

VOTERS GUIDE

Comal County Edition

GENERAL ELECTION » NOVEMBER 3, 2020

Changes to voting processes could occur after the Voters Guide is published.
Go to VOTE411.org for the most up-to-date election information.

U.S. President » U.S. Senator » Railroad Commissioner » Texas Supreme Court » Texas Court of Criminal Appeals
» State Board of Education » Texas State Representative » Court of Appeals » Comal County Commissioner » NBISD

EARLY VOTING: Oct. 13–30, 2020 » ELECTION DAY: Nov. 3, 2020. Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

» ABOUT THIS VOTERS GUIDE

This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas and LWV of the Comal Area. The League never supports or opposes political candidates or political parties.

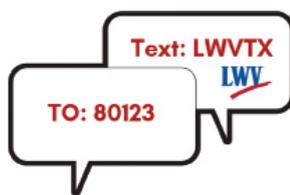
» ONLINE VOTERS GUIDE

The *Voters Guide* is available online at VOTE411.org. By entering your address and zip code, you can view races and candidates that appear on your ballot, compare candidates' responses to questions posed by the League, and create a print-out of a ballot to take to the polls. You can also find out where to vote!



» SIGN UP FOR VOTING REMINDERS!

Text LWVTX to 80123 to receive voting reminders on your phone or sign up at my.lwv.org/Texas/get-voting-reminders



» SUPPORT THE VOTERS GUIDE

Help us fund the cost of this valuable resource for Texas voters by donating to the League of Women Voters of Texas, 1212 Guadalupe #107, Austin, TX 78701, or make a secure donation online at lwvtexas.org.

DONATE

» EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

» VOTING IN TEXAS

First General Election without straight-party voting!

Beginning with the November 3 General Election, voters may no longer check one box to vote for one party's candidates in every partisan race. Instead, voters mark a candidate for each race. Candidates representing a party are identified with a letter following their name: "R" for Republican, "D" for Democrat, "L" for Libertarian, or "G" for Green. Candidates in many local elections are nonpartisan and do not represent a party.

How do I find my polling place?

Go to VOTE411.org or your county election website.

What is on my ballot?

- Find a sample ballot on your county election website!
- Compare candidates with the League's nonpartisan *Voters Guide* at VOTE411.org.
- Take your list of candidates to the polls when you go vote!
- You may bring the League's *Voters Guide* to the polls.
- You cannot use your phone in the voting booth.

Note: Changes to voting processes could occur after the *Voters Guide* is published. Go to VOTE411.org for the most up-to-date election information.

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» VOTE SAFE

The League of Women Voters of Texas encourages you to “Be a Safe Texas Voter!” in the 2020 elections. We fight for the right of ALL Texas voters to participate in our democracy while protecting their health. Your vote is more important than ever . . . share these tips for voting safely.

» VOTE BY MAIL

If you are voting by mail . . .

- Ballots are mailed out 30–45 days before an election or 7 days after the county election office receives an application.
- Mail in your ballot as soon as possible.
- Use a blue or black pen, not a pencil, to fill out the ballot.
- Sign the ballot and the envelope with the same signature you used on your application.
- Ballots may need two stamps.

To hand deliver your vote by mail ballot

- The voter may hand deliver their marked ballot in-person to the county election office during early voting and on election day while polls are open. Check with your county election office for times and locations.
- The voter must show an ID when delivering the ballot, and sign a signature roster.

If you received a ballot to vote by mail, but decide to vote in person

- Take your unmarked ballot with you to the polling place and turn it in to the voting clerk. You will be allowed to vote a regular ballot.
- If you lose or forget your ballot, you can still cast a ballot at the polling place. In this case, you will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot.

» VOTE IN PERSON

The Texas Secretary of State provides the following recommendations for voting in person during COVID

- sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/advisory2020-19.shtml
- sos.texas.gov/elections/forms/health-protocols-for-voters.pdf

Voters are encouraged to:

- wear a mask
- practice social distancing by spacing themselves at least six feet apart
- bring a pen and hand sanitizer
- bring a list of candidates you are voting for. Use of mobile phones is prohibited in the voting booth, so be sure to bring what you need on paper, not on your phone.

» VOTE EARLY

- Voters may vote early at any voting location in their county.
- Find your polling site at VOTE411.org or your county election website.
- A voter with a disability and their helper who are in line to vote in person may request to move ahead of other voters in line.

» CURBSIDE VOTING

- Available for voters who are physically unable to enter the polling place without personal assistance or likelihood of injuring their health, or voters who have signs or symptoms of COVID-19.
- Voters who meet these qualifications may ask an election officer to bring a ballot to their car.

» VOTE DURING NON-PEAK HOURS!

During early voting and especially on Election Day, vote during non-peak hours such as mid-morning or mid-afternoon. Avoid the busiest periods of early morning, lunchtime and after work.

» SUSPENDED VOTER

You can still vote if your voter registration is in suspense! “Suspense” means that your county voter registrar needs to confirm your voting address.

» HOW TO VOTE A LIMITED BALLOT ONLY!

During early voting, a registered voter who has moved from the county in which he or she is registered to a new county of residence in Texas, and who will not be registered to vote in the new county before Election Day, may be eligible to vote a “limited ballot.” A limited ballot allows you to vote on state and national races.

The Voters Guide is available online at VOTE411.org and lwvcomal.org. By entering your address and zip code on Vote411.org, you can view races and candidates that appear on your ballot, compare candidates’ responses to questions posed by the League, and create a print-out of a ballot to take to the polls. You can also find out where to vote!

U.S. PRESIDENT

The President is: the head of state of the United States of America; the Chief Executive Officer; and, the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are prescribed in the Constitution and federal law. The President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices, and federal judges, subject to Senate approval. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress. Current Annual Salary: \$400,000 per year

Note: All candidates who will appear on your ballot are listed below but only those that meet the following criteria were invited to respond to the League's questions in this guide.

1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for President.
2. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the Federal Elections Commission website.

3. The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes.

All qualified presidential candidates were invited to provide biographical information and responses to specific questions. Responses were limited to a specific number of characters and were truncated thereafter. If a candidate did not respond by the date of publication, "Candidate has not yet responded." is printed.

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» **Donald J. Trump (R)** Candidate has not yet responded.

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

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

Twitter: @realDonaldTrump



» **Joseph R. Biden (D)**

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

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

Twitter: twitter.com/joebiden

Q: What actions would you take to balance public health and economic recovery in the US, both in light of COVID-19 and

for the long term?

A: It's a false choice to think we have to choose between our public health and economy; they're linked. On Day One, I'll implement the COVID strategy I've laid out since March—surging testing and protective gear; distributing vaccines safely and free of politics; helping schools and small businesses cover costs; and getting state and local governments resources to keep educators, cops, and firefighters on the job. I'll respect science and tell the truth, period. And I'll build our economy back better, creating millions of good-paying jobs. I'll revitalize manufacturing, build a clean energy economy, and boost caregiving—easing the squeeze on working families, providing paid leave, and getting caregivers the respect and pay they deserve.

Q: What is the most important issue facing our country and how do you plan to address it during your first 100 days in office?

A: Pandemic. Recession. Racial injustice. Climate change. We're facing historic crises; we have to tackle them all at once. Character and experience count. I'll listen to scientists, tell the truth, and make sure we're never so unprepared for a pandemic again. I'll expand the Affordable Care Act, lowering costs and making health care a right for all. I'll build our economy back better, and make racial equity central to recovery. In these crises, we have an enormous opportunity, if we come together. As President, I'll draw on the best of us, not the worst. I'll work as hard for those who don't support me as for those who do. That's a president's job: to represent us all. To take responsibility. To protect the nation. To unite and to heal.

Q: How will you address racial injustice in our country on day one of your administration?

A: America is at an inflection point. It's past time to end our inequities and deal with the denial of our nation's promise to too many for too long. I'll fight to end the health inequities that COVID-19 amplifies; and give every child the same strong start in life by offering universal Pre-K, tripling funding for Title I schools, and making public college debt-free for most families. I'll make racial equity central to our recovery, closing the racial wealth and income gaps, boosting home ownership, and investing in communities and entrepreneurs of color—building a stronger, more inclusive middle class for the future. And, I'll work for real police reform and invest in shifting our criminal justice focus from incarceration to prevention.

Q: What aspects of our current immigration policy will your administration address first?

A: My immigration policy is built around keeping families together. It's past time to reform our broken system, restoring family unification and diversity as its core pillars. As President, I'll reverse Trump's assault on our values on Day One, ending his cruel border policies that rip children from their mothers' arms. I'll act immediately to protect Dreamers and their families, and invest real political capital in finally delivering legislative immigration reform, with a roadmap to citizenship for the nearly 11 million undocumented people who already do so much to make our communities strong. We have to enforce our laws, but in a way that's humane, respects due process, honors our values, and sees the big picture.

Q: What will you do over the long term to ensure access to quality healthcare for all?

A: This pandemic makes clear: All Americans need access to quality, affordable health insurance. That's why I'll protect and build on the Affordable Care Act. I helped to secure the final key votes to pass that landmark law, protecting 100 million Americans who can no longer be turned away or denied coverage for pre-existing conditions, and bringing coverage to 20 million more. As President, I'll build on that progress with a public option and lower health care and prescription drug costs. I'll make all COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccines free; double funding for community health centers that are so often on the frontlines of care; and much more.

The following candidates have qualified for the Texas state ballot according to the Secretary of State of Texas but did not meet the LWVEF criteria.

» **Jo Jorgensen (L)**

» **Howie Hawkins (G)**

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
» What does a senator do? https://youtu.be/K_fSu4Cd9xw

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Immigration: What are your priorities regarding the immigration system?

Healthcare: How would you address access to and the cost of healthcare?

Gun Violence: What are your recommendations to protect students from gun violence?

COVID-19: What actions, if any, do you believe are needed to address the health and economic impact caused by COVID-19?

Voting Rights: What actions, if any, would you take to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to safe and fair elections?

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

Two Minute Video Option: Comment on the recent civil rights demonstrations.



» John Cornyn (R)

Qualifications: John Cornyn was elected to the Texas Supreme Court in 1990. In 1998, he was elected Attorney General of Texas. In 2002, he was elected to the U.S. Senate. Senator Cornyn serves on the Senate's Judiciary, Finance, and Intelligence Committees.

Immigration: Recognizing we are a nation of immigrants, Senator Cornyn has voted in support of a permanent legislative solution for Dreamers who call Texas their home. The Senator cosponsored the Secured and Succeed Act in 2018, which proposed a solution for DACA recipients that provides a pathway to citizenship for 1.8 million young adults.

Healthcare: Senator Cornyn supports a system that: protects those with pre-existing conditions; lowers the cost of prescription drugs by increasing generics; increases competition by allowing cross-state health insurance; lowers out of pocket costs for seniors on Medicare; reestablishes the privacy of the doctor patient relationship

Gun Violence: Sen. Cornyn believes the right to keep and bear arms is a sacred Constitutional right for Texans. But we must ensure guns are kept out of the hands of criminals and domestic abusers. He believes we need to eliminate unli-

censed firearm dealers, which will mean more people get background checks because all Federal Firearms Licenses are required to complete those.

