



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

# 2019 GARLAND

# 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 Garland, Garland 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 [lwwdallas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwwdallas@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 Street	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 GARLAND MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

Garland is chartered as a Home Rule City and 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 8 council members elected from Districts. 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?

**WATER RATES:** Last fall, Council voted to increase water rates to multi-family apartments which had been undercharged for a number of years. There is now talk of reducing or rolling back the increases. What is your stand on this issue? Please share your thinking.

**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

### Scott Lemay

**Biographical Info:**

**Age:** 10/8/1967

**Education:** 1986 Graduate- Lake Highlands High School

**Campaign Phone:** (214) 794-8904

**Email:** lemayformayor@gmail.com

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/scott.lemay.9>

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** As a current member of the Garland City Council we have worked to become more active in economic development matters. We have purchased underutilized properties in order to have more control in their future development. A pair of examples would be the former HyperMart site and undeveloped property at Rose Hill & I-30. We feel that with better planning we can shape a much more productive use of those properties. Unfortunately our financial resources are not always at a level where our hopes can match our intentions. We need to work to be very strategic in how we plan for future efforts.

**WATER RATES:** My original position on this was that it needed further study. I voted in the minority to delay the increase. We subsequently reconsidered that vote to proceed and engaged in a cost of service study for all water utility customers. The recommendations from that study should be presented to the city council mid-summer. After that we will have the best information possible to set our water rates equitably for all users.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** I'm not opposed to our recently approved or additional multifamily developments. I believe they are a growing factor in the housing market across all demographic categories. That being said from a city planning perspective we do need to be more aware of localized density increases. The housing market works best when it is diversified across the city. It can create options and also opportunities but if the balance is off in either direction it can have a negative impact. I do believe we will see more proposed multifamily developments in the future. It will be our job to make sure it's correctly scaled and located.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Our public safety (both police and fire) are the best in the metroplex. Any recommended changes need to be directed by the Chief of Police and Fire Chief. Ours, like their departments, are also the best. They fully understand the economics of the city and the demands on their personnel.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Our greatest challenge is always going to be maintaining a large older city on a relatively small budget in comparison to our surrounding cities. We have become accustomed to doing more with less. We have to be much more aware of the shortcomings of this situation. We need to work more at addressing those deficiencies as many of them come back to quality of life. In the end our citizens should be proud of their city. They should welcome others to it. If we can better address those needs we can all do that. That's opportunity.

## CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

### Jerry A Nickerson



Biographical Info:

**Age:** 6/10/1953

**Education:** Bachelor of Science Environ. Geography, Bachelor of Science Civil Engineering Texas A&M University

**Campaign Phone:** (713) 702-3545

**Email:** jerry@jerryanickerson.com

**Facebook:** <http://@Jerry4district3Garland>

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/jerryanickerson8](https://twitter.com/jerryanickerson8)

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** I ran to bring economic redevelopment to South Garland. We are redeveloping portions of the I 30 corridors. We invested in land along this corridor to control the development type. Economic development requires improved housing stock, along with improved demographics. We have addressed this need with beginning three new single-family housing developments that will add almost 600 new homes to the district over the next several years. In addition, we have worked hard as a collaborative council to continue the redevelopment activities. We have more to do and must keep the energy level and momentum going.

