



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

# 2019 MESQUITE VOTERS GUIDE

NON PARTISAN

EARLY VOTING • OCTOBER 21, 2019 – NOVEMBER 1, 2019

ELECTION DAY • NOVEMBER 5, 2019 • POLLS OPEN 7 AM TO 7 PM

## BE A TEXAS VOTER

### About This Voters Guide

This printed *Voters Guide* lists items that will be on the ballot for the November 5, 2019 Texas Constitutional Amendment and Mesquite city council election. Candidate responses are presented as submitted without editing. This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Dallas which does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. Call 214-688-4125 or [lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net) for questions.

### Vote411.org

You may also see all items on your ballot on-line at [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org).

### Photo ID Requirement

People voting in person must present a form of photo ID or alternative approved by the state or else may only vote provisionally. For more information and exceptions see [DallasCountyVotes.org](http://DallasCountyVotes.org) or call 214.819.6300.

### Eligibility for Voting

You must be a citizen of the United State, registered to vote in the county of your residence 30 days prior to election day, and must be at least 18 years old on election day. You cannot vote if you have been declared by a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote or are a convicted felon who has not completed your sentence, probation and/or parole.

### Early Voting Times & Locations

Monday Oct 21 – Saturday Oct 26	8AM to 5PM
Sunday Oct 27	1PM to 6PM
Monday Oct 28 – Wednesday Oct 30	8AM to 5PM
Thursday Oct 31 – Friday Nov 1	7AM to 7PM

*Dallas County residents may vote at any of these locations:*

Addison Fire Station #1	4798 Airport Pkwy	Addison
Balch Springs Civic Center	12400 Elam Road	Balch Springs
Bear Creek Community Church	2700 Finley Road	Irving
Bethany Luth Ch (Nelson Hall)	10101 Walnut Hill Lane	Dallas
Brookhaven Col-W Bldg Rm 105	3939 Valey View Ln	Farmer Brnch
Cedar Hill Gov Cntf Main Lobby	285 Uptown Blvd	Cedar Hill
Cedar Valley Col "M" Bldg	3030 North Dallas Ave	Lancaster
Coppell Town Cntr Main Lobby	255 E Parkway Blvd	Coppell

Crosswinds High Sch Rm 104	1100 N Carrier Pkwy	Grand Prairie
Disciple Central Com Ch Rm 104	901 N Polk St	DeSoto
Duncanville Library Rms 1,2,3	201 James Collins	Duncanville
Eastfield Col-Main Cmp "C" Bldg	3737 Motley Dr	Mesquite
Eastfield Col-Pleasant Grv Cmp	802 S Buckner	Dallas
El Centro Col-Main Cmp Lobby	801 Main Street	Dallas
El Centro Col-West Cmp Com Rm	3330 N Hampton Road	Dallas
Florence Recreation Center	2501 Whitson Way	Mesquite
Fretz Park Library	6990 Belt Line Road	Dallas
Friendship West Baptist Church	2020 Wheatland Road	Dallas
George Allen Courts Building	600 Commerce St	Dallas
Glenn Heights City Hall	1938 S Hampton Rd	Glenn Heights
Grauwylar Park Rec Center	7780 Harry Hines Blvd	Dallas
Highland Hills Library	6200 Bonnie View Road	Dallas
Irving Arts Center	3333 N Macarthur Blvd	Irving
Irving City Hall Main Lobby	825 W Irving Blvd	Irving
Josey Ranch Library	1700 Keller Springs Rd	Carrollton
Lakeside Activity Center	101 Holley Park Drive	Mesquite
Lancaster Vet Memorial Lib	1600 Vet Memorial Pkwy	Lancaster
Lochwood Library	11221 Lochwood Blvd	Dallas
Marsh Lane Baptist Church	10716 Marsh Lane	Dallas
Martin Luther King Core Bldg	2922 Martin Luther King Blvd	Dallas
Martin Weiss Rec Center	1111 Martindell Avenue	Dallas
Mountain Creek Library	6102 Mountain Creek Pkwy	Dallas
Mountain View Col "E" Bldg	4949 W Illinois Ave	Dallas
North Lake Col "L" Bldg	5001 N MacArthur Blvd	Irving
Oak Cliff Sub-Courthouse	410 S Beckley	Dallas
Our Redeemer Luth Ch-Dallas	7611 Park Lane	Dallas
Our Redeemer Luth Ch-G Prairie	4729 S Carrier Pkwy	Grand Prairie
Paul L Dunbar Lan-Kiest Lib	2008 East Kiest Blvd	Dallas
Richardson Civic Center	411 W Arapaho Road	Richardson
Richland College-Garland Camp	675 W Walnut St	Garland
Richland Col-Main Cmp"G" Bldg	12800 Abrams Rd	Dallas
Rowlett City Hall Annex	4004 Main St	Rowlett
Sachse City Hall	3815 Sachse Road	Sachse
Samuell Grand Rec Center	6200 East Grand Ave	Dallas
Skyline Branch Library	6006 Everglade Road	Dallas
South Garland Library	4845 Broadway Blvd	Garland
Southern Meth U-Hughes-Trig	3140 Dyer St	Dallas
Sunnyvale Town Hall	127 North Collins Road	Sunnyvale
University of Dallas-5B Hall	2925 Gorman Dr	Dallas
University Park UMC-Caldwell	4024 Caruth Blvd	Dallas
Valley Ranch Library	401 Cimarron Trail	Irving

### Election Day Times & Locations

*Dallas Co residents may vote at any polling location on Election Day.*

Polls open 7 AM to 7 PM on Nov 5, election day. For election day locations see [DallasCountyVotes.org](http://DallasCountyVotes.org) or call 214.819.63

# TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION

**All potential amendments that appear on your ballot must originate in the legislature. The Texas Constitution cannot be amended by citizen-led ballot initiatives, referendums or petitions, as in some other states. The ten amendments voters will consider in this election were approved by the state legislature earlier this year. Explanations and reasons to vote for and against these propositions were developed by the League of Women Voters of Texas.**

## STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 1 *(Municipal Judges)*

**BALLOT LANGUAGE:** "The constitutional amendment permitting a person to hold more than one office as a municipal judge at the same time."

