

League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls

P.O. Box 4034, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308-0034 (phone/fax 940-867-9761)



Voters Guide

General Election, Wichita County

Tuesday, November 8, 2016

The League of Women Voters invited each candidate to respond to several questions for this Voters Guide. Local candidates' unedited answers begin on page 2.

This VOTERS GUIDE is published and funded by the League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls (LWV-WF), through donations from League members, Citizens of Wichita Falls, and Residents of the Wichita Falls area. The LWV-WF is affiliated with the League of Women Voters of Texas and the League of Women Voters of the U.S., and is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that works to promote political responsibility through active informed participation of all citizens in their government. The League DOES NOT support nor oppose any political party, candidate, or proposition. This VOTERS GUIDE is designed to convey factual information to help prepare citizens to cast informed votes. Responses to the questionnaire are printed only for races contested in this Primary (or which will be contested in the General Election). Candidates' replies are printed without editing or verification. To conserve space, replies have word limits. Candidates are listed by Party.

WHERE TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8

Locations are in Wichita Falls unless otherwise noted.

Pct. 101 - Allendale Baptist Church, 4650 Allendale Rd.
Pcts. 102, 110 - Ben Franklin Elementary, 2112 Speedway
Pct. 103 - Fowler Elementary, 5100 Ridgcrest Drive
Pcts. 104, 111 - MSU Hardin Admin. Bldg., 3400 Taft Blvd.
Pcts. 105, 112 - First Christian Church, 3701 Taft Blvd.
Pct. 106 - Kamay VFD, 8537 SH 258 W, Kamay
Pcts. 108, 113, 114 - TX Hwy. Dept., 1601 Southwest Pkwy.
Pcts. 107, 109, 115, 116, 117 - Fain Elementary, 1562 Norman
Pct. 201 - John Tower Elementary, 209 Reilly
Pcts. 202, 208 - City View ISD Conference, 1121 Crescent
Pct. 203 - Haynes Northwest Academy, 1705 Katherine
Pcts. 204, 209, 210, 211 - Cameron Gardens VFD, 153 FM 1740
Pcts. 205, 206 - Commissioner 2 Bldg., 102 W. College, Burkburnett
Pct. 207 - Hirschi High School, 3016 Borton
Pcts. 301, 304, 318 - Southern Hills Elementary, 3920 Armory
Pcts. 302, 308, 316, 319 - WFISD Education Center, 1104 Broad
Pct. 303 - Booker T Washington, 1200 Harding
Pcts. 305, 314, 315 - Region IX Education Center, 301 Loop 11
Pcts. 306, 312, 313 - Kate Burgess Elementary, 306 Maurine
Pcts. 307, 317 - City View High School, 1600 City View Dr.
Pct. 309 - First Baptist Family Center, 220 W Park, Iowa Park
Pct. 310 - Bradford Elementary, Iowa Park
Pct. 311 - Martin Luther King Center, 1100 Smith
Pcts. 401, 402 - First Assembly of God, 3101 McNeil
Pcts. 403, 411 - Ben Milam Elementary, 3201 Boren
Pcts. 404, 408, 409 - Knights of Columbus, 2250 Turtle Creek
Pcts. 406, 410 - Jefferson Elementary, 4628 Mistletoe
Pcts. 405, 407 - Crockett Elementary, 3015 Ave. I
Pct. 412 - Cowboy Church, 2635 Haws Rd., Iowa Park
Pcts. 413, 414 - First United Methodist, 1107 Bailey, Electra

WHERE TO VOTE EARLY

Wichita County Courthouse
900 7th Street, Wichita Falls

Wichita County Tax Office Substation
400 N Wall Street, Iowa Park

Commissioner 2 Bldg.
102 W College, Burkburnett

Oct. 24 - Oct. 28	(8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
Oct. 29	(7 a.m. - 7 p.m.)
Oct. 30	(Noon - 5 p.m.)
Oct. 31 - Nov. 4	(7 a.m. - 7 p.m.)

Sikes Senter Mall & Home Depot

Oct. 24 - Oct. 28	(10 a.m. - 7 p.m.)
Oct. 29	(9 a.m. - 9 p.m.)
Oct. 30	(Noon - 5 p.m.)
Oct. 30 - Nov. 4	(9 a.m. - 9 p.m.)

Commissioner 4 Bldg.
2023 SH 25 N, Electra

Oct. 24 - Oct. 28	(8 a.m. - Noon)
Oct. 31 - Nov. 4	(1 p.m. - 5 p.m.)
*CLOSED Oct. 29 & 30	

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

October 28 is the last day to apply for an absentee ballot by mail. Absentee ballots returned by mail must be received by 7:00 p.m. on Nov. 8.

To view this Voters Guide online, visit
www.lwvtexas.org/Wichita_Falls.html

► U.S. CONGRESS, DISTRICT 13

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: What are your qualifications for office (including your occupation, education, training and experience)? (100 words) limit.

QUESTION 2: What do you feel are the top two (2) issues facing the country and what do you see as appropriate action for Congress to take? (200 words)

QUESTION 3: What positive actions do you see Congress taking to reduce the partisan divide and work together better? (100 words)

MAC THORNBERRY • Rep

CONGRESS • DIST 13

QUESTION 1: Fifth-generation Texan. Raised on family ranch in Donley County and continue to be involved in the family cattle business. Graduate of Texas Tech University and the University of Texas Law School. Currently represent the 13th District in Congress and serve as Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

QUESTION 2: 1) Our national security in an increasingly dangerous world. Congress must meet its constitutional duties to provide for the defense of the nation and ensure that we have the capabilities to protect our country and our interests, especially making sure that our military men and women have the tools and training they need to successfully carry out their missions.

2) Grow the economy. Because of taxes, regulations, debt, and big government, many Americans are working harder but have less to show for it. It is also

becoming tougher for small businesses to make ends meet and provide jobs. Even big businesses are being left behind in global competition. I support the ideas in the “A Better Way” plan to reform the tax code, cut regulations and regulators, replace Obamacare, and shrink government to get our economy growing again and improve Americans’ quality of life.

QUESTION 3: The key is for Members of Congress -- and all of us -- to put the country first. Social media, cable television, and many organizations have an interest in fueling divisions. Those pressures have to be resisted even when it disappoints some partisans. I have cosponsored a bill to develop reforms in the way Congress operates, which could also help. Fortunately, there is less partisanship in national security than in most other issue areas.

RUSTY TOMLINSON • Grn

QUESTION 1: My main qualification is that I am a resident of Texas' District 13 in the US Congress. I don't believe that one has to be a millionaire or own a ranch, in order to run for office. I have a BS in psychology, and Texas Elementary and Generic Special Education Teacher's Certificates. I have taught students classified as behavior disordered and severely emotionally disturbed. I ran for the US Senate seat held by Kay Bailey Hutchison in 2006. I am very proud to say that I am not a politician.

QUESTION 2: Sorry, but I see three issues that have such importance, that they are second to none. First, is military spending and military aggression. Any time we have any military operations in other countries, it is not defense, but aggression. Congressman Thornberry heads the House Armed Services Committee and guess who his largest contributors are. Go to opensecrets.org. Second is our environment. Our resistance to researching and developing alternatives to fossil fuels is causing global warming to spiral out of control. Both military aggression and global warming could cause a sudden end to

our world. The third issue is rule by the people, not by the elite who are now running our country. Actually, the three issues I listed can be grouped under one issue, returning power to the people, instead of the corporations. Donations by PACS and people representing corporations should be severely limited and no legislator should be allowed to vote on legislation affecting any corporations represented by any of her donors. The system we have now is legal bribery and it is very corrupt.

QUESTION 3: I don't see the two major parties as split, but I see them as coming to be more and more the uniparty, bought and paid for by the corporations This has caused any discussion of major cuts in the military budgets, or in military aggression to be anathema. It has also caused the corporations to gain more power to exploit labor and consumers. We need to work to eliminate the laws and regulations, which are there to maintain rule by the uniparty, so that other parties can present the American people with true alternatives.

CALVIN DEWEISSE • Lib

DID NOT RESPOND

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SEND YOUR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO:
League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 4034, Wichita Falls, TX 76308

► MAYOR, CITY OF WICHITA FALLS

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: What are your qualifications for office (including your occupation, education, training and experience)? (100 words) limit.

QUESTION 2: What do you feel are the top two (2) issues facing Wichita Falls and what do you see as appropriate action for the city to take? (200 words)

QUESTION 3: In an austere funding environment, what criteria are most important in evaluating competing funding needs? (100 words)

TIM INGLE

QUESTION 1: Visit timingle4mayor.com for complete resume. I have worked hard for 6 years to learn city government and the city economy. I have pushed for economic development reforms and have had to make some extremely hard choices during the recession, drought and last year's flood. I was the acting mayor during May 2015 flood; oversaw plans and their implementation during first 3 days of the crisis. I've fought for citizens and businesses against unfair practices and heavy handed regulations. I have the skills, the character, the experience and proven record of leadership to be your next mayor.

QUESTION 2: GROWTH – in both the economy and population. We need private developers and capital to help us grow. This requires a consistent, long-term, quality jobs incentive plan. The Chamber and 4A Corporation have stepped up and are doing it quite well now. Also, the City must become the easiest place to do business in Texas. We are competing not only against other Texas cities, but globally as well. We have to do it better and cheaper than everyone else. We must provide exceptional customer service. We must provide all incentives available to encourage growth and reduce any burdensome city regulations that could stifle private development. I will

work hard to make this happen. When the world sees Wichita Falls open for business, then you'll see growth.

FOCUS ON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION – I have pushed for a Comprehensive Downtown Development Plan and it is currently underway. Our history, our heritage and our heart is in downtown. For many years I have pushed for a plan that would give incentives and allow the private sector to grow our downtown. Using the same principles outlined above, we can make downtown and Wichita Falls the best place to live in North Texas.

QUESTION 3: The deeper question is, "What is our Vision?" Where do we see ourselves 25 years from now?" This will shape the budgets of all departments. From the Vision we create goals for each department, and from that come priorities.

- Is the project a basic government function? Can the private sector do it better?
- Will it create a long term financial burden?
- Will it create synergy? Will it have economic ripple effects that benefit more than one department and push us toward our vision?
- Will council/city staff stay focused? Stay the course? **LEADERSHIP!**

STEPHEN SANTELLANA

QUESTION 1: After graduating from Midwestern State University in 1998, I entered the business world. Working in a family business afforded me opportunities to take on critical leadership roles, problem solving, financials, budgeting, management and an overall sense of responsibility for myself, business, and employees. I have also started a business from the ground up. It has been a very rewarding experience. Perhaps most rewarding though is my civic involvement. I've had the opportunity to serve on community boards as well as the school board of Christ Academy. These experiences have further developed and honed my business skills and financial acuity.

QUESTION 2: Economic Growth is an issue that Wichita Falls has faced for several decades. Growing our tax base by attracting businesses will help with citizen retention, student retention, and the lack of economic growth. I plan on helping the existing industries grow their current businesses, continuing to help our two local colleges grow, and strengthening the relationship with Sheppard Air Force Base. All these efforts couple with a strong sense of leadership and growth will help propel Wichita Falls into a more prosperous era. Downtown development is going to be an integral part of the development process. I intend to work closely with the chamber of commerce to help the development and recognition of downtown needs. We now know that

millennials are a huge part of Wichita Falls and that developing an attractive downtown will encourage their continued investment in our great city.

Planning for our deteriorating infrastructure is an issue that Wichita Falls must soon address. Many of our city streets, water systems, sewer systems, and other parts of our infrastructure are old and antiquated. We are now at a point where planning, updating, and renovating of these systems is a critical reality.

QUESTION 3: Due to budgetary constraints and lagging sales tax revenue, developing a criteria for the competing needs is imperative. A systematic approach is essential when considering the budget concerns that Wichita Falls faces yearly. Public safety is paramount when considering funding for Wichita Falls. The policing of our citizens and the necessity for well-trained first responders cannot be overlooked. The safety and well-being of our citizens is vital.

Water, sewer, and sanitation are basic needs that must be a priority. These fundamental needs for our city will always be at the top of the list when considering competing funds.

► WICHITA COUNTY COMMISSIONER

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: What are your qualifications for office (including your occupation, education, training and experience)? (100 words) limit.

QUESTION 2: What do you feel are the top two (2) issues facing Wichita County and what do you see as appropriate action for the county to take? (200 words)

QUESTION 3: In an austere funding environment, what criteria are most important in evaluating competing funding needs? (100 words)

MARK BEAUCHAMP • Rep

PRECINCT 1

QUESTION 1: I have been a dedicated public service employee of the city of Wichita Falls Traffic for 34 years, where for the previous 13 years I have served as the Superintendent of Traffic. In that capacity, I manage a staff of 25 full and part-time employees along with an approximate two million dollar annual budget. I have kept that budget at consistent level for over a decade by long range planning, innovative capital improvements and maintenance programs. I have collaborated with local, regional and state agencies as well as contractors to plan, construct and maintain the Metro area roadway network.

QUESTION 2: The most pressing need is the county jail. Overcrowding, unfunded mandates and failing infrastructure require prompt action. The Sprague annex has exceeded the anticipated 10 year design lifespan by well over a decade. The downtown facility is even more fragile and antiquated; fighting rust is a never ending battle. Furthermore, the kitchen, laundry and infirmary facilities are grossly undersized to serve the inmate count. All county law enforcement agencies must use the downtown facility for book in. The existing intake is sufficient for only two police vehicles resulting in law enforcement circling the courthouse with inmates in custody until space

becomes available. I would explore all options and bring the best possible plan before the tax payers. I support the construction of a new facility if the plans are fiscally sound; they address all health and safety concerns for county staff as well as inmates and meet county needs for the foreseeable future. Stagnant growth trends continue to plague our county resulting in ever tightening budgets. I look forward to working with our area governmental partners and agencies including Sheppard Air Force Base, Vernon Collage and MSU to both attract new development and to train and retain a quality workforce.

QUESTION 3: It must be determined first if the expense is necessary because of requirements or mandates. If an expense is not mandated then it must be prioritized objectively. The minimum criteria that should be considered: is the expenditure a want or a need, what is the cost to benefit, are there sufficient funds available or budgeted, can funding be obtained from alternative sources such as a grant, are there alternative options, is there public support for the expenditure and how will the decision to fund or not fund an expenditure effect both county staff and the citizens of the Wichita County?


LARRY DONAHOO • Dem

QUESTION 1: I grew up on a small farm in Perry Township Brown County, Ohio. Graduated Fayetteville High School 1956. Farmed and worked in an Auto Factory. Entered the U.S. Army 1960. Was assigned to the Nike-Hercules Missile Battalion , Fort Richardson, Alaska. Farmed, raised three children. Then started in the moving business as a registered driver 1983. First for Allied, then North American, Wheaton and Global. Over years took some courses at V.R.J.C Wichita Falls. Hard to sum up 49 years of married life and 78 years of living in 100 words.

QUESTION 2: Top two issues; Sheppard A.F.B is a blessing. Wind generators are a blessing. However the two do not mix. This is a region wide problem, yes zoning. At least one Politician is on it. We need many more and many concerned citizens before it is to late. The second issue is Justice Center; there are at least four different plans around for improving the jail housing situation. Two plans call for sky bridges, one plan would move the courts into

a new Justice Center. One plan would build another Jail in the dog field at Sprague. Another plan would turn the Sprague building into a modern jail. All plans require a bond issue floated. Whew! To build a sky bridge to that poor old tired court house seems insane. We are not thinking big enough nor considering the cost of operating those old buildings and two jails. Build it all at once, something that makes the county proud. If not at Sprague, how about in a nice big field out toward Iowa Park. Research what other counties our size have done. Properly done the savings would pay for it.

QUESTION 3: If someone can save money without cutting services, lets hear it. However, the courts need to move faster, bonds for non violent offenders need to be reduced. The state needs to pick up convicted prisoners faster. We probably will get voting centers next year. That will save a little money down the road. Build some modern facilities.

 **Access the Interactive Voters Guide**

An interactive version of this *Voters Guide* is available online at www.VOTE411.org. Enter your address and zip code and view the races and candidates that appear on your ballot. You will be able to compare the candidates' responses to the questions side-by-side and create a printout of a ballot that you can take to the polls.

► WICHITA COUNTY COMMISSIONER CONT'D

PRECINCT 3

BARRY MAHLER • Rep

QUESTION 1: I am a graduate of Midwestern State University with a B.A. in communication and a Master’s in Business Administration. It has been my honor to serve as Wichita County Commissioner for the last eight years and I am familiar with the many departments of County Government. I have lived in Wichita County all my life, owned and operated businesses here. I currently serve on the Texas State Soil and water Conservation Board, The Wichita County Farm Bureau board and the Wichita Soil and Water Conservation board. I am proud to be a property owner and tax payer in Wichita County.