**WATER RATES:** I do favor water rate increase to apartments. I also favor bringing these on over a period such that rates are not increased at once. The original City Council approval occurred in a work session I did vote for the immediate change. I had some concerns and after more thought felt this was also unfair for the citizens that lived in multifamily housing to make such an immediate change to their monthly costs. We heard from citizens about their concerns as well. With other council members I brought this subject back for more discussion. I lead the debate to revise the ordinance and stage it in over a two-year period.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** There is ever-increasing need for both multifamily and affordable housing. These types of housing stock must be in proportion to the community. Location of these types of housing must be appropriate to the existing housing. Zoning must be managed with these issues in mind. Security, traffic and property valuation retention all must be considered when locating housing types. Zoning ordinances and management of these are critical to density and location. I support Multifamily affordable housing and recently obtained approval through council for an affordable multifamily housing project in a Lake front setting.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** We are the 9th safest city in America. It is a tribute to our citizens and our Police and Fire Fighters. We can always improve. I support our Police and Fire Fighters with approval of the resources they need in personnel and equipment. Again, this year I have been endorsed by both the Garland Fire Fighters and Garland Police Officers Associations. Our citizens have an excellent relationship with our Police and Fire fighters. It should be strengthened, this is where I will focus in my next term. When we begin to look out for each other, we begin to look out for all.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Change is the challenge and comes in many forms and requires thoughtful deliberative analysis. We must address change, so it is positive and augments neighborhoods. We are at a crossroads; our citizens understand we must embrace and manage change. Our opportunity is the proposed Bond Program. I am for it. We must address needs to embrace growth for the future. No more status quo. To continue to be a viable community and place for families to live, work and raise their children, we must grow our facilities, services, amenities and infrastructure. Change is constant, opportunity is knocking, the time is now.

### Stephen W Stanley

**NO RESPONSE**

## CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 6

### Patrick L Abell



Biographical Info:

**Age:** 4/5/1978

**Education:** High School Diploma.

**Campaign Phone:** (469) 371-9701

**Email:** patrickabell75042@gmail.com

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** As a city council person I would work to advance the development that our current council has been instrumental in creating while advocating for District 6. The resurgence of our downtown area and our current emphasis on increased parks and recreation are instrumental to our success. If voters approve the current bond proposals I would will work to ensure that costs are kept low and that the city is responsible with the citizens investment. These proposals will do a lot to spur on growth as they will help to amend some of the areas where Garland has struggled in recent years.

**WATER RATES:** Most cities surrounding Garland consider one unit to be one connection regardless of how many meters are actually present. Texas regulating bodies agree with this thinking. I feel the city should increase the base rate for individual units to the current Public Utility Commission standards. I do however think that Garland should consider a tiered increase to avoid the rate increasing all at once. The roll-out of this increase should be clear and publicized so that multi-family complexes cannot up-charge the base rate to their advantage.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Garland as a whole is a "Built-out" city. We have many people that are choosing to move here due to our relative low cost of living. As a city we will have to embrace multi-family as a way to maximize what undeveloped land we have left. Our Planning and Zoning and Economic Committees have a good history of recommending what is best for our city. I would do everything in my ability to support their recommendations and approve the best mix of low to moderate income multifamily housing as well as single family developments. Since the city cannot expand its geographic limits we will have to go up in certain areas to grow.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** I am proud of Garland and our track record on crime. We are commonly ranked as one of the safest cities in the State and Country. Like any major city we have our struggles but we are proactively meeting the challenge through increased law enforcement presence and community outreach through the N.P.O. and S.R.O. programs. I would like to work with Chief Bryan to enhance these programs while bolstering our patrol division. I feel there we have the budget in place to do this without significant cuts or tax increases.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** The greatest challenge our city will face in the upcoming years will be retaining and attracting large employers to our city as urban sprawl moves development to the outer rings of the metroplex. I feel this is also one of our biggest opportunities as well. As a city we can market our excellent public schools, central location and small town feel to entice new business and development. We are a great and diverse community with and abundance of skills to offer. We can meet the demands of almost any industry head on and our city should set the example other cities follow for development and satisfaction.

### Robert Vera

NO RESPONSE

## Dylan Hedrick



Biographical Info:

**Age:** 12/28/1981

**Education:** BS Civil Engineering - Rice University - 2004 MBA - Rice University - 2011

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

**Campaign Phone:** (713) 677-4999

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**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/dylan.hedrick>

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

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** The \$46 million bond proposition gives Garland a tremendous tool to create economic development opportunities within the city. If this bond proposition passes, the land acquisition and parcel assemblage funding must be strategically put towards projects which will make it easier to develop difficult, historically underdeveloped properties. As a largely built-out city, revitalization funds must be spread throughout the city to spur redevelopment of aging shopping centers, apartments, and industrial areas. As someone who works in land development, I understand that this process is not fast but can reap large benefits.

