



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

2019 DESOTO 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 city of DeSoto, DeSoto ISD 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 lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net for questions.

Vote411.org

You may also see all items on your ballot on-line at 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 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	Carrrollton
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

Polis open 7 AM to 7 PM on May 4, election day. For election day locations see DallasCountyVotes.org or call 214.819.6300.

CITY OF DESOTO MAYOR AND COUNCIL ELECTION

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. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the votes, there will be a runoff election. City Council are open to the public and are held on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.at City Hall.

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 and city workers. 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 so, how would you pay for them? How would you prioritize these upgrades compared to other city needs?

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

MAYOR

Curtistene S McCowan



Biographical Info:

Age: 2/25/1948

Education: Bachelors Degree in Business Administration Associates Degree in Business Management

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

Campaign Phone: (972) 230-4243

Email: esmccowan@msn.com

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Economic Development with a Strategic, Inclusive and Balanced Approach, using a 6-part plan that includes: Workforce Readiness -- Establishing trade and higher education fairs; Business Recruitment & Retention -- Agressive and intentional recruitment of high quality businesses to our community; Hampton Road Redevelopment -- Transform corridor into a vibrant, multi-use development center; Support for Small Businesses & Entrepreneurship; Transportation and Walkability -- to improve convenience and access for our residents and to improve our attractiveness to quality developers. Please see [curtistenemccowan.com](http://www.curtistenemccowan.com).

INFRASTRUCTURE: I have an outstanding working relationship with Commissioner John Wiley Price, and he has been a true champion to ensure that DeSoto's infrastructure needs have been met. I will continue to ensure we get the funding we need to offset any local cost increases. As a board member for North Central Texas Council of Governments, the Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition and Chair of the Best Southwest Transportation Initiative, I have a seat at the table for conversations related to infrastructure and transportation. I will continue to leverage relationships with officials at all levels to ensure DeSoto gets what it needs,

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: As Mayor, I will encourage homeownership because the benefits are long term for all families, and the stability it offers to our children can never be understated. There is a need for some quality multifamily housing but I will not support an overabundance of multifamily and I will not tolerate low quality housing in our community of any kind. I will ensure code enforcement is up to speed on making sure our communities are quality and safe. I will also advocate for more robust utilization of the Community Development Block Grant Funds from HUD to help improve the overall quality and aesthetics of neighborhoods.

PUBLIC SAFETY: DeSoto's crime rate has continued to decline. When I took office as Mayor, domestic violence was one of the leading issues we faced as a community. So I championed implementing the Domestic Violence

Advisory Commission to provide tangible recommendations about how to improve the city's response to violence against victims, with a specific focus on successful interventions with children and teens who are witnesses to and/or victimized by domestic violence, dating violence and sexual assault. Our efforts led to a 17% Reduction in Domestic/Family Violence! Overall, crime is down 25%, and quality policing is a factor.

CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: Since 2000, DeSoto has blossomed as the go-to community for up and coming African-American families, and these demographic changes have added much to our community's culture and creativity. That said, many of the new families have had issues with the DeSoto Independent School District and some have chosen not to enroll their children in our public schools. This has created a vacuum where our communities continue to grow strong, but our public schools do not always reflect this strength. We must work tirelessly to create a product in our public schools that ALL parents and other community stakeholders support.

Rachel L Proctor

No Response

Byron D Sanders



Biographical Info:

Age: 4/16/1978

Education: Bachelors Degree In Mass Communications Focus Public Relations Minor Psychology

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Campaign Phone: (214) 347-0585

Email: byron.d.sanders@byron4mayor.com

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: As the CEO of Base Communications, I understand how to create experiences that answer the risk, ROI, & speed questions CEOs & investors need to be answered. I will work with the economic development team to bring good businesses that we lost over the years back to the negotiating table. Improve public relations, streets, signage, technology, training, job incentives, health care facilities, educational support, & police department to create a Total 360 Degree Luxury DeSoto Brand Experience. We take these actions and Corporations, Investors, and small businesses will find the budget to move to DeSoto.