QUESTION 2: The top two issues facing Wichita County at this time include the ability to keep up with increasing demands with a budget being funded from a relatively flat tax base. Wichita County has not seen the growth in population that some other areas of Texas have and it puts pressure on a static tax base to fund the increasing costs. Those demands include more funding for programs such as indigent defense and health care that is mandated by federal rules. An increasing jail population and the rising costs of providing

services for inmates also mandated by federal rules is forcing our property owners to pay higher taxes. Our average jail population this year is expected to be over 500, a number on the upper end for a county our size. Our current jail is stressed to handle the large population and therefore we see inmates moved to other facilities for routine operations such as maintenance at a high cost per day. This brings us to the second major issue and that is moving forward with a new or renovated jail facility. The court is currently looking at all options to best serve the community in both price and function.

QUESTION 3: Developing the 2017 budget was a four month full time effort. That is how difficult it is to provide the services required by law and funded by a static tax base. First you fund mandated items and about 75% of the budget falls in this category. We work to avoid duplication of services including looking at other agencies and trying to work together for greater efficiency and then continue to strive for the best value for the tax payer to maintain the services that they expect. I am a taxpayer and I understand the pain and stress of higher taxes.

GORDON GRIFFITH • Dem

DID NOT RESPOND

► WICHITA FALLS ISD SCHOOL BOARD

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: What are your qualifications for office (including your occupation, education, training and experience)? (100 words) limit.

QUESTION 2: What do you feel are the top two (2) issues facing Wichita Falls ISD and what do you see as appropriate action for WFISD to take? (200 words)

QUESTION 3: What do you feel is the appropriate School Board action in terms of early childhood education? (100 words)

DALE HARVEY

PLACE 4

QUESTION 1: I am an investor in the oil and gas business and I understand the meaning of agreeable teamwork. I have a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from Midwestern State University. I have served four years on the WFISD Board of Trustees. Recently, I was elected President of the Board. I have been involved in the hiring of two superintendents. I assisted formation of and service on the Board's Facility Committee and was involved with planning two Bond proposals. While devoting 15-20 hours per week to board service I am able to maintain a thoughtful and independent stance on all issues.

QUESTION 2: Teacher Pay - During my time on the Board, the District as worked very hard in becoming more competitive in the market for teachers. We have awarded across the board salary increases to teachers and staff. These actions have placed WFISD as the highest paying school district in the North Texas area. I feel it is very important to maintain an active management strategy with regard to teacher and staff salaries and I firmly believe competitive salaries will continue to improve the WFISD.

Facilities - I believe a thoughtful, logical facilities plan, proposed by the board in consultation with community members is appropriate. We must be courageous in this endeavor and respectful of all stakeholders. I believe this plan should be mindful of cost and the present and future needs of students and parents. My mind is open, and I will approach the formation of any future bond proposal with an eye toward equality. Based on our recent actions and community support, I believe we are on the correct path and have a great opportunity to move the WFISD and the city forward.

QUESTION 3: Proper early childhood education is essential to WFISD, nobody will argue that fact. I believe the most challenging aspect of early childhood education is the fact that as a community our economic demographics have changed dramatically in the past 10 years. We are increasingly less affluent district and the percentage of children in the district who qualify for free and/or reduced meals is around 70%. I believe it is critical to lower student teacher ratios. This will create a more effective learning atmosphere, increase academic achievement and better establish an effective culture of learning.

► WICHITA FALLS ISD SCHOOL BOARD CONT'D

PLACE 4

DUSTIN NIMZ

QUESTION 1: I graduated from Rider High School and Midwestern State University before receiving my law degrees at Texas Tech and Temple University. As a small business owner and lawyer serving Wichita Falls I use the skills I learned to be an effective communicator. I will use those same skills to advocate for our schools. I am very active in our community serving on the 4B Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment for the City, the boards of directors for United Way, Midtown Manor, Teen Court, and others. I was awarded the Partners in Education Rookie of the Year in 2015.

QUESTION 2: The WFISD must address its need for more effective communication and leadership. Those issues stem directly from the Board. The WFISD needs a Board that is able to consider difficult policies such as long-term planning, facilities, and hot-button political issues and take decisive action based on actual feedback. The primary complaints I have received from parents, administrators, and teachers are that policies seem to be reactive rather than proactive and do not leverage the knowledge of the stakeholders in our schools. Teachers and administrators do not feel heard.

Parents feel left out.

The appropriate action is for the Board to meet regularly with teachers and principals to determine if policies are actually beneficial. The Board needs to ensure that its policies are clearly communicated to all stakeholders. Additionally the Board must be willing to take personal responsibility by making difficult choices and standing behind them.

QUESTION 3: Early childhood education is extremely important in providing opportunities to all students in our schools. When we invest in ECE we have students that are closer to the same level at kindergarten facilitating more efficient use of time in the classroom and greater advancement for all students. The School Board should ensure that high quality ECE programs are available to all children in the district so that all can take advantage of early learning that will impact them for the rest of their lives. Better students make better employees, attract good jobs, and expand the tax base.

SHANE SMITH

QUESTION 1: As Vice President for the Property and Casualty division at Higginbotham Insurance, I have gained valuable experience that will assist in my efforts as a school board trustee. As an avid learner, I have valued education in my professional career as well. I hold the advanced designation of Certified Insurance Councilor from The National Alliance for Education and Research. Currently, I am working on obtaining the Certified Risk Manager designation. A graduate of Midwestern State University, I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management and was a Delta Mu Delta business honor society inductee during my time there.

QUESTION 2: I don't see "issues" facing the WFISD. I see opportunities out in front of us. Our ability to capitalize on these opportunities will determine the future of our student successes and the level of excellence by which we operate. First, we have a real opportunity to better connect our school board to the city of Wichita Falls. In order for this city to rally behind board matters, they must first feel very connected to the work of our administration. Building new bridges of communication with parents, grandparents, teachers and

other stakeholders of the WFISD should be at operational forefront.

Secondly, implementing strong processes by which the board operates will provide the foundation for overall excellence. Research from The Center For Reform of School Systems tells us that high performing school boards are accountability driven, data-savvy and focused on improving student achievement. I firmly believe implementing a continuous improvement process could move our district from good to great.

QUESTION 3: Early childhood education is a vital piece in the life of a student. Setting clear goals and measuring outcomes of early childhood education is paramount. We know from experience that a vast majority of learning occurs inside the home. Engaging and equipping families of pre-k students will give them the tools they need to succeed outside of the classroom. Lastly, we must dedicate resources to teachers to make sure they are on the cutting edge of innovative teaching styles and reaching these students effectively.

TOM BURSEY

PLACE 5

QUESTION 1: I am retired. I do volunteer for Meals on Wheels; DAV Transportation Coordinator where we drive veterans to their medical appointments at the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center; and President of the Board for the Sonshine House (a charity organization that provides free food and clothes to needy families) sponsored by four local Church of Christ congregations. Bachelor of Science in Occupational Education. Completed courses in Business Administration toward Masters Degree. 22 year Air Force career. 5 years Supervisor at the Delphi Plant. Carrier and Supervisor with the Postal Service. 2 years Private Investigator.

QUESTION 2: The city's COC can get involved by advertising for highly skilled/qualified minority and bilingual teachers and showcasing what the city has to offer and also offering incentives. Solicit businesses to locate here

that would encourage teachers to want to live and teach here.

City Leaders, employees and the city populace have children attending WFISD. Work with the School Board Trustees for making improvements and changes. The city can work with WFISD by contacting state legislators and encouraging them to continue current funding and possibly increase funding for Independent School Districts and keeping funding equitable for all districts.

QUESTION 3: School Board Trustees can address All Day Pre-K and K. Teachers should be able to recognize the learning abilities of their students. They should not be bias to low income students. Technology should be available to assist teachers in devising their lesson plans.

HERBERT WHINERY

DID NOT RESPOND

What is the League of Women Voters?

OUR MISSION - The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization, which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and which seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy.



OUR FOCUS - Public policy issues. Members **join** the League because of an interest in general, or an interest in a specific issue. People **support** the League because of the positions on pub-

lic policy for which we advocate, **OR** because we are non-partisan in our service to voters.

NON-PARTISANSHIP - The League never supports a candidate, nor a political party. We only voice our support for a public policy issue when we have developed an official position. Such position must be supported by a consensus of the League members, and only after thorough study and discussion.

YOU MAY CONTACT the League in Wichita Falls by phone at (940) 867-9761 or by e-mail at pdmiller.lwv@gmail.com, or visit our website, www.lwvtexas.org/Wichita_Falls.html.

The LWV of Texas phone in Austin is (512) 472-1100. Their website is www.lwvtexas.org.

MONTHLY MEETINGS are held at noon on the first Wednesday of the month (with the exception of July and August), in the Luby's Cafeteria banquet area. Programs are presented on important issues of the day, for our education, and perhaps later action.

OUR MAIN SERVICE is to encourage the registration of voters, publish Voters Guides, and hold public education forums.

How You Can Help

This Voters Guide is paid for by voluntary contributions. Some of the contributions come from members, but some come from citizens like you, who want non-biased information about the people running for public office and the issues in front of you as a voter.

For some elections, we hold Candidate Forums. These expenses are also paid for with voluntary contributions. We do not charge for Voters Guides or attendance at Forums.

Send your voluntary contribution to:

League of Women Voters
P.O. Box 4034
Wichita Falls, Texas, 76308

How to use this Voters Guide

The law now permits voters to take aids, such as this Voters Guide, into the voting booth. You may feel free to do so, as it is a non-partisan reference to support the intelligent and informed exercise of a Constitutional right -- the right to vote.

Online Access

To access this Voters Guide online, visit www.lwvtexas.org/Wichita_Falls.html and scroll down to the Voters Guide link. Feel free to read, download, or print.

The League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls would like to thank everyone who has reached out to our organization this election season. Several community organizations were involved with voter registration drives, and the Wichita Falls Public Library offered voter registration and voter information at the front desk. We would also like to thank the City of Wichita Falls for providing the location for the LWV-sponsored Candidate Forum, and local television stations for covering the event.

VOTERS GUIDE DONORS

One of the most valued services in Wichita County is the Voters Guide. We publish information provided directly from the candidates as well as both sides of issues being voted on. Even though the Voters Guides are free to the public, they are not free to provide. Please take a minute to look at the list of donors who contributed to our League of Women Voters Education Fund to make this possible. If you know anyone on the list, then say thank you to them for making this educational tool possible for our county. We want to thank Wichita Business Products and James Printing for their understanding and patience.

Owanah Anderson
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Martha Hall
Hamlin Family Trust
John Hirschi
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Vern & Jan Huffines
Nell Lister
Midwestern State University

Texas Democratic Women of
the Wichita Area
Venture HRO
Elizabeth Vernon
Wichita County Democratic
Association
Wichita County Republican
Women
Wichita Falls Teachers Federal
Credit Union
Arthur Bea Williams

View the Candidates Forum Online

A Candidate Forum was held Oct. 12 in the Wichita Falls City Council chambers.

In attendance were Tim Ingle and Stephen Santellana, candidates for Wichita Falls Mayor, Mark Beauchamp and Larry Donahoo for County Commissioner Precinct 1, Barry Mahler for County Commissioner Precinct 3, and Dale Harvey, Dustin Nimz, and Shane Smith for Wichita Falls Independent School District School Board Place 4.

The forum is available for online viewing on the city's website at www.wichitafallstx.gov or on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMIHKSDs218>.

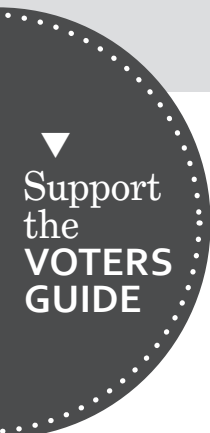


VOTERS GUIDE

EARLY VOTING • OCTOBER 24 – NOVEMBER 4, 2016

ELECTION DAY • NOVEMBER 8, 2016 • POLLS OPEN 7AM TO 7PM

BE A TEXAS VOTER



Support the *Voters Guide* with a tax deductible contribution to the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund,
1212 Guadalupe # 107
Austin, TX 78701
or make a secure donation online at www.lwvtexas.org.

About This *Voters Guide*

This printed *Voters Guide* lists candidates in contested races who are on the November 8, 2016, Presidential Joint General Election ballot and provides their answers to questions posed by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund. This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund. Neither the League nor the Education Fund supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

Races & Candidates

Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification. This *Voters Guide* is organized by office, with candidates listed by party in the order they will appear on the ballot. The names of unopposed candidates are also listed.

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Voter Identification: What to Take to the Polls

TEXAS REQUIRES VOTERS TO SHOW IDENTIFICATION

On August 10, 2016, US District Court issued an order prescribing what Texas citizens need to bring to the polls when they vote in any Texas election.

The following are the seven forms of approved photo IDs, which must not have expired more than 4 years ago:

- Texas Driver license issued by DPS
- Texas Election Identification Certificate (EIC) issued by DPS
- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS
- Texas license to carry a handgun issued by DPS
- US military identification card containing the person's photograph
- US citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph
- US passport

OPTIONS, the new procedures allow voters who are on the official list of registered voters and who do not have any approved photo ID to complete and sign a "reasonable impediment declaration" and vote a regular ballot if they present a:

- Valid voter registration certificate (card)
- Certified birth certificate (original)
- Current utility bill
- Current bank statement
- Current government check
- Current paycheck
- Any other government document with the individual's name and address (original)

ID address does not have to match the voter registration address.

Inside the *Guide* ►

The League of Women Voters of Texas provides a breakdown of your Texas Voter Registration Certificate.

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VOTERS GUIDE Legend

These abbreviations are used throughout the *Voters Guide* to designate candidate political party affiliation.

- Rep** • Republican Party
- Dem** • Democratic Party
- Lib** • Libertarian Party
- Grn** • Green Party

i This symbol used throughout the *Voters Guide* indicates important information for Texas voters as well as information about the League of Women Voters and this *Voters Guide*.

► PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

League of Women Voters Education Fund Ground Rules for Presidential Candidate Responses

- All qualified presidential candidates were invited to provide biographical information and responses to five specific questions. Candidates qualified if they met the following criteria: 1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for her/his Party's nomination for President; 2. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the FEC website; and, 3) The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes.
- Responses were limited to 400 characters and were truncated thereafter.
- If a candidate did not respond by the date of publication, "Candidate has not responded." is printed.

Approved Write-In Candidates for State of Texas

- A listing of write-in candidates formally approved by the Texas Secretary of State in accordance with the Texas Election Code is available at www.VOTE411.org and <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/2016-writein-presidential-certifications.pdf>.

The following candidates qualified for the Texas ballot according to the Secretary of State.
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Salary: \$400,000 per year | **Term:** Four years. Limit of two terms.

How Elected: Every four years, political parties nominate candidates to run for President of the United States in a general election that is held on the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in November. Although all parties use conventions to nominate their candidates, in most states the Democratic and Republican parties also run state-wide primary elections or caucuses. The results of the primary influence how the delegates to their respective party's convention will cast ballots for candidates for President. The degree to which the result of the primary influences the votes of delegates at conventions varies from state to state.

Duties: The President is the head of state of the United States of America and is the Chief Executive Officer and the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are described in the Constitution and federal law. Subject to Senate approval, the President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices and federal judges. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Candidates provided a
PERSONAL STATEMENT.

Candidates listed their
TOP THREE GOALS.

ECONOMY: What will you do to support a vibrant economy across the U.S.?

PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP: What, if any, actions will you support to create a pathway to citizenship?

PUBLIC EDUCATION: What should government do to provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?

INTERESTS ABROAD: What actions would you support the U.S. undertake to protect its interests abroad?

SOCIAL & RACIAL JUSTICE: What kinds of policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice for all Americans?

TEXAS 2016

DONALD TRUMP • Rep

PERSONAL STATEMENT: The government of the US should be focused on serving the people of this great nation, not special interests. The government now rules rather than governs. The American people want their government back and together we will make America great again.

TOP THREE GOALS: Secure our nation by restoring our leadership in the world; restore economic growth thru tax, trade, immigration, & energy reform; restore Constitutional limits on government.

ECONOMY: I have proposed tax, trade, energy and immigration reforms that will bring trillions of dollars and millions of jobs back to the United States. Through immigration reform, we will restore wage growth and reduce the related fiscal burdens on state and local governments. These reforms will help lift wages and will create opportunities for millions of Americans to get back in the workforce.

PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP: We must re-establish the rule of law in this country. Criminal illegal immigrants will be deported. No one should be given the gift of U.S. citizenship based on illegal behavior.

PUBLIC EDUCATION: My administration will provide states with incentives to increase school choice options for parents and local school districts.

Allowing the entrenched Washington education establishment and federal bureaucrats to leverage federal funds to dictate educational practices, curriculum and outcomes must be stopped. Control of K-12 education must be returned to parents and citizens locally.

INTERESTS ABROAD: We are the leader of the free world - whether we like it or not - and we must ensure we seek partners willing to make sure our national interests are defended. We only gain this respect from both adversaries and allies by having a strong military, being clear about defeating radical Islam, & stopping rogue nations from attacking/threatening our citizens, economic interests, resources and allies.

SOCIAL & RACIAL JUSTICE: The best way to ensure social & racial justice is to return Constitutional limits on government & appoint Supreme Court Justices who will defend the Constitution, not rewrite it. The President must provide leadership & make sure the government works for the people. We must ensure low income & minority children learn to read at grade level & not trap them in failing schools based on zip code.