**WATER RATES:** The Garland City Council has authorized a Cost of Service Study which will analyze the revenue required to serve various classes of water utility customers. Given that single family residents have been effectively subsidizing multi-family apartments for years, it is reasonable to increase the multi-family water rates. I believe the results of the Cost of Service Study will show that multi-family rates should be increased, but the suggested rate will not be equal to single family residents due to economies of scale in serving apartment buildings. The increase in rates should be phased in gradually.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** I do support additional apartment construction in the city, but the location must be right. The current zoning map already allows for multifamily construction in many areas, several of which are undeveloped. To provide more affordable options, Garland's Home Infill Program can be expanded, and the Down Payment Assistance Program should be restarted to provide opportunities for development and first-time home buyers. But rising housing prices are only one part of the equation. The economy has been strong for several years, but wages have not grown. Efforts must be made to attract and retain high quality employers.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** As a graduate of Class 52 of Garland's Citizen's Police Academy, I believe we have one of the best police department's in the nation. Law Street Media ranked Garland ninth in the "Top 10 Safest Cities Over 200,000" population in the United States, but this is not to say we can't improve. Public safety represents 52.2% of General Fund Expenditures with seven additional police officers and seven additional firefighters scheduled to be hired in the 2018-2019 budget. The continued growth of the city's tax base and revenues should be prioritized to fund additional staffing and resources for our valuable first responders.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Garland's greatest opportunity will be the passage of the entire \$423 million bond program. It's passage will provide money for a range of projects and programs that will improve streets, drainage, parks, libraries and provide economic development funding. The challenge will be the timely implementation of those projects. Faster implementation means lower costs due to inflation and interest and more value provided to the citizens of Garland. I will push everyday to get those projects designed, built and programmed so that the citizens can benefit from their tax payments towards funding the bond as soon as possible.

## CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 8

### Robert John Smith



Biographical Info:

**Age:** 2/6/1981

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

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

**Campaign Phone:** (469) 223-4723

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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** With a few exceptions, the market will largely provide those goods and services that are in demand. One of our jobs as a council is to make the city functional, modern, and in good repair so that businesses are in an environment where they can succeed. A grocery store in an area with bad roads and lighting will fare worse than one in a more functional area. I'm a strong advocate for infrastructure investment in retail and commercial areas. It keeps the city out of picking winners and losers, gives the citizens a long-lasting return on their investment, and makes us the type of city where people want to do business.

**WATER RATES:** The council implemented half of the water rate increase beginning March 1, with the other half to follow on October 1. We are looking at switching from a cost recovery model to a cost of service model, which would more closely align billing and actual delivery costs. Our rate consultants presented their methodology and timeline at the March 4th work session. I believe that we should pay partly for what we take from this community resource, and partly for system availability. I believe we can reach a fair rate structure with further research.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** I support apartment construction in those areas where city planners have already zoned for multifamily. Strategic pockets of density help us keep our largest industries staffed, and new multifamily will help apply market pressure to older, less well-maintained apartments to improve. We also have a strong need for senior housing projects in the city. I supported several applications in 2017 that related to seniors-only complexes.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Garland has top notch police and fire services. Our fire department maintains strong coverage areas and a sub-6 minute response time. Our EMS has stepped up and continued strong service delivery even with the closure of Baylor hospital. Our police department has had impeccable leadership over the past decade, and truly serves the community. As police and fire are two of the primary purposes of having a city government and use approximately 2/3 of the city's budget, I continue to place a very high priority on keeping these services modern and functional.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Our city is now 99% built-out. New construction dollars are going to go away. We've started shifting from development to redevelopment, which is much, much more difficult. We have an opportunity to avoid making the same development mistakes that were made in previous generations and make the city more functional. We can correct the inefficiencies brought about by urban sprawl, optimize utility delivery systems, and base all of our work flow on GIS tech.