**EXPLANATION:** The Texas Constitution (Article 16, Section 40) prohibits a person from holding more than one public office at the same time but has many exceptions, including county commissioner, justice of the peace, notary public, postmaster, etc. The proposed constitutional amendment would add elected municipal judge to this list of exceptions. A municipal judge oversees pre-trial hearings, small claims proceedings, and misdemeanor cases in a city or town. Proposition 1 would allow municipal judges to hold more than one paid public office at the same time, meaning they could simultaneously preside over multiple municipalities, regardless of whether they were appointed or elected.

Watch a short video on Prop. 1: <https://youtu.be/zGFBdY2bGt8>

For more information: House Research Organization HJR 72: <https://hro.house.texas.gov/pdf/ba86R/HJR0072.PDF>

### ARGUMENTS:

#### For

- A municipal judge oversees essential local proceedings, such as pretrial hearings, small claims proceedings, and misdemeanor cases. Often smaller municipalities do not have municipal judges or attorneys qualified to serve as judges. Prop 1 would make it easier for smaller municipalities to fill empty judgeships with qualified individuals.
- The proposition could benefit public safety by making it easier to obtain search warrants and streamlining other proceedings, such as ordinance violations, misdemeanor offenses and other types of cases.

#### Against

- This proposition is unnecessary as Texas law already permits a person to be appointed as a municipal judge in more than one municipality at the same time. This law would only allow a person to be elected in more than one municipality.
- If the municipal judge were elected to a community where he or she was not a resident, he or she may not have an understanding or interest in that community.

## STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 2 *(Water Projects in Distressed)*

**BALLOT LANGUAGE:** The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$200 million to provide financial assistance for the development of certain projects in economically distressed areas."

**EXPLANATION:** Proposition 2 would allow the Water Development Board to issue general obligation bonds for the Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP). The outstanding bonds could not exceed \$200 million. The bonds would be used to develop water supply and sewer projects in economically depressed areas of the state. EDAP assists water infrastructure projects when the median income of a region is less than 75% of the state's median income. The proposed amendment would give the Water Development Board the money to finance water and wastewater infrastructure in economically distressed areas.

For more information: [House Research Organization SJR 79](#)

### ARGUMENTS:

#### For

- All citizens deserve clean water, regardless of their income. Socioeconomic factors should not determine access to safe water. It's a basic right.
- This program needs to be replenished so it can continue funding existing and future projects for communities that could not otherwise afford it.
- Financing with bonds will provide more reliable funding over a longer period of time. Using general revenue would strain limited resources.

### Against

- The net impact to the general revenue fund will be \$3,375,000 through 2021.
- This is another constitutionally dedicated fund which the state should avoid. Infrastructure improvements should be funded using general revenue.
- This is a local issue and should not be handled by the state.

## STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 3 *(Tax Relief for Disaster Areas)*

**BALLOT LANGUAGE:** “The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of certain property damaged by a disaster.”

**EXPLANATION:** Proposition 3 would allow the Texas Legislature to give a temporary property tax exemption in a governor-declared disaster area. The exemption would be 15%, 30%, 60%, or 100%, depending on the amount of property damage. The local government would choose whether or not to adopt the temporary exemption and would determine how long the exemption would last.

For more information: [House Research Organization HJR 34](#)

### ARGUMENTS:

#### For

- In the event of environmental disasters, a tax exemption would bring quicker and easier relief to those affected.
- Proposition 3 would be easier and more affordable for the local government than the current property reassessment process, which is both lengthy and expensive.

#### Against

- Since Proposition 3 relies on the local government to decide whether or not to adopt the tax exemption, it does not guarantee it will help as many people as intended. Any such relief should be mandatory.
- Though there would now be predetermined damage categories, the property may still have to undergo an extensive reappraisal process.

## STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 4 *(Personal Income Tax)*

**BALLOT LANGUAGE:** “The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual income tax, including a tax on an individual’s share of partnership and unincorporated association income.”

**EXPLANATION:** Proposition 4 would prohibit the Texas Legislature from establishing a personal state income tax.

For more information: [House Research Organization HJR 38](#)

### ARGUMENTS:

#### For

- A 2019 poll by the University of Texas at Austin and the Texas Tribune found 71% of respondents oppose an individual state income tax. \*
- Texas has a low-tax, pro-growth approach to economic expansion, and that is dependent on having no personal income tax. This amendment could support population growth in Texas, as families and businesses may move to Texas because there is no state income tax.
- An income tax would also increase the size of government by requiring a large bureaucracy to administer it.

#### Against

- This amendment is not necessary because the Texas Constitution now prohibits the Legislature from imposing an income tax without a statewide referendum (Art. 8, Sec. 24, adopted in 1993). In addition, any net revenue from that tax must be used for the support of education.
- Revenue from an income tax could reduce the tax burden on businesses, which pay a higher proportion of taxes in Texas than in other states.
- The current Legislature and today’s voters should not make taxation decisions for future Texans. The needs of Texans change over time, so future Texans should make their own choices on taxation.
- One reason Texans pay high property and sales taxes may be because Texas has no income tax. If Proposition 4 passed, these taxes would likely continue to increase, so Proposition 4 would not necessarily decrease the size of state government.

## STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 5 *(Sporting Goods Tax to Support State Parks)*

**BALLOT LANGUAGE:** "The constitutional amendment dedicating the revenue received from the existing state sales and use taxes that are imposed on sporting goods to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission to protect Texas' natural areas, water quality, and history by acquiring, managing, and improving state and local parks and historic sites while not increasing the rate of the state sales and use taxes."

**EXPLANATION:** Proposition 5 would require the Legislature to allocate the money raised from state sales taxes on sporting goods (i.e., hunting, fishing, outdoor equipment) to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the Texas Historical Commission (THC). Revenue from such taxes would be used to improve and manage state and local parks and historic sites, and to acquire new sites. Proposition 5 closes a loophole in the current law that prevents all the revenue raised by these sales taxes from being given to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission, thus allowing some of the money to be used to balance the state budget.

For more information: [House Research Organization HJR 39](#)

### ARGUMENTS:

#### For

- State and local parks are essential to industries such as fishing, hunting, and tourism that benefit Texas economy. Proposition 5 would require the government to support this vital economic sector more fully. It would allow these agencies to make long range plans based on a reliable funding source.
- Many parks and historic sites of Texas are decaying, and new parks are needed due to population growth in the state. Proposition 5 would provide a sustainable source of funding for their preservation and new park development so they could be enjoyed in the future.

