My degree is economics, my career has been international. I know energy, tech, finance, ag, & Texas. I'm not a politician or career

government employee, but I know policy and I deliver

Health Care: Today doctors work for insurers; insurers for your boss; nobody works for you; so the system doesn't work. We need a Million Payer system: health insurance not tied to your job with spiraling costs hidden by government intervention and a bad 1940s corporate tax deal. Where you buy insurance directly, usable anywhere not just in a private insurer network. Give you corporate tax deal, open up the networks, require good faith estimates. Address cost and choice, not restrict price and service.

Immigration: Congress has talked about fixing immigration my entire voting life—with no action from either side. This has to change. Our current system works for no one. Immigration is a strength of America. We need more legal immigration, so that our companies and jobs stay home, and America reaps the benefits of its melting pot and factories. We need clear pathways for immigrants to come to this country to work, whether they stay and earn citizenship or not, combined with enforcement of our laws.

GOVERNOR

Four-year term. The governor is chief executive which means that he/she carries out the law. He/she appoints members to boards and commissions, appoints statewide executive officials, state judges, and district attorneys when vacancies occur, delivers the State of the State address, provides guidance to the legislature, calls special sessions of the legislature and sets the agenda. The governor can veto legislation (including a line-item veto on appropriations), sign legislation, or allow it to become law without his/her signature. Current annual salary: \$150,000
» What does the governor do? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9mbgGhulyY&feature=youtu.be>

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Health Care: What specific reforms, if any, would you propose in state health care policy to address the cost of and access to health care for all Texans?

Infrastructure: What specific measures do you propose to meet the state's growing infrastructure needs (i.e. water, energy, and transportation)?

School Safety: What can be done to ensure the safety of our children in schools?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas Legislature, and what is your position on these issues?

» **Greg Abbott (R)** No response received



» Lupe Valdez (D)

Background: As a daughter of migrant farmworkers, I've dedicated my career to public service and working for the greater good. From 2005-2017, I served as Dallas County Sheriff, managing a \$140+ million budget, and reformed a department that sorely needed it. I'm a proud veteran and spent most of my career as a federal agent.

Health Care: We have a health care crisis in Texas. An unregulated private health care system puts profit over people, while we remain the most uninsured state in the country. It's time to accept Medicaid expansion, which would insure 1.5 million Texans. We must expand access to healthcare in rural communities, which have become medical deserts after Texas closed more rural hospitals than any other state in the country in the last 8 years. I will also fight tirelessly to protect women's healthcare.

Infrastructure: First, we need to stop focusing on harmful, job-killing bills and start paying attention to the issues that truly matter to Texans. We should promote public and private investment in renewable energies and make sure all communities have access to safe, clean drinking water. All over our state, Texans sit in traffic because we have failed to make adequate investments. This is why transportation funding must meet our needs today, so that we are ready for future growth.



» Mark Jay Tippetts (L)

Background: I am bilingual and bi-cultural, and by profession, I am an International Legal & Business Consultant in Mexico and Latin America. I represented the Libertarian Party on the ballot in 2010 for Travis County Judge. In 2017, I was appointed to city council in Lago Vista, Texas. I know what it means to

hold office and stand on principles.

Health Care: I believe government should not provide, control, nor require health care. I do not believe that people have a right to be provided with healthcare at other peoples' expense. I will advocate the phasing out of Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIPS programs. I support free market based healthcare systems and health insurance. I oppose a "single payer" concept and the federal legislation known as the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Obama Care).

Infrastructure: I support eliminating barriers to free market construction and maintenance of infrastructure. We should let market demand and willingness to fund dictate which routes are developed. I oppose costly projects intended to benefit land developers through the abuse of eminent domain. Never should unelected boards be charged with transportation planning; as such boards are not accountable to constituents or local authority. Toll roads should not be used to restrict people's freedom of movement.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Four-year term. The lieutenant governor is powerful because of his/her position as president of the Texas Senate where he/she appoints the chairs and vice-chairs of committees, appoints senators to committees, assigns bills to committees, and controls the Senate's agenda. He/she is also a member of several commissions and boards, and serves as governor in the governor's absence. Salary is that of a state senator when serving as President of the Texas Senate \$9,612 plus \$190 per diem and that of the governor when serving in governors absence.

» What does the lieutenant governor do? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3R0FmiZnEPQ&feature=youtu.be>

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Health Care: What specific reforms, if any, would you propose in state health care policy to address the cost of and access to health care for all Texans?

Infrastructure: What specific measures do you propose to meet the state's growing infrastructure needs (i.e. water, energy, and transportation)?



» Dan Patrick (R)

Background: Please refer to www.danpatrick.org/meet-dan for my biographical information.

Health Care: My stance on important issues facing Texas is detailed in my record as the Lt. Governor of Texas. Please refer to www.danpatrick.org, as well as my official website, www.ltgov.state.tx.us, for the most current information on my positions.

Infrastructure: My stance on important issues facing Texas is detailed in my record as the Lt. Governor of Texas. Please refer to www.danpatrick.org, as well as my official website, www.ltgov.state.tx.us, for the most current information on my positions.

School Safety: My stance on important issues facing Texas is detailed in my record as the Lt. Governor of Texas. Please refer to www.danpatrick.org, as well as

School Safety: What can be done to ensure the safety of our children in schools?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas Legislature, and what is your position on these issues?

my official website, www.ltgov.state.tx.us, for the most current information on my positions.

Other Issues: My stance on important issues facing Texas is detailed in my record as the Lt. Governor of Texas. Please refer to www.danpatrick.org, as well as my official website, www.ltgov.state.tx.us, for the most current information on my positions.

Website: <http://danpatrick.org/>
Campaign Phone: (817) 223-4767
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/dan.patrick.texas/>
Twitter: twitter.com/DanPatrick
Email: hannah@danpatrick.org



» Mike Collier (D)

Background: For many years I was a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers, leading teams of professionals performing financial audits and rigorous financial and operational analysis. I hold a BBA and an MBA from UT-Austin. Suzanne and I have been married 29 years and we have two sons who attended public schools (K-12) in Texas. Both graduated from UT-Austin.

Health Care: It's time we expand Medicaid. It's a good deal for Texas. We also need a Patient Financial Bill of Rights, including (1) absolute protection for Texans with pre-existing conditions, (2) protection against in-network vs. out-of-network surprise billings, (3) bills that are transparent and in plain English, and (4) mandatory disclosure if lower cost options (drugs and procedures) are available. And we must invest in women's health, mental health, and children's health, as we once did!

Infrastructure: We have a revenue problem in Texas that we must fix. Otherwise we cannot invest properly in infrastructure. In so doing, we cannot increase taxes on homeowners, because we are over-taxed already. As Lt. Governor I will take the first step in solving this problem by closing a well document big-corporate property tax loophole (known as Equal and Uniform) which will recover \$5 billion in missing revenues (per year). Other steps, if needed, will be the subject of my reelection campaign.

School Safety: I do not support arming teachers and "hardening targets." The answer in my opinion is more counselors and trained psychologists who can develop relationships with students and react before, not after, a crisis develops. We also need a background check system that works, and red flag laws. Some physical security upgrades will no doubt be called for by local officials. The state should appropriate funds and enact legislation according to these principles.

Other Issues: We must increase investment in public education (smaller class sizes, special education teachers, pre-K, better pay for teachers and support staff), reform the charter model to achieve the original objective (enhance public school effectiveness), and end further discussion of vouchers. We must restore health-care benefits taken away from retired teachers, and fund teacher retirement plans (TRS-Care and defined benefit pensions). We must end gerrymandering and reform our criminal justice sys

Website: <http://CollierForTexas.com>
Campaign Phone: (832) 544-9050
Facebook: <http://Facebook.com/MikeCollier>
Twitter: twitter.com/CollierForTexas
Email: campaign@CollierForTexas.com

Health Care: The most important thing the state could do for healthcare is to allow interstate commerce of insurance. This would allow for true ompetition and drive down the costs. I'd also like, but do not have the authority, to drastically decrease the size of the FDA which creates corrupt structures reducing market competition.

Infrastructure: TXDoT must prioritize TX's infrastructure results that are fixes rather than patches. Water is the life-blood of Texas's agriculture, energy and tourist industry. We must work with those industries and districts to ensure



» Kerry Douglas McKennon (L)

Background: I have 20+ years of management experience. I am National Chair of Outright Libertarians, have had two terms on the LPTexas executive board, and had two terms as the Platform Chair for LPTexas. I am the Libertarian Party Hale County Chair.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | (continued)

» Kerry Douglas McKennon (L) (continued)

water in perpetuity. Energy and water go hand in hand. Our current guidelines are decades old, causing us infrastructure damage, loss of water, potential loss of energy, and loss of life and property. TX needs regulation and technology more modern than the mid 20th century.