INFRASTRUCTURE: 1 of my top priorities, because it will assist us in creating the DeSoto Experience that answers the risk, "ROI", & speed question companies need when making million-dollar decisions like bringing their business to your city. We will pay for these upgrades with a Bond Election, corporate investments, private investments, corporate sponsorships, & TIF. Then the ROI from all those business taxes and fees will pay for itself in no time.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: As a CEO it is always important to build a brand experience that speaks to all the customers that you envision for your business. So Yes I would support apartment construction but not affordable apartments, because the citizens who move to DeSoto mostly do so for a better quality of life and their dream homes, but I understand that there is another affluent group who may want to live here who don't want the responsibility of the upkeep that comes with homeownership so the solution I would support would be condos and luxury Apartments with doormen.

PUBLIC SAFETY: 1 of my top priorities for creating the DeSoto Brand Experience that answers the risk, "ROI" & speed question the companies we envision for our city want. Now, our safety alarms were hacked & our police are in the news for alleged police brutality. We need a public relations campaign that highlights the strides that we will be making in technology, training, community relations, & hiring practices for our police department. We will upgrade our early warning systems technology. Bond Election, corporate investments, private investments, corporate sponsorships, & TIF will pay for this. Then wait for the "ROI".

CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: The Biggest challenge will be creating a DeSoto Brand Experience that will jumpstart economic development and the biggest opportunity will be the ROI that the Luxury DeSoto Brand Experience will provide for us to build better state of the art facilities like their Corporate Headquarters, Restaurants, Premium Mall, Hospital, Class A Office Buildings, Luxury Hotels, Luxury Car Dealerships, Convention Center, Condos, Luxury Apartments, A Movie Theater, & tourist attractions.

COUNCIL PLACE 3

Nicole Raphiel



Biographical Info:

Age: 11/30/1969

Education: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration | University of Texas at Dallas

Website: <http://ElectNicoleRaphiel.com>

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Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Nicole4DeSoto/>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: 1. Hire marketing firm to create updated DeSoto brand 2. Aggressively market specific site pads to identified developers 3. Develop a city-wide marketing plan 4. Work with regional partners to combat perceptual red-lining 5. Intentionally engage potential business stakeholders 6. Examine the effectiveness of the DeSoto Economic Development Corporation and then consider establishing economic development department under the direction of the city manager and create a strategic business plan 7. Creation of an Innovation District (diversifying our industrial park) 8. Decision making using consumer movement data

INFRASTRUCTURE: I would give the city's infrastructure needs priority since it affects our quality of life. The city is currently in the process of improving our water pipeline on an annual schedule. The water fund is being used for this upgrade. Roads that have been on the list for expansion have been budgeted for and are now under development.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: One of DeSoto's highlights is its supply of affordable homes for lease and purchase. Building additional multifamily units would help address a real community retail/restaurant need. In order for certain desired retail/restaurant businesses to come to town, our density and day time traffic will need to increase, according to certain retailers. As our community age, I would support apartment construction for seniors and mixed use developments.

PUBLIC SAFETY: I would rate the performance of public safety as good, considering that our police department is understaffed, as many departments are around the metroplex. The overall crime rate is down by 25%. The police response time is down as compared to last year. Police are more visible in areas of concern. The DPD is leading in pay over neighboring cities. However, northern cities are paying more. If recruitment gets harder, we will need to consider an increase, as well as, explore creative solutions to get there. City staff has been diligent in creating a fund balance for the city for the recent salary increase.

CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: The school district's financial standing and district score will likely have an effect on the city's bond rating, perception and future young family growth. The DeSoto Chamber of Commerce financial standing is also a challenge, as they are charged with business retention for the city. Both are under new leadership. Our opportunities include wrapping our arms around our youth as we implement an upcoming youth master plan. Connect our arts & entertainment with economic development by creating place through a cultural arts plan. Strategically plan districts for synergy and greater growth as Hampton Road is redeveloped.

Al Moten Jr



Biographical Info:

Age: 7/19/1949

Education: Bishop College - 1970

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

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Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/Vote-4-Al-Moten-Desoto-City-Council-302955070417100/?epa=SEARCH_BOX

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Prior to running for Council, I served as the Chairman for the DeSoto Chamber of Commerce and my passion is economic development. I fully support creating incentives and would consider tax

breaks to engage with corporations and businesses that have both blue & white-collar skills needs to enhance tax income & expand the diversity of career opportunities in the Southern region of Dallas County. I also support bringing a healthier food market into the area. Last, I'd make it a priority to explore the development of a Farmers Market in DeSoto. It would expand tourism and attract more people into the area.