## CITY OF GARLAND, SALE OF PARK LAND

### Proposition A-1

Shall the City Council be authorized, as otherwise limited by and pursuant to State law, to sell Bunker Hill Park and thereafter use of the proceeds from such sale only for park purposes.

For or Against

### Explanation

Bunker Hill Park was purchased by the city some years ago to be developed as a rodeo but the plan fell through. For a time, the city used it as a tree farm, but it is no longer useful in that capacity. The property is undeveloped and in the opinion of the city council is not a desirable place for a city park but is an attractive location for development by the private sector. It has been appraised at \$4 million.

Reasons to Vote For	Reasons to Vote Against
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Parks Board has voted twice, unanimously, in recent years to sell the land.</li><li>2. The Parks and Recreation department has many unfunded needs beyond those which would be funded by the parks bond proposition, should it be approved, and could make very good use of the \$4 million.</li><li>3. No city funds are available for development of the park. It would be better for the city to put the land to productive use.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The city should not relinquish undeveloped green space. In today's urban environment citizens need more healthy options to reconnect with nature.</li><li>2. If the city holds on to the land, with time the location may evolve to be an attractive place for a developed park.</li><li>3. If the city's parks bond proposition passes, a variety of parks improvements will be initiated. The city will not need the additional \$4 million as it will be busy implementing bond projects.</li></ol>

## CITY OF GARLAND SPECIAL BOND ELECTION

### Propositions A-H

### Explanation

The city of Garland has scheduled a bond referendum asking voters to authorize the issuance of \$423,700,000 in general obligation bonds to fund in capital improvements. The improvements are contained in eight separate propositions. If approved, the bonds will be issued over time as improvements are made. This will be the first general obligation bond referendum placed before voters since 2004. Some authorizations from the 2004 remain unissued but according to the city's Capital Improvement Program, all will be issued over the next five years. If the 2019 bonds are authorized, the city expects to issue them within seven to ten years.



According to conservative projections of future growth in the tax base, interest rates and the speed at which projects are initiated, a tax rate increase of 8.5 cents will be needed to complete the 2019 program and complete projects remaining from the 2004 program. The city indicates that an 8.5 cent tax rate increase would increase taxes on an average Garland home by approximately \$10 per month. The city's current tax rate of 70.46 cents per \$100 of taxable value has not changed since 2010. Garland's current tax rate compared to rates for other large cities in the area:

Carrollton	.59497
Dallas	.7767
<b>Garland</b>	<b>.7046</b>
Grand Prairie	.669998
Irving	.5941
Mesquite	.734
Plano	.4603
Richardson	.62516
Rowlett	.757173

Additional information and detail on proposed improvements can be found in the city's guide to the election at [www.BuildGarland.com](http://www.BuildGarland.com).

**CITY OF GARLAND, TEXAS PROPOSITION A**

The issuance of \$122,250,000 general obligation bonds for street improvements including sidewalk, alley, and other traffic flow improvements and the levying of a tax in payment thereof

**For or Against**

REASONS TO VOTE FOR	REASONS TO VOTE AGAINST
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Intersection-widening improvements of \$14,000,000 are needed to relieve bottlenecks at major intersections</li> <li>2. Operational and safety improvements will be made, traffic signal equipment will be modernized, and numerous specific needed improvements throughout the city will be funded.</li> <li>3. The city anticipates some intergovernmental funding will be provided to support the 2019 projects.</li> <li>4. The proposed improvements were reviewed in detail and approved as necessary by a citizen committee and the City Council.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Some feel property taxes are already too high. This proposition will add to the burden.</li> <li>2. The city could slow down the pace of improvements and spread the funding over time to lessen the impact on tax payers.</li> <li>3. The city could complete the projects authorized in 2004 before seeking additional funding.</li> <li>4. As the city pays off existing debt, capacity will be freed up in the tax rate to pay for improvements with cash without the issuance of debt.</li> </ol>