School Safety: We have a constitutionally mandated public-school system in Texas, which we must make safe while respecting individuals and their rights. We must empower local schools to determine their safety protocols as opposed to a blanket state-issued guideline. Some schools may allow teachers to carry arms for defense. Others may put in metal detectors. Many will find ways to have secure lockdown. There are free market options regarding public school safety, which I encourage schools to research.

Other Issues: Police accountability through body cameras, require police to take out their own insurance for accidents, and demilitarize our officers. Repeal all laws which make a criminal of someone without a victim. A crime requires a victim. A perfect example of this is responsible cannabis use. For all such victimless cases I would expunge records of those currently or formerly incarcerated. Abol-

ish the death penalty. It is better to incarcerate hundreds of criminals than execute a single innocent.

Website: <http://mckennon4texas.com>
Campaign Phone: (682) 717-8075
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/McKennonforTexas/>
Email: mckennonfortexas@gmail.com

» LWV VISION STATEMENT

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

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Four-year term. The attorney general is the chief law enforcement officer of the state, represents the state and state officials in legal matters, issues opinions, collects child support, administers the crime victims compensation fund, enforces the open records/open meetings acts, approves public bond issues, and enforces consumer regulations. Current annual salary: \$153,750

» What does the attorney general do? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcrvTA-RlHE&feature=youtu.be>

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Responsibilities: Which responsibilities of the Attorney General's office are your highest priorities for the next 4 years, and how do you intend to accomplish them?

Consumer protection: What are the most important consumer protection issues facing Texans?

Other Issues: What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

» Ken Paxton (R) No response received



» Justin Nelson (D)

Background: The Texas Attorney General should be a check on power, not a rubber stamp. I learned about the rule of law from Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. I teach at University of Texas Law School, and am a "Texas Super Lawyer" for being one of the most effective lawyers in Texas. Texas deserves an Attorney General who will fight for ALL TEXANS.

Responsibilities: The Texas Attorney General should be a check on power. I will stand up for the rule of law. The Texas Attorney General should not be a rubber stamp for anyone—whether in Washington D.C. or Austin. Nobody is above the law. I will fight corruption, work to protect pre-existing conditions in health care coverage, fight for public education, advocate for resources to treat the opioid crisis, and crack down on fraud.

Consumer protection: The Texas Attorney General's office should fight fraud, cybercrime, and corruption to make sure everyone has a level playing field. I will

make sure that small businesses and individuals are not the victims of fraud and deception. This includes ending partisan lawsuits and focusing on non-partisan consumer fraud investigations and making sure Texas is the leader in responding to fraud after natural disasters.

Other Issues: The Texas Attorney General has wide power to ensure justice. I will clean up the Attorney General's office, ending the corruption, and addressing our most urgent problems—fighting the opioid crisis, protecting consumers from fraudulent and abusive businesses, reforming criminal justice, fixing the child support system, ending gerrymandering. I will make the office into one that fights for every single Texan.

Website: <http://www.nelsonfortexas.com>
Campaign Phone: (512) 964-9323
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/NelsonforTexas/>
Twitter: twitter.com/NelsonForTexas
Email: info@nelsonfortexas.com

» Michael Ray Harris (L) No response received

COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Four-year term. The comptroller is the chief financial officer of the state, collects state taxes and fees, pays the state's bills, provides revenue estimates to the legislature, certifies the budget, reports the condition of the state's finances, and provides economic development assistance to local governments and private businesses. Current annual salary: \$150,000
» What does the comptroller do? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=blKSUsAZk2E&feature=youtu.be>

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Revenue: What measures would you take to address the financial viability of the State of Texas?

Responsibilities: Which responsibilities of the Comptroller of Public Accounts office are your highest priorities, and how do you intend to accomplish them?

Other Issues: What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

» Glenn Hegar (R) No response received



» Joi Chevalier (D)

Background: As an innovative senior product strategist for successfully acquired startups to Fortune 100s, I've led large, diverse teams with products, programs, and internal businesses earning billions in revenue. Currently, I am a small business owner, focused on launching food companies into market, generating new food products, jobs, and entrepreneurs.

Revenue: Cutting costs is no substitute for creating revenue. The Comptroller's office should work to increase revenue with regular agency audits to understand/fix lost revenues; support real school finance reform; close loopholes in commercial valuations; increase small business growth and expansion; update outdated consumption taxes; fully implement Internet taxes after the SCOTUS Wayfair decision; sunset old sector abatements; reduce Texas' \$50B debt to free Texas finances up to serve its citizens.

Responsibilities: The Comptroller's office can tie dollars to real world outcomes. It must be neutral, fair, and accurate about legislation & program values; in-



» Ben Sanders (L)

Background: I've trained my entire life for this position. During my years at NASA & the US Army, I honed my skills in leadership, through fairness, integrity, and honor and will instill those values in the eighteen Field Offices across Texas. As Comptroller I won't use scare tactics against my fellow Texans to control them. Together we can Win!

Revenue: Your government's principal function is to protect your freedom, your unalienable rights of Life, Liberty and Property, all crucial rights for building a free and prosperous society. My vision of government is one strictly confined to its constitutional role, a government that respects civil liberties, recognizes that the individual is more important than the State, exercises fiscal restraint and understands that government must pay its debts, believing in free markets.

Responsibilities: 1.) Creating a more fiscally transparent Texas Government through the use of technology. 2.) Form a better fiscal educational outreach system for Texans. To help educate and promote small business and consumers on taxes and business process for better job creation. 3.) To faithfully execute my oath of office and safeguarding that I and no one in my administration performs any action that violates the constitutions of the United States of America or the State of Texas.

Other Issues: Four years ago I warned the Texas Pension system was insolvent and grossly under funded, that it could not pay the money due its members. Now that warning has become a reality. As Texas Comptroller I have a plan to protect our State Pension Holders, and their families, ensuring their financial security by giving them the right to retire on their own terms and control their own futures.

crease revenue while stewarding cost; encourage large & small business growth; be a proactive voice defending Texans' daily lives with innovative and forward-thinking management of her wallet. This includes Special Reports on economic opportunities in expanding ACA/Medicaid or tackling school finance reform, so legislators make informed policy decisions.

Other Issues: Healthcare: the Comptroller should provide special reports on costs to Texas in not implementing the ACA / Medicaid expansion. Texans carry the cost for uncompensated or underfunded care, no preventative care, or care pushed out to criminal justice and housing due to a broken ACA implementation and a failure by Republican leaders to have real data and prioritize this. We need to reclaim Texas' dollars and use them here. It's an outsized part of the budget and hampers prioritizing in other areas.

Website: <http://www.joifortexas.com>
Campaign Phone: (737) 808-4405
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JoiForTexas/>
Email: chevaliercampaign@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.vote4sanders.com>
Campaign Phone: (469) 262-6050
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Ben-Sanders-for-Texas-Comptroller-2018-322830497867223/>
Twitter: twitter.com/vote4sanders
Email: ben@Vote4Sanders.com
Video: <https://www.youtube.com/v/CfhY1XNqHg>

» WHERE AND WHEN TO VOTE

Vote early!

- Early Voting begins Monday, October 22, through Friday, November 2, 2018.
- All registered voters may vote early in person at any early voting location in their county.
- Check with your local newspaper or your county clerk or election administrator for early voting times and locations.

Where do I vote?

- Contact your County Election Official. They can tell you where you can vote.
- Use VOTE11.org. Enter your address and find where to vote.

COMMISSIONER OF GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Four-year term. The land commissioner oversees the state's land and minerals. As such, he/she chairs the Veterans Land Board, which administers five programs for Texas veterans, manages the leasing and sale of state lands (which supplies funds to the Permanent School Fund), is responsible for environmental protection of Texas' coast, and chairs eight state boards including the School Land Board and the Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee. Current annual salary: \$137,500
» What does the land commissioner do? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BB1qoaQTz60&feature=youtu.be>

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

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

Veterans: What are the most significant land-related issues facing Texas veterans and what can the General Land Office do to address those needs?

Other Issues: What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?



» George P. Bush (R)

Background: I have run a conservative and efficient Land Office. I am saving taxpayer money while putting more money into the Public School Fund than ever before. The GLO has been a government office that works for the people during my first term.

Coastal Planning: The restoration of McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge in Jefferson County is one example of what we are trying to do on the coast. Restoration to this area provides critical protection to Port Arthur and the oil and gas infrastructure of the state. The GLO, along with its partners, has identified approximately 60 similar, high priority projects.

Veterans: The General Land Office offers several great veterans programs such as the home loan and health care assistance programs. I'm committed to continuously looking at all of these programs at the GLO and across this great state for



» Miguel Suazo (D)

Background: As a former US Senate staffer, I have worked on issues related to land use planning, education, veterans, environmental protection, and economic development. As an energy professional and attorney, I will provide direction on mineral leasing for supporting education, a key duty of the GLO, and also stewardship of our Texas lands

Coastal Planning: The Land Commissioner must be proactive in protecting the coast from natural and man-made dangers. I will use nature to protect it and ourselves a central focus of my duties. For example, restoring oyster habitats, preventing brackish water invasion of fresh water habitats, combating invasive species, building berms and sand dunes, are all elements of a "coastal wall" that will limit flooding and must all be part of a comprehensive approach to coastal protection.

