



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

2019 ROWLET 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 Rowlett 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 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.

CITY OF ROWLETT MAYOR AND COUNCIL ELECTION

The City of Rowlett is a Home Rule City and operates under a 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.

The Mayor and 6 councilmembers are elected at-large and serve for a 3-year staggered term. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, a runoff election will be held. The Mayor Pro Tem and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem are selected by the Councilmembers.

The City Council meets the first and third Tuesdays of every month in the City Hall Municipal Building.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

BAYSIDE PROJECT: How should the dispute regarding the Bayside development be resolved? What is your vision for this area? Please be specific.

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?

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

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?

CHALLENGES/OPPORTUNITY: What do you view as Rowlett's biggest opportunity and/or challenge during the next council term?

MAYOR

Tammy Dana-Bashian



Biographical Info:

Age: 2/4/1959

Education: Bachelor of Business Administration with Accounting Major and Finance Minor

Website: <http://dana-bashian.com>

Campaign Phone: (972) 814-3164

Email: tammy@dana-bashian.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/tammy.danabashian>

BAYSIDE PROJECT: Our goal must be to facilitate development of the land in a manner that optimizes its value to Rowlett's citizens. Clearly, the current owners/developers no longer share the vision they originally agreed to when determining terms of our public/private partnership. Ideally, we would bring in a new partner to purchase the land south of IH-30 and develop it as a destination with public amenities such as the Crystal Lagoon and show fountain. The south tract should also include a world-class marina, resort and conference center, destination retail/restaurants, Class A office space and condo towers as the market evolves.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: North Texas has benefitted from historically low housing costs. With the influx of population, that is quickly changing. One way to provide high quality affordable housing is supporting federal programs which provide tax credits to developers while requiring them to provide affordable rental prices to their residents. I would also like to see more variety in our housing stock in Rowlett, including town homes, garden

homes, and one-story homes suitable for empty nesters/retirees and new homeowners. Builders are too focused on two story homes with mega square footage rather than meeting the needs of our residents.

INFRASTRUCTURE: Upgrading the city's existing infrastructure and increasing capacity are my highest capital investment priorities. 48% of our alleys and 14% of our roads need reconstruction at a cost of over \$210 and our utility system needs \$50M of capital improvement projects. We allocated over \$60 of our 2015 and 2018 bond programs to infrastructure. I support continued maintenance funding from the operating budget and utility fund, capital project funding from utility fund, bond programs at regular intervals, preservation of our bonding capacity, and partnering with regional transportation providers to increase capacity.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Public safety is the most important function of our city government. Our Police and Fire/Rescue, on average, answer 911 calls within 4 seconds and respond in person within 5 minutes, both excellent times. The Council approved significant market raises in our last two budget cycles to meet our biggest challenge – keeping public safety officers in this highly competitive marketplace. We also authorized two new police officers and nine new firefighters (with assistance from \$2.2M in grant funding) in the 2019 budget, as well as implementing a step pay plan for dispatchers to alleviate turnover in this critical area.

CHALLENGES/OPPORTUNITY: Rowlett will realize almost \$1B in private investment over the next 7 years. With this will come an influx of up to \$15M in property taxes, which offers a huge opportunity for the city, especially in terms of funding public services, improving infrastructure, increasing amenities to residents, and providing tax relief to our community. Bayside is particularly important as it will enable Rowlett to become a world-class destination. I see our North Shore district as a strong opportunity for an employment hub, provided we meet the challenges of zoning/land use and infrastructure development appropriately.

Robbert van Bloemendaal



Biographical Info:

Age: 10/3/1951

Education: Graduated Ivanhoe Grammar School. Certified Travel Counselor.