#### Against

- Having a dedicated account, a fund used for a specific purpose, eliminates budget flexibility for the Texas Legislature.
- Dedicated accounts can cause unnecessary growth of the state budget by demanding funds in one area even though needs could be greater in another.

## STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 6 *(Cancer Prevention Research)*

**BALLOT LANGUAGE:** "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase by \$3 billion the maximum bond amount authorized for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas."

**EXPLANATION:** The proposed amendment would increase the maximum bond amount for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) from \$3 billion to \$6 billion. CPRIT provides grants and supports programs that advance cancer research. The organization, begun in 2007, is currently set up to receive \$3 billion in funding until 2022.

For more information: [House Research Organization HJR 12](#)

### ARGUMENTS:

#### For

- The state is the second largest source of public funding for cancer research in Texas, behind the federal government. Increasing the bond amount would ensure that the state maintained its status as a hub for advancements in the cancer field, and continue Texas' national leadership in cancer research and prevention.
- CPRIT has created thousands of jobs and brought in more than 170 researchers, including a Nobel Prize winner, to Texas. It has generated billions of dollars of economic activity.
- Increasing the bond amount would protect CPRIT's future, because current funding for awards will run out in 2021.

#### Against

- Current funding of CPRIT is in place until 2022, so the issue is not an urgent matter. Voters may not want to consider it right now—three years in advance. Instead the legislature might consider developing a plan to make CPRIT become financially self-sufficient.
- CPRIT has a history of mismanaging funds. A ban was put on CPRIT grants in 2012 and was lifted in October 2013 after restructuring of the organization.
- The proposed amendment would cost the government \$12.5 million in general revenue funds during the first two years, assuming debt service payments based on the issuance of this new debt.

## STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 7 (*Funding Public Education*)

**BALLOT LANGUAGE:** “The constitutional amendment allowing increased distributions to the available school fund.”

**EXPLANATION:** The School Land Board, an independent entity of the General Land Office, oversees the management, sale and leasing of more than 13 million acres of land for the Permanent School Fund. The State Board of Education can then make distributions from this fund to the Available School Fund. The revenue generated from the land is used to purchase real estate and make investments to help fund public education through the Available School Fund. This proposition would increase from \$300 million to \$600 million the amount the General Land Office could distribute to the Available School Fund each year.

For more information: [House Research Organization HJR 151](#)

### ARGUMENTS:

#### For

- This proposition will improve funding for public schools by doubling the distribution from the School Land Board to the Available School Fund.
- Were it not for the \$300 million cap in the Texas Constitution, this could have been happening already, making more money available for public education.
- As more money is available to school districts from the state Available School Fund, they will need to rely less on local property taxes.

#### Against

- Both the School Land Board and the State Board of Education have responsibilities for managing the Permanent School Fund. If the School Land Board makes larger deposits directly to the Available School Fund rather than into the Permanent School Fund, it changes the amount the State Board of Education is required to distribute from the Permanent School fund.
- The State Board of Education is required to make a percentage-based biennial distribution to the Available School Fund. If they have less money in the Permanent School Fund, it might result in lower overall school funding.
- In the past, the School Land Board made questionable investments at the expense of public education funding. With the opportunity to make larger contributions, it might increase the lure of debatable investments.

## STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 8 (*Flood Control*)

**BALLOT LANGUAGE:** “The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the flood infrastructure fund to assist in the financing of drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control projects.”

**EXPLANATION:** Proposition 8 would create the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) as a special fund outside of general revenue. A one-time distribution from the Economic Stabilization Fund, also known as the “rainy day fund,” would establish the FIF. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) would distribute FIF funds to local governments through loans or, in some cases, as grants. The money would be used to establish and maintain flood control structures and drainage infrastructure throughout the state, especially in economically distressed areas. If passed, Proposition 8 would require cooperation among all impacted parties. A local government would receive money from the FIF only if it worked with other governments in the region and listened to stakeholder concerns in public meetings. The local government would also have to submit a technical analysis of the plan, comparing it to other possible projects in the region, and a proposal to repay the loan.

For more information: [House Research Organization HJR 4](#)

### ARGUMENTS:

#### For

- Severe flooding events such as Hurricane Harvey show the necessity of being prepared to prevent future damage. Access to federal funding and grants often requires local governments to match the amount of money the federal government would provide. This amendment would allow the TWDB to give loans to local governments so they could access federal funds.
- Because removing money from the Economic Stabilization Fund to create the FIF would be a one-time expense, rather than ongoing, it would not drain the “rainy day fund.”

#### Against

- A local government could default on a TWDB loan, thereby costing the state income meant to replenish the FIF. Taxpayers might ultimately be liable for repayment of loans.
- Historically, state government has not played a heavy role in funding flood-control infrastructure. Flood control is the responsibility of both local and federal governments, rather than state government.

## STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 9 *(Tax Exemption of Precious Metals)*

**BALLOT LANGUAGE:** “The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation precious metal held in a precious metal depository located in this state.”

**EXPLANATION:** Texas opened a precious metals depository in 2018, run by a private company but overseen by the state government. The Constitution requires all real and tangible personal property to be taxed on its value unless exempted. These ad valorem (property) taxes are imposed at the time of purchase or exchange of precious metals. Proposition 9 would exempt from taxation precious metals held in a precious metal depository in the state.

For more information: [House Research Organization HJR 95](#)

### ARGUMENTS:

#### For

- Other states do not tax precious metals, so creating this exemption would allow Texas depositories to be more competitive.
- The proposed amendment would increase chances that the Texas depository could join COMEX, the leading marketplace for precious metals exchange.

#### Against

- Texas counties do not enforce the property tax on precious metals, so a constitutional amendment is unnecessary.
- The proposed amendment gives preference through a tax break for precious metals over other investment choices.

## STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 10 *(Law Enforcement Animals)*

**BALLOT LANGUAGE:** “The constitutional amendment to allow the transfer of a law enforcement animal to a qualified caretaker in certain circumstances.”