Veterans: Veterans can face formidable challenges returning to civilian life following their service to their country. I am concerned that the VLB is not offer-



» Matt Pina (L)

Background: First, I was raised in Texas. For this position, it is of utter importance that this person is raised in the state as it monitors two major things. Our public lands, such as the Alamo, and our public school fund. I have my B.A. and M.A. in political science and currently sit on San Antonio's

Transportation Board.
Coastal Planning: While many of our bays are surrounded by larger metro areas there is plenty of coastline that is not supported or kept to the same pristine condition. With the offshore drilling taking place off the shore I would like to see

ways to improve the lives of our military and each of their families. Any time a veteran needs help in getting an education, a job, or health care we should try and provide some form of assistance.

Other Issues: Continuing Hurricane Harvey relief—The Texas coast was devastated by Harvey last fall and we need to continue to fight for those affected. Helping Veterans—Ensuring that veterans have access to crucial services is a top priority for my agency. Saving the Alamo—My objective is to ensure the Alamo tells the heroic story of the battle better than ever and for many years to come.

Website: <http://www.georgefortexas.org/>
Campaign Phone: (512) 804-6068
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/georgefortexas/>
Twitter: twitter.com/georgepbush
Email: teamp@georgepbush.com

ing sufficiently competitive loans to Texas veterans compared to many other programs through the Department of Veterans' Affairs and other states. I also think that the extent of the GLO's outsourcing to third parties the origination and servicing of these loans needs to be examined.

Other Issues: The most critical issue facing the next Land Commissioner is that of leadership. The Land Commissioner must elevate the profile of the key issues Texans face through the GLO and educate the public about these issues, especially with respect to the Alamo. The current commissioner has failed to demonstrate the managerial ability to achieve success for Texas on a range of issues. Texans must elect a leader with a proven record of success and I believe I am that leader.

Website: <http://www.miguelsuazo.org>
Campaign Phone: (903) 420-0621
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/MiguelSuazoForTXLandCommissioner/?ref=bookmarks>
Twitter: twitter.com/MrMiguelSuazo
Email: SuazoGLO2018@gmail.com

some of the revenue generated from that exploration go towards the maintenance of that space.

Veterans: The biggest gap faced by veterans is by those who are permanently disabled. In the state of Texas, little is done to ensure that they can live in adequate settings that afford them to live independent and normal lives. H.E.B. has on average provided 2 homes a year to Homes For Our Troops. An organization that builds homes for permanently disabled Veterans. While I applaud the effort made by these organizations, the General Land Office could coordinate in order to make these homes cheaper
Other Issues: The Alamo doesn't belong under the Land Commissioner's purview. As the current GLO commissioner isn't a native Texan, I will quickly

COMMISSIONER OF GENERAL LAND OFFICE | (continued)

» Matt Pina (L) (continued)

explain that the Alamo was saved from demolition by a group of women who were descended from the founders of this great state—the Daughters of the Texas Republic. These women fought tooth and nail to purchase and restore the Alamo for all Texans. It should be returned to the effective stewardship of The Daughters of the Texas Republic.

Website: <http://mattpina.com>
Campaign Phone: (210)336-8389
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/VoteMattPina>
Twitter: @votemattpina
Email: contact@mattpina.com

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Four-year term. The agriculture commissioner’s principal job is promoting Texas’ agricultural products. In this capacity, the commissioner facilitates trade and marketing of agricultural products, regulates weights and measures, regulates pesticide use and application, certifies organically produced products, administers the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs, provides financial help to farmers, and helps solve issues related to natural disasters. Current annual salary: \$137,500
» What does the agriculture commissioner do?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qcp0jPsNg8&feature=youtu.be>

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Agriculture: How do you propose to promote Texas agriculture at the state, national and international levels?

Health: What can be done to protect consumers and promote healthy lifestyle in Texas’ communities and schools?

Other Issues: What are your highest priorities, and how do you intend to accomplish them?



» Sid Miller (R)

Background: I’m honored to be our state’s 12th Commissioner of Agriculture. It’s a job I’ve been preparing for all my life as an 8th generation farmer, rancher, commercial nurseryman, nine-time World Champion rodeo cowboy, vocational ag teacher, FFA advisor, six-term Texas legislator, Chair: House Committees on Agriculture & Homeland Security and Public Safety
Agriculture: Promoting Texas Agriculture and marketing Texas food & fiber across our state, our nation, and the world has been, and will remain, one of my top priorities as Agriculture Commissioner. During my first term, my team and I have made marketing trips to every continent on the globe with the exception of Antarctica. We have expanded and improved TDA’s successful “GO TEXAN” marketing program and have initiated special programs to promote Texas’ growing wine, craft beer, and specialty crop industries.
Health: Before I took office, our school lunch program was failing in its mission to help keep kids healthy. That’s why I launched our Farm Fresh program to connect Texas farmers and ranchers, schools, child care providers and local com-

munities with tools and resources available through the Texas Department of Agriculture. The goal of Farm Fresh is to increase awareness of the vital role agriculture plays in our lives, as agriculture is the key to improving the wellness of our children & communities.
Other Issues: I want to further expand our TDA “GO TEXAN” marketing program marketing Texas agriculture products around the globe. Continue our program of making Texas school lunches great again. We’ve already made great progress by repealing all the burdensome TDA mandates and rules on our Texas schools. Strengthen TDA’s consumer protection division and ensure that Texans are not ripped off by unscrupulous businesses or organized criminals using credit card skimmers and other tools to steal your identities.

Website: <http://millerfortexas.com>
Campaign Phone: (265) 968-3535
Facebook: <http://facebook.com/MillerForTexas/>
Twitter: twitter.com/millerfortexas
Email: millerfortexas@gmail.com
Video: <https://www.youtube.com/v/UA6HJ38yQWc>



» Kim Olson (D)

Background: I am a 4th generation farmer and beekeeper, 25 year veteran of the U.S.A.F., and lifelong public servant. My work as a school district administrator and nonprofit CEO, combined with my background in agriculture and military service, provide the skills and experience needed to succeed in the role of Texas Commissioner of Agriculture.
Agriculture: My specific plans for marketing Texas ag products locally include infrastructure support, such as processing or distribution facilities; expanding local food purchasing among school and institutional foodservice, restaurants, and retailers; and updating the GO TEXAN program. Infrastructure and state-led mar-

keting will also serve farmers in accessing national markets. I will support Texas farmers as a strong advocate, ensuring that their interests are represented in trade deals and negotiations.
Health: I will promote nutritious school lunches with training, education, and Farm to School, and will encourage participation in after-school and summer meal programs. My administration will promote local food access initiatives, such as workplace wellness, farmers’ markets, and retail incentive programs. And, we will address food safety standards by ensuring that our farmers meet the requirements while educating consumers on their role in handling and preparing safe, healthy foods.
Other Issues: A top priority is the economic viability of Texas agriculture with marketing, infrastructure, and education initiatives. Also, we must return

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE | (continued)

» Kim Olson (D) (continued)

respectability and professionalism to the office, to ensure the credibility of TDA in the Texas legislature and among state, national, and international partners. Next priority—two words: broadband internet. We will pursue funding and partnerships to ensure high-speed internet access in rural areas for education, economic development, and healthcare.

Website: <http://votekimolson.org/>
Campaign Phone: (903) 245-4233
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/KimOlson4TexasAg/>
Twitter: twitter.com/kimolson4txag
Email: info@votekimolson.org
Video: https://www.youtube.com/v/TEL_TJIA9fM

» Richard Carpenter (L) No response to questions

Facebook: <http://http://www.facebook.com/carpenterfortexas/>

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

Six-year term. The railroad commissioner is one of the three-member Texas Railroad Commission. The commission has no regulatory authority concerning railroads. Instead, it regulates the oil and gas industry, gas utilities, pipeline safety, safety in the liquefied petroleum gas industry, and surface coal and uranium mining. Current salary: \$137,500
» What does the railroad commissioner do?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5uZASQUUOs&feature=youtu.be>

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Natural Resources: How do you plan to balance oil, gas, and mining interests with protection of natural resources and the environment?

Safety: How would you address the various safety issues concerning pipelines, and oil and gas production?

Other Issues: What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?