- PHONE: (646) 736-1779
- EMAIL: info@donaldtrump.com
- WEBSITE: <http://www.donaldjtrump.com/>

This race is continued on the next page ►



HILLARY CLINTON • Dem

PERSONAL STATEMENT: I’m running for President to make a difference in the lives of all Americans. I’ll build an economy that works for everyone, continue my fight for children and families, and work to keep our country safe. And I’ll unite Americans to take on all the challenges we face—because we’re stronger together.

TOP THREE GOALS: 1. Grow and strengthen our economy. 2. Curb the outsized influence of big money in American politics. 3. Ensure we have the partnerships to keep our country safe.

ECONOMY: My first priority will be to grow and strengthen our economy. I will invest in good-paying jobs, expand access to higher education, encourage companies to follow policies that put families first, and fight so that everyone pays their fair share. Every American deserves a good job, a successful career, and a productive life. Together, these efforts will work to make that a reality.

PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP: In my first 100 days, I will introduce comprehensive immigration reform with a path to citizenship. An estimated nine million lawful permanent residents are eligible to become U.S. citizens. As President, I will work to expand fee waivers and enhance outreach, so that more of the working poor can assume the full rights and responsibilities of becoming U.S. citizens.

PUBLIC EDUCATION: Every child deserves a high-quality education. I will double our investments in Early Head Start programs and ensure every 4-year old has access to high-quality preschool. I will do more to support our teachers, modernize our classrooms, and support STEM programs so that all public school students can learn computer science. We must give children the foundation to succeed, from pre-K to grade 12.

INTERESTS ABROAD: The U.S. needs to exercise leadership and shape global events rather than be shaped by them. So many of our interests—our security, our economy, and our fight against climate change—require cooperation with our friends and allies, and with countries we may agree with on some things, and disagree with on others. As President, I’ll ensure our country remains a source of leadership around the world.

SOCIAL & RACIAL JUSTICE: Too many Americans still face discrimination and mistreatment. I will fight to break down barriers and build ladders of opportunity. We will reform our criminal justice system, protect transgender individuals, defend voting rights, fight environmental injustice, fight for comprehensive immigration reform, end the epidemic of gun violence, and ensure the citizens of Puerto Rico are treated equally.

- PHONE: (646) 854-1432
- EMAIL: info@hillaryclinton.com
- WEBSITE: <http://www.hillaryclinton.com>



GARY JOHNSON • Lib

PERSONAL STATEMENT: I am Governor Gary Johnson and along with my running mate Governor William Weld we are honored to accept the invitation of the League of Women Voters to participate in their efforts to inform the voting American public of all options available to them during this Presidential election year.

TOP THREE GOALS: Provide Congress a balanced budget within the first 100 days of office; Reduce (and in some cases eliminate) our military footprint abroad; Liberalize trade and economic activity.

ECONOMY: Submit to Congress a balanced budget to provide a template to stop unsustainable growth of the national debt, debt that weighs on employers, entrepreneurs and the economy. Support a simpler, fairer tax code that won’t penalize productivity or investment. Fight to provide certainty in spending, taxes, and regulation so employers, entrepreneurs and investors make decisions that put people to work.

PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP: Ensure a pathway to citizenship for deserving immigrants by first establishing a way for non-criminal undocumented immigrants to achieve documented status. After that crucial first step, the pathway to citizenship will be the same as it is for all immigrants. No cutting the line. No unfair advantages. Just a legal status that allows immigrants to pursue the traditional path to becoming a citizen.

PUBLIC EDUCATION: Education works best when decentralized. Since President Carter created the Dept. of Education, test scores have stagnated despite any new initiatives or spending programs. Parents and teachers make the best decisions for students, not bureaucrats at the DoE. Education is traditionally a state and local responsibility, and should remain so for innovation, best practices and even competition.

INTERESTS ABROAD: Above all, we must maintain a national defense that is second to none. Government’s first responsibility is to protect us from threats abroad. If attacked, we respond. Our greatest assets are economy and culture. Blue jeans and computers did more to win the Cold War than stockpiled warheads. I will pursue vigorous diplomacy based on our economic might, not idle threats and military interventions.

SOCIAL & RACIAL JUSTICE: I would do everything in the Presidency’s power to end the militarization of the police. I would end the failed drug war, which unfairly targets communities of color. I would use the powers of the Federal Government to protect the civil liberties of all Americans, aggressively enforcing 14th Amendment protections. I would continue the work to help all Americans to achieve equality of opportunity.

- PHONE: (801) 303-8922
- EMAIL: Info@JohnsonWeld.com
- WEBSITE: <http://www.johnsonweld.com>

This race is continued on the next page ►

A Note from the League of Women Voters Education Fund

This *Voters’ Guide* is published by the League of Women Voters. The League has a long tradition of publishing the verbatim responses of candidates to questions important to voters. The League offers this *Voters’ Guide* to assist citizens in their decision making process as they prepare for participation in the general election. The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.



JILL STEIN • Grn

PERSONAL STATEMENT: After a career in clinical medicine, I am now practicing political medicine, running for President to help heal our ailing nation. Your vote for me sends a clear signal that you want a new, principled politics that puts people, planet and peace over profit.

TOP THREE GOALS: 1. Green job-creation to fight climate change. 2. A fair economy that eliminates unemployment 3. Justice, true democracy, and respect for all human beings.

ECONOMY: • Eliminate unemployment by creating a job for every American who needs work. • Repeal NAFTA and other trade agreements that export our jobs overseas and create immigration surges. • Create 20 million green jobs to stimulate the economy improving our health by cleaning up our land, air, and water. • Protect consumers and small businesses from big banks and Wall Street predators.

PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP: First, end the massive deportation schemes that have torn families apart. I would also end the so-called Secure Communities program that has led to abuse of both citizens and non-citizens. End the misguided free trade agreements and regime change wars that have forced people to emigrate for their own survival. Finally, provide a welcoming and legal path to citizenship for current immigrants.

PUBLIC EDUCATION: 1) Protect our public schools from privatization schemes that will inevitably undermine the American dream of quality public education for all. 2) Increase federal funding of public schools to make sure all school districts have the financial resources they need to provide quality education. 3) Ensure that kids come to school ready to learn: healthy, nourished, and secure.

INTERESTS ABROAD: Forge a new foreign policy based solidly on diplomacy, international law, respect for human rights, and consistent nonviolent support for democratic movements around the world. End the misguided policies of militarism that have produced terrorist organizations, refugee crises, failed states, and a bloated military that we can no longer afford.

SOCIAL & RACIAL JUSTICE: My plan to end unemployment will transform the economic life of low income communities that are now struggling with unemployment rates two or three times the national average. Coupled with my commitment to quality public schools and community empowerment, we can not just lessen racial disparity, but bring it to an end.

- PHONE: (347) 425-1910
- EMAIL: info@jill2016.com
- WEBSITE: <http://jill2016.com>

►RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

6-year term. Must be at least 25 years old, a Texas resident, and a registered voter. Regulates the energy industry, including preventing pollution, well plugging and site remediation, pipeline safety and damage prevention, surface mining of coal and uranium, gas utility rates, and alternative fuels.

TEXAS 2016

BACKGROUND: What training and experience qualify you for this position? (50 words)

NAME & JURISDICTION: What are your opinions about the Sunset Advisory Commission recommendations regarding (a) changing the name to the Texas Energy Resource Commission and (b) transferring administrative hearings and utility rate settings to other state agencies? (75 words)

BALANCING INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS: How can the agency move forward with the challenges of regulating energy resources in an environment of continued urbanization, water concerns, and seismic activity? (75 words)

OTHER ISSUES: Aside from the issues above, what are other serious issues the Railroad Commission will face, and how would you address them? (75 words)



WAYNE CHRISTIAN • Rep

BACKGROUND: During my time in the Texas House, I served as Vice-Chair of Regulated Industries and as a member of the Energy Resource Committee. I am the only candidate in this race with experience in doing what the railroad commission actually does — create an environment that protects our communities while promoting responsible oil and natural gas production.

NAME & JURISDICTION: (a) A name change would provide clarity for the public as to what the Railroad Commission does, however it would also be costly and potentially open the agency up to further regulation from the Federal Government. The Railroad Commission has no authority to change it's own name, that responsibility belongs to the democratically elected Texas Legislature. My hope is that if they decide to change the name, they do so through a Constitutional Amendment and not through the Sunset legislation. (b) I am against moving functions of the Democratically elected Railroad Commission to other state agencies that are not accountable to the voters.

BALANCING INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS: Whether the production is happening in urban or rural areas, we must ensure that all energy production is done in a way that is safe and responsible.

OTHER ISSUES: Ensuring we settle the Sunset Review this session is a the biggest immediate challenge. If elected, I intend to spend a lot of time in the legislature visiting with legislators about the importance of getting this done this session to ensure certainty for the oil and natural gas industry safety of the public. Continued IT improvements is a necessity, increased transparency of how contested cases are managed, and ensuring the Commission properly identifies permanently orphaned wells as compared to temporarily abandoned wells. These are essential to maintain public confidence in agency oversight. Also, qualified personnel are being lost to other state agencies and other opportunities due to lower pay. This should be reviewed and a plan drafted to preserve qualified personnel.

- EDUCATION: BBA in General Business Stephen F. Austin University
- PHONE: (936) 598-9966 | EMAIL: wayne@christianfortexas.com
- WEBSITE: <http://ChristianForTexas.com>

This race is continued on the next page ►



GRADY YARBROUGH • Dem

BACKGROUND: My training in the field of Education, dealing with difficult human problems, qualifies me to deal with varied, and complex issues.

NAME & JURISDICTION: a) The sunset recommendation on name change, I would support. Its the people who sit on the commission that makes critical decisions, not the name itself, however to relieve any confusion about the commission, I would support a name change. b) I would support transferring administration hearing, and utility rate settings to other state agencies. This would, in my judgement, remove the opportunity for commissioners to be tempted into graft, greed, and bribery.

BALANCING INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS: A process of moving forward would be to adapt to the changing demographics of our environment. New practices, and procedures must be adapted in order to meet the growing challenges we face, as a growing state, to meet our Environmental, Educational, and Economical needs going forward. a) As for water concerns,

there is a great danger that our drinking supply could become contaminated from refuse water stored below the surface in caseins. These Storage facilities could shatter with a strong enough earthquake. Therefore, I recommend that Fracking, which leads to Earthquakes, should not be conducted in sensitive areas, such as School playgrounds, and classrooms, Hospitals, Churches, as well as senior citizens residents. The risk is too great for our most vulnerable people.

OTHER ISSUES: The commission has lost confidence with the public, as an honest and transparent agency. I would insist that no commissioner accept any contribution from companies doing business before it. Each commissioner would be expected to sign a pledge, not to accept any moneys, only their regular salaries.

- **EDUCATION:** Obtained a Bachelors degree in Business Education. Also, obtained a Master of Education in Guidance, Counseling, as well as Certification in Public school administration.
- **PHONE:** (903) 216-3131 | **EMAIL:** grady.yarbrough@yahoo.com



MARK A. MILLER • Lib

BACKGROUND: 44+ years as a practicing petroleum engineer, 18 of which were spent on the petroleum engineering faculty at UT Austin. Before retiring, had a worldwide consulting practice and was CEO/CTO of a small company that provided software to the oil and gas industry.

NAME & JURISDICTION: I support the Sunset Commission staff recommendations. The Legislature should change the Commission's misleading name in the interest of transparency and good government. Separating judicial proceedings from rule making and regulatory enforcement removes a clear conflict of interest. Whether such conflicts are imagined or real, removing such conflicts will increase public trust.

BALANCING INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS: These issues, which will continue as shale resources continue being developed, should be given top priority. To respond to these and other issues and to improve public

trust, the Commission should: a) disavow its role as industry champion, b) continuously sunset review all rules and regulations, c) increase its focus on surface property rights, and d) improve its technical expertise by utilizing outside technical resources.

OTHER ISSUES: The orphaned well program needs increased funding. I will make recommendations to the Legislature to ensure the backlog is quickly eliminated. Voters are increasingly suspicious and distrustful of its Commission. As shale development increases, so will distrust. I will address this by making sure that the Commission: a) increases its technical competency, b) serves all Texans not just a few, and c) has increased public visibility.

- **EDUCATION:** BS Engineering Harvey Mudd College 1972; PhD Petroleum Engineering Stanford University 1983
- **PHONE:** (512) 402-2746 | **EMAIL:** mark@miller4tx.com
- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.miller4tx.com/>



MARTINA SALINAS • Grn

BACKGROUND: I have spent the last ten (10) years in the construction industry in both private and public sectors involved in heavy civil projects. To clarify, I am not an industry insider nor am I a career politician. I am just an ordinary citizen ,who believes the commission has willing become tone deaf to the concerns of Texas citizens. As an industry outsider, I want to stand for and with my fellow citizens and ensure the commission stops holding private industry profits over the private property rights of Texas Citizens.

NAME & JURISDICTION: I agree with the Sunset Advisory Commission recommendations: A) A name change for the Railroad Commission is long overdue. The proposed name adds further clarity to an otherwise confusing title. B) Other agencies are better equipped to handle the administrative hearings and setting of utility rates.

BALANCING INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS: I believe the state needs to become stricter with what energy companies we allow to work in our beautiful state. We cannot allow subpar operations in this state. I, also, see a need for preoperative assessments to be submitted to the state i.e. the Railroad Commission before any operations are allowed to proceed. Pre-existing

conditions such as air quality, water quality, and fault line locations need to be documented and submitted throughout all operations. In the reality, the agency needs funding to hire more well site inspectors. But in all honesty, all these problems will be avoided when Texas transitions to a sustainable clean energy source such as; wind, water, solar, geothermal, and hydroelectric.

OTHER ISSUES: The oil and gas industry has a long and proud history in Texas, but the boom and bust cycles of fossil fuel development are devastating to many local economies. Texas needs to develop a sustainable energy plan. The Commission should become the prompter and facilitator for renewable energy development and usage. Texas needs to become an international renewable energy innovative leader. In recent months, the commission has once again shown they do not hold the public interest as their priority. As has been reported, the commission for the past 30 years has allowed the oil industry to inject industry wastewater without the necessary permits required. It has failed to track that wastewater and allow it to possibly contaminate our aquifers in which we relay on for 60% of our water use.

- **EDUCATION:** Bacholer's of Civil Technology in Construction Management-University of Houston
- **EMAIL:** salinasrr@gmail.com
- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.facebook.com/salinastxrr/>

Voting for Judges

in Texas

ALTHOUGH IN SOME STATES JUDGES ARE APPOINTED, MOST JUDGES IN TEXAS ARE ELECTED. VOTING DECISIONS IN JUDICIAL RACES ARE AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT THAT A TEXAS VOTER MAKES.

Why are judicial elections important?

Judges make decisions about fundamental issues that affect all of us — family life, education, health care, housing, employment, finances, discrimination, civil rights, public safety, and government actions. Those decisions can have a long-lasting impact on individuals, groups, and the public as a whole. It is critical that our judges make fair decisions based upon open-minded and unbiased consideration of the facts and the law in each case. Judges must know the law and not be influenced by any external political or economic factors.

What should voters look for when electing judges?

According to the American Bar Association, principles to consider in selection of judges include:

- *Judges should uphold the rule of law.*
- *Judges should be independent and impartial.*
- *Judges should possess the appropriate temperament and character.*
- *Judges should possess the appropriate capabilities and credentials.*
- *Judges and the judiciary should have the confidence of the public.*
- *The judicial system should be diverse and reflective of the society it serves.*
- *Judges should be constrained to perform their duties in a manner that justifies public faith and confidence in the court.*

Unlike candidates for most political offices, judicial candidates cannot make promises about decisions they would make when certain issues or types of cases come up in their court. Questions posed to judges, therefore, focus on improvements they would make to their court, the need for impartiality and how they would increase access to justice.

How is the Texas court system organized?

The Texas court system is made up of a statewide network of trial courts and appellate courts. In trial courts, judges and/or juries evaluate the facts and the law and make a decision in a civil or criminal legal dispute. When decisions in most trial courts are appealed, they are sent to an appellate court where judges consider what happened at the trial court, evaluate legal arguments, and then decide if a mistake was made. See <http://www.courts.state.tx.us/pubs/court-overview.pdf> for a chart of the Texas court structure.

The state's two highest courts, the Texas Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals, have both administrative and appellate responsibilities. The Supreme Court is the final court of appeals within Texas for both civil and juvenile cases. The Court of Criminal Appeals hears criminal cases that are appealed from one of the 14 Courts of Appeals and death penalty cases that by law go straight to the Court of Criminal Appeals.

All members of each court are elected for six-year terms, with three elected every two years. Any vacancies are filled by gubernatorial appointment until the next general election.