**EXPLANATION:** Proposition 10 would allow law enforcement animals to retire, and their former handlers or other qualified caretakers to adopt them with no fee. Law enforcement animals are currently considered as surplus property of the county, which means the county can only auction, donate, or destroy them. Proposition 10 would change the property laws to allow the animals to retire and be transferred to their original handler or another qualified caretaker with no adoption fee.

For more information: [House Research Organization HJR 96](#)

### ARGUMENTS:

#### For

- Proposition 10 would ensure the wellbeing of law enforcement animals in their later years by allowing them to retire.
- Proposition 10 would remove the legally required fee for law enforcement officers, or other qualified caretakers, who generally adopt their own retired law enforcement animals.
- Proposition 10 recognizes the longstanding bond developed between a law enforcement animal and the animal’s handler, a bond that would be ignored in a government auction.

#### Against

- Proposition 10 may reduce state income. A government auction might raise more money than the free adoption of a law enforcement animal.
- If the animal’s handler retires before the animal is ready to retire, it might be difficult to determine which of the animal’s handlers had priority.
- It is unfortunate that such a common sense action would require a constitutional amendment.

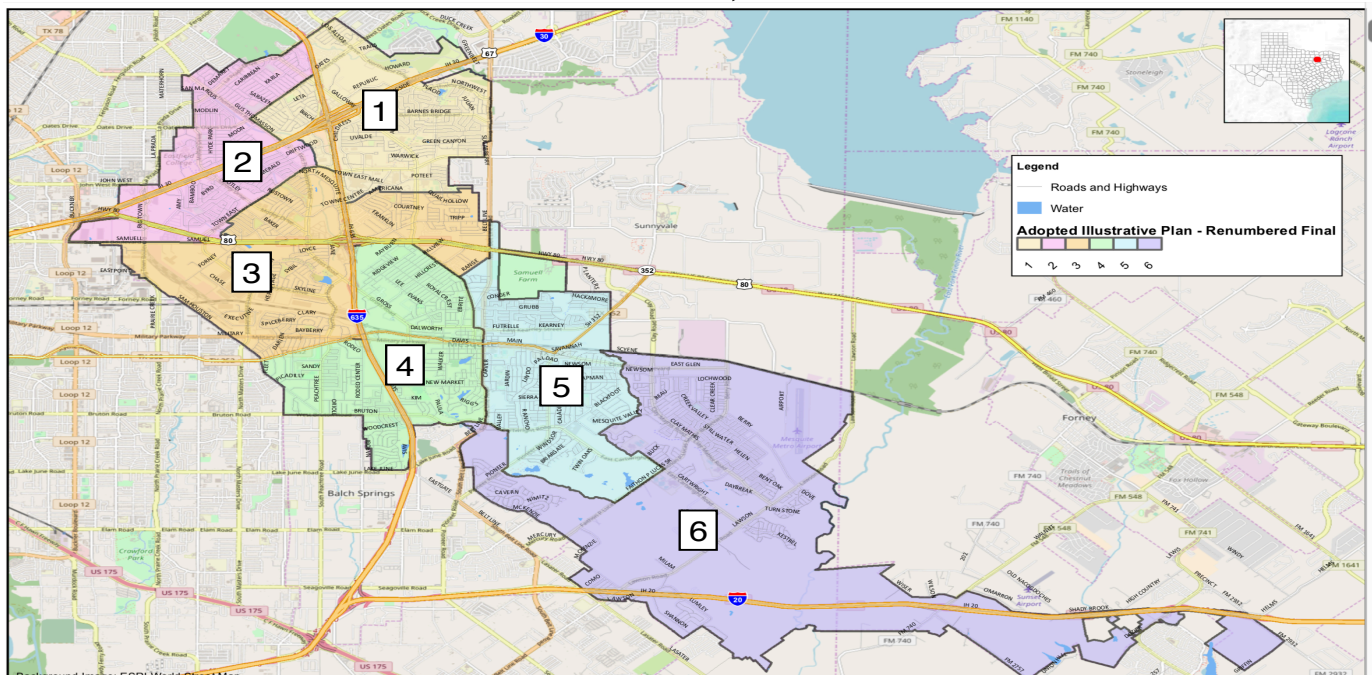


# CITY OF MESQUITE GENERAL ELECTION

Previously elections for Mayor and City Council were held in May. Both the Mayor and City Council members were elected at large. Beginning in November of 2019, elections for Mayor and City Council members are held in November of odd-numbered years. The Mayor is elected, by majority vote, by all qualified voters in the city. Council members are elected from single member districts. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, a runoff election will be held between the top two vote getters.

Winners serve two-year terms. No person may serve more than four (4) consecutive two-year terms as Mayor or City Council member without a two-year break in service

MAP OF MESQUITE, TEXAS  
SHOWING COUNCIL DISTRICTS  
NOVEMBER 5, 2019



## QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Why are you the best choice to fill this seat?

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** While the city's property tax revenue has shown healthy growth in recent years, sales tax revenue, which currently comprises a fourth of the General Fund's total revenue, has been stagnant. Do you think the city's economic development efforts should be directed to attracting sales tax generating businesses, and if so, what specifically would you recommend?

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Statistics show Mesquite to be a relatively safe city. How would you evaluate the city's safety record and what would you do to help citizens feel safe in their neighborhoods?

**REPUTATION:** What would you do to enhance the reputation of Mesquite and promote it as an excellent place to live and do business?

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** What is the city's greatest challenge and opportunity in the next several years?

## Mayor

### Bruce Archer Candidate for Mayor



**Age:** 10/27/1970

**Occupation:** Real Estate Agent

**Education:** Associate's Degree from Eastfield College. BS In Ministry and Leadership, Dallas Christian College

**Campaign Phone:** (972) 834-7099

**Email:** bsarcher1027@gmail.com

**Facebook:** <http://Bruce Scott Archer>

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have spent the last 5 years as a very effective council member cleaning up neighborhoods and developing neighborhood leaders. Fighting crime, addressing blight and urban decline, and creating wealth and jobs have been my constant focus. I have laid out a plan of how I will address even further those issues as Mayor and the type of governing style in which I will implement. We will have several new council members and I have the leadership experience to help them all be successful for their constituents. My vision will be to build a safer, cleaner, more prosperous Mesquite.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** With the recent appraisal cap legislation passed in Austin, we have no choice but to make growing our local economy a most intense focus. So, we must move towards a new era of letting the entire nation know that Mesquite "Open for Business." One of the ways we do that in addition to outreach to businesses we want to come here, is build a second to none customer service operation at city hall that is hassle free and quick for every business owner of every size. If we develop that kind of operation, we will have businesses flocking to Mesquite because in a sense we will be rolling out the red carpet.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Mesquite has the best police department in Texas and we are working hard to address some of our crime challenges. My vision is that we continue to move towards a strong and effective community policing program where more and more officers are able to slowly patrol neighborhoods, gather intelligence, and build relationships as well as address issues like neighborhood auto speeding. I believe the more we can be proactive vs reactive, we will send a message to criminals that it is getting harder and harder to come commit crime in Mesquite.