» Christi Craddick (R)

Background: Having served Texans for six years as your Railroad Commissioner, I am well-versed in the regulatory needs of the agency and the industry’s importance to our state. In my first term, I have brought more of our data online, overhauled our IT infrastructure, and found efficiencies in our processes, allowing us to do our job better and at less cost.
Natural Resources: Fair and consistent regulation allows us to protect our natural resources while the industry safely produces Texas energy, grows our economy and creates jobs. During my time at the Railroad Commission, we have updated our rules to ensure we are effectively regulating energy production, and that companies continue to choose to do business in Texas.
Safety: The Railroad Commission’s statutory duty is to prevent waste of the state’s natural resources, protect the correlative rights of mineral owners, and oversee the safe production of oil and gas. Enforcement of our rules, including

permitting and reporting requirements and field inspections, provides the tools we need to successfully carry out our mission.
Other Issues: During this time of enormous growth within the Texas energy industry, we must have thoughtful, balanced leadership at the Railroad Commission. I’ll continue to streamline our processes, maximizing the agency’s efficiency while maintaining our regulatory effectiveness. I’ll increase transparency, bringing more of our data online for public use. I’ll advocate for educational paths for a highly-trained, technically-skilled workforce.

Website: <http://www.christicraddick.com>
Campaign Phone: (512) 271-4782
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/christicraddick/>
Twitter: twitter.com/christicraddick
Email: info@christicraddick.com
Video: <https://www.youtube.com/v/R4kRzFGcEbQ>



» Roman McAllen (D)

Background: I am trained as an urban planner, architect and historic preservationist; at first glance regulating the oil and gas industry in TX doesn’t seem like a good fit. The fact is that 88% of Texans live in cities. Oil & gas directly impacts urban life. My diverse experience will allow me to be a leader in this important statewide position.
Natural Resources: Right now I plan to balance the commission. The current

commission is entirely beholden to the industry. It is an open secret that commissioners accept campaign contributions 24/7, 365 days a year, from the industry. I will balance the commission by listening to and believing scientists, surface rights owners & municipalities and supporting them. Current commissioners deny the science behind climate change. I do not and I will lead on the absolute need to move to 100% renewables.
Safety: I would lobby to change the name of the commission to something that tells the public, & the commissioners themselves, what the commission is supposed to be doing. I would seek increased reporting requirements for wastewater

» Roman McAllen (D) (continued)

injection wells. I will complete ride-alongs with employees in the field to see what is happening first hand on Texas land. I will hold public meetings all over Texas to hear from people what their concerns are. There are many professionals who have grave concerns.

Other Issues: Assiduous enforcement of existing regulations on all matters is crucial. Added costs to accomplish this should be absorbed by the industry. The



» Mike Wright (L)

Background: I have a BS in Engineering from the United State Military Academy (West Point) and a MBA from Harvard Business School. This educational background gives me the analytical ability to study complex situations and make rational decisions. I also have ten years of oilfield equipment manufacturing experience.

Natural Resources: If a rule or regulation is requested to be waived but has the intended purpose of protecting natural resources or the environment, the operator would need to submit a plan to monitor the activities surrounding the natural resources or environment that the rule or regulation is intended to protect. This would allow early detection of any possible negative impact on natural resources or the environment before it becomes a major issue.

Safety: I would insist that all safety rules and regulations be followed. I would also want the Railroad Commission or the operators to conduct seismic studies when they conduct operations in areas with different geological formations

health, safety, and welfare of all Texans here now, and God willing in the future, depends on true leadership. Sentence does not meet criteria. We must do better.

Website: <http://www.mcallenfortexas.com/>
Campaign Phone: (713) 384-5233
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/McAllenForTexas/>
Twitter: twitter.com/RomanMcAllen
Email: roman@mcallenfortexas.com

than they have operated in the recent past or when they use higher pressures or greater volumes of water where no known seismic activity has occurred. There are many opinions about the effect of fracking operations and the disposal of water into wells.
Other Issues: Making sure there is a supply of water and finding an economical method for disposing of the water used in fracking and production are major issues. Desalination can provide the fresh water and possibly could be used to recycle brackish water that comes from fracking and production. Based on some tentative calculations, it appears that this can be done economically. The operators would pay for the work but be given some credit against the Oil & Gas severance tax/fee they currently pay.

Website: <http://mikewrightfortrc.com>
Campaign Phone: (281) 597-1693
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Mike-Wright-for-Railroad-Commission-171585976780844/>
Email: mikewright47@usa.net

JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

Six-year term. A member of the court that hears only civil cases. The Supreme Court issues final decisions on civil and juvenile appeals, issues writs of mandamus/habeas corpus, and has jurisdiction over orders or judgments of trial courts if the Supreme Court determines them important to the jurisprudence of the state.
Current salary: \$171,000
» What does the Texas Supreme Court do?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuRIMQt57Xo&feature=youtu.be>

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?
Public Protection: What changes, if any, are needed to provide better protection to the public regarding rules and standards for the legal profession?

Mental Health: What should the Supreme Court’s goals be in the newly formed Judicial Commission on Mental Health?
Responsibilities: Which responsibility of a Texas Supreme Court justice is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?

» JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, PLACE 2



» Jimmy Blacklock (R) No response to questions

Website: <http://www.jimmyblacklock.com>
Campaign Phone: (737) 300-5250
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/jimmyblacklockcampaign/>
Email: contact@jimmyblacklock.com



» JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, PLACE 2 (continued)



» Steven Kirkland (D)

Background: In 13 years as a Judge, I’ve presided over more than 750 jury trials and fought to make our court system more transparent, accountable and fair. As a community leader, I fought to expand affordable housing and end discrimination. As a lawyer, I sued polluters to protect our neighborhoods. These experiences help make my decisions more fair and just.
Public Protection: Justice demands the highest standards, but rules alone do not ensure quality representation. Recent studies reveal an alarming amount of mental health and substance abuse issues among attorneys. This crisis creates substandard service to clients and drives up costs for everyone. The Court should lead the profession in addressing these issues, not only through discipline but also through prevention. I have a long history of speaking and advocating for recovery from drug and alcohol addiction.
Mental Health: This commission needs to identify and remove the legal barriers people face when seeking help for mental health issues. This includes expand-

ing the use of problem-solving courts like veterans and homeless courts and drug and alcohol rehab courts. The commission needs to identify ways the legal system is detrimentally impacted by people in mental health crisis and seek solutions that humanely address the impacts. Finally, the commission must seek to educate the Justice system on these issues.
Responsibilities: Texans deserve justice, not politics, from their Court. Yet, the Court has increasingly issued opinions that can only be explained by extremist partisan politics. Texans deserve better. Because we elect our judges in partisan elections, it may not easy—but it’s an imperative. We must restore the Court to its constitutional role as the protector of individual liberty and equality before the law, and an independent voice of everyday Texans in government.

Website: <http://judgestevenkirkland.com>
Campaign Phone: (832) 779-0118
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JudgeSK/>
Twitter: twitter.com/stevenkirkland
Email: info@judgestevenkirkland.com

» JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, PLACE 4

» John Devine (R) No response received



» R.K. Sandill (D) No response to questions

Website: <http://sandillfortexas.com>
Campaign Phone: (409) 207-0425
Facebook: <http://facebook.com/rkstxsc/>
Twitter: twitter.com/rks127th
Email: rksandill@judgesandill.com

» JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, PLACE 6



» Jeff Brown (R)

Background: I’ve been a judge for nearly 17 years, having served at all three levels of the Texas judiciary—six years as a district judge, six years on an intermediate court of appeals, and five years on the Supreme Court. I’m board-certified in civil trial law and have won three judge-of-the-year awards, including Texas appellate judge of the year.
Public Protection: I serve as Supreme Court liaison to the Texas Board of Law Examiners and to the Grievance Oversight Committee. In the first role, I’m constantly working to make sure we admit to the legal profession only persons of high moral character. In the second role, I’m constantly working to guarantee that grievances clients file against their attorneys are thoroughly and fairly investigated. We must assure that attorneys handle their responsibilities to the public with competence and integrity.
Mental Health: I co-chair the newly formed Judicial Commission on Mental Health. The purpose of the commission is to develop, implement, and coordinate policy initiatives designed to improve the courts’ interaction with—and the

administration of justice for—children, adults, and families with mental-health needs. We will do that through legislative proposals and through the sharing of best practices so that judges have the resources they need to serve folks who come into their courts with mental-health needs.
Responsibilities: My highest priority as a Texas Supreme Court justice is to decide cases fairly, efficiently, and according to the law. It’s something I strive to do everyday. It requires hard work and a deep-seated devotion to the rule of law. I’m proud to say that I’ve built a record and a reputation as a fair, hard-working judge who never legislates from the bench. And I hope to continue in this important work as long as the people of Texas allow me to do so.

Website: <http://www.justicejeffbrown.com>
Campaign Phone: (817) 422-4136
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JusticeBrown>
Twitter: twitter.com/judgejeffbrown
Email: info@justicejeffbrown.com
Video: <https://www.youtube.com/v/Wis1BvTXHCI>



» Kathy Cheng (D)

Background: For seventeen plus years, I represented clients in complex commercial litigation, contested divorce cases and probate cases, tax matters, and real estate cases, which are potential types of cases that the Texas Supreme Court might hear.

