



**GENERAL ELECTION  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
VOTERS GUIDE  
NON-PARTISAN... REALLY!**

# VOTER

DALLAS  
COUNTY EDITION

VOTING  
BY MAIL

EARLY VOTING  
TIMES & LOCATIONS

WHERE TO VOTE  
ON ELECTION DAY

INFORMATION ON  
REFERENDUMS

CANDIDATE RESPONSES  
ON THE ISSUES THAT  
AFFECT YOU

ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT  
[VOTE411.ORG](http://VOTE411.ORG)



# County Elections Voters Guide for Dallas County Voters

## League of Women Voters of Dallas

### Helpful Information

#### Websites

Dallas County Elections Department  
Texas Secretary of State  
League of Women Voters of Dallas  
Dallas County Democratic Party  
Dallas County Libertarian Party  
Dallas County Republican Party

DallasCountyVotes.org  
VoteTexas.gov  
LWVDallas.org  
DallasDemocrats.org  
LPDallas.org  
DallasGOP.org

#### Telephone Numbers

Dallas County Elections Department (214) 819-6300  
Texas Secretary of State - Elections Division (800) 252-8683  
League of Women Voters of Dallas (214) 688-4125  
League of Women Voters of Texas (512) 472-1100  
League of Women Voters of Irving (972) 251-3161  
League of Women Voters of Richardson (972) 470-0584

### About the Voters Guide

The Voters Guide is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Dallas. The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization whose mission is to promote political responsibility through the informed participation of all citizens in their government. The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

Texas law allows you to carry this Voters Guide inside the voting booth.

The Voters Guide lists almost all candidates who will appear on the ballot in Dallas County. Candidate replies are not edited or verified for accuracy. Candidate information and responses for statewide and regional candidates was provided by the League of Women Voters of Texas. Other information was provided by the League of Women Voters of Dallas unless otherwise noted.

### Voters Guide: Vote411

An electronic version of the Voters Guide can be viewed at [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org). In it you can view information on the candidates who will appear on your personal ballot side by side, by contest. The same candidate responses that appear in the printed Voters Guide also appear in Vote411. Note that you may not use your cell phone or any other electronic device while at your polling location to look up candidate information or for any other reason.

### Eligibility for Voting

You must be a citizen of the United States, 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.

### 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 the Dallas County Elections Department website ([www.DallasCountyVotes.org](http://www.DallasCountyVotes.org)) or call the Dallas County Elections Department (214.819.6300).

### Straight Party Voting

In November 2018, a Straight Party vote for a party automatically casts votes for all candidates in that party in all contests where the party is fielding a candidate and the voter is eligible to cast a vote. This option will not be allowed in future years. Note that votes for non-partisan ballot items like propositions, referendums, bond elections, charter amendment elections, and local special elections must be cast separately.

### Write-In Candidates

Voters may write-in and vote for declared and approved write-in candidates. Declared and approved candidates for this election were sent questionnaires for the Voters Guide and their responses will appear in this guide, but their names will not be listed on the ballot.

### Early Voting in Person Times

Any registered voter may vote early during these times:

Monday October 22 through Friday October 26	7 AM - 7 PM
Saturday October 27	7 AM - 7 PM
Sunday October 28	1 PM - 6 PM
Monday October 29 through Friday November 2	7 AM - 7 PM

### Early Voting in Person Locations

Voters registered in Dallas County may vote in person at any of these locations during the early voting period.

Early Voting Location	Address	City/Zip
Balch Springs Civic Center	12400 Elam Rd	Balch Springs 75180
Bethany Lutheran Church	10101 Walnut Hill Lane	Dallas 75238
Carrollton FB ISD Admin Bldg	1445 N Perry Rd	Carrollton 75006
Cedar Hill Government Center	285 Uptown Blvd	Cedar Hill 75104
Coppell Town Center	255 E Parkway Blvd	Coppell 75019
Crosswinds High School	1100 N Carrier Pkwy	Grand Prairie 75050
Dallas ISD Administration Bldg	9400 Central Expwy	Dallas 75231
Disciple Central Community Church	901 N Polk St	DeSoto 75115
Duncanville Library	201 James Collins Blvd	Duncanville 75116
Eastfield College Pleasant Grove Campus	802 S Buckner	Dallas 75217
El Centro College-West Campus	3330 N Hampton Rd	Dallas 75212
Farmers Branch City Hall	13000 William Dodson Pky	Farmers Branch 75234
Florence Recreation Center	2501 Whitson Way	Mesquite 75150
Fretz Park Library	6990 Belt Line Road	Dallas 75254
George L. Allen Sr Courts Bldg	600 Commerce St	Dallas 75202
Glenn Heights City Hall	1938 S Hampton Rd	Glenn Heights 75154
Grauwlyer Park Recreation Center	7780 Harry Hines Blvd	Dallas 75235
Harry Stone Recreation Center	2403 Millmar Dr	Dallas 75258

Highland Hills Library	6200 Bonnie View Rd	Dallas 75241
Irving City Hall	825 W Irving Blvd	Irving 75060
J Erik Jonsson Central Library	1515 Young St	Dallas 75201
Josey Ranch Library	1700 Keller Springs	Carrollton 75006
Kiest Recreation Center	3081 S Hampton Rd	Dallas 75224
Lakeside Activity Center	101 Holley Park Dr	Mesquite 75149
Lancaster Veterans Memorial Library	1600 Veterans Memorial Pkwy	Lancaster 75134
Lochwood Library	11221 Lochwood Blvd	Dallas 75218
Marsh Lane Baptist Church	10716 Marsh Lane	Dallas 75229
Martin Luther King Jr Core Bldg	2922 Martin Luther King Blvd	Dallas 75215
Martin Weiss Recreation Center	1111 Martindell Ave	Dallas 75211
Mountain Creek Library	6102 Mountain Creek Pkwy	Dallas 75249
Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church	6000 S Hampton Rd	Dallas 75232
Oak Cliff Sub-Courthouse	410 S Beckley Ave	Dallas 75203
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church DALLAS	7611 Park Lane	Dallas 75225
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church GP	4729 S Carrier Pkwy	Grand Prairie 75052
Paul L Dunbar Lancaster-Kiest Library	2008 East Kiest Blvd	Dallas 75216
Richardson Civic Center	411 W Arapaho Road	Richardson 75080
Richland College-Garland Campus	675 W Walnut St	Garland 75040
Richland College - Main (G BLDG)	12800 Abrams Rd	Dallas 75243
Rowlett City Hall Annex	4004 Main St	Rowlett 75088
Sachse City Hall	3815 Sachse Road	Sachse 75048
Samuell Grand Recreation Center	6200 East Grand Ave	Dallas 75223
Seagoville City Hall	702 N Highway 175	Seagoville 75159
Skyline Branch Library	6006 Everglade Rd	Dallas 75227
South Garland Branch Library	4845 Broadway Blvd	Garland 75043
University Park United Methodist Church	4024 Caruth Blvd	Dallas 75225
Valley Ranch Library	401 Cimarron Trail	Irving 75063
West Irving Library	4444 W Rochelle Rd	Irving 75062

## Early Voting Dates and Times for Temporary Branch Locations

**Monday October 29 through Wednesday October 31**

**7 AM - 7 PM**

Brookhaven College, "H" Bldg	3939 Valley View Ln	Farmers Branch 75244
Eastfield College Main Campus "C" Bldg	3737 Motley Dr	Mesquite 75150
Northlake College "L" Bldg	5001 N MacArthur Blvd	Irving 75038
Southern Methodist Univ, Hughs-Trigg Student Center (R 205)	3140 Dyer Street	Dallas 75205

**Tuesday October 30 through Thursday November 1**

**7 AM - 7 PM**

Cedar Valley College "G" Bldg (R G101)	3030 North Dallas Ave	Lancaster 75134
El Centro College Main Campus, Student Center	801 Main St	Dallas 75202
Mountain View College "E" Bldg	4849 W Illinois Ave	Dallas 75211
University of Dallas "S B Hall	2925 Gorman Dr	Irving 75062

## Early Voting by Mail

You are eligible to vote early by mail if you are a registered voter who is:

- 65 years of age or older on Election Day
- Out of the county during the entire election including early voting
- Sick or Disabled
- Confined in jail but eligible to vote.

If you are voting early because of an expected absence, you may apply in person for a ballot by mail before the Early Voting in Person period begins.

If you are voting by mail because you are disabled or are 65 years of age or

older, you may use a single application to request ballots by mail for all county elections in the calendar year. To do so, simply mark "Annual Application" on your application for a ballot by mail when selecting the election for which you are applying.

For details on writing your own application for a ballot by mail, see [DallaCountyVotes.Org](http://DallaCountyVotes.Org) or call 214-819-6300.

You can get a formal application for a ballot by mail from:

Toni Pippins-Poole - Early Voting Clerk  
Dallas County Elections  
2377 N. Stemmons Frwy., Suite 820  
Dallas, Texas 75207  
214-819-6300

Or go to the Elections Department Website [www.DallasCountyVotes.org](http://www.DallasCountyVotes.org).

The completed application must be RECEIVED (not postmarked) by Dallas County Elections Department by October 26, 2018.

Once you have received and marked your ballot it can be returned. It must be RECEIVED (not postmarked) by Dallas County Elections by 7 p.m. on election day (or by the 5th day after election day if it is mailed from outside the United States).

For more information on early voting by mail, call Dallas County at (214) 819-6300, or email [earlyvotingmail@dallascounty.org](mailto:earlyvotingmail@dallascounty.org) or write to Dallas County Elections at the above address.

### Special provision for active-duty military or living overseas

If you or family members are active-duty military or living overseas, you are welcome to use the regular vote by mail process through your home county, but you can also take advantage of special provisions available to you through the Federal Postcard Application (FPCA). Information about FPCA and the required application form can be found on-line at [votetexas.gov/military-overseas-voters](http://votetexas.gov/military-overseas-voters). The FPCA application must be filled out and received by the County as soon as possible but no later than the 11th day before election day.

## Election Day Voting

On election day, you must vote in your precinct of residence. Your precinct number is shown on your voter registration card. You can find your election day precinct polling place at [www.dallascountyvotes.org/voter-information/voter-lookup](http://www.dallascountyvotes.org/voter-information/voter-lookup). Alternatively you can call the Dallas County Elections Department at (214)819-6300.

Design and Production by  
[www.mirgedigital.com](http://www.mirgedigital.com)



**mirgedigital**

## You may bring this Voters Guide into the voting booth.\*

\*In 1995, the Texas law prohibiting use of printed materials, such as this Voters Guide, in the polling place was ruled unconstitutional (Texas Election Code, Section 61.011)

Your contributions to the League of Women Voters of Dallas help us produce the Voters Guide providing unbiased, non-partisan, accurate information about elections, the voting process and issues. If you find this useful and wish to contribute, you may make donations online at [www.LWVDallas.org](http://www.LWVDallas.org), mail a check or call (214)688-4125 for information. The LWVD is a 501(c)3 corporation so all contributions are tax deductible.

LWV Dallas || 6060 North Central Expwy, Suite 500, Dallas TX 75206 || [www.lwvdallas.org](http://www.lwvdallas.org) || [lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net) || (214)688-4125 Phone

## Inside the Guide Table of Contents

### Partisan Ballot Items

United States Senator	<b>Page 5</b>
United States Representatives	<b>Page 6</b>
Governor	<b>Page 11</b>
Lieutenant Governor	<b>Page 12</b>
Attorney General	<b>Page 13</b>
Comptroller of Public Accounts	<b>Page 14</b>
Commissioner of the General Land Office	<b>Page 15</b>
Commissioner of Agriculture	<b>Page 16</b>
Railroad Commissioner	<b>Page 16</b>
Justices, Supreme Court	<b>Page 17</b>
Judges, Court of Criminal Appeals	<b>Page 19</b>
State Board of Education	<b>Page 20</b>
State Senators	<b>Page 21</b>
State Representatives	<b>Page 24</b>
Chief Justice, 5th Court of Appeals	<b>Page 31</b>
Justice, Court of Appeals	<b>Page 32</b>
District Judges	<b>Page 35</b>
Criminal District Judges	<b>Page 37</b>
Family District Judges	<b>Page 37</b>
Criminal District Attorney	<b>Page 38</b>
County Judge	<b>Page 39</b>
Sheriff, Unexpired Term	<b>Page 39</b>
County Commissioner	<b>Page 40</b>
Justices of the Peace	<b>Page 41</b>
Constables	<b>Page 44</b>

### Nonpartisan Ballot Items

<b>Page 45</b>	City of Dallas Special Election to Fill a Vacancy
<b>Page 49</b>	City of DeSoto Special Election to Fill a Vacancy
<b>Page 50</b>	City of Duncanville Special Election
<b>Page 50</b>	City of Glenn Heights Ballot Items
<b>Page 51</b>	City of Seagoville Special Charter Amendment Election
<b>Page 51</b>	Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District Bond Election
<b>Page 51</b>	Dallas Independent School District Ballot Items
<b>Page 52</b>	Richardson Independent School District Tax Ratification Election
<b>Page 53</b>	Map - State Board of Education
<b>Page 54</b>	Map - Commissioners Court and Texas Senate Districts
<b>Page 55</b>	Map - Texas House of Representatives
<b>Page 56</b>	Map - US Congressional Districts

# U.S. SENATOR

6-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

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

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

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

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

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

## U.S. Senator

Ted Cruz (R) — no response

U.S. Senator



**Beto O'Rourke (D)**  
U.S. Senator

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

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

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

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Texas should lead the way in preserving the 2nd Amendment while ensuring people can live without fear of gun violence in our churches, schools, concerts and communities. Let's require background checks for all gun sales and close all loopholes; give federal help to school districts to improve campus safety; stop selling weapons of war that are designed to kill people as effectively and efficiently as possible; and support research on gun violence to better understand and address its root causes.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Every child deserves access to a high-quality education. We must keep our tax dollars in our public school classrooms, ensure equity in funding, and empower teachers to teach to students -- not to high-stakes standardized tests. Prioritizing education also means finally paying our teachers a higher salary, ending the Windfall Elimination Provision, and taking care of our retired teachers. Let's make sure higher education is affordable too, including access to student loans and training programs.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://betofortexas.com>; Campaign Phone: (915) 730-3876; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/betoorourke>; Twitter: [twitter.com/BetoORourke](https://twitter.com/BetoORourke); Email: [beto@betofortexas.com](mailto:beto@betofortexas.com); Video: <https://www.youtube.com/v/RZUFA67aS1Q>; [lancegoodenfortexas/](https://www.youtube.com/v/RZUFA67aS1Q)



**Neal Dikeman (L)**  
U.S. Senator

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

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

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

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** If I had a silver bullet solution, I'd lay it out. But no one does. This is not simple or fixable with federal action. Shall we pass new gun laws, erode our founding fathers' most basic protection against government overreach, and pretend that fixes such a devastating cultural issue so we can feel like we acted? What will we do when another shooting happens anyway, and our "silver bullet" did not work? Let's solve our crisis of community in our community, not from Washington.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Congress can't pass budgets, has run up debt levels not seen since WWII, borrows 20% of each \$, ignores the warnings of its own accountants. It's run up \$21 Trillion in unfunded Medicare, Medicaid & Social Sec debts from underpricing and overpromising, endangering hard-working Americans. In human terms: \$340K/American family, 2x the American mortgage. They plan to add \$12T in new debts by the time my 5 year old gets to HS, out borrowing the entire GDP growth. We need basic fiscal management.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://www.nealdikeman.com>; Campaign Phone: (281) 624-5504; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/nealdikemanforsenate>; Twitter: [twitter.com/nealdikeman](https://twitter.com/nealdikeman); Email: [info@dikeman.net](mailto:info@dikeman.net)

Photo ID required to Vote in Texas! Effective immediately! See [www.DallasCountyVotes.org](http://www.DallasCountyVotes.org) for qualifying IDs and where to get them.

# UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

2-year term. One of 36 members of the U.S. House of Representatives from Texas. Represents the residents of the district in which he/she is elected. Along with the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House adopts budgets, levies taxes, borrows money, regulates interstate commerce, provides services, adopts regulations, and declares war. Current annual salary: \$174,000

**IMMIGRATION:** What changes, if any, would you propose to our immigration policy for current undocumented residents? Do you support construction of a wall along our southern border? If so, how would you pay to it?

**TARIFFS:** What is your position on tariffs imposed on good and services between international trading partners?

**BUDGET:** Social Security and Medicare are key programs which are relied upon by millions of Americans. Do you support changes to

these programs in order to reduce the budget? If so, how would you accomplish that? If not, how would you reduce budget deficits?

**HEALTHCARE:** What legislation would you support, if any, to ensure comprehensive, affordable healthcare for all Americans? Should Obamacare be repealed, replaced or reformed?

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

## U.S. Representative, District 5



**Lance Gooden (R)**  
U.S. Representative, District 5

**IMMIGRATION:** Immigration policy must be firm, fair and evenly applied to all people. At present, the system is broken because the federal government has failed to simply enforce the law. It is a matter of political will, but we must start by securing the border and enforcing current immigration laws. President Obama's policies of amnesty forced states like Texas to take matters into our own hands. In 2017, we passed a bill in the legislature which cracks down on sanctuary cities by creating penalties for local entities who adopt or enforce policies which prohibit the enforcement of immigration laws.

**TARIFFS:** American industry has suffered from inequitable trade practices for decades. Last year, our trade deficit with China was over \$350 billion. President Trump promised the American people better trade deals and he's using all the tools at his disposal to accomplish that. While we may not completely agree with how he gets there, I do support his mission.

**BUDGET:** The federal budget is an unmitigated disaster. The deficit reached \$666 billion in 2017, and we also saw our national debt reach the \$20 trillion mark last year. The federal government has grown so large that Congress cannot properly oversee it or manage it, and this is a clear and present danger to our nation. I would be a strong advocate for a Balanced Budget Amendment. In the legislature, I wrote and passed the most conservative, balanced budgets in our state's history. We must do the same in Washington by cutting unnecessary domestic spending on issues that can be better handled at the state and local levels.

**HEALTHCARE:** I support the full repeal of Obamacare. I fought against its expansion into Texas as a member of the legislature, and I can be counted on to advocate for full repeal in Washington as well. Simply put, it is collapsing. Costs are up, choice for insurance providers and doctors is down, and entitlement spending has exploded. Obamacare was sold to the American people based on a lie. It's past time we deliver on our promise to bring affordable, accessible, and flexible healthcare back into the market.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Social Security is only allowed to spend funds in excess of its revenues until the trust fund runs out of money. At that juncture, it will only be allowed to spend what it brings in each year, regardless of the benefits that are due to retirees at the time. The trust fund is projected to be depleted by 2035. Unless Congress acts to reform the system, that will mean a 25% across-the-board reduction in benefits based on revenue estimates. In 2016, Rep. Sam Johnson (TX-3) introduced the Social Security Reform Act of 2016. I have read it and believe it's a conservative fix to the problems we face.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 12/1/1982; Education: BBA in Finance, UT Austin; BA in Government, UT Austin; Campaign Phone: (903) 386-0289; Website: <http://www.lancegooden.com>; Email: [campaign@lancegooden.com](mailto:campaign@lancegooden.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/lancegoodenfortexas/>



**Dan Wood (D)**  
U.S. Representative, District 5

**IMMIGRATION:** We need a path to citizenship for undocumented residents that would not take years, or even decades to complete. The U.S. is, and always has been, a country of immigrants. The United States benefits greatly from immigrants coming here to work or attend school. Giving undocumented immigrants a fair, realistic path to citizenship will be mutually beneficial. I do not support construction of a border wall. Not only would a border wall be ineffective, it would be a massive waste of taxpayer money.

**TARIFFS:** International trade is good for the United States by bringing goods and services at lower cost to consumers. The other side of the issue is, that while some benefit is received by consumers, international trade is catastrophic to local economies that that may lose manufacturing jobs, to name one example. Tariffs should be used if another country is using an unfair advantage, such as using child labor for example, to send cheap goods to the U.S. American jobs and our national security interests are

important issues that can be protected by the careful, thoughtful use of tariffs.

**BUDGET:** I do not support changes to Social Security and Medicare in order to reduce budget deficits. In order to reduce budget deficits, I would redesign the income tax system by expanding the total number of income tax brackets and shift the tax rate curve to higher brackets. This will increase tax revenue without harming the backbone of our economy, the middle class and small businesses. Social Security and Medicare are not entitlements. Seniors paid into these vital programs and have earned the benefits with their hard work.

**HEALTHCARE:** Access to healthcare is a basic right that we all deserve. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) was the most conservative available approach toward an America with universal healthcare, but new approaches are required since access to insurance has been shown to not necessarily mean access to healthcare. We need to move forward and build upon the successes of the ACA, not cut coverage for Americans, and especially not for cuts for coverage for pre-existing conditions. I will advocate for a healthcare system that is patient centered and one that allows healthcare providers to take care of their patients' needs.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Fighting corruption in government, income inequality, consumer protection, are very pressing issues to address not only in the next session of Congress but for the next generation. The Citizens United decision allowing dark money in politics must be overturned. We can fight income inequality by policies closing the income gap, demand equal pay for women and minorities and raise the minimum wage. Consumer protection requires regulation to rein in the financial services industry. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has returned billions to consumers due to fraud and that work must continue.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 10/5/1955; Education: I'm a '74 Terrell High School graduate, Texas A&M Former Student, and an '86 Baylor Law grad.; Campaign Phone: (972) 551-2002; Website: <http://www.votedanwood.com>; Email: [info@votedanwood.com](mailto:info@votedanwood.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/votedanwood/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/danwood2018](https://twitter.com/danwood2018)

## U.S. Representative, District 5 - Continued


**Phil Gray (Write-In)**  
 U.S. Representative, District 5

**IMMIGRATION:** I want to offer the undocumented a deal. Let them pay 10% of their income to our national debt, with applicable taxes. They remain here, living and working freely, earning the wages they deserve. For those seeking entry, a \$3000 donation expedites their temporary visa, and they pay that 10% on their tax return to renew their entry visa. Their 1040 becomes their Green Card. We quit chasing them. I do not favor a wall. Rather, we can address the reasons many seek entry. Help their home government establish rule of law, and loan them the money, so they can pay our best cops to train their cops. Repayment pays our debt.

**TARIFFS:** No nation in history has ever warred on a freely trading partner. Tariffs are paid by the consumer in the importing country. Thus, those imposed by us are taxes paid by us on certain imported goods. Generally, they are used punitively, to force compliance with our government's goals. If we force a deal that is beneficial to us, and not economic for our partner/adversary, the treaty will not last, or will exert conditions detrimental to those who agreed. The threat of tariffs can be useful in negotiations. In practice they can be detrimental, and should be used sparingly, and quickly rescinded, when the goal is met.

**BUDGET:** Cuts to Social Security and Medicare will not reduce the budget, for they are separately funded entitlements. They have their own formulas for payment, their own funding and their own mission. We can raise the retirement age, and perhaps reduce COLAs, augmenting Social Security. Nothing more. I propose that we pay the debt, and use a portion of the funds freed up to shore up these vital programs, as well as veterans health-care, covering the shortfalls in cash each month. In this way, the massive debt they incur will not materialize, and our elderly will reap the full benefit for which they have worked all their lives.

**HEALTHCARE:** I will offer legislation to enable organizations to negotiate health insurance for their members, that can be sold across state lines. I will include a requirement that insurers post on their website what they will pay for a procedure, that doctors and hospitals post on their website the fee for which they will perform a given procedure. The consumer can decide the best insurance, work related, member, or ACA, as well as the best provider. The fund that accrues as we pay down the debt can be a source of loans for catastrophic treatment. In this way, ACA can be unwound, and healthcare universally, economically available.

**OTHER ISSUES:** We must address the national debt. Currently at 21 trillion, it is slated to grow by a trillion per year, eventually reaching 70 trillion, with interest that will dwarf national defense by 2028. I propose to pay it off. 1 Let homeowners fuel for 80 cents per gallon. This pays a quarter to the debt. 2 Let the undocumented pay to stay, investing in America. 3 Let those in debt pay us instead of the banks. 4. Let cities borrow just enough to cover shortfalls without local tax increase. 5. New jobs balance the budget and reduce poverty based entitlements, creating a surplus to pay debt. We can pay it off. We must.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** NO INFORMATION PROVIDED

## U.S. Representative, District 24


**Kenny E Marchant (R)**  
 U.S. Representative, District 24

**IMMIGRATION:** I believe that the primary focus of our immigration policy should be on securing the border and enforcing the existing law while putting the American worker first. I will continue to push for the resources Texas needs to secure the border, a quicker response process to remove individuals who should not be here, and enforcement measures including a physical barrier, technology enhancements, and legislation to prevent illegal entries.

**TARIFFS:** As America's number one exporter, Texas is a prime beneficiary of American trade agreements. Look no further than North Texas to view the positive economic impact of America's trade relationships on our local businesses. Trade agreements cannot compromise America's leadership in the global economy. NAFTA and other agreements were created with the goal of removing barriers to trade, increasing opportunity and providing a common market for goods and services throughout North America and other regions. I support free-trade agreements, but as President Trump has stated, they must also be fair-trade agreements.

**BUDGET:** One of my top priorities is to preserve and strengthen our Social Security system for future generations. I support legislative measures to protect Social Security beneficiaries, encourage private pension savings for future beneficiaries through tax incentives, and over time raise the age at which benefits can be drawn while not affecting those at or close to retirement. Modernization of the program must not break the obligations to current retirees or to those near retirement. These measures are necessary to maintain integrity of and strengthen the foundation of the Social Security program.

**HEALTHCARE:** Obamacare should be repealed and replaced by market-oriented policies that put health care decisions in the hands of patients and doctors, not federal bureaucrats. Our nation does need insurance reform but it can be accomplished in a way that addresses the problems with our health care system instead of exacerbating them the way that Obamacare does. In December 2017, Congress passed meaningful legislation to repeal the heart of Obamacare, the individual mandate. I will continue work with my colleagues for a true patient-centered health care bill.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The state of our country's infrastructure is incredibly poor. Recently, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the United States a grade of D+ in their annual infrastructure report card. Improving America's bridges, dams, highways and other vital structures is an important priority for the future prosperity of our nation. Congress needs to work to improve our nation's infrastructure, it's an issue that President Trump campaigned on and that the American people desperately need.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 2/23/1951; Education: B.A. Southern Nazarene University, Honorary Doctorate Southern Nazarene University; Campaign Phone: (469) 346-0548; Website: <http://www.kennymarchant.com>; Email: [marchantcampaign@gmail.com](mailto:marchantcampaign@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/kennyforcongress>; Twitter: [twitter.com/MarchantforTX2](https://twitter.com/MarchantforTX2)

Before you go to vote, make sure you know where your polling place is. Sometimes polling locations change. Find polling locations for both early voting in person and election day at [www.DallasCountyVotes.org](http://www.DallasCountyVotes.org) or call Dallas County or the League of Women Voters of Dallas.

## U.S. Representative, District 24 - Continued



**Jan McDowell (D)**  
U.S. Representative, District 24

**IMMIGRATION:** Dreamers must have a clear path to citizenship. It's the right thing to do, plus we have invested for years in their education, making it foolish to deport them now, when they can fully contribute to our economy. Anyone here illegally who is convicted of a violent crime should be deported. For others, we benefit daily from their work. By sharing their culture they add to our diversity. People in countries less fortunate than ours are trying to do what's best for their families, as we all do. They would rather enter the country legally, and that should be a viable option. Families must be kept together. No wall.

**TARIFFS:** I oppose the Trump tariffs. They don't appear to be based on national security concerns, but rather on a whim. Historically it is the removal of tariffs that has spurred the most economic growth. Trump routinely tweets, speaks and acts without a strategy, and without following input from people in his administration who would be in a position to provide thoughtful guidance. I believe that a better way to advance our standing in global trade would be to invest in research, development, people and technology. In that way, we would be investing in our economy and could take the lead in forward-looking efforts.

**BUDGET:** No, I oppose changes to Social Security and Medicare. The basic accounting equation is: revenues minus expenses equal net profit or loss. So a deficit (net loss) can be reduced either by reducing expenses or by increasing revenues. I favor what I call bubble up economics. If people at lower income levels had a living wage, good public education, and affordable healthcare and housing, they would be able to spend more money in the economy. Businesses would have more customers, and would thus need to hire more workers. More economic activity would generate more taxes, and there would be less need to reduce expenses.

**HEALTHCARE:** Healthcare is a right for all, not a privilege for those who can afford it. The US must not be the only very highly developed nation in the world without universal healthcare. Studies have shown that we spend more and achieve poorer outcomes than other developed nations. That must change. Until we achieve universal coverage, I support the Affordable Care Act, and oppose efforts to undermine or repeal it. One important feature of the ACA is providing preventive medicine at no out-of-pocket cost, allowing for early detection and treatment and resulting in better and more cost-effective outcomes.

**OTHER ISSUES:** We have an enormous opportunity, challenge, and necessity to begin a transition from being a nation driven by fossil fuels to being one powered by renewable energy. As in the 1960s, when we worked to put a man on the moon, our national efforts in this century can and must be directed toward this goal. As we encourage STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education, our clean energy revolution will provide the millions of new jobs to put those STEM graduates into great careers. Now that I have three young grandchildren, I'm more determined than ever to safeguard the health and sustainability of our planet.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 3/1/1953; Education: Texas Tech, BA in Journalism/PR Undergrad and grad level courses in Accounting and Business at UTD; Campaign Phone: (972) 810-0806; Website: <http://www.JanMcDowell.com>; Email: [Jan@JanMcDowell.com](mailto:Jan@JanMcDowell.com); Facebook: <http://www.Facebook.com/JanMcDowellDemocrat/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/JanForCongress](https://twitter.com/JanForCongress);



**Mike Kolls (L)**  
U.S. Representative, District 24

**IMMIGRATION:** Mr Trump's/GOP border wall is a yugely wrong idea. I favor open borders with 2 provisos - NO federal benefits/assistance to immigrants, AND each state to legislate immigration. If Texas encourages immigrants and Arizona does NOT, it's okay. Each state can better decide than a distant, ideological federal bureaucraZy.

**TARIFFS:** Tariffs (gov't meddling with the economy) is always a horrible "idea". The Smoot-Hawley tariff (1929) caused the Great Depression. Similar protectionism will produce similar outcomes today. Economic laws do NOT change. Everybody loses in a "Trade War". The direct effect of tariffs is higher prices for everybody. If competition is eliminated by the tariff, the rise in prices is more severe. Courting trading partners is the best foreign policy. Via bilateral agreements both nations benefit. A trading partner, getting a true benefit, will NOT be a threat.

**BUDGET:** The gravest threat to the United States is massive debt and out-of-control spending. We cannot continue this unsustainable and reckless practice. We have to reduce spending, balance the federal budget, and create a plan to pay-off the massive federal debt. My plan is on my campaign website. It advocates annual 4% spending reductions. It is a way to gradually move to a Free Market solution. Amidst this large-scale reform, those dependent upon Social Security must be treated with dignity. This is a difficult problem to solve. In general, I see individual charity/decisions replacing gov't programs.

**HEALTHCARE:** Affordable healthcare can be achieved by removing all gov't intrusion into patient-provider relationship. The obvious first choice is to repeal the "Affordable" Care Act; do NOT replace it. Non-urgent care should become a consumer activity - shop around for the best price. This will NOT negatively affect care. Urgent care is a difficult problem; there is NO time to shop around. With the gov't removed, providers should be held to their Hippocratic Oath. In urgent care situations, providers should step forward and service their communities - a pay-for-what-you-can-afford model would be optimal.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The following actions for Congress are listed on my campaign website, <http://tx24.us> 1. NO MORE foreign wars, they do NOT create security 2. Pay the massive federal debt 3. Provide care for veterans via the Free Market 4. Repeal the "Affordable" Care Act - do NOT replace it 5. End NSA Surveillance Additionally, the attitude of gov't needs vast improvement. 1. Gov't should defend and advance our individual Liberty! We The People are sovereign (NOT the gov't) 2. Debates on governance, much less "politics" 3. Realign to our Constitution - adhere to Article I Section 8 4. Reduce federal spending

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://tx24.us>; Email: [talkwithmike2014@yahoo.com](mailto:talkwithmike2014@yahoo.com)

## U.S. Representative, District 30



**Eddie Bernice Johnson (D)**  
U.S. Representative, District 30

**IMMIGRATION:** I support measures to create a pathway to legal status for the millions of undocumented immigrants who have made lives for themselves and their families in the United States. I do not support the construction of a wall. I support funding for an increased number of border patrol agents along with high-tech surveillance to slow unlawful immigration including drug trafficking and human smuggling. I support comprehensive immigration reform that will foster economic growth, keep our families and our communities together, promote our national security, and protect worker's rights.

**TARIFFS:** Farmers in West Texas are finding it harder to sell their crops, manufacturers in my district are having a harder time selling their goods, and my constituents who are on a tight budget will notice that their holiday shopping this year will be more expensive because of retaliatory tariffs. I am not disputing that we are in a trade war with China and we should be aggressive in this fight. But

it is important that we work with our trading partners such as Mexico, Canada and the European Union to confront China. I believe the Administration's go-it-alone tariff policies are wrong because it sets off consequences.

**BUDGET:** Millions of seniors, low-income earners, and disabled Americans rely on both for monetary assistance and medical care each year. Social



## U.S. Representative, District 30 - Continued

## Eddie Bernice Johnson (D) — Continued

## U.S. Representative, District 30

Security and Medicare are funded by payroll taxes, and it would be completely unreasonable to renege on our promise to provide these benefits, particularly for those who have been paying into Social Security and Medicare for their entire working lives. I would oppose any changes to both that would undermine these benefits. We are faced with difficult choices regarding our budget and the deficits we face. We should be looking at pay as you go budget policy.

**HEALTHCARE:** I oppose the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. However, I support the Congressional Black Caucus' health care budget proposal for fiscal year 2018, which includes proposals that improve the progress made by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Although ACA has been very beneficial for Texas, especially the 357,000 young adults who have coverage through their parents' plan, there are still enhancements that can be made to better support the healthcare market.

**OTHER ISSUES:** We are confronted today with some of the most serious challenges in our Nation's history, and unfortunately the current partisan climate in Congress is ill equipped to address these challenges. By achieving nothing but partisan bickering and name-calling, we are doing a disservice to our constituents and the American people. The U.S. debt, economy, terrorism, cyber security, the environment, quality of education, health-care, clean water, and climate change are all critical issues.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 12/3/1935; Education: SMC - Nursing Degree TCU - Bachelor Nursing SMU - Masters Public Administration; Campaign Phone: (214) 871-9291; Website: <http://www.ebjcampaign.com>; Email: [ebj@ebjcampaign.com](mailto:ebj@ebjcampaign.com); Facebook: <http://CongresswomanEBJtx30>; Twitter: [twitter.com/RepEBJ](https://twitter.com/RepEBJ);



**Shawn Jones (L)**  
U.S. Representative, District 30

**IMMIGRATION:** I do not support construction of a border wall. I believe that humans have a right to move freely throughout the world. If someone wants to come here to work and make a better life for themselves and their family they have every right. Immigration in the

name of prosperity and personal freedom are a key part of Americas unique culture. Migrants however are not entitled to fruits of others labor. I would not offer any financial assistance. We are currently 21 trillion dollars in debt. It is unfair to those who are responsible for this debt to incur more especially with so many Americans below the poverty line.