**CITY OF GARLAND, TEXAS PROPOSITION B**

The issuance of \$51,350,000 general obligation bonds for public safety facilities and the levying of a tax in payment thereof

**For or Against**

REASONS TO VOTE FOR	REASONS TO VOTE AGAINST
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Three old fire stations will be relocated and rebuilt.</li> <li>2. A police evidence and property facility will be constructed to provide climate-controlled storage for digital evidence storage requirements and to provide a warehouse for better storage management.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Some feel property taxes are already too high. This proposition will add to the burden.</li> <li>2. The city could slow down the pace of improvements and spread the funding over time to lessen the impact on tax payers.</li> </ol>

<p>3. The gun range and training facility will be improved and police station security will be updated.</p> <p>4. The proposed improvements were reviewed in detail and approved as necessary by a citizen committee and the City Council.</p>	<p>3. The city could complete the projects authorized in 2004 before seeking additional funding.</p> <p>4. As the city pays off existing debt, capacity will be freed up in the tax rate to pay for improvements with cash without the issuance of debt.</p>
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**CITY OF GARLAND, TEXAS PROPOSITION C**

The issuance of \$47,350,000 general obligation bonds for storm drainage improvements and the levying of a tax in payment thereof

**For or Against**

REASONS TO VOTE FOR	REASONS TO VOTE AGAINST
<p>1. Funds will be provided for the Drainage Participation Program, Local Flooding Program and Flood-Prone Properties Fund.</p> <p>2. Numerous specific and needed flood control projects throughout the city will be funded.</p> <p>3. The proposed improvements were reviewed in detail and approved as necessary by a citizen committee and the City Council.</p>	<p>1. Some feel property taxes are already too high. This proposition will add to the burden.</p> <p>2. The city could slow down the pace of improvements and spread the funding over time to lessen the impact on tax payers.</p> <p>3. The city could complete the projects authorized in 2004 before seeking additional funding.</p> <p>4. As the city pays off existing debt, capacity will be freed up in the tax rate to pay for improvements with cash without the issuance of debt.</p>

**CITY OF GARLAND, TEXAS PROPOSITION D**

The issuance of \$117,750,000 general obligation bonds for parks and recreation facilities and the levying of a tax in payment thereof

**For or Against**

REASONS TO VOTE FOR	REASONS TO VOTE AGAINST
<p>1. Improvements will be made to park system parking lots and roads including concrete paving and security lighting, and new trails will be built.</p> <p>2. Playground equipment may be replaced and new playgrounds installed throughout the city.</p> <p>3. Numerous improvements will be made to parks facilities, recreations centers, and aquatics facilities throughout the city.</p> <p>4. The proposed improvements were reviewed in detail and approved as necessary by a citizen committee and the City Council.</p>	<p>1. Some feel property taxes are already too high. This proposition will add to the burden.</p> <p>2. The city could slow down the pace of improvements and spread the funding over time to lessen the impact on tax payers.</p> <p>3. The city could complete the projects authorized in 2004 before seeking additional funding.</p> <p>4. As the city pays off existing debt, capacity will be freed up in the tax rate to pay for improvements with cash without the issuance of debt.</p>

**CITY OF GARLAND, TEXAS PROPOSITION E**

The issuance of \$21,000,000 general obligation bonds for library facilities and the levying of a tax in payment thereof