**REPUTATION:** My top three goals for the future of Mesquite are the following: Become the safest city in America, the cleanest city in America, and the most employed city in America. While such goals will not be implemented overnight, nor will they be easy, if we are heavily focused on them everyday and pour everything we have into them, we will accomplish great things that will be an example for the rest of the nation.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Our greatest challenge is to continue to push back not just the perception of Mesquite being another older American suburb that has experienced a lot of decline over the years, but push back and change the reality of that perception. We have to keep bringing in executive housing to enhance our median income level, cleaning up blight and crime, and making improving our infrastructure a constant priority. If we stay on those priorities day and night and get more and more residents involved in bringing about solutions, we will bring about a renewed vibrant and polished look that will benefit future generations.

### Stan Pickett Candidate for Mayor



**Age:** 7/5/1957

**Occupation:** Retail store owner

**Education:** BBA - UNIV. OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

**Website:** <http://www.mayorstanpickett.com/>

**Campaign Phone:** (972) 800-6296

**Email:** [hello@mayrostanpickett.com](mailto:hello@mayrostanpickett.com)

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=stan%20pickett%20for%20mayor>

**QUALIFICATIONS:** As with any incumbent, I urge voters to review my record as Mayor: - A record number of road repairs. - More than 1,000 potholes filled. - More transparency at City Hall. - A reduction in the overall crime rate. - Better pay for police officers and fire fighters. - 1000s of new jobs with a stronger economy. - A renewed neighborhood revitalization effort. - Kept loud truck stops away from neighborhoods. I grew up in Mesquite and I am graduate from Mesquite HS – class of 1975). I have spent the last 35 years working to improve our quality of life, help our schools and grow our economy. 25 + years of civic volunteer.



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** As the only candidate with experience owning and running a successful business, I have worked closely with our business community to attract quality retail and dining to our city. This is important not only for expanding our tax base, but also for attracting new jobs. As retail has expanded in other neighboring cities, we have continued to keep our sales stable, not declining. Our efforts have shown a lot of success in recent years with projects that will bring millions of dollars in new sales and business property tax revenue: Market East Shopping Center Expansion Heartland Retail Project Stallion To name a few -

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** When I was first elected Mayor, I promised to do everything I could to make Mesquite a safer place. I am proud to say that our crime rate has dropped during my tenure thanks to the hard work of our brave police officers, and our fire fighters continue to excel at helping residents during emergencies. To continue working to reduce crime in every part of Mesquite, we must provide our first responders with the tools and support they need to do their job. I know it is important that we listen to the men and women on the front lines of the fight to fight crime.

**REPUTATION:** Our family loves Mesquite and we are proud of the families that make up our community. So, I am concerned that this questionnaire suggests we need to enhance the reputation of our wonderful city. I believe Mesquite is a great place to live, work and raise a family. With our new retail, commercial and housing growth, I know that Mesquite will continue to be an attraction to new families. As Mayor, I prefer the positive approach – that is the best way to protect the reputation of Mesquite and maintain the positive momentum we currently enjoy. We must work together for a bright future for our city.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** As President Harry Truman once said – “It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.” That sums up what I think is a big challenge for our city – the importance of working together. By just about every measure, families across the city have benefited from our cooperative leadership style where we bring people together from all walks of life to improve Mesquite. A record number of road repairs, more transparency at City Hall, a lower crime rate, a stronger economy with thousands of new jobs, and neighborhood revitalization efforts are just a few of the successes of our city since 2015.

## Member of Council, Place 1

**Sherry Wisdom**

**Candidate for Council, Place 1**



**No response**

**Jenny Martinez**

**Candidate for Council, Place 1**



**Age:** 3/26/1985

**Campaign Phone:** (469) 224-7049

**Email:** JennyforMesquite@gmail.com

**Facebook:** <http://@JennyforMesquite>

**QUALIFICATIONS:** As a young girl, my parents instilled in me a strong sense of faith, family and community service. They raised me to stand up for what is right and be the voice for those who can not stand up for themselves. Being involved in many community service organizations made me realized that it is very important for everyone to understand that at the end of the day we all want to make Mesquite a city that brings opportunities with a potentially bright future for our community, and that only happens if we create an environment that makes ALL of our citizens feel included, respected and valued.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Economic development has to continue to be a top priority for our city. New businesses and housing development will bring more revenue. We have to work strategically to make sure we can bring more businesses, so we don't have to keep asking our hard-working families to make up for it on increasing taxes.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Overall, Mesquite is a safe city to live in, and by continuing to give our men and women in blue the support and resources it will allow them to attract new officers and retain the officers we already have. We need to encourage programs within our department that will strengthen the relationship with different communities within our city. Having our neighborhood police get to know our citizens and civic organizations will build trust and reduce fear to create a safer environment for our residents as well as our officers.

**REPUTATION:** Create a culture of good helping neighbors, by closing loopholes that interfere with our code enforcement in keeping our city looking beautiful, safe and smooth.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Our city is facing a challenge with the fixing of our roads taking so long that by the time they are done it will be time to fix them again. Not having the correct strategy has been causing us time and a lot of money. Businesses do not want to be part of something that is still in the works with no deadline that will affect paying customers access to them. Putting together the right strategy with our future in mind will alleviate a lot of the expenses taking place due to the time it's taking to get the job done.