**TARIFFS:** Tariffs only serve to increase the price of goods and services here. They do not stimulate the economy except for those few companies that can use tariffs as a justification for increased product pricing. Free trade with any other peaceful party should be encouraged not restricted. Trade and the exchanging of ideas is the life blood of innovation.

**BUDGET:** All money paid in by Americans must be available to them. These funds should not be used by Congress to borrow against as a form collateral. I feel that any citizen should have the option to opt out and use their money for retirement as they see fit. Assuming personal responsibility if they choose the option.

**HEALTHCARE:** Over regulation and increased administration are two of the leading causes in increased healthcare cost. We have made it increasingly more difficult for doctors to simply be doctors and we have all but eliminated charity hospitals and religious aid through stifling regulations that only go to serve multibillion dollar health organizations. at the same time we must also teach Americans to take responsibility for their personal health by making it easier to get affordable access to clean food, water and exercise. If people would like to create a voluntary nationwide or state-wide healthcare system I would support it.

**OTHER ISSUES:** America currently has the highest prison population in the world. It is my belief that we must revamp the judicial system. We spend a ridiculous amount of money and man power enforcing laws that do not have an actual victim. This simple mind set would also relieve growing tensions between citizens and law enforcement officers. The legalization and promotion of industrial hemp would have amazing environmental and economic benefits.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 12/13/1974; Education: 2 years Collin College; Campaign Phone: (214) 450-7107; Website: <http://ShawnJonesForCongress.com>; Email: [shawn@shawnjonesforcongress.com](mailto:shawn@shawnjonesforcongress.com); Facebook: <http://shawnjonesforcongress>; Twitter: [twitter.com/shawnJonesFor30](https://twitter.com/shawnJonesFor30);

## U.S. Representative, District 32



**Pete Sessions (R)**  
U.S. Representative, District 32

**IMMIGRATION:** We need to carefully review each component of our federal immigration policy so that we can improve and update our antiquated system in a way that upholds our nation's Rule of Law and supports those who seek to come to our country legally. In terms

of a permanent DACA fix, I support any and all efforts to provide DACA recipients with a long-term guest-worker status. Additionally, while I believe this physical barrier is important in some areas of our Southern Border, it should not be the only tool employed to secure our borders. We must invest in technology and intelligence to truly gain operational control.

**TARIFFS:** As a Ronald Reagan republican I believe in the importance of strong trade agreements. Over the past year, I have openly worked with my colleagues to ask the Administration to explore more targeted trade negotiation tactics. I believe this current approach may cause unintended harm to American job creators. That is why I have worked diligently to protect TX-32 based compa-

nies, like Fossil, and keep them off the most recent tariff list.

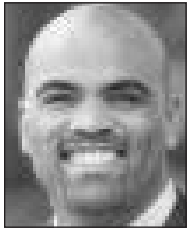
**BUDGET:** Millions of Americans indeed rely on Medicare and Social Security, which is precisely why we need to reform them. The Medicare trust fund is projected to be insolvent by 2026 and Social Security's by 2034. The solutions lie in providing Americans with more choice, not in cutting services. I have a record of working with medical providers to ensure seniors maintain access to their services under Medicare. I have also previously introduced a bill that would allow Americans to voluntarily opt in to an alternative retirement savings system.

**HEALTHCARE:** My bill, the World's Greatest Healthcare Plan, would give Americans a better free market based alternative to Obamacare—whose plans are often not accepted by the best doctors and hospitals. Under my bill, Americans who do not receive healthcare through their employer will be able to claim an advanceable, refundable tax credit that they can use to purchase health insurance in the individual or group market. By helping Americans access group plans, they can see lower out of pocket costs. My plan also preserves key patient protections, such as that for pre-existing conditions.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Under Republican government the American people have a renewed sense of confidence. The economy is thriving, businesses are creating more jobs for hard working Americans, and our men and women in uniform received the largest pay increase in eight years. We have charted a new course and started down a path of prosperity. While we have regained a lot of ground, we still have a lot more work to do - reining in spending, reforming our broken healthcare system, restoring fiscal sanity, rebuilding our military, and restoring law and order on our borders.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 3/22/1955; Education: Bachelor in Science Southwestern University; Campaign Phone: (214) 373-8585; Website: <http://petesessions.com>; Email: [petesessions12@gmail.com](mailto:petesessions12@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/sessionsforcongress>; Twitter: [twitter.com/SessionsforTX32](https://twitter.com/SessionsforTX32)

## U.S. Representative, District 32 — Continued



**Colin Allred (D)**  
U.S. Representative, District 32

**IMMIGRATION:** Our current immigration system is broken and I support comprehensive immigration reform that includes securing our borders, protecting DREAMers, and providing a pathway to earned citizenship for those who are working hard and obeying the law. Washington politicians have failed to act for too long -- preferring to play politics than fix our broken immigration system. I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work finding solutions.

**TARIFFS:** I strongly oppose President Trump's trade war that is raising prices and hurting Texas companies. In July, we lost 3,500 manufacturing jobs. Picking a fight with our closest economic allies is not the right approach to economic and national security concerns. We should be working with our allies, Canada and Mexico, against threats, not fighting amongst ourselves -- especially when it raises the cost of everything from steel to lumber.

**BUDGET:** In Congress, I will always protect the earned benefits of Social Security and Medicare. After working hard and paying into the system, we should not be diminishing or removing Social Security benefits from our seniors. In Congress, I will always fight to protect Social Security including standing up to efforts to raise the retirement age and privatize. The budget priorities of this Congress are out of whack. While I support middle class tax cuts, we should not be giving a \$1 trillion tax break to big corporations and the wealthiest Americans while threatening cuts to Medicare and Social Security.

**HEALTHCARE:** Access to healthcare is a fundamental right, one that too many of our fellow North Texans have been denied for too long. According to the Census Bureau, nearly 1 in 5 Dallas County residents lack health coverage. Many North Texans who do have insurance still deal with high premiums and large out-of-pocket costs. In Congress I will work to lower the cost of prescription drugs by allowing Medicare to negotiate directly with pharmaceutical companies. I will also fight to protect and expand the progress made under the affordable care act including protections for pre-existing conditions and protect and expand Medicaid.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Every year 100,000 people move to North Texas, bringing dynamism but also straining our already aging infrastructure. This is why I believe we need a new national commitment to rebuilding and updating our infrastructure here in North Texas and nationwide, creating millions of jobs and providing a new foundation for our businesses and workers to thrive. We must approach rebuilding and updating our infrastructure in a fiscally responsible manor and as an economic development and job creation opportunity.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 4/15/1983; Education: Hillcrest High School, 2001; Baylor University, B.A., 2005; UC Berkeley School of Law, J.D., 2014; Campaign Phone: (469) 261-3829; Website: <http://www.colinallred.com>; Email: [info@colinallred.com](mailto:info@colinallred.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ColinAllredTX/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/ColinAllredTX](https://twitter.com/ColinAllredTX)



**Melina Baker (L)**  
U.S. Representative, District 32

**IMMIGRATION:** I do not support a wall. Where there is a will, there is a way. If someone wants to come into our country to do us harm, they will manage it. The vast majority of others are seeking a better life. I believe they would choose to come across legally if it were a viable option; however, the extremely long and costly process of immigrating legally is counterproductive to the purposes they seek - often to find safety and comfort for their families. I believe we need to find a way to streamline the immigration process and enhance security, allowing people to engage in the dream of our forefathers.

**TARIFFS:** I believe tariffs improperly interfere in competitive trade and I believe competition is the driver of innovation and excellence. By getting rid of government overhead, companies in the US will be better positioned to compete globally.

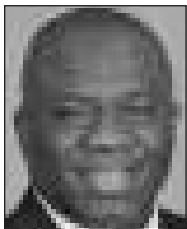
**BUDGET:** Privatize! Privatizing not only eliminates a government bureaucracy, but it also allows the individual to have autonomy over his own investments. The employer should continue to contribute 7.65%, and should also engage a professional to offer investments options to employees, much like a 401k.

**HEALTHCARE:** Obamacare has not done what it needed to do and needs to be repealed. There are many moving parts to the healthcare arena and I believe that before we opt to use a government-sponsored program, we need to identify ALL the affected parties - individuals, employers, health care providers, hospitals, alternative treatment practitioners, drug companies, and even insurance - and allow input from the various interests to work together to arrive at an acceptable situation.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The government should find ways to pare itself down, allowing individuals autonomy over their own lives. Whether it is a customer-vendor relationship, a doctor-patient relationship, a religious practitioner-parishioner relationship, or any other direct relationship, government should not be an extra party to any relationship. It's place is to step in when one person infringes on the rights of another and the two are unable to work it out. This idea includes the right of people to engage in the use and trade of drugs, to the extent that both parties are consenting and otherwise not engaging in illegal acts.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 11/19/1963; Education: BBA Stephen F Austin State University; Campaign Phone: (903) 721-1443; Website: <http://www.baker4congress.com>; Email: [melinabakerforcd32@gmail.com](mailto:melinabakerforcd32@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/baker4cd32/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/melina4congress](https://twitter.com/melina4congress)

## U.S. Representative, District 33



**Willie Billups (R)**  
U.S. Representative, District 33

**IMMIGRATION:** The number of undocumented residents in the US, clearly highlights the problem with our immigration policy. The undocumented residents here must get right with the law, and we must enforce the law. We cannot offer the rights and entitlements of the law, to those who broke the law. Doing this undermines our laws and the bases of our legal system. I've actually been to the border and I know that a combination of a wall, with technology efforts, along with increased personnel is the best option to secure the border. A physical barrier in itself is insufficient. We cannot make those that enforce our laws the enemy.

**TARIFFS:** The average U.S. tariff is 3.48%, Canada is at 4.08% & Mexico 7.01%. The European Union is 5.16% & China 9.92%! Creating a fair tariff rate will make U.S. products more affordable to foreign businesses & consumers. It took years of neglect from politicians for these

rates to build to this degree. Last week an article detailed Canada and China are feeling the pressure to come to the table. As a businessman, I know patience is critical to resolution. We are in a strong position to bring fair trade for all citizens but we must give the tariffs time to be felt and to work.

**BUDGET:** We change processes and/or systems when they are failing our customers or our companies are losing money. I support leaving the systems as is for current recipients. I want a program that educates & encourages Americans to take proactive steps in saving & preparing for retirement. When you educate people about their own money you empower them. Putting themselves in charge will make reliance on govt less desirable & more profitable for them. Medicare doesn't pay doctors the market share for their services & payments are extremely late. Which results in less Medicare doctors. We must listen to doctors & find a better way.

**HEALTHCARE:** Government and the cost of healthcare only became larger, while care decreased, when the private sector took a backseat to reforming healthcare. Texans healthcare costs increased 62% once Obamacare was implemented. Many Americans are skipping preventative care to

## U.S. Representative, District 33 — Continued

avoid the expense. As a cancer survivor, preventative care is critical to survival! Also as a veteran, I have seen government-run universal healthcare; it leads to inefficiencies, long waiting periods, and can cost lives. I would like to repeal but replace at the same time with a cost effective, patient-centered and market based plan.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Criminal Justice Reform - My father is an ex-convict, this issue is personal. The majority of inmates are high school dropouts, are addicted to substances, and/or have no job skill. They serve their time, only to be released to a world that has advanced, try to find employment, and now has a record. I want to work to reform with a 6-step process through: 1. Education - High School diploma or GED 2. Rehabilitation 3. Training a Skill or Trade - Work w Dept. of Labor what skills are needed 4. Future Success Plan - Counselor to guide plan 5. Repay Investment - Must repay taxpayers 6. Clear Their Record

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 7/11/1977; Education: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, A.S. Business Management B.S. Professional Aeronautic; Campaign Phone: (817) 525-2770; Website: <http://billupsforcongress.com>; Email: [info@billupsforcongress.com](mailto:info@billupsforcongress.com); Facebook: <http://billups4congress>;

### Marc Veasey (D) — no response

### U.S. Representative, District 33



#### Jason Reeves (L) U.S. Representative, District 33

**IMMIGRATION:** I do not support a wall along our borders. I think this would be ineffective and a waste of taxpayer dollars. I would not eliminate DACA and put in n place a system where those enrolled in DACA could serve two years in the military and then be eligible for

citizenship. Those who did not want to serve in the military could choose three years of service in a program such as Americorp. Also the laws in place now should be enforced, but children should not be separated from their parents.

**TARIFFS:** Tariffs are good for bringing bringing people to the table for negotiating better trade deals. I would work with both parties to find equitable long term deals with trading partners.

**BUDGET:** Social Security and Medicare should be privatized so that people can have control over their own money and where it goes and how it is used. Recent budget deficits can be reduced by cutting unconstitutional spending.

**HEALTHCARE:** The federal government should not be involved in healthcare. There is nothing in the Constitution that guarantees comprehensive healthcare for all Americans. Having said that the healthcare markets should be opened across state lines allowing for free market competition and the lowering of prices. Obamacare should be repealed.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The 2nd Amendment should not be infringed upon. I would-not support any changes to it.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 4/5/1973; Education: High School Diploma; Campaign Phone: (702) 538-4990; Email: [mam-et\\_king@yahoo.com](mailto:mam-et_king@yahoo.com)

## GOVERNOR

4-year term. The Governor is chief executive which means that she/he carries out the law. He/she appoints members to boards and commissions, appoints statewide executive officials, state judges, and district attorneys when vacancies occur, delivers the State of the State address, provides guidance to the legislature, calls special sessions of the legislature and sets the agenda. The governor can veto legislation (including a line-item veto on appropriations), sign legislation, or allow it to become law without his/her signature. Current annual salary: \$150,000

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

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

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

transportation)?

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** What can be done to ensure the safety of our children in schools?

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

### Greg Abbott (R) — no response

### Governor



#### Lupe Valdez (D) Governor

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

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

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

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** We can't talk about school safety without mentioning gun violence and how our governor is acting as if it is inevitable & isolated to schools. We are NOT powerless to stop the bloodshed, regardless of where it happens. Common sense measures to keep guns out of dangerous hands include universal background checks, making it a state offense to lie on a background check, "red flag" laws, closing the boyfriend loophole, and banning high capacity magazines & bump stocks.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Public Education: A child's background, zip code, race, or how much money their parents make shouldn't matter - every child deserves the chance to succeed. We need universal Pre-K for all Texas kids & to remove the caps on special education funding. We must pay & treat our teachers as professionals & make sure they are teaching to our children, not a standardized test. For any of this, the state must pay its fair share of public education & stop putting the load on local communities & taxpayers.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://www.lupevaldez.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 942-2378; Facebook: <http://facebook.com/LupeforTexas>; Twitter: [twitter.com/LupeValdez](https://twitter.com/LupeValdez); Email: [info@lupevaldez.com](mailto:info@lupevaldez.com); Video: <https://www.youtube.com/v/3yl-h6lZBMU>

## Governor — Continued



### Mark Jay Tippetts (L) Governor

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

fice and stand on principles.

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

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

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** I support measures to restore decision-making regarding education to parents, teachers, and local education boards. I reject any involvement of the federal government in our local school systems, including funding. By doing this we can eliminate across the board standards that have turned our schools into little more than testing sites, rather than a place where students are developing skills, learning mechanism for handling challenges and disappointments, and being evaluated as individuals.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Drug Policy I oppose the War on Drugs. Consistent with the principles of self-ownership, consenting adults ought not be restricted from partaking in activities that harm no one else. This includes possession, consumption and/or market transactions of substances for medicinal, recreational, or other purposes. Individuals seeking or providing medical treatment should not be subject to prosecution.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://www.mark4gov.com>; Campaign Phone: (512) 567-3947; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/mark4gov/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/mark4gov](https://twitter.com/mark4gov); Email: [campaign@mark4gov.com](mailto:campaign@mark4gov.com); Video: [https://www.youtube.com/v/r8IN\\_y15p7A](https://www.youtube.com/v/r8IN_y15p7A);

## LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

4-year term. The Lieutenant Governor is powerful because of her/his position as president of the Texas Senate where he/she appoints the chairs and vice-chairs of committees, appoints senators to committees, assigns bills to committees, and controls the Senate's agenda. She/he is also a member of several commissions and boards, and serves as governor in the governor's absence.

\*\* Salary is that of a state senator when serving as President of the Texas Senate \$9,612 plus \$190 per diem and that of the governor when serving in governors absence.

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

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

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

transportation)?

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** What can be done to ensure the safety of our children in schools?

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



### Dan Patrick (R) Lieutenant Governor

**BACKGROUND:** Please refer to [www.danpatrick.org/meet-dan](http://www.danpatrick.org/meet-dan) for my biographical information.

**HEALTH CARE:** My stance on important issues facing Texas is detailed in my record as the Lt. Governor of Texas. Please refer to [www.danpatrick.org](http://www.danpatrick.org), as well as my official website, [www.ltgov.state.tx.us](http://www.ltgov.state.tx.us), for the most current information on my positions.

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

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** My stance on important issues facing Texas is detailed in my record as the Lt. Governor of Texas. Please refer to [www.danpatrick.org](http://www.danpatrick.org), as well as my official website, [www.ltgov.state.tx.us](http://www.ltgov.state.tx.us), for the most current information on my positions.

**OTHER ISSUES:** My stance on important issues facing Texas is detailed in my record as the Lt. Governor of Texas. Please refer to [www.danpatrick.org](http://www.danpatrick.org), as well as my official website, [www.ltgov.state.tx.us](http://www.ltgov.state.tx.us), for the most current information on my positions.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://danpatrick.org/>; Campaign Phone: (817) 223-4767; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/dan.patrick.texas/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/DanPatrick](https://twitter.com/DanPatrick); Email: [hannah@danpatrick.org](mailto:hannah@danpatrick.org);



### Mike Collier (D) Lieutenant Governor

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

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

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

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

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

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://CollierForTexas.com>; Campaign Phone: (832) 544-9050; Facebook: <http://Facebook.com/MikeCollier>; Twitter: [twitter.com/CollierForTexas](https://twitter.com/CollierForTexas); Email: [campaign@CollierForTexas.com](mailto:campaign@CollierForTexas.com);

## Lieutenant Governor — Continued


**Kerry Douglas McKennon (L)**  
 Lieutenant Governor

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

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

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** TXDoT must prioritize TX's infrastructure results that are fixes rather than patches. Water is the life-blood of Texas's agriculture, energy and tourist industry. We must work with those industries and districts to ensure water in perpetuity. Energy and water go hand in hand. Our current guidelines are decades old, causing us infrastructure damage, loss of water, potential loss of energy, and loss of life and property. TX needs regulation and technology more modern than the mid 20th century.

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

**OTHER ISSUES:** Police accountability through body cameras, require police to take out their own insurance for accidents, and demilitarize our officers. Repeal all laws which make a criminal of someone without a victim. A crime requires a victim. A perfect example of this is responsible cannabis use. For all such victimless cases I would expunge records of those currently or formerly incarcerated. Abolish the death penalty. It is better to incarcerate hundreds of criminals than execute a single innocent.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://mckennon4texas.com>; Campaign Phone: (682) 717-8075; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/McKennonforTexas/>; Email: [mckennonfortexas@gmail.com](mailto:mckennonfortexas@gmail.com)

## ATTORNEY GENERAL

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

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

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

**CONSUMER PROTECTION:** What are the most important consumer protection issues facing Texans?

**OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

**Ken Paxton (R) — no response**
**Attorney General**

**Justin Nelson (D)**  
 Lieutenant Governor

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

for ALL TEXANS.

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

**CONSUMER PROTECTION:** The Texas Attorney General's office should fight fraud, cybercrime, and corruption to make sure everyone has a level playing field. I will make sure that small businesses and individuals are not the victims of fraud and deception. This includes ending partisan lawsuits and focusing on non-partisan consumer fraud investigations and making sure Texas is the leader in responding to fraud after natural disasters.

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

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://www.nelsonfortexas.com>; Campaign Phone: (512) 964-9323; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/NelsonforTexas/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/NelsonForTexas](https://twitter.com/NelsonForTexas); Email: [info@nelsonfortexas.com](mailto:info@nelsonfortexas.com);

**Michael Ray Harris (L) — no response**
**Attorney General**

You may take this printed Voter Guide with you into the voting booth, or you may take a written list of the candidates you want to vote for. You may not, however, use your cell phone or any other electronic device while at your polling location. You also may not display any campaign literature, buttons, signs or garments of any sort while at the polling location.

## COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

4-year term. The comptroller is the chief financial officer of the state, collects state taxes and fees, pays the state's bills, provides revenue estimates to the legislature, certifies the budget, reports the condition of the state's finances, and provides economic development assistance to local governments and private businesses. Current annual salary: \$150,000

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

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

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Which responsibilities of the Comptroller of

Public Accounts office are your highest priorities, and how do you intend to accomplish them?

**OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

### Glenn Hegar (R) — no response

### Comptroller of Public Accounts



#### Joi Chevalier (D) Comptroller of Public Accounts

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

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

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** The Comptroller's office can tie dollars to real world outcomes. It must be neutral, fair, and accurate about legislation & program values; increase revenue while stewarding cost; encourage large & small business growth; be a proactive voice defending Texans' daily lives with innovative and forward-thinking management of her wallet. This includes Special Reports on economic opportunities in expanding ACA/Medicaid or tackling school finance reform, so legislators make informed policy decisions.

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

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://www.joifortexas.com>; Campaign Phone: (737) 808-4405; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JoiForTexas/>; Email: [chevaliercampaign@gmail.com](mailto:chevaliercampaign@gmail.com)



#### Ben Sanders (L) Comptroller of Public Accounts

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

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

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

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

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

Photo ID vs. Voter Registration Certificate: Your name on your Photo ID should match your name on the registered voters list. If it does not, but is "substantially similar," you will be allowed to vote after initialing a column on the sign-in sheet at the polls. If it is not "substantially similar," you will be allowed to vote provisionally. **Check if your name matches by pulling up your voter information at** [www.dallascountyvotes.org/voter-information/voter-lookup](http://www.dallascountyvotes.org/voter-information/voter-lookup)

## COMMISSIONER OF GENERAL LAND OFFICE

4-year term. The land commissioner oversees the state's land and minerals. As such, she/he chairs the Veterans Land Board, which administers five programs for Texas veterans, manages the leasing and sale of state lands (which supplies funds to the Permanent School Fund), is responsible for environmental protection of Texas' coast, and chairs eight state boards including the School Land Board and the Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee. Current annual salary: \$137,500.

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

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

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

**OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?



### George P. Bush (R) Commissioner of General Land Office

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

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

**VETERANS:** The General Land Office offers several great veterans programs such as the home loan and health care assistance programs. I'm committed to continuously looking at all of these programs at the GLO and across this great state for ways to improve the lives of our military and each of their families. Any time a veteran needs help in getting an education, a job, or health care we should try and provide some form of assistance.

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

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://www.georgepfortexas.org/>; Campaign Phone: (512) 804-6068; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/georgepfortexas/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/georgepbush](https://twitter.com/georgepbush); Email: [teamp@georgepbush.com](mailto:teamp@georgepbush.com);



### Miguel Suazo (D) Commissioner of General Land Office

**BACKGROUND:** As a former US Senate staffer, I have worked on issues related to land use planning, education, veterans, environmental protection, and economic development. As an energy professional and attorney, I will provide direction on mineral leasing for supporting education, a

key duty of the GLO, and also stewardship of our Texas lands

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

**VETERANS:** Veterans can face formidable challenges returning to civilian life following their service to their country. I am concerned that the VLB is not offering sufficiently competitive loans to Texas veterans compared to many other programs through the Department of Veterans' Affairs and other states. I also think that the extent of the GLO's outsourcing to third parties the origination and servicing of these loans needs to be examined.

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

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



### Matt Pina (L) Commissioner of General Land Office

Antonio's Transportation Board.

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

**COASTAL PLANNING:** While many of our bays are surrounded by larger metro areas there is plenty of coastline that is not supported or kept to the same pristine condition. With the offshore drilling taking place off the shore I would like to see some of the revenue generated from that exploration go towards the maintenance of that space.

**VETERANS:** The biggest gap faced by veterans is by those who are permanently disabled. In the state of Texas, little is done to ensure that they can live in adequate settings that afford them to live independent and normal lives. H.E.B. has on average provided 2 homes a year to Homes For Our Troops. An organization that builds homes for permanently disabled Veterans. While I applaud the effort made by these organizations, the General Land Office could coordinate in order to make these homes cheaper

**OTHER ISSUES:** The Alamo doesn't belong under the Land Commissioner's purview. As the current GLO commissioner isn't a native Texan, I will quickly explain that the Alamo was saved from demolition by a group of women who were descended from the founders of this great state - the Daughters of the Texas Republic. These women fought tooth and nail to purchase and restore the Alamo for all Texans. It should be returned to the effective stewardship of The Daughters of the Texas Republic.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://mattpina.com/>; Campaign Phone: (210) 336-8389; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/VoteMattPina/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/votemattpina](https://twitter.com/votemattpina); Email: [contact@mattpina.com](mailto:contact@mattpina.com)

Once registered to vote, no need to re-register unless you move or change your name.  
Your registration is valid for all elections within the jurisdictions.

## COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

4-year term. The agriculture commissioner's principal job is promoting Texas' agricultural products. In this capacity, the commissioner facilitates trade and marketing of agricultural products, regulates weights and measures, regulates pesticide use and application, certifies organically produced products, administers the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs, provides financial help to farmers, and helps solve issues related to natural disasters. Current annual salary: \$137,500

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

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

**HEALTH:** What can be done to protect consumers and promote healthy lifestyle in Texas' communities and schools?

**OTHER ISSUES:** What are your highest priorities, and how do you intend to accomplish them?



### Sid Miller (R) Commissioner of Agriculture

Agriculture & Homeland Security and Public Safety

**AGRICULTURE:** Promoting Texas Agriculture and marketing Texas food & fiber across our state, our nation, and the world has been, and will remain, one of my top priorities as Agriculture Commissioner. During my first term, my team and I have made marketing trips to every continent on the globe with the exception of Antarctica. We have expanded and improved TDA's successful "GO TEXAN" marketing program and have initiated special programs to promote Texas' growing wine, craft beer, and specialty crop industries.

**HEALTH:** Before I took office, our school lunch program was failing in its mission to help keep kids healthy. That's why I launched our Farm Fresh program to connect Texas farmers and ranchers, schools, child care providers and local communities with tools and resources available through the Texas Department of Agriculture. The goal of Farm Fresh is to increase awareness of the vital role agriculture plays in our lives, as agriculture is the key to improving the wellness of our children & communities.

**OTHER ISSUES:** I want to further expand our TDA "GO TEXAN" marketing program marketing Texas agriculture products around the globe. Continue our program of making Texas school lunches great again. We've already made great progress by repealing all the burdensome TDA mandates and rules on our Texas schools. Strengthen TDA's consumer protection division and ensure that Texans are not ripped off by unscrupulous businesses or organized criminals using credit card skimmers and other tools to steal your identities.

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

**BACKGROUND:** I'm honored to be our state's 12th Commissioner of Agriculture. It's a job I've been preparing for all my life as an 8th generation farmer, rancher, commercial nurseryman, nine-time World Champion rodeo cowboy, vocational ag teacher, FFA advisor, six-term Texas legislator, Chair: House Committees on



### Kim Olson (D) Commissioner of Agriculture

Commissioner of Agriculture.

**AGRICULTURE:** My specific plans for marketing Texas ag products locally include infrastructure support, such as processing or distribution facilities; expanding local food purchasing among school and institutional foodservice, restaurants, and retailers; and updating the GO TEXAN program. Infrastructure and state-led marketing will also serve farmers in accessing national markets. I will support Texas farmers as a strong advocate, ensuring that their interests are represented in trade deals and negotiations.

**HEALTH:** I will promote nutritious school lunches with training, education, and Farm to School, and will encourage participation in after-school and summer meal programs. My administration will promote local food access initiatives, such as workplace wellness, farmers' markets, and retail incentive programs. And, we will address food safety standards by ensuring that our farmers meet the requirements while educating consumers on their role in handling and preparing safe, healthy foods.

**OTHER ISSUES:** A top priority is the economic viability of Texas agriculture with marketing, infrastructure, and education initiatives. Also, we must return respectability and professionalism to the office, to ensure the credibility of TDA in the Texas legislature and among state, national, and international partners. Next priority -- two words: broadband internet. We will pursue funding and partnerships to ensure high-speed internet access in rural areas for education, economic development, and healthcare.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://votekimolson.org/>; Campaign Phone: (903) 245-4233; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/KimOlson4TexasAg/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/kimolson4txag](https://twitter.com/kimolson4txag); Email: [info@votekimolson.org](mailto:info@votekimolson.org); Video: [https://www.youtube.com/v/TEL\\_TJIA9fM](https://www.youtube.com/v/TEL_TJIA9fM)

**BACKGROUND:** I am a 4th generation farmer and beekeeper, 25 year veteran of the U.S.A.F., and lifelong public servant. My work as a school district administrator and nonprofit CEO, combined with my background in agriculture and military service, provide the skills and experience needed to succeed in the role of Texas

Richard Carpenter (L) — no response

Commissioner of Agriculture

## RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

6-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

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

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

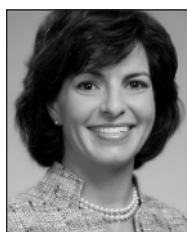
**SAFETY:** How would you address the various safety issues concerning pipelines, and oil and gas production?

**OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

Your vote is your voice. Be a voter.



## Railroad Commissioner — Continued



### **Christi Craddick (R)** Railroad Commissioner

**BACKGROUND:** Having served Texans for six years as your Railroad Commissioner, I am well-versed in the regulatory needs of the agency and the industry's importance to our state. In my first term, I have brought more of our data online, overhauled our IT infrastructure, and found efficiencies in our processes, allowing us to do our job better and at less cost.

**NATURAL RESOURCES:** Fair and consistent regulation allows us to protect our natural resources while the industry safely produces Texas energy, grows our economy and creates jobs. During my time at the Railroad Commission, we have updated our rules to ensure we are effectively regulating energy production, and that companies continue to choose to do business in Texas.

**SAFETY:** The Railroad Commission's statutory duty is to prevent waste of the state's natural resources, protect the correlative rights of mineral owners, and oversee the safe production of oil and gas. Enforcement of our rules, including permitting and reporting requirements and field inspections, provides the tools we need to successfully carry out our mission.

**OTHER ISSUES:** During this time of enormous growth within the Texas energy industry, we must have thoughtful, balanced leadership at the Railroad Commission. I'll continue to streamline our processes, maximizing the agency's efficiency while maintaining our regulatory effectiveness. I'll increase transparency, bringing more of our data online for public use. I'll advocate for educational paths for a highly-trained, technically-skilled workforce.

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



### **Roman McAllen (D)** Railroad Commissioner

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

**NATURAL RESOURCES:** Right now I plan to balance the commission. The current commission is entirely beholden to the industry. It is an open secret that commissioners accept campaign contributions 24/7, 365 days a year, from the industry. I will balance the commission by listening to and believing scientists, surface rights owners & municipalities and supporting them. Current commissioners deny the science behind climate change. I do not and I will lead on the absolute need to move to 100% renewables.

**SAFETY:** I would lobby to change the name of the commission to something that tells the public, & the commissioners themselves, what the commission is supposed to be doing. I would seek increased reporting requirements for wastewater injection wells. I will complete ride-alongs with employees in the field to see what is happening first hand on Texas land. I will hold public meetings all over Texas to hear from people what their concerns are. There are many professionals who have grave concerns.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Assiduous enforcement of existing regulations on all matters is crucial. Added costs to accomplish this should be absorbed by the industry. The health, safety, and welfare of all Texans here now, and God willing in the future, depends on true leadership. Sentence does not meet criteria. We must do better.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://www.mcallenfortexas.com/>; Campaign Phone: (713) 384-5233; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/McAllenForTexas/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/RomanMcAllen](https://twitter.com/RomanMcAllen); Email: [roman@mcallenfortexas.com](mailto:roman@mcallenfortexas.com);



### **Mike Wright (L)** Railroad Commissioner

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

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

**SAFETY:** I would insist that all safety rules and regulations be followed. I would also want the Railroad Commission or the operators to conduct seismic studies when they conduct operations in areas with different geological formations than they have operated in the recent past or when they use higher pressures or greater volumes of water where no known seismic activity has occurred. There are many opinions about the effect of fracking operations and the disposal of water into wells.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Making sure there is a supply of water and finding an economical method for disposing of the water used in fracking and production are major issues. Desalination can provide the fresh water and possibly could be used to recycle brackish water that comes from fracking and production. Based on some tentative calculations, it appears that this can be done economically. The operators would pay for the work but be given some credit against the Oil & Gas severance tax/fee they currently pay.

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

## JUSTICE TEXAS SUPREME COURT

6-year term. A member of the court that hears only civil cases. The Supreme Court issues final decisions on civil and juvenile appeals, issues writs of mandamus/habeas corpus, and has jurisdiction over orders or judgments of trial courts if the Supreme Court determines them important to the jurisprudence of the state. Current salary: \$171,000

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

**PUBLIC PROTECTION:** What changes, if any, are needed to provide better protection to the public regarding rules and standards for the legal profession?

**MENTAL HEALTH:** What should the Supreme Court's goals be in the newly formed Judicial Commission on Mental Health?

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Which responsibility of a Texas Supreme Court justice is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?

Voter ID requirements have changed! More ID forms will be accepted!  
See [www.DallasCountyVotes.org](http://www.DallasCountyVotes.org) for qualifying IDs.

## Justice, Supreme Court, Place 2

Jimmy Blacklock (R) — no response

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 2


**Steven Kirkland (D)**  
 Justice, Supreme Court, Place 2

**BACKGROUND:** In 13 years as a Judge, I've presided over more than 750 jury trials and fought to make our court system more transparent, accountable and fair. As a community leader, I fought to expand affordable housing and end discrimination. As a lawyer, I sued polluters to protect our neighborhoods.

These experiences help make my decisions more fair and just.

**PUBLIC PROTECTION:** Justice demands the highest standards, but rules alone do not ensure quality representation. Recent studies reveal an alarming amount of mental health and substance abuse issues among attorneys. This crisis creates substandard service to clients and drives up costs for everyone. The Court should lead the profession in addressing these issues, not only through discipline but also through prevention. I have a long history of speaking and advocating for recovery from drug and alcohol addiction.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** This commission needs to identify and remove the legal barriers people face when seeking help for mental health issues. This includes expanding the use of problem-solving courts like veterans and homeless courts and drug and alcohol rehab courts. The commission needs to identify ways the legal system is detrimentally impacted by people in mental health crisis and seek solutions that humanely address the impacts. Finally, the commission must seek to educate the Justice system on these issues.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Texans deserve justice, not politics, from their Court. Yet, the Court has increasingly issued opinions that can only be explained by extremist partisan politics. Texans deserve better. Because we elect our judges in partisan elections, it may not be easy – but it's an imperative. We must restore the Court to its constitutional role as the protector of individual liberty and equality before the law, and an independent voice of everyday Texans in government.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://judgestevenkirkland.com>; Campaign Phone: (832) 779-0118; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JudgeSK/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/stevenkirkland](https://twitter.com/stevenkirkland); Email: [info@judgestevenkirkland.com](mailto:info@judgestevenkirkland.com);

## Justice, Supreme Court, Place 4

John Devine (R) — no response

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 4

R. K. Sandill (D) — no response

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 4

## Justice, Supreme Court, Place 6


**Jeff Brown (R)**  
 Justice, Supreme Court, Place 6

**BACKGROUND:** I've been a judge for nearly 17 years, having served at all three levels of the Texas judiciary—six years as a district judge, six years on an intermediate court of appeals, and five years on the Supreme Court. I'm board-certified in civil trial law and have won three judge-of-the-year awards, including Texas appellate judge of the year.