COVID-19: Sen. Cornyn voted for the CARES Act, which sent stimulus checks to individuals who—through no fault of their own—were unable to work and earn a paycheck, and established the Paycheck Protection Program—a critical lifeline that helped ensure businesses could bridge the gap without laying off employees.

Voting Rights: Sen. Cornyn believes that any Texan who wants to vote safely can do so under existing law. If you're over 65 or you're disabled, you can vote by mail. Or if you are not going to be present in your county on Election Day, Gov. Abbott has extended the early voting period.

Vouchers: School choice empowers parents to choose the setting that best fits their child's unique interests, learning style and educational needs. While education is rightfully managed at the local and state level, our entire country has a stake in ensuring we are raising highly educated, analytical, well-rounded citizens.

Two Minute Video Option: <https://www.youtube.com/v/WLnXOc9afTU>

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/johncornyn>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/teamcornyn>



» Mary 'MJ' Hegar (D)

Qualifications: I have served our country, am a working mom, and live the challenges of regular Texans. I served 3 tours in Afghanistan as a medevac pilot, earning a Purple Heart & DFC w/ Valor and took on DC to make our military stronger. I'm the fighter we need.

Immigration: We need comprehensive immigration reform that reflects our core American values—the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We must streamline the process for applying for and receiving citizenship, create a pathway to citizenship for those here, protect DREAMers, permanently end child separation and secure the border with effective procedures & technology.

Healthcare: During my 5 years working in health care, it was clear that our skyrocketing costs and high uninsured rate were unsustainable. As we face a pandemic and beyond, I'll fight for access to quality affordable health care for every Texan, and for their right to determine whether that is a public option or their current plan.

Gun Violence: As a mother of two young boys, gun violence survivor and a responsible gun owner, I say enough is enough. We must pass common-sense gun safety legislation to require background checks on every single gun sale, including closing the gun show loophole. We must also stop selling weapons of war to the public.

COVID-19: We need to listen to experts, not politicians, when it comes to solving the public health and economic crisis. We must provide adequate testing that is fully covered, protect our frontline workers, and improve contact tracing capacity. The economic recovery must center around supporting small businesses and workers, while enforcing transparency and accountability measures.

Voting Rights: Having served 12 years in the military I'm committed to defending our constitutional rights. I'll work to expand access to registration and voting, fight against voter suppression tactics, and support the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, restoring protections which have been weakened by the Supreme Court.

Vouchers: I'm a proud product of public school and a mama bear for my two young boys, and I will always fight for public schools and ALL of our kids. I oppose any policy that cuts or siphons funding from public schools.

Two Minute Video Option: My entire career I've fought to protect people's right to protest, and I stand with those peacefully demonstrating for change now. It's time for systemic reforms to fix how we train and equip law enforcement and improve their relationship with the public, and action to address the racial disparities that go far beyond our criminal justice system.

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MJforTexas/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mjhegar>

U.S. SENATOR | (continued)



» Kerry Douglas McKennon (L)

Qualifications: I have served on the executive committee for the Libertarian Party of Texas. I have over 20 years of management in the retail and food industry.

Immigration: Our first priority is that no child is left in a cage or separated from their family, reforming immigration policy means making it as simple as have the same policy for all immigrants from all countries. More judges and caseworkers are needed to determine if those seeking asylum can be allowed in, because an individual in a detention facility for three years is unacceptable.

Healthcare: Health insurance allowed to be purchased across state lines. The cost of healthcare is due primarily to the amount of money being spent in administration. We see within the VA and Medicare system; where actual treatments are being delayed or not approved due to lack of doctors, but there is never a shortage of admins boosting drug costs.

Gun Violence: Mental health and hate lie at the core of gun violence and those who act in its wake. Hate is learned and can be unlearned, but is a very tough row to hoe. Mental health is an issue that we can diagnosis and treat. Those are not the answers that some individuals want to hear, but they are closer to protecting our students than any gun ban.



» David B. Collins (G)

Qualifications: I am a US citizen, 30 years of age or more. In college I studied political science, originally as my major field but eventually as a second field toward a Texas teacher certification. Since then, as an activist, I have followed global politics.

Immigration: Make immigration policy humane, at last. The US has helped make much of Central and South America unsafe for poor and indigenous families for decades; this must stop. Let our neighbors in and give them a path toward citizenship. If the flow of capital is globalized, with national boundaries practically irrelevant, the movement of workers should be just as unrestricted.

Healthcare: This nation should do what other wealthy nations have done successfully: guarantee universal, single-payer health care. COVID-19 has made this more urgent than ever. Improved Medicare for All will cover all ages, with dental, mental, and optical coverage and no premiums. Once fully operational, it will save the nation as a whole 50% on health care costs.

Gun Violence: When young people have hope for the future and access to the mental health care they need, they will be far less likely to look to firearms to “solve” their problems. Schools need to be places of nurturing and care for the whole student, especially when their homes often are not. Our government can set a better example by not bombing people to boost corporate profits.

COVID-19: I think politicians are damned if they do and damned if they don't in a pandemic situation. What we can do is get the government out of the way of treatment and care. It is difficult to say who is and who is not essential. For the individual working that is now not essential by the government for them that paycheck is essential to feed their family, to have shelter, etc.

Voting Rights: The Voters Rights Act has been a huge success. So much so that preclearance at the federal level is rarely needed to ensure the right to vote. One way to ensure eligible voters can access equal, safe, and fair elections is to stop the gerrymandering that currently occurs from both old parties.

Vouchers: I oppose using public funds for private school vouchers. The main reason is that those funds have been set aside for the use of public education. If a parent or guardian chooses to send their child to a private school, the taxpayers should not be paying for that choice.

Two Minute Video Option: Protest are always warranted. Violence as with the Boston Tea Party is sometimes necessary when in defense of Liberty. I would stand with Justin Amash in ending Qualified Immunity and gladly sponsor that bill.

Campaign Website: <http://www.mckennon2020.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KerryMcKennon2020/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/McKennon2020>

COVID-19: Our 4% of the world's population has about quarter of its COVID-19 deaths. If we had shut down public spaces, suspended rent and mortgage collections, and given US residents a livable income for a few months, like New Zealand and other countries, we would have saved thousands of lives and billions of dollars. We could easily pay for this by redirecting defense funding.

Voting Rights: 1. Propose a Constitutional Amendment guaranteeing voting rights for all US citizens 18 and up, including convicted felons, and prohibiting states and counties from purging voter rolls. 2. Enact automatic voter registration and a federal database (which I know scares some people). 3. Approval voting makes elections much fairer by avoiding the third-party “spoiler” problem.

Vouchers: Vouchers are a lazy solution to an avoidable problem. We can have excellent public schools for everyone, and much more, if we cut our national “defense” budget by half. Side note: Texas school districts should prioritize the mission of actually educating children rather than building palatial football stadia.

Two Minute Video Option: <https://www.youtube.com/v/j9BLOvw9dys> I wholeheartedly support the Movement for Black Lives, as do the Green Parties of Texas and the US. Our platform calls for reparations and strong measures to end racially motivated police violence.

Campaign Website: <http://dbcgreentx.net>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/dbc4senator2020>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/dbcgreentx>

» VOTING IN TEXAS

The Texas primary runoff is an extremely important election in Texas!

Voters in the Texas primaries and conventions choose who will run for office in the General Election. For many communities in Texas, their elected officials are chosen in the primary election because many districts heavily favor one party over the other.

The Republican and Democratic Parties choose their candidates in a primary election. The Libertarian and Green Parties choose their candidates in party conventions.

Texas has open primaries. That means that ALL Texas voters can participate in one of these events.

Voters who don't strongly identify with any political party can and should carefully consider the choices and participate in one of the primaries or conven-

tions. But you can only participate in one. Once a voter has voted in one party, that voter cannot participate in another party's primary election or convention.

For example: Voters who voted in the Republican primary may vote in the Republican runoff election. Voters who voted in the Democratic primary may vote in the Democratic runoff election. Voters who didn't vote in either primary election or convention may vote in either the Democratic or Republican runoff election.

The League encourages all registered voters to participate in the Texas Primary Election and vote for the best candidates. Don't forget, voting in a primary does not commit you to vote for a particular candidate in the general election.

BE A TEXAS VOTER!

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 21

Elected to a two-year term, each representative serves the people of a specific congressional district by introducing bills and serving on committees, among other duties.

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Q1: Are any federal laws needed to safeguard our democracy? Explain.

Q2: What legislation would you support to address the economic impact of COVID-19?

» Chip Roy (R) No Response Received



» **Wendy R. Davis (D)** 1: Restoration of the Voting Rights Act and an end to partisan gerrymandering are essential to restoring equitable access to the ballot.

» 2: Guided by public health experts, we need a cohesive plan for safely getting people back to work and to school so that our economy can thrive. This includes universal

mask wearing when social distancing is not practical, comprehensive COVID testing with rapid turn-around, contact tracing and incentives to assure PPE is made in America. It should also include financial support to keep small/medium businesses afloat (with transparency requirements) & unemployment supplements.

» 3: While I do not support defunding the police, I support ending choke-holds, no-knock warrants, qualified immunity, and criminalization of low level marijuana possession. We should increase resources to mental health/drug addiction & homelessness.

» 4: We can secure our borders while also comprehensively reforming our



» **Arthur Dibianca (L)** 1: We need federal laws to protect the voters' right to vote for the candidates they want. The Republican and Democratic Party hate competition, and they have recently worked hard to throw Libertarian and Green candidates off the ballot in Texas. I support legislation to protect ballot access in federal elections.

2: Unfortunately, government interference has made this problem worse. This is the wrong time to make it hard for Americans to get access to foreign products, medical equipment, etc. I support free trade laws that allow our economy to be more flexible in response to crises like COVID-19.

3: The federal government encourages the militarization of police by providing military equipment to them. I want to end that. I also want to end federal drug



» **Tom Wakely (G)** 1: We need to add criminal penalties to violations of the Hatch Act to ensure civil service employees don't engage in political activity while on the job. 2). We need to make harder for the Executive Branch to remove Inspector General's whose job it is to perform oversight of federal agencies by conducting audits, investigations, inspections, and other reviews. The removal of an IG should only happen with the approval of Congress.

» 2: The best way to address the economic impact of COVID-19 is UBI or universal basic income. Simply put UBI, which was the main focus of Andrew Yang's presidential campaign, would guarantee that every American received a monthly check from the federal government (no strings attached) to ensure they had enough money to pay their bills. Unlike Yang, I would back legislation that would means test who would receive a check.

Q3: What criminal justice reform do you recommend, if any?

Q4: What changes to our immigration system would you propose or support?

Q5: What is your position on climate change?

Q6: Do you recommend any changes to our health care system? Explain.

immigration system, put an end to family separations, stop caging asylum seekers and provide a path to citizenship to Dreamers.

» 5: I feel a profound responsibility to my granddaughters -- and all children -- to do my part to deliver a sustainable future for them. We must invest in clean energy jobs and transition from reliance on fossil fuels. We should restore environmental protections that the Trump administration decimated, constrain use of eminent domain for placement of private energy pipelines and give communities a voice in environmental consequences of permitting activities impacting their air and water.

