



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

2019 BALCH SPRINGS

# VOTERS GUIDE

NON PARTISAN

EARLY VOTING • APRIL 22, 2019 – APRIL 30, 2019

ELECTION DAY • MAY 4, 2019 • POLLS OPEN 7 AM TO 7 PM

## BE A TEXAS VOTER

### About This Voters Guide

This printed *Voters Guide* lists items that will be on the ballot for the May 4, 2019 Balch Springs and DCCCD bond election. Candidate responses are presented as submitted without editing. This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Dallas which does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. Call 214-688-4125 or [lvvdallas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lvvdallas@sbcglobal.net) for questions.

### Vote411.org

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

### Photo ID Requirement

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

### Eligibility for Voting

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

### Early Voting Times & Locations

Monday April 22 – Saturday April 27	8AM to 5PM
Sunday April 28	1PM to 6PM
Monday April 29 – Tuesday April 30	7AM to 7PM

Dallas County residents may vote at any of these locations:

Addison Fire Station #1	4798 Airport Pkwy	Addison
Balch Springs Civic Center	12400 Elam Road	Balch Springs
Bethany Lutheran Church	10101 Walnut Hill Lane	Dallas
Betty Warmack Library	760 Bardin Rd	Grand Prairie
Cedar Hill Government Center	285 Uptown Blvd	Cedar Hill
Coppell Town Center	255 E Parkway Blvd	Coppell
Crosswinds High School	1100 N Carrier Pkwy	Grand Prairie
Dallas ISD Administration Bldg	9400 N Central Expwy	Dallas
Disciple Central Com Church	901 N Polk St	DeSoto

Duncanville Library	201 James Collins	Duncanville
Eastfield Col-Pleasant Grove Cmp	802 S Buckner	Dallas
El Centro Col-Main Campus	801 Main Street	Dallas
El Centro Col-West Campus	3330 N Hampton Road	Dallas
Farmers Branch City Hall	13000 William Dodson Pkwy	Farmers Bnch
Florence Recreation Center	2501 Whitson Way	Mesquite
Frankford Townhomes	18110 Marsh Land	Dallas
Fretz Park Library	6990 Belt Line Road	Dallas
Friendship West Baptist Church	2020 Wheatland Road	Dallas
George Allen Courts Building (Main Early Voting Location)	600 Commerce St	Dallas
Grauwylar Park Rec Center	7780 Harry Hines Blvd	Dallas
Harry Stone Recreation Center	2403 Millmar Drive	Dallas
Highland Hills Library	6200 Bonnie View Road	Dallas
Hutchins City Hall	321 North Main Street	Hutchins
Irving Arts Center	3333 N Macarthur Blvd	Irving
Irving City Hall	825 W Irving Blvd	Irving
J Erik Jonsson Central Library	1515 Young Street	Dallas
Jaycee Zaragoza Recreation Ctr	3114 Clymer Streets	Dallas
Josey Ranch Library	1700 Keller Springs Rd	Carrollton
Lakeside Activity Center	101 Holley Park Drive	Mesquite
Lakewood Branch Library	6121 Worth Street	Dallas
Lancaster Vet Memorial Lib	1600 Vet Memorial Pkwy	Lancaster
Lochwood Library	11221 Lochwood Blvd	Dallas
Marsh Lane Baptist Church	10716 Marsh Lane	Dallas
Martin Luther King Core Bldg	2922 Martin Luther King Blvd	Dallas
Martin Weiss Rec Center	1111 Martindell Avenue	Dallas
Mountain Creek Library	6102 Mountain Creek Pkwy	Dallas
Oak Cliff Sub-Courthouse	410 S Beckley	Dallas
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	7611 Park Lane	Dallas
Paul L Dunbar Lan-Kiest Lib	2008 East Kiest Blvd	Dallas
Preston Royal Library	5626 Royal Lane	Dallas
Renner-Frankford Library	6400 Frankford Road	Dallas
Reverchon Recreation Center	3505 Maple Avenue	Dallas
Richardson Civic Center	411 W Arapaho Road	Richardson
Richland College-Garland Camp	675 W Walnut St	Garland
Richland Col-Main Camp "G" Bldg	12800 Abrams Rd	Dallas
Rowlett City Hall Annex	4004 Main St	Rowlett
Sachse City Hall	3815 Sachse Road	Sachse
Samuell Grand Rec Center	6200 East Grand Ave	Dallas
Seagoville City Hall	702 N Highway 175	Seagoville
Skyline Branch Library	6006 Everglade Road	Dallas
South Garland Branch Library	4845 Broadway Blvd	Garland
Sunnyvale Town Hall	127 North Collins Road	Sunnyvale
Valley Ranch Library	401 Cimarron Trail	Irving
Wilmer Community Center	101 Davidson Plaza	Wilmer