Public Protection: Our founding fathers created a system of check and balance whereby the judiciary shall be impartial. For almost a quarter of a century, the Texas Supreme Court has consisted of a panel of justices of one mindset as a result of straight ticket voting. In order for justice, fairness and equality to become a reality, the panel shall consist of justices of diverse background, experience and knowledge to be able to

» JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, PLACE 6

» Kathy Cheng (D) (continued)

consider the applicable law from various perspectives and to apply it accordingly.

Mental Health: The Texas Supreme Court shall oversee the Judicial Commission on Mental Health only administratively as it does with the State Bar of Texas and the Board of Law Examiners.

Responsibilities: Educating the general population on how the judicial branch affects all Texans. Ways of achieving such priority may include but not limited

to conduct civic engagement events, generating a pamphlet detailing the roles of judges in the judiciary or be a frequent speaker for different events occurring throughout the state of Texas.

Website: <http://chengforjustice.com>

Campaign Phone: (713) 623-1633

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/chengforjustice>

Twitter: twitter.com/chengforjustice

Email: info@chengforjustice.com

JUDGE, TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

Six-year term. A member of the court with final judgment in all criminal cases. The court must review all cases in which the death penalty is assessed. It also exercises discretionary review in other criminal cases and issues writs of habeas corpus. Current salary: \$171,000

» What does the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals do?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MdspUkvqoZ4&feature=youtu.be>

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Access to Justice: What recent technological developments provide opportunities to improve the state's indigent defense system in civil and criminal cases?

Mental Health: What should the Court of Criminal Appeals' goal be in the newly formed Judicial Commission on Mental Health?

Responsibilities: Which responsibility of a Court of Criminal Appeals judge is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?

» PRESIDING JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

» Sharon Keller (R) No response to questions

Website: <http://www.judgesharonkeller.com>

Email: judgesharonkeller@gmail.com



» Maria T. (Terri) Jackson (D)

Background: I have the experience, fairness and discernment needed on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. As a district court judge, I have presided over thousands of serious felony offenses, which range from low-level drug offenses to capital murder. I have presided over one hundred jury trials and I have a combined 15 years of judicial experience.

Access to Justice: One of the more recent advancements in Harris County has been the implementation of electronic filing. Electronic filing enables attorneys and other users to submit documents to multiple courts, utilize digital signatures, reduces court costs and creates a centralized location for documents. The reduction of court costs and access to critical documents is paramount to the indigent defense system as it saves money on the front end.

Mental Health: The Judicial Commission on Mental Health was formed in February 2018. The goal is to develop, implement and coordinate policy initiatives

to improve the courts' dealings with individuals in the court system who are in crisis. In my opinion, the primary goal should be to create resolution for key issues that plague the judicial system, beginning with overcrowded dockets, lack of communication between judges, court staff, attorneys and mental health care providers, and funding issues.

Responsibilities: The Court needs judges that are sensible and can identify complex issues facing the court. My highest priority is to treat everyone fairly and be available when hot button cases, such as death penalty cases, come before the court, even if it is not within the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lastly, it is imperative to work closely with the Texas legislature, our Governor and other community stakeholders to address issues that need to be reformed in the criminal justice system.

Website: <http://www.judgemariatjackson.com>

Campaign Phone: (832) 477-2910

Email: maria.jcksn@gmail.com

» JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS PLACE 7

» Barbara Parker Hervey (R) No response received

» JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS PLACE 7 (cont.)



» Ramona Franklin (D)

Background: My experiences as a former Harris County Assistant District Attorney, defense attorney in private practice and currently a district court judge have all uniquely crafted me with an uncommon legal background. Serving in all of these capacities have afforded me the opportunity of experiencing the

legal perspective from all vantage points.

Access to Justice: The new e-filing system that is being implemented across the State of Texas is a new tool that has been very useful in streamlining court documents processing. As a Court of Criminal Appeals jurist I will not infringe upon a person's due process rights by enforcing unreasonable deadlines and causing a defendant to be executed because his attorney failed to timely submit an appeal before the court's 5 o'clock p.m. court closing time which was done to Michael Richard

Mental Health: In my opinion, the Court of Criminal Appeals should be the leader for all criminal courts in the State of Texas for handling mental health

» JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS PLACE 8



» Michelle Slaughter (R)

Background: Having served as a district judge for the past several years, I have presided over thousands of criminal cases ranging from state-jail felonies to capital murder cases. Moreover, I have a proven track record of efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and saving taxpayer dollars, all while ensuring

that the interests of justice are served.

Access to Justice: There is so much opportunity to improve access to justice with technology. One example is e-filing. With e-filing, courts are much more accessible to the indigent. Online forms and instructions can be developed to allow individuals to create their own court filings and legal documents if they want to represent themselves. In addition, through the use of video chatting apps (i.e. FaceTime), those without transportation can still appear and participate in court without fear of sanctions.

Mental Health: The goal needs to be determining and implementing cost-effective ways to provide justice in criminal cases involving mentally-ill defen-

» Mark Ash (L)

Background: I have been a criminal defense for 25 years. I graduated from UT/El Paso in 1985 and South Texas College of Law in 1992.

Responsibilities: Protect Civil Liberties. I will uphold the US and Texas Constitutions and improve the quality of life for all Texas by deciding individual cases

» LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS INFO

- The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties.
- Any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.
- This Voters Guide is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund. For 100 years the League of Women Voters has been helping voters cast an informed vote when they go to the polls
- The LWV Texas Voters Guide is nonpartisan, fair, and balanced.

cases. I concur with the opinion set out in *Atkins v. Virginia* (2002) 536 U.S. 304 that states, "More than any other single factor, mental defects have been respected as a reason for leniency in our criminal justice system." I am concerned with the nature of our current Court of Criminal Appeals decisions regarding mental health issues.

Responsibilities: As a Court of Criminal Appeals jurist I will continue to carry out the mantra I employ every day as a State District Court judge, "Blindfold Justice...One Case At A Time." I will concentrate my efforts in ensuring that indigent defendants are afforded all of the necessary tools to launch a successful appeal. I will work diligently to ensure that the results that occurred in the Ricky Kerr case will never happen again in the State of Texas.

Website: <http://www.judgeramonafranklin.com>

Campaign Phone: (281) 686-3292

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/judgeramonafranklin>

Twitter: twitter.com/judgeramona

Email: judgeramonafranklin@gmail.com

dants. While punishment is certainly a goal of the criminal justice system, so is rehabilitation. The cycle of criminal activity can only be broken if a defendant can be rehabilitated. Rehabilitation is especially difficult with mentally-ill defendants because the criminal justice system lacks the proper resources. That deficiency must be rectified.

Responsibilities: Preserving and protecting an individual's constitutional rights must be the highest priority in the CCA. As a constitutional conservative judge, my opinions will inform the public of the constitutional issues at hand and my decisions will strictly adhere to the U.S. and Texas Constitutions. Transparency is another priority. Therefore, even if I am in the minority on a decision, I will not be afraid to issue critical dissenting opinions that call attention to constitutional violations.

Website: <http://JudgeMichelleSlaughter.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Judge-Michelle-Slaughter-405th-District-Court-Candidate-TX-CCA-PI-8-162255907440413/?ref=bookmarks>

Email: 405thjudge@gmail.com

in an impartial manner based on the law and the facts because everyone's rights matter.

Website: <http://www.markashfortexas.com>

Campaign Phone: (713) 571-1603

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/markashfortexascourtofcriminalappeals/>

Email: markashlawyer@yahoo.com

» NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES ALLOWED IN THE POLLS

- You may print the Voters Guide to bring into the voting booth!
- Mobile phones and other electronic devices are prohibited in the voting booth, so be sure to bring what you need on paper, not on your devices.
- An interactive version of this Voters Guide is available online at VOTE411.org. Enter your address and zip code and view the races and candidates that appear on your ballot. You will be able to compare the candidates' responses to the questions and create a printout of a ballot that you can take to the polls.

STATE SENATOR

F4-year term. Must be 26 or older, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas for 5 years and a resident of the district represented for 1 year.

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- 1: What would you do to provide and fund an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-k through grade 12?
- 2: Identify three measures that you would support that reduce gun violence.
- 3: What are your top three budget priorities for the 2019 Legislative session?

- 4: After publication of the 2020 census, new congressional and state districts will be redrawn. What process do you support to ensure fair representation?
- 5: Given recent pressures on water resources, transportation, and infrastructure in growing Hill Country counties, would you support giving limited additional authority to selected counties to protect the quality of life – including water and clean air – in unincorporated areas? Explain why or why not.

» **Donna Campbell (R)** No response to questions



» Steven Kling (D)

1: Constitutional Amendment requiring the State restore funding to 50% min. It is currently at 31%. Increase taxes on fossil fuels. Up the per-child rate to catch up to inflation and allow each ISD to apply for additional per-child increases based upon special needs and eco-dis population counts. Increase teacher compensation to above national average immediately with state-funded, zip-code based COLA. End corporate loopholes that allow commercial property to pay 50% of property tax liability.