» 6: Healthcare should be universal. We must protect the ACA, create a public-option that provides subsidized coverage for people who are uninsured and provides an option to employer-based health insurance. We should give Medicare the power to negotiate prescription drug prices; increase the number of rural health centers/hospitals; expand tax breaks for the cost of private insurance; expand the use of telemedicine; increase focus on preventative care; stop the war on reproductive healthcare.

prohibition, which is connected to many of the problems with police abuse we see today. There is a lot of evidence that our criminal justice system is filled with racial inequity, and that is wrong and needs to end.

4: Immigrants are our friends, not our enemies. I want to make it much easier for foreign nationals to come live and work in the United States.

5: Climate change is a complex scientific question, and I am not a climate scientist. However, I oppose efforts by the federal government to control or restrict Americans' energy choices.

6: Federal interference has made medical care far more expensive and complicated than it needs to be. I want to reduce that interference. I want to cut federal spending across the board, and that includes programs like Medicare and Medicaid. I know that position is unpopular with many Americans, but I believe it's important and necessary. We need to start acting like grown-ups.

» 3: Our nation's criminal-legal system denies the rights & dignity of all human life, harms both victims & offenders, & disrupts communities. New policy must re-envision & reform our current system, while restoring the common good. The three areas of reform I would recommend are: 1. Ending CIVIL FORFEITURE - The practice that let's the police cease a person property even if they have never been convicted of a crime; 2. Ending QUALIFIED IMMUNITY which shields police & 3. LEGALIZING MARIJUANA;

» 4: My wife is from Mexico. Most of her family still live in Mexico & as such, immigration is an important issue for me. I would support a 5 year pathway to permanent status & citizenship for the 11 million unauthorized immigrants currently living, working, and contributing in America today. I would also support removing old or low-level contacts with the criminal justice system, such as marijuana possession, that currently prevent undocumented immigrants from attaining citizenship.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 21 | (Cont.)

» Tom Wakely (G) continued

» 5: This is a CLIMATE EMERGENCY. Ice sheets are melting, the West coast is burning. It is only a matter of time before a 75,000 year old carcass thaws out somewhere & releases a deadly pathogen that will make COVID-19 seem like the sniffles. As tillable land & fresh water disappear around the world, local conflicts will turn into regional conflicts & war. I'm the only candidate on the

ballot for TX21 that understands that we must act now & that is why I support a ban on fracking & flaring.

» 6: Since the late 1980s I have advocated for universal healthcare or in today's language Medicare For All. With so many people out of work today due to COVID-19 it is ludicrous to continue to tie your healthcare to your job. I'm the only candidate on the ballot for TX21 who supports MEDICARE FOR ALL.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 35

Elected to a two-year term, each representative serves the people of a specific congressional district by introducing bills and serving on committees, among other duties.

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Q1: What actions, if any, would you take to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to safe and fair elections?

Q2: What legislation would you support to address the health and economic impact caused by COVID-19?

Q3: What criminal justice reform policies do you recommend, if any?

Q4: What other issue is your highest legislative priority and what legislation would you introduce or support to address it?

» Jenny Garcia Sharon (R) - No Response Received



» **Lloyd Doggett (D) Background:** A life-long Texan, I served in the TX State Senate, TX Supreme Court and U.S. House, Chair of Ways & Means Health Subcommittee, 12x "Best of Austin" Austin Chronicle award.

» **Education:** BA Business, JD, University of Texas at Austin

» 1: Vote by mail option for all. Resist Trump postal service sabotage. Restore Voting Rights Act. Overrule Citizens United and secret corporate money polluting our democracy. Replace outrageous gerrymandering with nonpartisan redistricting panel. I sponsored H.R. 1, For the People Act, to limit SuperPAC spending, improve voter registration and access, limit voter purges, provide alternate financing.

» 2: Assistance for virus testing, small businesses, unemployed. I am helping hundreds of Texans access aid. Supported extensive assistance obstructed by Trump enablers: more COVID testing & treatment, food security, another relief payment, school safety, postal service, and state/local government

assistance, which Senate GOP Leader irresponsibly willing to bankrupt. Overcome ongoing Trump deception.

» 3: Better security with fair, just treatment. Black Lives Matter since too often devalued. Sponsored George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, blocked by GOP, to ban abusive practices, racial profiling; create new training, empower federal misconduct review; limit qualified immunity. Condition federal funding on local compliance. Adequately fund many good officers providing effective community policing.

» 4: Healthcare-better Medicare for more. Defend current pre-existing conditions protection from GOP attacks. Enact my bills: Medicare dental, vision, hearing coverage; end surprise billing; better nursing home oversight; prescription drug negotiation and protection of taxpayer pharma research investments to stop price gouging. AARP awards twice recognized my efforts strengthening health access.



» **Mark Loewe (L) Background:** Physics researcher. Did microelectronics R&D. Devised progressive school choice. Proposed 4 Texas House bills to let kids permanently keep low cost math and science textbooks. **Education:** PhD Physics, UT Austin. BS Chemistry, BS Physics, UC Irvine. Taught physics at UT and Texas State U. Coauthored a graduate-level quantum mechanics textbook used worldwide.

» 1: To ease access, I favor making federal election days holidays. For elections with more than two candidates, I favor instant-runoff voting. To promote accurate results and deter fraud in federal elections, I favor photo IDs, recountable ballots, public access to photos of cast ballots and chain-of-custody records, federal rules and payment for mandatory recounts, and severe penalties for fraud.

» 2: Except to vet aliens for dangerous communicable diseases, I oppose health limits on liberty without proof that a person is dangerous. To improve health

care and lower costs, I favor unlimited competition, with public access to track-record and cost statistics of treatments and practitioners. I oppose bailouts that would reward lavish spending, poor planning, and mismanagement by state governments.

» 3: I devised progressive school choice to empower parents, especially poor parents, to reject mediocre schools and choose safe schools that better serve the individual needs, abilities, and interests of their children. Such choice would greatly improve education and job skills, reduce disruptive behavior and numbers of children who turn to drugs and crime, and is essential to criminal justice reform.

» 4: Congress should eliminate federal debt, on which it gave away \$574 billion of interest in 2019. I would introduce a bill to direct the US Treasury to issue money to pay for all goods and services Congress acquires and to pay down the current debt by at least \$2 trillion per year. I would introduce a Constitutional amendment to prohibit Congress from incurring debt on which interest is given away.



» **Jason Mata Sr (G) Background:** I am 47 years old; born and raised in US District 35. I am happily married to Rachel Gonzales-Mata for 24 years. We have 3 children and a granddaughter. **Education:** I graduated from Fox Tech High School and attended ITT Technical 1 1/2 years. At my fathers urging due to his ailing health I decided to help him with the non-profit org.

- » 1: Due to COVID-19 I would support Vote By Mail with protocols in place to minimize voter fraud. I will also work to assure that there are enough voting sites available in all areas (rural, urban, and suburban) to have reasonable access to voting sites. I will also push for Texas to modernize the election process ensuring fair and just election results. Voters respond well to a fair process.
- » 2: I would support legislation that ensures that essential workers are secured and protected. I would support legislation that protects vulnerable children

and elderly individuals who may be more At-Risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus. I would support legislation that focuses on a vaccine and that assures that there would be more than enough PPE supplies, hospital beds, and ventilators are avail

- » 3: I will work to reform the Juvenile system in an effort to allow Juvenile offenders an opportunity to overcome barriers and not repeat offenses. I will work to close to pipeline of Juvenile to County Jail to Prison incarceration. Every year, America spends millions of dollars treating the symptoms of instead of prevention and intervention of Juvenile delinquency which may lead to long term jail
- » 4: Youth development, Family Strengthening and community safety are my top priorities. I also have special legislation for Senior individuals who qualify as low income. I would introduce and support legislation that would stream line public benefits and encourage furthering education and enrollment in trade schools. I will have adequate staff that will be available to assist constituency.

WHERE TO VOTE - COMAL COUNTY

NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION DAY POLLING LOCATIONS (3 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2020 UBICACIONES DE VOTACION DEL DIA DE LAS ELECCIONES GENERAL) 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M.

VOTE CENTER ELECTION (*Elección de Centros de Votación*). On Election Day, eligible Comal County **VOTERS MAY VOTE AT ANY** of the locations listed on this page. Voters are **NOT** limited to only voting in the precinct where they are registered to vote. (*En el día de elección votantes elegibles del Condado de Comal podrán votar en cualquier sitio indicado en esta página. Votantes tienen más opciones en dónde votar, sin limitarse al precinto en donde están registrados para votar.*)

PCT	POLLING LOCATION (UBICACIÓN DE VOTACIÓN)	ADDRESS (DIRECCIÓN)
VC #1	Comal County Senior Citizens Center	665 Landa, New Braunfels 78130
VC #2	Mammen Family Public Library	131 Bulverde Crossing, Bulverde, Tx 78163
VC #3	Freedom Fellowship Church	410 Oak Run Point, New Braunfels, Tx 78132
VC #4	Tye Preston Memorial Library	16311 South Access Rd., Canyon Lake, Tx 78133
VC #5	Canyon Springs Resort Clubhouse	691 Canyon Springs Dr., Canyon Lake, Tx 78133
VC #6	Emergency Services District No. 4 Fire Station No. 4	215 Rebecca Creek Road, Canyon Lake, TX 78133
VC #7	Vintage Oaks Amenity Center	1250 Via Principale, New Braunfels, Tx 78132
VC #8	Lakeside Golf Club	405 Watts Lane, Canyon Lake, Tx 78133
VC #9	Christ Our King Anglican Church	115 Kings Way, New Braunfels, Tx 78132
VC #10	Comal County Offices, Bulverde Annex, JP 2 Courtroom	30470 Cougar Bend, Bulverde, Tx 78163
VC #11	Jay F. Feibelman Garden Ridge Community Center, Wildflower Room	9500 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, Tx 78266
VC #12	Bulverde/Spring Branch Fire & EMS @ Johnson Ranch	30475 Johnson Way, Bulverde, Tx 78163
VC #13	Cibolo Creek Community Church	30395 Ralph Fair Rd., Boerne, Tx 78015
VC #14	Westside Community Center, Gym	2932 S. IH 35, New Braunfels, Tx 78130
VC #15	Knights of Columbus Hall, Large Room	111 Landa St., New Braunfels, Tx 78130
VC #16	New Braunfels Library, Large Meeting Room	700 E. Common, New Braunfels, Tx 78130
VC #17	Comal County Offices, Goodwin Annex, Training Room	1297 Church Hill Dr., New Braunfels, Tx 78130
VC #18	New Braunfels Christian Church, Fellowship Hall	734 N. Loop 337, New Braunfels, Tx 78130
VC #19	The Venue at Creekside, Large Room	2032 Central Plaza, New Braunfels, Tx 78130
VC #20	St. Francis by the Lake Episcopal Church, Large Room	121 Spring Mountain Dr., Canyon Lake, Tx 78133
VC #21	North Shore United Methodist Church	23880 N. Cranes Mill Rd. Canyon Lake, Tx 78133
VC #22	Christ Presbyterian Church, Auditorium	1620 Common, New Braunfels, Tx 78130
VC #23	Rebecca Creek Baptist Church	11755 Hwy 281 N., Spring Branch, Tx 78070
VC #24	River Chase Clubhouse	436 River Chase Way, New Braunfels, Tx 78132

Main Early Voting Polling Location

(Lugar Principal de Votación Anticipada)

COMAL COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE

396 N. Seguin Ave., New Braunfels, TX 78130

Emergency and Limited ballots available only at the main location.