**PUBLIC PROTECTION:** I serve as Supreme Court liaison to the Texas Board of Law Examiners and to the Grievance Oversight Committee. In the first role, I'm constantly working to make sure we admit to the legal profession only persons of high moral character. In the second role, I'm constantly working to guarantee that grievances clients file against their attorneys are thoroughly and fairly investigated. We must assure that attorneys handle their responsibilities to the public with competence and integrity.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** I co-chair the newly formed Judicial Commission on Mental Health. The purpose of the commission is to develop, implement, and coordinate policy initiatives designed to improve the courts' interaction with—and the administration of justice for—children, adults, and families with mental-health needs. We will do that through legislative proposals and through the sharing of best practices so that judges have the resources they need to serve folks who come into their courts with mental-health needs.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** My highest priority as a Texas Supreme Court justice is to decide cases fairly, efficiently, and according to the law. It's something I strive to do every day. It requires hard work and a deep-seated devotion to the rule of law. I'm proud to say that I've built a record and a reputation as a fair, hard-working judge who never legislates from the bench. And I hope to continue in this important work as long as the people of Texas allow me to do so.

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


**Kathy Cheng (D)**  
 Justice, Supreme Court, Place 6

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

**PUBLIC PROTECTION:** Our founding fathers created a system of check and balance whereby the judiciary shall be impartial. For almost a quarter of a century, the Texas Supreme Court has consisted of a panel of justices of one mindset as a result of straight ticket voting. In order for justice, fairness and equality to become a reality, the panel shall consist of justices of diverse background, experience and knowledge to be able to consider the applicable law from various perspectives and to apply it accordingly.

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

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Educating the general population on how the judicial branch affects all Texans. Ways of achieving such priority may include but not limited to conduct civic engagement events, generating a pamphlet detailing the roles of judges in the judiciary or be a frequent speaker for different events occurring throughout the state of Texas.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://chengforjustice.com>; Campaign Phone: (713) 623-1633; Facebook: <http://facebook.com/chengforjustice>; Twitter: [twitter.com/chengforjustice](https://twitter.com/chengforjustice); Email: [info@chengforjustice.com](mailto:info@chengforjustice.com)

Elections have consequences. Be a voter.

# JUDGE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

6-year term. A member of the court that hears only civil cases. The Supreme Court issues final decisions on civil and juvenile appeals, issues writs of mandamus/habeas corpus, and has jurisdiction over orders or judgments of trial courts if the Supreme Court determines them important to the jurisprudence of the state. Current salary: \$171,000

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

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** What recent technological developments provide opportunities to improve the state's indigent defense system in civil and criminal cases?

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

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

## Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals

Sharon Keller (R) — no response

Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals



### Maria T. (Terri) Jackson (D) Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals

have presided over one hundred jury trials and I have a combined 15 years of judicial experience.

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

**MENTAL HEALTH:** The Judicial Commission on Mental Health was formed in February 2018. The goal is to develop, implement and coordinate policy initiatives to improve the courts' dealings with individuals in the court system who are in crisis. In my opinion, the primary goal should be to create resolution for key issues that plague the judicial system, beginning with overcrowded dockets, lack of communication between judges, court staff, attorneys and mental health care providers, and funding issues.

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

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://www.judgemariatjackson.com>; Campaign Phone: (832) 477-2910; Email: [maria.jcksn@gmail.com](mailto:maria.jcksn@gmail.com);

William Bryan Strange III (L) — no response

Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals

## Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals Place 7

Barbara Parker Hervey (R) — no response

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 7



### Ramona Franklin (D) Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 7

afforded me the opportunity of experiencing the legal perspective from all vantage points.

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

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

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

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://www.judgeramonafranklin.com>; Campaign Phone: (281) 686-3292; Facebook: <http://facebook.com/judgeramonafranklin>; Twitter: [twitter.com/judgeramona](https://twitter.com/judgeramona); Email: [judgeramonafranklin@gmail.com](mailto:judgeramonafranklin@gmail.com)

## Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals Place 8



### Michelle Slaughter (R) Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals Place 8

and saving taxpayer dollars, all while ensuring that the interests of justice are served.

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

**MENTAL HEALTH:** The goal needs to be determining and implementing cost-effective ways to provide justice in criminal cases involving mentally-ill defendants. While punishment is certainly a goal of the criminal justice system, so is rehabilitation. The cycle of criminal activity can only be broken if a defendant can be

## Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals Place 8 — Continued

### Michelle Slaughter (R) — Continued

### Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 8

rehabilitated. Rehabilitation is especially difficult with mentally-ill defendants because the criminal justice system lacks the proper resources. That deficiency must be rectified. **RESPONSIBILITIES:** Preserving and protecting an individual's constitutional rights must be the highest priority in the CCA. As a constitutional conservative judge, my opinions will inform the public of the constitutional issues at hand and my decisions will strictly adhere to the U.S. and Texas Constitutions. Transparency is another priority. Therefore, even if I am in the minority on a decision, I will not be afraid to issue critical dissenting opinions that call attention to constitutional violations.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://JudgeMichelleSlaughter.com>; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Judge-Michelle-Slaughter-405th-District-Court-Candidate-TX-CCA-PI-8-162255907440413/?ref=bookmarks>; Email: [405thjudge@gmail.com](mailto:405thjudge@gmail.com)



### Mark Ash (L) Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals Place 8

**MENTAL HEALTH:** no response

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Protect Civil Liberties. I will uphold the US and Texas Constitutions and improve the quality of life for all Texas by deciding individual cases in an impartial manner based on the law and the facts because everyone's rights matter.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://www.markashfortexas.com>; Campaign Phone: (713) 571-1603; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/markashfortexascourtofcriminalappeals/>; Email: [markashlawyer@yahoo.com](mailto:markashlawyer@yahoo.com);

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

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** no response

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

4-year term. The 15-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.

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

**INSTRUCTION:** What is your position on issues dealing with curriculum, student testing, and special education programs?

**FUNDING:** What measures would you take to improve investment

policies for the Permanent School Fund and equitable distributions for public schools?

**OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

## Member, State Board of Education, District 11



### Patricia "Pat" Hardy (R) Member, State Board of Education, District 11

**INSTRUCTION:** The State Board of Education is responsible for state standards, curriculum which is how those standards are to be taught is left up to the local school district or school. I favor STAAR testing. I think that some degree of accountability causes everyone to work harder. However, I do not like the intense pressure for the testing on elementary students. Most school districts work hard to meet the various needs through their special education programs.

**FUNDING:** The positive results of the PSF speak for themselves. The fund is greatly diversified and handled by an outstanding team. There is not a measure that I could suggest to improve the already strong investment policies. The PSF provides funds for the Instructional Materials Allotment which is distributed equitably. The remainder of the PSF contribution goes to the Available School Fund and its distribution is the purview of the Legislature.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Finish the strong SS standards streamlining that we are currently working on. We have begun work through the commissioner on an advisory group for updating the health standards. Save Cosmetology from those who would like to stop the program. Continue to work to protect the healthy investments of PSF, In November the SBOE will be voting on a Long Range Plan for Texas education. I would like for the Board to work in whatever ways possible to see those goals implemented.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://www.votepathardy.wordpress.com>; Campaign Phone: (817) 845-7506; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ReelectPatHardy>; Twitter: [twitter.com/Pathardy2008](https://twitter.com/Pathardy2008); Email: [pathardy1109@gmail.com](mailto:pathardy1109@gmail.com)

**BACKGROUND:** I spent thirty years as a classroom teacher and seventeen years in central office administration in the public schools. Currently I am a mentor and the co-director for the mentor-ship program through my church called Kids Hope.



### Carla Morton (D) Member, State Board of Education, District 11

services based upon their test results. I also have two sons in elementary school in the Fort Worth ISD.

**INSTRUCTION:** My son is in special education, and I helped create the FWISD Special Education PTA because of my concerns that some children were not receiving necessary services. For example, students with Dyslexia should receive services under an IEP rather than a 504 plan. Currently, STAAR test results are used too broadly and for inappropriate purposes. Finally, I will fight for curriculum standards based upon scientific facts and a truthful representation of history from multiple perspectives.

**FUNDING:** Reliance on fossil fuels in the PSF should decrease with more investment in renewable energy as we work to improve our children's futures. Unfortunately, the legislature increased funding from the PSF for charter schools, which are inherently unequitable and risky investments. At a state level, we should work towards an equitable distribution of resources across all public schools. However, the legislature should not decrease its portion when more local tax dollars are collected for schools.

**OTHER ISSUES:** I will fight for truthful and comprehensive sex education for straight and LGBTQ students. In addition, programs that promote abstinence are not effective in decreasing the rate of unintended pregnancy. Furthermore, misinformation regarding the effectiveness of condoms results in a higher incidence of sexually transmitted diseases but does not decrease sexual activity. In general, we should empower our citizens to make informed decisions regarding their own bodies and health.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://www.VoteMortonTX.com>; Campaign Phone: (682) 305-6262; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/VoteMortonTX/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/votemortontx](https://twitter.com/votemortontx); Email: [VoteMortonTX@gmail.com](mailto:VoteMortonTX@gmail.com);

## Member, State Board of Education, District 11

Aaron Gutknecht (L) - no response

Member, State Board of Education, District 11

## Member, State Board of Education, District 12

**Pam Little (R)**

Member, State Board of Education, District 12

Essential Knowledge and Skills. Both my children attended public schools.

**INSTRUCTION:** Look for stronger scientific based research strategies for reading intervention. Make sure the streamlining of the TEKS does not omit important content, make personal finance mandatory for high school graduation. The STAAR test was a step in the right direction as it required more critical thinking skills but the test still needs work. Our special education students should get the support that they need for success.

**FUNDING:** The PSF has performed very well and my policy would be to "let it be". The issue is to protect it from not only the legislature but now the land office is trying to claim some of it. The SBOE has no per view over funding. I would be a voice to get school finance restructured. Restructuring school finance would solve a lot of the state's property tax problems.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Last year the legislature finally established a quality review of the instructional materials. With my background of working with textbooks I would want this to be a quality of student understanding. Streamlining the TEKS must be watched closely so as not to lose any important content. I would like to see SBOE have more input into Charter School decisions.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://www.Pamlittle.org>; Campaign Phone: (972) 342-6697; Email: [VotePamlittle@gmail.com](mailto:VotePamlittle@gmail.com)

**Suzanne Smith (D)**

Member, State Board of Education, District 12

and commissions serving North Texas; 3) MBA from Duke; &amp; 4) Track record as consensus-builder in community

**INSTRUCTION:** We haven't yet found the right solution that meets Texas' need for accountability, while guarding against "teaching to the test." I believe that solution must meet the following key criteria: 1) Our process must be accurate; 2) We must balance our need for data with ensuring that our students are on track by considering new & better ways of gauging performance; 3) We need to equip our students with 21st century curriculum; & 4) We need to surround students with learning differences with support.

**FUNDING:** The Texas economy is ranked No. 6 nationally by U.S. News and World Report. Yet, Texas' education system is ranked No. 37 in the country. Texas, while it has invested the Fund well, has kicked the can on school finance reform for decades, and that has to change. I have closely monitored the progress of the TX Public School Finance Commission and will champion real action as North Texas' SBOE member. We cannot get to No. 1 while chronically underfunding our public school system.

**OTHER ISSUES:** 1) Strong start through pre-K - quality early education from birth to 3rd grade provides the highest ROI for the success of our students; 2) Wraparound services - attention must be given to children who come to school hungry, whose asthma problems inhibit their activity or who feel unsafe; 3) Teaching recruitment/excellence/retention - teachers are the biggest driver of student success; and 4) Workforce - working alongside business & educators to ensure a strong pipeline of future employees

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://www.suzanne4tx.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 957-0903; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/suzanne4tx>; Twitter: [twitter.com/suzanne4tx](https://twitter.com/suzanne4tx); Email: [suzanne@suzanne4tx.com](mailto:suzanne@suzanne4tx.com); Video: <https://www.youtube.com/v/A2q9dpTuuW4>

Rachel Wester (L) - no response

Member, State Board of Education, District 12

## Member, State Board of Education, District 13

A Denise Russell (R) - no response

Member, State Board of Education, District 13

Aicha Davis (D) - no response

Member, State Board of Education, District 13

# TEXAS STATE SENATORS

4-year term. Must be 21 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the district represented. Responsible for representing the citizens of the district in which he/she is elected in the Texas Senate.

**EDUCATION:** What changes, if any, should be made to public education and its funding in Texas?

**RAINY DAY FUND:** What uses are appropriate, in your opinion, for the Rainy Day fund?

**GUN SAFETY:** What, if anything, should be done to address concerns over gun violence? Please be specific and include the source of funding for new initiatives, if appropriate.

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** How would you address the growing need for funding for highway maintenance and construction? What is your position on allowing tolled lanes to reduce congestion on crowded highways?

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

## Texas Senate District 2

Bob Hall (R) - no response

Texas Senate District 2

## Texas Senate, District 2 – Continued


**Kendall Scudder (D)**  
 Texas Senate District 2

**EDUCATION:** Part of having a strong public education system is about reinforcing the foundation of that system to meet current needs and prepare for the future. The Texas legislature can reduce inequities in state funding formulas by increasing the basic allotment per student, scrapping outdated tax exemptions, appraising commercial properties at market value, and accepting federal dollars when they're made available. I support scrapping the A-F grading system for accountability, significantly scaling back standardized testing and our reliance on them for evaluation, keeping our promises to our retired teachers, and defeating vouchers in any shape or form.

**RAINY DAY FUND:** I believe that the Rainy Day fund should be used for what it was intended for - economic stabilization. When Texas finds itself in a situation where services that are vital to our state's economic stability are at risk, we have an obligation to maintain those services.

**GUN SAFETY:** As a gun owner with my license to carry, I am a strong supporter of the 2nd amendment. I believe that Texas has a proud, rich history of gun ownership and have no interest in legislation that would allow reckless people access to firearms. I join law enforcement officers and responsible gun owners supporting bipartisan extreme risk protective orders. I also support stronger safe storage/child access prevention laws that encourage safe storage of firearms and universal background checks through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. There is broad public support for these common sense measures. I believe that these measures would increase responsibility in gun ownership while protecting the constitutional right of gun ownership in this country.

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** We need to be making smart investments that provide real solutions to our highway system instead of looking at quick fixes as well as more transparency in the public big process to ensure that the good ol' boy system isn't robbing our pocket books. We should also place a higher priority on infrastructure investments than corporate welfare for massive conglomerates. I would support legislation for managed lanes that allow citizens the freedom to choose their transportation options.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Too many rural communities in northeast Texas are struggling to keep the younger generation of leaders in their communities due to a lack of good paying jobs in our area. Texas needs do a better job bringing in businesses that offer good paying jobs and seek out innovative companies to locate here.. Our current system of drawing political districts after each census is outdated and worrisome. Politicians should not be choosing their voters; voters should be choosing their representatives! That's why I believe the best way to strengthen citizen representation and allow the voice of voters to be heard is to establish non-partisan redistricting committees to take political self-interest out of drawing districts.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 2/23/1990; Education: Sam Houston State University, BA in Political Science; Campaign Phone: (903) 243-2555; Website: <http://www.scudderforsenate.com>; Email: [info@scudderforsenate.com](mailto:info@scudderforsenate.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/KendallScudder>; Twitter: [twitter.com/KendallScudder](https://twitter.com/KendallScudder);

## Texas Senate, District 8 – Candidate information provided by LWV Collin County


**Angela Paxton (R)**  
 Texas Senate District 8

**Taxes:** Texans pay some of the highest property taxes of any state and must have relief. Like you, I'm impacted by skyrocketing property taxes, and this continued increase is simply unsustainable. We never really "own" our homes; we simply pay higher and higher taxes for the privilege of living in our homes. Home ownership shouldn't be threatened by government greed, and an important baseline in any taxation is that it must be transparent. The margins tax must be fully repealed.

**Transportation:** Collin County is disproportionately tolled and even worse those tolls are exported across the state to fund other projects rather than being reinvested in needed local projects. Transportation is critical to the continued growth of SD8 and Collin County and must be fully funded as a core function of government. With three of our four major arteries already being tolled, Collin County has more than its fair share of tollways; it doesn't need more. The legislature should prioritize highway funding and budget the money needed for Texas roads.

**Education:** I've devoted 22 years to the rewarding field of education, including teaching in public and private schools and homeschooling. I bring an informed and personal perspective to the education issue to which our state devotes 52% of its general revenues. Robin Hood is an oppressive problem in SD8 and it is time for a new start on school finance. My education priority will be focusing education spending on the classroom resource that most affects student learning - the teacher. As a fiscal conservative, I will keep education policy focused on the priority of increasing student achievement.

**Healthcare:** Obamacare (ACA) should be repealed and I support efforts to legally hinder the implementation of or rescind components of the ACA on both the national and state level. Costs have exploded, making affordable healthcare illegal, unaffordable and inaccessible. Texas officials should continue to push for the ability to make decisions in how to operate Medicaid based on our own knowledge of how best to serve the needs of our citizens. Mandates from Washington must be opposed.

**Emergency Preparedness:** Harvey showed us that Texans help Texans in times of need; in many cases it was churches, private entities, charitable organizations, and individuals that moved quickly into action. We must find more ways to leverage the agility of individuals and these private and charitable organizations such as how federal rules were changed following Harvey, allowing churches to use funding to assist their neighbors in need. The Harvey catastrophe also underscores why we must narrow the purpose of the Rainy Day Fund and protect it for exactly these kinds of natural disasters.

**Other Issues:** As a border state, Texas must have strong, secure borders and end policies that encourage illegal immigration. The Constitution and our borders are what define us as a nation. If we fail to protect either, we will cease to exist as a place in the world that secures and protects for its citizens the inalienable rights afforded us by our Creator, including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I fully support the Legislature's action in passing a ban on sanctuary cities, because dangerous criminal aliens who break our laws should be deported.

**Biographical and Contact Information:** Education Baylor University - BA, Mathematical Science; University of Houston, Clear Lake - MS, Education; Experience 22 year educator (public, private and home school); High School math teacher (Lifetime Texas certification in secondary mathematics); School Guidance Counselor; Website <http://www.angelapaxton.com>; Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/AngelaPaxtonTX/>; Email [angela@angelapaxton.com](mailto:angela@angelapaxton.com); Campaign Phone (469) 209-5302


**Mark Phariss (D)**  
 Texas Senate District 8

**Taxes:** Texas' property taxes are rapidly increasing due to the state not adequately funding education. State spending has decreased over a 10 year period by approx. \$339/pupil, forcing local communities to increase property taxes, which particularly hurt taxpayers whose wages aren't keeping up with property tax increases. Plano ISD, for example, will send approx. \$154MM of its citizens' money to Austin this year (and approx. \$200MM next year), money that could be used for a property tax cut. Transparency is essential for voters to see the problem lies in Austin, not with local communities.

**Transportation:** This past legislative session the Texas legislature passed Amendment 12 to SB 312, essentially prohibiting TxDOT from generating funds from managed lanes & toll projects, thus eliminating, as the TxDot Executive Director testified in 2015, an additional \$6 billion per year in transportation funding. This must be reversed, giving local communities the ability to decide for themselves (rather than Austin deciding for them) whether to fund projects with managed lanes and toll roads, especially in high traffic urban areas where both residents and businesses will benefit.

**Education:** One, the state should adequately fund public education (see first answer above) and, two, vouchers should not be used to divert state money away from underfunded public education. Teachers, oftentimes underpaid, overworked, and frequently purchasing supplies in their classrooms with personal monies, should be supported, not vilified, and the state must address the fact that teachers' healthcare premiums are increasing faster than wage increases. Pre-K programs should be supported (they are ultimately cost-effective in the long run), and special education must be supported as well.

**Healthcare:** I support legislation that will pressure the Governor to accept a Medicaid expansion package that could reduce the number of uninsured in Texas (approx. 5 million) by approx. 50%. I also support state legislation that would provide relief to county and city administrations compensating for unfunded care at hospitals and medical facilities, allowing them to expand and care for more patients at lower costs. Taking care of our citizens is a founding principle of our state government, and I

## Texas Senate, District 8 – Continued

## Mark Phariss (D) – Continued

## Texas Senate District 8

intend to do everything I can to work with the legislature to that end.

**Emergency Preparedness:** The state has a Rainy Day Fund that the Governor refuses to use (but should use) for actual rainy days, such as Hurricane Harvey. The state needs to write legislation to clearly define the terms on which these funds can (and shall) be used. In addition, the legislature should foster relationships with schools, community centers, and other facilities to have a plan in place in case of the need for refugee shelters. Underdeveloped areas of the state must have infrastructure put in place to give advanced warning and evacuation options. Funding these projects will create more jobs in return.

**Other Issues:** The Texas legislature has spent too much time on issues Texans do not care about, like bathrooms, and not enough on important issues, like education, transportation, property taxes, healthcare, and good paying jobs. Education finance reform starts with opposing school vouchers, and includes adequately funding education to enable local communities to lower property taxes. Making life easier for Texas families can be accomplished by extending high speed internet into our undeveloped communities, supporting equal pay for women, and making our transportation systems safer and more available.

**Biographical and Contact Information:** Education Vanderbilt Law School; Experience: I have decades of experience in LGBTQ activism, including serving as a plaintiff on the Texas marriage equality lawsuit. In addition I sit on the board of Equality Texas: Website <http://www.markphariss.com>; Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/MarkPharissforTexas/>; Twitter @MarkPhariss; Email [campaign@markphariss.com](mailto:campaign@markphariss.com); Campaign Phone (469) 298-9074

## Texas Senate, District 9 – Candidate information provided by LWV Tarrant County

## Kelly Hancock (R) – no response

## Texas Senate District 9


**Gwenn Burud (D)**  
Texas Senate District 9

**EDUCATION:** We need to restore the state funding ratios that were present prior to the 2011 cuts – where the State funded over 50% of the cost of educating our students. The current projections of the State to only fund 37% of our education costs is a reflection of the Republican legislature's plans to borrow from our future to fund their

current initiatives to keep their supporters happy. State funds should not be used to fund charter and/or private schools if it means those funds are diverted from public education. To cut funds to a school that needs improvement is giving up on public education – the teachers are committed, the principals are committed, the children are committed. The ones with the least at stake, the lawmakers, are the ones willing to sacrifice the school for a political win.

**ECONOMY:** Texas has a wonderful opportunity to educate its workforce through training programs and investing in the community college system. Texas already has many attractive traits including low corporate taxes, but a trained workforce will be a differentiator in future businesses becoming attracted to Texas. An adjustment to the minimum wage in Texas to reflect the rate of inflation would help alleviate the burden of the working class.

We also need to examine large employers who rely on state benefits so that they are not forced to pay for their labor force – they should be forced to pay their fair share rather than relying on taxpayers to underwrite their businesses.

**ENERGY/ENVIRONMENT:** Texas is in a unique position to be at the forefront of renewable energy creation. We have the ability to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels through solar and wind energy capture, but the current tax incentives to the oil and gas industry make it uneconomic. Although Texas has seen economic benefit from the oil and gas industry, we need to be sure that we are considering our long-term future as well as our short term profit. Clean energy jobs are less dangerous than oil work; clean energy jobs do not create the pollution and waste we see in oil and gas operations; and clean energy provides a safer future for our children.

**HEALTH CARE:** Texas has a responsibility to accept the Medicaid expansion. There is an ever growing group of Texans who do not have health insurance – they forego preventive care and end up needing more severe medical interventions. The reduction in local clinics due to lower Medicaid reimbursements is putting more pressure on emergency rooms to provide routine medical care instead of emergency services. Texas has a growing population, and we need the federal dollars to be sure that all Texans are cared for.

**OTHER ISSUES:** It seems that the time for marijuana legalization has come to Texas. The medical benefits are still being researched, but there are many who have received relief from chemotherapy, epilepsy, and other conditions from approved medical sources. Recreational marijuana creates an economic opportunity for our state – we could be bringing in around half a billion dollars each year to help fix our budget shortfalls on infrastructure and education. Texas should be leading the way on marijuana legalization instead of clinging to its racist underpinnings as a justification for the continued incarceration of people of color.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Phone (817) 607-3965; Email [Gwenn@Burudfortexas.com](mailto:Gwenn@Burudfortexas.com); Website <http://burudfortexas.com/>; Occupation Deaf Education Teacher, Fort Worth ISD; Education Master of Science, Deaf Education; Bachelor of Science, Communication Sciences and Disorders; Associate of Applied Science, Sign Language Interpreting; Experience Politically active since 2007 and have volunteered with several campaigns in the past. Additionally, I have served as the Secretary and Vice President of the Northeast Tarrant Democrats

## Texas Senate, District 16

## Don Huffines (R) – no response

## Texas Senate District 16


**Nathan Johnson (D)**  
Texas Senate District 16

**EDUCATION:** Tax relief and increased school funding turn on the same action: a commitment by the state to supply general revenue at historic ratios – in the vicinity of 50% of the education budget. Such a commitment would permit districts to invest in long-term projects like pre-K centers and program-specific teacher training.

Other changes might include: incentives emphasizing college-readiness and not merely graduation; increased autonomy for school districts, enabling them to develop the most effective ways of teaching their respective student populations; early education programs; recruiting, retaining, and continuing education for teachers; and re-calibrating how relative wealth among districts is determined.

**RAINY DAY FUND:** The Rainy Day Fund is projected to hold almost \$12 billion at the end of fiscal year 2019. This is a misallocation of capital; it is fiscally irresponsible. One idea worth pursuing is State Comptroller Glenn Hegar's proposal to allocate a portion of the fund to create, in effect, a state endowment that generates revenue for ongoing state needs. Another is a much needed one-time cash infusion to the Texas state teachers retirement system (paired with structural changes that ensure long-term sustainability while keeping our commitment to teachers). Suffice to say, there is no shortage of

financial shortages imposed by past cuts, which could be rectified to some extent by using a portion of the Fund.

**GUN SAFETY:** The vast majority of gun owners agree that this proud tradition is honored by rational, thoughtful and respectful gun safety measures. For one, a requirement of universal background checks has near universal approval (including among gun owners). Likewise, there is broad support among gun owners and non-owners for limits on the maximum number of rounds that can be fired without reloading (an approach which avoids the nearly impossible task of defining an "assault weapon"). Evidence shows that red-flag laws save lives and don't encroach on gun owner rights. These are not expensive propositions. Proposals like "permit-less carry" (which I expect my opponent to promote) send us in the wrong direction.

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** Our population continues to grow while gas tax revenue, on a per capita basis, effectively declines. Sound urban planning may help, private projects like the bullet train may help, self-driving cars may help; but we need additional transportation infrastructure and present funding is adequate. Among other possibilities, use of optional managed toll lanes offers one means to address the problem. Data shows increased travel speeds and safety on both free lanes and on toll lanes, while optional use of the toll lanes finances the free lanes for other drivers. Use of managed toll lanes is not a state policy, it's a local option. State government should not

## Texas Senate, District 16 — Continued

## Nathan Johnson (D) — Continued

Texas Senate District 16

prohibit local transportation authorities from using that option.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Implement a careful and informed expansion of Medicaid, using hindsight gained from the many states that have gone before Texas (doing so brings tax dollars back to Texas, boosting our economy while improving health and productivity). Regarding power generation and distribution, I favor investment in modernization of our energy grid; incentives for use of power-saving smart systems; and encouraging local power generation and large-scale power storage. On criminal justice reform, end mass incarceration, increase drug treatment, reform the bail system, enhance prisoner workforce re-integration, de-criminalize recreational marijuana, expand divert courts, end modern-day debtor's prisons, and many others.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 2/12/1968; Education: B.S. in Physics University of Arizona J.D. University of Texas; Campaign Phone: (214) 215-3301; Website: <http://nathanfortexas.com>; Email: [nj@nathanfortexas.com](mailto:nj@nathanfortexas.com); Facebook: <http://NathanforTexas>; Twitter: [twitter.com/NathanForTexas](https://twitter.com/NathanForTexas)

## Texas Senate, District 23

## Royce West (D) — unopposed

Texas Senate, District 23

TEXAS STATE  
REPRESENTATIVES

2 year term. Must be 21 or older, a US citizen, resident of Texas and the district represented. Responsible for representing the citizens of the district in the Texas House of Representatives.

**EDUCATION:** What changes, if any, should be made to public education and its funding in Texas?

**RAINY DAY FUND:** What uses are appropriate, in your opinion, for the Rainy Day fund?

**GUN SAFETY:** What, if anything, should be done to address concerns over gun violence? Please be specific and include the source of funding for new initiatives, if appropriate.

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** How would you address the growing need for funding for highway maintenance and construction? What is your position on allowing tolled lanes to reduce congestion on crowded highways?

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

## Texas House, District 100

## Eric Johnson (D) — unopposed

Texas House, District 100

## Texas House, District 102



**Linda Koop (R)**  
Texas House, District 102

**EDUCATION:** First and foremost, put our students first in all the decisions we make. Education is the key to getting a job, providing adequately for our families and lifting people out of poverty. The legislature needs to adequately fund and resource the Public Education system and that is why I co-authored a bill last session which would have added an additional \$1.5 billion to public education. Additionally, we need to find a way to relieve the overbearing burden of property taxes on our citizens. The only way we can do this is through school tax reform. Our citizens deserve property tax relief.

**RAINY DAY FUND:** One time expenditures based on emergencies or debt reduction. I am open to exploring how we calculate the formulas within the Fund and how the state calculates how much money flows into the fund. Also, I have a plan to protect the Teacher Retirement System by using the Comptroller's proposed Texas Legacy Fund.

**GUN SAFETY:** I am working in an ongoing partnership with Richardson ISD and Richardson Police Department to make our schools safer. It is my priority as a mother and my duty as an elected official to guarantee our children are safe in schools. I support the creation of a legal protective order against those deemed potential threats to keep them from obtaining firearms. I believe this can be done in a fair and reasonable way so as to stop dangerous people from getting their hands on guns while still protecting the Second Amendment rights of individuals. Additionally, we must close gaps in the federal background check system.

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** We need to restore the funding tools for transportation and allow the citizens in the region and those affected by congestion to have a say in the funding methodology for the construction and maintenance of highways.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Properly funding our schools, tax relief and school finance reform.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 6/21/1950; Education: Master's Degree in International Management Studies from UTD Bachelor's Degree from Colorado State; Campaign Phone: (469) 818-0865; Website: <http://www.LindaKoop.com>; Email: [Linda@LindaKoop.com](mailto:Linda@LindaKoop.com); Facebook: <http://LindaKoopforTexas>; Twitter: [twitter.com/LindaKoopHD102](https://twitter.com/LindaKoopHD102)



**Ana-Maria Ramos (D)**  
Texas House, District 102

**EDUCATION:** As an educator, I believe quality public education must be our number one legislative priority. Our Texas constitution mandates we provide quality public schools, unfortunately we have consistently failed to do so. I believe we need to strengthen our public schools and renew our investment in Texas children and families. If we are to ensure a prosperous future for all Texans, we must stop diverting resources away from our neighborhood schools through privatization of public school funds. Additionally, the State must renew its investment in per-student funding allowing local school districts the freedom to enhance instructional and enrichment activities instead of being forced to cut programs.

**RAINY DAY FUND:** The original intent of the "Rainy Day Fund" or Economic Stabilization Fund was to "smooth out the roller coaster" during tough financial times. The fund was specifically designed to protect Texans during hard times by maintaining ongoing state services without the need to raise taxes or cut critical programs. Unfortunately, the exact opposite is happening. While the fund has grown significantly, the quality and availability of necessary and crucial public services has dramatically declined. I believe we need to return to the original intent of the fund creation. Our policies reflect our priorities. We must make dramatic changes to ensure Texans receive the services they need and deserve.

**GUN SAFETY:** As a gun owner, I understand that the 2nd Amendment and common sense gun violence reform are not mutually exclusive. We must protect our children and citizens, and can do so while ensuring constitutional protections are respected. We can do this without costing taxpayers money by: 1. Ending the gun show



## Texas House, District 102

Ana-Maria Ramos (D) — Continued

Texas House, District 102

loophole, requiring background checks on all gun purchases and requiring record keeping on all gun sales. 2. Prosecuting “private sellers” who are violating the law by “engaging in the business” of selling firearms without a license, undermining public safety protections. 3. Ending campus carry. I’m a public teacher, and I can tell you that most teachers, parents, and students don’t want guns in schools. With sensible gun laws, we can make our communities safer.

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** I believe we should explore alternative options to addressing highway congestion without increasing toll roads. Although there is a space for toll lanes within our highway system, we need to invest in our infrastructure through a reasonable economic stimulus program. Our first response to addressing public highway congestion cannot and should not be privatization and double taxation. Additionally, we need to reevaluate public oversight, transparency and accountability of our tollway authority. End users and public consumers deserve a viable and user-friendly recourse to address common tollway concerns.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Texas children and families deserve better. To ensure a strong economy and a prosperous future for all Texans tomorrow, we must renew our commitment and investment in Texans today. As an educator, I believe one of the most pressing issues in the next legislative session is to protect and strengthen access to quality public education, including investing in community colleges and workforce training programs. An educated, skilled, and qualified workforce will attract strong businesses, ignite job creation, and generate sustainable, living wages. Our community colleges and institutions of higher education are key components to building a lasting, prosperous economy and to creating the American Dream for millions of Texas families.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 6/16/1976; Education: GED - TEA AA - DCCCD BA - University of Texas at Arlington MBA - Texas Woman’s University JD - SMU; Campaign Phone: (469) 912-1082; Website: <http://Ramos4Texas.com>; Email: [anamaria@ramos4texas.com](mailto:anamaria@ramos4texas.com); Facebook: <http://ramos4texas>; Twitter: [twitter.com/ramos4texas](https://twitter.com/ramos4texas); You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/-x8p6DWo5ko>

## Texas House, District 103



**Jerry Fortenberry (R)**  
Texas House, District 103

**EDUCATION:** Free community college tuition and vocational training for graduates of Texas high schools and adults to allow them to share in the prosperity taking place in Dallas and Texas by giving them the education and skills needed to fill the jobs available in the current economy like nursing, Internet Technology, programming, etc. eliminating wealth disparity and providing health care. high schools - electives in vocational training, programming/coding, and The Bible taught in a non-denominational secular way with The Bible as a textbook and the role it has played in the establishment and values of our country.