Identify the Court of Appeals Serving Your Texas County:

1ST COURT OF APPEALS: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Harris, Waller & Washington

2ND COURT OF APPEALS: Archer, Clay, Cooke, Denton, Hood, Jack, Montague, Parker, Tarrant, Wichita, Wise & Young

3RD COURT OF APPEALS: Bastrop, Bell, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Coke, Comal, Concho, Fayette, Hays, Irion, Lampasas, Lee, Llano, McCulloch, Milam, Mills, Runnels, San Saba, Schleicher, Sterling, Tom Green, Travis & Williamson

4TH COURT OF APPEALS: Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Brooks, Dimmit, Duval, Edwards, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, La Salle, Mason, Maverick, McMullen, Medina, Menard, Real, Starr, Sutton, Uvalde, Val Verde, Webb, Wilson, Zapata & Zavala

5TH COURT OF APPEALS: Collin, Dallas, Grayson, Hunt, Kaufman & Rockwall

6TH COURT OF APPEALS: Bowie, Camp, Cass, Delta, Fannin, Franklin, Gregg, Harrison, Hopkins, Hunt, Lamar, Marion, Morris, Panola, Red River, Rusk, Titus, Upshur & Wood

7TH COURT OF APPEALS: Armstrong, Bailey, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Cochran, Collingsworth, Cottle, Crosby, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Donley, Floyd, Foard, Garza, Gray, Hale, Hall, Hansford, Hardeman, Hartley, Hemphill, Hockley, Hutchinson, Kent, King, Lamb, Lipscomb, Lubbock, Lynn, Moore, Motley, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, Terry, Wheeler, Wilbarger & Yoakum

8TH COURT OF APPEALS: Andrews, Brewster, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Loving, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Reeves, Terrell, Upton, Ward & Winkler

9TH COURT OF APPEALS: Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery, Newton, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto & Tyler

10TH COURT OF APPEALS: Bosque, Brazos, Burleson, Coryell, Ellis, Falls, Freestone, Hamilton, Hill, Johnson, Leon, Limestone, Madison, McLennan, Navarro, Robertson, Somervell & Walker

11TH COURT OF APPEALS: Baylor, Borden, Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Dawson, Eastland, Ector, Erath, Fisher, Gaines, Glasscock, Haskell, Howard, Jones, Knox, Martin, Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Palo Pinto, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor & Throckmorton

12TH COURT OF APPEALS: Anderson, Angelina, Cherokee, Gregg, Henderson, Houston, Nacogdoches, Rains, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Smith, Trinity, Upshur, Van Zandt & Wood

13TH COURT OF APPEALS: Aransas, Bee, Calhoun, Cameron, De Witt, Goliad, Gonzales, Hidalgo, Jackson, Kenedy, Kleberg, Lavaca, Live Oak, Matagorda, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Victoria, Wharton & Willacy

14TH COURT OF APPEALS: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Harris, Waller & Washington

► JUSTICE,
TEXAS SUPREME COURT

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

BACKGROUND: What training and experience qualify you for this position? (50 words)

IMPARTIALITY: How do you maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns? (75 words)

PUBLIC PROTECTION: The Texas Supreme Court has administrative control over the State Bar of Texas, licenses attorneys, and appoints members to the Board of

Law Examiners. What rules or procedures are needed to provide protections for the public? (75 words)

OTHER ISSUES: What are the most important issues facing a Supreme Court Justice, and how would you address them? (75 words)

JUSTICE • PLACE 3



DEBRA LEHRMANN • Rep

BACKGROUND: With a total of 28 years judicial experience, I have served on this Court for over 6 years and have written on a vast number of complex legal matters including oil and gas, contract interpretation, commercial, corporate and securities law, tax, torts, family and probate law, civil procedure & evidence.

IMPARTIALITY: The importance of judicial independence—that is, the duty to apply the law equally and neutrally to all parties—cannot be overstated. It is imperative that judges serve with humility, that they exercise restraint, and that they fairly and neutrally apply the law equally to all litigants. I am bound by the Code of Judicial Conduct to apply these principles across the board, and never waiver in my obligation to do so.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: I have the honor of serving as the Court’s liaison to the Board of Disciplinary Appeals and the Commission for Lawyer Discipline.



MIKE WESTERGREN • Dem

BACKGROUND: More than 30 years of broad judicial experience, civil, family law, and criminal. I received the award of Outstanding District Court in 1995. My first elected office was Justice of the Peace. After one term, I was elected Nueces County Attorney for two term. Appointed District Judge in 1984 and was subsequently elected until retirement at the end of 2000.

IMPARTIALITY: Contributions to my campaign are capped at \$50 per donor.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: The legal system has become so expensive that as a practical matter, it is only available to the very wealthy. Effort should be made to make legal services more available to more people. See next response.

In this capacity, I have devoted many hours to ensuring that complaints are handled in an efficient and just manner. The recently enacted Civility Oath is an example of the Court’s ongoing concern that lawyers conduct themselves with utmost professionalism at all times.

OTHER ISSUES: I will continue to work with my colleagues to ensure our caseloads are handled in a proper, yet timely manner so we do not have backlogs of unresolved cases. On the administrative side, I will also remain active with the Access to Justice Commission which performs a vital role in helping all Texans get quality legal representation regardless of their ability to pay.

- **EDUCATION:** A member of Phi Beta Kappa, I graduated with high honors from The University of Texas in 1979 and The University of Texas School of Law in 1982; I am a candidate for an L.L.M. in Judicial Studies from Duke University School of Law.
- **PHONE:** (512) 637-7080 | **EMAIL:** Debra@judgedebralehrmann.com
- **WEBSITE:** <http://judgedebralehrmann.com>

OTHER ISSUES: A judge is not allowed to comment on how he or she will rule in a particular matter, but as a general matter the Court must devote more attention to making legal services available to more citizens of Texas. The major way that this can be done is by simplifying the law. Much of the complexity of the law is unnecessary and should be make more simple and understandable.

- **EDUCATION:** Juris Doctorate, University of Texas School of Law, 1970; Bachelor of Arts, University of Texas at Austin, 1967; Associates of Arts, Del Mar College, 1965
- **PHONE:** (361) 765-6828 | **EMAIL:** mike@westergren.com
- **WEBSITE:** <http://westergren.com>

This race is continued on the next page ►

i VOTER INFO

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i General Election Voting.....

In the general election in November, you can vote for any candidate you wish, regardless of whether you voted in a party primary or runoff or participated in a party convention. All candidates from all parties are on the same ballot.

KATHIE GLASS • Lib

BACKGROUND: I have over 30 years experience as a practicing trial and appellate lawyer. I have worked in small, medium, and large firms, and headed my own law firm. I have no ties to any industry, labor union, corporation, or special interest. Cronyism has corrupted the two party system including our courts. I am not a Republican, not a Democrat, and -- definitely -- not a crony. We need justices

who will adhere to the United States and Texas Constitutions and the Rule of Law.

IMPARTIALITY: I have no ties to any industry, labor union, corporation, or special interest. I am not a crony. I have raised no funds from any of those entities. I have only raised funds from myself and other liberty-minded individuals. My three top donors are me, myself, and I. Texas voters can be assured that I will adhere to the United States and Texas Constitutions and the Rule of Law and refuse to do the bidding of the cronies.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: A free people need a functioning legal system. The Supreme Court must protect our Texas Constitutional right to a jury trial. Rules of Civil Procedure, which the Court oversees, must make jury trials

RODOLFO RIVERA MUNOZ • Grn

BACKGROUND: Born an "Indian" in Texas on 1945, I came to realize Invader-Americans were falsely claiming to be the "Ultimate Sovereign" from here. Litigation has established this putative state was fraudulently established and has no jurisdiction over me because the rule of law permits only "the people" to establish such and it does not here exist.

I am the only candidate who knows and understands this and therefore the only candidate qualified to work to establish a government under the rule of law here!

IMPARTIALITY: By presenting my case myself, I continue to work with others only for message dissemination understanding that the responsibility for truth and also for the consequences is strictly mine. I accept no corporate donations and while I expect to raise funds to get the word out, my focus will remain to disclose the truth by not engaging in the deception of the Americans in the past but in getting the truth before the voters so they can make up their own mind. Humanity must recognize and acknowledge that "Indians" are human right imbued even if Americans have never so recognized and acknowledged.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: The best protection for the public is genuine and sincere adherence to the rule of law. The U.S. Constitution is a marvelous

easier, cheaper, and faster, and less subject to attack on appeal. A court of discretionary review, the Court must take more cases where a jury trial was denied in order to give teeth to these Rules. It must issue more written opinions so the public knows the Rule of Law is being followed and decisions based on well-known principles, and not decided ad hoc to benefit favored persons or groups.

OTHER ISSUES: A free people need a functioning legal system. Our Texas Supreme Court is the highest court regarding Texas law but acts as if it is subservient to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court must nullify unconstitutional opinions by the U.S. Supreme Court by refusing to treat them as binding precedent. Slavish adherence to wrongly decided precedent has gutted the protections of both our federal and Texas Constitutions. Texas justices must honor their oath to enforce both Constitutions. I will honor my oath even if I stand alone on the Court and the U.S. Supreme Court has wrongly ruled otherwise.

- EDUCATION: University of Georgia, B.A., English 1974 University of Georgia, J.D. 1977
- PHONE: (713) 467-2991 | EMAIL: kathie@kathieglass.org
- WEBSITE: <http://lptexasjustice.com>

document but it continues to be availed off to deceive my People and the world as well as posterity. We must apply the rule of law. Amendment of the Constitution must be fairly pursued after all People are told the truth and permitted a reasonable opportunity to prepare for all necessary redress and renewed and/or revised articulation of the law. The ultimate objective must be to allow the Autochthonous to have a completely fair and equal input into all future law.

OTHER ISSUES: It is impossible to go back and try to "re-invent the wheel" but we must pursue a society which accords all within its borders, equal justice under law. It is therefore imperative that the System in place continue to function as it presently does so that the Texas Supreme Court works towards formal recognition and acknowledgement of the truth but also adheres, in all future articulations, to the established precedent so long as fully consistent with the rule of law. The Court must officially recognize and commit itself to making today's society what it should have had historically become!

- EDUCATION: University Of California, Los Angeles, School Of Law, J.D. Dec. 10, 1976. University Of California, Los Angeles, Bachelor Of Arts, Political Science, Sept. 7, 1973. Moorpark College, Moorpark California, Associate of Arts; Sept. 1971. Never attended High School - became educated about rule of law
- PHONE: (210) 400-0298 | EMAIL: Rodolfo.Munoz@indiangenocide.com
- WEBSITE: <http://www.rodolfoforiveramunoz.com>

DORI CONTRERAS GARZA • Dem

BACKGROUND: I am in my fourteenth year of service on the 13th Court of Appeals. I have authored over seventeen hundred opinions, and I have participated in more than five thousand cases as a panel member. I have exhibited the strong work ethic and even-handed temperament that is necessary in an appellate judge.

IMPARTIALITY: I maintain impartiality by disregarding the identities of the parties, lawyers and judges that are involved in each case. I make my decision based on the law and the facts of each case, and nothing else. I firmly believe that voters and campaign contributors want, first and foremost, to have a jurist on the court who will treat them fairly and impartially, and who will apply the law accordingly.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: Currently, there are adequate rules in place for the protection of the public; in particular, the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct. At this time, I do

not believe additional rules are necessary. However, enforcement of the rules must be strengthened. Too often, attorneys and judges engage in misconduct that causes unfair results to litigants who are then left with little recourse.

OTHER ISSUES: The most important issue, and a central theme of my campaign, is the need to restore balance to the Court. For more than twenty years, the Court's nine justices have all been of the same party and judicial philosophy. Many Texans have lost faith in the Court because these justices have consistently favored big business and big government, at the expense of individual litigants and consumers. I will provide a perspective that is lacking.

- EDUCATION: Pharr San Juan Alamo High School -- May 1976; University of Texas at Austin -- BBA in Accounting, December 1980; University of Houston Law Center -- Juris Doctorate, May 1990.
- PHONE: (956) 655-9206 | EMAIL: justicedori@gmail.com
- WEBSITE: <http://justicedori.com>

This race is continued on the next page ►



TOM OXFORD • Lib

BACKGROUND: I have practiced law for over thirty years. My practice has included successfully arguing cases before both the Texas Supreme Court and the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

IMPARTIALITY: Not a serious problem since I neither seek nor accept contributions. Any candidate who accepts money and doesn't acknowledge it will have some influence on their decisions isn't being honest with us.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: The system is reasonably effective as it currently exist. We need to continue to encourage non lawyer participation in the grievance system.

OTHER ISSUES: The most important issue is the preservation of our right to a Jury trial in civil matters. The Texas Supreme Court has, over the past 20 years, steadily eroded that fundamental element of our judicial system. In case after case the Court has rejected the well thought and rational decision of a jury and replaced it with the Court's view of the facts. Curiously this almost always results in a decision against the "little guy" and in favor of big business or big government.

- EDUCATION: University of Texas, Political Science University of Houston, Doctor of Jurisprudence
- PHONE: (409) 363-4988 | EMAIL: oxford@waldmansmallwood.com



CHARLES E. WATERBURY • Grn

BACKGROUND: I have been practicing for almost 25 years on behalf of people who otherwise would have no legal representation. I have seen first hand how having a Texas Supreme Court run by insurance companies has destroyed hundreds of years of Texas Common Law in the pursuit of increasing insurance companies' profits.

IMPARTIALITY: I do not raise funds nor accept donations.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: The proper protections are theoretically in place however the implementation and enforcement no longer occurs.

OTHER ISSUES: After thirty years of precedent destruction, the challenges are almost infinite. But I believe that should the Texas Supreme Court be returned to the people of Texas rather than moneyed interests then the immense challenges can be met and over come.

- EDUCATION: Bachelor or Science Texas Christian University 1989 Cum Laude Juris Doctor Baylor University 1992
- PHONE: (214) 630-4554 | EMAIL: charles@waterburylawpc.com
- WEBSITE: <http://www.waterburylawpc.com>

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EVA GUZMAN • Rep

BACKGROUND: As a sitting Texas Supreme Court Justice and a former intermediate appellate court and trial court judge, I have presided over hundreds of cases and ruled on thousands of civil and criminal appeals. I bring to my daily work, a conservative judicial philosophy, a strong work ethic, superior credentials and a firm commitment to excellence. Leaders in the legal community have given me high marks for my performance on the bench. These accolades attest to my strong track record of service.

IMPARTIALITY: As judicial candidates, we have an obligation to inform the public about our qualifications and the issues in judicial races. Under the present system, funding for judicial races comes from many sources, including lawyers. But, importantly, the many Texans that have supported my campaign expect and ask only one thing: that I perform my duties with the dignity, honor, honesty and integrity that is expected of the office -- it is a request that I am proud to uphold each and every day.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: As a Court, we best serve the public when we promulgate

rules that protect the public and that are fair to all stakeholders in our system of justice. The present rules are imperfect and should be revisited to address changes made necessary by new technologies, 21st century practice models, and other substantive areas that may allow potentially unethical conduct to go unsanctioned. An effective rule-making process will include input from the public and the Bar and should be a priority for the Court.

OTHER ISSUES: We must all be introspective and continue to evaluate how well we do our jobs. I believe the Court must continue to improve transparency so the public's confidence in our system of justice is strengthened. We must work to manage our docket as efficiently as possible. We should also continue to improve access to the courts by poor Texans and expand Veterans and Drug courts. There are many Texans with incomes at or below the poverty level who cannot afford to hire a lawyer. As a justice on our State Supreme Court, I am committed to the work of the Court's Access to Justice Commission.

- EDUCATION: Duke University School of Law, L.L.M. Judicial Studies South Texas College of Law, Juris Doctor University of Houston, B.B.A.
- PHONE: (512) 637-4223 | EMAIL: info@evaguzman.com
- WEBSITE: <http://www.evaguzman.com>



SAVANNAH ROBINSON • Dem

BACKGROUND: 32 years of trial and appellate practice.

IMPARTIALITY: I haven't raised funds.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: I'd like the Texas Supreme Court to be more pro-active in assisting pro se (self represented) parties. This has been started. The TxSCT has forms for simple divorces on its website. That could be clearer, more streamlined, and possibly with a "wizard" to help people fill them out. I also think procedures for small estates, or simple estates, could be streamlined,

made less confusing, and forms provided. I am also concerned with the lack of good interpreters, especially in South Texas.

OTHER ISSUES: Voting rights. I don't know how I would address them - the case is not before me.

- EDUCATION: High School - College Station ISD College - Rice University Law School - University of Texas Law School
- PHONE: (979) 922-8825 | EMAIL: savannahrobinson@aol.com

This race is continued on the next page ▶



DON FULTON • Lib

BACKGROUND: I have experience in the following courts: The US Supreme Court, The US Court of Appeals 5th Cir., United States Dept. of Justice, Board of Immigration Appeals, Texas Supreme Court, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Texas Courts of Appeals, at Fort Worth, Dallas, and Waco. Trial courts:US District Court, US Bankruptcy Court, US Immigration Court, State Courts in Tarrant, Dallas and 33 other counties. Tengo experiencia en todos los tribunales mencionados

IMPARTIALITY: I do not solicit or accept campaign contributions. I do not run charities or other shams to hide influence peddling. I have not been groomed by a big firm, former employer, who has continuing business before the court. I rely heavily on the free social media and do not accept the premise that I need to raise funds. Yo no solicitar ni aceptar las contribuciones de campaña. No puedo ejecutar obras benéficas u otros shams para ocultar el tráfico de influencias. No he sido arreglados por una gran empresa, ex empresario, quien ha continuado las actividades ante la corte. Confío mucho en la libertad

PUBLIC PROTECTION: The Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure should be amended to prevent any justice of an appellate court from seeing or learning the name of the lawyer of law firm filing a request for relief That info

being kept solely in the clerk's office. This would do more to get campaign contributions out of the decision making process than all the other laws. The Court should recommend a Texas Rule of Ethics to prohibit an attorney from accepting employment in a case where the judge is a former partner or one to whom the attorney have given over \$250 in campaign funds. I have more suggestions than space.

