



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

2019 FARMERS BRANCH

# 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 Farmers Branch and DCCCD elections. Candidate responses are presented as submitted without editing. This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Dallas which does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. Call 214-688-4125 or [lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net) for questions.

### Vote411.org

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

### Photo ID Requirement

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

### Eligibility for Voting

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

### Early Voting Times & Locations

Monday 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.

# FARMERS BRANCH CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

The City Council features a Mayor, elected at large, and 5 Councilmembers, elected from 5 single member districts. The Mayor and City Council have 3-year terms, staggered so that 2 positions are up for election each year. The Mayor and Councilmembers serve without pay. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the vote, there will be a runoff election.

## QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** What is the proper role of economic incentives to encourage business location in the city?

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

**APARTMENT CONSTRUCTION:** Recently plans were announced to construct an additional 670+ apartments near the Galleria on property now containing warehouses. What are your thoughts/concerns about this proposal?

**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 do you view as Farmers Branch's biggest opportunity and/or challenge during the next council term?

## CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 1

### Cristal Retana



**Biographical Info:**

**Age:** 2/3/1986

**Education:** Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry and Government

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

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

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/CristalRetana](https://twitter.com/CristalRetana)

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Economic development incentives are geared towards encouraging potential new businesses to strengthen the local economy and invest in its community. Used properly, they can have a positive impact on the community. While I believe there are cases when incentives should be available, they should not overshadow the needs of the community i.e. parks, social services, transportation. Additionally, firms who are taking advantage of these opportunities should be held accountable to the promises made to the community i.e. increasing jobs.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** Our library is the most visited Farmers Branch city facility with over 140,000 visitors each year. Although I am a huge proponent of preserving our history, we need to make sure to provide the best possible options. The library has \$12 million in needed repairs and a new facility would cost \$24 million with a park replacing its current location. We currently have a referendum on the May election ballot to leave it up to the community to decide on a \$24 million dollar bond. I feel like these types of decisions should be left up to the people. Should it pass, a competitive and transparent planning process is essential.

**APARTMENT CONSTRUCTION:** *No response.*

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Our department does an amazing job keeping our community safe. However, with our changing demographics, I believe we have a unique opportunity to provide a more targeted approach towards community policing by creating Neighborhood Police Officers within our existing system to further promote trust and access in our community. Additionally, as a large percentage of our community is Hispanic, creating a Latino outreach program can give officers a better understanding of the unique needs of our neighbors and provide necessary assistance.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** I believe one of our biggest challenges is promoting economic development while not displacing our neighbors and longtime business owners and conserving our history. Strategic planning is key to our progress along with inclusive conversations and equitable access. We should not limit ourselves and look outside the region for innovative initiatives and solutions. When we look at development and projects through a sustainability lens, we have the opportunity to preserve resources while providing the best possible options for residents. We should not make plans for the next ten years, but for the next 50+.

## CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 4

### Terry Lynne



Biographical Info:

**Age:** 9/30/1957

**Education:** BBA, University of Oklahoma, 1980

**Website:** <http://www.terry4farmersbranch.com>

**Campaign Phone:** (214) 244-1615

**Email:** [tlynne@tx.rr.com](mailto:tlynne@tx.rr.com)

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** The business of attracting and retaining businesses has changed dramatically over the last ten years. As business owners are looking for as much help as they can get to relocate to a city, cities like Farmers Branch must look closely at what makes financial sense for the city and for the taxpayers. Incentives need to be balanced with the long-range financial impact on city services and budgets. I believe every business needs to pay something in order to have equity in the city. Incentives can be great inducements to lure a business to a city. They must be a win-win for the business and the city.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** Our city's aging infrastructure ranks second to maintaining police and fire services. Residents expect to have smooth streets to drive on, that they will always have clean water when they turn on their tap and that they won't experience sewage backing-up into their house when they flush toilets or do laundry. It is imperative that ongoing attention be given to aging water and sewer lines just like we attend to aging roadways. Our city budget needs to include sufficient amounts annually in order to be able to manage the needs of maintenance and unexpected repairs in order to avoid tax increases.