Increase teacher pay and pension fund Ban cellphone use in school due to spike in depression and suicide-related behavior  
**RAINY DAY FUND:** Tap the Rainy Day Fund to address Harvey to supplement money received in federal funds if needed for relief and rebuilding efforts and for projects to prevent future flooding Fund the teacher’s pension fund and increase teacher pay. Increase funding to public education. Infrastructure improvement and movement away from toll roads. Child protective services. Child welfare and mental health. Maintain some funds for future crises.

**GUN SAFETY:** Any loss of innocent life is tragic and we should objectively research ways to make sure the military coordinates with law enforcement and also individuals make authorities aware of anyone who might pose an existential threat and we need to include lives that were saved and crimes prevented by firearms in the hands of law abiding citizens in any policy decisions but any steps we take need to include a proper understanding of individual rights including the right to self-defense which should not be dependent on statistics or numbers. Learn from places like Israel on protecting our schools to provide a safe environment in which our children can learn without fear or distraction with funds provisioned from the Rainy Day Fund and other.

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** Gasoline and other taxes/fees on vehicles should be used for highway construction, improvement and maintenance only and not diverted for other uses and non-road related purposes. Tolls are inherently inefficient with reports that up to 80 percent of the money raised from tolls goes to the company managing the toll roads. Tolls should come off when the debt is retired and at that time maintenance should then revert to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). Tolls also have a disparate impact on the poor, there is no accountability to the public who ends up paying for the road twice in gas taxes and tolls, cong

**OTHER ISSUES:** Eliminate property tax. Our transportation infrastructure funding is being diverted to pay for other budget items - we need to stop diverting these monies. Water transportation to get it from where it is to where it is needed while balancing the water needs of urban and rural. Free community college and Occupational job training to fill high-paying paying jobs that have healthcare. New power plants and harden them.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 11/14/1968; Education: Holmes - nursing (registered nurse) various U.S. Army training courses and schools; Website: <http://www.fortenberryfortexas.com>; Email: [jerry@fortenberryfortexas.com](mailto:jerry@fortenberryfortexas.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Fortenberry-for-Texas>; Twitter: [twitter.com/jerryfortexas](https://twitter.com/jerryfortexas)



**Rafael M Anchia (D)**  
Texas House, District 103

**EDUCATION:** According to The National Education Association, the largest labor union representing public school teachers in the United States, Texas spent \$10,456 per student for the 2017-2018 school year. This figure is \$2,300 below the national average, and ranks Texas as 36th in the nation for per-pupil spending for the 2017-2018 school year. Our legislature has relied too heavily on state property taxes to fund our public education system, which has proved to be an inadequate funding mechanism. I firmly believe that educational opportunity is the gateway to personal and professional fulfillment. In order to truly provide equal opportunity for all, our legislature must commit itself to fully funding our public education system.

**RAINY DAY FUND:** The Rainy Day Fund should be used to help fund public education and the shortfalls in the Teacher Retirement System.

**GUN SAFETY:** Since my time in the legislature, I have worked tirelessly to improve public safety and provide protections for all Texans. In 2013 (83rd legislative session), I sponsored HB 3143. This bill was my first attempt to close the gun-show loophole, essentially requiring background checks for

every gun sale. I have filed an identical universal background check bill in the subsequent 84th and 85th sessions (HB 2190 and HB 259, respectively). These two bills failed to become law and were left in committee. I believe these bills are essential to furthering our safety goals in the state. That being said, I plan to once again file a bill to finally close the gun-show loophole and require background checks for all gun sales in the state of Texas.

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** Each day, the Texas population grows by approximately 3,000 new residents. This influx has caused a real strain to our infrastructure, which is evident by the poor condition of many of our city roads and state highways. Many in the state are calling for an increase in funding to construct new highways and tolled lanes for Texans and visitors alike to travel on. History has shown that if we build more highways, than people will feel compelled to travel along those roads. The alternative? Our state should begin investing in mass public transportation that will serve as a true alternative to our outdated highway system.

**OTHER ISSUES:** I believe redistricting will once again be an issue in the upcoming legislative session. Once again, I plan on filing a bill that would create an independent redistricting commission. Texas will also have to deal with the undermining of clean air standards that is happening under President Trump’s administration I plan on filing legislation that will ensure our state commits itself to meeting our obligations to our environment.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Education: B.A. - Southern Methodist University, cum laude J.D. - Tulane University Law School; Website: <http://rafaelanchia.com>; Email: [info@rafaelanchia.com](mailto:info@rafaelanchia.com); Facebook: <http://rafaelanchia.com>; Twitter: [twitter.com/rafaelanchia](https://twitter.com/rafaelanchia)

## Texas House, District 104

Jessica Gonzalez (D) — unopposed

Texas House, District 104

## Texas House, District 105


**Rodney Anderson (R)**  
 Texas House, District 105

**EDUCATION:** Education spending is the largest single item in the Texas budget and I strongly support keeping education spending as the largest investment of taxpayer dollars. As a father with three children who have all attend(ed) public schools in Grand Prairie, I am invested in the success of our school systems. That is why I have been an advocate for removing unfunded mandates, including the reduction of standardized testing, so our teachers can focus on the growth of our students to make them college or workforce ready. However, I also believe our students and families are best served when their school districts are ensuring the dollars they receive are reaching the classrooms and our teachers rather than being spent on Administration.

**RAINY DAY FUND:** The Economic Stabilization Fund as it is properly called is the savings account of the State of Texas. It is the envy of every other state in the union, and I believe we should only use this fund in cases of extreme need such as in 2013 when the legislature voted to use \$2.3BB of the fund to create the State Water Implementation Fund (SWIFT) for long term water planning during the drought. That is an example of an investment of taxpayer money that has helped start the fix for the long term water needs of this state. Those are the types of investments where I would approve of utilizing the Economic Stabilization Fund.

**GUN SAFETY:** Governor Abbott presented an excellent school safety plan in response to the tragedy at Santa Fe High School. This plan has excellent recommendations and included funding solutions that I believe will be fully implemented in the next legislative session.

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** Recent legislative changes have added roughly \$4BB annually to the TXDOT budget. These amounts will continue to grow over the coming years IF the legislature doesn't access the funds for other, non-transportation needs. My assessment is "the jury is still out" and we must continue to monitor the additional revenues generated by these two significant legislative changes. I agree with Governor Abbott who has been very vocal about reducing reliance on toll-roads. The two voter approved Constitutional Amendments will add significant revenue streams for TXDOT over time to improve and maintain our bridges, highways, and transportation for Texas families and businesses.

**OTHER ISSUES:** no response

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 4/29/1968; Education: B.B.A. - Real Estate University of Texas at Arl; Campaign Phone: (214) 679-4106; Website: <http://rodneyanderson.org>; Email: [info@rodneyanderson.org](mailto:info@rodneyanderson.org); Facebook: <http://rodneyanderson.tx>; Twitter: [twitter.com/rodneyanderson](https://twitter.com/rodneyanderson)


**Thresa 'Terry' Meza (D)**  
 Texas House, District 105

**EDUCATION:** Without a Supreme Court ruling that our system of funding schools is unconstitutional, it is unlikely that the legislature will act on the issue, even though the state is not spending enough money on schools. Like many in the legislature, I would like to see the finance system improved. The legislature should

examine the impact of a provision that has allocated money to school districts to help offset mandated property tax cuts. It should also examine the use of local property taxes to fund public education and its effects on educational quality and on Texas taxpayers. The legislature should heed the call to action. Texas should not settle for just "adequate".

**RAINY DAY FUND:** The real name of the "Rainy Day Fund" is the Economic Stabilization Fund. The original intent was to provide a reserve that would serve to even out the ebb and flow from fluctuating revenues from the oil and gas industry. In good times, additional revenue would flow into the fund, and in leaner times, the fund would be there to make up the difference. I believe it is an appropriate use of the Rainy Day Fund to provide additional monies for education and to assist in times of emergencies and disasters like Hurricane Harvey, for example.

**GUN SAFETY:** A majority of law enforcement and college presidents opposed open carry and campus carry, respectively. For law enforcement, it creates the dilemma of distinguishing the good guy with a gun from the bad guy with a gun, without making us any safer. We need to repeal open carry and campus carry gun laws. Legislators need to consider some common sense gun safety legislation.

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** The Midtown Express Project is set to be completed this year on Hwy 183 & Loop 12, Hwy 114 & Northwest Hwy and will increase capacity and reconstruct portions of those roads. The Legislature should commit to completing the ultimate project for these roadways which is not currently funded. I oppose replacing our network of freeways with more tolls. I remember when the DFW Turnpike was built. Once the road was paid, tolls were removed. Why could we not do that today? Meanwhile, the legislature should examine and support transportation alternates such as the bullet train. We cannot pave our way out of the problem.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The state legislature needs representatives who understand the need for compromise and working together across party lines; legislators who can balance the need for fiscal responsibility with the needs of the state; legislators who support Texas families with educational opportunities, access to healthcare, and protection for the most vulnerable in our society, the children; legislators who will fight for working families with good paying jobs. Too often the legislature has practiced the politics of division. This is a diverse district and deserves to have a representative who celebrates its diversity as a strength; one who will build bridges not walls.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 8/1/1949; Education: Irving High, UTA B.A., UD Bilingual Studies, TCU Real Estate, UTA Urban Studies, Texas Wesleyan Law; Campaign Phone: (972) 914-9043; Website: <http://www.TerryforTexas.com>; Email: [TerryforTexas@gmail.com](mailto:TerryforTexas@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.Facebook.com/TerryforTexas>; Twitter: [twitter.com/TerryforTexas](https://twitter.com/TerryforTexas); You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/oizqylmYe7Y>

## Texas House, District 107

Deanna Maria Metzger (R) — no response

Texas House, District 107


**Victoria Neave (D)**  
 Texas House, District 107

**EDUCATION:** The failure to adequately invest in our public schools is one of the most critical issues facing our state today. The State Legislature cut more than \$5 billion from our public schools and failed to fully restore the cuts. To ensure that our children start school ready to learn and succeed, we should invest in quality,

full-day Pre-K. Investing in public education is the key to addressing the great wealth disparity in our state and improving our economy. I believe that everyone benefits when we have an educated populace and it is our responsibility to make sure that we invest in our public schools so that all children, regardless of their socioeconomic status or the zip code in which they live, receive access to a quality education.

**RAINY DAY FUND:** We should consider tapping the Rainy Day Fund for items that are in dire need of funding, such as fully funding our public schools, to address retired teachers pensions, and to provide relief for Hurricane Harvey devastation.

**GUN SAFETY:** We can both protect the Second Amendment while passing legislation to protecting children in our schools, like universal background checks, among other things. If we truly want to end gun violence in our classrooms then we must fully fund our public schools. We already demand so much of our teachers and school employees, yet we do not properly fund them. We need to support our schools and provide additional funding for school safety, but we must also provide teachers and school administrators with the training and resources necessary to better recognize and reach out to kids who are feeling isolated and exhibiting violent behavior.

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** I am proud to have worked with local residents, the various Chambers of Commerce, businesses, city leaders of Dallas, Mesquite, and Garland, the North Texas Council of Governments, and the Texas Department of Transportation on the LBJ East Project to help address traffic congestion on I-635E between 75 and 30 and to ensure that the project was a priority for the Texas Transportation Commission. We still have work to do, but one will begin to see progress and construction on I-635E soon. The state must invest in transportation funding, but also weigh options like managed toll lanes, and look at high-speed rail and commuter rail--to improve mobility in Texas.

**OTHER ISSUES:** During the 85th legislative session, I served on the House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence and the House Committee on County Af-

## Texas House, District 107 — Continued

fairs. I passed the language of 6 of our bills which were all signed into law by the Governor, including legislation to generate funding to address the backlog of thousands of untested rape kits. I am running for re-election to the Texas House to continue to bring the voice of working-class families from our District to the Texas Legislature by working hard and across the aisle. Some of the priority issues are: 1) Fighting to fully fund our public schools & college affordability; 2) Issues that impact women: funding the rape kit backlog, implementing solutions from Sexual Violence Task Force I created; 3) I-635 E Project/ transportation infrastructure

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 12/29/1980; Education: J.D., Texas Southern University TMSL B.A., Government and Politics UT Dallas DCCCD Ursuline Academy; Website: <http://victoriafortexas.com/>; Email: [info@victoriafortexas.com](mailto:info@victoriafortexas.com); Facebook: <http://facebook.com/VictoriaforTexas/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/Victoria4Texas](https://twitter.com/Victoria4Texas)

## Texas House, District 108



**Morgan Meyer (R)**  
Texas House, District 108

**EDUCATION:** I've listened to families in our district and remain committed to leading for a smarter approach to education funding and better measurement of public school success. We must ensure we honor our duty to educate Texas children, not only for their wellbeing, but also for our state's future. To do this, we will need effective school finance reform that reduces the burden on property owners and dictates that only recapture dollars collected by the state are used for public schools. With funding changes in place, we must also look at how we are measuring success and become more outcomes focused. We can do so with specific goals of increasing pre-K enrollment, increasing early education focus, specifically helping more of our schoolchildren become active readers by 3rd grade.

**RAINY DAY FUND:** It is important that we carefully consider any uses of the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF), aka the Rainy Day Fund, we should consider using a portion of it to prepare for actual rainy days. By this, I mean repositioning a portion of the fund to an infrastructure bank that could be used to prepare for natural disasters like Hurricane Harvey. The 2017 storm leveled serious damage on our state. During Harvey and the aftermath of the storm, nearly 90 people lost their lives. Aside from this tragic statistic, the destruction caused by the storm and subsequent flooding greatly impacted to one of our state's major economic centers, in excess of an estimated \$125 billion in damages.

**GUN SAFETY:** When it comes to reducing mass shootings—and specifically school shootings—I think looking at access to mental health services is as important as considering access to guns. That's why I am planning to author legislation in the coming session that would require our public schools to have trained mental health professionals on campus, and I would support legislation that increases access to mental health care for all Texans.

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** We must take an innovative approach to how we plan for transportation projects. One example is the "CityMAP" plan which was a first of its kind project by TxDOT that looked at how future essential transportation projects might affect neighborhoods and economic growth in and around Downtown Dallas. We should encourage our local communities and TxDOT to continue these types of groundbreaking approaches and partnerships as our growth will require planning for changing demographics, changing modes of transportation and ensuring economic opportunities are weaved into projects when appropriate. Local communities should have a voice in deciding how to manage their needs.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Of all the critical issues facing the legislature each year, it all comes back to passing legislation that makes Texas better for families and communities today and in the future. Our state is strong, but we must continue to produce results for everyday Texans, like better schools, safer neighborhoods and greater access to critical systems that support our families and communities, like healthcare and criminal justice. As state Representative, I've led on education, school finance and fiscal responsibility, and have taken tough issues like sex trafficking and school safety head on. I have delivered effective legislation for positive change. I look forward to leading to bring members together to thoughtfully and effectively address school finance reform.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 8/8/1974; Education: J.D. Washington & Lee University School of Law '99 B.A. cum laude, Southern Methodist University '96; Campaign Phone: (469) 554-0428; Website: <http://morganmeyerfortexas.com/>; Email: [morgan@morganmeyerfortexas.com](mailto:morgan@morganmeyerfortexas.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/MorganMeyerForTexas/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/MorganMeyerTX](https://twitter.com/MorganMeyerTX)



**Joanna Cattnach (D)**  
Texas House, District 108

**EDUCATION:** The state's contribution to public education needs to increase--period. Ten years ago it was 49 percent, today it's 38 percent and the shortfall is being made up in skyrocketing property taxes. We must invest in universal pre-K, increased special education services, and increased per pupil spending not private school vouchers. Property tax relief should be a part of that discussion as well as recapture or Robin Hood. Income inequality in our public schools must be offset but we have not changed funding formulas since I was in grade school. I've taught for 10 years and my college students are often unprepared--they've been taught to test not to think. As an educator and public school parent, teachers, students, and public schools are my priority Day 1 in Austin and I will seek allies across the aisle.

**RAINY DAY FUND:** The Rainy Day fund is a savings account for the state and should be used for state-wide emergencies or severe shortages. Hurricane Harvey, where over 40 inches of rain fell in the Houston area causing widespread damage, is an example of the kind of appropriate use of Rainy Day funds especially as homeowners and cities and school districts continue to recover and will for years. The state's maternal mortality crisis is another appropriate use of Rainy Day funds because it points to an overarching issue concerning the lack of women health care centers in Texas especially rural areas. We must also seriously consider use for public schools. State cuts have created a crisis for districts.

**GUN SAFETY:** I am proudly endorsed by Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. I am an educator and do not want guns in my classroom or in schools in this state under the School Marshall Program which arms teachers. I spoke out against this program in my son's school district as have mothers across the state. Further, my campus was the site of a deadly school shooting. I do not want to see that happen again and yet I dread the inevitable in what has become an epidemic of gun violence in this country. We must institute: red flag laws, increased background checks, increased mental health funding, and safe storage campaigns. The state does have funding in multiple areas including health and human services as well as law enforcement and possible partnership with non-profits.

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** Funding for highway and infrastructure must be addressed and I want to make it a legislative priority especially as a candidate seeking to represent a booming urban district. I am in favor of limited use of managed toll lanes to ease congestion, and I want to move the conversation forward as this district is in the heart of Dallas. In addition to highways, we must also talk about increased public transportation, alternative transportation options, and a high speed train, as more and more residents here seek alternative, shared, and public transportation options to better fit the workforce needs and desire for eco-friendly.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Foster Care remains a priority, and I intend to followup on measures not addressed in 2017. I am the first former foster care child in Texas to run for the state legislature. Texas has not instituted much of the measures set forth by judicial order to protect children in custody but has moved to privatize the foster system. Last session, HB3859 passed and allows public tax dollars to be used to fund private religious adoption agencies. These agencies can ban Muslim, gay, and Jewish families from adopting. Another issue in 2019 is judicial reform including the cash bail system. More importantly, we must stop the appalling behavior in the House including threats and harassment. I intend to speak up and lead on real legislative priorities and will demand the same of others.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 10/28/1980; Education: Baylor University BA: Political Science, 03 MA: International Journalism, 06; Campaign Phone: (469) 619-7837; Website: <http://www.joannafortexas.com/>; Email: [info@joannafortexas.com](mailto:info@joannafortexas.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JoannaForTexas/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/Joanna4Texas](https://twitter.com/Joanna4Texas); You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/8kOHXJAUHKY>

## Texas House, District 109



**Carl Sherman (D)**  
Texas House, District 109

**EDUCATION:** Every child, regardless of zip code, deserves access to a quality public K-12 education. The lack of public school education funding in Texas is an embarrassment. I support an equitable funding system that increases annually so that local school districts can afford systemic investments each year, like substantive pay increases for educators. In addition, there has to be a significant investment in early childhood education with a priority in fully funding full day Pre K programs. I will push for full restoration of the billion dollar cuts immediately. To pay for education investments, we must realign budget priorities and consider alterations to the business franchise tax advocated by moderate lawmakers during the last session.

**RAINY DAY FUND:** Education and healthcare are appropriate uses for the Rainy Day Fund. The Texas economy is strong and fueled by a vibrant business environment and thriving energy industry. When tough times hit our economy, we must never waiver in our commitment to fully fund our public schools and to provide access to quality healthcare for all Texas families. Our Rainy Day Fund is strong and we must have confidence that the greatest State in the Nation with the hardest working people will be able to replenish that reserve fund in due time.

**GUN SAFETY:** The 2nd Amendment is a constitutional right, but this right is not unfettered. The consequences of gun violence have terrorized our communities for far too long, which serves as a reminder that life is fragile, and our time here is limited and precious. Therefore, Texas must focus on effective enforcement of existing laws, and passing additional safeguards like strengthening our background check system for every purchase. Further, Republicans and Democrats must work together to enact commonsense improvements, such as reinstating the assault weapons ban and closing the gun show loophole. Texas should be a leader on gun safety, and I will work to move the ball forward so we can stop the perpetual, senseless violence terrorizing our communities.

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** As a board member of North Texas Transportation Authority (NTTA), I have supported and advocated for a variety of infrastructure projects throughout North Texas. That said, working class families in Texas do not need any additional hits to their pocketbooks with another layer of excessive tolls and fees. Texans in the middle class need innovative solutions to meet their transportation needs, not more of the same. Additionally, we need a national infrastructure plan that comprehensively addresses transportation and that means partnering with competent, sane leaders in Washington who understand that a piecemeal approach is bad for our collective economy. As a former Mayor, I know firsthand how these decisions impact local communities.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Affordable, Quality Healthcare: Texas is the greatest State in the Union, and yet we have one of the highest rates of uninsured residents in America. That's a shame! In Dallas County alone, we forfeit nearly \$580 million per year because Republicans in Austin refuse to accept Medicaid expansion funds that belong to Texas taxpayers. This gridlock must end. Smart Growth: As a State, we must learn to incentivize 'smart growth' in our communities, so that economic development benefits our citizens and leads to an improved quality of life. This means aiding our cities with the resources needed to ensure access to quality, affordable housing and safe neighborhoods. 'Smart Growth' also means tackling displacement and gentrification head on.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 6/13/1966; Website: <http://shermanfortexas.com/>; Email: [shermanfortexas@gmail.com](mailto:shermanfortexas@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ShermanForTexas/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/ShermanForTexas](https://twitter.com/ShermanForTexas)



**Casey Littlejohn (Write In)**  
Texas House, District 109

our Texas Teachers and for infrastructure.

**GUN SAFETY:** Grants for Metal Detectors possibly funded from the State Homeland Security Program, Arming our Teachers, Protecting our 2nd Amendment Rights from adding restrictions on law-abiding citizens.

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** We need to abolish tolled lanes in Texas which causes congestions, to even being a burden on low income families. Funding can be compensated for Infrastructure to maintain highways from the Texas Economic Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund).

**OTHER ISSUES:** A major issue to address is Property Taxes. I not only want to fight to lower but to abolish Property Taxes and replace it with a 2.5% Sales Tax.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 12/7/1987; Education: EastField College -Criminal Justice; Bellevue University; American Military University; Campaign Phone: (469) 640-0477; Website: <http://www.LittlejohnforTexas.com>; Email: [Campaign@LittlejohnForTexas.com](mailto:Campaign@LittlejohnForTexas.com); Facebook: <http://Littlejohn4TX>; Twitter: [twitter.com/Littlejohn4TX](https://twitter.com/Littlejohn4TX)

## Texas House, District 110

**Toni Rose (D) — unopposed**

**Texas House, District 110**

## Texas House, District 111

**Yvonne Davis (D) — unopposed**

**Texas House, District 111**

## Texas House, District 112



**Angie Chen Button (R)**  
Texas House, District 112

**EDUCATION:** The newly established Texas Commission on Public School Finance is undertaking a bottoms-up review. In any case, it is well understood that formula funding needs a complete revamp. On the cost side we must make public education more efficient. We can do so over time through transitioning to standardized online resources. It is alarming that we are still so reliant on textbooks. I am honored that the Texas Computer Education Association awarded me as a Digital Champion. At the same time, we need to reduce bureaucratic cost drivers that divert from the educational mission.

**RAINY DAY FUND:** It is important to note that the formal title for the "Rainy Day Fund" is the Texas Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF). The fund, for perspective is around \$10 B, the highest in the nation. Its original purpose was to fund tax shortfalls in down economic cycles. That said, my view is that ESF generally should be used for extraordinary rather than ongoing expenses. The uses and investment strategy of the ESF requires ongoing review in conjunction with its balance.

**GUN SAFETY:** One of the most immediate ways we can help solve this problem is by enforcing laws that have been on the books for years. Congress should pass their "National Instant Criminal Background Check" (NICS) legislation and fix the system to improve and incentivize compliance. Regarding school shootings, one important preemptive recommendation involves formalizing local school threat assessment teams to identify and arrange treatment for troubled students, but more must be done. Legislative committees are now deliberating many potential new policies to determine what statewide standards are appropriate.

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** Mindful of statewide prioritization, we must consider effective and efficient options to increase capacity. I am encouraged by the recent resolution for 635-East; however, North Texans demand and deserve better transportation infrastructure and the resources to fund it. The additional \$2.5 billion in annual highway funding from Prop. 7 is helpful, but I will continue to push for greater allocations to our region's roads and highways so our residents can get where they're headed swiftly and safely.

## Texas House, District 112 — Continued

**OTHER ISSUES:** Spiraling Medicaid costs should get more attention. Fortunately, the new administration has signaled willingness to allow more latitude for the states in determining eligibility and benefits. I chair the Economic and Small Business Development Committee, and sit on the Higher Education Committee. The Economic Development Committee will study a number of charges during this legislative interim. One looks at closing gaps in workforce readiness, and others similarly relate to ensuring that we stay ahead of the curve in economic competitiveness. I welcome hearing your thoughts on the pressing issues.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 2/9/1954; Education: Master of Science in Management and Administrative Sciences from UTD; Campaign Phone: (972) 763-5869; Website: <http://www.angiebutton.com>; Email: [angiechenbutton112@gmail.com](mailto:angiechenbutton112@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ACBforTexas>; Twitter: [twitter.com/ACBforTexas](https://twitter.com/ACBforTexas)



### Brandy K Chambers (D) Texas House, District 112

**EDUCATION:** We need to restore the \$5 billion that was previously cut from the budget for public education. We need to close corporate tax loopholes to make sure we adequately fund public education. We must stop trying to divert resources from the public schools with vouchers. Additionally, we need to restore the goal of education, support our teachers' salaries, secure their pensions, and stop focusing on high stakes standardized testing.

**RAINY DAY FUND:** The Rainy Fund should be reserved for disaster relief and emergency situations which affect the actual life of Texans.

**GUN SAFETY:** Several actions should be taken to address gun violence. 1) Universal background checks 2) Set the age of being legally able to possess a firearm to 21 (with the exception of two barrel rifles for game hunting) 3) Red Flag law that would provide a legal mechanism to remove firearms from the mentally unstable 4) Requiring firearm relinquishment from those convicted of domestic violence or subject to a domestic abuse TRO

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** The gas tax has not been raised since 1991. We need to raise it by .05 cents. I support toll lanes as an express option to existing roadways (635 Express in Dallas for example). I do not support toll only roadways.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Human trafficking victims have a common history of early CPS incidents combined with truancy and runaway incidents. Yet currently there is no system that allows any of the agencies involved to see each other's information to potentially identify a high-risk victim. If elected as State Representative for District 112, I want to mandate a statewide system to allow each organization to retrieve data available to identify high-risk victims, allowing for intervention not possible today.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 11/18/1972; Education: B.A. in Sociology J.D. in Law Both from University of Oklahoma; Campaign Phone: (972) 643-8865; Website: <http://brandykchambers.com>; Email: [brandy@brandykchambers.com](mailto:brandy@brandykchambers.com); Facebook: <http://BrandyforTexas>; Twitter: [twitter.com/BrandyforTexas](https://twitter.com/BrandyforTexas);

## Texas House, District 113



### Jonathan Boos (R) Texas House, District 113

**EDUCATION:** We must both fully fund education and ensure that our education dollars are being spent efficiently. This means paying our teachers more, ensuring we keep the promises we have made to them for their healthcare and retirement benefits, and focusing our dollars on the classroom educating students. Additionally, we must cut

wasteful or unnecessary spending (do we really need \$60 million-dollar football stadiums?). I will help lead the effort to end the current "Robin Hood" school financing scheme, and replace it with a plan that is simpler, fairer, and takes into account the varying needs of different school districts across the state. We also need fewer one-size fits all education mandates from Austin. I will help lead the fight to eliminate the STAAR test in favor of local control and innovation.

**RAINY DAY FUND:** The Economic Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund) should be used for one-time, emergency expenditures that the legislature cannot possibly plan for in the by-annual budget, such as the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey.

**GUN SAFETY:** Gov. Abbott's recent proposal to shorten the time between a criminal conviction which would disqualify an individual from gun ownership, and the time that conviction is reported to relevant authorities, is one example of the many types of common sense measures that can be enacted by our state legislature to keep guns out of the hands of those who should not have them, while at the same time respecting the 2nd Amendment rights of Texans to use a firearm for sport or personal protection.

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** We must prioritize core functions of government, such as transportation and infrastructure spending, in our state budget. I will advocate for cutting wasteful spending so that we can focus on the priorities. The voters of House District 113 have been loud and clear that they oppose any new toll projects, and I will fight to prioritize our transportation funding so we can build needed infrastructure without tolls.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The following two issues will be pressing areas of concern in the next legislative session: Property Tax Reform: We cannot continue to tax individuals out of their homes. We need serious reform to both the appraisal process and we should give voters a stronger veto over increases in their property taxes. Ultimately, government at all levels must reduce wasteful or unnecessary spending so that taxes can be reduced. Illegal immigration: I will continue to advocate that the Federal government step up to its responsibility to secure our border, and to reform the legal immigration system. In the mean time, I will continue to support our State Troopers who provide additional security on our border, and I will lead the fight against sanctuary cities which put the safety of Texans at risk.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 6/26/1984; Education: UTD: Bachelors of Arts SMU Dedman School of Law: Juris Doctorate; Campaign Phone: (972) 965-6098; Website: <http://www.BoosForTexas.com>; Email: [Jonathan.Boos@gmail.com](mailto:Jonathan.Boos@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/VoteBoos>; Twitter: [twitter.com/VoteBoos](https://twitter.com/VoteBoos)



### Rhett Andrews Bowers (D) Texas House, District 113

**EDUCATION:** I would primarily work with other legislators on fully restoring the funding that was cut from the budget back in 2011 and look at what can be done to increase our investments in our neighborhood schools, our teachers and the key to our future and most precious gifts, our students. As our state, continues to grow and swell, we must keep up with the growth and invest in our future leaders.

**RAINY DAY FUND:** Texas holds the nation's largest economic stabilization fund (ESF), also known as the 'rainy day fund'. If it remains untapped the ESF is expected to contain about 11.9 billion dollars at end of fiscal 2019. I do feel an appropriate use of the Rainy Day Fund would be assisting in the investment desperately needed for our students, schools and teachers. Texas schools are in crisis and the investment is critical to the success of the productive citizens being shaped on primary and secondary campuses across our state. I also feel assisting in life saving disaster relief across the state is appropriate. Hurricane Harvey recovery is far from over even now, as 10% of Texans remain displaced.

**GUN SAFETY:** I do believe in the 2nd amendment, however, the original meaning of the 2nd amendment dealt with the right to have a well regulated militia and not at all about individual gun ownership. I believe more stringent gun laws and background checks are necessary. Creating safe havens in schools for our students and in general safer spaces in our communities for our citizens is crucial. I believe in gun violence prevention and that we must protect our citizens by not allowing access to be so easy. The right to protect yourself, your family and your worldly possessions is one thing. Walking around feeling unsafe, uncertain and unsure is completely another. Keeping Texans safe should be our first priority whether they are on school campuses or in public places.

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** I believe there is a growing need for funding for highway maintenance and construction. I would support the expansion of highway 635 with the understanding that residents commuting in and out of the district are faced with overwhelming amounts of traffic to and from work each day, not to mention, the difficulty of transporting goods and services in and out of our area. I do not promote tolled lanes to reduce congested highways.

**OTHER ISSUES:** I believe the following issues will be or should be pressing during the 87th Legislative session: Public Education, Healthcare, Jobs - Economy I believe that Public Education must remain a high priority budgetary item and that Education Finance reform is a must. Our students deserve the kind of investment that we can expect high returns on. Our students are our most treasured resource and we should make the proper investment in them. Texas is considered a highly uninsured and

## Texas House, District 113

under-insured state and we must change that for the better. Our citizens deserve access to quality and affordable healthcare. Healthcare is a right, not a privilege. Texans deserve access to jobs and a livable wage.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 7/22/1967; Education: BA in Telecommunications from Texas Southern University Campaign Phone: (972) 379-8080; Website: <http://www.rhetta-bowers.ruck.us>; Email: [Bowers4tx@gmail.com](mailto:Bowers4tx@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://@RhettaForHD113>; Twitter: [twitter.com/RhettaForHD113](https://twitter.com/RhettaForHD113)

## Texas House, District 114



**Lisa Luby Ryan (R)**  
Texas House, District 114

**EDUCATION:** I firmly believe that the future of Texas must include a strong educational system, one that is adequately funded. We must insist that more funding is directed where it has the maximum impact; in the classroom on teacher pay and focused on the early grades, to directly influence a child's future academic success. We must ensure that our children are reading proficiently by third grade for academic success in all areas throughout their education. As for our tax structure, the property tax system is flawed and pernicious. We must be cognizant of the increasingly heavy burden placed on local property taxpayers. I will work with Gov. Greg Abbott and state lawmakers to improve the currently flawed "Robin Hood" system of funding and ease the burden on local taxpayers, especially our senior citizens.

**RAINY DAY FUND:** Great care needs to be taken when the Legislature dips into the Economic Stabilization Fund, also known as the "Rainy Day Fund" where 85% of these funds come from oil and gas profits, an industry which can be subject to unpredictable "up and down" cycles. The Legislature recently used some of these funds to help finance the construction of highways, because for many years, gas tax money in Fund 6 has been diverted away from transportation expenditures. The Rainy Day Fund is not a slush fund, and should only be used for a true "Rainy Day", such as a budget shortfall due to economic crisis, extreme natural disasters such as Hurricane Harvey, or a response to a terrorist attack.

**GUN SAFETY:** I understand parents' concerns about their children's safety. Our schools must be safe harbors for teachers and students. We must enforce the laws currently on the books & make public safety a priority over political agendas. The uptick in mass shootings is a societal problem that requires suspicious behavior to be reported and taken seriously by law enforcement at all levels. Consideration must be given to cultural factors that play a part in deviant behaviors. What violent games, movies, & music videos are condoned in our society? Mental health issues & drugs administered must be properly addressed with regard to violent, anti-social behaviors. Further gun restrictions only hurt law-abiding citizens & put them in jeopardy of not being able to defend themselves.

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** Like any Dallas citizen, I experience the frustration of traffic in the DFW Metroplex. I am thrilled that the LBJ East project made it off the drawing board in May with the blessing of TxDOT. I will work to ensure that District 114 & the Metroplex get the transportation funding necessary to accommodate our growing needs. Legislation such as H.B. 20, passed in 2015, helps ensure that transportation funds are administered in an objective & transparent manner with accountability for the funds spent, to avoid "political" spending. Toll roads within a metropolitan area can be an effective tool to provide needed infrastructure, depending on how the contract is written.

**OTHER ISSUES:** no response

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 11/11/1960; Education: University of New Hampshire Arizona State University; Campaign Phone: (972) 638-0413; Website: <http://www.lisalubyryan.org>; Email: [lisa@lisalubyryan.org](mailto:lisa@lisalubyryan.org); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/LisaLubyRyan/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/lisalubyryan](https://twitter.com/lisalubyryan); You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/lfO-QZq4DeQ>



**John Turner (D)**  
Texas House, District 114

**EDUCATION:** Texas must increase its investment in public education. Today, Texas is near the bottom among the fifty states in its level of per-student funding. School districts like Dallas ISD and Richardson ISD need funding to recruit and retain quality teachers, to keep class sizes manageable, to support good career and technical education, to offer quality pre-K programs, and to provide tutors and summer school for kids who need extra help. My work as an attorney for one of the major school district coalitions in the Texas school finance litigation - which sought better funding for all Texas schools - impressed upon me the importance of adequate resources for public education. This would be a top priority for me as a legislator.