INFRASTRUCTURE: Infrastructure will be one of my top priorities as a councilman. I will continue to challenge the Council to pursue innovative opportunities to maintain our 21st Century status as an All-American City. Currently, I'm pleased with the infrastructure in DeSoto. Our parks received an A rating, which is excellent, but we have room to improve by upgrading our services/ attractions. We can ensure that our most patronized parks have running water, a water attraction for children and updated pavilions for family entertainment.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Yes, I do support additional apartment construction to attract & maintain the millennial population that is (1) graduating from college or (2) looking to plant roots for their family. Too many millennials are returning to the area and are opting to not live in DeSoto because the home prices aren't affordable anymore. While we continue to build, we need to assess what the next generation wants and build structures that are more appealing to younger buyers. A solution that I support in addition to apartment homes are the development of townhomes.

PUBLIC SAFETY: On a scale of 1-10, I rate public safety at an 8. Officers are underpaid so I support raising salaries to a competitive pay. If we don't, we will continue to lose our brightest officers to competing cities. I propose conducting a study of competitive departments/municipalities of similar size throughout this area. This will limit the financial impact and provide greater insight to make the best decision for the future. Protecting our citizens by enhancing and ensuring quality public safety in DeSoto should be one of our most important priorities.

CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: Challenges are opportunities for growth! While DeSoto has achieved ranking as an All-American city, we must continue to work to maintain that status. Our opportunities can't be attacked in an isolated manner but, must be approached collectively to continue to move our City forward. Economic Development will enhance the quality of life for residents. We must address stronger fresh food options within City limits. Also, the education system must be improved to attract corporations. I believe the City and School Board should increase collaboration efforts in order to make DeSoto a more desirable place to live.

COUNCIL PLACE 5

Marikay Dewberry



Biographical Info:

Age: 7/26/1949

Education: Degree - Psychology Masters - University of Sale Excellence

Campaign Phone: (214) 532-5902

Email: dewkraft@swbell.net

Facebook: <http://Dewberry4DeSoto>

Twitter: twitter.com/Dewberry4DeSoto

You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/gS9mvjmGAXw>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Increase value of commercial assets through new development and redevelopment. Facilitate growth and development in the Northwest Medical District. Support the effort to attract new retail tenants to the Town Center Project. . Provide assistance, as appropriate, for the redevelopment of the areas along the Hampton Road Corridor. Encourage potential developers to acquire or retrofit vacated retail buildings. Encourage development of a civic events center. Develop around heliport. Develop retail projects to serve all citizens. Seek employment based businesses for professional & executive positions; be at the table!

INFRASTRUCTURE: Upgrade deteriorating water and wastewater infrastructure, phased in by Street (5 total); paid for by Renovation & Replacement (R&R) Funds. Provide infrastructure for commercial and industrial projects which make a positive impact on our tax base; paid for through DeSoto Economic Development Corporation grants and/or loans. Obtain Main Street grants to renovate, revitalize Hampton Road corridor to enhance the Bond Funding for that project. Continue the alley project in older neighborhoods. Add sidewalk timeline to the Plan. Clean up the Briar Creek trail and add solar LED lighting to all trail systems.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: We currently have several multi-family affordable housing units under construction to support the areas which have been identified as the highest level of poverty in the City. I plan to continue to utilize our Action Plan for future affordable housing projects. The goal is to have a balance of the population and options for citizens. A second project is being planned to not only include affordable housing, but also neighborhood services. We would also need to increase the Star Transportation routes for these residents to get from their apartments to the jobs in the industrial park and points in between.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Safety is a top priority in the City of DeSoto. Although the State of TX is ranked 36 out of 50 states, DeSoto has earned a 76.52% score by Safe Home rating system. Domestic Violence is the number one crime and it has reduced by 12% in 2018 and continues to trend downward. Property Crime has reduced 18.9%. Considering a population of 52,609 having 168 violent crimes last year is a very reasonable number. To improve we are exploring the possibility of facial recognition software to help identify perpetrators even though a merchant's video may be poor quality. This project will be paid for through grant funding.

CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: The greatest opportunity is to bring quality retail to DeSoto; we have over 1,000 new homes being built in DeSoto. We must welcome the new citizens, listen to their questions and concerns, and ensure them that they've made the right decision by moving here. We have always been a city of engagement; so we will encourage the new citizens (and current) to become engaged to be informed and part of the solution. When I negotiate with prospective retail to move to DeSoto I will tell them that the school district will recovery during their planning, funding and building phase of their project.

Kenneth Watts



Biographical Info:

Age: 2/18/1963

Education: Two years at Cedar Valley JC one year at Panhandle State University Criminal justice major

Website: <http://Kenwatts.org>

Campaign Phone: (214) 334-0681

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Facebook: <http://Kenneth Watts>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: I have talked about this issue with DeSoto residents. I believe it come two parts. 1. Create or seek the right companies/business to partner with our community, with the hopes that it will attract the best and brightest minds in the state. 2. Help develop our existing business partnering with them for their success, if our business is successful our community will be successful.

INFRASTRUCTURE: Water system would be at the top of my list for my community. Roads in Street would be a close second. Currently we have no serious issue that requires a great deal of infrastructure but we must always have a contingency plan for water in sewage for emergencies. DeSoto has grown by 10% within 4 years, we will need to accommodate the Growth of our community by adding additional lanes/roads I believe our government should play a large role concerning the cost of the infrastructure and locally we will pay on a lesser scale

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: I believe it take homeownership and renters to make our city great. Not everyone make above the poverty line. We need to be mindful that most of us is a couple of paycheck away from poor or homeless ourselves. So, I support anyone who wants the best for their families and working each day for their families success. I support Apartment, starter homes, dream home and mansions providing the area is adequately zoned.

PUBLIC SAFETY: I would give DeSoto a high mark. Our Chief of police has done an outstanding job in the area of public safety. I would recommend the city hire 7 to 10 additional police officer (the city budget will provide the pay, this is also provided the taxpayers) The changes I would make is that the police department would build a better relationship with the people's they serve. Our community health and safety will always be my number one priority!

CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: Our school district for the next 2 to 3 years it will be placed under a microscope. Concerning the previous administration failures. I believe we can turn this Challenge/obstacle into an opportunity. We have an opportunity to work as one group for our community success, but this only works if we band together for one common goal, for DISD success. This would be a team of believers, a team that believes we can do more together. This team includes the Super intendant, administration board, teachers, local officials and our community. by working together we can achieve victory!

Dinah Marks



Biographical Info:

Age: 7/30/1954

Education: B.S. - Alabama A&M University M.S - East Texas State University Ed.D - Nova Southeastern University

Website: <http://Marksfordesoto.com>

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: I would support the following actions: Targeted conversations with our School Board as our educational system is one that needs revamping. Standing behind our new Superintendent is going to be critical. Working with him and his cabinet to bridge the gap between City and School although there are different governing boards. Businesses decision as to whether or not they move into a city has a lot to do the the educational system. Further, create internships with our local businesses for our youth so that we can grow our own entrepreneurs. So that when students go off to college, they return to our great city.

INFRASTRUCTURE: Currently, this is a National debate: Infrastructure is a top priority as it is vital to country's economic development. However, we must develop a long term plan to accomplish. We cannot build a 21st century economy on 20th century infrastructure. Options to pay are limited. Until legislators figure it out, temporarily council and other local decision makers can comb the budget to determine what we can absolutely do without temporarily.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: I do support additional apartment construction, although home ownership is our ultimate goal. Solutions that I would support: refurbishing old buildings that might be available, i.e. old government building, etc.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Safety of our citizens is TOP PRIORITY: Our City crime rate is 25% lower than the year before; however, we do receive more than 500 calls per year for Domestic Violence. Our city, like thousands others can always use more police officers.

CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: Our city's biggest challenge/opportunity is our school system. Again, I realize they have different governing boards, it is imperative that targeted conversations take place, as both entities have the same ills.

SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL VACANCY, PL 4

Andre Byrd Sr



Biographical Info:

Age: 9/5/1966

Education: Dallas Baptist University Southern Bible Institute

Website: <http://VoteByrd.org>

Campaign Phone: (469) 569-2157

Email: Info@votebyrd.org

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: I believe that giving Desoto an identity as the entertainment capital of the greater southwest is the best way to attract businesses. Desoto should be seen as the cultural arts center of the greater southwest area.