**APARTMENT CONSTRUCTION:** Farmers Branch is known as a "City in a Park"... Not a "City in a Forest of Apartments." The last 15 years have shown that younger people want to live differently from past generations. They want to live and play near where they work. Therefore you are seeing more multi-family developments near high-density office locations. Developers are beginning to reinvest heavily in old, outdated and underutilized warehouse areas, creating new areas of influence within our city with new restaurants and other retail to round out the area soon following. We can work with developers to sell ideas that work for both parties.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Farmers Branch has one of the area's best response times for police and fire of any city in The Metroplex. Our average response time is about 4 minutes, 30 seconds for all calls and many times our police department is on the scene in less than 3 minutes. That's awesome! Farmers Branch residents pay a premium for such service. Based on our city's population, we pay almost double per capita for police and fire services compared to the next closest city. That is insurance and a level of service that gives Farmers Branch residents peace of mind. It is not something to be changed. As we grow we will need more officers.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Maintaining aging streets and infrastructure and expanding the Demo/Rebuild Program. The City Engineer estimates that we need to spend \$6 million dollars in order to protect city infrastructure along Farmers Branch Creek from erosion and flooding. Our city needs to develop a partnership plan which will help creek homeowners preserve and protect the value of their property. Increasing the incentives of our Demo/Rebuild Program so more property owners will take advantage of the program. With 80% of the homes in Farmers Branch over 50 years old, what was built in the late 60's and early 70's is outdated.

# Bonnie Potraza



Biographical Info:

**Age:** 4/18/1979

**Education:** Associate of Arts from Seattle Central College

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**Twitter:** [twitter.com/VoteBonnie](https://twitter.com/VoteBonnie)

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Using economic incentives to encourage business location can be a great tool, but we have to be careful because these incentives relate to direct spending in municipal budget. The result is fewer dollars left to invest in other areas. When you have blighted or underperforming areas, you want to encourage change to the tax base. The incentives are justified when the tax earned surpasses the underperforming benchmark. The models that lead municipalities to offer economic incentives are ever changing, so we need to frequently reevaluate the return on investment of these incentives to ensure that they continue to work.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** Our infrastructure is a top priority. We have \$9 million left from the 2014 street and drainage bond, but with our aging infrastructure and rising tax base we have to increase our budgetary spending to cover rising costs. Historically we have used general obligation bonds, certificates of obligation and city fund balances to pay for upgrades. The method has been determined by amount needed, construction costs, necessity of the project, current debt and money in the budget. For projects that would raise taxes, I would advocate for general obligation bonds where voters decide the fate of the project and tax cost.

**APARTMENT CONSTRUCTION:** The apartments planned by The Billingsley Company near the Galleria are consistent with the East Side Plan adopted by Farmers Branch City Council in January of 2017. Given that they are outside of the core of Farmers Branch, I believe that they will not negatively impact our sense of community, and they will give better use to areas that are functionally obsolete. That will increase our tax base and give population density to support more culture and entertainment. I believe they will provide great economic boosts to Farmers Branch and especially the East Side while leaving our neighborhoods unaffected.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** We have wonderful police and fire departments with exceptional response times and a low crime rate. The safety of our residents is our first priority, so we need to give our first responders the support, funding and tools to be the best. To bolster our police and fire departments, we can look to new technology to improve efficiency, and we need to reduce the retirement threshold from twenty five years to twenty years to stay competitive with recruitment. \$1.5 billion in property value growth from the new construction projects will easily fund these initiatives.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Farmers Branch's reputation was stained by the fiasco of the multi-year lawsuit over the anti-immigrant renters ordinance passed by the Council in 2009. Although the Supreme Court refused to hear the case effectively striking it down, people's perception of our city is still influenced by that ordinance. We must take deliberate action to be more welcoming and inclusive to clearly differentiate our current ethos from that of the past to change that perception. My election to City Council will move us closer to realizing that change and making a clear distinction as to who we are today.

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## FARMERS BRANCH SPECIAL BOND ELECTION

City of Farmers Branch – Proposition A

**"The issuance of \$24,000,000 general obligation bonds for new library, and the levying of tax in payment thereof."**

**For or Against.**

# 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"> <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>