**For or Against**

REASONS TO VOTE FOR	REASONS TO VOTE AGAINST
<p>1. Funds will be provided to acquire, improve, expand, renovate and equip library facilities.</p>	<p>1. Some feel property taxes are already too high. This proposition will add to the burden.</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Library facilities will be modernized and upgraded</li> <li>3. The Walnut Creek Branch Library will be relocated and expanded.</li> <li>4. The proposed improvements were reviewed in detail and approved as necessary by a citizen committee and the city council.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The city could slow down the pace of improvements and spread the funding over time to lessen the impact on tax payers.</li> <li>3. The city could complete the projects authorized in 2004 before seeking additional funding.</li> <li>4. As the city pays off existing debt, capacity will be freed up in the tax rate to pay for improvements with cash without the issuance of debt.</li> </ol>
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**CITY OF GARLAND, TEXAS PROPOSITION F**

The issuance of \$46,000,000 general obligation bonds for economic development projects within the city and the levying of a tax in payment thereof

**For or Against**

<b>REASONS TO VOTE FOR</b>	<b>REASONS TO VOTE AGAINST</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Funds will be provided to promote and support economic development and revitalization of commercial, industrial, retail, residential and mixed-use development and neighborhoods throughout the city.</li> <li>2. Funds will be available for corridor and façade improvements, land acquisition and other investments that promote development and redevelopment.</li> <li>3. To promote neighborhood vitality, the matching grant program started in 2004, staff projects in 2015 and targeted neighborhood improvements begun in 2016 will be continued.</li> <li>4. The proposed improvements were reviewed in detail and approved as necessary by a citizen committee and the city council.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Some feel property taxes are already too high. This proposition will add to the burden.</li> <li>2. The city could slow down the pace of improvements and spread the funding over time to lessen the impact on tax payers.</li> <li>3. The city could complete the projects authorized in 2004 before seeking additional funding.</li> <li>4. As the city pays off existing debt, capacity will be freed up in the tax rate to pay for improvements with cash without the issuance of debt.</li> </ol>

**CITY OF GARLAND, TEXAS PROPOSITION G**

The issuance of \$6,000,000 general obligation bonds for improvements to existing municipal facilities and the levying of a tax in payment thereof

**For or Against**

<b>REASONS TO VOTE FOR</b>	<b>REASONS TO VOTE AGAINST</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The street department facility will be renovated and expanded to bring it up to current industry standards.</li> <li>2. The transportation maintenance and operations facility will likewise be renovated and expanded to bring it up to industry standards.</li> <li>3. The proposed improvements were reviewed in detail and approved as necessary by a citizen committee and the city council.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Some feel property taxes are already too high. This proposition will add to the burden.</li> <li>2. The city could slow down the pace of improvements and spread the funding over time to lessen the impact on tax payers.</li> <li>3. The city could complete the projects authorized in 2004 before seeking additional funding.</li> <li>4. As the city pays off existing debt, capacity will be freed up in the tax rate to pay for improvements with cash without the issuance of debt.</li> </ol>

## CITY OF GARLAND, TEXAS POSITION H

The issuance of \$12,000,000 general obligation bonds for animal shelter and control facilities and the levying of a tax in payment thereof

**For or Against**

REASONS TO VOTE FOR	REASONS TO VOTE AGAINST
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A modern animal shelter and adoption facility will be built to meet current industry standards for animal care, safety and placement.</li><li>2. The facility will provide adequate space for growing demand for services now and into the future.</li><li>3. The facility will allow for expanded adoption services, community engagement and educational programs.</li><li>4. The proposed improvements were reviewed in detail and approved as necessary by a citizen committee and the city council.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Some feel property taxes are already too high. This proposition will add to the burden.</li><li>2. The city could slow down the pace of improvements and spread the funding over time to lessen the impact on tax payers.</li><li>3. The city could complete the projects authorized in 2004 before seeking additional funding.</li><li>4. As the city pays off existing debt, capacity will be freed up in the tax rate to pay for improvements with cash without the issuance of debt.</li></ol>

## GARLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE ELECTION

The 7 board members are elected at-large to 3-year terms. They serve on a volunteer basis, devoting many hours to overseeing the management of the district. 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 CANDIDATES

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

**TEACHER PAY:** What changes, if any, would you support for teacher pay in the District?

**CHARTER SCHOOLS:** What specific steps should GISD take to compete better with charter schools?

**SWIMMING POOL:** Previous bond issues set aside funds for a swimming pool at the high school. Do you support construction of this amenity the voters approved? Please explain why or why not.