### Election Day Times & Locations

Polls open 7 AM to 7 PM on May 4, election day. For election day locations see [DallasCountyVotes.org](http://DallasCountyVotes.org) or call 214.819.6300.

## CITY OF BALCH SPRINGS GENERAL ELECTION

The City operates under a "Council-Manager" system where the City Council sets the policies and budget and the City Manager is responsible for City operations. The City Council appoints the City Manager. The City Council consists of the Mayor and 6 City Council members, 5 of whom shall be elected from single member Districts and 2 of whom (Mayor and Place 2) shall be elected at large.

Four of the council members shall be elected in odd numbered years (Mayor and Places 3, 5 and 7) and 3 of the council members shall be elected in even numbered years (Places 2, 4 and 6). All positions serve a 2 year term. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the vote, there will be a runoff election.

### Questions to Candidates

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** *What specific actions would you support to advance economic development?*

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** *What priority would you give to upgrading the city's infrastructure and how would you propose paying for needed upgrades?*

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** *As home prices escalate, pressure increases for affordable housing options for families. Do you support additional apartment construction in the city? What solutions would you support?*

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** *How would you rate the city's performance in the area of public safety? Would you recommend changes? if you recommend enhancements, how would you pay for them? How would you prioritize these changes compared to other city needs?*

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

### Mayor

#### Steven Gorwood



**Biographical Info:**

**Age:** 3/1/1952

**Education:** Bachelors degree in Physics Bachelors degree in Electronics Technology

**Website:** <http://www.facebook.com/MayorStevenGorwood>

**Campaign Phone:** (214) 402-7004

**Email:** MayorSteve@gorwood.org

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

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** We have been doing a lot of work to reach out to major corporations and this is good; but we cannot depend upon them for our economic future. We do not do nearly enough to help our local businesses grow and prosper. Our regulations are often relaxed when a large corporation wishes to come to our city; but the local businesses still have to obey the more burdensome requirements. Everyone should be treated the same.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** When I talk to citizens, four things rate very high as concerns: Roads, Sidewalks, Safety, and Taxes. Everything else is peripheral. Following the 2008 recession, we stopped maintaining our roads for several years and we are currently playing catch up. We are heavily investing in repairing our streets and need to continue to do so. Only half of our roads have

sidewalks. We also need to create a sidewalk system to improve safety for our children as they walk to and from our schools and parks. We have one of the higher city tax rates around. I do not support any solution that raises taxes higher than they are.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** We currently have two large new apartment communities being built in our city. We have a third that has been proposed and is going through the approval process. If all three are build, the number of new apartment units will increase by over 25%. There is a limit on how fast the city can add new apartment units without creating problems. I support the two new apartment complexes currently under construction. I do not support starting additional apartment construction until these two developments are complete and occupied.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** I believe that we have an very professional police force and an excellent Police Chief. They are doing a good job with the resources available to them. Unfortunately, a lot of our problems have to do with mentally ill individuals or from people coming into our city from other areas. Our Fire Department is rated among the top 5% in the nation. More attention to the problems of the homeless and mentally ill population will do a lot to improve our public safety.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** As development expands into our area, we expect a lot more growth within our city. This growth gives us the opportunity to fix some long term problems within the city; but can also create new problems for our citizens. The challenge is to accept this growth while looking ahead to anticipate and avoid the problems (traffic gridlock, unsafe roads, etc) this growth may create. The city needs to look further out than a one or two year timeline as it plans for growth.