## David J Burris

### Candidate for Council, Place 1



**Age:** 10/16/1952

**Occupation:** Retired

**Education:** Two years of college, no degree

**Website:** <http://davidburrisformesquiteplace1.com>

**Campaign Phone:** (972) 989-7845

**Email:** [burrfam@sbcglobal.net](mailto:burrfam@sbcglobal.net)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I've lived in Mesquite since 1956 and have recently retired so I believe I have time to give back to the city that has given me so much in the past. I have nothing to gain except the satisfaction of doing what every citizen should do if they can.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** I believe the next opportunity or sales tax growth will be in the southern part of Mesquite along I-20. Looking at some nice chain grocery stores, chain clothing stores, and some unique restaurants. No vape store, beer and wine stores, cell phone repair shop, easy loan stores, and a saturation of quick food restaurants. I believe this area developed in the right way could support some higher end homes which will help with our property tax as well.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** in my district I'm going to have town hall meetings every quarter with a police officer there to teach us how to not become victims of property crimes, how to access our surroundings at night, and how to be the eyes for the police. We can also share any ideas how we feel we can make our neighborhoods safer.

**REPUTATION:** I think we need to supporting the city with events that will bring people to our city to see what a beautiful city we have. We need to support any school activity that would attract the public. At our jobs talk about the beautiful parks we have, the friendly people who live here, and the wonderful variety of retail stores and restaurants we have here. Nothing wrong with bragging about where you live.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Our greatest challenge I believe is with our budget. With the state capping the cities to only increase our property tax by 3.5 % we will have to be very diligent with how our money is spent. I believe this will force us to look for new opportunities with attracting entities that will produce sales tax revenue.

## Member of Council, Place 2

## Kenny Green

### Candidate for Council, Place 2



**Age:** 9/2/1977

**Occupation:** Formerly w/ Mesquite News

**Education:** Pursuing my Business Administration Degree; Upper Iowa University - 4.0 GPA

**Website:** <http://kennygreenformesquite.com>

**Campaign Phone:** (469) 999-5056

**Email:** [kennygreend2@icloud.com](mailto:kennygreend2@icloud.com)

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/KennyGreen4D2>

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have a passion and commitment to pour my blood, sweat and tears into making my city the best it can be and providing an exceptional quality of life to all who live, work and play in Mesquite. I am the best choice because I know the city. I grew up in this area, and having covered the city as a community journalist for almost a decade, I have been to numerous

council meetings, school board meetings and other events or functions. I am willing to work hard to ensure we have good representation to lead our city into the future.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Economic development is one of my core focuses if I am elected. Our city has to increase its tax base by attracting quality businesses. If we fail to do this, we are failing those who elected us by not ensuring a bright future for the city. Sales tax will remain stagnant until we increase our focus and commitment to being actively involved in the pursuit of quality developments. As elected leaders, city council members need to be involved in helping bring business owners to the table and getting projects across the goal line to help our city. If we cannot find more money for the city, we will struggle.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** One crime is too many. As a society, we should all feel safe in our homes and when out in our community. I think we have a great police department who works hard to keep everyone safe, but they need help from the residents to give them more eyes on the streets due to the sheer size of the city and the limited number of officers we have. I plan to talk to our officers and ask them as public safety professionals what tools they need to make us safer and help prevent crime. After I have a list, I will then find a way to fund the costs of providing their required resources.

**REPUTATION:** As a city council member, you have to instill a sense of respect for the good things we as a city have going on. When council members talk about all of the negative issues on social media or at gatherings, it gives the impression we are in trouble. I would like to see us create an aggressive multi-platform marketing campaign to highlight the great things our city has to offer. We have a great story to be told, and as a former journalist, I am more than qualified to help tell it.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Money. We have numerous issues such as crime reduction, street repairs and staffing issues in several areas that need to be addressed and we already have a tight budget. With the property tax set to hit in FY2021, we have to find additional revenue streams to help continue to fund services we currently offer and begin to address the numerous needs our city has. This is why I have been focused on talking about economic development and creating a longterm vision for our city so we can be better prepared for our future in all areas.

## **Dorothy Patterson**

### **Candidate for Council, Place 2**



**Age:** 5/29/1967

**Occupation:** Public Figure/Speaker

**Education:** Licensed hairstylist & insurance agent CHW (Community Health Worker)

**Website:** <http://dorothy-patterson.com>

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**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/forMesquiteCityCouncil/>

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have worked independently with the public for 30+ years. These years of independency has embodied me with an innate ability to understand people as individuals and as a whole. Owning my home in Mesquite for more than 20+ yrs I have experienced what it feels like paying high homeowner taxes, to be jobless, homeless (before ownership), car axle broken because of a huge pothole, being afraid for children walking in school zones, to see crime escalate, but MOST OF ALL I KNOW ABOUT NOT BEING HEARD by people who can change things. I will get you heard LOUD AND CLEARLY by being "Your Voice At Mesquite City Hall".

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** I most definitely think the city should be trying to direct businesses to come in to produce sales tax relief for our city. The things I would recommend: Get the City's street/s fixed quicker, according to Mesquite of code standards bring all building complexes up to code and enforce residential owners to maintain there lawns accordingly. I believe by doing these three things will make Mesquite more attractive giving a viable appearance that will attract businesses or future homeowners to consider Mesquite a landing place to call home. Starting with these three things can be the spark to ignite tax relief.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** I would elevate the city's safety record by encouraging citizens to go back to the old fashioned basics of looking out for one another. Remind them that the safest way to feel safe is to get to know your neighbors they are your eyes when you can't see, your ears when you can't hear. They are the unofficial law enforcement. They are your babysitters while your children play outside. They are your brother's/sister's keeper.

**REPUTATION:** I will enhance the reputation of Mesquite by being the Councilwoman who understands and will listen to the concerns of the citizen's. Showing citizen's I am never too busy to listen. Letting potential homebuyers know that Mesquite is strict when it comes to lawn maintenance in neighborhoods and parks. Let potential businesses know that Mesquite code enforcement takes pride in having our shopping centers attractive, fully lit with lighting, which makes shoppers feel safe to shop at any time. Also, let them know that Mesquite has a lot of working citizen's who believe in investing back into their community.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** The greatest challenge Mesquite faces is getting things done in a timely manner. If the city starts a project DO NOT drop the ball. If the ball is dropped I will make it my business to get the ball rolling again and making sure it rolls on schedule. Mesquite has a lot of opportunities ahead in the next several years. The biggest opportunity is with me on the City Council you will have a strong woman of values and morals vowing to ensure Mesquite is clean, safe, enjoyable for ALL citizens of Mesquite as "Your Voice At Mesquite City Hall".