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

## TRUSTEE PLACE 1

**Larry Glick**

**Uncontested**

## TRUSTEE PLACE 2

**Johnny Beach**

**Uncontested**

## TRUSTEE PLACE 3

**Linda Griffin**



**Biographical Info:**

**Age:** 1/24/1950

**Education:** Columbia University - New York, N. Y. Tennessee State University - Nashville, TN

**Campaign Phone:** (972) 271-2915

**Email:** lindcogriffin@gmail.com

**EXPERIENCE:** I am Linda Griffin, a motivational speaker and mentor to many. A long time corporate executive with a professional career spanning more than 40 years in the information technology sector. Works with major corporations and small businesses as a management consultant specializing in project management, staff development and recruitment. In addition, I use my management skills to develop and implement effective for Christian education programs. I have a passion for children and believe in their abilities to realize their dreams. My education and experiences qualifies me to be an effective trustee.

**TEACHER PAY:** Research has shown that teachers are under paid. This deficiency of pay is a strong reason, I believe, for low enrollment in educational degree programs in universities and also the retention of teachers in local districts. I believe that the teacher pay scale must change, if the teaching profession is to attract the individuals who have a love for teaching and want students to reach their full potential. I would support additional pay for years of service, teachers on challenging campuses and for performance growth on campuses. We must become creative, in spite of limited funding from the state.

**CHARTER SCHOOLS:** In Garland ISD, we have already begun the process in competing with charter schools. We are a district of choice. We are delivering exceptional education across multiple platforms with a diverse student population. Garland ISD choices include: (1) students/parents school choice (2) blended classrooms with technology and digital devices that allows for quick responses while classes are being taught; (3) our teaching staff exceeds minimum qualifications; (4) curricula is rigorous and relevant; (5) students are prepared for career, college and military readiness; (6) provide parental engagement programs/seminars.

**SWIMMING POOL:** The 2014 Garland ISD bond package included the building of a natatorium. The natatorium will be the facility for our swim teams and the teaching of water safety classes for elementary students. Water safety classes are critical in reducing unnecessary drownings. Since this will be the only natatorium in this north Dallas region, there will be partnering opportunities with neighboring districts and cities. The board is required by law to complete every project outlined in the bond specifications presented for voter approval. This project was just delayed. Construction has begun.

**OTHER ISSUES:** I will continue to advocate for public education, parents and students. Other areas of concern include: promotion of early literacy, expansion of social emotional programs, continuous improvement in school safety, expansion of post-secondary readiness programs and eliminate the achievement gap.

# Bob Duckworth



**Biographical Info:**

**Age:** 9/18/1943

**Education:** Community HS, Nevada, Tx. ( Go Braves) Graduate Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at SMU

**Campaign Phone:** (972) 742-9676

**Email:** Bob@DuckworthforGISD.COM

**Facebook:** <http://Bob Duckworth>

**EXPERIENCE:** Born in community and have been involved my entire adult life. Grew up on farms in the 3 cities that make up the GISD district. 3 children and 4 grand children are grads of GISD. 47 year career in local Garland Banks. Served community in many capacities over the years. Garland Host Lions Club. Local Churches currently First Baptist Garland. City of Garland 2019 Bond Study Committee. Chaired Main Street Steering Committee, a five year program made up of Local Business, The City of Garland, and The Texas Historic Comm., revitalized downtown Garland. Have supported the GISD FFA Program over 50 years. Married 57 yrs.