## Carrie Marshall

NO RESPONSE

City Council, Place 3

## Shawn Monk

### Biographical Info:

**Age:** 7/10/2000

**Education:** 2018 graduate of mesquite high school currently attend Universal Technical Institute

**Website:** <http://www.facebook.com/theshawnmonk>

**Campaign Phone:** (469) 230-9397

**Email:** [Shawnmonk12@gmail.com](mailto:Shawnmonk12@gmail.com)

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** - no response -

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** Much of our infrastructure is old, maybe not “falling apart old” but much of our town looks like it was out of a early 90s tv show. Which isn’t always a bad thing either. But due

to lack of responsible development much of our infrastructure is atleast 20-30 years old and to MY knowledge has not been remodeled on the outside.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** No. Simply put. I do not support more apartments and neither do many of my citizens, we already have 2 complex's under construction and 1 pending approval, this would bring our city to ATLEAST 10 apartment complex's. We as a 9 square mile city only have so much space to grow and we should use this space responsibly.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Public safety is my number one priority being a 4th generation citizen my family and I have seen the good bad and ugly of Balch Springs, many of our major thoroughfares do not have side walks which leaves those traveling by foot walking in the street. In addition any of our streets are becoming hazardous to those who do drive them and we need to repair many roads or look into widening roads due to our growing city.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** The greatest Challenge I feel I will face in the next few years will be the sidewalks, my citizens have asked for sidewalks for many years, my family has lived on Shepard for almost 50 years and have yet to see one. I would like to ATLEAST get the process started, but I will not settle for bare minimum

## Helen Ruth Shelby

NO RESPONSE

### City Council, Place 5

## Jessie Patino

NO RESPONSE

## Charlene Rushing

NO RESPONSE

### City Council, Place 7

## Tartisha Hill

NO RESPONSE

## Marie Tedei



**Biographical Info:**

**Age:** 1/10/1965

**Education:** After an early graduation from high school, I took college electives that aligned w/my interests.

**Website:** <http://www.marietedei4balchsprings.com>

**Campaign Phone:** (469) 427-3312

**Email:** [contact@marietedei4balchsprings.com](mailto:contact@marietedei4balchsprings.com)

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

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** The EDC has a treasure trove of opportunities for new and expanding businesses that could benefit some of our small, independently owned establishments. Many of our small businesses are unaware of these opportunities. I'd like to see more involvement with our existing business owners beyond our Facade Program. I would also like to encourage our Economic Planning group to look locally for original, indie-type businesses we could encourage to launch in Balch Springs, rather than rely on national & regional chains for retail and corporate growth. We could offer tax abatement ordinarily reserved for major corporations.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** Much of my district's neighborhood is more than 50 years old. Sidewalks, if they exist, are original and in disrepair. I have attended City Council and City Department meetings for several years so I know there are county Community Development Block Grant funds available to repair existing sidewalks in lower income areas. The city can also pursue grants for neighborhood improvement to help pay for new sidewalks along our most heavily traveled neighborhood roads, school zones and shopping districts. We should also be setting aside more CDBG money to repair existing sidewalks in other parts of the City.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Before we increase our population density too much more, if that's the direction our citizens want to take, we need to first look at our 1st Responder services and infrastructure capabilities. We currently have nearly 20 apartment complexes, not to mention countless rental houses, which represents a large percentage of our overall housing. I'd like to work with our new Neighborhood Services Coordinator to continue developing our first time home buyer program and look at creating pocket communities of alternative styles of housing for our aging population as well as those looking for minimal footprint options.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Right now, we operate with the bare minimum of the suggested ratio of first responders to citizen population recommendations. In filling positions & promoting officers, our chief is working hard to create a dept. that reflects the diversity of our community. We've outgrown our current PD/FD complex. I'd like to see considered, 1 smaller police dept. substation on each side of town, as a less expensive, viable alternative to the current discussion of one big central building. I'd like to find grants to move our animal services facility to a place it provides better options for the animals that come into our custody.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** I'd like to strive to blend the rich heritage of Balch Springs' roots with "progress" in a way that allows those who grew up and chose to remain here, those who moved here for the rural small-town feel, and those looking for the amenities of a suburb in an affordable neighborhood, to all feel welcome to live, stay and retire here in Balch Springs. We can, if we work together, have the best of both worlds where everyone feels welcome, we can draw visitors with interesting attractions and embrace the diversity that makes Balch Springs so special; preserving this oasis in the ever encroaching urban sprawl of DFW.

# DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT SPECIAL BOND ELECTION

## PROPOSITION A

**Shall the Board of Trustees of Dallas County Community College District (the "District"), be authorized to issue and sell the bonds and notes of the District as authorized by law at the time of issuance thereof, in the aggregate principal amount of \$1,102,000,000, for the purpose of constructing, improving, renovating and equipping school buildings of the District and acquiring real property therefor; with said bonds or notes to be issued in one or more series or issues, to mature serially or otherwise not to exceed 40 years from their date and bear interest at such rate or rates, not to exceed the respective limits prescribed by law at the time of issuance, and to be sold at such price or prices, as the Board of Trustees in its discretion shall determine; and shall there be levied and pledged, assessed and collected annually Ad Valorem taxes on all taxable property in the District in an amount sufficient, within the limits prescribed by law, to pay the annual interest on said bonds and notes and the costs of any credit agreements executed or authorized in anticipation of, in relation to, or in connection with said bonds and notes; with said bonds and notes to be issued and said taxes to be levied, pledged, assessed, and collected under the Constitution and laws of the state of Texas, including the Texas Education Code.**

**For or Against**

## Explanation

The Dallas County College District ("DCCCD" or the "District") operates the 7 community colleges in Dallas County. The District currently serves 80,000 credit students and 20,000 continuing education (non-credit) students. In the next 11 years, the District expects the number of credit students will increase by 12,000. The \$1.1 billion bond issue will be used to expand the District's resources to enhance the educational experience and meet the expanding student population.

The 7 Dallas County community colleges have served over 3 million people since their inception in 1965. One of the largest community college systems in Texas, these colleges offer over 300 associate degree and career technical certifications. These colleges have been an instrumental contributor to the vibrant economic success of Dallas County.

The general obligation bonds will be sold over 6 years and under current conditions, will not increase property taxes. The District's last bond issue was 15 years ago and will be fully repaid in the next few years. The District's past performance on its prior bond issues is part of what makes it a good credit risk for this issuance.

The money from the bond issue will be used for 3 distinct initiatives: (1) Expand industry aligned workforce programs (\$235 million) – to train student to work in industries with high demand for jobs in the near future (health, IT, construction, advanced manufacturing); (2) Expand student instructional programs (\$332 million) – to expand the programs which permit high school students to take college courses and enhance student learning through technology and instructional innovation; and (3) Build a new Education and Innovation Hub in downtown Dallas (\$535 million) – would completely redesign the El Centro College campus and include a new Business Training Center to facilitate innovation and technology adaption in coordination with businesses in North Texas.

Reasons to Vote For	Reasons to Vote Against
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expands the resources of the Dallas County Community colleges to meet the growing student population.</li> <li>2. Maintains the current property tax rate; no increase in property taxes under current conditions.</li> <li>3. Increases the instructional innovation to enhance student learning with new instructional tools, technology and modern student learning space.</li> <li>4. Provides a center for industry aligned education and training programs to enable students to meet the changing needs of the workforce in North Texas.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is no increase in the current tax rate only if current conditions remain the same. If the cost of borrowing under the bond issue increases, either the tax rate might need to increase or the scope of the proposed bond package might need to be curtailed.</li> <li>2. If the bond issue does not pass, to maintain operations, the District could meet increasing needs by increasing tuition and/or raising taxes without incurring debt</li> <li>3. The District has been performing well and should continue to do so without the additional debt. There's no pressing need to incur debt to maintain operations.</li> <li>4. Many feel property taxes are too high. If this item does not pass, the District could potentially reduce its tax rate giving relief to homeowners.</li> </ol>