(Boletas limitadas y de emergencia solamente están disponibles en este lugar.)

Location Temporary Branch Early Voting Polling Locations

(Lugar, Fechas y Horas de las Sucursales de los Centros Temporal de Votación para la Votación Anticipada)

Mammen Family Public Library, Meeting Room C	131 Bulverde Crossing, Bulverde, TX 78163
Comal County Offices, Goodwin Annex, Training Room	1297 Church Hill, New Braunfels, TX 78130
CRRC of Canyon Lake, Room 1	1917 FM 2673, Canyon Lake, TX 78133
Comal County Offices, Bulverde Annex, JP2 Courtroom	30470 Cougar Bend, Bulverde, TX 78163
St. Francis by the Lake Episcopal Church, Large Room	121 Spring Mountain Dr., Canyon Lake, TX 78133
Garden Ridge Community Center, Wildflower Room	9500 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, TX 78266

Early Voting Dates and Hours

(Fechas y Horarios de Votación Anticipada)

Tuesday, October 13 th through Friday, October 16 th , 2020.....	8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
<i>Martes, 13 de Octubre de 2020 hasta el Viernes, 16 de Octubre de 2020.....</i>	<i>(8:00 de la mañana a las 6:00 de la tarde)</i>
Saturday, October 17 th , 2020.....	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
<i>Sabado, 17 de Octubre de 2020.....</i>	<i>(7:00 de la tarde a las 7:00 de la tarde)</i>
Sunday, October 18 th , 2020.....	1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
<i>Domingo, 18 de Octubre de 2020.....</i>	<i>(1:00 de la tarde a las 6:00 de la tarde)</i>
Monday, October 19 th through Saturday, October 24 th , 2020.....	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
<i>Lunes, 19 de Octubre de 2020 hasta el Sabado, 24 de Octubre de 2020.....</i>	<i>(7:00 de la mañana a las 7:00 de la tarde)</i>
Sunday, October 25 th , 2020.....	1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
<i>Domingo, 25 de Octubre de 2020.....</i>	<i>(1:00 de la tarde a las 6:00 de la tarde)</i>
Monday, October 26 th through Friday, October 30 th , 2020	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
<i>Lunes, 26 de Octubre de 2020 hasta el Viernes, 30 de Octubre de 2020.....</i>	<i>(7:00 de la mañana a las 7:00 de la tarde)</i>



» HELPFUL CONTACTS AND WEBSITES

Secretary of State

sos.state.tx.us
VoteTexas.gov

League of Women Voters of Texas

lwvtexas.org <https://my.lwv.org/texas>

League of Women Voters (U.S.)

lwv.org

League of Women Voters - Comal Area lwvcomal.org

Republican Party texasgop.org Democratic Party txdemocrats.org Libertarian Party lptexas.org Green Party txgreens.org

VOTE411.org

The League's online Voters Guide

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

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://youtu.be/Fm0BNjPUCic>

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Pipelines: What can the Texas Railroad Commission do to further ensure compliance with pipeline regulations to avoid environmental harm?

Natural Resources: What can the Texas Railroad Commission do to promote the reclamation and reuse of water resources used in fracking operations?

Flaring: What, if any, further regulations or limits are needed to address the impact of flaring on the environment?

» James “Jim” Wright (R)

Candidate has not yet responded.



» Chrysta Castañeda (D)

Qualifications: I have over 30 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, as an engineer and attorney. I know the complex technical and legal issues that face the industry. I will protect our natural resources and environment and keep industry functioning.

Pipelines: The Commission should increase safety and emissions monitoring to end catastrophic failures and eliminate methane leaks. It should implement a more robust information system to know where all smaller intrastate and gathering lines are located and permitted. The legislature must assign oversight authority for pipeline permitting, right-of-way acquisition and condemnation.

Natural Resources: A reclamation and reuse program would ensure less fresh water is used and would reduce the need for disposal wells. Program guide-

lines, informed by experts, could provide best practices for operators. Updated permitting and reporting requirements would ensure operator compliance. To work, oversight must be provided by adequately trained and compensated professionals.

Flaring: If the Railroad Commission would simply enforce the laws on the books, we would dramatically impact greenhouse gasses and pollution. Flaring and venting of natural gas are illegal activities and the Railroad Commission should enforce those laws, which Texans enacted long ago to protect our natural resources and our environment.

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChrystaForTexas/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ChrystaForTexas>



» Matt Sterett (L)

Qualifications: I run a small Oil & Gas Software company. Clients use the software to forecast well data. Sometimes, that data is from the RRC. I've been in the building & met w/ a few RRC team members—I'm familiar with the organization's digital operations.

Pipelines: Punt the responsibility to the courts. Texas is a litigious state. I think the Texas courts have broadly supported property rights. As a Libertarian, I believe in strong private property rights. I also don't believe in expanding regulators activities. If / when environmental harm is done, I'd rather be settled in a court than a government agency.

Natural Resources: As a Libertarian, I believe in strong private property rights. I also don't believe in expanding regulators activities. If / when environmental harm is done, I'd rather be settled in a court than a government agency.

Flaring: I'm against Flaring on the grounds that it's *wasteful*. We have a limited amount of natural resources. In the past, when we've had to import, it has meant foreign policy that led to wars. Title 3, Sub-chapter B Sec. 91.015 of the TX Natural Resources Code (statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/NR/htm/NR.91.htm) calls to “prevent waste of oil, gas”. The RRC has not upheld this.

Campaign Website: <http://www.mattrrc.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sterett>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/matthewsterett>



» Katija “Kat” Gruene (G)

Qualifications: 3 decades of project & bus.mgmt. along w/ consensus-based facilitation; 2 decades of experience doing legislative work, coalition building, campaigning, and leading an environmental & social justice movement in a litigious & hostile environment.

Pipelines: First, no new pipelines. Second, properly inspect and review existing permits for compliance and safety. Third, hold corporations accountable for violations including restoration of & restitution in areas already harmed. Fourth, stop taking political contributions from those they are regulating. Fifth, enforce new 2020 regulations, including updating existing pipelines.

Natural Resources: Ban Fracking Period. There is no need for such a highly

wasteful, unsafe, and unsustainable practice. All water used in these operations is no longer potable and because it is chemically altered, scientists believe it may never be returned to the state of water—h₂o. The emerging tech of onsite carrier gas desalination plants could become a valid option if successful.

Flaring: There are solutions, we just need to require them: power oxidation process, flare gas power generation, flare gas reinjection in secondary oil recovery, feedstock for petrochemical plants, LNG, CNG, & a small reactor that inexpensively breaks water and methane into carbon monoxide and hydrogen in the field (syngas), which can then be used for energy and industrial products

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/GreenTXRRC>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/qweekat>

CHIEF 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.

Base salary: \$170,500

» What does the Texas Supreme Court do? <https://youtu.be/nv6Mu5-QsO8>

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Judicial Selection: Texas is one of the few states that elects judges in partisan elections. What changes, if any, in the judicial selection process would you recommend?

Standards: What changes, if any, do you think are necessary to improve public confidence in the legal profession?

Biases: What training and practices do you recommend for trial judges to guard against implicit biases?

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



» Nathan Hecht (R)

Qualifications: Yale BA 1971; SMU JD w/ honors 1974; USNR JAGC 1971-1979 (hon. disch); 1976-1981 Locke firm assoc., ptr; 1981-1986 95th Dist. Ct., Dallas; 1986-1988 5th Ct. of App., Dallas; 1989-2013, Tex. Supreme Ct Justice; Chief Justice 2013-present

Judicial Selection: Voters should decide who their judges are, but in partisan elections, they don't get to, because there are too many judges on the ballot to know their qualifications. It's not voters' fault. Party politics and campaign fundraising are poisonous. Judges must follow the law. Appoint on qualifications, then voters elect to retain based on performance, holding them accountable.

Standards: Judges and lawyers should engage with community leaders to ensure the justice system is seen as fair to all, as the Supreme Court and I did in a "Beyond the Bench Summit" in Dallas. Civics education in schools should be

stronger and more creative. A great example is the South Texas program for students to enact mock trials in a real courtroom, playing different roles.

Biases: Training Texas judges on issues of race and fairness has been required for many years. Implicit bias training is conducted annually for new judges and by the Texas Center for the Judiciary in many other courses and conferences. The Supreme Court's "Beyond the Bench Summit" featured implicit bias training. The Judicial Council that I chair is preparing other training.

Other Issues: The Court's work is completely current and has been since I've been Chief Justice. Its challenges are to continue to guide Texas courts through the pandemic and equip them with all they need to function. In these tight economic times, the Court must help ensure adequate funding for courts, and also for legal aid for the poor, to ensure equal access to justice for all.

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hechtyes>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NathanLHecht>



» Amy Clark Meachum (D)

Qualifications: As a district court judge for a decade, I have presided over all types of cases heard by the Supreme Court: civil, family and administrative appeals. I am a guest lecturer for ethics, a member of the Public Law Council and an advocate for legal aid.

Judicial Selection: The State should help voters by sending an information packet to each voter and providing that information at polling locations. The packet should contain background information, qualifications, and a statement of judicial philosophy for each candidate. That information would assist voters to make an informed selection and would reduce campaign costs for candidates.

Standards: Texas should increase public membership and participation on the Committee on Disciplinary Rules and Referenda, which recommends proposed changes in legal ethics rules in Texas. Currently, under Texas Gov't Code

§ 81.0872, just 2 of 9 members are public members. Also, members of the public who file grievances should be allowed to participate in some parts of the process.

Biases: We need to require every judge and lawyer in the state to take implicit bias training. This is simple and achievable. When I am elected Chief Justice this fall, we will make this part of the Texas justice system's mission on Day 1. We need to add a pledge of "Equal Justice under the Law" to the lawyer's and judge's oaths. It is past time to create a more fair system.

Other Issues: All Texans should have access to essential legal services. Access to justice is a top priority of mine, and one of the cornerstones of a fair and just society, especially during COVID. The current Court is considering a \$1.2 million cut to legal aid, but rising evictions, layoffs and domestic violence cases are creating a more urgent need for legal services—not less.

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

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/JudgeAmyforChiefJustice/>



» Mark Ash (L)

Qualifications: I have mostly practiced criminal defense law for the last 27 years. Also, I have represented individuals in civil matters including divorce, property rights and personal injury.

Judicial Selection: Elections for judges should not be based on political party affiliation. At a minimum, judges should be in good standing with the state bar and have actively practiced law in Texas for a minimum time

period of 5 or 10 years. Also, term limits for judges should be seriously considered limiting judges to no more than 2 or 3 terms per court.

Standards: The public needs access to more data from the state bar. The public needs to know how many clients the lawyer has represented in the criminal or civil courts. Many times, clients are not aware of the limited experience a civil lawyer may have in criminal court and a criminal lawyer may have in civil court. Also, malpractice insurance information needs to be disclosed.