**RAINY DAY FUND:** The Rainy Day fund currently holds about \$10 billion. There is no reason our state should be sitting on such a large volume of unused tax dollars. Up to 2006, the fund never ended a fiscal year with a balance of more than \$1 billion. I would favor directing several billion dollars toward public education, and using additional amounts for other purposes, including high-priority infrastructure needs. The primary purpose of this fund should be to help address temporary revenue shortfalls in the event of a recession. We should maintain a balance sufficient to do that. But we should not be boasting about how much tax money we are taking in but are using for no public purpose.

**GUN SAFETY:** The recent series of mass shootings demands that we ask what we can do to reduce the frequency of these horrific events. The answers are not simple, and we must not blame responsible gun owners for these terrible acts. But we can take sensible steps to make it harder for would-be killers to obtain guns, without infringing on the rights of law-abiding gun owners. One such step, widely supported across party lines, would be universal background checks for gun purchases. Loopholes still exist that allow convicted felons and domestic abusers to purchase guns. These should be closed. I also believe we must maintain our training and permit requirements for carrying handguns, consistent with our tradition of safe and responsible gun ownership.

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** Texas must continue to invest in its highways. Good roads lead to stronger economic growth and better quality of life. As for tolled lanes: paying tolls understandably frustrates many Dallas residents. We should not make tolled lanes the centerpiece of our future highway system. That said, there are cases in which tolled roads or optional managed lanes make sense, but: (1) we should avoid having too many of them; (2) we should evaluate all proposals carefully to ensure that they would truly reduce congestion on non-tolled lanes and roads, and (3) tolls should preferably end when no longer needed to pay for construction costs.

**OTHER ISSUES:** First, the next legislative session will be a crossroads for Texas public education. We must truly support our public schools and help them succeed, and not start down a road of privatizing our system. Next, health care will be a critical issue. The Legislature's unjustified refusal to accept federal funds to expand health coverage has placed increased burdens on local taxpayers to fund uncompensated care. Next, we must defend the important principle of local control for our local city and county governments. Finally, this is a year when elected leaders at all levels must reject polarization, rediscover decency, and refocus on unifying American values such as the rule of law and the principles of liberty and justice for all.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 11/12/1974; Education: A.B. Harvard University J.D. Yale Law School; Campaign Phone: (214) 432-7662; Website: <http://www.johnturnerfortexas.org>; Email: [campaign@johnturnerfortexas.org](mailto:campaign@johnturnerfortexas.org); Facebook: <http://facebook.com/johnturnerfortexas/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/TurnerForTX](https://twitter.com/TurnerForTX)

Once registered to vote, no need to re-register unless you move or change your name. Your registration is valid for all elections within your jurisdiction.

## Texas House, District 115


**Matt Rinaldi (R)**  
 Texas House, District 115

**EDUCATION:** I am proud to have maintained my commitment to Texas students and teachers by providing an additional \$4 billion in education funding. When re-elected, I will continue to work to reform our school funding system by using surplus state funds to buy down school property taxes, thereby increasing the state share of educational spending, eliminating the unfair Robin Hood funding scheme and lowering skyrocketing property taxes that threaten to price so many residents out of their homes. Existing funds should also be directed to the classroom and to hiring the best teachers, where they most directly benefit students.

**RAINY DAY FUND:** Voters approved the ESF, or "Rainy Day Fund", "to offset unforeseen shortfalls in revenue" caused by the fluctuations of the oil market and unpredictable Texas weather. In 2017, the legislature rejected efforts to spend money from the ESF for various pet projects and, because of our fiscal restraint, we now have much-needed money for Hurricane Harvey relief from the fund. We should restrict attempts to use the ESF to fund legislators' pet projects and limit expenditures to their intended purpose--for one time emergency expenses like Hurricane Harvey or to offset unforeseen shortfalls in revenue.

**GUN SAFETY:** Thankfully, gun violence and violent crime in general have both massively declined in the last 25-30 years. The homicide rate and gun-related death rate has declined by about half and the number of non-fatal firearm crimes is only 1/6 of what it was in the early 90s. So much of what we are doing is working. But we can still do more to keep Texans safe. Specifically, we should enact much of Gov. Abbott's school safety plan, which increases school security and mental health resources, increase law enforcement focus on enforcement of offenses involving illegal weapons, and prioritize measures to improve mental health.

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** I believe that additional appropriations for transportation are needed from existing funds without raising overall tax rates and the passage of Proposition 7 in 2015 was a good first step in prioritizing transportation spending in the overall budget. I oppose any new tolls to fund transportation spending and I would meet our transportation needs by dedicating existing vehicle sales tax revenue to fund new transportation projects.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The top priorities for next session should be stopping skyrocketing property tax growth and making sure our schools are adequately and fairly funded. I will also fight to: (i) provide resources to secure our border and protect our families from violent criminals, drug cartels, and terrorists; (ii) combat the growing problem of human trafficking; (iii) ban red light cameras in our community; (iv) enact criminal justice reform, to ensure that only the guilty are punished and our laws provide for rehabilitation of offenders; and (v) make any further reforms to our foster care & CPS system needed to protect our children.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 4/11/1975; Education: J.D., Boston Univ. School of Law, Cum Laude B.B.A., Economics, James Madison Univ., Cum Laude; Campaign Phone: (865) 771-3269; Website: <http://MattRinaldi.com>; Email: [matt@mattrinaldi.com](mailto:matt@mattrinaldi.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/MattRinaldiTX>; Twitter: [twitter.com/MattRinaldiTX](https://twitter.com/MattRinaldiTX)


**Julie Johnson (D)**  
 Texas House, District 115

**EDUCATION:** Texas clearly does not spend enough per student. Since 2008, property owners and local tax authorities have had to make up for the \$18B shortfall that has been enacted since the state reduced it's subsidization of budget from 50% to 37%. Your education shouldn't be determined by where you're born in our state or how much

your parents' property is worth-if they have any property at all. Regarding funding, our state is enjoying a healthy sales tax surplus and its revenues along with our 2.8 billion dollars in budget surplus should be considered for funding in the short term. I would also enact a school finance study to update the Robin Hood funding mechanism along with allotting funds for universal pre-K.

**RAINY DAY FUND:** The Rainy Day Fund should be available for natural disasters first and foremost. If the state continues to leave education, and especially special education, in a state of crisis then constituents and parents have a right to demand these funds as well.

**GUN SAFETY:** We are a family of gun owners and I'm proud to take my sons hunting every year. However, open carry and campus carry are not what we need to address the public health crisis that our state and nation is experiencing when it comes to gun violence. Police chiefs around the state have begged lawmakers to reconsider both open carry and campus carry. Basic background check and safety measures need to be implemented along with a campaign to promote responsible gun ownership throughout our communities. By closing the online sales loopholes and having better coordination with authorities on mental health and background checks, thousands of Texans could be saved from self-inflicted and domestic gun violence every year. 20 other states have led the way on this issue.

**HIGHWAY FUNDS:** I believe the Texas legislature should support high speed rail proposed between Houston and Dallas which would ease damage to roads in the long term and the public burden for infrastructure costs during its construction. Tolls are not ideal. However, it all depends on the deal behind the new toll systems in question, will it benefit taxpayers in the long run and help us curtail traffic in the meantime? Once these toll projects are paid off, charges should ease or cease entirely so funds can go to road maintenance only. We can not negotiate additional bad deals for Texans or write off additional toll lanes entirely. With my decades of experience in negotiation and me

**OTHER ISSUES:** My top priorities aside from education and infrastructure are expanding healthcare access, reforming the criminal justice system, and economic development. Expanding our community clinic networks and criminal justice reform is the right thing to do and will have the added benefit of saving our counties and state millions of dollars every year. Sentencing and bail reform will go a long way towards helping Texas' working poor and alleviating the tax burden on counties and their taxpayers. I am also focused on keeping Texas a competitive environment for business so we can continue to be a leader in energy and technology jobs. This commitment means fighting any attempt to reintroduce the "bathroom bill" or religious freedom exemptions to hiring.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 5/2/1966; Education: B.A. - University of Texas - Austin J.D. University of Houston Law School; Campaign Phone: (469) 607-7555; Website: <http://www.juliejohnsonfortexas.com>; Email: [campaign@juliejohnsonfortexas.com](mailto:campaign@juliejohnsonfortexas.com); Facebook: <http://facebook.com/juliejohnsonfortx>; Twitter: [twitter.com/juliejohntx](https://twitter.com/juliejohntx)

## CHIEF JUSTICE - 5TH COURT OF APPEALS

6-year term. Must be age 35-74 years, a U.S. Citizen, a Texas resident, licensed to practice law in Texas, a registered voter, and have at least[1] 10 years experience as a lawyer or judge. Hears appeals on civil and criminal cases from lower courts in its district.

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

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** What recent technological developments provide opportunities to improve the state's indigent defense system

in civil and criminal cases?

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

Your Voters Guide is online at [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org). Check it out!

## Chief Justice — 5th Court of Appeals



### Douglas S. Lang (R) Chief Justice – 5th Court of Appeals

court's budget and personnel management, and management experience.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** In 2001, Chapter 64, Tex. C. C. P. became law. A person convicted of a crime may seek DNA testing if the person can show, among other things, there is a "reasonable likelihood" that the evidence contains biological material suitable for DNA testing and identity was or is an issue in the case. If the motion is denied by the trial court, then one can seek appellate review. This process provides more safeguards to assure due process.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** As Chief Justice, I will assure efficient operation of all facets of the court so the 13 justices with 52 personnel can decide about 1700 cases per year. Also, I will have frequent interaction with the Texas Legislature in order to assure an adequate budget. This all will be done by hard work,

attention to detail, and use of recognized interpersonal and leadership skills

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://justicedouglaslang.com/about/>; Campaign Phone: (214) 538-9177; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=Douglas+Lang&init=public>; Email: [langds@mindspring.com](mailto:langds@mindspring.com)

Robert Burns (D) — no response

Chief Justice — 5th Court of Appeals

## JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEALS

6 year term. Hears appeals on civil and criminal cases from lower courts in its district. Current salary: \$154,500

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

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** What recent technological developments provide opportunities to improve the state's indigent defense system

in civil and criminal cases?

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

## Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 2



### David Evans (R) Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 2

appellate decisions; as a trial judge, I tried 343 civil jury trials.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** The Fifth Court of Appeals was the first to create an on-line attorney portal so attorneys and parties who represent themselves can access the record of their appeal electronically. Texas law assigns to the trial courts the responsibility to decide whether a party can proceed without paying costs, so that decision is not one made by any court of appeals.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Preparing well for oral argument and authoring carefully reasoned opinions that follow Texas law. That is the core job of justices on the Fifth Court of Appeals for which my entire education and experience has well-prepared me.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://JusticeDavidEvans.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 991-0235; Email: [David@JusticeDavidEvans.com](mailto:David@JusticeDavidEvans.com)

Robbie Aprtida-Kipness (D) — no response

Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 2

## Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 5



### Craig Stoddart (R) Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 5

across the State, including the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** Digitization of appellate records and documents can improve efficiency and reduce costs to both pro se litigants as well as attorneys representing indigent clients. The 5th District Court of Appeals has recently implemented an online portal, accessible through our website, where attorneys can access and file documents and briefs electronically. We have also recently begun posting our oral arguments on our website for the benefit of those who cannot be present in the courtroom.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** As a justice on the 5th District Court of Appeals, my fundamental responsibility to the citizens of the our district is to remain an ardent protector of the written rule of law. A justice must never distort the plain meaning of a rule or statute in order to achieve a desired result. Decisions must be rendered solely upon the law and facts applicable to the case, unhindered by the influence of bias or preference.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://craigstoddart.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 738-3304; Facebook: <http://Craig Stoddart>; Email: [cstoddart22@gmail.com](mailto:cstoddart22@gmail.com);

During Early Voting in Person Dallas County voters can vote at any location in the County that is convenient. List of locations on page 2 of this Guide.



## Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 5 — Continued


**Erin Nowell (D)**  
 Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 5

**BACKGROUND:** I will bring a 15-year track record and extensive courtroom and legal experience to this bench. I am committed to a fair, transparent justice system, and I have broad, balanced legal experience and the demeanor and temperament required to serve as a judge.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** I don't know that technological developments are the key to improving the state's indigent defense system. For instance, in civil cases, individuals in Northwest Texas are assisted by Legal Aid and other volunteer attorney programs. The key is to convince the legal community to donate the necessary knowledge and time, as well as the funds, to help everyone in need - from minor to complex litigation cases.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** An appellate court justice serves as a legal reviewer of lower court decisions -- giving deference to the jury and the lower court. This will be my highest priority as a Justice, making sure the law is applied in a fair and balanced manner while making sure to respect the time, effort, and attention put forth by the juror and those involved in any case in the lower court.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Campaign Phone: (214) 287-3154; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/nowellforjustice>; Email: [erin@nowellforjustice.com](mailto:erin@nowellforjustice.com)

## Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 9


**Jason Boatright (R)**  
 Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 9

**BACKGROUND:** As a justice on the court of appeals, I write legal opinions that solve complex legal problems. I did that for many years before I joined the court, first as an attorney on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, then as Chief of the Texas Attorney General's Opinions Division, where I

issued legal opinions to district attorneys and state officials.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** Worldwide, public, and free access to databases like the Texas State Law Library's legal scholarship accounts and historical Texas statutes collection, as well as powerful new research tools like Google Scholar, give indigent defendants access to more legal information today than even the most exclusive law firms could get just a decade ago. The Texas Constitution requires that courts be open to give everyone a remedy by due course of law. I welcome any technology that helps make that happen.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** My highest priority is to uphold my oath. I swore to defend the Texas Constitution, which vests judges with judicial authority: the power to say what the law is. The Texas Constitution forbids me from using legislative authority: the power to make law. I decide each case only on the text of applicable law as it is written, and I explain clearly and logically why the text requires the decision I make. My years of experience writing official Texas legal opinions made me able to uphold my oath.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://justicejasonboatright.com>; Campaign Phone: (972) 271-7788; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/justicejasonboatright/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/JEBoatright](https://twitter.com/JEBoatright); Email: [jason@justicejasonboatright.com](mailto:jason@justicejasonboatright.com)


**Bill Pedersen (D)**  
 Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 9

**BACKGROUND:** I have been a prosecutor, criminal defense attorney, and plaintiff's and defense counsel, in almost every type of dispute the Fifth Court of Appeals hears. I have handled probate, civil, commercial, family law, and commercial disputes, and handled every type of criminal matter

from traffic tickets to capital murder. I have handled many appeals.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** I think that electronic filing and teleconferences with clients, if improved and secure, can make many more lawyers available for Texas litigants. Lawsuits are too expensive and complex for regular folks to meaningfully access the courthouse, and disputes are needlessly extended and obstructed by many courthouse practices. Examples include overly technical local rules and unnecessary court appearances.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** My highest priority will be to ensure that the cases I hear provide meaningful access to justice to the parties, and requiring that trial courts follow Texas law.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://www.pedersenforjustice.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 544-5780; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/BillPedersenforJustice/>; Email: [bill@pedersenforjustice.com](mailto:bill@pedersenforjustice.com)

## Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 10


**Molly Francis (R)**  
 Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 10

**BACKGROUND:** 37 years criminal law experience-17 years justice on State's second highest appellate court, 11 years criminal trial court judge, 6 years private practice/trial and appellate, 2 years appellate prosecutor, 1 year appellate court attorney; leadership positions at every phase of career;

strictly follows state/federal constitutions; clear, concise.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** A recent addition to the Fifth Court of Appeals homepage at [txcourts.gov/5thcoa/](http://txcourts.gov/5thcoa/) is a tab entitled "Self-Help Resources." OCA and Texas Access to Justice have created a website providing self-help resources for pro se parties at [www.texascourthelp.gov](http://www.texascourthelp.gov) that includes many informational services. The Texas Young Lawyers have also formulated a downloadable, 82-page manual intended to aid those persons wanting to proceed in the appellate process pro se. It may be downloaded without charge.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** My responsibility as a court of appeals justice is to apply the Constitution and laws of Texas consistently, fairly and expeditiously. I have served the citizens of Dallas, Collin, Grayson, Hunt, Kaufman and Rockwall counties for 17 years and I will continue to do so.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://justicemollyfrancis.com>; Campaign Phone: (469) 358-5984; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/judgemollyfrancis>; Email: [molly@justicemollyfrancis.com](mailto:molly@justicemollyfrancis.com)


**Amanda Reichek (D)**  
 Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 10

**BACKGROUND:** I have practiced plaintiff-side civil law for the last 15 years, and I am Board Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in my area of practice. I have litigated cases in state court, federal court, arbitration, and before administrative bodies. I have a well-rounded depth of

experience that will benefit the citizens of North Texas.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** Indigent defense has been largely passed over by the tech industry. Less than 5 percent of for-profit legal technology companies have access to justice as their primary focus. So far, the internet has made the most impact, by connecting indigent individuals with lawyers willing to take cases on pro bono, and legal services providers.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** The decisions issued by this Court routinely skew in favor of powerful interests to the detriment of ordinary folk. I have spent my career representing individuals in employment disputes and labor unions in labor disputes, and I am attuned to the struggles and challenges of everyday working people. I am committed to bringing my experience to bear on behalf of North Texans, so that they too have a voice before this critical court.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://amandareichекforjustice.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 599-8311; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/amandareichекforjustice/?ref=bookmarks>; Email: [amanda@amandareichекforjustice.com](mailto:amanda@amandareichекforjustice.com)

## Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 11


**John Browning (R)**  
 Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 11

judicial experience, as well as experience writing opinions.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** With smartphones so widely available, and court websites that advise indigent defendants of basic court information, we have made great strides. New videoconferencing technology provides a means of remote interpretation for non-English speaking defendants (and those needing sign language interpretation), which is critical due to the shortage of qualified interpreters. In 2017 and 2018, I've organized free seminars to train Legal Aid attorneys on how to use technology to help their clients.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** My highest priority will be to be fair and impartial, treating parties with respect and dignity while also showing consistent respect for the law. A good justice must have respect for dispensing justice and serving the public. My priority will be to protect, defend, and interpret the law, not create it, and to refrain from legislating from the bench. A judge should apply the law as it is, not as he/she might like it to be, in an evenhanded, respectful manner. A good judge is like an umpire.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://www.johnbrowningforjustice.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 454-6563; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/johnbrowningforjustice>; Twitter: [twitter.com/therealjohnbrow](https://twitter.com/therealjohnbrow); Email: [john@johnbrowningforjustice.com](mailto:john@johnbrowningforjustice.com)

**BACKGROUND:** I received my law degree from the University of Texas, and I have 29 years of extensive trial and appellate experience. I am a distinguished writer (4 law books and hundreds of articles), and have received Texas' highest awards for legal writing, ethics, and public service. I have

**Cory Carlyle (D) — no response**

**Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 11**

## Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 12


**Jim Piki (R)**  
 Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 12

Collin County, so I have trial court experience on the bench.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** The internet has made legal research and access to professional legal services not only more efficient but also more known to those who need them. These developments improve the system by making it less expensive and more available to everyone, especially those who cannot afford legal counsel on regular terms and fees.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** To rigorously defend the Constitution and enforce the statutes and rule of law in Texas as provided by the legislature and higher courts.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://www.jimpiki.org>; Campaign Phone: (214) 212-6628; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pikl4judge/?ref=bookmarks>; Twitter: [twitter.com/pikl4judge](https://twitter.com/pikl4judge); Email: [jim@jimpiki.org](mailto:jim@jimpiki.org)

**BACKGROUND:** I have 32 years of experience as an attorney in over 500 lawsuits and over 70 appellate matters. My experience spans every area of law the Court of Appeals addresses, including civil, criminal, and family law. I am considered a Constitutional law expert. I am also a sitting judge in


**Ken Molberg (D)**  
 Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 12

served as Presiding Judge of all Civil District Courts.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** Efficiency and cost-effectiveness are critical to allow counties to offer adequate indigent defense, with counties covering the vast portion of the cost of indigent defense. Technology can help better manage heavy case loads. Technology streamlines the court's case management, helps attorneys perform indigent defense more easily, and overcomes geographical and scheduling barriers. Technologies such as videoconferencing and case management systems come to mind.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** The Fifth District Court of Appeals is the primary recourse for anyone dissatisfied with a ruling at the trial court level in family, criminal and civil courts in Dallas, Collin, Rockwall, Grayson, Kaufman and Hunt counties. My responsibility is to objectively give cases a careful second look, to be sure there were no defects at the trial level. As Justice, my highest priority will be to review cases with great care, and within the law, to be sure justice has been served.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://www.JudgeKenMolberg.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 544-0381; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JudgeKenMolbergCampaign>; Email: [judgemolberg@gmail.com](mailto:judgemolberg@gmail.com)

**BACKGROUND:** I have three terms of judicial experience and 33 years of trial and appellate experience as an attorney in local, state and federal courts. I have served as Judge of the 95th District Court since being elected in 2008. I serve as Local Administrative District Judge and previously

## Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 13


**Elizabeth Lang Miers (R)**  
 Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 13

Judicial Section/Texas; Chair, Appellate Judges Conference/ABA; President, Dallas Bar Association; CQJ: "Qualified."

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** The internet and technology have allowed everyone to have access to information about cases before the courts, including schedules and filings, and to do legal research on line. That access has improved the level of representation for indigent parties whether representing themselves, by appointed counsel or the public defender. DNA and other scientific testing has also improved the justice system. The improvements assist not just in determining guilt or innocence but also possible exoneration.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** When I took the oaths to become an attorney and to become a judge, I swore that I would protect and defend the Constitutions of the United States and of this State. My highest priority is to do that and to impartially apply the law as written. I will continue to work hard to maintain the integrity of the justice system, will dispose of cases fairly and efficiently, and will perform my duties in such a manner as to justify the public's confidence and faith in the justice system and in me.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://justicelangmiers.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 923-1091; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/justice-elizabeth-langmiers/>; Email: [Elizabeth@justicelangmiers.com](mailto:Elizabeth@justicelangmiers.com)

**BACKGROUND:** 15 years on Court of Appeals; 1800 opinions; 28 years private practice; Outstanding Judge in State/Texas Bar Foundation; Dallas Morning News Endorsement; Chair, Texas Multi-District Litigation Panel; Chair-Elect, Judicial Division/ABA; Chair,


**Leslie Lester Osborne (D)**  
 Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 13

a position as an appellate jurist.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** Indigent litigants are entitled to the assistance of counsel in criminal and certain civil cases, but many appointed attorneys are criticized as inadequate. Recent funding of efforts to train Texas' defense lawyers better understand advances in DNA testing provide opportunity to improve our indigent defense system through more effective representation at trial. Technological developments allowing court records to be obtained faster and cheaper also provide opportunities to improve our system.

**BACKGROUND:** I'm a civil attorney, a native North Texan, with more than 20 years of complex litigation experience in the areas of insurance defense, product and premises liability defense, and commercial litigation. My practice history includes significant legal research and briefing work, preparing me for

## Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 13 — Continued

## Leslie Lester Osborne (D) — Continued

## Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 13

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Justices must fairly and impartially interpret and apply Texas law to case facts when making decisions. They're responsible for performing their judicial duties without bias or prejudice; there's no place for either in the courtroom. Proper performance of this responsibility ensures all litigants are afforded equal protection and fair administration of justice without regard to the litigants' identity and/or political or economic interests.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://www.facebook.com/LeslieLesterOsborneForJustice/>; Campaign Phone: (469) 626-7489; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/LeslieLesterOsborneForJustice/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/leslie4justice](https://twitter.com/leslie4justice); Email: [leslie@leslie4justice.com](mailto:leslie@leslie4justice.com)

DISTRICT  
JUDGES

District Courts in Dallas County have original jurisdiction in civil actions of \$200, divorce, title to land, contested elections and felony criminal matters and juvenile matters. Must be a US citizen, a Texas resident between 25 and 74 years old, a practicing lawyer or judge or both combined for at least 4 years. 4 year term.

**PERFORMANCE & EXPERTISE:** Please outline your legal experience, including any specializations and peer review status. Describe any public reprimands or suspensions you have received.  
**EFFICIENCY:** What methods do you support, if any, to increase the efficiency of the District Court to provide swift justice?

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** What, if anything, should be done to improve access to justice for low income residents in civil cases?

**OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the District Courts and how would you address them?

*Candidates running unopposed*

**Bonnie Lee Goldstein (D), Martin Hoffman (D), Tonya Parker (D), Dale Tillery (D), Aiesha Redmond (D), Gena Slaughter (D), Craig Smith (D), Bridgett Whitmore (D), Ernest White (D), Hector Garza (D), Tammy Kemp (D), Darlene Ewing (D), Kim Cooks (D), David Lopez (D), Jennifer Bennett (D), Amber Givens-Davis (D), Stephanie N Mitchell (D), Brandon Birmingham (D), Emily G Tobolowsky (D), Tracy Holmes (D)**

## District Judge, 101st Judicial District

## Mike Lee (R) — no response

## District Judge, 101st Judicial District

**Staci Williams (D)**  
District Judge, 101st Judicial District

**PERFORMANCE & EXPERTISE:** I possess 14 years of judicial/arbitral experience and 32 years of legal experience. I was an arbitrator for DART, U.S. Postal Service, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, NASD ("FINRA"), and the Washington Metropolitan Airport Board. I have served as an administrative judge and a municipal court judge. For the past 3 3/4 years, I have served as a district court judge. I have been trained by the Texas Center for the Judiciary and the National Judicial College. I have attended many continuing legal education programs on the various issues arising in my court.

**EFFICIENCY:** It is our goal to make the best and most efficient use of everyone's time. For hearings, instead of scheduling several hearings at one time and making attorneys wait, we provide specific "appointment times". Each case is given a specific and unique hearing time. The attorneys know exactly when their hearing will begin and end. This scheduling change reduces the amount of "wait time" and allows attorneys and the Court to manage their time efficiently. Likewise, trials are given specific and unique trial dates and times.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** It is important that citizens understand the system in which their case will be litigated. I created the Citizens' Civil Academy ("CCA") to educate Dallas County about the civil court system. The CCA explores the 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. CCA's goal is to provide citizens with a better understanding not only of the civil court system but also the inner workings of the George L. Allen, Sr. Courts Building. The CCA is free, non-partisan, and offered twice a year. CCA has been held in 9 locations throughout Dallas County.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The District Courts need to ensure that the judicial process is fair to all litigants. I allow attorneys plenty of time to present their cases in hearings and trials. I also believe in the 7th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which is the right to a trial by jury. Judges should not discourage parties from having jury trials and should ensure that jury trials are conducted in way that parties and jurors believe that justice has been done.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Education: Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., JD; Smith College, Northampton, MA, AB; The Hockaday School; Website: <http://staciwilliamsforjudge.com>; Email: [info@staciwilliamsforjudge.com](mailto:info@staciwilliamsforjudge.com); Facebook: <http://staciwilliamsforjudge>

## District Judge, 203rd Judicial District

**Raquel 'Rocky' Jones (D)**  
District Judge, 203rd Judicial District

**PERFORMANCE & EXPERTISE:** I have been a lawyer 21 years and a prosecutor for 17 of those years. I have practiced Criminal, Civil and Juvenile law in Dallas and Tarrant County. As a prosecutor and criminal attorney for a majority of my legal career, I pride myself on a long-standing reputation

built on the utmost integrity and fairness to both victims and those accused of crimes regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation. I have tried a variety of cases from Death Penalty to Juvenile Adjudications and have a thorough knowledge of the laws that govern our Country, State and Counties. I am licensed in the Northern District Federal Court and the U.S. Supreme Court. I am a member of the College of the State Bar. I have no public/private reprimands and no suspension

**EFFICIENCY:** Docket appearance times for lawyers would be a new process I would like to put in place. As a prosecutor in Tarrant County I experienced very efficient court setting days. Each week certain days were set aside for bond docket and certain days were for jail docket and plea docket as well as trial docket. Having a system in place to know which cases will be handled on which day would improve the efficiency of the court. This would allow cases to move through system at a much swifter pace as well as allowing for the quicker release of those who are incarcerated.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** Our role is to ensure that everyone is equally and fairly represented. It is true that the Courts and Court-related services need improvement. Dallas County is more fortunate than most because citizens have access to experienced and skilled lawyers through the Public Defender's Office, the Indigence programs, and the

## District Judge, 203rd Judicial District — Continued

## Raquel 'Rocky' Jones (D) — Continued

## District Judge, 203rd Judicial District

Court Appointment system that we have in place within the criminal courts. However, we can make the system better by holding defense lawyers as well as prosecutors accountable by making sure that there is a level playing field and making sure they each play by the rules that govern our courts. We can improve the court system by educating the public on the criminal justice process by making information and education accessible.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The most important issue that I believe needs to be addressed in the 203rd Judicial District Court is that laws must be upheld and abide by. As a Judge there is an oath that must be carried out in regards to following all the laws of our Country, State and County. There are always opportunities to help those accused by working within the confines of the law. There should not be a blatant disregard of the laws with no accountability by those who have broken the law. It is my plan and policy to restore accountability, dependability and justice back to that Court because the citizens of Dallas County deserve a Judge who has a thorough knowledge of the law and will uphold those laws.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 9/10/1970; Education: Texas A&M University-College Station St. Mary's University School of Law Univ. of Innsbruck-Austria; Campaign Phone: (817) 366-9120; Website: <http://dcchamprocky>; Email: [raquelrockyjones@gmail.com](mailto:raquelrockyjones@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://raquelrockyjonesforjudge>; Twitter: [twitter.com/dcchamprocky](https://twitter.com/dcchamprocky)



### Teresa Hawthorne (Write-In) District Judge, 203rd Judicial District

**PERFORMANCE & EXPERTISE:** 27 years combined as Criminal Defense Attorney & 2 Terms as Judge of 203rd Judicial District Court; Presently serving, I am the Incumbent; As Defense Atty, I have tried every type of Felony case such as but not limited to Capital Murders; Murders; Kidnaping; Aggravated Robberies; Child Sexual Abuse; & Domestic Violence Cases. As a Judge I have heard every type of case that exist in the Texas Penal Code: I have Appellate Law Experience by writing briefs for appeals; As an attorney for 20 years I was never reprimanded by the State Bar of Texas; As a Judge I have had 2 public reprimands; Please see website for more info

**EFFICIENCY:** My goal for the past 8 years has been to provide Swift Justice to victims & defendants; I often give PR Bonds to non violent offenders who cannot afford bonds; I will also give PR bonds to offenders who have been offered probation, but want a trial, but cannot afford to bond out. I do not want people in jail pleading guilty just to get out. I run an extremely efficient court with the help of those who work with me in the 203rd, which is the "PEOPLES COURT" not my court. The 203rd is not only efficient with swift justice; but extremely professional with a caring atmosphere. I am always open to make necessary changes.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** Since my legal career has been in Criminal Law & not Civil Law, I am hesitant to convey my ability to give anyone a knowledgeable answer. Low income residents also exist in the Criminal Courts. I do believe more attorneys need to & should do some pro bono work each year. It is sad to know that so many poor people are taken advantage of because they cannot afford representation. As an attorney I often did pro bono work & was often shocked at what some attorneys charged. I'll use this forum to plea with more attorneys to reach out and help those who cannot afford an attorney. It is our ethical responsibility!

**OTHER ISSUES:** An important pressing issue is a very old issue and it is that some Judges only rule to hopefully get elected again. Looking at the totality of all circumstances is of the utmost importance. Weighing ALL the evidence with the proper weight, without wondering what others are going to say or do, is a hard task but a necessary job. Life is too short to render decisions based on any amount of weight given to what others will think. I am addressing this issue by writing the sentences I have just written. There are many more issues but not enough space to address them. Feel free to contact TERESA HAWTHORNE if you have ?'s.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 9/8/1948; Education: Law Degree: St. Mary's School of Law B.A. & M.S. Texas A & M Commerce; Garland High School; Campaign Phone: (214) 724-5498; Website: <http://www.judgeteresa.com>; Email: [tjhatorney@aol.com](mailto:tjhatorney@aol.com); Facebook: <http://JudgeTeresaJanHawthorne.com/dcchamprocky>

## District Judge, 283rd Judicial District

## Livia Francis (R) — no response

## District Judge, 283rd Judicial District



### Lela D Mays (D) District Judge, 283rd Judicial District

**PERFORMANCE & EXPERTISE:** I've had no reprimands or suspensions. I was in private practice for 10 years prior to my taking the bench. In 2000, I was appointed as a Criminal District Court Magistrate in Dallas County. For six years I worked as the Magistrate in the Lew Sterrett jail where I handled arraignments, protective orders, search warrants and mental illness warrants. In addition, in 2002 I began working in the DIVERT court, a drug treatment court. In 2007, I established and began STAC court, a drug treatment court for high risk offenders, some also have a mental illness diagnosis. We have celebrated almost 1900 graduates.

**EFFICIENCY:** I would increase efficiency in the court by closely monitoring the jail chain, so jail stays can be minimized. I would also work to assure that processes are put in place to have offenders accessed to determine the most efficient ways to proceed in their case based on their risks and needs. I have worked with assessors in my drug courts for the last 16 years and I believe that assessments should be used even more to improve efficiency in the courts. This efficiency would address issues and require offenders to deal with the issues more effectively.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** I believe in access to justice for all residents is to require education, job training and jobs that pay a living wage. Many low income residents in the criminal courthouse do not have ID's because they don't renew them, due to the number of warrants they have, usually for traffic tickets. I currently preside over STAC (Successful Treatment of Addiction through Collaboration) Court. In STAC I have experienced many people that don't know what to do to unravel issues between Municipal, JP, mental health and other issues. Literacy and education too. I would establish a process to address these barriers to success.

**OTHER ISSUES:** What we've learned is that longer sentences don't equate with less crime. If you require an offender to engage in services, substance abuse treatment, mental health resources, job training and education then we minimize repeat offenders. Housing, jobs and more funding for community resources to assist with those coming through the criminal justice system. Multiple prisons have closed, in the state of Texas, once rehabilitation was instituted on a large scale. Rehabilitation and accountability for more low level non-violent offenders, who qualify, would be how I would address these concerns.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 7/23/1963; Education: University of Houston, BA, 1985 Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Texas Southern University, JD, 1988; Campaign Phone: (214) 210-2700; Website: <http://www.VoteJudgeLelaMays.com>; Email: [VoteJudgeLelaMays@gmail.com](mailto:VoteJudgeLelaMays@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://VoteJudgeLelaMays>; Twitter: [twitter.com/VoteJudgeLela](https://twitter.com/VoteJudgeLela)

During Early Voting in Person Dallas County voters can vote at any location in the County that is convenient. List of locations on page 2 of this Guide.

## CRIMINAL DISTRICT JUDGES

4 year term. Has jurisdiction in all criminal actions involving felonies punishable by imprisonment one year or longer or death and in misdemeanor cases involving official misconduct.

**PERFORMANCE & EXPERTISE:** Please outline your legal experience, including any specializations and peer review status. Describe any public reprimands or suspensions you have received.  
**EFFICIENCY:** What methods do you support, if any, to increase the efficiency of the District Court to provide swift justice?

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** What, if anything, should be done to improve access to justice for low income residents in civil cases?  
**OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the District Courts and how would you address them?