INFRASTRUCTURE: As Desoto continues to grow, it is important to make sure the street repairs are done timely. I believe our current level of taxation already supports funding of this area.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: I believe the city of Desoto has ample apartments at its current level. I support down payment assistance for first time homebuyers in the area. I believe that home ownership is the best solution to make sure that housing is affordable. It also provides a basis for real estate tax revenue.

PUBLIC SAFETY: On a scale of 1-10, I would rate it an 8. I would bring our police department up to the recommended levels for city our size. I would also suggest implementing diversity training for the police department and fostering ways to get officers more involved with citizens to promote an increasingly positive image.

CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: Stabilizing our school district and making sure that the citizens of Desoto are provided a first class education.

Sabrina Mathis

Candidate has withdrawn.

DESOTO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE ELECTION

School trustees make all final decisions regarding school district priorities, policies, personnel, textbooks, expenditures, and growth management. Trustees adopt a budget which is necessary to maintain and operate the schools, levy taxes to support the budget, and submit bond issues to the citizens of the District to finance construction projects. Whichever candidate gets the most votes wins. There are no runoff elections.

QUESTIONS TO THE CANDIDATES

EXPERIENCE: What are your qualifications and experience that will make you an effective member of the School Board?

FISCAL OVERSIGHT: What procedural changes, checks and balanced and oversight would you support, if any, to the budgeting and expenditure process in the District?

RATINGS: The DeSoto District received a "D" grade in recent State accountability standards. What specific steps would you champion to improve education outcomes in the District?

PRIORITIES: What do you see as the top two pressing issues for DeSoto ISD and what are your solutions or recommendations?

OTHER ISSUES: What other issues of importance do you intend to address during your term?

TRUSTEE PLACE 1

Carl Sherman Jr



Biographical Info:

Age: 12/14/1987

Education: Bachelor of Business Administration

Campaign Phone: (972) 595-4510

Email: carl.sherman@desotoisd.org

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=10135983>

Twitter: twitter.com/CarlShermanJr

EXPERIENCE: My experience as a student in DeSoto ISD, college graduate, director of operations, small business owner and deacon provide context critical to the work at hand. I have made it a priority to be a continuous learner, earning the most hours of continuing education credit on our Board, outpacing the next board member by over 60 hours. I am a member of Leadership TASB, the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members, Council of Urban Boards of Education and the Young Elected Officials Network. In addition to being the father of two DeSoto ISD students, all of these experiences work in concert to inform my decisions.

FISCAL OVERSIGHT: I support a zero-based budgeting process that eliminates contingency funds from all functions and requires the administrative team to justify every expenditure. This fundamental change will require administration to receive Board approval before spending district funds on non-budgeted items that were not approved in the initial budget. I also support the newly created finance committee that meets monthly to conduct an in-depth analysis of all district expenditures.

RATINGS: To improve our academic standing, we should implement a culturally responsive curriculum and learning environment that aligns with the TEKS, engages each student, stretches students intellectually and encourages them to be a continuous learner. We should also leverage University partnerships to make sure

students are college ready when they graduate. Strengthening our professional development and ensuring that each campus has the resources required to improve student outcomes is critical to this work. Lastly, we must continue to assess and address student reading ensure that each student is at or above grade level.

PRIORITIES: We must address college readiness and the lack of a true magnet campus and offerings. Now, more than ever, we must graduate students who have college credit and who are college ready day one. We will get there by providing AP quality experiences for all students in DeSoto ISD. We must also intentionally engage our high performing and GT students. To do this, we should reimagine a K-8 campus(es) to better engage this demographic, creating a cohort of students that are on an accelerated instruction calendar and groomed for success at any post-secondary institution, ivy or public.

OTHER ISSUES: This term we must create a new strategic plan with clear outcomes for our students. We need to collaborate with our civic leaders to develop a joint vision identifying what success looks like for our next generation. We also need to strengthen our Career and Technical Education offerings by engaging with industry leaders to ensure we are preparing students to meet their industry needs. The sustainability of our city depends on the viability of DeSoto ISD. Our future success is dependent on us continually assessing where we are and making the proper adjustments to improve our standing.