Website: <http://RobbertforMayor.com>

Campaign Phone: (972) 333-2231

Email: robberformayor@yahoo.com

Facebook: <http://Robbert van Bloemendaal For Mayor of Rowlett>

BAYSIDE PROJECT: If we could bring development to the south side of Bayside as was originally envisaged I would be very happy. As I am not on the council I do not have all the current facts and issues with Bayside. The Mayor has said that the city will acquire and take over the 119 acres on the south side; she also adamantly said that the city would not own the property which I believe is a contradiction. What happens if no developer is found? Bayside has deep pockets and their developer has completed many outstanding properties. If they say it cannot be done financially viably how can a new developer deliver what we want?

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: I am against further multifamily housing development in Rowlett, there are now about 6,000 projected apartments. All the additional people and cars will be a drain on our infrastructure, roads and schools plus create traffic problems. Fire and Police services will not be as quick having to look after all these new locations. Apart from some taxes, it will bring very little benefit to the businesses in our city as the apartments on PGBT and Bayside will more than likely go to Rockwall and Fire Wheel for their needs. I also feel that there will be too many and will be difficult to fill.

INFRASTRUCTURE: We have had great success with using bond money to make vast improvements in our streets and alleys but there is more to be done. Current bond money is also adding to the improvements needed in the city. Repairing and replacing streets, alleys and other infrastructure needs is an ongoing issue and will always be an issue for Rowlett as in any city.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Rowlett has been awarded the honour of being one of the safest cities. However, if we need more resources to serve our community we must provide additional assets. New and additional taxes that will be derived from Bayside that will help fund any additional needs.

CHALLENGES/OPPORTUNITY: The Lawsuits against the city with all the content about important issues in the city is a very important challenge we face. There are even rumours about another one coming. I believe that our citizens are very concerned about are the continued expansion of all the apartments in our city bringing huge population growth, the associated traffic presence on our roads with and their effects on the inadequate infrastructure issues as a result. We have an asset that should be used, the North Shore district. If we could bring in development like the State farm project on 190 Rowlett would have another Icon and taxes.

Neslie Fudge

No Response

Cindy Gonzales-Baker

No Response

Brownie Sherrill



Biographical Info:

Age: 10/18/1947

Education: Numerous continuing education classes ranging from operation of mainframe computers to COBOL/DB2.

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Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Brownie-Sherrill-for-Rowlett-City-Council-1779612709017083/>

BAYSIDE PROJECT: There has been a settlement agreement signed by both parties which is a huge step in the right direction to settle the dispute. My vision for the south side of I-30 is the original vision with the Crystal Lagoon including a hotel and conference center along with office space, restaurants, shops and a world class marina. This project is a game changer for helping to provide tax relief to the citizens of Rowlett.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: It is important to support the various lifestyles and population demographics in our city. Not everyone wants a 3 bedroom 2 bath brick home and not everyone can afford to live in the higher priced apartments that we have. We have a senior housing facility which filled up very quickly and another senior product under construction. We should have workforce housing so our teachers, police, fire, and city workers won't have to reside in another city. I believe we have enough apartments on the ground at this time that we need to see the occupancy rates before we allow more.

INFRASTRUCTURE: The city's infrastructure is our main priority whether it is water and sewer lines or streets and alleys. As we upgrade our residential streets, we replace the water and sewer lines that are under the street. Our Public Works department knows what is in need of replacing as is handling that as quickly as they can. The three year bonds are supplying the money needed to do three years of work on the infrastructure.

PUBLIC SAFETY: I would rate the city's performance in public safety as OUTSTANDING. Our response time for police, fire, and ambulance is consistently faster than the national and state averages. Sometimes, 2 minutes faster. Upgrades to public safety and infrastructure are top priority in the budget process as well as the three year bond program.

CHALLENGES/OPPORTUNITY: Our biggest opportunity and challenge during the next council term is getting the south side of I-30 right. It will present a large tax income to the city which will help with the taxes you and I pay today. Rowlett needs more commercial and this development is a huge step in that direction.