2: True, universal background checks and elimination of the "gun show" loophole and so-called "Constitutional" carry. Strengthen the Lautenberg Amendment to include conviction of any violent crime and mandatory confiscation in those cases. "Red Flag" laws that allow a judge to temporarily take custody of weapons if a person becomes a threat to themselves or others, when deemed by a licensed mental health professional. Civil and criminal penalties when negligent storage results in death.

3: Campaign and political ethics and finance reform. A system that allows unlimited campaign contributions is a corrupt one that limits voices and perspectives that are necessary for a balanced and free society. Campaign and political ethics and finance reform. A system that allows unlimited campaign contribu-

tions is a corrupt one that limits voices and perspectives that are necessary for a balanced and free society. Public education finance reform. Robin Hood is being used as the states piggy bank. Instead of redistributing funds to disadvantaged school districts the State is re-appropriating that money improperly. Our property taxes are 3 highest in nation and we're 46th in school funding as a result. Force commercial property owners to disclose market values increasing local tax coffers \$5B.

4: It is essential to the continued functioning of our democracy that we eliminate partisan redistricting (aka gerrymandering) I support a computer algorithmic redistricting system with oversight from a non-partisan board drawn from a lottery of educators and administrators from around the state. The state legislators should have no role in determining lines drawn as that presents conflict of interest.

5: I support the repeal of rule of capture laws. Statues written when water was pumped with windmills are woefully out-of-date and are being abused by commercial well owners pulling 2.5M gal of water a day out of already strained aquifers with no recourse for citizens when their wells go dry. I support empowering county governments with zoning and approval authority to put a stop to exploitative and incompatible land use outside of municipal jurisdictions. I am a staunch supporter of local control.

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Two-year term, meets in Regular Session for about five months every other year. .

See VOTE411.org for Texas House Representatives candidates in your district.

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1: Given recent pressures on water resources, transportation and infrastructure in growing Hill Country counties, would you support giving limited additional authority to selected counties to protect the quality of life in unincorporated areas? Please explain why or why not.

2: What are your legislative priorities for the Texas environment? Discuss water management, renewable energy and clean air.

3: After publication of the 2020 census, new congressional, state and educational districts will be redrawn. What process do you support to ensure fair representation?

» TEXAS HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 73

» **Kyle Biedermann (R)** No response received



» Stephanie Phillips (D)

Education: B.A. Oberlin College, M.A. Texas State University

Experience: Professional musician with 25 years experience teaching individuals and groups. Self employed Fine Arts

consulting and teaching business owner, 25 years experience teaching individuals and small and large groups. National and statewide experience presenting on education, performance and creativity. Experience working with social service organizations focusing on homeless youth, and crisis center

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(continued)

» TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 73

» Stephanie Phillips (D) (continued)

volunteer. Conservation advocate and rural hill country resident. Past experience working with environmental non profit, creating commercial recycling program. Lives in eco friendly home. In the process of converting to rainwater for household use.

1: Yes. I support legislation to grant authority to county governments to implement common sense land use rules and believe that all communities should have a say in development and land use decisions. House District 73 represents Comal, Kendall, and Gillespie counties and is at the heart of the fastest growing area of the U.S. The district includes vast portions of the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone, is extremely vulnerable to pollution, and has limited water resources for industrial use. Unfortunately, 80 percent of the limestone most desirable as construction aggregate is located in the Texas Hill Country.

2: -Climate change is real and will have (is having) a dramatic impact on Texas. Policy changes and air quality regulations in Texas can be implemented that would reduce emissions and help to mitigate the impact of climate change. -Support programs to educate residents about water conservation, use of native and

drought tolerant landscaping, permeable walkways and parking areas, grey-water re-use and rainwater harvesting. -Support clean energy initiatives and development of renewables. Texas needs a sustainable energy plan and has the capacity to lead the nation in green jobs and clean energy. -Support increased county authority to manage stormwater and control flooding at the local level. -Support options for limits to impervious cover in the Edwards aquifer recharge zone. -Prohibit developments and subdivisions in the recharge zone from discharging wastewater into creeks and streams, require wastewater recycling. -Support common sense regulation and monitoring of aggregate industry.

3: Create an independent nonpartisan redistricting coalition to draw fair districts. -Prevent elected officials (from any party), whether legislators or executive branch officials, from having control over drawing district lines. -Ensure that there is an opportunity for public input and encourage an open and transparent process. -Use existing county and city or natural boundaries if possible.

Website: www.stephanie4tx73.com
Facebook: Stephanie4tx73@gmail.com
Twitter: twitter.com/stephanie4tx73

COMAL COUNTY CLERK

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- 1: What qualities are needed for a successful county clerk? How have you demonstrated these in your work?
- 2: If elected, what measurable goals would you work to achieve?



» Bobbie Koepp (R)

Education: High School diploma
Experience: 37 years County Government

1: You must have the ability to provide for the public and their needs while following the law. A very important quality of a county clerk is to be a leader and a team player. Our county officials need to work together with a common goal for the community. You need to have the willingness to listen and learn. I am only as successful as my staff. Without them I could not operate this office. I have led my office in the direction of less paper and electronic records. We have been very successful with the electronic process. This has increased the public access to records as well as the accuracy of the records. We strive everyday to deliver excellent customer service and I believe we have accomplished this. I maintain the same hours as my staff and I am here from 8:00 – 5:00 and available to the public.

2: If re-elected, I want to continue bringing the clerk's office into the 21st century. Since being elected I have brought to the office a less paper process. I have brought forward e-recording in the Official Public Records (OPR) and introduced e-filing in the courts which allows people to submit documents online. We don't have paper files anymore. I have uploaded sovereignty to current into a searchable data base for land records called Roam. You can search and purchase records online. My office is currently working on indexing these older records to clean-up any errors. I have re-organized and brought our plat system online. I hope to

add marriage kiosks into the office. In my elections department we will be replacing the e-poll books with know-ink poll pads. This will allow for a less paper environment in the elections office. I am confident that my goals for a less paper environment throughout my departments will not only continue saving tax payer dollars but increase efficiency.

3: I have been involved in County government for 37 years. My career began in Guadalupe County as Chief Deputy in the District Clerk's office. I worked in Guadalupe county for 14 ½ years. I then moved to Comal County and applied with the County Clerk's office. I was hired in December 1994 by Joy Streater as her Chief Deputy for the courts section. I served in that capacity until Joy decided to retire and I ran for the County Clerk position in 2014. I feel that my education in all facets of the clerk's office have benefited me. I have worked the courts, elections, the land/vital sections and commissioners' court. One of my goals is to learn something new every day.

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/Bobbie-Koepp-142344653053242/>
Website: <http://www.voteforbobbie.com>
Candidate Email: bobbiekoepp@gmail.com

COMAL COUNTY CLERK

(CONTINUED)



» Gloria Meehan (D)

Education: B.A. Corporate Communications, Baruch College - CUNY

Experience : Founder and managing director of Ramblewood Consultants, a small business marketing services company.

Previously, managed information systems for nearly 20 years and worked within large organizations for 15 years managing various teams of professionals.

1: The county clerk must be able to interact with diverse groups of external/internal stakeholders throughout our community. The office carries a unique responsibility to maintain the integrity of the county’s vital record keeping by establishing where necessary and maintaining where existing, unbiased and trustworthy systems to aid county government in information processing. During my 20+ year professional career, I have managed information systems and directed diverse teams of professionals. I am tech-savvy and understand the mechanics of information processing, and know how to build consensus, manage expectations, and bring high-level attention-to-detail essential to the office of county clerk.

2: While the county clerk’s role is process-driven, there are three policy concerns I plan to address: Optimal use of County Resources – Comal County’s new election center, paid for with tax dollars, should be available for voting for any and

all registered voters in Comal County. Voting Systems - Comal County is one of 103 Texas counties without a paper backup system. We have no reliable way to recount votes in the event of challenges. Mandatory vote-by-mail ballots for seniors – Providing our senior citizens with ballots each year without the required request via application would make it easier, not more difficult, for elder citizens to cast votes by mail.

3: I have prepared my entire life for this opportunity to serve our community and the best interests of our citizens. Both my mother and father were in the military. As such, we traveled the world. This unique perspective taught me that to succeed I must be willing to listen and learn from others’ perspectives, adjust to any situation, and understand how to overcome challenges. Comal County is rapidly growing with a diverse population migrating here from other parts of Texas and the country. We must be prepared for this growth to deliver exceptional service in support of our community.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Gloria4CCC2018/>

Website: <http://www.gloriameehan.com>

Twitter: @GlowTweet

Candidate Email: gloria4ccc2018@gloriameehan.com

COMAL COUNTY COMMISSIONER

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1: How has your education and experience prepared you for this position?

2: In your view, what is most important issue that the Comal County Commissioners Court needs to address today? How would you address the issue?

