



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

2019 HIGHLAND PARK

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 Highland Park 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 lvwdallas@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 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 or call 214.819.6300.

TEMPORARY EARLY VOTING LOCATION:

APRIL 22-APRIL 26
APRIL 29-APRIL 30

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
MONDAY AND TUESDAY

8:00 AM THROUGH 4:30 PM
7:00 AM THROUGH 7:00 PM

HIGHLAND PARK ISD ADMIN BLDG

7015 WESTCHESTER DR

DALLAS TX 75205

HIGHLAND PARK ISD 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.

Elections are conducted annually in May. Trustees serve for a 3 year term but receive no compensation. While candidates run for specific places, they do not represent specific geographical areas. Whichever candidate receives 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?

RENOVATION VS NEW CONSTRUCTION: What is your stance about renovation of school facilities vs building new schools? Why?

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION: How would you better manage the impact of construction on area residents?

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

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

HIGHLAND PARK TRUSTEE PLACE 3

Kelly Walker

Uncontested

HIGHLAND PARK TRUSTEE PLACE 4

Renee A Bottoms



Biographical Info:

Age: 11/20/1970

Education: BA, UNT MA, UNT Doctoral Work, TWU

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Email: renee.arumugam18@gmail.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/renee.arumugam.3>

EXPERIENCE: I have been an educator for 25 years and have had experience building schools, developing programs, and been a part of the various school and college organizations such as the SACS accreditation, member of the Texas Teacher's Association, and contributed to discussions on the Texas Core Curriculum initiative. I am also a parent of an HPHS student and a member of this community. I work for the state and am passionate about learning. I will be an added value to HPISD School board bringing a fresh perspective to the issues that are important to HPISD through my career and experience.

RENOVATION VS NEW CONSTRUCTION: Upgrading our school facilities is always a good idea, especially since it helps provide more innovative and creative spaces for our children to learn and grow. In choosing a better method of upgrading school facilities. I think it should be obvious that the best method would be to focus on what that would facilitate learning. Preserving some symbolically significant features to allude to HPISD's great, historical past and beginnings is certainly good for the morale of the community. Some parts of this redo requires rebuilding as salvaging the old does not allow for more modern spaces that are conducive to learning.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION: I would certainly like to see more rigorous scheduling of traffic interferences during high traffic hours and areas. This might be beneficial to the community, especially those who are directly affected by these construction sites. We should also have more permanent alternative routes published for the community, so we are not surprised every time the streets are blocked. Better oversight of environmental impact on the community closer to the construction sites should also be considered and implemented. I would certainly like to see better safety measures taken into consideration as well.

FISCAL OVERSIGHT: We need to find ways to fund new initiatives and programs that would improve student learning and better prepare our children with 21st-century skills. I would support encouraging and incentivizing instructional and administrative groups who are willing to explore innovative programs to compete with existing programs for funding. We should have a budgeting policy that is outcome-based, instead of categorical based--a budget that supports resource allocation to improving student achievement by establishing a preference for more high impact, innovative programs.

OTHER ISSUES: Providing our students with a broader and more competitive educational experience should be our priority. Our graduation rates in the district are fantastic. We need to be as competitive with the other up and coming public schools in North Texas. Some school districts in North Texas have used the District of Innovation plan to start Collegiate academies and other programs for their students. Some of their students are graduating with Associate Degrees before their high school graduation. I would like for all HPISD students to have equitable opportunities.

Jae Ellis



Biographical Info:

Age: 3/12/1972

Education: Harvard University 1994 / University of Texas School of Law 1999 / Highland Park High School 1990

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Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Ellis4HPISD/>

You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/rDcHSt8O7OM>

EXPERIENCE: I have served HPISD in dozens of leadership and volunteer roles, including 17 years of service on the Boards of Directors of the Education Foundation and Alumni Association, as a parent representative on multiple Teacher/Administrator/Parent working committees, and as HPHS Student Body President. A licensed Texas attorney since 1999, I have the experience and judgment to effectively collaborate with community members, strategically analyze issues, and implement innovative solutions. And, as a former HPHS classroom teacher, I understand the type of support teachers need to provide the best education for our children.