Louis Frisbie



Biographical Info:

Age: 12/14/1961

Education: BS Civil Engineering, University of Texas at El Paso MBA University of Texas at Dallas

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Facebook: <http://www.frisbieforrowlett.com>

You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/TlhSFFP-IXQ>

BAYSIDE PROJECT: Bayside is undoubtedly our City's most high profile development project so far. It is meant to be a game changer for our community, so it is extremely unfortunate that the original landowners and developer did not deliver on their promises to build a world class facility. We need to cut our losses and move forward with a new developer. I have always been a supporter of the original vision, including the Crystal Lagoon, show fountain, trolley, new marina, and lakefront trails, as well as the 1.75 M square feet of commercial space which will include a 500 room resort and new conference center. Let's get it right.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: As a candidate for Rowlett City Council I support a diverse selection of housing in our community. This includes a broad range of housing choices for our residents ranging from affordable housing for working class families, to luxury homes in specific neighborhoods. Of greater concern is the development of apartments in neighborhoods where this type of development is not the best or highest use. For example, the construction of apartments at Bayside seems like a wasted opportunity for mixed use or Transit Oriented Development which could have generated significant additional tax revenues for the city.

INFRASTRUCTURE: Traditionally Rowlett has used its bonding capacity to fund the reconstruction and improvements to our existing roadway network. However, I would like to see our future bond programs target specific roadway projects which will improve our communities ability to attract new businesses, and improve mobility for the traveling public as a whole. These projects would include the planning of new frontage roads along the PGBT, or improve thoroughfares in the Northshore area, thereby catalyzing new commercial developments which our city badly needs. New tax revenues from these properties would offset this investment.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Rowlett's Police, Fire and EMT's have provided excellent services to our community. This was evidenced when the tornado hit our city several years ago, and the aftermath of that event. I continue to support investing in our community's ability to provide superior public safety, and feel that we can continue to fund needed training, equipment and facilities within budgets, primarily due to the increased revenues from city taxes, fees and community donations. These expenses will be balanced along with other departments during the City's budgeting efforts for coming year.

CHALLENGES/OPPORTUNITY: The most significant issue is making sure that the remaining open land in Rowlett is developed responsibly, and to the highest and best uses available. These new developments will provide local jobs, increase tax revenues to the city, and improve our city's image. Our city will need to prepare Capital Improvement Plans to support these strategic improvements to benefit all residents of the city. We have to make sure that we get this right as the city's undeveloped land is now less than 25% of the available land within city limits. We also need to make the most of our lakefront as this is a unique asset for Rowlett.

Diane Lemmons



Biographical Info:

Education: Legal Secretary - 1987 Economic Developer - 2008 Non-Profit Executive - 2015

Campaign Phone: (972) 624-3111

Email: dlemmons@thecolonytx.gov

Facebook: <http://Diane Hayes Lemmons>

BAYSIDE PROJECT: The City has reached an agreement and will buy back the south side of Bayside. The project needs to continue as originally planned. The trolley system, lagoon and resort are a big part of this deal and a must for this location. I would not put housing on this property. I would focus on restaurant and entertainment venues. Retail will suffer out here and has been proven to suffer at other commercial sites on the waterfront properties around the lake. The resort will bring conventions and visitors from all industries. The housing on the north side is enough to support this location.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: I do not support additional multi-family projects unless a corporate campus is built and requires additional housing options. We currently have 4,000 units coming online. We have changed our housing stock significantly and I believe there are now options for our current residents. We have very little land left and commercial primary jobs needs to be the focus going forward.

INFRASTRUCTURE: We need to continue the 3 year bond as we retire debt. Citizens can choose the projects they desire. Alley reconstruction will always be a need and the right thing to do along with roads as they age and we grow. We need to start our focus on the 190 corridor side streets to be able to create the job generators and companies along the PGBT. We must correct the balance between residential and commercial to take some of the burden off the citizens. This will enable us to lower taxes and is the only way to give back to our residents.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Our police and fire are the best in the business. Making sure they have what they need is of the utmost importance. These things are already being funded and approved in the last 2 bond elections. To my knowledge there is not something they require that we are missing. If there was something they needed we would figure out a way to make sure they got it.