OTHER ISSUES: See my recommendations above as to campaign finance. The Court should also undo the damage is had done with its amendments to the Rules of Civil Procedure for Justice of the Peace Courts. The 2013 amendments were very favorable to debt collection companies and creditors other than the original creditor. These amendments have the “appearance of impropriety”. Por favor, debe ver mis recomendaciones anteriores en cuanto a la financiación de la campaña. El Tribunal también debe deshacer el daño que se ha hecho con sus enmiendas a las Reglas de Procedimiento Civil de los Juzgados de Paz.

- **EDUCATION:** Arlington High School, 1968 (honors) University of Texas at Arlington, 1972 B.A. Economics, (Honors) Army ROTC Distinguished Military Student, Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, Commissioned in Army 1972; S.M.U. Law School, Juris Doctor, 1976
- **PHONE:** (817) 296-5015 | **EMAIL:** donfulton@lawyersline.com

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►TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

BACKGROUND: What training and experience qualify you for this position? (50 words)

IMPARTIALITY: How do you maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns? (75 words) How do you maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns? (75 words)

6-year term. Must be age 35-74 years, a U.S. citizen, a Texas resident, licensed to practice law in Texas, a registered voter, & have at least 10 years experience as a lawyer or judge. Reviews all death penalty cases & applications for habeas corpus in felony cases, hears final appeals on criminal cases, & administers publicly funded judicial and attorney education.

TEXAS 2016

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: What, if any problems, exist with the current methods for appealing the death penalty? Additionally, when should the death penalty be sustained or overturned? (75 words)

OTHER ISSUES: What are the most important issues facing your court, and how would you address them? (75 words)



MARY LOU KEEL • Rep

BACKGROUND: I have served as a felony trial court judge for over 21 years. Before that I served as a trial and appellate prosecutor, and my first job after law school was as a briefing attorney at the First Court of Appeals. I have been board certified in criminal law since 1990. My career has focused on criminal law and has combined felony trial and criminal appellate experience making me uniquely qualified to serve on the Court of Criminal Appeals.

IMPARTIALITY: I maintain impartiality by making rulings based on the law and the evidence.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: The biggest problem is delay, but that is largely due to the federal writ process, which is out of the hands of the State of Texas. The death penalty should be sustained or overruled in a particular case depending on whether (1) the evidence supported the conviction and

sentence and (2) the proceedings were administered fairly and in accordance with the law.

OTHER ISSUES: I would like to see the Court of Criminal Appeals issue more decisive opinions that are clearly written and that delineate bright line rules for the administration of criminal justice in the trial courts of Texas. I would address these issues by writing clear opinions and sticking to them when possible, consistent with the pursuit of justice.

- **EDUCATION:** JD, University of Houston, 1985; BA, University of Texas, 1982.
- **PHONE:** (713) 755-6778 | **EMAIL:** judgemplkeel@gmail.com
- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.maryloukeel.com>

JUDGE • PLACE 2

This race is continued on the next page►

JUDGE • PLACE 2 • continued



MARK ASH • Lib

BACKGROUND: Twenty-three years as a solo and small-firm lawyer representing persons charged with crimes in both state and federal courts. Also, I have represented numerous indigent persons through the court appointment system.

IMPARTIALITY: I do not accept campaign contributions. Judges must be impartial and must recuse themselves in any case in which their impartiality may be questioned. I will honor my oath to impartially, follow the law and not participate in any case where my impartiality is questioned.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: The death penalty is not a penalty per se. Executions

are state-sanctioned killings. The alleged offender's life is shortened for the primary purpose of providing retribution to members of the victim's family. Life without the possibility of parole is usually a more reasonable alternative to the death penalty and should be sustained whenever possible.

OTHER ISSUES: A Court of Criminal Appeals judge's most important duty is to be loyal to the letter and spirit of the United States and Texas Constitution. Decisions of appellate courts must be well-reasoned, logical and most importantly, follow existing laws including constitutional laws.

- **EDUCATION:** BS in Medical Technology, UT/El Paso; 1985 JD, South Texas College of Law, 1992
- **PHONE:** (713) 571-1603 | **EMAIL:** markashlawyer@yahoo.com

► NO RESPONSE RECEIVED BY PRINT DEADLINE. SEE VOTE411 FOR ANY LATER RESPONSES. **LAWRENCE "LARRY" MEYERS (Dem), ADAM "BULLETPROOF" KING BLACKWELL REPOSA (Grn)**

JUDGE • PLACE 5

SCOTT WALKER • Rep

BACKGROUND: No Response
IMPARTIALITY: No Response
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: No Response
OTHER ISSUES: No Response

- **EDUCATION:** Graduated with honors from Dallas Baptist University. Juris Doctorate from Baylor School of Law.
- **PHONE:** (817) 478-9999 | **EMAIL:** scott@lawyerwalker.com
- **WEBSITE:** <http://scottwalkerforjudge.com>

JUDITH SANDERS-CASTRO • Grn

BACKGROUND: Practicing attorney for 35 years.
IMPARTIALITY: Have accepted and do not iNo
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: I do not support the death penalty, period. All evidence concerning the convicted person's background through out childhood should be considered by a panel of experts and submitted to the judge and/or jury before sentencing..Juries consideration should be limited.

When a person s found to have limited ability to understand the sentencing, the death penalty should be overturned.
OTHER ISSUES: The lack of understanding of the public of the court and its responsibilities. No term limits.

- **EDUCATION:** Bachelor of Fine Arts; Doctorate of Jurisprudence
- **PHONE:** (210) 643-5732 | **EMAIL:** jscastro49@gmail.com

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JUDGE • PLACE 6



MICHAEL E. KEASLER • Rep

BACKGROUND: 48 years criminal law experience -- 2 years private practice, 12 years prosecutor, 17 years trial judge, 17 years on State's highest criminal court; leadership positions at every phase of career; clarity, consistency, and common-sense of judicial opinions; demonstrated work ethic; national reputation for judicial teaching and scholarship.
IMPARTIALITY: I have not received donations from lawyers who practice before our court. The appearance of impropriety in fundraising is terrible, but I believe that the vast majority of judges are fair and impartial despite appearances. Regrettably, few people outside the legal profession are knowledgeable and interested enough in judicial races to contribute money.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: The current methods of appealing death penalty cases are generally thorough and comprehensive. Both direct and collateral

(habeas corpus) review are routinely conducted, and scores of state and federal trial and appellate judges examine each death penalty imposed in Texas. Cases should be overturned when new evidence casts doubt on the accused's guilt, mitigates his or her punishment, or when due process has been denied.

OTHER ISSUES: New developments in DNA mixed-sample protocols. Our Court is currently addressing these issues by funding judicial, prosecutorial, defense attorney, and law enforcement training as well as monitoring recent Harris County public defender efforts to identify inmate cases that warrant DNA retesting.

- **EDUCATION:** B.A. University oif Texas at Austin, 1964 L.L.B. University of Texas School of Law, 1967
- **PHONE:** (512) 633-5508 | **EMAIL:** mekeasler@yahoo.com
- **WEBSITE:** <http://judgekeasler.com>



ROBERT BURNS • Dem

BACKGROUND: No Response
IMPARTIALITY: No Response
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: No Response
OTHER ISSUES: No Response

- **EDUCATION:** 1990 Juris Doctor, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas 1986 Bachelor of Arts, Austin College, Sherman, Texas 1982 graduate of Richardson High School, Richardson, Texas
- **PHONE:** (214) 653-5902 | **EMAIL:** rburns@dallascounty.org

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► TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

6-year term. Must be age 35-74 years, a U.S. citizen, a Texas resident, licensed to practice law in Texas, a registered voter, & have at least 10 years experience as a lawyer or judge. Reviews all death penalty cases & applications for habeas corpus in felony cases, hears final appeals on criminal cases, & administers publicly funded judicial and attorney education.

BACKGROUND: What training and experience qualify you for this position? (50 words)

IMPARTIALITY: How do you maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns? (75 words) How do you maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns? (75 words)

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: What, if any problems, exist with the current methods for appealing the death penalty? Additionally, when should the death penalty be sustained or overturned? (75 words)

OTHER ISSUES: What are the most important issues facing your court, and how would you address them? (75 words)



SHERRY RADACK • Rep

BACKGROUND: I have 17 years 8 months judicial experience dealing with civil, criminal, family, probate, and juvenile law. For 3 years, I served as Judge of the 55th District Court presiding over civil cases. I have served on the 1st Court of Appeals for 14 years 8 months with 13 years 8 months as the Chief Justice. As Chief Justice, I have many administrative duties and experience working with the Texas Legislature.

Working with state officials in Austin, I have been able to obtain the funds necessary to retain quality attorneys and staff to promote the efficient, prompt, and accurate disposition of cases.

IMPARTIALITY: I simply follow the law when I write my legal opinions.

CHIEF JUSTICE • 1ST COURT OF APPEALS

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: The Texas intermediate Courts of Appeal do not review death penalty cases. Anyone convicted and given the death penalty has an automatic appeal to the State's highest criminal court, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin.

OTHER ISSUES: Ensuring prompt, efficient, and accurate disposition of cases. I have exhibited my ability to work with the Texas Legislature to ensure that adequate funding is provided to the Court to allow for stable retention of quality lawyers and staff. Such retention allows for all parties involved to be assured of efficient, prompt, and accurate disposition of their cases.

- **EDUCATION:** B.A., Rice University, 1974 J.D., University of Houston School of Law, 1991
- **PHONE:** (713) 248-7818 | **EMAIL:** sherry@radack.com



JIM PEACOCK • Dem

BACKGROUND: With over 35 years of experience I have tried hundreds of trials and many appeals. I represented plaintiffs that were injured by others, but I also represented corporations and other business entities at trial on commercial issues. I have been both a prosecutor and defense attorney on criminal cases. Some of my cases were very complex and took years of preparation. I tried civil juries

as long as 5 weeks in trial, and criminal trials that lasted months. My cases were in such diverse areas as commercial torts, contract disputes, fraud, slander, libel, usury, medical malpractice, civil rights violations, disability discrimination, racial discrimination, sexual harassment, premises liability, DWI, assault and murder. I have supervised and trained other attorneys and support staff.

IMPARTIALITY: With 35 years of experience I anticipate wide, diverse support. Having spent my career building a reputation as an honest attorney that thinks and acts independently, I am not beholden to any person or group. No campaign contribution can buy my ruling. All people have biases, but jurists are bound to follow the law and rule impartially regardless of personal bias. My reputation, and history of good moral character insure impartiality. Honor is proven by conduct, and Integrity cannot be bought.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: Unreasonable delay. "Justice delayed is justice denied" is still true. The expense of capital appeals is extreme. There are many reasons for the costs and delay. Compounding these problems is inadequate representation. If lawyering is inadequate, by the State or Defense, then

justice is not served, precedential value is erroneous, and costs and delay are inevitable. Therefore, the critical issue is to ensure quality counsel, on both sides. Better lawyers should obtain a more efficient, honest and just system. Although paying for better attorneys and support services would initially cost more, the benefits could eventually reduce delay, cost and injustice. The death penalty should be sustained when it is based on the truth and is just, and overturned in all other instances.

OTHER ISSUES: Our system of justice is for everyone, not just the powerful and wealthy. Access to the courts must be protected and we should assure the right of all people to seek redress in the courts. Denial of trial by jury should be scrupulously scrutinized to protect our 7th Amendment rights. Our system must be honest and fair with the ultimate goal to provide justice. The appearance of judicial activism, favoritism and bias must end. The judicial process should not be to pick a winner and then shoehorn the facts into the law to compel a fit. A system that favors either side is, by definition, unfair. I would assiduously defend the 7th Amendment. I would also seek to make representation available to all regardless of wealth or status. My rulings will be based on facts and law and not bias.

- **EDUCATION:** Texas Tech University School of Law: Doctor of Jurisprudence, May 1981, Board of Barristers. Best Advocate Award. Rice University: B.A., Biology & Behavioral Science 1977, President's Honor Roll, Varsity Basketball. Lamar High School: Honors Graduate. Lanier Junior High and Poe Elementary School
- **PHONE:** (713) 225-6500 | **EMAIL:** jimpeacock@msn.com
- **WEBSITE:** <http://peacockforjustice.com>

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EVELYN KEYES • Rep

BACKGROUND: 14 years complex civil litigation: assoc., partner Clements, O'Neill, Pierce & Nickens; Special Ass't Att'y Gen'l; Amr. Law Inst.: Adviser, Ethics Project, Consultant Sexual Assaults and Election Projects; Nat'l Center for State Cts. Ethics Comm; State Bar Jud. Sec. Board: Ethics Chair, Bylaws Chair; Amr., Tex., & Hous. Bar Fdns.; Tex. Bar College; legal publications, presentations; distinguished lecturer, Rice; Rice judicial internship program co-founder.

IMPARTIALITY: I use a professional fundraiser and raise funds broadly to assure integrity. I try to give back knowledge of the law and impartiality that does justice to the parties while maintaining the integrity and functionality of the law. I also try to be in touch with the community and am happy to speak on why I think maintaining the rule of law is so important and how courts do that.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: Intermediate appellate judges do not hear appeals in cases where death is assessed. Speaking generally, I believe the greatest

JUSTICE • 1ST COURT OF APPEALS • PLACE 4

problem is potential arbitrariness. The death penalty should be sustained when it is supported beyond a reasonable doubt by the Constitution, facts, and applicable law. Not when there is any arbitrariness or reasonable doubt as to guilt on the facts or the law, or attorney competence, due process, or any other constitutional question.

OTHER ISSUES: Court oversight of children in state custody, requiring continuing legal reform; over-reliance on reading and writing on-line by lawyers and judges, causing loss of important details and context; poor lawyering due to poor training in writing and critical, analytical, and grammatical skills, which should be priorities for undergraduate and law schools, law firms, and courts.

- **EDUCATION:** B.A., magna cum laude, honors in English, Sophie Newcomb College, Tulane; M.A., Ph.D. English, Univ. Texas; Woodrow Wilson Fellow, University Fellow; M.A., Ph.D Philosophy, Rice Univ.; J.D., Univ. Houston Law Center, cum laude, Order of the Coif, Order of Barons, Distinguished Service Award, Wall Street Journal Award.
- **PHONE:** (713) 274-2729 | **EMAIL:** justiceevelynkeyes@gmail.com
- **WEBSITE:** <http://justiceevelynkeyes.com>



BARBARA GARDNER • Dem

BACKGROUND: No Response
IMPARTIALITY: No Response
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: No Response
OTHER ISSUES: No Response

- **EDUCATION:** I graduated #1 in my law school class, and I am board certified in labor and employment law. I have two undergraduate degrees, psychology and music. Also, I have one year of graduate work in psychology. After law school, I clerked for a federal judge, similar to a postdoctorate fellowship.
- **PHONE:** (832) 506-0142 | **EMAIL:** Barbara@gardneremploymentlaw.com
- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.GardnerForJustice.com>



JASON PULLIAM • Rep

BACKGROUND: As the incumbent in this race and appellate justice, I have authored over 100 opinions (2015-present). As a trial judge (County Court No. 5, 2011-2015), I heard civil and criminal cases and presided over more than 70 trials. I have civil and criminal legal experience as a practicing attorney. I have experience presiding over civil and criminal jury trials as a trial judge. In 2013, I served as Administrative Judge

of the County Court Judges. I served on the DWI Curriculum Committee and helped create courses for other judges. I served our nation as a Untied States Marine Corps JAG Lawyer and received the 2002 Defense Counsel of the Year Award as the top-rated criminal defense lawyer. In 2014, I was the highest rated County I was the highest rated County Court Judge on the ballot.

IMPARTIALITY: I will continue to be faithful in making decisions as a justice on the Fourth Court of Appeals. The contributions that I received during the campaign have not, and will not affect my impartiality as a judge. As a state that elects judges in partisan elections, there is a legitimate public concern regarding the impact that campaign contributions have on the impartiality of judges. The most important traits that a judge should possess are character and competence. While I fully understand and appreciate the concern about judicial impartiality relative to the campaign contributions they receive, judges must possess the requisite integrity to perform their role in a detached and neutral manner. If elected, I will continue to be accountable to the people and faithful to the law.

JUSTICE • 4TH COURT OF APPEALS • PLACE 6

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: The Fourth Court of Appeals does not hear appeals of cases involving the death penalty. Cases in which the death penalty is imposed as punishment are directly appealed to the Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin, Texas. The Fourth Court of Appeals does hear appeals of murder cases which do not involve the death penalty. With regard to appeals from criminal district courts for the crime of murder, I will continue to apply the law to facts of each case, properly apply the relevant standard of review, and render fair and impartial decisions.