## Member of Council, Place 3

Noe Villarreal, Jennifer Vidler – no response

**Robert Miklos**

**Candidate for Council, Place 3**



**Age:** 11/6/1965

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Education:** BA in History at University of Texas JD Law at University of Houston

**Campaign Phone:** (214) 478-2046

**Email:** robertmiklos2016@outlook.com

**QUALIFICATIONS:** The citizens of Mesquite want their city council people to get out to them, ask them what they want, listen to them, and then get those things done. From street and alley repair, to adding more police to help fight crime, to involving neighborhoods in the decision making process for new businesses and developments, My first term in office has been 100% about listening to and then getting what the citizens of this district want done.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** The city must continue to encourage businesses to come to Mesquite, but in a responsible manner, working with neighborhoods to not overburden traffic and destroy the roads. That's why I supported the truck stop ban and pushed for the apartment moratorium. Smart growth, where traffic and what developments bring should always be the most important question. When we encourage good developments that don't overburden our roads and schools, that's when we will get good retail businesses to come and stay in Mesquite. And we must do everything to support and enhance our existing single family neighborhoods.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Our Police Department does a terrific job, and I am proud of their work every day. I make it a top priority to support them not just with words but action, which is why the Mesquite Police Association has endorsed my re-election campaign. We must continue to add police officers to our police force and have them driving through our neighborhoods, visible often, to prevent crime before it occurs. We should not relax and say everything is fine.

**REPUTATION:** Through action, make Mesquite's city government be more customer friendly, and a better servant of its people. From expanding the animal shelter, to more police, to a fire station along I-20, to continually looking how to LOWER the tax burden on our homeowners, the best way to raise Mesquite's reputation is to have its citizen's singing its city government's praises. We have great trash pick up, and a great police force and fire department. Other city services like street repair and alley repair can do better. All of us, working together, we can do this.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Mesquite's greatest challenge is fixing its streets correctly, to last, and to repair its broken alleyways, while working to start lowering the tax burden on its homeowners. Mesquite must also continue to fight the outrageous water charges it gets from North Texas Municipal Water District, so people's water bills can start to get under control. And we must encourage developments that will benefit the city in the short term and long term, with parks and green space, where the rest of the city is not subsidizing those developments. If we do these things the city will be able to start lowering the tax rate.

## Member of Council, Place 4

Tandy Boroughs – no response

**Bryan Odom**  
**Candidate for Council, Place 4**



**Age:** 7/19/1969

**Occupation:** Business Owner

**Education:** Some College

**Email:** odom4mesquite@gmail.com

**Facebook:** [http://www.facebook.com/Odom4Mesquite/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](http://www.facebook.com/Odom4Mesquite/?modal=admin_todo_tour)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I'm a lifelong resident of Mesquite that has been involved for many years. I have been a crime watch leader and a member of the Board of Adjustments. I have a track record of listening to residents and addressing their issues which I would continue to do even better as a council member. I would be accessible via social media, town hall meetings, as well as email and phone calls to listen to what the residents have to say. I believe that in order to be the voice for the people, you need to know what they have to say.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** We need to make Mesquite a place to Eat, Shop and Play, not just for Mesquite residents, but for residents of surrounding cities as well. In the past, we have too many residents leave Mesquite to shop, or to dine certain restaurants. We need to make Mesquite attractive for those businesses to come here. We do that by having a clean, safe city. We also need to have a thriving downtown square, with shops, restaurants and entertainment that will not only give Mesquite residents a place for entertainment, but attract visitors from surrounding areas as well.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** We need to find better ways to inform our residents. I believe our fantastic police department needs to have a social media presence to help inform residents of crimes that may have happened in the area. Too often we see a post on social media about an incident, and then there is no official word or acknowledgement of the incident, which causes citizens to wonder. I believe a simple social media post from our police department stating the facts that they can release lets the residents know they are on it. We also need to form more Neighborhood Watch Groups, and Community Policing is a must.

**REPUTATION:** Reduce the crime. We need to make a statement that Mesquite is NOT the place to come commit your robberies; Mesquite is NOT the place to stash your dope; and Mesquite is NOT the place for violence of any kind. We do this by maintaining a well trained, well motivated police force with the proper numbers that are needed to be PROactive instead of REactive. Our hard working police officers spend too much time going from call to call, and not enough time patrolling and performing valuable community policing. Our beat officers need to have time to build a relationship with the youth in the neighborhoods.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** We have neglected our roads for far too long. Some of the neglect had to be done due to the recession but now I believe some of the neglect is in the process in which the repairs are being done. I believe the process that is being used for our Real.Texas.Roads project (a \$125M Street Bond Program) is severely flawed, and will not withstand the test of time - meaning we are wasting millions of taxpayer dollars. When it comes to opportunity, we have some fantastic beginning plans for our downtown square, and Highway 190 coming through will be another great chance of growth and development if developed correctly.

**Member of Council, Place 5**

**Henry Brown – no response**

**B W Smith**  
**Candidate for Council, Place 5**



**QUALIFICATIONS:** Your vote is important!!! Just like you, when I vote for someone its because I have looked at their background and their qualifications and have determined that the person I voted for is the best choice for that position. So how do you know you selected the best person? To help you make the best choice and make your vote count here is something you must consider. The candidate you vote for, is he able to connect with this district? Is he truly a stakeholder in the this district who has



experienced many of the issues you have experienced? Will the candidate you vote for take the time to listen and communicate with hi

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** No doubt the City will have a shortfall if we don't generate more sales tax. We have allot of land off I.H. 20 to attract new business's that will generate sales tax. It would be interesting to know over the past few years how many of Mesquite residence purchased a new automobile but went out side the City to do it. I think New car dealerships on I.H. 20 would attract more than just our residents. I think that industry alone would generate substantial tax funds to the City.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** While stats may show Mesquite to be relatively safe City, man of my constituents that I have talked to have told me they will not walk down their sidewalks at night where 20 years they would. One thing that I have advocated is that there needs to be more or better street lighting in our neighborhoods. Also I would encourage residents to get involved with their local Crime Watch group and be a part of that. I would also expand the Citizen on Patrol program to get more qualified citizens to be extra eyes and ears for the Police Department.