**TEACHER PAY:** Without doubt the folks that have the most direct contact and daily effect on the students lives are the TEACHERS and others who spend the entire day with them. I believe the discussions in Austin certainly has merit. One of the keys is where the funds come from and for how long. The answer is TAXES, Local, State and Federal. Bottom line all TAXES come from the local taxpayers of Garland, Rowlett and Sachse. We have all felt the effect that tax rates and valuation have on our TAXES in the whole scheme of things. The salaries of the person in the lowest paid position to the Top comes from TAXES. Lots to consider.

**CHARTER SCHOOLS:** The question is, why do parents place their children in a CHARTER SCHOOL (CS)? Is it; a better quality of education and programs, teacher to student ratio, the daily relationship of mgt./principal of the CS to the parents? One could test and measure every component of the daily instructional process of the public school vs. a CS to discover the possible answer. A major factor that comes to play in this question of competition is, can the parent/family afford to home school or use a CS vs. the public school. GISD must determine what the differences are from the above questions and determine how they can compete.

**SWIMMING POOL:** I support a \$20 Million dollar amenity. AS WAS APPROVED BY THE VOTERS, but not the \$33.5 Million SWIMMING POOL currently being constructed. Had all 85 facilities in the district received benefits as was indicated to be done by the 2013-14 sitting Trustees in Bond program, would feel a little different. 14 facilities were designated as ORPHAN facilities after the bond package was approved by voters. One was the Agriculture Training Center on Pleasant Valley Rd. which I believe was the only facility of the 14 that could be classified as a school instructional facility that got \$ZERO\$ DOLLARS. FFA USES THESE BUILDINGS.

**OTHER ISSUES:** TRANSPARANCY- Public - examples. 11-13-18 Trustees returned from Exec. Session to open session and approved pursuing a variance to the prohibition of the sale of alcohol in the CCC, motion was approved with no discussion in open session. 1-22-19 Trustees returned from Exec Session to open session to take action on the Superintendent's contract. The motion was "I move - -as presented in the materials tonight". No discussion, motion was approved unanimously. 12-11-19 Agenda item VI E. Discussion of live vs video & delay play. Trustee Griffin voted NO to this issue of TRANSPARANCY. PUBLIC - PLEASE GET INVOLVED

# 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>



### What Is the League of Women Voters' Mission?

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

### What Does the League Do Now?

The League of Women Voters is a peoples' organization that has fought since 1920 to improve our government and engage all Americans in the decisions that impact their lives. We operate at national, state and local levels through more than 800 state and local Leagues, in all 50 states as well in DC, the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong. We never endorse or oppose political parties or candidates, but we are political. Formed from the movement that secured the right to vote for women, the centerpiece of the League's efforts remain to expand participation and give a voice to all Americans. We do this at all three levels of government, engaging in both broad educational efforts as well as advocacy. Our issues are grounded in our respected history of making democracy work for all Americans.

### Why Should I Support the League of Women Voters?

The League is different from many organizations in that what it accomplishes comes directly from the involvement of its members. It is a **grassroots organization** providing every member with opportunities to learn and educate others about government, and take action on public policy. We walk our talk: we believe that we need everyone to participate in order for our community to be strong, safe and vibrant. Whether you contribute your time, your money, or both you can feel confident that your investment in democracy goes further in the League. Groups of League members meet to discuss topics in a respectful setting. They learn effective techniques for public discussion, how to advocate on specific policies, and what the issues beneath the rhetoric are. Our study and consensus process ensures that we are fully informed on issues before we take a stand. We also host public forums and debates which are well known for being fair, transparent and civil. This approach has earned the League a global reputation for integrity and thoroughness.

Your participation in League will expose you to a breadth of experiences and issues that will not only inform you but create greater possibilities for civic engagement than you might imagine. You can spend as much or as little time as you wish. Whether you aspire to leadership or are keen to follow the lead of experienced members, the League will excite, use, and nurture your civic curiosity, ideals, or desire for action. We offer our members webinars, conference calls, workshops, other events and mentorship opportunities throughout the year, at the local, regional, state and national levels.

- Attend an event on our calendar
- Contact us to get involved