Biases: Judges should be required to attend a minimum number of hours of continuing legal education. Information about the courses/classes that the judges

» Mark Ash (L) *(continued)*

attended need to be available online for the public to view. Also, user friendly access to campaign contributor information needs to be made available to the public.

Other Issues: The Texas Supreme court should continue to make more and

more user friendly legal forms available online for simpler legal matters such as for family, probate and real estate. Links should be provided to trusted websites that give up-to-date information for pro se litigants.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/markashfortexasupremecourt/>

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.

Base salary: \$168,000

» **What does the Texas Supreme Court do?** <https://youtu.be/nv6Mu5-QsO8>

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Judicial Selection: Texas is one of the few states that elects judges in partisan elections. What changes, if any, in the judicial selection process would you recommend?

Standards: What changes, if any, do you think are necessary to improve public confidence in the legal profession?

Biases: What training and practices do you recommend for trial judges to guard against implicit biases?

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

» JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, PLACE 6



» Jane Bland (R)

Qualifications: I have served more than 20 years at three levels of the state judiciary: as a trial judge, as a justice on the court of appeals, and now on the Supreme Court of Texas. I am board certified in civil trial law and civil appellate law.

Judicial Selection: No change in judicial selection can happen without the support of the voters and their elected representatives. Governor Abbott and the Texas Legislature have formed a bi-partisan commission charged with making recommendations about judicial selection. I look forward to these recommendations, and I support this process.

Standards: We can improve public confidence by respecting and valuing all people who encounter our courts, reducing the cost of resolving disputes through

innovation and technology, educating lawyers about best practices, and serving needs of those who cannot afford a lawyer. I have done that work through leadership positions in the bar and as a community volunteer.

Biases: I recommend that trial judges cultivate standards of excellence by incorporating the best practices of others from all walks of life and foster understanding even in disagreement or when faced with terrible circumstances. The Texas Center for the Judiciary offers excellent courses for judges on understanding implicit bias and improving decision-making.

Other Issues: The Court will continue to work toward advancing justice and the rule of law during the pandemic.

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/judgejanebland/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/courthouse_mom



» Kathy Cheng (D)

Qualifications: I have almost twenty years of legal experience in areas including complex commercial issues, divorce and probate, tax and real estate cases. I have also served as adjudication officer for the City of Houston for about six years.

Judicial Selection: The beauty of democracy is that citizens can vote for individuals who they believe reflect their values, which in the State of Texas includes the election of judges. If that choice turns out to be a bad choice, being able to vote elected officials out of office is a mechanism to hold said officials accountable. As such, I see no need for change at the present time.

Standards: As time evolves, the means of disseminating the rules and standards for the legal profession shall also evolve. With the ease of digital accessibility, there should be more educational information available to the general public

by digital means of the rules and standards governing said profession so that the general population are better informed as to their rights.

Biases: Raising awareness of the existence of implicit bias through regular meeting discussion can debias the years of exposure to cultural stereotypes, narratives and/or systemic policies. In addition, implement a mandatory annual implicit bias training for judges and staff members.

Other Issues: With the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision to refrain from hearing challenges of partisan gerrymandering, partisan gerrymandering cases will now go before the Texas Supreme Court, which is an example of how this Court impacts its citizens even though the citizens themselves may never go before this Court.

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/chengforjustice/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/chengforjustice>

» JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, PLACE 7



» Jeff Boyd (R)

Qualifications: My extensive and varied legal career—including 16 years in private practice, 3 years as the deputy attorney general in charge of civil litigation involving the state, and 2 years serving as general counsel and chief of staff for the governor’s office

Judicial Selection: Electing judges creates issues that undermine the public’s confidence in the system, but it also requires judges and judicial candidates to interact with the public. This gives the public the opportunity learn who will best serve to counteract those problems. If we were building the process from scratch, leave it to the public to decide to alter the system.

Standards: We must continue to make the system more accessible by reducing the costs and delays required to resolve common civil disputes. We must do more to promote the legal profession as a means for public service instead of private profit. And we must continue to promote transparency into the operations and activities of our courts and judges.



» Staci Williams (D)

Qualifications: I am in my second term as Judge of the 101st District Court. The 101st District Court handles primarily commercial, personal injury, medical malpractice, oil and gas, and consumer issues. I have over 27 years of legal experience.

Judicial Selection: Texans have elected judges in partisan elections for more than 100 years. While I believe that this Texas tradition should not be disturbed, a Commission has been established to study options to selecting judges in urban areas by methods other than partisan elections. Recommendations will be made at the end of the year. I look forward to reviewing these alternatives.

Standards: The legal profession needs to get more involved in the community. My judicial outreach program, the Citizens’ Civil Academy (“CCA”), was launched to educate citizens about the civil court system. The CCA explores the

» William Bryan Strange, III (L) Candidate has not yet responded.

» JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, PLACE 8



» Brett Busby (R)

Qualifications: Based on my experience as a board-certified appellate lawyer and my record as a fair court of appeals judge, I earned the support of all Democrats and Republicans when the Texas Senate voted unanimously to approve my appointment to the Supreme Court.

Judicial Selection: Our process should select experienced judges who will deliver justice: giving everyone the fair day in court they deserve and ruling impartially based on the law, never imposing their personal or political views to reach a desired result. I support the work of the Texas Commission on Judicial Selection, which the Legislature created to report on selection options in 2021.

Standards: Important conversations are taking place across Texas about equality and justice under the law. The Supreme Court’s “Beyond the Bench: Law, Justice, and Communities Summit” developed a toolkit to foster dialogue on real solutions that will enhance public trust in our justice system. I encourage lawyers, judges, and local leaders to use this kit in their communities.

Biases: Programs like the “Beyond the Bench” conference the Court sponsored in 2016 can be effective for that purpose. Requiring judges’ participation in such well-designed, high-quality programs as part of their annual continuing-education requirements would be a meaningful step in the right direction.

Other Issues: (1) Ongoing implementation of evolving technology to increase efficiency within the judicial system. (2) Maintaining timely decision-making processes through changes in the Court’s make-up over time. (3) Ensuring continued operations throughout the judicial system in times of natural disasters.

Campaign Website: <http://justicejeffboyd.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JusticeBoydTX>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/JeffBoydTX>

types of cases heard in the civil courts and what happens to a case from the time the case is filed until it is disposed. There have been over 350 graduates.

Biases: I believe they should attend training sessions and evaluate on a monthly basis what practices or procedures can be modified to reduce implicit bias. Every day, the judge should ask him/herself, “would I have treated this litigant differently if he had been a member of my own race?”

Other Issues: The Texas Supreme Court will be faced with what to do about the bar examination. Many states have an apprentice licensing program. We must consider how the Court will ensure safe testing locations and procedures or if the Supreme Court will allow the 2020 graduates to practice without an examination.

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JudgeStaci/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/JudgeStaci>

Biases: The Texas Center for the Judiciary provides all new Texas judges with training on recognizing and responding to implicit biases. As part of our ongoing commitment to assure that equal justice under law is a reality for all, the Center also offers continuing education on unconscious processes that affect decisions and best practices for increasing sound decision-making.

Other Issues: As the Court’s liaison for access to justice, I champion reforms that help Texans of limited means—including veterans, domestic violence victims, families, and the elderly—get the basic civil legal services they need. Example: online hearings can significantly increase access and reduce cost, so we are planning how to use them most effectively even after the pandemic.

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/justicebrettbusby/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BrettBusby>



» JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, PLACE 8

» Gisela D. Triana (D)

Qualifications: For over 24 yrs, I have served as a judge in Texas: Municipal Ct, JP, County Ct, District Ct, Appellate Ct. I will be the first person on the TXSCT to have served on every

lower level court. Most of my 32-yr legal career has been in public service.

Judicial Selection: This is a legitimate discussion if there was a non-partisan way to select judges that Texans could trust. The issue is the timing: after the party that has been in power and benefited from partisan election of judges for decades begins to lose that power. It makes the concern seem self-interested. Texans have clearly shown a preference for electing judges, I support that.

Standards: I believe that in today's racially and politically charged climate, lawyers and judges should be at the forefront and lead by example by requiring mandatory implicit bias training for all members of the Bar. We all have implicit bias and some even explicit bias. We need to learn how to identify it and work diligently to overcome it. I try to do this on a daily basis.

Biases: There are several continuing legal education courses that deal with the psychology behind our unconscious bias, how to identify it, and how best to combat it. Such courses should be compulsory for all Bar members. Project Implicit has several online tests that can be startling, yet should also be required for all judges. <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>

Other Issues: Restoring balance to the Court. Currently, all members are Republican. 7 of the 9 were originally political appointments by a Republican Governor. Our founders were wise to create a jury system that brought people from different walks of life, with different experiences to judge a case. We need diversity of thought on the Court, as well. It makes for better jurisprudence.

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JudgeTriana>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/JusticeTriana>



» Tom Oxford (L)

Qualifications: With almost four decades of legal experience I will bring a broad range of knowledge to the bench. I have had the pleasure of successfully representing Texans before both the Texas Supreme Court and the United States Court of Appeals.

Judicial Selection: The problem is not the partisan nature of the elections. The problem is the massive amount of money given to these candidates by the very firms that will be appearing before them. If a firm wants to give funds to a candidate that is their right. However when that firm appears before that same Judge appropriate conflict of interest standards should be applied.

Standards: An open system that treats all parties with an even hand, regardless of race or socio-economic status would be a good start. Too often a litigant's chances depend more on who their lawyer is and what connections they have

with the judge than on the actual facts of the dispute. An honest recognition of that fact by our profession would be a good start.

Biases: I am not sure how to answer this question. You cannot train bias out of someone, it is part of human nature. We all favor our family over our neighbors, our neighbors over our community and our community over the community down the road. We must recognize our bias and constantly guard against it. A difficult task indeed!

Other Issues: Historically Judges decided the law and juries decided the facts. We have gotten away from that respect for the Jury System in Texas. Too often, when there are honest factual disputes, Judges will overrule the jury and substitute their own opinions for the Jury's. This tension will continue to be a pressing issue.

» VOTING FOR JUDGES IN TEXAS

In some states, judges are chosen by the government. In Texas, judges are chosen by people like you.

Judges make decisions that affect everyone, ranging from someone going to jail, issuing warrants, getting evicted, and owing someone money, to performing marriage ceremonies and deciding whether a couple can adopt a child. Because of the power they hold, all persons elected as judges should know the law and treat people fairly.

To be fair and independent, judges avoid influence from politics and money. They cannot make promises about their decision in a case before they hear and see the evidence.

Because of this, the questions posed to judges in this guide are limited to how they would make the courts better, the need for impartiality in their roles, and how they would make sure the system works for everyone.

What should voters look for when electing judges?

According to the American Bar Association, principles to consider in choosing judges include:

- Judges should uphold the rule of law.
- Judges should be independent and impartial.
- Judges should possess the appropriate temperament and character.
- Judges should possess the appropriate capabilities and credentials.
- Judges and the judiciary should have the confidence of the public.
- The judicial system should be diverse and reflective of the community it serves.

- Judges should perform their duties in a manner that assures public faith and confidence in the court.

How is the Texas court system organized?

The Texas court system is made up of a statewide network of trial courts and appellate courts. Most cases begin in a trial court. In a trial court, judges listen to witnesses, review evidence, hear arguments from lawyers, and give a decision on the case, or a verdict.