Cynthia Watson-Banks

No Response

TRUSTEE PLACE 2

Kathy Goad



Biographical Info:

Age: 11/7/1951

Education: BS in Education MS in Education

Campaign Phone: (972) 689-0212

Email: goad230@gmail.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/vote4goad>

EXPERIENCE: I have been an educator for 39 years. 31 of those years were in the DeSoto ISD. As a classroom teacher, I taught home economics courses and founded the PAL (Peer Assistance and Leadership) program. I started the WINGS (Were I Now Gain Success) program for drop outs. As director for 6 years, 575 students age 16 to 26 received a Texas High School Diploma. The program was geared for students who had not been successful in the traditional classroom setting. As a school board member I have experience teaching and learning models. I bring knowledge of educational practices and a passion for students to the board.

FISCAL OVERSIGHT: The school district will need to shift spending in the budget for the upcoming year. A plan to reduce the work force of the district will have to be made. Also programs and projects will be reevaluated to determine student need. Parents and the community will be asked to participate in surveys to help restructure the curriculum. a tax increase may be needed in the near future to help pay existing debt.

RATINGS: DeSoto will need to focus on: Instructional leadership and effective instructional practices Student outcomes / STAAR Intervention Plans Coaching and support for teachers and staff DeSoto must get back to investing in our teachers. We must provide teachers with less than 3 years experience in the classroom a mentor. When teachers feel supported they will continue to do their very best every day for our students. This must also include mentoring for administrators to know how to support teachers and staff.

PRIORITIES: To improve the financial situation of the DeSoto ISD. To provide students the resources they need to learn and excel. The DeSoto school district is facing challenges that seem insurmountable. As a school board member, I play a role in student achievement, effective leadership development and financial responsibility. I have an obligation to dedicate myself to the highest principles, to the highest ethical standards. I have no political agenda. My only agenda is to educate children. I am the person to help assess how schools use resources and technology to improve teaching and learning.

OTHER ISSUES: My almost three years on the board have opened my eyes to the inter-workings of the board. I have been witness to the blatant disregard of some board members and administrators doing the right thing with money and resources to provide educational experiences for students. The school board is a governing board that must work together. We are accountable to the community. Our focus must be on student achievement and that is where our resources have to be centered.

Tongee Flemming



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EXPERIENCE: I will bring a collaborative spirit, and steer clear of divisiveness for the sake of our children's academic achievement. Additionally, I will use my 20+ years' experience in Contracts/Acquisition; Grants; Budgeting; and Auditing to assist in the implementation of policies and processes to help identify weaknesses in our budget process, which enables us to ensure monies are used for their intended purpose(s). I will work with the Superintendent to ensure we have tighter financial controls in place to ensure sufficient funding for our children's academic achievement, and our teachers' salaries.

FISCAL OVERSIGHT: Our current Superintendent has already implemented a few checks and balances for the District, such as confiscating or removing the Credit Cards from the hands of individual staff members and I support this move 100%. Additionally, I would implement a process whereby district personnel are required to obtain Board review and approval of all purchases/written contracts exceeding \$25,000. No "oral" contracts and Board members are prohibited from bidding on District purchases/Contracts for supplies and services. Lastly, if not done already, internal audits needed quarterly or semi-annually; and external annual audits.

RATINGS: Although the District received a "D" grade in our recent State Accountability, we have 13 campuses with some exceptionally performing students whose accomplishments and successes aren't captured in the outcomes of the report, as individual campuses did not receive a letter grade. Nevertheless, 'expectations' and 'accountability' are desperately needed, from the Superintendent, all the way down to the parents and students. I also recommend specific hiring criteria be used to secure key personnel for positions, such as teachers, principals and counselors, ensuring student success as the District's focus and priority.

PRIORITIES: First, the Strategic Plan for the District must be shared with the community, in an effort to build trust and establish transparency. I will work to ensure the community is aware of the plan, and solicit their assistance in ensuring it's accomplished. Secondly, academic success FOR EVERY CHILD is paramount. We must be able to ensure every child is a success.

OTHER ISSUES: I'm committed to work toward restoring integrity; establishing transparency; and safeguarding our taxpayers' money; in an effort to ensure exceptional academic achievement for ALL students within the District.

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.

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"> 1. Expands the resources of the Dallas County Community colleges to meet the growing student population. 2. Maintains the current property tax rate; no increase in property taxes under current conditions. 3. Increases the instructional innovation to enhance student learning with new instructional tools, technology and modern student learning space. 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. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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 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. 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.