» COMAL COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2



» Scott Haag (R)

Education: Texas A&M University // Southwest Texas State University // Texas Department of Public Safety Law Enforcement Training Academy // Continuing Education provided thru County Judges & Commissioners Association of Texas

Experience: Texas State Trooper (28 years) // Comal County Commissioner (8 years)

1: My experience as a State Trooper with the Texas Department of Public Safety for twenty-eight plus years has helped me tremendously in my position. The Sheriff’s Office, county jail, court system, and our District Attorney’s office are very large departments in our yearly budget. Using my law enforcement background, I understanding the workings of their offices. My past experience helps me understand what those departments need to best provide for the citizens of Comal County.

2: With the tremendous growth of Comal County, it is extremely important that we stay ahead of the needs of the county as we continue to grow. By statutory authority, we must provide for a county jail to house all persons arrested in our county. We must also provide a court system to hear all criminal and civil cases

3: Would you support county funding for preservation of natural areas and watersheds?

4: Given recent pressures on Comal County water resources, transportation and infrastructure, would you support asking the Texas State Legislature for limited additional authority for the county to preserve our quality of life?

filed. Our current jail is full, and I have been very involved in the process of planning for our new jail to replace the old jail, and expanding and renovating our existing Sheriff’s Office. Having the new jail and expanded Sheriffs Office will help the county as we continue to grow. I have also been involved in adding additional courtrooms and efficiently using space to meet the demands of the expanded case load from criminal and civil cases being filed.

3: I do not believe that county government should use tax dollars to fund these items. There are other entities including non-profit, non-governmental agencies to assist and fund these projects. I stand ready to help in the creation of these types of future partnerships.

4: Over the past almost eight years, I have learned, and continue to learn about our authorities and powers. Counties are an arm of state government and can only do what is allowed by state law. It is my belief that asking for more county authority would just be a duplication of government services and a waste of tax money. Water resources in Texas are managed and overseen by the Texas Water Development Board. Transportation is both a state and county function, and I work closely with our county road department and the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) to provide the best possible county roads.

COMAL COUNTY COMMISSIONER

(CONTINUED)

» COMAL COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2 (CONT)



» Michael Zimmerman (Write-in) (O)

Education: BS - St. Mary’s University Double Masters, Webster University

Experience: Over 30 years senior level management with Air Force in personnel, finance (budgeting and acquisition), contracting, personnel, and, information technology

1: Experience and education go hand in hand. In senior management for over 30 plus years, I’ve had hands on experience in areas of personnel, finance (budgeting and acquisition), contracting, personnel, and, information technology which was my primary job. My dual master’s degree (Management and Resource Management) helped me to better understand and incorporate the disciplines with my experience to more effectively carry out the duties of my position in the federal sector. My experience and knowledge will easily transition over to that of the duties of a county commissioner

2: In addition to supporting your constituents, Local Control is the most important issue. It’s non-existent, especially in areas outside the jurisdiction of municipalities. Local government is often best at understanding and meeting its own community needs, which is why I am a strong proponent of local control. Our Governor and the legislature have shown repeatedly that they prefer all control rest with the state government. As mentioned above, unbridled growth is causing major concerns for area residents and an actual good beginning to it would be the ability to have local control. The first step I will accomplish in this process is to form a county commission where there will be an initial check and balances of all activity coming into the county. Rules and regulations have to be in place to control the growth of a county while maintaining a balance of natural resources for all residents, regardless if they live in the country or in municipalities.

» COMAL COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4



» Jen Crowover (R)

Education: BBA in Business Administration, with emphasis on Marketing & Communications

Experience: I currently serve in this office, and am seeking re-election. My previous experience is in marketing and communications (of which I have a Bachelor’s degree), and I had my own business consulting in marketing, advertising, and

public relations for a myriad of different types of businesses. I am also a wife and mother of two fine boys, ages 15 & 17.

1: Communication has been a huge gap between County Government and the community for a very long time. My background in marketing, communications and public relations have been pivotal in raising the bar for the community. While it is very important to have a balance of talents on Commissioners Court to address many different issues, I have filled a void within the team.

2: Growth. Growth. Growth. With the limited authority that we have in County Government—granted by the State Legislature, growth plagues our county. We are the 6th fastest growing county in the entire nation. We have to do everything we can to get ahead of the curve and serve our citizens. Land rights are a delicate balance. While citizens only control the soil to their fence-line, it is important to advocate for the county when land transactions are happening (when we can be

3: YES, YES, and unequivocally, YES. Case in point is happening now as a quarry is being planned smack dab over the middle of the Trinity Aquifer System which supplies water not only to Comal County but counties down to Uvalde. Couple that with all the caves that are in the recharge zone which provides rain runoff to filter through the limestone process which, in turn, gives us water to drink. The aquifer systems (Trinity and Edwards) are potentially in danger of being depleted and polluted. Once that occurs, its game over for us. Not only are the aquifer systems in danger but also our natural watersheds, which provides habitat and growth for many species of animals, birds, fish, etc. Preservation of our natural areas and watersheds MUST be preserved at all costs.

4: This should be a mandate, not an option. With any growth comes an understanding of how to balance resources for all to share, even for the protection of our future generations. Today, we do have the power to begin the process locally and that is with the formation of a 391 Commission. 391 refers to the chapter in the Local Government Code which allows the formation of a commission to improve the health, safety, and general welfare of their residents, and, plan for the future development of communities, areas, and regions in order that infrastructures such as transportation systems are improved, adequate street, utility, health, educational, and other essential facilities are provided as the communities, areas, and regions grow.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/michael.zimmerman.33865854>

Website: <http://zimmermanforcommissioner.com>

Twitter: @Zimmerman4Comal

Candidate Email: electzimmerman@gmail.com

aware, which is also not always the case). When an opportunity arises to have input on the development of property, it is in our citizens’ best interest to jump on it. Public Improvement Districts are one way we can do just that. They allow us to have input on developments where we otherwise wouldn’t. They are not a burden to taxpayers as a whole, they are transparent, and contained within their developments, and folks who buy in are aware up front.

3: Yes. I think it is important for the preservation of our land and water resources, and a responsible use of funds to also preserve the heritage of our county. At some point, you have to be at the table, and cannot rely solely on others to carry the flag.

4: Limited, sure. Property rights are a delicate issue. I have fought in senate committees during my term to educate our State Senate on bills that affect land rights—and I will continue to do so. I will also continue to work alongside our state senator and representative to encourage them to pass responsible legislation that positively affects citizens in this regard.

Facebook: [facebook.com/votecrowover/](https://www.facebook.com/votecrowover/)

Website: votecrowover.com

Twitter: @votecrowover

Candidate Email: jencrown@gvtc.com

COMAL COUNTY COMMISSIONER

(CONTINUED)

» COMAL COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4 (CONT)



» Dorothy Carroll (D)

Education: Associate Degree, Austin Community College
Experience: Garment Mfg., Accounting/Auditor, Employment Specialist, Financial Adv. Commercial Business Owner

1: My life experience, employment & education combine to make me uniquely qualified for the position of county commissioner. I was successful in the garment mfg. industry, accounting, employment specialist, national financial advertising, commercial business owner & more. I have worked with high school drop-outs and Bank Presidents and Board Chairs. My clients have ranged from the unemployed to Sam Walton. I am prepared, ready and able.

2: One important issue the Court should address is the county's lack of transparency & its suppression of public information. I'd have county public information made available online 24/7 with no impediments to access. Like a Sheriff's 'Blotter' of the nature of all calls responded to, including suicide, sexual assault, rape & dog attacks. Residents & visitors have a right to full disclosure of all the facts about the county they live in or visit.

3: I support having the county purchase land such as aquifer recharge zones and other sensitive land including wildlife habitats and nature preserves. County officials can no longer ignore the present danger, as well as the very real potential for further harm, to the beautiful and sensitive geography that is Comal County. County residents, ecosystems, wildlife and continued economic prosperity depend on the health of the Edwards Aquifer.

4: I support petitioning the Texas State Legislature for specific additional authority to require all county land use be limited to environmentally sustainable uses that pose no harm, or potential threat, to the health and safety of current or future residents. Further, the authority to prohibit new aggregate operation locations in the county and to place a ban on the expansion or relocation of any quarries currently in operation in the county.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/votefordorothykarroll
Website: votefordorothy.com
Candidate Email: votefordorothykarroll@gmail.com

JUSTICE, 3RD COURT OF APPEALS

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

» JUSTICE, 3RD COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE NO. 2



» Cindy Olson Bourland (R)

Background: I attended Southwestern University and The University of Texas School of Law. Prior to being appointed to the Court in 2015, I was in private practice for 20 years and had extensive experience handling various types of cases, some of which resulted in Texas Supreme Court opinions cited throughout Texas.

Access to Justice: E-filing has made access to records easier for judges, lawyers, and parties. Our court reviews many appeals wherein the appellant is indigent and has a court-appointed attorney. Because our review of the case cannot begin until we receive the record from the proceedings below, e-transmission of documents means that we can turn to the case more quickly.