There are many types of trial courts. Some only handle criminal cases, ranging from parking tickets to murder. Others only handle civil cases, ranging from disputes between neighbors to multi-million dollar lawsuits. And some handle both.

If one of the parties disagrees with the trial court's decision, they can appeal the decision to an appellate court. Texas has fourteen Courts of Appeals distributed throughout the state.

Then, if a party still disagrees, the next appeal would be to:

- The Court of Criminal Appeals (criminal cases only) or
- The Supreme Court of Texas (civil and juvenile cases).

Appellate courts do not try cases, have juries, or hear witnesses. They review what the lower courts did and decide if the lower courts were correct.

An excellent chart of the Texas Court Structure is available at:

txcourts.gov/media/1448645/court-structure-chart-january-2020.pdf

To learn more, visit txcourts.gov/about-texas-courts

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. Base salary: \$168,000
» What does the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals do?
<https://youtu.be/iOwfEy4adk>

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Mental Health: How should the Court of Criminal Appeals address mental health issues of those who come before the court?

Access to Justice: What opportunities are there, if any, to improve the state's indigent defense system in criminal cases?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Court of Criminal Appeals?

» JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, PLACE 3



» Bert Richardson (R)

Qualifications: I am the incumbent in this race and have been a State judge for over 20 years. I am a former State and Federal prosecutor that is Board Certified in Criminal Law. I have participated in hundreds of appeals, writs and over 50 capital cases.

Mental Health: Mental health issues are litigated at the trial level. As an appellate judge, in cases with mental health issues, I write legal opinions that determine whether a trial court properly admitted, or excluded mental health evidence. If evidence of mental health is improperly excluded, the Court has the authority to grant a new trial.

Access to Justice: There are opportunities to improve the system, but that re-

quires additional funding and that assistance has to come from the legislature and individual counties, not the courts. In order to attract qualified lawyers to represent indigent defendants, the State will have to compensate those lawyers, or create more public defender offices.

Other Issues: In light of the current COVID crisis, one of the most pressing issues will involve getting the courts across the State back to work. I anticipate several legal challenges will follow the "new normal" including speedy trial claims, jury selection issues, witness testimonies and jury deliberations that result in fair verdicts.

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JudgeBertRichardson/>



» Elizabeth Davis Frizell (D)

Qualifications: I have 27 years of trial experience and 13 years as a private practitioner. I have 20 years of experience as a Judge where I was elected as a Dallas County Criminal Court Judge and Dallas Criminal District Court Judge.

Mental Health: The Court of Criminal Appeals should ensure that trial courts examine mentally ill defendants for their capacity to know the difference between right and wrong as well as whether a mental illness affected their judgment and was properly asserted and applied for sentencing purposes.

Access to Justice: The State Bar should require internships similar to internships in the medical field where newly licensed attorneys work for non-profit organizations, government agencies, and firms doing trial work and appellate work for at least one year prior to becoming licensed. This will give non-profit and pro bono agencies more attorneys to handle an increased caseload.

Other Issues: Disparate sentencing, wrongful convictions, and death penalty cases.

Campaign Website: <http://www.Frizell4Judge.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/frizell4txjudge>



» JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, PLACE 4



» Kevin Patrick Yeary (R)

Qualifications: *Law Clerk- Texas Court of Criminal Appeals 1yr (1992-1992) *Private Lawyer- Criminal/Civil Defense 3yrs (1992-1995) *Appellate Prosecutor- Dallas, Houston, San Antonio 19yrs (1995-2014) *Judge- Texas Court of Criminal Appeals 5+yrs (2015-Present)

Mental Health: The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, along with the Texas Supreme Court, recently established the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health “to engage and empower court systems through collaboration, education, and leadership, and to thereby improve the lives of individuals with mental health needs and persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).”

Access to Justice: The Texas Indigent Defense Commission “provides financial and technical support to counties to develop and maintain quality, cost-effective indigent defense systems that meet the needs of local communities and the requirements of the Constitution and state law.”

Other Issues: The Court must follow the rule of law and ensure that the written law provides the even playing field that all citizens should expect from our judicial system. Judges must not be policy makers, but should instead decide disputes between parties to litigation, guided by reference to the constitution and laws, which are written by others.

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JudgeKevinPatrickYeary>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/JudgeYeary>



» Tina Clinton (D)

Qualifications: I am the presiding district court judge of the oldest Criminal District Court in Texas. I have 14 years experience as a trial court judge over a felony district, county criminal and municipal courts. I have tried over 400 trials in my career.

Mental Health: The CCA is an appellate court so issues of mental health raised on appeal are the issues that may be addressed. The CCA also funds education programs and grants for judges, lawyers and prosecutors. Expanding the funding for additional education on mental health in criminal cases would make a vast difference in the entire criminal justice system.

Access to Justice: First, review cases of ineffective assistance of counsel

closely. One can be ineffective not merely by not doing something they should have done but also for the lack of time they have based on carrying too heavy of a case load, based on ABA standards. Second, indigent defense attorneys must be given adequate resources for investigators, experts and other tools.

Other Issues: (1) To help answer and educate members of the legislature on where bail reform is currently in Texas. (2) Review staffing needs for additional lawyers on writs that come into the CCA. (3) To consider using differing platforms to increase transparency to the public. (4) Diversify internships to give access to law students that have not traditionally been given access.

Campaign Website: <http://facebook.com/JudgeTinaClinton>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/JudgeTinaClinton>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/JudgeTClinton>

» JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, PLACE 9



» David Newell (R)

Qualifications: I serve you as a Judge on the Court of Criminal Appeals. I have over two decades of experience handling and deciding criminal appeals as either a lawyer or a judge. I am board certified in both criminal and criminal appellate law.

Mental Health: It can adopt dynamic standards to allow non-dangerous citizens suffering from mental illness who commit a crime to easily transfer out of the criminal justice system from a jail bed to a hospital bed so they can get the help they deserve. Violent offenders should also be treated for their illnesses, but in a secure facility for the safety of the community.

Access to Justice: Creation of more regional public defender’s offices could help ensure a standard level of competent representation. Additionally, the Court of Criminal Appeals could pro-actively set out minimum standards for representation of indigent defendants in serious cases

Other Issues: Mental health issues, mentioned above, are obviously pressing. Wrongful convictions based upon junk science or police misconduct are also very serious. Additionally, reforming bail practices so that the indigent are not incarcerated for extended periods of time prior to conviction unless there is a flight or safety risk is another significant to address.

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

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/judgedavidnewell/>



» Brandon Birmingham (D)

Qualifications: Two-term Felony Trial Court Judge, former Presiding Judge-all Felony District Courts, Dallas. Lead counsel on over 100 jury trials from DWI to Capital Murder. 2 specialty court dockets, visiting professor at SMU Law School.

Mental Health: My experience has taught me how important properly addressing mental health issues are to reducing recidivism. The CCA should help increase training for lawyers on these issues, and where appropriate, work to increase funding for courts across Texas for worthwhile mental health programs.

Access to Justice: Justice shouldn’t depend upon a person’s access to resources-lessons we’ve learned from the Dallas County exonerations. We must

increase funding through the legislature to help counties pay for reasonable and necessary costs of providing indigent defense. Second, we have to establish state-wide best practices to define and manage the case loads of indigent defense counsel.

Other Issues: From allowing a verdict to stand while a lawyer slept in court, to letting politics impact decisions, or reversals by the United States Supreme Court in death penalty cases, rulings from the CCA have contributed to the public’s skepticism of our criminal courts, and illustrate very clearly the need for change. If we don’t learn from history, we are doomed to repeat it.

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JudgeBirmingham/>

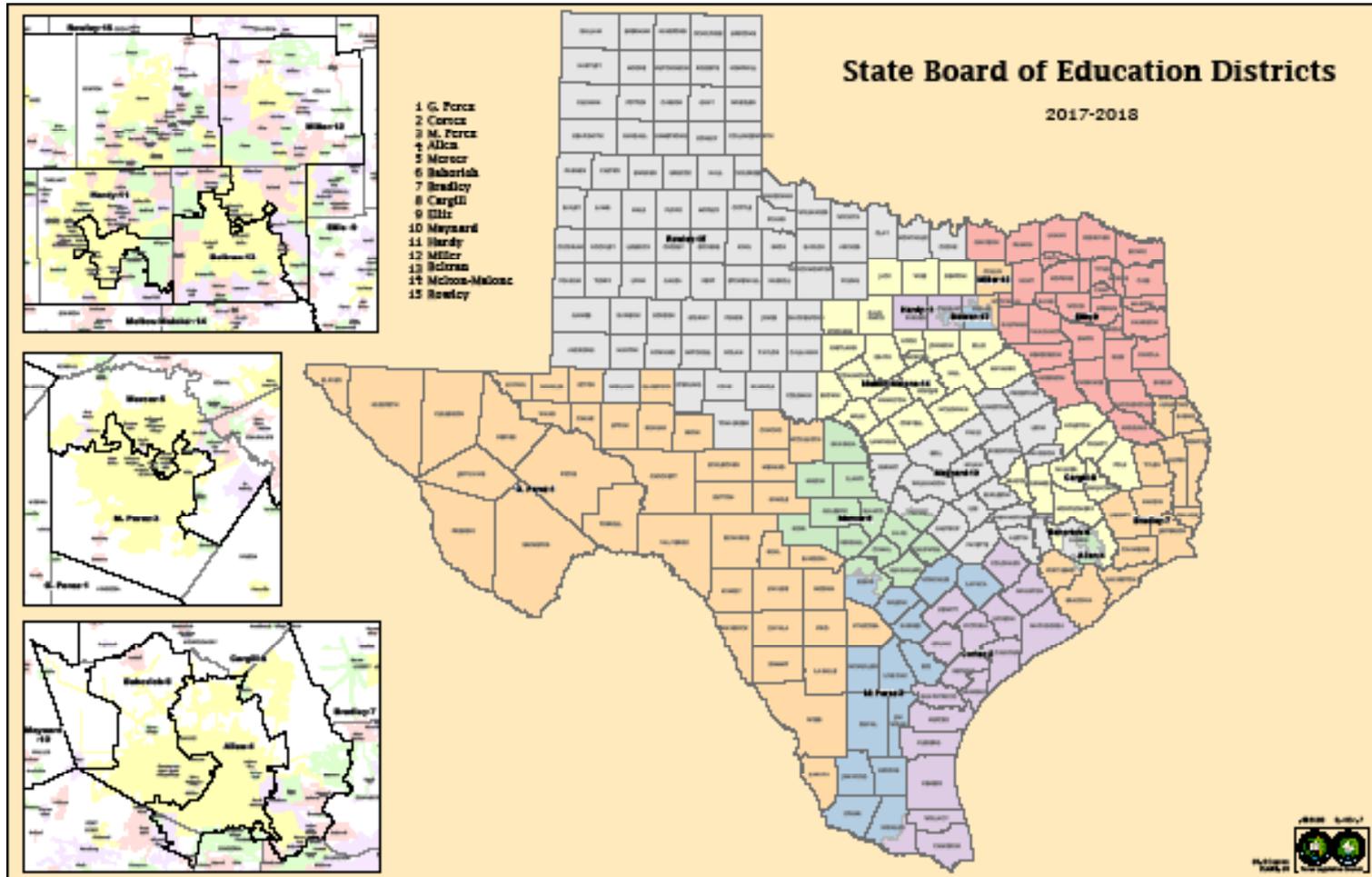
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/JudgeBirmingham>

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Four-year term. The fifteen-member board decides curriculum, standards, student testing, special education programs, and textbooks for Texas public schools. It also oversees the Permanent School Fund. Members of the board do not receive pay, but are eligible for reimbursement for expenses incurred in the course of official business.