OTHER ISSUES: The Fourth Court of Appeals has jurisdiction over all criminal (except for a small number of cases; for example death penalty cases) and civil cases for a 32 county region covering most of south Texas. The court has to be prepared to address the changing landscape of oil and gas law for the Eagle Ford, water law, juvenile law, real estate law, criminal law, family law and any changes the legislature makes concerning the law of our state. My job is to be the most prepared, knowledgeable, experienced, scholarly, and thoughtful judge I can be in order serve the citizens who reside in the Fourth Judicial District. The district covers a vast area from San Antonio to Laredo and most of the Hill Country area. Texans are entitled to experienced judges who know the law and will apply the law.

- **EDUCATION:** Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, J.D. 2000, cum laude, Law Review Brooklyn College, M.A. Political Science 1997 Brooklyn College, B.A. Political Science 1995 with honors
- **EMAIL:** justicepulliam2016@gmail.com
- **WEBSITE:** <http://jasonforjudge.com>

This race is continued on the next page ►

f Access the Interactive Voters Guide

An interactive version of this *Voters Guide* is available online at www.VOTE411.org. Enter your address and zip code and view the races and candidates that appear on your ballot. You will be able to compare the candidates' responses to the questions side-by-side and create a printout of a ballot that you can take to the polls.



IRENE RIOS • Dem

BACKGROUND: I have the legal and judicial experience for this position. I've been licensed to practice law for 26 years, and 14 of those years, I served Bexar County as a trial judge. As judge, I have made thousands of decisions, presided over hundreds of jury trials and even more bench trials. I presided over cases involving consumer, contract, employment, tort, and landlord-tenant law and over appeals from Administrative Law Courts, Justice of the Peace Courts, and Municipal Courts. I have experience in cases involving the neglect and abuse of children and the Drug Court. I've been elected Administrative Judge by my peers to represent them and speak for them. Lawyers consistently rated me highly for possessing good work ethic and good judicial temperament, for knowing the law, and being fair.

IMPARTIALITY: I wish Texas would reform its way of selecting and retaining judges, but until that happens, we are bound by the system that forces us to run for election and re-election. Most voters don't know who the judges are, so it's imperative to campaign, and campaigns are expensive. Since 1999, I've worked hard as a judge to be fair, to make well-reasoned decisions, and to exercise sound judgment. I've earned the reputation within the legal community of being a fair judge. It's been very important to me to make the right decision for the families and businesses who have been before me. As a judge, it's important



LANA MYERS • Rep

BACKGROUND: During my almost twenty-two years of service as a Texas judge, I have demonstrated faithful adherence to the rule of law and our Texas and U.S. Constitutions. The 5th District Court of Appeals hears appeals in civil and criminal matters from the trial courts in Collin, Dallas, Grayson, Hunt, Kaufman and Rockwall counties. I have been your Justice, 5th District Court of Appeals, Place 4 for almost seven years and have authored hundreds of legal opinions on civil and criminal appellate issues (2009 to present). I served as Judge of the 203rd Judicial District Court of Dallas County for almost fifteen years and presided over hundreds of jury trials in felony cases (1995-2009). As an Assistant District Attorney for Dallas County for twelve years, I tried hundreds of trials (1982-1994).

IMPARTIALITY: A fair and impartial judiciary is indispensable to justice in

GENA SLAUGHTER • Dem

BACKGROUND: No Response
IMPARTIALITY: No Response
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: No Response

When & Where to Vote

EARLY VOTING: All registered voters may vote early by personal appearance at any early voting location in their county. Check with your local newspaper or the county clerk or election administrator for early voting times and locations. Early voting days for the November 8, 2016 Presidential Joint General Election are Monday, October 24 – Friday, November 4, 2016.

ELECTION DAY VOTING: On Election Day you must vote in your precinct of residence (unless your area is participating in countywide vote centers). Your precinct is listed on your registration card, or you may find out where to vote by calling or going online with your county election administrator.

County elections addresses and fax numbers are available at www.VoteTexas.gov or at www.VOTE411.org. Voting places are also listed in most newspapers. If you report to the incorrect polling place, you will be redirected to the correct site or offered a provisional ballot. You can vote by provisional ballot, but if it is determined that you are not registered in the precinct where you vote, your ballot will not be counted by Texas law. More information on provisional voting appears on the Texas Secretary of State website www.VoteTexas.gov.

JUSTICE • 4TH COURT OF APPEALS • PLACE 6 • continued

to always be thorough, to use sound judgment, and to be mindful of the impact our decisions have. To me, it's about the people, not the contributions.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: The Fourth Court of Appeals has jurisdiction over civil and criminal cases appealed from trial courts in 32 counties. Although the Fourth Court of Appeals has jurisdiction over criminal cases, one exception is in cases where the death penalty has been imposed. Those cases are directly appealed to the highest criminal court in Texas—the Court of Criminal Appeals. Every case requires a thorough review of the record to determine if the death penalty sentence should be upheld or overturned.

OTHER ISSUES: The Fourth Court of Appeals has endured a great reputation among Texas appellate courts for its efficiency. I will use my judicial experience, together with my administrative experience, to contribute to the court. If given the opportunity by voters in the 32-county district, I look forward to working with the other justices to continue improving upon what the court is doing,

- **EDUCATION:** B.B.A. in Accounting from Texas Tech University. Doctor of Jurisprudence (1990) from St. Mary's University School of Law. Licensed by the Supreme Court of Texas (1990).
- **PHONE:** (210) 734-0034 | **EMAIL:** irenerios4justice@gmail.com
- **WEBSITE:** <http://irenerios4justice.com>

JUSTICE • 5TH COURT OF APPEALS • PLACE 4

our society. I maintain impartiality by applying the law as written, fairly and consistently, with integrity.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: The 5th District Court of Appeals does not hear death penalty appeals. The appeals of all cases in which the death penalty has been assessed go directly to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals from the trial courts.

OTHER ISSUES: The Court exists to serve the public. Court technology and adequate funding for the Court are continuing challenges. As a member of the Court, I will continue to work with the legislature to address these issues and, as I have always done, I will work hard to dispose of cases in a timely manner.

- **EDUCATION:** B.F.A., Baylor University, magna cum laude, 1976; Juris Doctor, Baylor University School of Law, 1981.
- **EMAIL:** justicelanamyers@gmail.com
- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.justicelanamyers.com>

OTHER ISSUES: No Response

- **EDUCATION:** No Response
- **PHONE:** (817) 360-7330

Ballot-by-Mail Voting

Only specific reasons entitle a person to vote by mail (no longer called absentee voting).

You may request a ballot by mail if you

- will be away from your county on Election Day and during early voting.
- are sick or disabled.
- are 65 years of age or older on Election Day.
- are confined to jail.

You do not need a photo ID to vote by mail, but photo ID will be required of first time voters if a driver license or Social Security number was not included with the voter registration application.

Request an Application for Ballot by Mail from the early voting clerk in the county where you are registered, or download the form from www.VoteTexas.gov. Last day Ballot by Mail Applications can be accepted is, Friday, October 28, 2016. Received, not postmarked

A ballot will be mailed to you, and you must return your completed ballot to your county elections department by 7 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8, 2016. The ballot must be received, not just postmarked, by that date. If you are mailing your ballot from outside the United States, the early voting clerk must receive your ballot by the fifth day after Election Day. (You must mail it no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day.)



DAVID JOHN SCHENCK • Rep

BACKGROUND: I'm proud to come to the bench with 24 years of appellate practice. I am board certified in civil appeals and had handled major appellate matters in courts across the country, including the United States Supreme Court. I graduated first in my law school class at Baylor, received the second highest score on the bar exam, and clerked for the Chief Judge of the federal appeals court that includes Texas (immediately below the U.S. Supreme Court). I was partner in charge of a major international law firm's appellate practice in Dallas and served as Greg Abbott's Chief Legal Counsel for two years during his tenure as Attorney General. I was the Texas State Rifle Association in the Heller Second Amendment case and received the bar's highest award for pro bono service to the poor.

IMPARTIALITY: A judge should never permit any relationship to influence his/her decision in a case. I subscribe fully to that principle and would never accept a contribution from someone who expected anything else.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: These are the most important and challenging cases in our system. Prior to coming to the bench, I represented several clients in post conviction capital cases in Texas and Mississippi. I also worked on

these issues from the Government's side as Deputy Attorney General under Greg Abbott. So, I've seen it from both perspectives. The current appeals process is expensive but relatively prompt given the nature of the penalty--these cases by-pass my court where the death penalty has been imposed and go directly to the Court of Criminal Appeals. I support that rule as it assures review for the Defendant and reduces the cost and delay for all involved.

OTHER ISSUES: We have a massive volume of criminal and civil filings of all kinds. We are currently short one justice and could use more. For that reason and for other efficiencies, I have long proposed combining the urban courts, like Dallas and Houston, with their surrounding rural courts of appeals. That would balance out the workload, decrease costs, and reduce the Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals' conflicts resolution burden. The election process as it currently operates is also massively time consuming and could be improved by longer terms or by other adjustments to the process to attract competent judges and judicial candidates.

- **EDUCATION:** J.D., with honors, Baylor Law School (1992) B.A., Criminal Justice, Rockefeller College of the State Univ. of N.Y.-Albany (magna cum laude)
- **EMAIL:** david.schenck@sbcglobal.net
- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.keepjusticeschenck.com>



DENNISE GARCIA • Dem

BACKGROUND: I have been the presiding judge of the 303rd District Court in Dallas county since December 2004; in addition to my experience and certifications, I have been endorsed as qualified by the Committee for a Qualified Judiciary. I currently teach family law at a Dallas area law school. Prior to sitting on the bench, I practiced law in private practice for 10 years. I was selected by my peers as a Super Lawyer, received a Martingale Hubbell AV rating and was recently selected as Jurist of the Year by the Texas Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

IMPARTIALITY: I have attempted to diversify the sources of fundraising for my campaigns, seeking contributions from a population larger than the attorneys appearing before me. That said, I agree that they current system of electing judges who usually raise funds from the lawyers who practice in front of them needs to be reformed. Lastly, the stakes in each of the cases that come before me are so high, usually affecting children and always affecting families, I feel that I must look at each case based on the facts presented to me. I cannot make a decision based on anything else.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: I decline to comment on disputed matters that are resolved in Texas Courts.

OTHER ISSUES: More each year, Texas litigants are unable to afford legal representation when needed for the most troubling times of their lives. Solutions to this problem may be reached by working with lawyers, Judges (who face the issue daily on the front lines) and legal educators to forge a solution. More affordable legal education, a look at allowing lawyers to “unbundle” legal services and innovative solutions to different allocation of current pro bono services are potential solutions. Past attempts to address the issues associated with self representation have been inadequate and have abandoned the traditional view of lawyers’ professional responsibility.

- **EDUCATION:** SMU BA, BS 1990; SMU JD 1993; Certified in Family Jurisprudence, Texas College for Judicial Studies, 2012; Certified in Family Law by Texas Board of Legal Specialization, 2000.
- **PHONE:** (214) 577-7534 | **EMAIL:** judgegarciacampaign@gmail.com
- **WEBSITE:** <http://reelectjudgegarcia.blogspot.com/>

This race is continued on the next page ►

i Registering to Vote

You must register to vote at least 30 days before the election date. The last day you can register to vote in the 2016 Primary Election is **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2016.**

WHO CAN REGISTER?

To register to vote, you must be

- a citizen of the United States,
- a resident of the county, and
- at least 18 years old on Election Day.

You must not have been declared mentally incapacitated by a court of law.

If you have been convicted of a felony, you may register to vote only after you have completed the punishment phase of your conviction, including any terms of incarceration, parole, supervision, or period of probation ordered by the court.

More About Registering to Vote

WHERE DO I REGISTER? You can register

- in person at the voter registration office in your county, or
- fill out an application that can be mailed (or faxed with follow-up by mail) or returned in person to the voter registrar in your county of residence.

Application forms are available at many libraries, government offices and high schools. The application is available online at the Secretary of State's voter information website, www.VoteTexas.gov. The website also allows you to search to see if you are already registered.

After you apply, a voter registration certificate will be mailed to you within 30 days. This certificate includes your precinct for voting on Election Day as well as your congressional, state legislative, county, and local districts.

FOR HOW LONG IS MY REGISTRATION EFFECTIVE? The registration will remain in effect until you move or change your name, and a new certificate will be sent to you every two years without further application on your part. If you move, however, your registration certificate will not be forwarded to your new address. If you move within the same county or change your name, you must notify your county clerk or election administrator in writing or online of your new address or your new name as soon as possible. Then a new certificate will be mailed to you. If you move to another county, you must re-register by applying to the election office in your new county.



GREG PERKES • Rep

BACKGROUND: I have served 6 years as a Justice on the 13th Court of Appeals. In addition, I have more than 20 years experience as an appellate attorney, am Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Civil Appellate Law, and licensed to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.

IMPARTIALITY: Raising funds for political campaigns is a reality of running for judicial office. I maintain impartiality

by handing down opinions that are based on strict interpretation of existing laws as they are written and according to the Constitution.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: The 13th Court of Appeals does not hear death penalty cases. These cases are appealed directly to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

OTHER ISSUES: The most pressing issues facing the court are case load and equal access. There are only 80 appellate justices in Texas. Despite a 40%

increase in workload, no justices have been added since the 1970's. I would address this issue by encouraging the State of Texas to add more appellate justices to handle the increased workloads. The second issue stems from the first...increased workloads impact timeliness. I would address this issue by requesting that parties completely research issues in the case, provide a proper record, and adhere to deadlines. Providing appropriate time to all parties is the only way everyone has equal access to the court system and justice.

- **EDUCATION:** A graduate of McAllen High School, I earned my B.A. from the University of Texas and J.D. from St. Mary's School of Law. I have continued my judicial education earning Certificates from the Texas Center for the Judiciary and New York University School of Law's Institute of Judicial Administration.
- **PHONE:** (361) 876-7498 | **EMAIL:** gregperkescampaign@yahoo.com
- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.justicegregperkes.com>



LETICIA HINOJOSA • Dem

BACKGROUND: In my legal career of thirty-four (34) years, both as a judge and as an attorney, I have obtained extensive experience in every aspect of the law. I have presided and/or participated in over 25,000 cases. Those cases range from misdemeanor criminal cases to capital murder cases and in civil cases from family law to cases involving disputes of millions of dollars. Having been a judge, I know that every

case has to be given individual attention in that in all likelihood, it is the most important matter facing the person that is before you. It may be a case where the custody of a child is at stake, or a person's liberty is in jeopardy. I have proven I have the necessary knowledge and temperament of being a fair and impartial judge.

IMPARTIALITY: In my fourteen years as a Judge, I have proved that I can and have maintained impartiality in all matters before me. I believe that it is important that all judges strict adherence to the Code of Judicial Conduct and all the financing requirements as set out by the Texas Ethics Commission for judicial races. Personally, I have taken extra steps to further avoid even the appearance of impropriety by not seeking, nor accepting any contributions from any parties that have a matter pending before the 13th Court of Appeals. Although it is not prohibited by law, I believe that if a judge is taking contributions from people that have a case pending in front of them, it creates the impression that they may be subject to influence.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: As a judge who has presided over death penalty cases, I know the seriousness and the complexity of these types of cases. The law requires that there be strict compliance with all rules of procedure and that all constitutional rights of the accused be protected by both the

trial courts and appellate courts. As such, these cases take more time than other criminal matters which understandably result in frustrations to the families of the victims. Unfortunately, in many cases, this cannot be avoided. The 13th Court of Appeals does not hear cases involving the death penalty, but regardless, as a judicial candidate, I cannot comment on whether or not the death penalty should be sustained or overturned. This would be a matter which would be decided by other appellate courts.

OTHER ISSUES: One of the most important issues facing the 13th Court of Appeals is the fact that certain individuals are seeking to split the court. I believe that certain individuals that are advocating the split are doing so purely for personal political gain and not for what is the best interest of the citizens of the counties currently served by the 13th Court of Appeals. Not only is said split unnecessary, it is fiscally irresponsible. It would cost the tax payers an additional \$400,000.00 a year if a new court was created, yet there would be no legitimate reason to do so. It is likely that this matter will be brought again before the Texas legislature. If elected, I will do my part to save the tax payers money.

- **EDUCATION:** Homer Hanna High School (Brownsville, Texas) 1975 University of Texas (Austin, Texas) BA, Magna Cum Laude, 1978 University of Texas (Austin, Texas) JD 1981 I have completed the following leadership training: Leadership Texas - Class of 1994 Harvard Law School - Executive Training, Boston, Mass. Center for Creative Leadership - San Antonio, Texas National Hispana Leadership Training - Washington, D.C.
- **PHONE:** (956) 287-8080 | **EMAIL:** lhinojosalaw@gmail.com
- **WEBSITE:** <http://leticiahinojosaforjudge.com>

This race is continued on the next page ►



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1212 Guadalupe # 107
Austin, TX 78701
or make a secure donation online at www.lwvtexas.org.

Races & Candidates

Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification. Due to space restrictions, candidates are given strict character limits. Replies exceeding the character limit are indicated by slashes (///). Candidates are asked to avoid references to their opponents; those who do not comply are listed with the notation, "Response does not meet criteria." Candidates appearing with no photo failed to submit one. Those who do not respond to our questionnaire are listed with the notation, "No response received by print deadline."