CHALLENGES/OPPORTUNITY: We have a major opportunity to create something special on the I 30 site (they are no longer calling this piece Bayside). It is a very unique site surrounded by water on 3 sides. We need service roads on PGBT to start the infrastructure needed to build a business park or corporate campus. We need to trust our citizens and not put \$500,000 consulting fees under public safety in the bond. We need to reduce the amount we spend on consulting fees. We need to be mindful of what is going on in legislation to protect our business owners and citizens. We serve the citizens and we need to be reminded it is their money.

Whitney P Laning



Biographical Info:

Website: <http://laningforcouncil.com>

Campaign Phone: (214) 417-4857

Email: laningforcouncil@gmail.com

BAYSIDE PROJECT: The city entered into an agreement in March which may end the lawsuit and put Rowlett on firm footing for development of the south side. We received assurances from Council that the new developer agreed to the Crystal Lagoon and show fountain, and that they would be included in the new development plan. These amenities are critical to the success of the development as they bring business and visitors to the site. I have talked with many residents and heard their views. I believe the city is making the right moves to ensure successful development that mirrors what residents have demanded and made clear.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: There are 3 types of apartments – market rate, senior and workforce. I believe we have enough market rate apartments and we need to see what the housing market does before considering more. Both senior and workforce housing solutions are in short supply in this area. To attract employers we must have an educated workforce that is housed nearby. The senior market is underserved and is a fast growth area. Approvals for any new housing developments, multi-family or not, need to pay particular attention to the Master Thoroughfare Plan, updated Comprehensive Plan, and Zoning Ordinances so that quality of life is respected.

INFRASTRUCTURE: One of my concerns is that because we have kicked the infrastructure maintenance can so far down the street, we may not be able to recover at a rate that is acceptable to residents – meaning impact on tax rates. However, great strides have recently been made using bond funds from 2015 and 2018. My hope is that we can continue to use this type of innovative financing to improve, build and maintain quality roads, alleys and other infrastructure in the city.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Public Safety is a core service of government. Fire and police are accredited in Rowlett. The recently completed Strategic Plan identified Public Safety as the number one priority from residents. We should prioritize funding upgrades, staffing and equipment at the top of any priority budget list. Residents want a safe community. If they have an emergency, they demand a prompt and efficient response to their call for assistance. This includes emergency management and the ability to respond to a major disaster or local emergency. All of our Public Safety staff do a superb job of protecting our residents and visitors.

CHALLENGES/OPPORTUNITY: Obviously the development formerly known as Bayside is a huge opportunity, and also a challenge for provide city services and public safety protection. Economic Development is another opportunity for planned growth and a way to reduce our dependence on residential property taxes. The elephant in the room is property taxes and balance of core services with proposed legislative actions. A proposed bond issue in 2021 may also be a challenge depending on economic conditions. Traffic on IH-30 will be challenging as construction begins. Despite the challenges, together we march forward with hope for the future.

CITY COUNCIL PLACE 6

David C Brooks



Biographical Info:

Age: 7/25/1967

Education: BA Economic & Finance and MBA from University of Texas-Dallas; plus 27 years in Banking and Finance

Website: <http://DavidCBrooksforRowlett.com>

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You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/v/y45gVT_NTbs

BAYSIDE PROJECT: The City of Rowlett has proposed a solution to the investors in the Bayside development. There is now a 120 day period for further due diligence and negotiation. A successful resolution would be a development that retains much of the public use space and a premier resort on the south side of the project (i.e. on the peninsula).

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Prior to 2018 there were approximately 340 multiple family units in Rowlett. That number will increase 10 times to 3,471 units, based on the the total number of units already approved. Given that sharp increase, I would not approve any new units until the existing projects have been completed and we can see their impact on the infrastructure and traffic patterns within the city. At the same time we should ensure that the apartments adhere to what should be strict architectural standards. Residential growth should be accompanied by commercial growth.