» What does the State Board of Education do?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3XZK4qoFFIU&feature=youtu.be>



» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Curriculum: What is your philosophy for setting curriculum standards?

Civic Education: What changes, if any, do you recommend to prepare students for their civic responsibilities?

Charter Schools: What is your position on charter schools in the public education system?

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

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 5



Lani Popp (R)

Qualifications: I have spent my life serving Texas students, including working 17 years in public schools (four in inner city schools) and 11 years in private school. I am a passionate champion for children with autism, with expertise in Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Curriculum: I believe curriculum standards should be historically and scientifically accurate and age appropriate. We need to foster critical thinking skills so students are able to actively debate and question instead of being passive recipients of information. We need to discontinue requiring a single process for math calculations and allow students to use a variety of processes.

Civic Education: I believe students should have civics in their junior year in high school. Thus if they are 18 in the fall of their senior year, they will have an adequate understanding of our constitutions and the freedoms, rights, and re-

sponsibilities therein. I believe students should have to demonstrate competence in this area by answering questions from our citizenship test.

Charter Schools: Having worked in an inner-city school district, I can see the benefit of charter schools for students who are more socio-economically disadvantaged. We need to make sure we are properly vetting charter schools, holding them to the same standards as other public schools. We also need to safeguard parent choice and must always promote the academic success of the student.

Other Issues: We need to reform our broken state standardized testing system. Many students with disabilities (high functioning autism, ADHD, students with anxiety, etc.) may be brilliant but not demonstrate that on a test. We need to make sure we are testing basic skills, but we need to look at more than just a test when judging a student's knowledge, abilities, or progress.

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/votelanipopp/>

» STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 5 (CONT)



» Rebecca Bell-Metereau (D)

Qualifications: PhD. Prof TxSt U, Directs Media Minor; Faculty Senate, was Special Asst. TxSt Pres, Fulbright Scholar, Teaching Awards, 4 books/30 essays, Peace Corps teacher/interpreter Air Force flights Chad, San Marcos P&Z, Bonds Recycling Commissions, HOA board.

Curriculum: Restore respect for teachers, public schools. Teach data-based science, technology, literature, art, music, history, vocations, civics, financial, statistical literacy, sex ed, SpEd, critical thinking. Show leadership, stop costly high-stakes testing, ideological influence on education; listen to students, teachers, parents; find common ground, equity, voice for diversity

Civic Education: Teach history of voting rights, governmental branches, variety of governments, include democracies, etc. variation among counties, states, nations, worldwide, and basic principles of voting, jury duty. Note U.S. ranks

26th in eligible voter participation at 56% in 2016. Use mock debates and voting to develop civil discourse and constructive engagement/register all over-18

Charter Schools: SBOE must use better judgment. I saw SBOE approve a proposal for a charter in a strip mall alongside toxic businesses; luckily Abbott nixed it. Some charters, like Ann Richards school, are great models, admitting by lottery; some charters don't admit all students, siphon tax dollars from public schools, & aren't made to operate by same equitable standards as public schools

Other Issues: Science 2021 must teach scientific method, experimental techniques, peer review, biology and climate science, global warming, pandemics, biology and geology of evolution and latest in DNA research, influence of culture, politics and economics on scientific advancement, with engaging curriculum that offers hands-on experimental design, service learning, relevance of issues.

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/voterebecca/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/voterebecca>

Stephanie Berlin (L) Candidate has not yet responded.

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 73

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

1: What state issue do you consider the most important, and how would you address it??

2: What state legislation, if any, is needed to increase the availability of affordable healthcare for Texas residents? Would you support Texas expanding Medicaid?

3: What issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas legislature, and what are your positions on these issues?

» Kyle Biedermann (R)

Candidate has not yet responded.



» Stephanie Phillips (D)

Qualifications: Teacher with 25 years experience in group and individual instruction and workshop facilitation. Creative arts education consultant for K-12, college and adult learners. Extensive experience working in Title I schools. Plays well with others.

1: The State Representative should stay focused on issues that directly impact constituents in HD73 and that are under the jurisdiction of the State government. HD73 is experiencing massive population growth esp. in unincorporated areas. We need a Rep. who understands that they have the power to take leadership on legislation to grant greater county authority to plan land use, conserve open space, implement common sense environmental regulations to protect our air and water, work with neighboring counties on a development plan and protect property owners from destructive industrial expansion.

2: Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured residents in the U.S. and the worst access to health care. Millions more Texans have lost their employer-provided health coverage as a result of the economic downturn created by the Covid-19 pandemic. We are one of only 12 states that has not yet moved to expand Medicaid. Medicaid expansion would help boost our struggling state economy, help rural hospitals stay open, create jobs, and take pressure off of property taxes. States that have expanded Medicaid have seen better overall health outcomes, more financial security, and less medical debt.

3: Budget: 2021 will be a tight budget cycle as we deal with the severe economic losses from the pandemic. In order to keep schools and our state budget fully funded we need to diversify our state income stream by expanding Medicaid, closing the corporate tax loophole, and legalizing and taxing marijuana.

JUDGE, COURT OF APPEALS

Six-year term. Hears appeals on civil and criminal cases from lower courts in its district. Base salary for Chief Judge: \$156,500. Base salary for Judge: \$154,000.

The 3rd Court of Appeals: Bastrop, Bell, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Coke, Comal, Concho, Fayette, Hays, Irion, Lampasas, Lee, Llano, McCulloch, Milam, Mills, Runnels, San Saba, Schleicher, Sterling, Tom Green, Travis, and Williamson

» **Jeff Rose (R)**

» **Darlene Byrne (D)**

COMAL COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1

Administrative head of county government

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

1: What is one important issue that Commissioners' Court needs to address in Comal county, and what would you propose to address it?

2: Because the Texas legislature has not given counties ordinance making power (i.e. zoning authority), how do you plan to address growth issues in the unincorporated areas of Comal County?

3: What are the transportation issues in Comal County and how do you plan to address them?



» **Donna Eccleston (R)**

1: Our issues are intertwined and spurred by our rapid growth. We have a duty to public safety where we are adding infrastructure and equipment. We received two new courts from the legislature and are working to increase courtrooms and capacity - all part of our strategic facilities plan. We are doing what we can with the tools available to us to expand services to accommodate our growing population. Every family should have the safety and security to flourish in all areas. Being fiscally responsible while addressing our constitutional obligations is important to both families and businesses

2: We are limited statutorily but we will continue to use the tools we have to best effect. Our subdivision regulations will continue to be equally applied. Focus on our strategic plan for facilities and acquisition of land for future offices/ser-

vices. Continue our collaborations with other entities which have led to successful projects in a timely and effective manner in diverse areas of service. While we are growing so quickly it is important to foster conservation opportunities with landowners and agencies to include easements, bequeathals and grants. Comal County is home to all of us.

3: We will keep looking ahead and leveraging our partnerships for highways and expanded capacity. The Hwy 46 and Hwy 281 expansions, FM 306 flyovers and the Loop 337 projects are all examples of successful collaboration. It is important to get the increased capacity now when we need it rather than in the future. We are urbanized and rural. Half the population is in the unincorporated areas so opportunities for mass transit are limited to supporting urban populations at this time. On County roads we will continue to find the most effective means to address issues of safety, quality and cost.



» **Lindsay Poisel (D)**

1: One important issue that I believe the Commissioner's Court needs to address is the boat ramps. The county saw a huge increase in tourists this year which led to many boat ramp issues. There needs to be boat ramps for the locals to use and boat ramps for tourists. One of the biggest complaints I heard this summer was that locals could not enjoy the lake. This needs to be addressed.

2: Comal County is one of the fastest growing counties in the country we need to give the public a voice in they types of businesses they would like to see in the county. In the unincorporated areas, we seem to have a lot of Dollar Stores

and storage units around the lake and not very many restaurants or shopping ares. These types of businesses would increase county revenues and appeal to the tourists.

3:One of the biggest transportation issues facing Comal County are the road conditions in the unincorporated areas. While there has been some road work over the last 12 months, there is still plenty of roadways that needs to be repaired. If elected, I would like to send crews out to survey roadways and determine which roads are in need of immediate repair. Once it has been determined which roads are in need of repair, I would like to incorporate those repairs into the county budget.

» **Ivan Foster (L)** Candidate has not yet responded.

COMAL COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 3

Administrative head of county
government

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

1: What is one important issue that Commissioners' Court needs to address in Comal county, and what would you propose to address it?

2: Because the Texas legislature has not given counties ordinance making power (i.e. zoning authority), how do you plan to address growth issues in the unincorporated areas of Comal County?

3: What are the transportation issues in Comal County and how do you plan to address them?



» Kevin Webb (R)

Qualifications: New Braunfels High School, 1986. Texas A&M University, 2001, Bachelor of Science in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism; I worked in tourism and then in insurance/securities with emphasis on retirement accounts since 2003. Since joining commissioners court I've worked primarily on transportation projects and county infrastructure

1: Public safety is a primary function of county government and the cornerstone of our society. People must feel safe to raise their families here and invest in the community. While keeping taxes low, we've strongly supported each level of our justice system from our law enforcement officers and prosecutors to our courts and corrections. The legislature granted our requests for an additional County Court and District Court, and our court renovations are going very well. Also, the Comal County Jail is now complete with the renovation of the new Sherriff's Office beginning in January of 2021.

2: We strictly enforce our subdivision regulations to ensure responsible development under the authorities we do have and have been exploring options to retain open space in the county through partnerships with other agencies and private landowners. We've undertaken a massive facility infrastructure program to expand numerous county offices, procured land for future expansions and needs, and have invested heavily in our transportation infrastructure to help mitigate and plan for that growth. While there are more of us, we're working to keep Comal County feeling like the place we all love.

3: Comal County needs more lanes on current roads, new connectors, roadway maintenance, and transit in some urban areas. In my role as Chair Elect of the Alamo Area MPO (where transportation funding is dispersed) we've been able to bring regional partners and stakeholders together to get large added capacity projects done from New Braunfels all the way to Spring Branch and throughout the county. We've also supported the City of New Braunfels Transit Study which lays out a way forward in making local transit available within the city. We're very engaged on these issues and will continue to be.



» Colette Nies (D)

Qualifications: Doctoral Candidate in Land, Food, Ethics, and Faith Formation; Master of Science of Social Work in Community Leadership (UT Austin); Grad Portfolio in Non-Profit Mgmt (UT Austin); Master of Divinity in Ecological Theology and Care of the Dying (APTS); Policy analysis of systemic causes of poverty, food insecurity, etc. and how to solve inequities; Business owner/gov't relations exp in strategic partnerships, land negotiation, permitting, and conservation practices in sustainability and economics.