### Candidates running unopposed

**Tina Yoo Clinton (D), Carter Thompson (D), Jeanine Howard (D)**

## Criminal District Judge, Court No. 7



### Stephanie Fargo (R) Criminal District Judge, Court No. 7

**PERFORMANCE & EXPERTISE:** Prior to my appointment to Criminal District Court 7 I was a prosecutor for 13 years with the Dallas County District Attorney's Office. The last three years of my career I ran the Family Violence Division at the DA's office which is the largest division there. I supervised 50 people including prosecutors, investigators, victim advocates, and staff members. I have tried over 100 jury trials ranging from misdemeanor cases up to capital murder cases. I have been deemed qualified by the Committee of Qualified Judiciary in 2018. I have been endorsed by the Mexican American Bar Association and Dallas Police Assoc.

**EFFICIENCY:** I improved efficiency in my court by streamlining the announcement settings on all cases assigned to my court. I require 2 week passes on all cases and then on the 3rd setting we have a Status Check with the state and defense to ensure that discovery is turned over, a recommendation of punishment has been made, and we also look at whether or not bail needs to be adjusted. With my system, I reduced the number of people waiting in jail for disposition by 20% since taking the bench last November. I believe one of the judge's roles is to hold both sides accountable and to ensure justice is done.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** I took an oath to follow the law and I practice every day to ensure that rights are protected and that the laws are followed.

**OTHER ISSUES:** One of my main goals is to ensure that I do everything in my power to stop the revolving door of the criminal justice system. It benefits society as a whole if we can rehabilitate people and help them get back on the right track. I initiated a program for 17 yr old first time, non-violent felony offenders within the AIM diversion program which originally only covered ages 18-24. If they complete their program then their case is dismissed and immediately expunged which allows them to legally say they have never been arrested for a felony offense on job, school, and loan applications.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 11/4/1976; Education: JD from A&M School of Law, Editor in Chief of the Law Review, graduated in 2004; Campaign Phone: (214) 636-5334; Website: <http://www.keepjudgefargo.com>; Email: [judgefargocdc7@gmail.com](mailto:judgefargocdc7@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/judgefargocdc7/>



### Chika Anyiam (D) Criminal District Judge, Court No. 7

**PERFORMANCE & EXPERTISE:** I am a criminal defense attorney with over twenty years of extensive felony trial experience, trying cases ranging from misdemeanors to first degree felonies to the jury in all the felony and the misdemeanor courts in Dallas County. In 2014, 2015, and 2017, due to my excellent trial skills, the Dallas County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association selected me as one of their best. In 2016, the Dallas Committee for a Qualified Judiciary deemed me qualified to serve as a judge. I negotiate alternative sentences, diversion programs, dismissals, plea bargains, and lower/personal recognizance bonds. I obtain Expunctions.

**EFFICIENCY:** Competent attorneys should be appointed to eligible defendants quickly, so they can consult and determine options. Prosecutors should be required to contact both law enforcement, the victim, and send discovery to defense counsel immediately a case is filed, so counsel can have meaningful discussions with the defendant early on in the process, for timely preparation. There should be a limit to the number of times cases are reset, so inmates don't sit in jail unnecessarily, losing everything and costing taxpayers money. Eligible defendants who qualify for release on probation should be subject to post-plea evaluations.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** The Public Defender's Office, Indigent Defense System and Legal Aid need more funding and offices in high poverty areas. Educational videos/classes on the criminal justice system, the resources available in the community and video/teleconferencing should be offered in those offices, so residents, attorneys, and court personnel can communicate towards disposition of cases. A better system of determining indigency is needed, so that indigent funds are spent on those who cannot afford to hire counsel. Attorneys should be appointed quickly, and defendants should only appear in court on pretrial or disposition settings.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Repeat criminal behavior after offenders have been sanctioned/rehabilitated for prior offenses is a problem. Overly burdensome conditions of probation for non-violent offenders is counterproductive, leads to inability to comply and more sanctions. As a judge I would focus on mentoring programs that are proven to rehabilitate rather than propagate criminal behavior. Bail reform is a major issue as most inmates are indigent. I would release low risk inmates on low/ personal recognizance bonds pending resolution of their cases. Similar diversion programs can be merged to maximize efficiency. I will work with other judges

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 6/15/1967; Education: 1997-Admitted to the Texas Bar, 1988-Admitted to the Nigerian Bar, 1987-LL.B (Bachelor of Laws); Campaign Phone: (214) 221-3414; Email: [chikaforjudge@gmail.com](mailto:chikaforjudge@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://Facebook.com/ChikaForJudge>

## FAMILY DISTRICT JUDGES

### Candidates running unopposed

**Mary Brown (D), Sandra Jackson (D), Dennise Garcia (D), Andrea Martin (D), Cheryl Lee Shannon (D), Andrea Plumlee (D)**

# CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY

4-year term. Must be 18 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a practicing lawyer, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the district represented. Represents the citizens of Dallas County in prosecuting misdemeanor and felony crimes, and acts as legal counsel for county government.

**PERFORMANCE & EXPERTISE:** Please outline your legal experience, including any specializations and peer review status. Describe any public reprimands or suspensions you have received.

**IMPROVEMENTS:** What changes would you like to implement in this position?

**PREVENTION:** What measures would you support, if any, to reduce

the crime rate?

**BAIL SYSTEM REFORM:** What changes, if any, would you support in the current bail system?

**OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the years ahead, and what is your position on these issues?



## Faith Johnson (R) Criminal District Attorney

have I been reprimanded or suspended.

**IMPROVEMENTS:** Throughout my over 37 years working in the criminal justice system, my focus has been to protect all people, to promote fair and equal justice, and to provide resources that would restore and heal our community. I have balanced these efforts while vigorously prosecuting violent criminals. I have implemented and will continue to implement changes that re-shape the meaning of justice with compassion and reform. Such changes involve but are not limited to tackling the negative effects of mass incarceration, human trafficking, repeat offenders, elder financial safety and providing quality victim resources.

**PREVENTION:** My office currently has several innovative programs to help combat crime in the County, including but not limited to: 1) AIM, which gives youthful offenders charged with non-violent, felony offenses a chance to reach their goals and potential through treatment; 2) SET, which focuses on felony offenders with a qualifying mental health diagnosis; 3) Homeless Diversion Court, the State's first homeless diversion program that gives second chances to low level homeless offenders; 4) Annual Expunction Expo, the first of its kind Dallas County event that assists eligible individuals expunge their arrest records.

**BAIL SYSTEM REFORM:** Under no circumstances do I support the denial of bail based solely on an individual's inability to pay. My office has collaborated with county departments to resolve bail reform issues. During my administration, my office has implemented the MEMO program to handle minor Marijuana possession cases. The program is a diversionary effort that allows a defendant's case to be dismissed and the arrest expunged after he or she has completed certain tasks. Additionally, anyone charged with Possession of less than 4oz of Marijuana is allowed a Personal Recognizance bond (meaning a release at no bail costs).

**OTHER ISSUES:** Under my leadership, our office has already made significant strides towards addressing several impediments to justice through community engagement, reform and ethical prosecution. To increase accessibility to our justice system, I spearheaded the opening of 15 Community Satellite Offices. I sought to unite the community through my Blue on the Block community forum- attended by nearly 800 Dallas County residents and criminal justice leaders. Additionally, I've implemented a new policy to address sexual harassment to protect the well-being and safety of my staff as we seek justice for the community.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 11/16/1950; Education: Faith Johnson received her bachelor's degree in psychology and master's degree in community counsel; Campaign Phone: (214) 448-6358; Website: <http://www.keepfaithjohnsonforda.com>; Email: [saundra@faithjohnsonforda.com](mailto:saundra@faithjohnsonforda.com); Facebook: <http://faithjohnsonfordadistrictattorney>; Twitter: [twitter.com/faithjohnsonda](https://twitter.com/faithjohnsonda)



## John Creuzot (D) Criminal District Attorney

**PERFORMANCE & EXPERTISE:** 1982-1989, Dallas County Assistant District Attorney; 1989-1991, private practice of law. From 1991-2012, Presiding Judge of Dallas County Criminal District Court No. 4. Since 2013, private practice of criminal law. Twice, I was voted the Best Criminal Judge in Texas. I am a member of the Drug Court Hall of Fame and, in 2000, was awarded "New Drug Court Pioneer" by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. In 2016 and 2017, voted one of the best lawyers for Murder, Sex Assault, and Drug Cases. In 2015, 2016, and 2017 voted one of "D Magazine Best" criminal defense lawyers in Dallas. No suspensions or reprimands.

**IMPROVEMENTS:** Bail Reform; Certificates of Rehabilitation for those who have completed a probation sentence and reformed their lives; focus on crime reduction as opposed to case disposition; reorganize and invigorate the Conviction Integrity Unit; expand and improve our diversion and specialty court programs; focus on protecting our most vulnerable citizens, especially the young and elderly.

**PREVENTION:** More diversion programs and specialty courts. Focus on meaningful diversion and treatment for the mentally ill. Remove and reduce collateral consequences that impair one's ability to gain employment or quality housing.

**BAIL SYSTEM REFORM:** Bail should be based on risk to not appear, the risk to commit a new crime or risk to commit a violent crime. If an arrested person is low to no-risk in these categories, she should not be required to post a bond to appear in court. The current system requires a cash bond for even low-risk persons. I would work to eliminate that requirement.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Bail reform. Too many people are in jail awaiting trial and they pose no risk to the community and are no risk to not appear. Reform the death penalty. In the United States, the death penalty is slowly being abolished or limited. I would support a reduction in death penalty cases. Once again, removing collateral consequences of a criminal disposition such as probation. We should seriously consider a "Certificate of Rehabilitation" for those who have truly changed their lives and are rehabilitated. Mental health treatment for our most vulnerable populations. Reducing homelessness, which reduces crime in our neighborhoods. Addressing the opioid crisis with treatment instead of incarceration.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 5/31/1957; Education: B.A North Texas State University, 1978 J.D. Southern Methodist University School of Law, 1982; Campaign Phone: (214) 544-0381; Website: <http://www.hardworkheartwork.com>; Email: [creuzot4da@gmail.com](mailto:creuzot4da@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://facebook.com/johncreuzotforda>; Twitter: [twitter.com/creuzotforda](https://twitter.com/creuzotforda); You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/YZaggVln9RM>

Before you go to vote, make sure you know where your polling place is. Sometimes polling locations change. Find polling locations for both early voting in person and election day at [www.DallasCountyVotes.org](http://www.DallasCountyVotes.org) or call Dallas County or the League of Women Voters of Dallas.

## COUNTY JUDGE

4 year term. Must be 18 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas and a resident of the district represented. Responsible for presiding over the Dallas County Commissioners Court, which conducts the general business of the county and oversees financial matters. Despite the name of the office, this is not a judicial position and the officeholder is not required to be an attorney.

**BUDGET:** What areas of the budget would you like to see increased or decreased during the next term? Please be specific.

**PARKLAND HOSPITAL:** What measures do you support to improve patient services at Parkland Hospital?

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** How would you assess the adequacy of the County's planning for threats to public health from illnesses like

influenza, Zika, Ebola, etc? What changes, if any, would you support?

**VOTING:** How would you assess the County's efforts in the areas of voter registration and election operations? What changes, if any, would you support?

**OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you believe will be the most pressing in the county and what is your position on these issues?

**Brian Hutcheson (R) — no response**

**County Judge**



### Clay Jenkins (D) County Judge

**BUDGET:** We just approved the budget for Fiscal Year 2019. Among notable improvements, we funded advances to important local criminal justice reform by setting funds aside to allow for the implementation of a peer reviewed race neutral risk assessment tool and an expanded pre-trial intake department to better serve you by ensuring people are not kept in jail simply because they are poor while other defendants with access to money quickly bond out without regard to their risk to the community. It is my belief that this reform will help make the community safer and our local criminal justice system more effective and fair.

**PARKLAND HOSPITAL:** Parkland has worked diligently to find creative ways to increase capacity and efficiencies. I support their telehealth work for certain specialties. This has allowed them to reduce wait times for patients & is less resource intensive. Their commitment to the RIGHTCare program emphasizes interventions to appropriately divert & treat individuals experiencing mental health crises in the best setting, which not only better serves patients but has the potential to reduce costly ER visits & keep them out of our county jail. I'm proud of our network of community clinics & other efforts Parkland undertakes to improve access.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Nothing else matters if we can't keep you safe. As the Chief Elected Official in Dallas County, I serve as the County's Emergency Management Director and I take that role very seriously. Our Emergency Management Department, our County Public Health Department, and our local, state, and federal public and private partners continually drill for various events to ensure we are prepared. Failing to plan is planning to fail and we've learned valuable lessons from previous incidents (West Nile, Ebola, etc) that have helped us better prepare for the future.

**VOTING:** We have a little over 1.3 million people registered in Dallas County, & while that number has grown since 2016, there are still about 400,000 that haven't registered. I'm concerned about voter turnout. Only 58% voted in the 2016 Presidential election. That drops ~25% for a mid-term. There's a lot of momentum & interest for this election cycle so I'm hopeful we can turn that into more voters at the ballot box. I support working with partners like the LWV to provide more education on how & where to vote. I don't support the State's Voter ID law & feel that it's had a negative effect on voter turnout.

**OTHER ISSUES:** I will continue to work to increase access to healthcare, match our residents to good living wage jobs, and partner to improve education (as I've done most recently in promoting the Dallas County Promise initiative). These issues have been, and will continue to be, important to Dallas County.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 3/26/1964; Education: Waxahachie High School B.A., Baylor University J.D., Baylor University School of Law; Campaign Phone: (972) 977-0397; Website: <http://www.jenkinsfordallascounty.com>; Email: [clay@jenkinsfordallascounty.com](mailto:clay@jenkinsfordallascounty.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/jenkinsfordallascounty/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/JudgeClayJ](https://twitter.com/JudgeClayJ)

**Preston Boulter (L) — no response**

**County Judge**

## SHERIFF UNEXPIRED TERM

4 year term. Must be 18 years or older, a US citizen, a resident of Texas and a resident of the county. Responsible for law enforcement in the county and operation of the county jail.

**BACKGROUND:** How does your work experience equip you to be able to run the nation's 7th largest jail? Please be specific.

**JAIL STAFFING & MORALE:** What steps would you support to improve staffing levels and morale at the County Jail? How would you support those changes?

**MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES:** How would you insure that inmates

receive proper mental health support while in jail?

**IMMIGRATION:** How do you view the Sheriff office's responsibility regarding Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) with respect to non-citizens in the Dallas County system?

**OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you believe will be the most pressing for the county Sheriff and how would you address them?



### Aaron Meek (R) Sheriff (unexpired term)

**BACKGROUND:** For the last almost 17 years, I served the citizens of Dallas County as a Detention Services Officer, as well as a Licensed Peace Officer and Deputy Sheriff. I am the only candidate with broad, hands-on leadership experience in multiple divisions of the office, and quality relationships with leaders in the office. I believe my combination of experience and communication ability makes me a unique candidate. I am also a former member of the Dallas County Sheriff's Association, as well as a member of the Dallas County Chapter of the National Latino Peace Officer Association.

**JAIL STAFFING & MORALE:** As Sheriff, my first priority will be leading for more support systems for our officers. Our officers need renewed focus on how their mental health is treated. I will also have an open door policy and will meet with employees to hear their concerns. This is an area I will be looking into should I be elected. I will also have the Command Staff start assessing each division and seeing what their needs are. Also, I know being on the floor and out in the field with my deputies and jailers is important to show that I am there for them and understand what is going on in the day to day operations.

**MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES:** Mental health is an issue that affects people in all walks of life in Texas, and that is especially true for Dallas County. That is why I believe that the

## Sheriff (unexpired term) — Continued

## Aaron Meek (R) — Continued

## Sheriff (unexpired term)

Sheriff's office must be a leader on this issue. Should I be elected, I would look to work with other offices, such as the District Attorney's office, as well as the many outstanding organizations like the Meadows Institute to implement strategies to deal with our jail population that suffers from mental health issues. I would also push for more training for officers in the mental health field.

**IMMIGRATION:** As a law enforcement professional that has previously sworn an oath to uphold the laws of our state and nation, as well as someone running for Dallas County Sheriff, I believe that accountability under the rule of law is critical to the success of our Democracy. With the legislature having passed laws addressing this issue during the previous session, these are now among those we are to uphold. I also believe in working to keep our citizens secure, and this means putting an end to giving sanctuary to criminals who have immigrated here illegally.

**OTHER ISSUES:** We must get our office back into the community. Among our other responsibilities, our office can and will positively impact our communities across Dallas if we are interacting on a local level. Among my other top priorities include putting patrol back in the unincorporated areas of Dallas County, decreasing the time spent in intake booking in prisoners, and having a more visible presence in the cities and communities of Dallas County. In addition I would like to take on the issue of mental health in Dallas County, and I would look to partner with the various mental health organizations across our county.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 12/30/1977; Education: Desoto Christian Academy DCSO Jailer's Academy DCSO Deputy's Academy Master Peace Officer's License; Campaign Phone: (214) 770-1376; Website: <http://www.aaronmeek4sheriff.org>; Email: [vote4meek@yahoo.com](mailto:vote4meek@yahoo.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/meek4Sheriff/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/meek4sheriff](https://twitter.com/meek4sheriff)



### Marian Brown (D) Sheriff (unexpired term)

**BACKGROUND:** I have been in law enforcement for thirty years. Twenty-five of those years have been in the management and leadership of law enforcement personnel, operations and processes. I have actively worked the law enforcement process from working the streets and answering calls, to scheduling shifts and people, to supervising and monitoring a small scale holding facility; to actively investigating crime scenes; to developing and managing a department budget; to responding to citizen complaints. I have managed people and learned how to lead people toward a common goal.

**JAIL STAFFING & MORALE:** To address morale, I would keep lines of communication open with employees and listen to their concerns. I would LISTEN to employees and make sure that they know that Administration is sensitive to their issues, even when decisions are made that employees do not necessarily agree with. I would attend briefing sessions of the various shifts and seek employees' input and buy-in on various issues, as well. I would seek. Often times, people just need to know that they are heard. We would have regular meeting with employees, and regularly attend briefings and visit employees' work areas to see what affects them.

**MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES:** We would conduct assessments of individuals as they enter the facility and classify them such that appropriate mental health support is provided. Subjects identified as being mentally ill will be attended to by the mental health professionals assigned to the facility. Also, we would partner with community resources to provide continued services to the inmates even after they are released.

**IMMIGRATION:** The Sheriff is, by statute, charged with holding individuals who are charged with crimes. The Sheriff is not charged with securing the borders of the nation. Therefore, once individuals have met their commitment to Dallas County concerning criminal charges, the individual is done with Dallas County. ICE may choose to take custody of the individual, but the individual is no longer in the charge of Dallas County per statutory requirement.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Enhancing police services to the unincorporated areas will be an area of focus, as will be helping to bridge the gap of trust between the community and law enforcement, as a whole. To address these issues, we will assist the Unincorporated Services Department in addressing quality of life issues in affected areas, and also we will focus on our recently introduced department core values. We will take part in community-based events, and in some cases even sponsor those events.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Education: Bachelor / Arts; Campaign Phone: (214) 458-6595; Website: <http://www.marianbrownforsheriff.com>; Email: [marianbrownforsheriff@gmail.com](mailto:marianbrownforsheriff@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://marianbrownforsheriff>; Twitter: [twitter.com/Chiefmbrown14com](https://twitter.com/Chiefmbrown14com); Twitter: [twitter.com/meek4sheriff](https://twitter.com/meek4sheriff)

## COUNTY COMMISSIONER

4 year term. Must be 18 years or older, a US citizen, a resident of Texas and a resident of the district represented. Responsible for representing the citizens of the district in which he/she is elected in the Commissioners Court which conducts the general business of the county and oversees financial matters.

**BUDGET:** What areas of the budget would you like to see increased or decreased during the next term? Please be specific.

**PARKLAND HOSPITAL:** What measures do you support to improve patient services at Parkland Hospital?

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** How would you assess the adequacy of the County's planning for threats to public health from illnesses like

influenza, Zika, Ebola, etc? What changes, if any, would you support?

**VOTING:** How would you assess the County's efforts in the areas of voter registration and election operations? What changes, if any, would you support?

**OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you believe will be the most pressing in the county and what is your position on these issues?

## Dallas County Commissioner, Precinct No 2



### JJ Koch (R) Dallas County Commissioner, Precinct No 2

should be placed back in the hands of the Sheriff's office.

**PARKLAND HOSPITAL:** Parkland needs to have a strict adherence to its mission, providing care to the indigent. Research and other functions outside of that mission are inappropriate for a county hospital. Patient services can be improved when funds are spent wisely on the core mission and when the institution is focused solely on the mission.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** The county's public health mission is best served by using the most up to date techniques to track illness trends and provide information to providers and other government agencies when issues arise. Constantly improving and modernizing our information gathering and dissemination techniques is how we best service Dallas County.

**VOTING:** The elections office was completely asleep at the wheel during the mail-in voter fraud crisis. Toni Pippins-Poole was caught soliciting bribes from a vendor. We need to bring in a new elections administrator, preferably one with experience in another large urban county to shake up operations to ensure fair elections. Voter registration efforts have had limited success, even with the assistance of private entities. Looking for areas in the country with successful voter registration efforts and emulating those should be a continuous activity.

**BUDGET:** We need to decrease the spending on software by exiting TechShare. The program has failed and has cost far more than would software purchased from vendors out in the market. The second area that needs to be addressed is in the Dallas County Marshals Service. That entity needs to cut and the responsibility for security services



## Dallas County Commissioner, Precinct No 2 — Continued

## JJ Koch (R) — Continued

## Dallas County Commissioner, Precinct No 2

**OTHER ISSUES:** Corruption. The Dallas County Commissioners Court has been mired in corruption, conflicts of interest and self-serving behavior. It is critical that the current Dallas County Transparency and Code of Ethics be enforced and strengthened with greater enforcement mechanisms and punishments.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 6/13/1979; Education: Duke University, BA Economics SMU Dedman School of Law, JD; Campaign Phone: (214) 302-9568; Website: <http://www.jjkoch.com>; Email: [jjkoch@jjkoch.com](mailto:jjkoch@jjkoch.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JJKochforDallasCounty>; Twitter: [twitter.com/jjkoch](https://twitter.com/jjkoch)



### Wini Cannon (D) Dallas County Commissioner, Precinct No 2

plan are my priorities. Secondly, I would review all budget items to ascertain where cost savings may be achieved to ensure efficient and effective county government.

**PARKLAND HOSPITAL:** a. Signage of the Hospital / Digital Map. Digital signs and color-coordinated divisions are ideas which can surmount the problem of finding one's way around the hospital. b. Managing Patient Check Out Check out can be tied up by waiting for x-ray and lab results. Instead of tying up these much-needed beds for new patients, Parkland can establish 'The Almost Home Room' which can facilitate the reduction of traffic around hallways and reception desks. c. Speeding up Referral to eliminate months of waiting for appointments. Clinical practices with times reserved for new referral is one solution. d. Provide iconograph

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Dallas County received a perfect score from CDC (Center for Disease Control) and Texas DHS (Department of Health Services) on public health preparedness in 2014. The County's Medical Reserve Corp should continue to get support particularly in the area of recruiting more volunteers and funding. POD (Point of Dispensing) Programs adopted by the County to enable the County to dispense medical countermeasures to affected populations efficiently (2.4 million within 48 hours) are crucial following a catastrophic public health event. Traditional methods to achieve this timeframe include developing plans with public and private

**VOTING:** The Dallas County Election Department (DCED) hosts and coordinates various registration drives throughout Dallas County. These events are calculated to lead into the annual Dallas County Registration Day which can be seriously improved upon by having a public campaign about these drives. The plan in place needs greater exposure to increase response for volunteers. DCED can improve its efforts by actively forming relationships with private organizations, faith-based entities, ISD and other civic groups to strategically plan for increased voter registration. The DCED should provide more information on election operations

**OTHER ISSUES:** Human Resources a. Maintain a diverse, talented, and capable workforce to execute Dallas County functions. b. Pay employees market rate salaries and tie in an incentive-based compensation plan to motivate and reward employees. c. Bail Bond Reform Implement a Cashless Bail Bond System based upon risk assessment-This will help depopulate the jail, reduce costs to the county associated with jail, and allow persons awaiting trial to keep their jobs and families intact while they await their court dates. Our jail is a holding facility necessary for detaining those persons posing threats to our public safety.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 10/2/1954; Education: BA, Govt & Politics, UMD MA, International Relations, UMD JD, Antioch Law LLM, Southern Methodist Law; Campaign Phone: (972) 325-8856; Website: <http://www.winicanwin.com>; Email: [winicanwin@gmail.com](mailto:winicanwin@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/winifred.cannon.9>; You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/k6kiFOsQ99g>;



### Alberto Perez (L) Dallas County Commissioner, Precinct No 2

acquired and test scores. Provide adequate funding for healthcare, especially for children and elderly who need it most. Increase spending on public roads and bridges, making them safer; also increase funding for police training & community relations to improve public safety.

**PARKLAND HOSPITAL:** Parkland needs to streamline their intake process. Many county residents encounter an intimidating and unwelcoming process that discourages them from accessing primary care, thus creating a population that is lost to care and to whom their only option is to go the Emergency Room. We must break this vicious cycle that only increases health costs. Parkland must become part of the preventive care of our county, by making access easier. It is in our best interest to keep the population healthy and with a good quality of life. It is easier and less expensive to prevent illness than to treat it.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Dallas County Health and Human Services, like any other organization, does best when properly funded and its people are well trained. Outbreaks, like influenza, can be rapidly treated to prevent an epidemic and decrease fatalities. In 2017-18, there were nearly 80 deaths in the county due to influenza. This is unacceptable when this is preventable through a yearly vaccine. We need to reduce barriers that discourage or prevent the community from seeking care and decrease the cost to our poor. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

**VOTING:** The county needs to work closer with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in our community to encourage and assist people to register to vote. I would support any effort to have a county with educated voters where they can easily access a website/portal where they can register to vote, review the bios of all the candidates they will see on their particular ballot, and where they can be truly informed to make the best decision on the candidate that will represent them and will positively affect their daily lives.

**OTHER ISSUES:** There are many issues that affect us daily and for which there are many options to try to resolve for the betterment of our community. Housing, business, taxes, and the list goes on. I am a parent, a husband, a teacher, a coach, a son of immigrants. I have lived through and continue to see the struggles that our community faces on a daily basis. Once elected, I will work together with the other Commissioners and push for a comprehensive review of our budget and increase and decrease where it is essential for the growth and education and well-being of our county. Let us work together For A Stronger Dallas County

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 6/18/1978; Education: Bachelors of Business Administration degree. Masters of Business Administration degree; Website: <http://www.albertojperez.com>; Email: [VoteForAlbertoPerez@gmail.com](mailto:VoteForAlbertoPerez@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/VoteForAlberto>; Twitter: [twitter.com/VoteForAlberto](https://twitter.com/VoteForAlberto)

## DALLAS COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

4 year term. Must be a citizen, 18 years or older and a resident of the district represented. Does not need to be a lawyer. Responsible for civil and criminal misdemeanor cases punishable by fine only: assault, bail jumping, criminal mischief, bad check writing, public intoxication. Can hear civil cases up to \$10,000. Issues occupational drivers licenses. May perform marriages, issue commitment papers for the mentally ill and search and arrest warrants.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** The JP Courts are often referred to as "The People's Courts." What measures do you support to make the JP courts more accessible to the people?

**EVICTIONS:** Is there a need to make JP court more equitable in the

eviction process and, if so, how could this be accomplished?

**OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for JP courts and how would you address them?

## Dallas County JP Pct 2, No 1

Ashley Hutcheson (R) — no response

Dallas County JP Pct 2, No 1



**Margaret O'Brien (D)**  
Dallas County JP Pct 2, No 1

**ACCESSIBILITY:** Providing an affordable and accessible means of justice to all people will be of vital importance if I am elected Justice of the Peace for Precinct 2, Place 1. I am in support of providing the means of flexible hours, if it is possible, to be able to provide the required services after hours with necessary staffing. To clarify the idea of flexible hours, I mean the possibility of evening court sessions several times per month. I will also look at offering as many options for filing documents online or printing documents from a user friendly website to make it more convenient for people.

**EVICTIONS:** Leases are contracts, therefore, the terms of the lease must be enforced according to their terms. If landlords or tenants are in breach, the other party has rights that may be enforced under the lease or under state statutes. Eviction cases can be very emotional. No one likes the idea of being evicted from a home. I will do my best to treat all with dignity and respect, but in the end, I will have to decide if there was a breach of lease and proper notice to vacate. If the landlord has prosecuted an eviction case correctly, then they will likely be entitled to the relief they seek. I will be fair to both sides.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Possibly the efficiency of the courts, depending on the back log of cases. I would have to familiarize myself with the administrative processes and see if there are ways to improve the systems that are currently in place. The JP courts are still using a paper system and older data collection system, updating these systems has been in the works for several years. Implementing a new system for data entry and tracking should greatly improved some areas of efficiency. I support updating the system and making filings and administrative duties more efficient for the public.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 11/15/1972; Education: BS Chemistry (SFASU) MS Environmental Science (UT) Graduate Certificate - Dispute Resolution (SMU); Campaign Phone: (972) 897-6427; Website: <http://www.mo4jp.com>; Email: [freestylemo@gmail.com](mailto:freestylemo@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/margaret.obrien.forJP>

## Dallas County JP, Pct 2, No 2



**Bill Metzger (R)**  
Dallas County JP, Pct 2, No 2

**ACCESSIBILITY:** I support increasing the jurisdictional limit in Justice Courts from \$10,000.00 to \$20,000.00. Due to increased inflation since 2007 (the last time the limit was raised) we have many people who are unable to utilize Justice Courts because their claims are more than the \$10,000.00 limit. Typically this places an undue burden on the very people who need to use our courts. This must be changed at the legislative level and I will

continue working with our members of the legislature to implement this much needed remedy.

**EVICTIONS:** Our eviction process is very equitable and works very well.

**OTHER ISSUES:** We need increased security in our courtrooms and courthouses to better protect the thousands of citizens who utilize the court on a daily basis. Due to the contentious nature of our trials, many times both plaintiffs and defendants need armed escorts to simply leave our courthouse.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 9/2/1970; Education: MBA, Texas A&M Univ.-Commerce BA, Univ. of Dallas; Campaign Phone: (214) 293-0018; Website: <http://www.billmetzger.com>; Email: [billforjp@gmail.com](mailto:billforjp@gmail.com)



**Katina Whitfield (D)**  
Dallas County JP, Pct 2, No 2

**ACCESSIBILITY:** Extending court hours and employing bilingual staff, who'll be willing to translate on behalf of the citizens, will greatly increase accessibility to the citizens. Holding court one evening a week and one Saturday a month would help the people who do not have the job flexibility to appear during normal business hours. This can be achieved without exceeding set budgets by staggering the schedules of the current

staff. Bilingual court and office staff will help reduce the wait time and need for reschedules. It can also increase the quality of overall service to the citizens.

**EVICTIONS:** There is a need to make JP courts more equitable in the eviction process. I'd suggest a bi-weekly 30-min information session that (i) explains a standard lease, (ii) rights as a tenant, (iii) hearing procedures and (iv) the eviction process from start to finish, including appealing the eviction. The tenant would have the option to come to the courthouse for the session or join a live stream. This will be a general session, not case specific. However, if there are special circumstances, the tenant can ask for a referral to an association that may be able to assist them.

**OTHER ISSUES:** I would push for an easily accessible website w/downloadable PDF fillable forms and instructions detailing how to complete, pay and file. This will reduce question intake via phone and free up court personnel to assist citizens who need personal attention. It will also assist with docket control and filing efficiency.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Campaign Phone: (972) 803-8845; Website: <http://www.katinaforprecinct2.com>; Email: [whitfieldforjp2@gmail.com](mailto:whitfieldforjp2@gmail.com); Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com/katina.whitfield.4JP\(214\)293-0018](http://www.facebook.com/katina.whitfield.4JP(214)293-0018); Website: <http://www.billmetzger.com>; Email: [billforjp@gmail.com](mailto:billforjp@gmail.com)

## Dallas County JP, Pct 3, No 1



**Al Cercone (R)**  
Dallas County JP, Pct 3, No 1

**ACCESSIBILITY:** We need more JP Courts. Dallas County had eight JP Precincts and twelve JP Courts when I was first elected in 1992. Two of those courts were in downtown Dallas, easily accessible from all parts of Dallas County. To make a comparison, Harris County (Houston) maintains eight JP Precincts and sixteen JP Courts to serve its citizens. In 1996, the Dallas County Commissioners increased the number of JP Courts to fourteen, but then in 2000, they reduced the number of JP Precincts to five, the number of JP Courts to eleven, and abolished the two downtown JP Courts. In 2010, they reduced the number again to ten.

**EVICTIONS:** Justice Courts are not courts of equity. Eviction cases are lawsuits where a landlord is seeking to recover possession of real property from a tenant who has breached an oral or written agreement, or other lawful grounds for eviction. After the grounds are asserted by a landlord, the landlord must first send a written demand for the tenant to voluntarily vacate the property. If a tenant refuses to vacate the landlord's property after the demand, a

landlord can file an eviction suit. Once the case is filed, unless the tenant defaults by failing to appear, the court will hear the facts and evidence and then decide.

**OTHER ISSUES:** A deed restriction case has no maximum dollar limit, but the current dollar jurisdictional limit for any other civil dispute filed in Justice Court is a maximum of \$10,000 as of the day the case is filed. A party cannot have damages that exceed \$10,000 and file a case in a Justice Court for only \$10,000, because when it is discovered, the case will be dismissed for lack of jurisdiction. Unfortunately, many simple disputes today exceed \$10,000, forcing litigants to file in County or District Court which are not user friendly to pro-se litigants. The legislature should significantly increase the court's jurisdiction.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 11/7/1949; Education: Bachelor of Science Degree from North Texas State University, currently The University of North TX; Campaign Phone: (214) 363-0297; Website: <http://www.JudgeAl.com>; Email: [acercone@sbcglobal.net](mailto:acercone@sbcglobal.net); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JudgeAlCercone/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/abcjudget](https://twitter.com/abcjudget)

## Dallas County JP, Pct 3, No 1 — Continued



### Shannon Bradford (D)

#### Dallas County JP, Pct 3, No 1

of typical business hours. If you choose me to serve as your JP, I will offer early morning, late evening, and weekend options. I will fight to make the courts as equitable and accessible as possible.

**EVICTIONS:** Yes, judging eviction cases must be free of all personal prejudices regarding race, gender, sex, socioeconomic status, and/or sexual orientation, a cause to which I am very dedicated. I know that evictions do not just impact a single individual but rather entire families and communities, which in turn agitates sometimes already difficult circumstances. The process can also be a burden on landlords who may have tried to find solutions for their tenants but to no avail. Therefore, if elected, I will examine each case from all angles to ensure the process is fair and impartial for all involved.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Performing marriages is only one portion of the role of JP. Many people will be having a bad day as they come before me, should I be elected. Whether it be something as life-altering as an eviction or as inconvenient as appealing a traffic ticket, I am dedicated to a customer service-oriented attitude. As an example, for some, fees owed may be an exceptional burden for their family. If elected, I will make sure that payment plan options are available and that informational flyers are provided online and in print version so that the entire process is elucidated.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 9/14/1993; Education: B.A. International Studies - Texas A&M University; Email: shannonforjp31@gmail.com; Facebook: <http://fb.me/shannonforjp31>

## Dallas County JP, Pct 3, No 2



### Steve Seider (R)

#### Dallas County JP, Pct 3, No 2

hours County-provided technology, staffing standards, security requirements and the county budget are limiting factors. Replacing the 30-year old main-frame system and co-locating offices will help.