INFRASTRUCTURE: City management already has a detailed plan to maintain and upgrade Rowlett's infrastructure. The Council will need to ensure that the infrastructure plan is aggressive enough to keep up with the already approved residential and commercial projects and dynamic enough for changes to accommodate new commercial or residential projects that get approved. The key to successfully funding maintenance and upgrades is to grow the tax base through the attraction of new residential and commercial development. Both types of development should be managed under a long term vision and strict architectural standards.

PUBLIC SAFETY: A feature that attracts residents and businesses to a city is a strong public safety record and a force that is able to respond to emergencies rapidly and effectively. The Rowlett Police and Fire departments are fundamental to the successful growth of the City. Rowlett should invest in premier technology, as well as manpower to ensure that we have forces that can provide that kind of response. Funding require growing the tax base in a managed way designed to maintain the city's character. The Council also needs do an audit of tax incentives already approved and be judicious in approving those in the future.

CHALLENGES/OPPORTUNITY: Given the tremendous growth that DFW in general is experiencing, Rowlett will need to ensure that the we manage our own growth by adhering to our own vision and values and sticking to the detailed framework that has already been put in place. Oversight of zoning and architectural standards should govern that process.

Martha Brown



Biographical Info:

Age: 9/9/1952

Education: High School Leadership Rowlett Leadership North Texas

Campaign Phone: (214) 998-9203

Email: martha9952@verizon.net

BAYSIDE PROJECT: My hope is that with the agreement negotiated between the City and Bayside Land Partners on March 8, 2019, the 119 acre property south of I-30, including the marina, can get back on track with a new development partner to build the original vision for that area as an entertainment destination with a Crystal Lagoon as the centerpiece. There is much work to do over the next 120 days to facilitate that agreement, which if successfully implemented, will result in the dismissal of the lawsuit the City brought against Bayside Land Partners, settling the dispute.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Our City has come a long way in offering more diverse housing options with a surge in the construction of luxury apartments two senior facilities and single-family homes built to our form-based code standards, creating walk-able neighborhoods and a more connected community. What our City is lacking is what we used to call "starter homes" for the first-time home buyer, and smaller or zero-lot line homes for retirees. We need workforce, affordable multi-family housing for our recent grads, entry level teachers, civil servants and retail workers. I would support the right developer to provide for these housing options.

INFRASTRUCTURE: Having served on the Community Investment Task Force as a citizen and as Council liaison to the Community Investment Advisory Board, I am keenly aware of the long-term infrastructure needs of Rowlett. How we address those needs and pay for them requires a great deal of information gathering, including pavement condition reports and recommendations by staff for prioritization and cost of projects. Several million dollars are allocated to our City's infrastructure in the annual budget each year. In the last two bond elections, citizens have approved funding of more than \$60 million in street and alley construction.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Public safety is at the top of my list. Our Fire and Police Departments. do an outstanding job, with average response times being under 5 minutes. Citizens have approved \$9 million in bond funding for Public Safety capital projects. We've done compensation studies to make sure our pay and benefits are competitive and have made sure that Rowlett's first responders are well equipped. Our Fire Department recently received a \$1.7 million SAFR grant, enabling us to hire 9 new paramedics for Station 4, and a \$465,000 safe room grant for homeowners. The only change I would recommend is increasing the pay for dispatchers.

CHALLENGES/OPPORTUNITY: Our biggest opportunity and challenge is to diversify the tax base by marketing the development of the North Shore area, our downtown and the destination/entertainment district on the south side of I-30. The revenue generated by these areas will bring much needed tax relief to our homeowners, who bear about 83% of the tax burden currently. It would also generate funds to help address our infrastructure needs while providing the employment, shopping, dining and entertainment options that our citizens want. It requires experience to know where we're going with a clear-eyed commitment to stay the course.

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"> 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