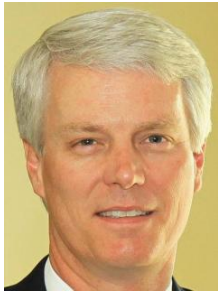
RENOVATION VS NEW CONSTRUCTION: As an HPISD Trustee, my primary goal for all projects, programs, and decisions will be to exercise fiscal conservatism and scrutinize all expenditures to eliminate wasteful spending and ensure that all money spent furthers HPISD's primary mission of providing excellent education for every student. The decision to build four new elementary schools and renovate three buildings was made before I entered the 2019 election for HPISD school board, but when making future decisions about potential construction, I will always weigh the costs against the long-term benefits to identify the best long-term solutions for HPISD.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION: The middle school is the most complicated campus to redevelop because it (1) must remain fully operational, (2) is landlocked, (3) lacks adequate thoroughfares and parking, and (4) sits in one of our community's most densely populated areas. Because there is no way to avoid all inconvenience with construction projects of this magnitude, HPISD must provide open and frequent communication so that area residents know what to expect and can plan for it. I would support the creation of a community committee to meet regularly to allow affected residents to communicate their complaints and share their recommendations.

FISCAL OVERSIGHT: As a result of the state recapturing local school property taxes for statewide redistribution, HPISD is forced to rely on millions of dollars of generous donations, raised by heroic volunteers, to balance its annual budget and pay its teachers. Facing dire funding challenges, School Board Trustees must exercise fiscal conservatism to maximize the educational benefits of each dollar spent by HPISD. I will scrutinize, in detail, the annual budgets proposed by the Superintendent, and I will oppose any proposed expenditures that do not further the district's primary goal of providing excellent education for every student.

OTHER ISSUES: HPISD struggles to hire and retain teachers who are offered higher-paying employment by other school districts near their homes and by private businesses. In order to better compete for the most excellent teachers in North Texas, HPISD leadership must prioritize financial responsibility above all other goals, monitor and influence our state legislators to ensure that they advocate for the financial needs of HPISD, and work toward greater transparency and cooperation among our community's fundraising groups, volunteers, and generous private donors to ensure that we all work together to optimize the benefit for HPISD.

Phillip B Philbin



Biographical Info:

Age: 10/11/1964

Education: J.D., Baylor University School of Law, 1989; B.S., Engineering Science, Trinity University, 1986

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

EXPERIENCE: As a candidate, I bring 30 years of experience advocating for clients in complex disputes. At Haynes and Boone, I have been involved in the strategic business and economic decisions for decades, including serving two full terms on the Board of Directors. I also bring a HPISD parent's perspective as the proud father of two current HPISD students and a 2018 HPHS graduate. I believe the combination of my analytical skills, my education, and my experience serving on boards of prominent organizations equip me to not only understand the issues facing the district but to effectively advocate on behalf of our district.

RENOVATION VS NEW CONSTRUCTION: In November of 2015, the community voted to approve a bond proposal that included the building of four new elementary schools, the significant renovation of the remaining elementary school, and substantial updates to the middle school and high school campuses. As a trustee, I would support carrying out the desires of the community as expressed through the 2015 bond election. On every campus, the students of HPISD will learn in the state-of-the-art facilities from tremendous teachers.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION: In our community, the school district is and should be a good neighbor. To that end, I would make sure that open lines of communication exist to hear and address neighborhood concerns. Whether individual conversations, public comments at the board meetings, or a specific neighborhood liaison, the trustees need to listen to neighbors and take appropriate action. I would encourage the district to open the middle school parking garage as early as practical to move over 100 cars from the neighborhood streets to the parking garage.

FISCAL OVERSIGHT: The financial pressure placed on HPISD as a result of the recapture system means every dollar matters. I would analyze the budget to make sure we are being good stewards of each taxpayer dollar. I would prioritize academic excellence and competitive teacher pay. I would focus on the expenditure bidding process to ensure that the district is getting the best result including through the use of competitive bidding.

OTHER ISSUES: Communication. HPISD is a beacon of excellence in the realm of public education. The school district has a direct positive impact on the property value of each homeowner. Given how close the 2015 bond election was, the district needs to effectively communicate the outstanding value taxpayers are receiving for their investment and the high quality of the education students are receiving from our talented teachers.

HIGHLAND PARK TRUSTEE PLACE 5

Edward Herring

Uncontested

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.



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