» Edward Smith (D)

Background: I'm a native Texan with a law practice that has spanned multiple jurisdictions. I have clerked with the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara and worked for both large and small personal injury firms representing injured workers and their families. My career has aimed at solving problems with pragmatic solutions.

Access to Justice: Online legal resources and forms provide an opportunity for low income residents to access tools which were once only available to lawyers. For example, through the Texas State Law Library, many legal guides and form

Access to Justice: What recent technological developments provide opportunities to improve the state's indigent defense system in civil and criminal cases?

Responsibilities: Which responsibility of a Justice, Court of Appeals, is your highest priority and why?

Responsibilities: Giving the cases on our docket a thorough, fair, and impartial review to make sure there were no errors of law in the proceedings below. It is also important to resolve cases as quickly as possible, without sacrificing thoroughness, so that the parties are not waiting for years on an outcome. I never lose sight of the fact that each case we handle (and we handle both civil and criminal appeals) directly impacts the life of someone who lives in our 24-county district, and often all Texans.

Website: <http://www.justicecindybourland.com>
Facebook : <http://fb:/justicecindyolsonbourland>
Twitter: @CindyOBourland
Email: cindyolsonbourland@gmail.com

books can now be checked out online. Texas should expand funding for these important resources. However, the state must continue to encourage pro bono representation and fully fund indigent criminal defense, as no online guide can be a complete substitute for access to an attorney.

Responsibilities: My highest priority is being an impartial justice with a pragmatic and progressive approach to the cases before the court. As someone who has spent much of my career representing injured workers and their families I will bring a diversity of thought to the court that the Texans living within this

JUSTICE, 3RD COURT OF APPEALS

» JUSTICE, 3RD COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE NO. 2 (CONT.)

» Edward Smith (D) (cont.)

Court of Appeals district deserve. I will also work with the other justices to ensure the court's role as a check and balance by giving each case I hear a fair review, and a just decision.

Website: <http://www.smithforjustice.com>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Smith4Justice>
Twitter: @smithforjustice
Email: Edward@smithforjustice.com

» JUSTICE, 3RD COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE NO.3



» Scott Field (R)

Background: I have served on the Third Court for the past six years and have disposed of over 800 cases under my signature. I have routinely ranked among the top 5 appellate court justices in Texas in terms of efficiency. In addition, the Third Court hears primarily complex civil cases, the types of cases I regularly handled in private practice.

Access to Justice: The Court now requires electronic filing, which entails a system that allows anyone at any location to access court documents and records for free. In addition, we have instituted a pro bono program that allows free representation on appeal for those who cannot afford to hire a lawyer.



» Chari Kelly (D)

Background: I am a former U.S. Army paratrooper, JAG Officer, and currently am an Assistant District Attorney. I am board certified in criminal law, have served as both a defense attorney and prosecutor, and am a seasoned civil litigator. I am the MADD Prosecutor of the Year, and was selected as the preferred candidate in a non-partisan poll of attorneys.

Access to Justice: The implementation of electronic court filings in our judicial system has significantly helped the state's indigent criminal defense and civil pro bono programs. Now, attorneys can file motions and appeals without the concern that the clerk's office closes at 5pm. Lawyers can access dockets and serve documents electronically at any time. We need to continue to work to advance these technologies to ensure free access to court records and to increase transparency at all levels of our judiciary.

Responsibilities: My highest priority as a Justice is to get the law right in every single case, without consideration of the equities, political pressures, or the status of the parties. I must be and have been an impartial arbiter, applying the law faithfully to the facts presented.

Website: <http://justicescottfield.com>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Scott-Field-for-Justice-3rd-Court-of-Appeals-426854780684903/>
Twitter: @scottkingfield
Email: justicescottfield@gmail.com

Responsibilities: My highest priority as a justice will be the fair and impartial consideration of cases without regard to color, creed, sexual orientation, or religion. I will use my diverse background as a prosecutor, former criminal defense attorney, and veteran to make sure the unique perspectives of each litigant is considered. I will handle every appeal fully, fairly, and timely based on the law and not political pressures. I will work to improve pro bono programs, as everyone should have access to justice.

Website: <http://www.charikelly.com>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/chari4justice/>
Twitter: @chari_kelly
Email: chari@charikelly.com

» JUSTICE, 3RD COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE NO.5

» David Puryear (R)

Background: I am the senior justice on the Third Court and began serving on the court in January of 2001. During my tenure on the court, I have authored well over 2500 opinions. I led all Texas appellate court justices in total opinion production in 2015 and 2016, issuing some 220 opinions in 2016. I also served as a County Court at Law judge from 1991-1998.

Access to Justice: The Texas appellate courts have implemented electronic filing of all briefs and documents in all cases. This has resulted in easier, quicker and less costly filings of the documents necessary to process an appeal.

Responsibilities: My highest priority as a justice on the Court of Appeals is to issue prompt and concise opinions that conform to the rule of law, which includes



» Thomas J. Baker (D)

Background: I was licensed in May 1984 to practice law in Texas. I served in Navy JAGC 1984-1991. I am a member of the State Bar College of Texas, exceeding continuing legal education standards I was Board-Certified in Family Law in 2010. I have practiced in Central Texas since 1994 as a trial lawyer principally in civil law and in appellate courts

strict adherence to the constitution, our state laws and case law precedent. There is a saying that "justice delayed is justice denied". In an effort to deliver timely justice to all litigants, I led all 98 Texas appellate court justices in opinion production in 2011, 2015 and 2016.

Website: <http://davidpuryear.com>
Email: judgepuryear@gmail.com

Access to Justice: The Texas Indigent Defense Commission working with the 24 Texas counties the court serves is key to advancing the state's indigent defense system. Access to caselaw through the internet for all counsel providing indigent defense is critical to the quality of indigent legal defense. I will attend educational programs to learn and support indigent defense. I have supported pro bono service in private practice and will support advancing indigent defense.

JUSTICE, 3RD COURT OF APPEALS

» JUSTICE, 3RD COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE NO.5 (CONT)

» Thomas J. Baker (D) (cont.)

Responsibilities: My highest priority is to ensure any opinion I write or in which I concur follows state and federal law and the evidence. Quality, not quantity, of a justice's work is critical to the parties before the court and precedent for our trial courts. The court must provide timely justice. Justice delayed is justice denied. As a justice, I will treat counsel and parties with respect and dignity in my written opinions. I will be fair and impartial to all. I will recuse myself when I should.

Website: <http://thomasbakerforjustice.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/BakerForJustice/>

Email: thomasjbaker_atty@hotmail.com

» JUSTICE, 3RD COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE NO.6



» Michael "Mike" Toth (R)

Background: I have dedicated my life to public service. After college, I worked in the White House. After 9/11, I joined the Marines. After serving as an active duty Marine JAG, I worked as an attorney for two federal judges and in the Texas Attorney General's Office. As a Marine and as an attorney, I

have protected Texans, the rule of law and the Constitution

Access to Justice: Access to our judicial system for all Texans, including indigent defendants, needs to be user-friendly. Courts must provide clear guidance and easy-to-follow forms that all parties can complete and file. More communication between trial and appellate courts as to what attorneys are ably representing indigent defendants is crucial. It is also important for the legal profession to find ways to match pro bono appellate attorneys with indigent defendants to ensure effective representation.

Responsibilities: The highest responsibility of a Court of Appeals justice is ensuring that the Constitution and the law are interpreted correctly and in line with their original meaning. As a Marine, I took an oath to protect and defend the Constitution. As a judge, I will take a similar oath. Working diligently, and with God's help, I will strive daily to fulfill my obligations to my fellow citizens and to the Constitution under that oath, as I have faithfully done as a Marine officer and attorney for Texas.

Website: <http://miketothforjustice.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/TothForJustice/>

Twitter: @TothForJustice

Email: mike@miketothforjustice.com



» Gisela D. Triana (D)

Background: For over 23 years, I have served as a Judge at every level of Texas Trial Courts, presiding over both civil and criminal matters. I have been a practicing lawyer in Texas for 30 years, ever since I graduated from the University of Texas School of Law. I am a former prosecutor and have trained attorneys and judges all across Texas.

Access to Justice: Broader access to DNA testing and broader access to review DNA test results. New technologies like Computer Assisted Real Time Transcription (CART), an initiative done in response to the Americans With Disabilities Act which allows people with hearing and sight disabilities to participate meaningfully in their own court cases.

Responsibilities: My first priority is the adherence to the Constitution, the rule of law and its principles. The dispensation of justice towards all parties should be done without regard to status or wealth. Popular opinion should not dictate or influence the administration of justice. A Judge must listen with an open mind and rule with an even hand. I will rely on my 23 years of judicial experience to achieve a fair and impartial result.

Website: <http://judgetriana.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/judgetriana>

Twitter: @judgetriana

Email: giseladtriana@yahoo.com

» Kerry O'Brien (O) No response received

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