**EVICTIONS:** "Information" is key to an equitable RESULT- before and after a trial. To educate, inform and clarify the rights and responsibilities of the parties is a proper goal and I endeavor to do this every day in every trial. In every trial, I will ask if either party has any questions-- I will not adjourn until all questions are answered and understood. Lease contracts and Texas law are the framework for eviction trials- BUT- the court should operate with patience and treat each person with dignity and respect. I believe in "The Golden Rule" -- treating other as I would like to be treated is a value that I seek to live by.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Pressing issues include: \*Addiction \*Bullying -schools, families, neighborhoods and workplace \*Child Pornography \*Child Sex Traffic \*Elderly Abuse \*Fraud on the Elderly \*Homelessness \*Identity Theft & \*Business Identity Theft \*Mental Illness (undiagnosed & untreated) \*Veteran PTSD & Service-related disabilities Collaborative efforts are vital- developing & leading programs in partnerships with courts, government agencies/departments, non-profit organizations, faith-based entities, professional groups, citizens and civic organizations is what I have done as a lawyer and as a judge- I will continue to do so.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 12/16/1964; Education: Bachelor of Business Administration w/ Honors - UT Arlington & Juris Doctrate -University of Houston; Campaign Phone: (972) 839-1487; Website: <http://www.JudgeSeider.com>; Email: [Steve@JudgeSeider.com](mailto:Steve@JudgeSeider.com); Facebook: <http://JudgeSeider>



### Mauri Long (D)

#### Dallas County JP, Pct 3, No 2

the backlog in the court. Insure that court procedures and structure best facilitate the expeditious and economical resolution to disputes. Increase public information about Court procedures.

**EVICTIONS:** The eviction process is governed by Rule 510 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure and by Chapter 24 of the Texas Property Code, therefore the JP court is limited in making the procedure more equitable. A way that could benefit the tenant and their right's: is making information more available on the JP court website. This will help with understanding their rights as a tenant and what they should expect during the process. The court can be diligent in oversight of how the landlord has followed all eviction procedures set out in the Texas state Property Code.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Creation of a Teen-Peer Court program. Teen Court is an alternative, voluntary program which offers young offenders an opportunity to make restitution for an offense through community service, specialized classes and jury service. Bringing the teens before a jury of their peers, Teen Court seeks to deter future unlawful behavior while providing direct experience with the court system and an understanding of their future role as productive citizens. Instead of paying a fine, the teen is sentenced to service in a community organization and jury duty in Teen court. Case dismissed upon successful completion.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 2/20/1962; Education: BA Business Management Healthcare Administration; Campaign Phone: (214) 394-8591; Email: [maurilongforjp@gmail.com](mailto:maurilongforjp@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.maurilong4jp32.com>; Twitter: [twitter.com/maurilong32](https://twitter.com/maurilong32)

## Dallas County JP, Pct 4, No 2

Israel Aviles (R) — no response

Dallas County JP, Pct 4, No 2



### Sasha Moreno (D)

#### Dallas County JP, Pct 4, No 2

Promote collaborative efforts with community members to resolve legal concerns 4) Create a mediation clinic for community members to settle out of court

**EVICTIONS:** In order to become more equitable in the eviction process, we need to ensure individuals representing themselves pro se have at least a basic understanding of their legal rights and what to expect in the courtroom. The court should provide them with legal tools and resources so they become educated on the justice system. However, once the eviction process has already begun, many times it's too late for individuals to avoid eviction. It's our responsibility as a community to work together to try and address policy issues such as affordable housing and poverty to stop evictions from occurring in the first place.

**OTHER ISSUES:** We need to make the JP courts more fair, effective, and efficient. I would like to create a mediation clinic to assist people with settling their civil cases outside of the courtroom. Most people do not understand the negative consequences of receiving a judgment against you. I would love to work with area schools who have alternative dispute resolution programs develop a mediation clinic with the courts. It would provide students with mediation experience while also helping community mem-

## Dallas County JP, Pct 4, No 2 — Continued

## Sasha Moreno (D) — Continued

## Dallas County JP, Pct 4, No 2

bers by settling cases before a final judgment. This would help lessen the court's caseload to focus on other legal needs.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Education: B.A. Political Science & Journalism-University of North Texas; J.D./M.D.R.-Pepperdine School of Law; Campaign Phone: (972) 674-1286; Website: <http://www.sashaforjp.com>; Email: [sashaforjp@gmail.com](mailto:sashaforjp@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/sashaforjp>; Twitter: [twitter.com/sashaforjp](https://twitter.com/sashaforjp)

## CONSTABLE

4 year term. Must be 18 years or older, a US citizen, resident of Texas and a resident of the district represented. Responsible for serving warrants and serving as bailiff in the Justice of the Peace courts.

**BACKGROUND:** What in your background makes you qualified to handle the challenges of the Constable role?

**PROCEDURES:** What changes, if any, are needed in the procedures used by Dallas County Constables?

**OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the county Constables and how would you address them?

## Dallas County Constable, Pct 2

## Ray Nichols (R) — no response

## Dallas County Constable, Pct 2



### Bill Gipson (D)

#### Dallas County Constable, Pct 2

city in Criminal Justice and a Master degree in Public Administration from Texas Southern University. I have served in the U.S. Army Reserves for 17 years where I have promoted to the rank of (E-8) First Sergeant.

**PROCEDURES:** It is my belief that the Dallas County Constables can be more inclusive with the communities that it serve through community policing and remain transparent at all time.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Our mission will be to enhance the quality of life on the Eastern Side of Dallas County by proudly serving the courts and community with the utmost professionalism while building bridges that foster partnership and prevention. I envision a stronger future built on a true partnership with the community through open communication and respect for the diverse nature of our residents. For many years the Dallas County Constable's have had a lot of negative attention to arise against them as a whole that have cause them to fail at establishing a true identity. It is my intent once I become elected to establish that identity

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 7/6/1979; Education: Masters (Public Administration); Campaign Phone: (469) 605-1273; Website: <http://www.billgipson.com>; Email: [gipsonforconstable@gmail.com](mailto:gipsonforconstable@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://@billgipsonforconstable>; Twitter: [twitter.com/billgipsonfor2](https://twitter.com/billgipsonfor2)

## Dallas County Constable, Pct 3



### Ben Adamcik (R)

#### Dallas County Constable, Pct 3

ers Court and managed the department in a matter that has assured limited employee turnover which has save money to the county and maintained an experienced staff.

**PROCEDURES:** The current changes needed for the Constables office at this time is the need for improved technology by allowing Deputies to have computers in their vehicles. The lack of computers prevents Deputies from being more productive by staying in the field and performing their duties as well as limiting the ability of Deputies to communicate with Citizens, Plaintiff's, and Attorneys. Currently Deputies must return to the office to obtained documents, complete paperwork, and return phone calls; thus adding to the increased cost of fuel and loss of productivity.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Issues effecting the Constable office - 1) Lack of knowledge by the general public as to what the Constitutional duties of a Constable are; 2) Stressed Relationship with the Commissioners Court due to attempts to manage Constable duties and staff by manipulating the department budget; 3) Limited Technology needed for staff to complete the assigned duties; 4) Failure of the Commissioners Court to allow Constables to assist with general Public Service duties such as Traffic in School zones.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 3/6/1945; Education: Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminology and Corrections; Email: [badamcik@hotmail.com](mailto:badamcik@hotmail.com)



### Curtis 'Traylor' Harris (D)

#### Dallas County Constable, Pct 3

it takes on families and individuals. I also know how important it is to maintain public safety and my background has given me the knowledge to understand and work with everyone in our community.

**PROCEDURES:** Efficiency and professionalism are the main components of law enforcement in my opinion along with integrity and honesty. As your next Constable, I pledge to operate an efficient department that follows state law when it comes to process and to never allow anyone on the department to behave in a manner that neglects their duties in a way that harms taxpayers, families and individuals who use these services everyday.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The biggest issue I see with the current Constable Office is the lack of engagement with our community. I will implement a comprehensive internship program for young people interested in law enforcement and work to make precinct 3 Constable office more professional in appearance personnel. I will also work to ensure deputies have the tools necessary to do their jobs effectively.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Education: B.S. Criminology; Campaign Phone: (469) 713-6065; Email: [clove337@hotmail.com](mailto:clove337@hotmail.com); Facebook: <http://Facebook.com/traylorforpct3>

## CITY OF DALLAS SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL A VACANCY

Dallas operates under the Council-Manager form of government. The City Council appoints a City Manager to administer City operations, while the Council is responsible for City policy-making. The Manager makes budget and other recommendations to the City Council and advises the Council of the City's current conditions and future needs. City Council consists of the Mayor (elected at large) and 14 council members elected from Districts. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the vote, there will be a runoff election.

This election is being held due to the resignation of the incumbent Councilmember.

**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS:** Describe your ties to various constituencies in the community: for example, neighborhood groups, churches, schools, non-profits, businesses, etc.

**PRIORITIES:** What would be your top 3 priorities as Councilmember?

**ILLEGAL DUMPING:** What additional steps would you support to curb illegal dumping of goods and animals?

**RENOVATION, REVITALIZATION AND GENTRIFICATION:** What are your plans for the renovation and revitalization of neighborhoods in your District? What role, if any, should the city play to manage gentrification? Please be specific.

**YOUR DISTRICT'S CONCERNS:** What do you view as your District's biggest opportunity and/or challenge during the remaining council term?

### Dallas City Council District 4 (unexpired term)

Lester Houston Jr — no response

Dallas City Council District 4 (unexpired term)

Donald Washington — no response

Dallas City Council District 4 (unexpired term)

Keyaira D Saunders — no response

Dallas City Council District 4 (unexpired term)



#### Brandon J Vance

Dallas City Council District 4 (unexpired term)

and Vice President of Membership for the Texas Coalition of Black Democrats-Dallas Chapter. I have volunteered with organizations including Habitat for Humanity to build homes in Dallas. I have served as a mentor to many young students throughout D4.

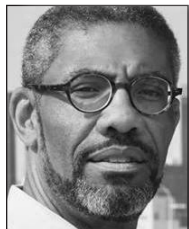
**PRIORITIES:** 1. Increasing economic development 2. Growing safe communities 3. Education

**ILLEGAL DUMPING:** I support the steps the city has taken to address this issue, including introducing more cameras in highly prone dumping areas. The most impactful step I can take if elected is to urge and promote citizens reporting illegal dumping, using the 311 app, and calling 911 if dumping is in progress. We have got to change the hearts and minds of the community to not just see the areas they live in as places to go and leave, but to take pride in their communities and to be confident that it is ok to report illegal dumping.

**RENOVATION, REVITALIZATION, AND GENTRIFICATION:** Renovation and revitalization are significant parts of my economic development plan. D4 has many dilapidated properties that are ripe for a rebirth. Many locales around the county and across the state have taken to working with developers to renovate these eyesores. My plan is to create a housing council that includes members of the community and real estate developers to meet and discuss the future of housing plans in D4. The people must have a voice in the future of housing & business development in our area. But, it can't be just the community, we need the input of developers as well.

**YOUR DISTRICT'S CONCERNS:** One major challenge for District 4 is that the city budget has been crafted and approved with little input from an elected representative of the people of D4. So for the next budgeting cycle we are stuck with what the council has approved. The people of District 4 had no one there to advocate for the infrastructure needs of the community, we had no one there to advocate for recreational investment in D4. This will have a long impact on the trajectory of D4 for some time.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 3/10/1977; Education: Bachelor's in Government-Texas Woman's University Associates in Paralegal Studies-Dallas County; Campaign Phone: (210) 286-5349; Website: <http://brandonjvance.com/>; Email: [bvancefordallas@gmail.com](mailto:bvancefordallas@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Vance4Dallas/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/bjvance](https://twitter.com/bjvance)



#### Vincent T Parker

Dallas City Council District 4 (unexpired term)

S.E.E.D.S Foundation; Dean of Congress of North Texas District Association; Board Member of Trinity River Conservancy; Member of Missionary Baptist Convention of Texas; Board Member New Friends New Life Men's Advocacy; and Chair of the Board of the Adult Rehabilitation Ministry.

**PRIORITIES: HOUSING:** Ensure that current District 4 residents can stay in their homes; provide quality housing options for new residents; and support housing initiatives for the homeless and those in transition. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Incubate new small businesses; cultivate existing businesses; support office and retail development to draw larger employers to D4; and partner with job training programs that create living wage jobs. **QUALITY OF LIFE:**

Implement policies that address crime reduction and prevention, code enforcement, stray dog control, healthy food options, and arts and culture.

**ILLEGAL DUMPING:** Conduct regular meetings with Code department managers and supervisors to (1) identify and increase monitoring of areas where illegal dumping is frequent and (2) push for greater enforcement existing ordinances requiring illegal dumping remediation. Involve the "City Hall On The Go" mobile unit in illegal dumping enforcement. Explore ordinance amendments to increase punitive measures for illegal dumping of goods and animals. Initiate citizen "code crawls" in connection with city code enforcement to engage neighborhood residents in the process.

**RENOVATION, REVITALIZATION, AND GENTRIFICATION:** Neighborhood plans, created by community stakeholders, is the best first step toward democratizing city planning, ensuring the availability of quality, affordable housing options, and promoting community-informed economic development. The Urban Design Advisory Committee works with community stakeholders to create these plans. I will work with every community that wants to have such a plan in place. I have already done this work by leading the effort to create "The Bottom: Urban structure and Guidelines", which has been approved by City Council and will govern all future development projects in that neighborhood.

**YOUR DISTRICT'S CONCERNS:** District 4 has the opportunity to bring a community-informed perspective to the many development projects taking place in the District, and a new way of thinking to the political discourse. This is an opportunity for District 4 residents to be at the table when development decisions are being made, and also to

## Dallas City Council District 4 (unexpired term) — Continued

## Vincent T Parker — Continued

## Dallas City Council District 4 (unexpired term)

have a voice at City Hall that is accountable to the needs of the community, first and foremost. In my view, this opportunity is also the biggest challenge facing the area. It will take all of us working together to right the ship and create the future we want in District 4.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 6/10/1959; Education: Davidson College Dallas Theological Seminary; Campaign Phone: (469) 431-9166; Website: <http://www.vincentparkerd4.com>; Email: [info@vincentparkerd4.com](mailto:info@vincentparkerd4.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/VincentParkerDistrict4>



### Becky Lewis

#### Dallas City Council District 4 (unexpired term)

people of the District in multiple capacities. I am a former Dallas County Democratic Precinct Chair and Election Judge. I currently am a member with the Dallas NAACP, Prairie View A&M Dallas and National Alumni Associations, a Board Advisor for Shared Housing, Inc. and am a Life Member at Olive Grove Baptist Church

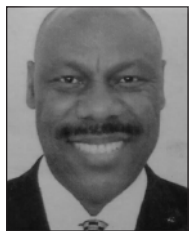
**PRIORITIES:** District 4 has experienced an uptick in overall crime. Violent and drug related arrests are prevalent, but most incidents involve property theft that go unresolved. I will push for additional police support to reduce poor response times. I pledge to open Urgent Care facilities that would alleviate pressure from rescue services and reduce needless overcrowding at local hospital ER facilities. I will fight to increase employment opportunities by supporting retail, commercial, and residential property developments and will lead efforts to provide fresh food accessibility and eliminate our existing food desert issues.

**ILLEGAL DUMPING:** Illegal dumping causes health and safety issues for all. When unwanted items like furniture, motor vehicles, used tires, and dead animals are discarded into residential areas, hazards like contamination and serious injuries multiply exponentially. We can contact the City to report violations but usually clean up is relegated to the property owner. I would support stiff regulation to impose heavier fines, especially for repeated offenses, but violators must first be caught. I will rally our citizens to reclaim our neighborhoods! We must watch, record, and report in a concerted effort to keep our homes safe.

**RENOVATION, REVITALIZATION, AND GENTRIFICATION:** With increased development the potential for gentrification is real. Property owners deserve access to additional tax protections that complement the state's current Homestead Exemptions. The City should be about the business of not only increasing revenue through sales and services, but also have an initiative to protect those who hold a vested interest in the preservation of families and neighborhoods. We've already witnessed how rapid development led to the displacement of residents and existing businesses due to the Trinity Groves project in West Dallas. I will work diligently to ensure that doesn't happen here.

**YOUR DISTRICT'S CONCERNS:** The biggest challenge may be the short period of time left on the term of this seat, which is less than 6 months. I knew that, however, when I accepted the charge to become the next representative for D4 downtown. It will take the work of a dedicated visionary to repair the disconnect that this community has faced in recent years and to mend their level of trust in our local government. I am ready to face that challenge. I embrace the opportunity to be a catalyst in the effort to break our cycle of stagnant commerce. The task to usher in a renewed spirit and positive perception for this pocket of Dallas is welcomed.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 7/16/1971; Education: Prairie View A&M University - B.A. in Political Science (Minor in Behavioral and Political Sciences); Campaign Phone: (469) 248-6858; Website: <http://www.becky4dallasdistrict4.com/>; Email: [becky4district4@gmail.com](mailto:becky4district4@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.becky4dallasdistrict4.com/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/Becky4D](https://twitter.com/Becky4D)



### Obi E Igbokwe

#### Dallas City Council District 4 (unexpired term)

Director of a new nonprofit dedicated to helping new business startups so we can grow our community.

**PRIORITIES:** PROPERTY TAX REFORM through tax increment exemptions, especially in gentrifying communities. The long term residents should be exempt from increased taxes. Will assist local aspiring entrepreneurs to create new businesses through my nonprofit, District 4 Enterprise Foundation, INC. We will partner with the Small Business Administration, the IRS, banks and other business incubation agencies to nurture and support local startups who will reinvest their profits to help grow the community and create more jobs in the vicinity. Will work with Code, Law Enforcement, Street Department and

neighborhood groups to reduce crime.

**ILLEGAL DUMPING:** Illegal dumpings usually occur in poorly lit and unkept side streets. Improving the lighting situations, keeping the grass cut and imposing stiffer penalties for dumping offences will help minimize the problems. To the extreme, impounding the vehicles used for this offence will be a strong disincentive. Stray cats and dogs remain a major nuisance. The Animal Control department should be closely examined to see if the problem is flagrant inefficiency or inadequate staffing. Proper measures will then be taken to remedy the situation.

**RENOVATION, REVITALIZATION, AND GENTRIFICATION:** Gentrification has garnered negative connotation because the taxing districts use it as excuse to gouge the taxpayers with alarming across the board tax increases. This must be stopped. I will propose tax increment exemptions to exclude long term residents of the district from increased taxes. Yes, their properties may have increased in value, but they don't benefit from that increase until they sell. Therefore, they should not be burdened, punished and taxed out of their homes because of an influx of new residents. The city must use policies like rent caps, historic preservation district to override displacement.

**YOUR DISTRICT'S CONCERNS:** The district's biggest opportunity is the Southern Gateway project/Deck park and the I-35E/US67 project. The impact on the surrounding neighborhoods creates a welcome challenge that must be well managed through policies. This project incentivizes gentrification, which is a vehicle for displacement. When single family homes are replaced by high density developments, a certain percentage of the new construction should be set aside, with rent cap, for the original residents to stay. Need new businesses and investments to create jobs so the residents would not have to commute as much.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 1/23/1960; Education: U.T Arlington NY Film Academy; Campaign Phone: (214) 946-9127; Email: [obi.ilap@yahoo.com](mailto:obi.ilap@yahoo.com); Facebook: <http://Obi.E.Igbokwe>; Twitter: [twitter.com/igbokwe\\_e](https://twitter.com/igbokwe_e)

Photo ID vs. Voter Registration Certificate: Your name on your Photo ID should match your name on the registered voters list. If it does not, but is "substantially similar," you will be allowed to vote after initialing a column on the sign-in sheet at the polls. If it is not "substantially similar," you will be allowed to vote provisionally. Check if your name matches by pulling up your voter information at [www.dallascountyvotes.org/voter-information/voter-lookup](http://www.dallascountyvotes.org/voter-information/voter-lookup)

## Dallas City Council District 4 (unexpired term) — Continued



## Dawn M Blair

Dallas City Council District 4 (unexpired term)

residents; and taught first time homebuyer classes 34 year member of New Hope Baptist Church Served on the Park South YMCA Board. (Past) Currently, serve on the Frederica Chase Dodd Board 35 year member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Cedar Crest Neighborhood Association (past)

**PRIORITIES:** I believe that Economic Development is a must for District 4 and ALL of Southern Dallas. My additional three priorities include: Focus on Quality of Life for all residents of District 4 by addressing and improving Code Compliance services; Improved Animal Control, and Increased Police Protection.

**ILLEGAL DUMPING:** I will work w/the City Managers Office to improve the way that the city prioritizes the needs of our community. Beginning w/the City addressing its own non-compliance on city owned lots & right-of-ways. Secondly, I will work to increase the financial resources allocated to District 4, resulting in recognizable improvement in the area of illegal dumping of goods and animals.

**RENOVATION, REVITALIZATION, AND GENTRIFICATION:** I will use my Housing/Real Estate and Economic Development experience to address these concerns, beginning w/a developer round table to explore all of the opportunities for development in our community. The goal is to bring new housing opportunities for young adults and young families, while also addressing the serious concern of homestead exemption & property taxes for seniors. I believe the City should establish a succession plan as it relates to gentrification. The plan should include peramiters that offer home repair programs and mixed income housing.

**YOUR DISTRICT'S CONCERNS:** The biggest opportunity in District 4 is addressing the obvious long standing issues of code enforcement and animal control from a new and different perspective. My 20 years of experience at the City of Dallas will be beneficial when accessing the appropriate resources to obtain incremental success. The biggest challenge is the obvious short period of time remaining in the unexpired term!

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Education: BA Bishop College 1985; Campaign Phone: (469) 853-2290; Website: <http://dawnfordallas.com>; Email: [dawnfordallas@gmail.com](mailto:dawnfordallas@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://dawn4district>

**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS:** 23 year member of Concord Church (currently), serving in several ministries that address community needs including Make A Difference Day by hosting baby showers for unwed teenage mothers, gift wrapping at Christmas, thank you gifts to neonatal professionals, provided hygiene products to nursing home



## Joli Angel Robinson

Dallas City Council District 4 (unexpired term)

professional role, I partner with city departments that serve District 4 such as Planning and Urban Design, Code, and Dallas Animal Services. I volunteer at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School as the Chair of the Site-Based Decision-Making Team where I provide input and oversight to support students and staff.

**PRIORITIES:** 1. Education, Health, & Public Safety: Reimagine how the city works and use a collective approach in ensuring all residents have access to quality education, effective healthcare services, and safe neighbors. We must identify and provide real solutions to many of the issues surrounding these areas. 2. Prioritize Effective City Services throughout District 4: Increase accountability for effective delivery of all city services. 3. Encourage Innovation & Entrepreneurship: Build upon the vibrant legacy in District 4 and encourage future innovation and entrepreneurship efforts with a focus on inclusive development.

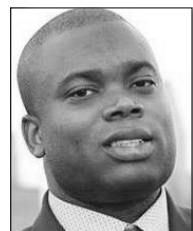
**ILLEGAL DUMPING:** Illegal dumping is one of the top three concerns I hear from many residents of District 4. It's been said that much of the illegal dumping happening within the district seems to be from residents outside of the district. As a city we must take the necessary measures to ensure we curb this serious nuisance. Reporting and identification of illegal dumping sites via an easily accessible reporting system is necessary. Once sites are identified, we need to regularly place cameras in those areas in order to identify and cite those individuals who are illegally dumping their goods and animals in our community.

**RENOVATION, REVITALIZATION, AND GENTRIFICATION:** We must have development. Inclusive development is the renovation and revitalization that District 4 needs. The city must invest in small to micro businesses that already exist in District 4 and make this a hub for innovation and entrepreneurial efforts that provide residents with jobs. The city should play a significant role in managing the displacement of residents that often occurs with gentrification. City policies including tax programs for long-term residents so they won't be taxed out and a focus on creating truly affordable housing are two ways cities can stave off the negative effects of gentrification.

**YOUR DISTRICT'S CONCERNS:** We have the opportunity to rethink how we have traditionally gone about the business of doing business in District 4. We have a golden opportunity to invite in fresh voices and ideas. The biggest challenge will be to reignite the many community members who may have felt left out of the process in years past. I want to include as many diverse voices in the process of engaging our District 4 neighbors. We have an opportunity to showcase the vibrant legacy and community that exists in District 4 and pour into our future generations through development that makes it a place people want to remain in or move to.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 12/6/1981; Education: Bachelors of Art & Science in Sociology & Communications. Masters in Communication from DBU; Campaign Phone: (214) 919-8414; Website: <http://JoliAngelRobinson.com>; Email: [jangelrobinson@gmail.com](mailto:jangelrobinson@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JoliAngelRobinson/>

**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS:** My current role as Manager over Community Engagement at the Dallas Police Department, I work alongside many neighborhood groups, churches, schools, and non-profits in District 4. I live closest to the Cedar Crest Neighborhood Association and attend many of their monthly community meetings. Within my



## Corwyn Davis

Dallas City Council District 4 (unexpired term)

Board Member Mayor's Star Council, Alumni Dallas Association of Young Lawyers Dallas Bar Association, member Texas Trial Lawyers Association Urban League of Greater Dallas Young Professionals, former board member

**PRIORITIES:** 1. Investigation into appropriate affordable housing solutions for the members of the District. 2. Improving the accountability of city services such as code compliance, sanitation, and animal services to the residents of District 4. 3. Working with residents to create and/or attract new employers to the District that are committed to training and hiring young adults in District 4.

**ILLEGAL DUMPING:** As a former environmental specialist for the City of Dallas, I understand the importance of pollution-free land. I support any steps that utilize our current city services more efficiently to tackle the problem. I would not support an additional use of funds that takes away from more pressing issues to the citizens of District 4. I would also support any efforts to encourage community participation in the identification of those responsible and camera installations in high-traffic and dumping areas.

**RENOVATION, REVITALIZATION, AND GENTRIFICATION:** I plan on meeting with urban planners from around the country to get ideas of how we can revitalize the District while also conforming to the wishes of the residents. Ideally that means attracting new residents to the area, including those young ones that have moved away. Essentially, this can create a mixed-income community, which statistically can make for a stronger community. This also means educating the current residents about maintaining, securing, and protecting their property interests—including the passing of such ownership to heirs. Overall this requires intentional conversations that involve residents.

**YOUR DISTRICT'S CONCERNS:** Unfortunately, that term is not long. The main challenge I believe is the implementation of a new member in such a short term. As such, the council has made and will make a considerable number of important decisions without District 4 representation. This may also be our biggest opportunity to elect a new fresh and innovative voice that's only beholden to the people and not the Dallas political machine. I believe that is me.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 8/7/1985; Education: Xavier University of Louisiana, B.S. Biology TSU-Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Juris Doctorate; Campaign Phone: (214) 444-6437; Website: <http://www.corwyndavis.com>; Email: [info@corwyndavis.com](mailto:info@corwyndavis.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CorwynDavis4D4>; Twitter: [twitter.com/CorwynDavis4D4](https://twitter.com/CorwynDavis4D4)

**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS:** Concord Church (Dallas), Member The Davis Law Group, P.C., Managing Attorney Metroplex Locators, Owner Ink Realty Group, LLC, Realtor UNT Dallas College of Law, Adjunct Faculty Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Member Choose You Foundation, Inc., Board Member West Dallas Community Centers, Former

## Dallas City Council District 4 (unexpired term) — Continued



### Justina Walford

Dallas City Council District 4 (unexpired term)

manager for Studio Movie Grill \* Avid dog rescuer who captures feral dogs in Southern Dallas and fosters through various rescue groups

**PRIORITIES:** \* D4 is full of small businesses, especially family owned food establishments. We need to connect our existing businesses with the resources to grow: SBA loans, storefront beautification grants, and access to marketing outside of D4 to bring in new customers. \* Abandoned and nuisance properties are a health hazard and space for crime, illegal dumping, stray dogs. We need the right investors and utilization of city resources, including Code Compliance, to help our neighborhoods be restored. Animal Control & Public Safety: Stray dogs are a public safety concern. We need to prioritize trapping, spay/neuter, and outreach.

**ILLEGAL DUMPING:** \* Connect Code Compliance with the County Tax Office to create an effective and expedient plan to speed up the process of bringing lots that are behind in taxes and high in code fines to auction. \* More Code Compliance sweeps. \* Work with the Marshal on adding more cameras. \* Nurture relationships with neighbors and encourage 311 calls. \* Work with Code Compliance about the common complaint that nicer homes get fined while the fines at abandoned and neglected properties are ignored.

**RENOVATION, REVITALIZATION, AND GENTRIFICATION:** We are going to have to tailor that question to each community. For example, 10th Street needs a very different revitalization plan than Fruitdale. We start with the businesses and commercial areas, building up the existing community bonds and communal spaces. Also, we need to create transparency between the city, developers and home owners through neighborhood association leaders. Home owners can be an incredible source of collaboration and are often taken out of the conversation. While the city does not need to regulate how revitalization happens, it can nurture the lines of communication with added transparency.

**YOUR DISTRICT'S CONCERNS:** Public safety is vital. Police presence and response time needs to improve. Health hazards at buildings that are not code compliant (either abandoned lots or multi-unit landlord negligence) need to be mitigated. New dangerous dog policies need to be enforced. In the little time we have, the work needs to be on public safety. Our opportunity is helping our small businesses by bringing customers into D4. Events that invite all of Dallas to see what we have in D4 and immediate beautification projects and security presence.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 2/9/1970; Education: BA English Literature, San Francisco State University; Campaign Phone: (214) 617-2012; Website: <http://justinawalford.com>; Email: [justina.walford@gmail.com](mailto:justina.walford@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/WalfordWorksForD4/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/justinawalford](https://twitter.com/justinawalford)



### Kebran W Alexander

Dallas City Council District 4 (unexpired term)

Area Interfaith- Chair Healthcare Committee, NAACP Dallas- Healthcare Chair, Former Committee Member Greater Dallas Community of Churches

**PRIORITIES:** So many needs!!! The first three that come to mind, in no particular order: Improving healthcare options for district residents Improving Quality of Life for district residents (includes city services i.e., code enforcement, stray animals) Expanding Economic Development (job training, IT infrastructure, improving business climate)

**ILLEGAL DUMPING:** Focus on the relationship between city staff and district residents. We must develop an "All Hands On Deck" approach where we all have a vested interest in the outcome and everyone sees and acknowledges the effort being made. When we can confirm that everyone is doing their best to make improvements, we remove the barriers formed by distrust and apathy. I would also work to promote neighborhood beautification activities with city staff, homeowners, and volunteers. Homeowners take pride in keeping their property looking nice, but may need a little help. People are less likely to dump in well-maintained areas.

**RENOVATION, REVITALIZATION, AND GENTRIFICATION:** I would seek to maintain the character of existing neighborhoods by reviewing local ordinances. The city should form partnerships with banks and non-profit groups to provide home improvement funds to existing homeowners. The city should create a fund for senior residents without means to make necessary upkeep of their homestead property. The city should invest in District 4 in meaningful ways (i.e., infrastructure, code enforcement, and beautification) as a demonstration of commitment. I would also look to identify, create, and preserve historical designations for historical tours in the district.

**YOUR DISTRICT'S CONCERNS:** The biggest opportunity is the attention that the city will give the district due to the zoo deck park and the Byron Nelson. We have a unique opportunity to steer improvements to the district in ways that residents of the district deem critical. This is a time to build relationships with council members to set the city's agenda for after June 1. Part of that agenda must include plans for administering the most accurate census count in the city's history to obtain all of the money that the city deserves from the federal government.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 12/6/1969; Education: Bachelor of Arts- Political Science University of North Texas H.S. Diploma- Skyline High School; Website: <http://www.KebranAlexander.org>; Email: [KebranWAlexander@gmail.com](mailto:KebranWAlexander@gmail.com); Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com/KebranForDistrict4/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](http://www.facebook.com/KebranForDistrict4/?modal=admin_todo_tour); Twitter: [twitter.com/KebranForD4](https://twitter.com/KebranForD4)



### Carolyn King Arnold

Dallas City Council District 4 (unexpired term)

Black Dallas Negro Council of Women - Recognition for Outstanding Service and Dedication to Home, Church, and Human Kind

**PRIORITIES:** My top priorities would include (1) Public Safety (2) Code Compliance and (3) Job Creation/Employment Public Safety - Increase Neighborhood Policing Officers and D4 Neighborhood Crime Watch Programs. Expand the training opportunities for NPO to work with residents to develop a Public Safety Plan to reduce crime. Code - Change the reporting mechanisms, response time and create a constituent friendly system for understanding and reporting violations. Job Creation - Actively pursue the relocation of Corporate or satellite offices in District 4. Advocate the expansion of living wage and inclusion of paid sick leave

**ILLEGAL DUMPING:** Some of the steps would include (1) Identifying areas where dumping takes place frequently and taking steps to have video cameras installed, (2) Develop a city-wide campaign to educate residents on the adverse affects of illegal dumping on the environment and (3) Strengthen the education and citywide campaign on responsible animal ownership, care, and penalties for violation.

**RENOVATION, REVITALIZATION, AND GENTRIFICATION:** My plans would include: (1) Submission of proposed adjustments in the Housing Policy to serve District 4 residents, from the working poor to the affluent, (2) Creating continuing education opportunities regarding the City Home Repair Program and (3) actively pursuing developers to build new homes that are compatible with existing neighborhoods throughout District 4. The City should take steps to manage gentrification. Establishing protective zoning, homestead preservation districts and other policies to prevent gentrification and thus displacement.

**YOUR DISTRICT'S CONCERNS:** The biggest opportunity would be to ensure the bonds are being sold in a timely manner in order to carry out proposed projects. I think the challenge is to utilize the \$10 million discretionary fund to serve as a catalyst for economic development and housing in District 4.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 7/11/1953; Education: M.EDAD (Masters - Education Administration); Campaign Phone: (214) 316-7189; Website: <http://www.together4Dallas.com>; Email: [ckarnold2015@gmail.com](mailto:ckarnold2015@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://carolynkingarnold>



## CITY OF DESOTO SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL A VACANCY

The City Council is the governing and law making body of the City of DeSoto and consists of a Mayor and six Councilmembers. All are elected at large, by qualified voters of the entire city, and members must reside in the district they represent. The Mayor represents the city as a whole and is not required to live in a particular district.

**PROPERTY TAXES:** What specific changes, if any, would you support to DeSoto's property tax rate?

**MANAGING GROWTH:** What challenges are presented by DeSoto's rapid population growth and expansion of its economic base? How would you propose to manage them? Please be specific.