**REPUTATION:** Let me go on record now by saying Mesquite is an excellent place to live and do business. Is there room for improvement, of course there is. But we have awesome public safety, awesome schools, a variety of restaurants and great City Parks. We need to maintain the quality of schools being built, we need to make sure public safety is properly staffed, we need to develop I.H.20 like the City of Terrell has done around Buc- ee's.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** The challenge is going to be lack of funds to get everything done that needs to be done. That of course will always be a challenge. However that challenge gives this new City Council the opportunity work with each department within the City to come up with ideals and strategies that we all can live with. Major street repair may require a bond issue. There will be many challenges for this new City Council and I hope to be a part of the solution.

## Sergio Garcia

### Candidate for Council, Place 5



**Age:** 5/18/1972

**Occupation:** Dallas Athletic Club

**Education:** Dallas Education Center Business Operations - 1991

**Campaign Phone:** (214) 440-7561

**Email:** sergioformesquite@gmail.com

**Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/SergioforMesquite>

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have been involved here in Mesquite for over 20 years, serving our community in a variety of positions. They range from my current service as a Board of Director for Sharing Life Community Outreach which is Mesquite's largest non-profit, to my recent 3 year stint on Mesquite's Planning & Zoning Commission. I am a Graduate of both the Mesquite Citizens' Police and Fire Academies and served as a member of the 2018 Mesquite ISD Bond Committee among many others.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Yes, that would be a good direction to take. We should be open to new options that generate tax revenue. Let's have a new understanding when it comes to new options, an understanding about how to attain more exciting and dynamic entertainment, dining and experiential choices. We should look at truly expanding our vision. We should let our city's leaders create an environment that encourages the creation and/or growth of for example: eSports, bars/pubs, urban farming, drone racing, interactive outdoor media, and walkability in entertainment areas. These are just some of what could be done.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** For its size and population, I would concur with you that Mesquite is a relatively safe city. I understand that no one deserves to be a victim of crime. No one wants themselves or loved ones to be violated in any way. But I realize that fear of crime and the perception of inadequacy by our police are significant hurdles to overcome for many individuals. We need to strive to have the best possible communication between the city, police and residents so that people can feel safe in our community.

**REPUTATION:** We should let our city's leaders create a unique business environment that will attract entrepreneurs and visionaries to make Mesquite the newest untapped opportunity in which to invest in North Texas. I believe our business community is as innovative and motivated as any other in the United States. Our city's leadership just needs to give them the opportunity. I would present Mesquite as a community of opportunity, and that our people and our business community is as innovative and motivated as any other in the United States.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** It will be whether or not we can bring Mesquite to a point where it serves all its citizens in a fair and equal manner. Where the opportunity to compete, be successful in life and have peace of mind is not out of reach or denied to anyone.

## Member of Council, Place 6

**Dan Aleman Jr**

**Candidate for Council, Place 6**



**Age:** 8/6/1955

**Occupation:** Pastor

**Education:** Kimball High School 1973 Dallas Baptist University BBA 1979 Southwestern Baptist Theological MDIV

**Campaign Phone:** (972) 754-6540

**Email:** Pastordan@ccharvest.org

**Facebook:** <http://Elect Dan Aleman Mesquite City Council Place 6>

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have been on the Mesquite City Council for the last three years and five months gaining much experience on a council that has been strongly working towards the future of our city. In that time I have been able to meet and help many folks ....both residential and business people with their various concerns and needs around our city and I have also met quite a few business and residential developers wanting to do business in Mesquite. At the same time, I have continued my volunteer work around our community as a board member for organizations. The experience I continue to gain is a definite asset.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Mesquite has been seizing opportunity with a strengthened economy receiving several residential developments for future homebuyers. We have much opportunity at Trinity Pointe, our I20 corridor, , for retail/commercial tracts following the increase of home developments on the corridor. Economic development efforts attracting sales tax generated business is evolving with the anticipation of commercial growth and a future major commercial anchor on the corridor with other businesses to follow. The Iron Horse Development near our Rodeo Arena will also draw entertainment venues to enhance our convention center.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Public Safety is a high priority on our council and we must continue to work diligently towards our citizens feeling safe in their community. Our Mesquite Police Department is a data driven organization and knowing that we can never have enough patrol officers to be on every corner, we the citizens must take ownership of our communities and realize that we are to be the extra set of eyes and ears to watch our neighborhoods. I would encourage involvement in CRIMEWATCH Groups, getting to know our neighbor's through events such as the National Night Out, and Block Parties in the neighborhood and to remain proactive.

**REPUTATION:** Use social media to display the positive efforts of projects happening in our city giving back to the community and caring for people. Bring to the forefront the efforts of community through the marketplace, local church organizations , civic groups , our public schools and our city government...all working together giving back to the community. Potential home buyers and businesses could see projects such as Addressing Mesquite, Santa Cop, READ PLAY TALK, Spreading The Love, Men Of Honor , Beach Club, Mesquite Veterans Memorial ...and the list continues of projects that reflect an excellent place to live and work.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Just three short years ago a stakeholders group was looking at the possibilities for Trinity Pointe (I20 corridor). Now we have several (current/approved) residential developments coming to Mesquite and into the district in which I serve. With these developments and expansion for growth there will be more schools and opportunity for commercial retail tracts to come into Trinity Pointe. We will need to expand with another Fire Station for that area and also a potential substation for our Mesquite Police Department. This is a great opportunity and challenge for our city that presently has 145,000 in population growth.

**Christina M Sowell**

**Candidate for Council, Place 6**



**Occupation:** Paralegal

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**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/ChristinaForMesquiteD6/>

**QUALIFICATIONS:** District 6 needs someone who will represent the best interests of its citizens. A person with a voice of their own, who is confident enough to go against the grain and vote (or not) on any issue that is harmful to the city or district regardless of how other members of the council vote. In me, you'll find a candidate who is not a politician, but instead, someone

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** The opportunities are limitless. I see the greatest challenge the city faces is being receptive to change. We have to trust that our elected officials are listening to the needs of the people and knowing that whether or not we agree with their position on certain issues, they have our best interests at heart. Single member districts will give each district an opportunity to grow in ways never thought imaginable because we now have a more personalized approach to the issues that concern our particular district.



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