This *Voters Guide* is organized by office, with candidates listed by party in the order they will appear on the ballot. The names of unopposed candidates are also listed.



KEVIN JEWELL • Rep

BACKGROUND: 23 years as a lawyer specializing in litigating and appearing in state and federal appellate courts. Board Certified in Civil Appellate Law since 1998. Equity shareholder in nationally recognized law firm. Texas Super Lawyer since 2005. Presented over 120 oral arguments in all Texas appellate courts, including the Supreme Court of Texas, and several federal appellate courts. Frequent speaker on appellate topics for continuing education programs.

IMPARTIALITY: Integrity and impartiality are absolutely essential to the proper function of an appellate court. Those who know me and support my campaign for the bench know that I would not allow contributions to influence my decisions. The outcome of appeals must depend on the facts and law applicable to each case, not other influences.



CANDANCE WHITE • Dem

BACKGROUND: I have served as a Judge on the City of Houston Municipal Court where I handled over 300 cases every hour. I have managed a large document, issued judgments, and handled courtroom issues. I have worked on appellate briefs and made decisions regarding whether to file an appeal in the area of family law and child welfare issues. I have practiced criminal defense, civil litigation, family law, and child welfare law. This court hears both civil and criminal cases. I have experience in all of these areas of law and, if elected, would be the only justice on the court with child welfare/family law experience. I have my Master in Law and have practiced for over 25 years

IMPARTIALITY: A member of the judiciary must apply and interpret the law fairly and without bias. Raising campaign funds will not impact that judicial duty. Every member of society is looking to the judicial official to uphold their duty to apply the law fairly and equitably. I believe that all people are entitled to a fair application of the law to the facts without bias or being outcome/results driven. Justice should be equally accessed by all and it is a part of the judiciary's responsibility to maintain the integrity of the court and the legal system. I will do so.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: No Response

OTHER ISSUES: Fair and equal access to the court system. All litigants have the right to appellate review and I would like to see greater volunteer involvement by counsel at all levels to assist litigants who lack resources in obtaining meaningful and substantive review of trial court orders.

- **EDUCATION:** University of Houston Law Center, J.D., 1993 University of Texas at Austin, B.B.A., 1990
- **PHONE:** (713) 654-9620 | **EMAIL:** kevin.jewell@chamberlainlaw.com
- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.jewellforjustice.com>

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: As a candidate for the judiciary I am not able to give an opinion on any matter that may come before me. In addition, the Court of Appeals does not handle death penalty cases.

OTHER ISSUES: One of the most important issues is the response time for an appeal opinion. This is an issues across almost all systems. I will work to do all I can to ensure improved response times as much as is realistically possible. In addition, I think an important issue facing the court is that a large portion of the community does not understand what purpose the court serves. I will work to ensure that the larger scale community understands the purpose of the appeals court.

- **EDUCATION:** The University of Houston Law Center Masters of Law (LLM), August 2001 Thesis: The Clean Air Act and Environmental Justice The University of Texas School of Law Doctor of Jurisprudence- May 1993 Texas A&M University Bachelor of Science, Sociology- May 1988
- **PHONE:** (713) 489-0793 | **EMAIL:** candancewhiteforjudge@gmail.com
- **WEBSITE:** <http://Votecandancewhiteforjudge.com>

This race is continued on the next page ►

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VOTER INFO

Helpful Websites

SECRETARY OF STATE

www.sos.state.tx.us

www.VoteTexas.gov

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

www.lwvtexas.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS (U.S.)

www.lwv.org

REPUBLICAN PARTY

www.texasgop.org

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

www.txdemocrats.org

LIBERTARIAN PARTY

www.lptexas.org

GREEN PARTY

www.txgreens.org

i What is Provisional Voting?

The Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 provides for provisional voting if a voter's name does not appear on the list of registered voters due to an administrative error. If your name is not on the rolls of registered voters in your precinct, but you believe you are registered, the election judge will attempt to determine if you are registered somewhere in your county. If your registration cannot be found, you may cast a provisional vote by filling out an affidavit and a paper ballot. This ballot is kept separate from the regular ballots, and the case will be reviewed by the provisional voting ballot board. The ballot will be counted only if the voter is determined to be a registered voter in that precinct. Provisional voters will receive a notice in the mail by the tenth day after the local canvass advising them if their provisional ballots were counted and, if they were not counted, the reason why.

i More Info at VOTE411.org

An interactive version of this *Voters Guide* with additional candidate information and races is available online at www.VOTE411.org. Enter your address and zip code and view the races and candidates that appear on your ballot. You will be able to compare the candidates' responses to the questions side-by-side and create a printout of a ballot that you can take to the polls.



TRACY ELIZABETH CHRISTOPHER • Rep

BACKGROUND: I am fair, impartial and experienced with 13 years in private practice, 15 years as a trial judge and 7 years on this appellate court. I was named both Trial Judge of the Year and Appellate Judge of the Year by the Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists. I was named Outstanding Judge of the year by the Texas Bar Foundation, an honor given to a judge that has an outstanding reputation for competency, efficiency and integrity. I believe that I earned that recognition by working hard in the courtroom, through committee work and by volunteering in our community. I am also highly rated by members of the Houston Bar Association.

IMPARTIALITY: Our Texas Constitution provides the right to elect our judges. In order to provide information to the voters about my qualifications, I must raise funds. I maintain impartiality by limiting all of my donations. I comply with the voluntary limits set by the legislature in the Texas Judicial Campaign Fairness Act.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: Death penalty appeals do not come to the 14th Court of Appeals, instead they are heard by the Court of Criminal Appeals. I think additional qualified lawyers at both the trial and appellate level will increase

public confidence in the decision of juries that impose the death penalty. In addition, any mitigating evidence must be presented in the trial court for the jury to hear. The death penalty should be sustained when the defendant is guilty and has received an adequate defense under the principles of the Texas and United States Constitution.

OTHER ISSUES: Two problems facing the judicial system are the high cost of legal services and delay in resolving cases. There are appointed counsel in criminal cases but not in a civil lawsuit, or in a divorce or probate case. In my committee work I have suggested ideas to help make the system easier to understand for those people who represent themselves in a legal matter, including creating forms, approved by the Texas Supreme Court for some simple legal matters. I have also worked hard to cut the time for deciding cases.

- **EDUCATION:** I earned my law degree from the University of Texas School of Law in 1981 with honors; I earned a B.A. in economics from the University of Notre Dame in 1978, with honors. I am Board Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in both Civil Trial and Personal Injury Trial Law. I have been married for 35 years, have three children and two grandchildren.
- **PHONE:** (713) 806-2375 | **EMAIL:** judgetracychristopher@gmail.com
- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.justicetracychristopher.com>



PETER M. KELLY • Dem

BACKGROUND: Twenty six years of practicing law, more than 16 focused exclusively on appeals primarily in Texas state courts. Involvement in many professional activities, including serving as a member of the Texas Supreme Court Advisory Committee, that have informed me of the many complex issues facing Texas's judiciary.

IMPARTIALITY: As required by hte judicial canons, I will avoid even the appearance of impropriety, and beyond that will not hesitate to recuse myself if I sense that my familiarity with either a party or counsel might cloud my impartiality.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: Appeals of death penalty verdicts go directly to the Court of Criminal Appeals, bypassing the intermediate courts of appeals such

as the Fourteenth. Any views I hold on the subject would thus be immaterial to my qualifications for the position.

OTHER ISSUES: 1. Equal access to justice for all members of society. I would work with the Texas Supreme Court in its initiatives to ensure that the courthouse doors are not closed to anyone. 2. Deference to jury verdicts. The constitutions of both the United States and the State of Texas both guarantee the right to a jury trial; they also sharply limit the review on appeal of the facts found by the jury. I will work to ensure that jury verdicts are given proper respect, and will not substitute my opinion for the jury's findings.

- **EDUCATION:** A.B. cum laude, Harvard 1985 J.D., university of Texas, 1990
- **PHONE:** (832) 594-8325 | **EMAIL:** pkelly@texasappeals.com

► Unopposed Candidates

- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 2ND COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 3: **ELIZABETH KERR (Rep)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 2ND COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 4: **BONNIE SUDDERTH (Rep)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 3RD COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 2: **CINDY OLSON BOURLAND (Rep)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 3RD COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 4: **MELISSA GOODWIN (Rep)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, CHIEF JUSTICE, 6TH COURT OF APPEALS: **JOSH MORRISS (Rep)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 7TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 4: **JIM CAMPBELL (Rep)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 8TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 3: **GINA M. PALAFOX (Dem)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 9TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 2: **CHARLES A. KREGER (Rep)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 10TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 3: **AL SCOGGINS (Rep)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 11TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 3: **JOHN BAILEY (Rep)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 12TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 2: **BRIAN HOYLE (Rep)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 12TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 3: **GREG NEELEY (Rep)**

i Find Your Court District in this Guide ►

The League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund has provided a listing of court districts and corresponding counties for your convenience.

VIEW THE LIST ON PAGE 6

► STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

4-year term. Must be 26 years old or older, a U.S. Citizen, a Texas resident, and a registered voter. Oversees curriculum standards, instructional materials, graduation requirements, new charter school applications, and the Texas Permanent School Fund; appoints board members to military reservation/special school districts.

BACKGROUND: What training and experience qualify you for this position? (50 words)
LONG RANGE PLAN: The SBOE is selecting a facilitator to assist with planning and preparation of a long range plan for education. What is your vision for public education to identify core values that will guide Texas education into the future? (75 words)

EDUCATION FUNDING: What is your opinion about the Texas Supreme Court decision that Texas education funding is Constitutional but inadequate and inefficient? (75 words)
OTHER ISSUES: What are the most important issues facing the SBOE, and how would you address them?



GEORGINA PEREZ • Dem

DISTRICT 1

BACKGROUND: No Response
LONG RANGE PLAN: No Response
EDUCATION FUNDING: No Response
OTHER ISSUES: No Response

- EDUCATION: No Response
- PHONE: (915) 261-8663 | EMAIL: GeorginaPerezSBOE@gmail.com
- WEBSITE: <http://www.GeorginaPerezSBOE.com>

► NO RESPONSE RECEIVED BY PRINT DEADLINE. SEE VOTE411 FOR ANY LATER RESPONSES. HUGO NOYOLA JR. (Grn)



KEN MERCER • Rep

DISTRICT 5

BACKGROUND: 2003-2005: Member - Committee on Higher Education - Texas House of Representatives 2007: Chairman - Texas Teacher of the Year Committee (both Elementary and Secondary) 2007-2008: Vice Chair - State Committee on Planning and Charter Schools - State Board of Education 2009-2010: Vice Chair - State Committee on Instruction and Curriculum - State Board of Education 2011-2012: Chairman - State Committee on Planning and Charter Schools - State Board of Education 2013-current: Member - \$33B Texas Permanent School Fund
LONG RANGE PLAN: Core Values: 1) Implement a rock-solid program of reading and language arts that is centered on the proven successes of phonics, grammar, spelling, vocabulary and handwriting. . 2) Prepare our students for the incredible career opportunities in STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. 3) Promote Civics, free market concepts and a keen understanding and appreciation of our United States Constitution. 4) Create a statewide "Bill of Rights for Parents" and a "Bill of Rights for the Classroom Educator." Each has a right for good schools - and for safe schools. Parents have a right to see what their children are being taught and tested. Educators have a right to be respected as professionals.
EDUCATION FUNDING: That is a funding decision of the Legislature -- not the State Board of Education. However, the Legislature must address the excessive taxation of our homes and other property -- while adequately

funding our 8,000 campuses. I strongly believe the final funding decision must firmly point to a far greater percentage of education dollars going directly to the classroom -- and not to the administration. The explosion the last 20 years of administrative positions and excessive funding unrelated to the classroom is unacceptable. A lawsuit will never fix the problem. A change in priorities is the only answer -- priority one must be the classroom educator.
OTHER ISSUES: 1) Defeat Common Core and keep that failed federal process out of our 1,300 independent school districts and our 8,000 campuses. I will continue to lead that fight. 2) Protect the \$33B Permanent School Fund (a.k.a. "The Children's Fund") which was established by our State Constitution to ensure our 5.3 million Texas students receive free educational materials. I will continue to fight against certain lobbyists / elected officials who want control of that fund. 3) Ensure Texas classrooms continue teaching phonics, grammar, spelling, and handwriting. 4) Influence the Texas Legislature to eliminate "teaching to a test." 5) Require all textbooks be fully vetted by educators, parents and business leaders-- and required by State Law. 6) Teach true and accurate United States History that honors our military, promotes our free market system, and emphasizes the constitution and civics.
• EDUCATION: A.S. - San Antonio College B.A. Biology - University of Texas at Austin B.B.A. Accounting and Information Systems - University of Texas at San Antonio M.B.A. Finance and Management - St. Mary's University P.M.P. Project Management Professional
• PHONE: (210) 355-2884 | EMAIL: Kbamerccer@sbcglobal.net
• WEBSITE: <http://www.VoteKenMercer.org>

This race is continued on the next page ►



Student Voters

Students may use either their parents' address or their college address for voter registration, whichever they consider to be their permanent address. Students cannot be registered at both places. The general rule of thumb is that wherever students claim residency is the place where they should be registered to vote. Students who will be away from their address on Election Day and during early voting may request ballots by mail. Student IDs are not adequate photo IDs for voting and will not be accepted at the polls.



REBECCA BELL-METEREAU • Dem

BACKGROUND: 35 yrs teaching at Texas State University, 2 years in Chad teaching in Peace Corps, Fulbright scholar and teacher at University of St. Louis, Senegal; Service Excellence Award; Special Assistant to President of Texas State working on student retention 1995-97; Distinguished Teaching Award; Alumni Teaching Excellence; Media Studies Minor Developer and Director; Presidential Seminar

Committee Chair; Texas Faculty Association; Faculty Senator; Planning & Zoning, Solid Waste Commissions, Neighborhood Association Chair and secretary, 10 years; San Marcos; consultant on curriculum for TEA; chair Faculty Senate Committee on Environment and Sustainability; author and researcher for 3 books, dozens of book chapters and articles, conference presentations; full professor has trained future teachers.

LONG RANGE PLAN: Subject experts for textbook & curriculum to analyze best material. No high stakes testing, micromanaging, imposing political or religious views. Encourage health & PE, art, music, civics, tech skills, librarians, counselors, dieticians & nurses. Manage permanent school fund ethically, avoid conflict of interest or investments that undermine public schools. Respect teachers, parents, students, rights of local school boards to decide needs of varied communities. My core values place public education at the center of our social and political culture, with dedication to seeking the truth, incorporating diverse views and new ideas into our system, and basing decisions on research and subject area experts. I see our education as a way of preparing for a future in which climate change, cultural clashes, and conflicting values will need to be negotiated and managed in a rational cooperative way that takes advantage of the best available science and widely recognized scholars and teachers.

EDUCATION FUNDING: I agree that the state funding is inadequate and not efficiently and strategically administered or allocated. I place top priority



RICARDO PERKINS • Lib

BACKGROUND: I believe I am qualified for this position based on my extensive science, math, and engineering background, and considering the time that I have spent volunteering in schools as a visiting engineer in science classes. I have also assisted others in studying for their teacher certification and during that time became deeply interested in the TEKS.

I believe that my multi-lingual background, appreciation for parent's rights, desire to push for a better education for students, and my dissatisfaction of big government agencies, puts me in a prime position to win the support of Texans in District 5.

LONG RANGE PLAN: From the outside looking in, I do believe that the SBOE needs a facilitator to help the SBOE develop long-range planning and an education road map. I also hope that this same facilitator can develop a process to make the TEKS easier to read and understand with a format that will cause the learning goals to be more direct. The TEKS have better content and are more thoughtful than Common Core; all we need is to express the TEKS in a manner that everyone understands, including the children, so that we all have "buy-in" for the end result; a smarter Texas. I believe that we must push more language skills, natural sciences, and nudge mathematics into the younger children. We must build the core at an early age and ensure that children have the pillars to move forward. Vocational education is paramount once the pillars have been established. Artistic expression cannot be lost; nor can physical exercise. I desire our children to be smarter than we think they can be.

EDUCATION FUNDING: I believe that education funding should expand for school districts that have been properly audited and are meeting the goals for the children. I do not believe the current Recapture system is fair and I

on small class size, teacher pay, benefits, working conditions, time and flexibility to plan, collaborate, not compete against each other. Don't use A-F grading for schools, which punishes poorer districts, special needs kids. The strongest correlation researchers have discovered is between income level and performance in Texas schools. Although a few exceptional schools in low-income areas do a wonderful job, the main problems teachers face concern income inequality. Schools must invest in pre-K education to level the playing field for all families and students, allowing parents who work to provide their children with a strong foundation for learning and a safe environment for exploring new ideas and skills. We must pay teachers adequately to draw the best teachers, and we must provide working conditions that ensure adequate time for planning and learning.