**HOUSING:** As home prices continue to escalate, pressure increases for affordable housing options for families. The Council recently

approved additional apartment construction in DeSoto. Share your thoughts on this decision.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Would you reprioritize or enhance code-enforcement responsibilities?

**Opportunity/Challenge:** What do you view as DeSoto's biggest opportunity and/or challenge during the next council term?

### For Councilmember, Place 2, Unexpired Term



#### **Kay Brown-Patrick** Desoto City Council PI 2 (unexpired term)

are experiencing, I believe it shows that they are aware and working to relief some of that burden that has come with the steady increases in home values. **MANAGING GROWTH:** As valuable as an increasing population can be to local government, businesses and local residents, it can also bring problems like heavy traffic, driving housing costs up and creating a higher demand for local services than can be supported. You've got costs associated with serving growth. Rather than a win for local government, it ends up having a fiscally negative impact. The challenges can be managed by focusing our development efforts on growing better, not bigger. We have to be proactive in addressing current and foreseeable challenges. We must start thinking about

stabilizing for the long term.

**HOUSING:** Although the need for affordable housing by way of multi-family development in DeSoto is necessary, we have to be more strategic in the development of such properties. If we are going to rezone viable properties that are zoned for retail or commercial use, we should highly consider requesting that the multi-family development be mixed-use so that it's a win for everyone including surrounding residents. This simulates a win-win scenario for the City whereas we will have a development that supports both the property tax base as well as the sales tax base.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Yes. One of the items on my campaign platform is neighborhood stabilization. An estimated 40% of the homes in DeSoto are rental properties and they account for a high percentage of neighborhood code violations. To facilitate neighborhood stabilization, I would advocate for the development of a Single-Family Rental Registration Program. The purpose of the program would be to protect the vitality of the City by ensuring its rental housing stock is maintained in a safe and healthy manner. Registration would be the responsibility of the property owner, not the tenant. Complete details can be found at [www.vote4kay.com](http://www.vote4kay.com).

**OPPORTUNITY/CHALLENGE:** We have a lot of great things happening in DeSoto. The City of DeSoto has an opportunity to brand itself and tell its story with the facts. Facts that won't allow the perceptions of our schools, our residents, our leadership, or our City in general to be the driving force as to how we are viewed to prospective developers, corporations, retailers, and future residents. We have to be more aggressive and intentional in branding ourselves outside of the Best Southwest and overcoming the negative perception given to cities in Southern Dallas County.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Education: Bach. of Science - Criminal Justice Masters in Public Administration University of North Texas; Campaign Phone: (214) 814-5249; Website: <http://www.vote4kay.com>; Email: [info@vote4kay.com](mailto:info@vote4kay.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/electkaybrownpatrick>



#### **Patricia Ledbetter** Desoto City Council PI 2 (unexpired term)

crease has been in the I&O costs with managing debt services and refinancing bonds for a better rate. The M&O covers the excellent services the citizens receive. We continue to have 2 trash pickups each week and one recycle pick up.

**MANAGING GROWTH:** The best return to the city and managing tax rate is in commercial first then retail partners. With limited land areas for development a keen eye must be kept on balancing the invitation of commercial partners that employ citizens and are good neighbors to property owners. Leveraging city owned land for development has been successful. Along with population growth comes transportation, water resources, school and quality of life needs.

**HOUSING:** Having affordable apartments option are important and placement of those properties. Families bring additional growth to both schools and increase traffic on our streets. Desoto must continue to review their projected needs and abilities to fund with attracting families to our area, making available quality jobs for them. Studies have shown when cities increase commercial business, it can decrease the burden to property owners. Planning and Zoning needs to review ordinances, and look at land usage to leverage commercial and retail.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Code Enforcement is the number one action center request concern of our citizens. Since cities have limited funds to employee police officers and code enforcement, it continues to be important to have our citizens be our eyes and ears in the neighborhoods to work with code enforcement with their duties. Desoto code enforcement is responsive to the citizens and the city from my experience.

**OPPORTUNITY/CHALLENGE:** Desoto has opportunity to continue the Best Southwest partnership to meet goals. Such as our collaboration for the Tri-city Animal Shelter and Regional Jail. Transportation for citizens who work outside Desoto, and aging populations needs to shop and make doctor appointments. Affordable housing for residents, and quality jobs in the area. Even if the city were to do everything efficiently, school taxes continue to be the greatest cost on my property taxes. School taxes are funded about 45% as a national average in other states, and Texas funds schools about 38%. Legislatures need to prioritize school funding.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Education: B.A. University of Texas at Austin; Campaign Phone: (682) 307-2784; Email: [ledbetterplace2@gmail.com](mailto:ledbetterplace2@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://PatriciaLedbetterCampaign>; Twitter: [twitter.com/LedbetterPL2](https://twitter.com/LedbetterPL2); You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/myqEZArfbWo>

Before you go to vote, make sure you know where your polling place is. Sometimes polling locations change. Find polling locations for both early voting in person and election day at [www.DallasCountyVotes.org](http://www.DallasCountyVotes.org) or call Dallas County or the League of Women Voters of Dallas.

# City of Duncanville Special Bond Election

## Answer For/Against

### City of Duncanville Proposition A

The issuance of \$6,600,000 general obligation bonds for Parks and Recreation facilities.

### City of Duncanville Proposition B

The issuance of \$6,600,000 general obligation bonds for Street Improvements including sidewalk, alley, and other traffic flow improvements.

### City of Duncanville Proposition C

The issuance of \$6,000,000 general obligation bonds for Fire Fighting Facilities.

### City of Duncanville Proposition D

The issuance of \$2,400,000 general obligation bonds for remodeling and renovating of existing Municipal Buildings.

# CITY OF GLENN HEIGHTS GENERAL ELECTION

The governing and lawmaking body shall consist of a Mayor and six (6) Council Members. They shall run for office by place and be elected from the City at large for a term of three (3) years. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the vote, there will be a runoff election.

## For Member of Council, Place 1

**Sonja A Brown, Stacey Norris, Christine Xochihua, Travis Bruton, Graham Sean Weatherspoon II**

## For Member of Council, Place 3

**Jeremy "Mr. Jay" Woods, Emma Ipaye**

## For Member of Council, Place 5

**Isaac J Burren, Harry Garrett, Shaunte L Allen**

# City of Glenn Heights Special Charter Amendment Election

## Answer For/Against

### Proposition A

Amend Article 3, Section 3.01 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Glenn Heights to remove the language "no less than 50% of the votes cast" and provide instead that all candidates for the City Council shall file for one place and shall be elected to that place by obtaining greater than 50% of the votes cast.

### Proposition B

Amend Article 6, Section 6.02, of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Glenn Heights to provide that the City Judge, together with all alternate City Judges for the City of Glenn Heights, Texas, shall be appointed by the City Council for a two (2) year term, subject to removal by the City Council, with or without cause.

### Proposition C

Amend Article 9, Section 9.02 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Glenn Heights to remove the reference to the Dallas County Appraisal District and the Texas State Property Tax Codes and to provide that every person, partnership, association or corporation holding, owning, or controlling property within the limits of the City shall on January 1st of each year be assessed as prescribed by State law.

### Proposition D

Amend Article 13, Section 13.21 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Glenn Heights to remove reference to a unanimous vote and to allow the City Council to correct typographical, grammatical, gender-specific or other non-substantive errors in the Charter by a majority vote, provided that no such correction may alter the substantive meaning of any provision of the Charter.

### Proposition E

Amend Article 13 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Glenn Heights to add a new section 13.23 which would provide as follows: Within eighteen (18) months of adoption of this section, the City Council shall, by Resolution, adopt a Code of Ethics to govern the conduct of all City officials, including all members of all City councils, boards, committees, or commissions, while such persons hold such position or office. The Code of Ethics will not apply to or govern employees or independent contractors of the City. At a minimum, the Code of Ethics shall incorporate the conflict of interest standards that appear in chapter 171 of the Texas Local Government Code and all state law as presently exists or may hereafter be amended or adopted. The City Council may adopt more stringent standards than those that appear in state law, but the Code of Ethics shall at a minimum include the following components: (a) definition of a prohibited improper economic interest and personal gain; (b) definition of recusal and improper participation when a potential conflict of interest is present; (c) avoidance of appearance of conflict of interest; and (d) administration and enforcement of the Code of Ethics coupled with strong and meaningful remedies for infraction. Prior to adoption of the Code of Ethics, the City Council may establish and appoint qualified voters to serve as members of an Ethics Advisory Commission, which Commission shall be charged with preparing and presenting to the City Council for its consideration a proposed Code of Ethics.

## City of Glenn Heights Special Charter Amendment Election – Continued

### Proposition F

Amend Article 2, Section 2.03 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Glenn Heights to provide that all members of the City Council shall have taken the oath of office to qualify to serve in his or her official capacity on the City Council.

## City of Seagoville Special Charter Amendment Election

### Answer For/Against

#### Proposition A

Shall Section 3.01, "Term of Office", of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Seagoville be amended by repealing in their entirety the term limits listed in Subsection (f), as applicable to the City Councilmembers and the Mayor?

#### Proposition B

Shall Section 9.03, "Nepotism", of the Home Rule Charter be amended to repeal the provision that prohibits the City from hiring any person who is related to another City employee by the third (3rd) degree of affinity (marriage) or consanguinity (blood)?

## Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District Bond Election

### Answer For/Against

#### Proposition A

The issuance of \$350,935,000 of bonds by the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District for school facilities and the levying of a tax in payment thereof.

## Dallas Independent School District Bond Election

### Answer For/Against

#### Proposition A

"The issuance of \$75,000,000 of bonds for the purchase of new school buses and bus maintenance and operating facilities, and the levying of the tax in payment thereof."

#### Arguments For the Proposition

#### Arguments Against the Proposition

1.This bond issue would provide funding for DISD to replace school buses out of debt service (I&S) rather than operating funds (O&M). Operating funds are pinched by "recapture" and reductions in state funding while debt service funds are healthy due to taxable values increases. The expected useful life of a school bus is 12 to 15 years, so is appropriate to finance with long term debt. This item would give some relief to the operating funds which pay for teacher salaries and educational programs. It will cause no increase in the tax rate.

1. DISD should continue to pay for school bus replacement out of operations since that is the way this expense was paid in the past when student transportation was provided by Dallas County Schools.

2. In the past, DISD paid fees to the Dallas County School District out of operations to provide student transportation. Dallas County Schools, in turn, financed school bus replacement. DISD no longer has to pay fees to Dallas County Schools since it has been dissolved.

2. In the past, school bus replacement was paid for, in part, by a one cent per hundred dollar valuation property tax levied by Dallas County Schools. With the dissolution of Dallas County Schools, in time the one cent tax will also go away. DISD should not have to replace the loss of the one cent tax. Property taxes are already too high.

#### Proposition B

"The issuance of \$75,000,000 of bonds for refunding outstanding limited maintenance tax notes, and the levying of the tax in payment thereof."

#### Arguments For the Proposition

#### Arguments Against the Proposition

1.This item will replace debt issued in 2015 to pay for school renovations, and which is currently being retired from operating funds, with debt that will be retired from debt service funds. Operating funds are stressed due to reductions in state funding, "recapture", teacher pay increases and educational programs, whereas debt service funds are healthy. This item will provide relief to operating funds.

1. In principal, DISD should not be issuing additional debt, even if it is simply to replace existing debt.

2. This item will not increase the tax rate or the speed at which DISD is retiring its debt.

# Dallas Independent School District Tax Ratification Election

## Answer For/Against

### Proposition C

“Approving the ad valorem tax rate of \$1.412035 per \$100 valuation in Dallas Independent School District for the current year, a rate that is \$0.12995 higher per \$100 valuation than the school district rollback tax rate, for the purpose of generating additional local and state revenue for district maintenance and operations.”

Arguments For the Proposition	Arguments Against the Proposition
1. DISD’s property tax rate of \$1.28 per \$100 assessed value is currently the lowest of all school districts in Dallas County except for Highland Park, meaning DISD has less to spend on educating students. This tax increase would put DISD’s tax rate closer to those of surrounding districts.	1. The current tax rate of \$1.28 per \$100 of assessed value is already a burden for DISD property owners, especially with recent rapid increases in property values. This tax increase would make the burden heavier.
2. Federal and state investment in schools is not keeping pace with growth, forcing ISDs to act locally to provide needed resources. In fact, as local property values and taxes rise, revenue from the state to schools actually decreases.	2. DISD should seek savings by cutting expensive administrative salaries and overhead instead of increasing property taxes.
3. Rising property values are causing DISD to be classified as a “rich” district under state “Robin Hood” laws, meaning DISD will be required to return an estimated \$18 million (“recapture”) to the state next year, and more in the future, adding serious stress to the budget. This tax increase will offset the “recapture” as well as provide additional resources for the district to spend on education.	3. DISD has made great improvements recently in the quality of education despite its relatively low property tax rate. It should continue on its current path while continuing to live within its means.
4. DISD plans to spend the additional revenue on increased teacher and staff pay, early childhood learning, expansion of choice schools and to make “Robin Hood” or “recapture” payments to the state in future years. Recent innovative programs have improved the quality of education in DISD, and the district needs the revenue in order to continue with and expand successful initiatives.	4. DISD should work to persuade state officials to fund school districts equitably instead of increasing the burden on local taxpayers.

# Dallas Independent School District Special Election

## Answer For/Against

### Proposition D

“Authorizing the Board of Trustees of the Dallas Independent School District to purchase attendance credits from the state with local tax revenues.”

Arguments For the Proposition	Arguments Against the Proposition
1. DISD is now classified as a “property rich” district under “Robin Hood” laws and, thus, subject to “recapture”, meaning it must make contributions from local property tax revenue to the state. DISD will pay its required “recapture” by purchasing attendance credits, which is one of the ways provided by state law for paying “recapture”. DISD is not allowed to simply write a check to the state.	1. If DISD voters do not approve this item, then the state will detach the most valuable commercial properties from DISD’s tax base and add them to another district’s base. The property owners of the detached property could then rise up in anger and attempt to force the state to improve the way schools are financed.
2. The alternative to purchasing attendance credits is for the state to permanently “detach” property from an ISDs tax base and add it to the base of a “property poor” district. The most valuable commercial properties would be the ones detached. When property is detached, the district loses forever the ability to raise I&S taxes on it, which is very detrimental. The purchase of attendance credits is a far better long term option for DISD.	

# Richardson Independent School District Tax Ratification Election

## Answer For/Against

### Proposition A: Tax Ratification Election

Approving the ad valorem tax rate of \$1.52 per \$100 valuation in Richardson Independent School District for the current year, a rate that is \$0.13 higher per \$100 valuation than the school district rollback tax rate, for the purpose of generating additional local and state revenue for district maintenance and operations.

**Explanation:** On August 20, 2018, the Board of Trustees of the Richardson Independent School District (RISD) voted to raise its Maintenance & Operations (M&O) tax rate by 13 cents from \$1.04 to \$1.17 per \$100 valuation. Under Texas law, the district is now required to ask voters to ratify the 13 cent tax increase provided by the state. Generally speaking, school funding formulas used by the state determine the total amount a school district can spend at a given tax rate, regardless of how much local property values increase. A higher M&O tax rate would allow the school district to spend more money on salaries, programs, security, and other recurring expenses. If this tax rate increase is approved, school property taxes on an RISD house of average taxable value (\$234,915 after homestead exemption) will increase by \$305 next year. School property taxes are frozen for taxpayers with a homestead exemption at age 65, so most older RISD homeowners will not pay higher school taxes if this rate increase passes. The total school property tax rate is comprised of the M&O amount (which pays for normal recurring expenditures such as salaries, utilities, and supplies) combined with the \$0.35 Interest and Sinking (I & S) amount (which is used to pay for infrastructure, facilities, and renovations). Public schools in Texas are mainly supported through a combination of local property taxes and revenues

Supporters Say:

Opponents Say:

- RISD needs a local property tax rate increase to offset reduced levels of state funding in recent years, so that it can continue to educate students, pay staff, and run safe and effective schools.

- Taxes for RISD property owners are already increasing substantially this year due to higher property appraisals. A school property tax rate increase at this time will result in even larger tax bills, which many homeowners cannot afford.

- RISD operated at a deficit last year in hopes that the Legislature would increase the state's share of public school funding in its last session, which it did not. There is no guarantee the state will increase funding in the next legislative session.

- The reduction in the state's share of funding due to the current school funding formulas is the cause of the district's financial situation. The remedy should not be an increase in the local property tax rate. The remedy should be an increase in state funding from the Legislature in Austin.

- Several other local school districts have already raised their M&O tax rate to \$1.17, the maximum allowable and the rate the RISD is seeking. Passage of the higher tax rate will allow the RISD to pay teacher salaries that are competitive with these other school districts.

- Unlike some local school districts with the same \$1.04 M&O tax rate that the RISD currently has, the RISD board has not increased teacher salaries to competitive levels. Spending priorities should be adjusted so that teachers can be paid competitively without such a large tax increase.

- If this tax rate passes, RISD expects to have sufficient funds to meet planned expenditures for the next five years. If this tax rate does not pass, RISD will have to explore a hiring freeze, increased class sizes, program cuts, foregoing planned hiring of security personnel, and the institution of fees for extracurricular activities.

- According to the RISD's own projections, a smaller increase in the M&O tax rate would have been sufficient to meet planned expenses for the next year. Future planned spending should be reduced to meet available revenues. This 13 cent increase is excessive.

- Legally, revenues raised from the 5 cent increase in the I&S tax rate two years ago cannot be transferred to the M&O account. In order for RISD to maintain its standard of excellence, the M&O revenues must be increased to meet recurring expenses, such as salaries.

- RISD raised its I&S tax rate by 5 cents in the 2016 bond election to pay for construction and infrastructure, and now they want to raise the M&O rate by an additional 13 cents. This shows poor planning on the part of the RISD board, which should rein in spending, not increase it.

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT MAP

### Dallas County Voting Precincts

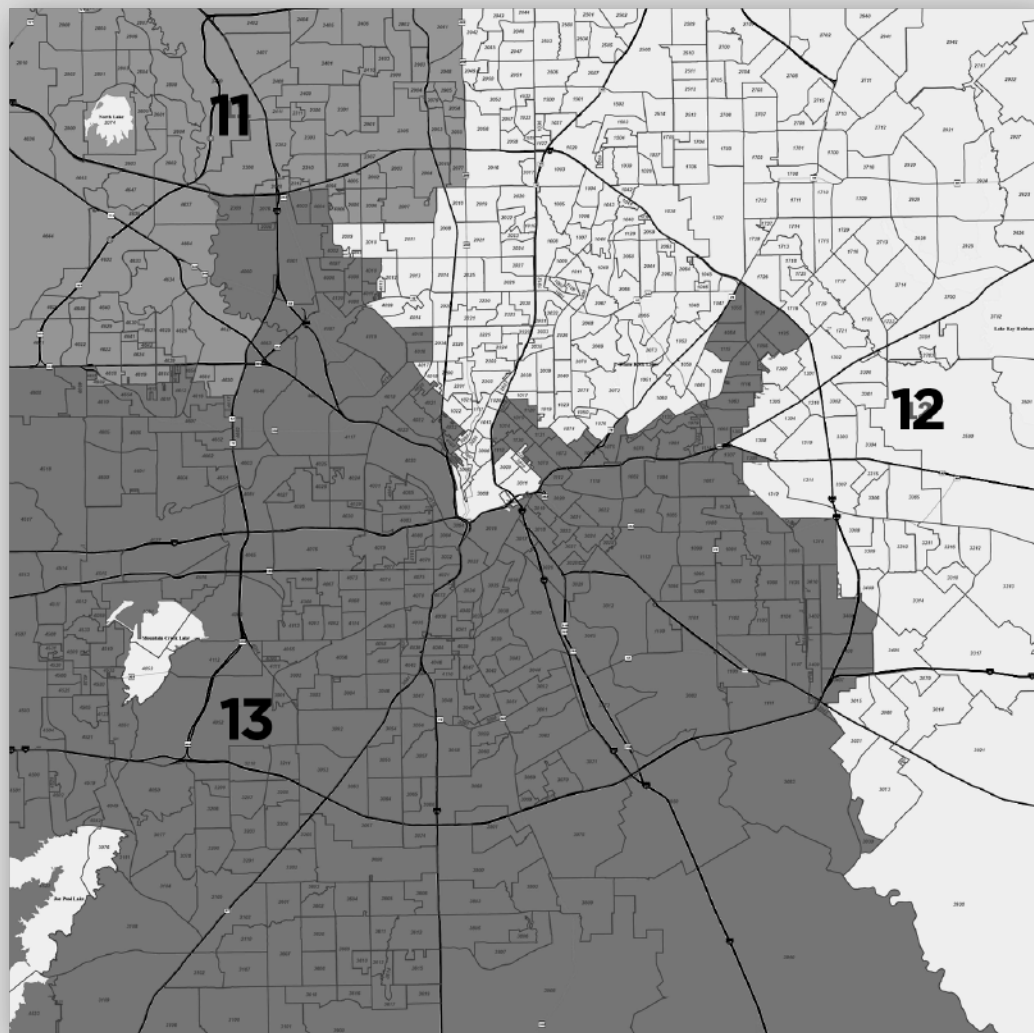
### State Board of Education Districts

#### Legend

 Voting Precincts

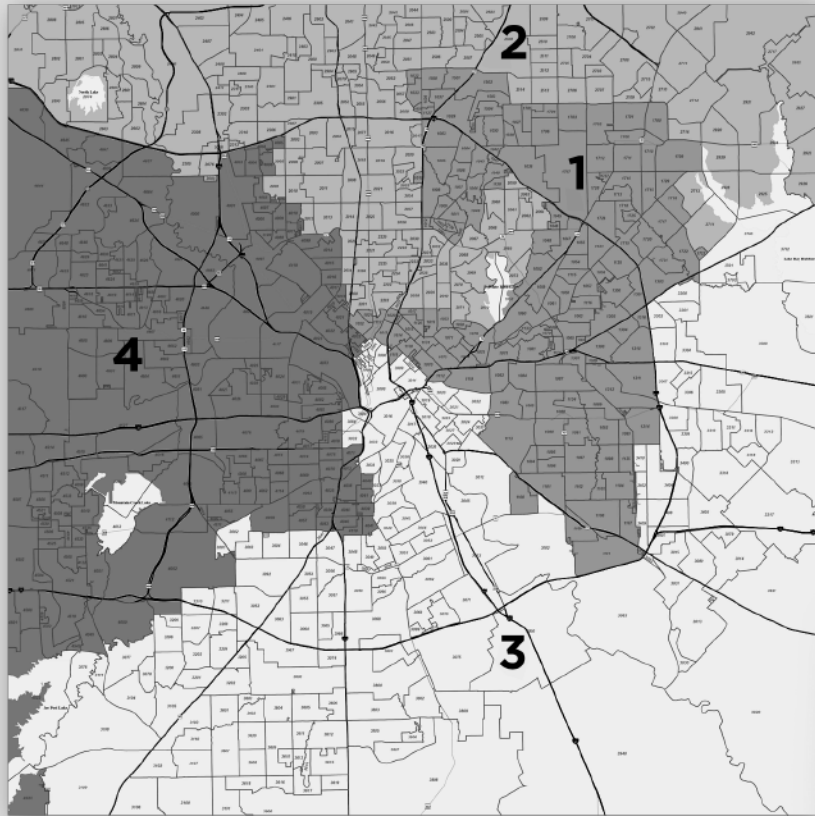
#### Board of Education District - Plan E120

-  11
-  12
-  13



Dallas County Elections  
 2377 N Stemmons Fwy, Suite 820  
 Dallas, TX 75207  
<http://www.dallascountyvotes.org>  
 September 2013

# COMMISSIONERS COURT & TEXAS SENATE DISTRICT MAPS



## Dallas County Voting Precincts

*Commissioners Court Districts*

### Legend

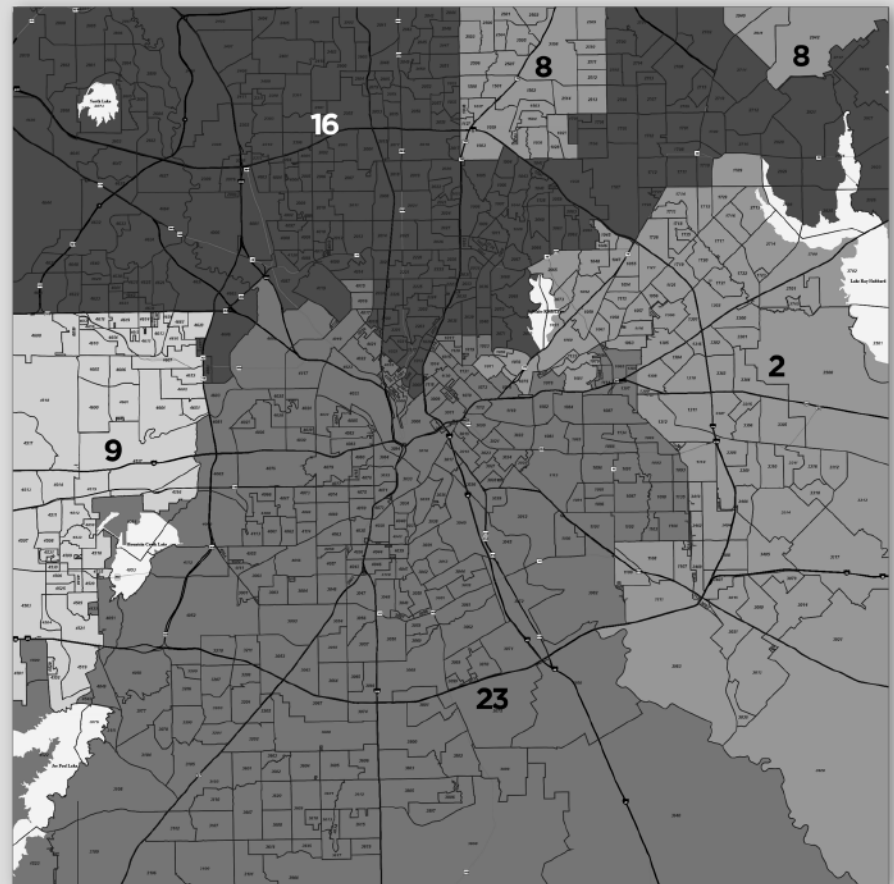
- Voting Precincts
- Commissioners Court District**
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

## Dallas County Voting Precincts

*Texas Senate Districts*

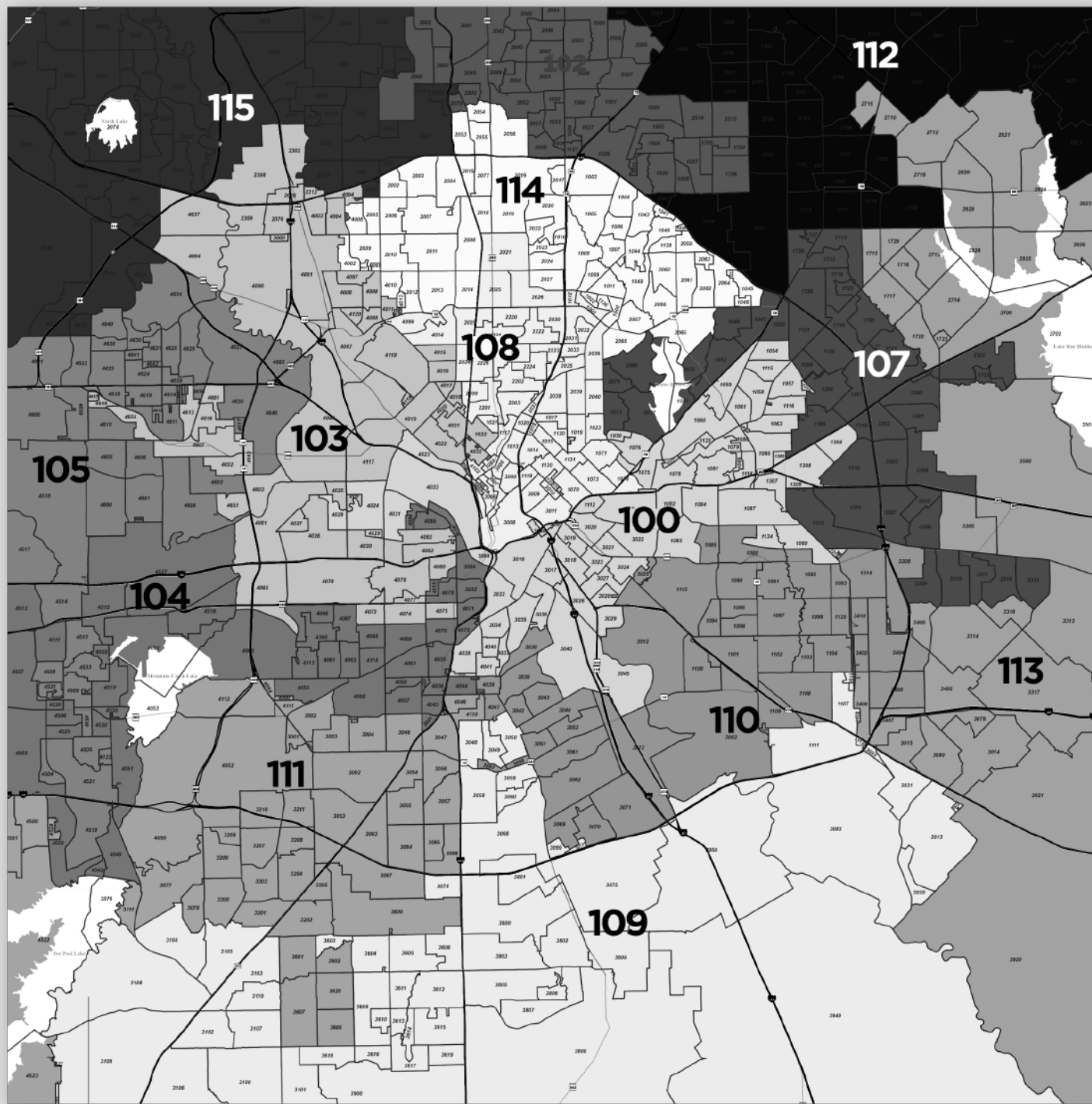
### Legend

- Voting Precincts
- Texas Senate District - Plan S172**
- 2
- 8
- 9
- 16
- 23



Dallas County Elections  
 2377 N Stemmons Fwy, Suite 620  
 Dallas, TX 75207  
<http://www.dallascountyvotes.org>  
 September 2013

# TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT MAP



## Dallas County Voting Precincts

*Texas House  
of Representatives  
Districts*

### Legend

□ Voting Precincts

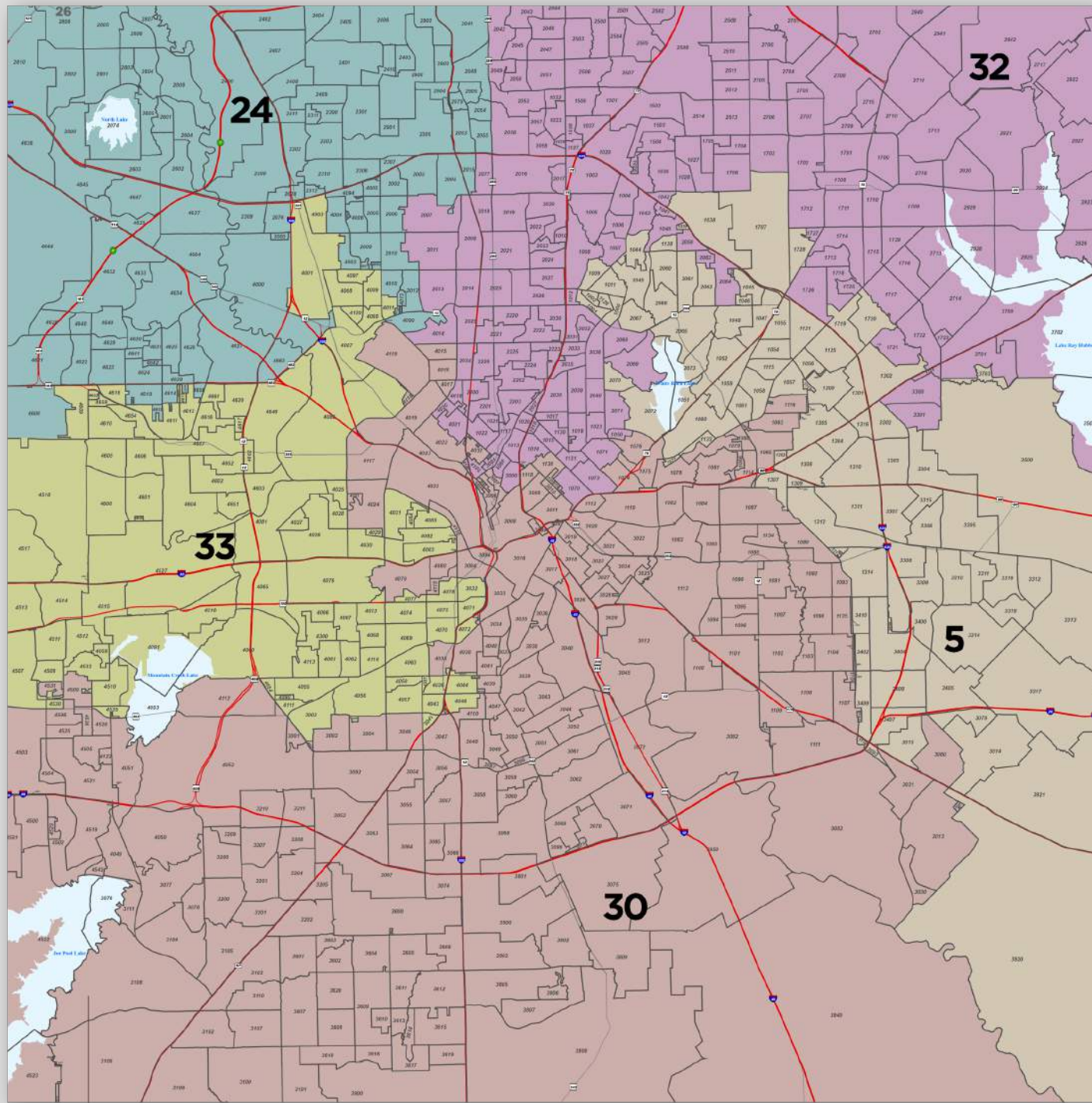
### Texas House District - Plan H358

- |       |       |
|-------|-------|
| □ 100 | □ 109 |
| ■ 102 | ■ 110 |
| ■ 103 | ■ 111 |
| ■ 104 | ■ 112 |
| ■ 105 | ■ 113 |
| ■ 107 | ■ 114 |
| ■ 108 | ■ 115 |



Dallas County Elections  
2377 N Stemmons Fwy, Suite 820  
Dallas, TX 75207  
<http://www.dallascountyvotes.org>  
September 2013








# U. S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAP



**Dallas County  
Voting Precincts**

*U.S. Congressional  
Districts*

**Legend**

-  Voting Precincts
- Congressional District Plan C235**
-  5
-  24
-  26
-  30
-  32
-  33



Dallas County Elections  
2377 N Stemmons Fwy, Suite 820  
Dallas, TX 75207  
<http://www.dallascountyvotes.org>  
September 2013