1: The protection of the future of our children and grandchildren is paramount. The grim reality of our 20% food insecurity epidemic of children under 18, the 1 in 7 asthma rate (twice the national average), and having only 1/10th the amount of parks/green spaces we should, all tell us we need to focus on our legacy. Establishing a Food Policy Council, installing PM 2.5 air quality monitors to obtain data to protect our health, and assertively establishing green spaces to ensure the

beauty and economic viability of the Hill Country are solid actions to care for future generations.

2: TX Lege has given some counties ordinance making power in Code Chap 231. This is a way to pursue the protection of the ecologically sensitive EARZ to ensure our future drinking water supply and water quantity that our health and tourism economy depends. Habitat Conservation Plans in conjunction with Mitigation Plans would require developers to purchase habitat land. Comal must stop selling our mitigation credits and close OSSF loopholes. Other ways are through conservation easements, enacting HB2833 to promote green infrastructure designs, and establish conservation subdivision ordinances, etc

3: The County has no current plans with TxDOT to address congestion at IH35 and 46 for the next 20 years, and a solution needs to be presented on behalf of the residents. Working with municipalities to establish reliable public transportation, bicycle, and mobility accessibility will increase retail sales and property values, while improving air quality and traffic. I will work with ART and AAMPO on regional congestion management objectives/strategies on resident safety, access, and emergency services. And the County needs do an economic inventory of the road destruction by aggregate trucks.



NBISD DISTRICT 2

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Qualifications: Why are you seeking this office and what background do you bring to this position?

1: What school safety measures are your highest priority?



» Michael "Mike" Calta

Qualifications: Our oldest son, Gregory, is the intial inspiration for my service on a school board. I first served on a different school board from 2004-2010. I was later elected in 2017 to serve on the NBISD School Board. Gregory passed away the following month in June 2017. Gregory could not walk, talk or see. But, as you can see by the photo, his gift to the world was his love, demonstrated so well by his amazing smile. Every student has something amazing to offer this world. Our job is to give "Every Student. Every Day!" that opportunity. That's why I seek to serve a 2nd term on the NBISD Board.

1: Since being elected in 2017, we added full time police officers to our secondary campuses & increased patrols of our elementary campuses. To every campus, we added security film to the windows, installed a card reader system for all doors, installed bollards to protect students at drop off & pick up locations, added security cameras, installed controlled access systems to the reception areas & more. If re-elected, I hope to add full time officers to our elementary campuses or a hybrid school marshall/guardian program to make sure a critical threat can be neutralized promptly.



» Nancy York

Qualifications: I am running for the NBISD District 2 trustee as I feel my 40 yrs of teaching in our public schools of Texas makes me a highly qualified candidate for the position. I UNDERSTAND the process of public education and the Texas Public Schools Accountability Rating System. As a retired high school teacher and mathematics department chair, I recognize what achievement skills a student needs when they graduate to be a productive citizen.

I will work to ensure that ALL our students have an equal opportunity to learn and EVERY NBISD campus achieves a high state rating.

1: The NBISD has made safety a high priority on each of their campuses. In 2018, the voter's in New Braunfels passed a \$118.3 million bond referendum of which the district allocated \$6.6 million to improve the security of each campus. Some safety measures implemented include security cameras, exterior magnetic door locks, front door ring system, and full time SRO's (police officers) at secondary campuses. I want to ensure a program/system is established to keep parents and

2: What other critical issue will you address and how?

3: What strategies would you use to stretch the school district's funding to maintain educational quality?

2: Currently, we are managing through COVID-19. As hindsight shows, we were right to offer parents the choice between remote learning & on campus learning for each student. This is an opportunity to develop an expertise in remote learning. We need to collaborate more closely with Teachers, Students & Parents and add necessary resources to create the most effective remote learning system possible. Related to COVID, we potentially face state budget cuts next year. Due to careful budget management in the last 3 years, we have some savings to keep any cuts as far away from the classroom as possible.

3: Possible Ideas:

- * Use direct fundraising vs. selling products thru a 3rd party to maximize revenues
- * More aggressively seek grants that provide more funding than they cost to administrate
- * Expand partnerships with Business for the expansion of Career & Technology classes & infrastructure
- * Adopt-A Bus Program for at-risk students
- * Early retirement incentives if savings can be incurred
- * Use our developing remote learning expertise to create a remote learning academy for high school students best suited for remote learning
- * Use "thoughtexchange" to crowdsource more ideas from stakeholders

faculty members informed during an emergency situation. I know first-hand that communication is critical during a lock down.

2: I want to ensure that ALL students in the NBISD are receiving an equal and quality education. The state has a system that is used to evaluate and grade campuses. District 2 had two elementary schools and a middle school that had declining scores the last time districts were graded (2018-19). One elementary campus went from a B to a low D, the other went from a B to a C, and the middle school lost 5 points. These are the lowest scores in the NBISD. Student learning as outlined by the State objectives (TEKS) needs to be the goal on each campus. Our District 2 students deserve better.

3: I will push to acquire state and federal funds and/or grants to help our economically disadvantaged and special needs students. These students are often the most overlooked populations at our schools but have the highest needs. COVID has caused added expenses to the budget. The need for every home to have internet became an imperative district expense when remote learning was required and PPE is now needed district wide. If elected, I will make grants and special funds high priority items during the budget process. Frequent budget review and forecasts are critical for prudent financial decisions.



NBISD DISTRICT 4

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Qualifications: Why are you seeking this office and what background do you bring to this position?

1: What school safety measures are your highest priority?

2: What other critical issue will you address and how?

3: What strategies would you use to stretch the school district's funding to maintain educational quality?

» Matthew Sargent

1: Our issues are intertwined and spurred by our rapid growth. We have a duty to public safety where we are adding infrastructure and equipment. We received two new courts from the legislature and are working to increase courtrooms and capacity - all part of our strategic facilities plan. We are doing what we can with the tools available to us to expand services to accommodate our growing population. Every family should have the safety and security to flourish in all areas. Being fiscally responsible while addressing our constitutional obligations is important to both families and businesses

2: We are limited statutorily but we will continue to use the tools we have to best effect. Our subdivision regulations will continue to be equally applied. Focus on our strategic plan for facilities and acquisition of land for future offices/ser-

vices. Continue our collaborations with other entities which have led to successful projects in a timely and effective manner in diverse areas of service. While we are growing so quickly it is important to foster conservation opportunities with landowners and agencies to include easements, bequeathals and grants. Comal County is home to all of us.

3: We will keep looking ahead and leveraging our partnerships for highways and expanded capacity. The Hwy 46 and Hwy 281 expansions, FM 306 flyovers and the Loop 337 projects are all examples of successful collaboration. It is important to get the increased capacity now when we need it rather than in the future. We are urbanized and rural. Half the population is in the unincorporated areas so opportunities for mass transit are limited to supporting urban populations at this time. On County roads we will continue to find the most effective means to address issues of safety, quality and cost.



» John E. Tucker

Qualifications: Voters in District 4 deserve a choice. Single member districts work only if the residents file.

I have worked in school facilities, contracting, and operations Dallas, Flour Bluff, and now Comal Independent School Districts starting in 1995, with the majority of my work relating to construction management, procurement and services for schools. I have attended hundreds of school board meetings over the past 25 years, and I understand the financial and educational responsibilities local Texas school districts have.

1: Keeping school and school grounds safe, preventing domestic issues from spilling into the school, addressing student mental health, creating trust between students and staff to allow for sharing of possible threats.

2: Halting the siphoning of local taxes to fund exclusionary schools using non-certified teachers. Keep up with growth and have a ten year plan, even if only the first few of those years are funded.

3: Carefully watch facilities costs, recover actual costs of commercial use of buildings and facilities, lower health care expenses by careful procurement of insurers. Teacher and staff morale can be easily damaged, and it is hard to restore, harming educational results.

The Voters Guide is available online at VOTE411.org and lwvcomal.org. By entering your address and zip code on Vote411.org, you can view races and candidates that appear on your ballot, compare candidates' responses to questions posed by the League, and create a print-out of a ballot to take to the polls. You can also find out where to vote!

» HELPFUL CONTACTS AND WEBSITES

League of Women Voters of Texas - LWVTexas.org

League of Women Voters - Comal Area - lwvcomal.org

Secretary of State - VoteTexas.gov

Texas Voter Protection

texasvoterprotection.org

Voter Hotlines!

- 866-OUR-VOTE (English)
- 888-Ve-Y-Vota (Spanish)
- 888-API-VOTE (English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Bengali, Urdu, Hindi and Tagalog)
- 888-796-VOTE (Disability Rights TX)

Republican Party

texasgop.org

Democratic Party

txdemocrats.org

Libertarian Party

lptexas.org

Green Party

txgreens.org

» LWV TEXAS VOTERS GUIDE POLICY

- Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification.
- References to opponents or specific persons are not allowed.
- In place of any inappropriate response, the *Voters Guide* will state “Candidate’s response did not meet the criteria listed in this *Voters Guide*.”
- Videos that do not comply are removed.
- Candidates are listed by party.
- This *Voters Guide* is organized by office.
- The names of unopposed candidates are also listed.
- Candidates with no photo in this *Voters Guide* 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 “Candidate has not yet responded.” Their information may be in VOTE411.org.
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» VOTER ID: WHAT TO TAKE TO THE POLLS

In order to vote, citizens must be on the official list of registered voters. Check your registration status at votetexas.gov.

Voters may use one of seven forms of photo ID, listed below.

- Texas Driver License
- Texas Election Identification Certificate
- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS
- Texas license to carry a handgun issued by DPS
- U.S. military identification card containing the person’s photograph
- U.S. citizenship certificate containing the person’s photograph
- U.S. passport (book or card)

Note: IDs may be expired up to four years. Persons 70 years or older may use an expired ID. ID address does not have to match the voter registration address.

Registered voters without a photo ID, who cannot reasonably obtain one, may sign a form (described below) and present the original or a copy of one of the following documents with the voter’s name and address to vote a regular ballot:

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

The **form** to be filled out by registered voters without a photo ID is a “Voter’s Declaration of Reasonable Impediment or Difficulty.” The voter must mark on the form one of the following reasons for not providing a photo ID:

- Lack of transportation
- Disability or illness
- Lack of birth certificate or other documents needed to obtain an acceptable form of photo ID
- Work schedule
- Family responsibilities
- Lost or stolen identification
- Acceptable form of photo ID applied for but not received

“Substantially Similar Name”

The name on the photo ID should match the voter registration card or be “substantially similar.” If the names don’t match exactly but are substantially similar, the voter will initial a box for similar name when signing in to vote.

Voter Harassment

- Election officials cannot question a voter about the use of an ID type
- Poll watchers may never question a voter about Voter ID issues
- **If you are harassed, call the Voter Protection Hotline!**

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- Work to increase understanding of major public policy issues
- Influence public policy through education and advocacy
- Make democracy work!

» TEXAS LOCAL LEAGUES

Learn more about our local Texas Leagues and how they help shape today’s important issues by visiting the League’s website at lwvtexas.org.

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Bay Area	Fort Bend County	Rio Grande Valley
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Brazoria	Hill Country	Tyler/Smith County
Cy-Fair	Houston Area	Victoria
Collin County	Irving	Waco Area
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