OTHER ISSUES: Lost confidence in board is a major issue: The board much correct factual errors and biased material consult with recognized subject area experts with an established background, not obscure fringe factions Poor curriculum that micromanages and fails to teach big picture concepts: Analyze, adapt best practices, focus on universally recognized content, be flexible in addressing needs of various populations, adapt to specific local/state interests High stakes tests, micromanaging teachers: Reduce testing, and offer other means of assessment, such as portfolios. Don't keep changing tests every few years; in order to establish longitudinal data and avoid teaching to the test, use nationally-normed Iowa skills or similar test Weak charters: Apply fair, reasonable standards to approve, create efficient, equitable, practical review of existing charters, maintain quality, standards similar to public schools. Peer-reviewed research to improve system. Avoid conflict of interest in approvals

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believe there should be a cap on the monetary transfers based on a metric, such as per pupil spending. We need to look closely at the contractual hiring of consultants and former educators in each of the Regions, and consider disallowing double-dipping where a retired educator returns as a consultant in a six-figure job. I suppose there is a lot of financial duplicity (waste) in the education system that should be spent on hiring teachers and increasing teacher salaries. Paying higher salaries will encourage more people to enter the teaching workforce and give school districts a better selection of individuals. It may be necessary to replace the current property tax based funding system with another type of system that is more fair.

OTHER ISSUES: I see the need for teaching children more about the natural sciences, mathematics, and multi-lingual skills at a young age as one of the most important goals of the SBOE. The basic understanding of core principles, as soon as possible in their lives, will help the children to establish the pillars and build upon them as they mature. We must educate them well when they are young and allow for them to blossom past that point as they take electives in art, athletics, or advanced science, and develop their careers in professions or vocations, as may be their choice. I support charter schools and the newer programs for the public schools to adopt charter school types of teaching curricula. It all starts with the local leadership. We must bring teaching down to a state level and stop spending resources trying to adapt it to a national program.

- EDUCATION: B. S. Chemical Engineering - The University of Texas at Austin Graduate Work / MBA - Arizona State University
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This race is continued on the next page ►

DISTRICT 6



R. DAKOTA CARTER • Dem

BACKGROUND: I have actual experience working in public schools before becoming trained in child development/learning through my MD--my clinical practice helps kids that struggle in our school system and puts me in contact with families every day. I currently teach at UTHealth and in the community, and I continue to develop curriculum and texts with my second doctorate in education I am working on. I want to take the experiences I have as a teacher in public school, my experiences developing curriculum and texts, and the everyday clinical practice I have in helping children struggling in our schools to bring an educator's voice to represent our district. This board should be run by educators and parents seeking to bring their experiences in public education to make the best decisions for our children.

LONG RANGE PLAN: We must get politics and cronyism out of our classrooms. Our children are being politicized and are no longer becoming critical thinkers. We must have a curriculum that is based in fact and research and is developmentally appropriate--meaning students are not being measured to know material that they are not cognitively/developmentally ready for. We must get away from high-stakes testing and ensure that our teachers are able to do their job and not teach to an exam that is based on flawed standards, lacks empirical research, and penalizes our kids based on a snapshot of their achievement. Teachers must be supported, we must help our students that struggle the most--special needs, English Language Learners, low socioeconomic--and allow experts to be involved with the creation of texts and curriculum. The board needs more educators making decisions that have classroom experience that are not focused on political battles, privatizing education, or taking money from our public schools.

EDUCATION FUNDING: It's a complicated, flawed system. I wish the court had ruled that the funding system was unconstitutional. Anyone that has been in public education has seen the struggles our school districts have and

understand that the convoluted financing of our schools makes educating difficult. The State Board, itself, is over \$36 billion that few people know about, and fewer understand. I would like the public to understand more about the Texas Permanent Fund and would make that a goal, if elected. Our legislature cut billions from the budget years ago, and our schools continue to struggle. We must make financing our public schools a priority and alter our current system to offer adequate funding, especially to our poorer districts that so often lack resources and the ability to adequately compensate seasoned teachers and administrators. We must also stop advocating for private school vouchers and ensure that tax dollars stay with our public schools to help our students and teachers.

OTHER ISSUES: 1) Political agendas on the board must be stopped. Our curriculum/textbooks should be based in facts, evidence, and research and appropriate for developmental level. Experts should be required to sit on review panels to ensure the highest quality of education materials are approved. 2) Our standards drive the STAAR exam, and we must change our focus on high-stakes testing. Changing the curriculum to be more developmentally appropriate would aid in this problem while also advocating as a board member against this exam that is focused more on profit than education. 3) More teachers/families involved in this process and less politicians with no ties to education. I would advocate for decisions to be made after talking to educators. 4) Helping our struggling students (poverty, special needs, English Language learners, etc.) through additional resources. 5) Increase opportunities for vocational training and options for students not pursuing college. GEDs should also be more affordable.

- **EDUCATION:** 2014-Present, UTHealth, Dept. of Psychiatry, Adult/Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; 2015-Present, University of Houston, Ed.D in Curriculum, Leadership and Instruction; 2010 – 2014, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, M.D.; 2006 – 2010, University of North Texas, Bachelor of Arts
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- **WEBSITE:** <http://dakotafortx.com>

► NO RESPONSE RECEIVED BY PRINT DEADLINE. SEE VOTE411 FOR ANY LATER RESPONSES. **WHITNEY BILYEU (Lib)**

DISTRICT 9



KEVEN M. ELLIS • Rep

BACKGROUND: First and foremost, I have three children who have recently completed K-12 in public education and that has allowed me to see what works well in public education and what doesn't work well. Additionally, I have served on the Lufkin ISD Board of Trustees since 2012, currently as Board President. Serving on the school board has given me a unique perspective of the challenges facing the administration, students and teachers. Essentially, the State Board of Education provides leadership for education in the State of Texas, it is important to elect someone with experience in leadership to this position.

LONG RANGE PLAN: My vision would include bringing in many stakeholders from diverse groups to ensure public education in Texas is focused on the needs of all 5.2 million students. I feel some of the core values should include increasing parent involvement, decreasing the opportunity gap and decreasing the reliance on high stakes testing.

EDUCATION FUNDING: The courts ruled it constitutional, but stated it is "...undeniably imperfect, with immense room for improvement. But it satisfies minimum constitutional requirements". Only meeting the minimum constitutional requirements is not good enough for our children in Texas.

For years, the legislature has placed "Band-Aid on top of Band-Aid" to try to fix the problem. It's time to pull all the "Band-Aids" off and take a good look at the problem underneath. Going forward, it will take a completely new approach to fix the unequal funding between districts.

OTHER ISSUES: Our State's curriculum standards (TEKS) are too broad. It has been said they are a mile wide and an inch deep. This puts such intense pressure on our wonderful teachers and students to try to accomplish an impossible task. For example, the 1st grade TEKS covers over 35 pages for a 6-year-old – in my opinion, this is simply too much. By decreasing the amount of material in the TEKS, you help with the problem of over testing by decreasing the amount of material teachers have to cram into a school year. This allows students to learn the material to a level of mastery as opposed to simply having time to introduce concepts to students.

- **EDUCATION:** 1992 Western Washington University – Pre-med undergraduate studies. 1995 – Texas Chiropractic College – Doctor of Chiropractic (Cum Laude) Omega Psi Honor Society Texas Chiropractic College Who's Who among American College Students National Dean's list
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- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.ellisfortexas.com>

This race is continued on the next page ►

The League of Women Voters is Nonpartisan

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office, or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

AMANDA M. RUDOLF • Dem

BACKGROUND: I have been an educator for almost twenty years. I taught high school and junior high drama until I began her doctoral work at University of Arkansas. Since then I have worked at Stephen F. Austin State University as a professor in Secondary Education. My passion is preparing preservice teachers to become leaders in the classrooms of tomorrow. As an education professor, I have served as a Board Member for the Association of Teacher Educators. I have also been President of the Texas Association of Teacher Educators and served on the Board and as Chair of the Consortium of State Organizations for Texas Teacher Education. I just completed my second term on the Educator Preparation Advisory Committee for the Texas Education Agency.

LONG RANGE PLAN: I believe that Texas should once again be a leader in education for the nation. I want all students to have engaging curriculum and research-based instruction. We are a diverse state and we need to embrace our diversity. All school children in Texas need a quality education. Our teachers need support and respect as professionals. We need to identify ways to hold schools accountable while helping the teachers. I believe if we learn to value our schools, teacher and children, Texas can once again be a

leader in the nation.

EDUCATION FUNDING: I disagree with the finding. I hope that the legislature will take note that it was deemed inadequate and inefficient. I would like to see in the next session, bills that address the discrepancies in funding between districts. Resources make a difference in the learning environment and we have an ethical obligation to make school funding as equal and equitable as possible.

OTHER ISSUES: I think the biggest issues for the SBOE are curriculum and textbooks. The state board needs to take a broader view of instructional materials and encourage teachers to use primary sources in the classroom. Too many times teachers rely on the textbook to be the curriculum for the class. By broadening instructional materials and providing rigorous and detailed standards, teachers will be able to perform in the classroom as the professionals they are.

- **EDUCATION:** Doctorate of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction, University of Arkansas Master of Arts in Teaching, Trinity University Bachelor of Arts in Drama, Trinity University Associate of Arts in Drama, Lon Morris College
- **PHONE:** (936) 615-1708 | **EMAIL:** amandarudolph73@gmail.com
- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.amandarudolph.net>

► NO RESPONSE RECEIVED BY PRINT DEADLINE. SEE VOTE411 FOR ANY LATER RESPONSES. ANASTASIA WILFORD (Lib)

TOM MAYNARD • Rep

BACKGROUND: State Board of Education: 4 Years; Chairman Committee on Instruction-2 years Classroom Teacher: 13 years Local School Board Trustee: 6 years Parent: Shepherded 5 children through the public school, including one dyslexic child; 9 grandchildren will be in public schools Longest-serving chief executive of nation's largest state student organization for career and technical (vocational) education-16 years; Currently president of National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education. Experience with disadvantaged students, both as a classroom teacher and through personal experience growing up as a resident of Cal Farley's Boys Ranch; Experience in Fine Arts, with 17 years of choral/vocal music experience in church ministries Partner in two small businesses

LONG RANGE PLAN: Citizenship: The Texas Declaration of Independence cited the current governments failure to establish public education and followed with this remark: "...unless a people are educated and enlightened, it is idle to expect the continuance of civil liberty and the capacity for self government." This sentiment was echoed in the preamble to Article 7, Texas Constitution which sets forth the mission of education as "...being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people." Education must equip Texans to compete in a free market economy, fulfill their college academic potential, but most of all, have them prepared to engage as informed, discerning citizens and leaders. Student/Learning-Centered: In our desire for accountability, we have created an assessment-driven environment which has become more about teacher/administrator and district accountability--the adults in the system--and less about students. We need accountability but need to find balance.

EDUCATION FUNDING: Because of this pending litigation, the Texas Legislature has sat on its hands until the lawsuit was resolved. Lawmakers

were awaiting direction from the high court, and the ruling did not provide much guidance. However, there is an understanding among the duly elected lawmakers that the current funding paradigm, referred to by Justice Willett as "Byzantine," is ineffective and inefficient with the wide disparity in both property wealth and student needs. Now that the court has ruled, the onus is back on the Legislature to fulfill its charge found in Article VII, Texas Constitution: "...it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools." The members of the State Board of Education stand ready to assist in any way possible to facilitate these discussions, especially since the board is working toward a Long-Range Plan for Public Education.

OTHER ISSUES: Permanent School Fund: The PSF is the nation's largest endowment of its kind. We must protect the fund from unnecessary risks, maximize returns and to disburse funds in such a way that we provide the most funding possible while ensuring intergenerational equity. Instructional Standards/Instructional Time: Many Texans have expressed frustration with a system seemingly built around standardized testing. People feel students are over-tested and under-taught. The STAAR is not within the purview of the SBOE, but the standards (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) being assessed are. A contributor to the testing angst are standards which are "a mile wide and an inch deep." Framers of the first TEKS acknowledged that there was more content than what could be taught and mastered in a 180-day school year. I have authored and supported rule and procedural changes help streamline the TEKS. Long Range Plan for Public Education: Working toward a usable document with broad stakeholder support.

- **EDUCATION:** Bachelor of Science and Teacher Certification, Texas Tech University
- **PHONE:** (512) 763-2801 | **EMAIL:** tom@maynardfortexas.com
- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.maynardfortexas.com>

DISTRICT 10

This race is continued on the next page ►



JUDY JENNINGS • Dem

BACKGROUND: I have worked for 20 years in education, including time at the Texas Education Agency (TEA). I now work for an educational consulting firm and serve as Director of Assessment. Working at TEA provided me with a strong background in the responsibilities of the agency and SBOE, and my current work with teachers and schools keeps me informed about the daily successes and challenges

of students.

LONG RANGE PLAN: Educators and business leaders alike tell us that students must be prepared to collaborate, think critically, and communicate effectively. Changing the focus from standardized testing to rigorous, engaging curriculum will return autonomy to teachers and prepare students for college and/or technical training. The facilitator must listen to teachers, college educators, parents, and business leaders to ensure these practices are fully represented.

EDUCATION FUNDING: Funding is inadequate. The schools I visit are struggling to make ends meet. Administrators are cutting essential programs

such as fine arts, and postponing important infrastructure improvements. Current funding is inadequate to provide students with the educational experiences they need to be successful in the 21st century. SBOE members should join forces with those providing information to the legislature about the importance of fully funding education.

OTHER ISSUES: Keeping curriculum standards and textbooks free from personal or religious ideologies is an ongoing issue and I would help ensure writers and reviewers are recognized professionals in their field. Preparing students for the future is important work, and I would endeavor to provide teachers with access to the resources they need. I would work to prepare students for the 21st century, not the 17th century.

- **EDUCATION:** Education: PhD in Educational Psychology, University of Texas, 2006 BA in Sociology, University of Texas, 1995
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- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.judyjennings.com>

► Unopposed Candidates

- STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 8: **BARBARA CARGILL (Rep)**
- STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 14: **SUE MELTON-MALONE (Rep)**
- STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 15: **MARTY ROWLEY (Rep)**

VOTER REGISTRAR
800-687-3546 / 972-547-1990
2010 REDBUD BLVD., SUITE 102
MCKINNEY, TX 75069
www.collincountytx.gov

Secretary of State's Office
Elections Division
1-800-393-VOTE (8683)

2016 – 2017 Sample

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE
(Certificado de Registro Electoral)
COLLIN COUNTY (condado de Collin)

VOID (VUO)	Gender (Sexo)	Valid from (Válido desde)
Year of Birth (Año de Nacimiento)	Prec. No. (Pct. Num.)	thru (hasta)

1

Name and Permanent Residence Address (Nombre y dirección residencial permanente)

Voter, John Q.
1234 Street
City Name, Tx 75024

☒ **VOTER MUST PERSONALLY SIGN HEREIN NAME IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT, IF ABLE**
(El Votante debe firmar esta tarjeta personalmente al punto de recibirla, si puede)

CONGRESS (Congreso)	STATE SEN. (Sen. Estado)	STATE REP. (Rep. Estado)	COM	JP
2	3	4	5	6
CITY (Ciudad)	CITY DIST. (Ciudad dist.)	ISD (escuela)	ISD DIST. (escuela dist.)	SBOE
7	8	9	10	11

Name and Mailing Address (Nombre y dirección de correo)

John Q. Voter
1234 Street
City Name, Tx 75024

Please note that your Voter Registration Certificate (VRC) may not look exactly like this sample. If you have questions about your VRC, contact your county's Voter Registrar. Contact information for your Voter Registrar is listed in the upper left-hand corner of the VRC.

Reading Your
Voter Registration Certificate

- 1 Precinct Number. Use this to find your polling place.
- 2 Congressional District.
- 3 State Senate District.
- 4 State House of Representatives District.
- 5 County Commissioner Precinct.
- 6 Justice of the Peace Precinct & Constable Precinct.
- 7 Which city you may vote in.
- 8 City Council District.
- 9 School District.
- 10 School Board Member District.
- 11 State Board of Education District.

i VOTER INFO

Voter Identification: What to Take to the Polls

TEXAS REQUIRES VOTERS TO SHOW IDENTIFICATION

On August 10, 2016, US District Court issued an order prescribing what Texas citizens need to bring to the polls when they vote in any Texas election.

The following are the seven forms of approved photo IDs, which must not have expired more than 4 years ago:

- Texas Driver license issued by DPS
- Texas Election Identification Certificate (EIC) issued by DPS
- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS
- Texas license to carry a handgun issued by DPS
- US military identification card containing the person's photograph
- US citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph
- US passport

OPTIONS, the new procedures allow voters who are on the official list of registered voters and who do not have any approved photo ID to complete and sign a "reasonable impediment declaration" and vote a regular ballot if they present a:

- Valid voter registration certificate (card)
- Certified birth certificate (original)
- Current utility bill
- Current bank statement
- Current government check
- Current paycheck
- Any other government document with the individual's name and address (original)

ID address does not have to match the voter registration address.

Check the League's website for other helpful information about elections, voting and issues: www.lwvtexas.org.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TEXAS

☒ ADVOCATING ☒ AGITATING ☒ EDUCATING

Who else but the LWV is a nonpartisan, political organization and one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations? The LWV *advocates* for voters rights to vote, *agitates* voters to go to the polls and *educates* the voter about the candidates and issues on the ballot. Learn more about your local Leagues at

www.lwvtexas.org.

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