

VOTERS GUIDE

NONPARTISAN

PRIMARY ELECTION » MARCH 3, 2020

U.S. President » U.S. Senator » Railroad Commissioner » Texas Supreme Court »
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals » State Board of Education » Court of Appeals

EARLY VOTING: Feb. 18–Feb. 28, 2020 » ELECTION DAY: Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., March 3, 2020

» ABOUT THIS *VOTERS GUIDE*

This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas. The League never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties. For one hundred years, the League has been helping voters cast an informed vote when they go to the polls.

» ONLINE *VOTERS GUIDE*

For additional information on candidates for President, U.S. House of Representatives, Texas House of Representatives, and Texas Court of Appeals, go to VOTE411.org. In communities where there is a League of Women Voters, volunteers work to provide additional information on local elections.



» SIGN UP FOR VOTING REMINDERS!

Text LWVTX to 80123 to receive voting reminders on your phone.
<https://my.lwv.org/texas/get-voting-reminders>



» SUPPORT THE *VOTERS GUIDE*

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

DONATE

» EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

» VOTING IN TEXAS PRIMARIES

The upcoming Texas primary is an extremely important election in Texas!

Voters in the Texas primaries and conventions choose who will run for office in the General Election. For many communities in Texas, their elected officials are chosen in the primary election because many districts heavily favor one party over the other.

The Republican and Democratic Parties choose their candidates in a primary election. The Libertarian and Green Parties choose their candidates in party conventions.

Texas has open primaries. That means that ALL Texas voters can participate in one of these events.

Voters who don't strongly identify with any political party can and should carefully consider the choices and participate in one of the primaries or conventions. But you can only participate in one. Once a voter has voted in one party, that voter cannot participate in another party's primary election or convention.

The League encourages all registered voters to participate in the Texas Primary Election and vote for the best candidates. Don't forget, voting in a primary does not commit you to vote for a particular candidate in the general election.

BE A TEXAS VOTER!

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» HELPFUL CONTACTS AND WEBSITES

League of Women Voters of Texas

lwvtexas.org

VOTE411.org

The League's online Voters Guide

Secretary of State

VoteTexas.gov

Election Protection Voter Hotline!

- 866-OUR-VOTE English
- 888-Ve-Y-Vota Spanish
- 888-API-VOTE English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese, Bengali, Urdu, Hindi, and Tagalog

Republican Party

texasgop.org

Democratic Party

txdemocrats.org

Libertarian Party

lptexas.org

Green Party

txgreens.org

» LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

- The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties.
- Any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.
- The LWV Texas *Voters Guide* is nonpartisan, fair, and balanced.
- You may print the *Voters Guide* to bring into the voting booth!
- Mobile electronic devices are prohibited in the voting booth, so be sure to bring what you need on paper, not on your phone.
- An interactive version of this *Voters Guide* is available online at **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 and create a printout of a ballot that you can take to the polls.

» LWV TEXAS VOTERS GUIDE POLICY

- Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification.
- References to opponents or specific persons are not allowed.
- In place of the inappropriate response, the guide will state, "Candidate's response did not meet the criteria listed in this *Voters Guide*."
- Videos that do not comply are removed.
- Candidates are listed alphabetically by party.
- This *Voters Guide* is organized by office.
- The names of unopposed candidates are also listed.
- Questionnaires are sent to all candidates unless they are unopposed.
- Candidates with no photo did not submit a photo by the print deadline
- Candidates who do not respond to our questionnaire by the print deadline are listed with the notation, "No response received." Their information may or may not be in **VOTE411.org**.
- Ballot order at the polls will vary from county to county.

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» VOTER ID: WHAT TO TAKE TO THE POLLS

Bring your ID to Vote Texas!

All citizens wishing to vote must be on the official list of registered voters. Voters may use one of seven (7) forms of photo ID, listed below. **IDs may be expired up to four years. Persons seventy years of age or older may use an expired ID.** ID address does not have to match the voter registration address.

- Texas driver license
- Texas Election Identification Certificate (EIC)
- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by the Department of Public Safety (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 (book or card)

Registered voters without photo ID, who cannot reasonably obtain one, may sign a form and present the original or a copy of one of the following documents with the voters name and address to vote a regular ballot:

- Texas voter registration card
- Certified birth certificate
- Current utility bill
- Bank statement
- Government check
- Paycheck
- Any other government document such as an out of state driver license or expired Texas driver license

The form is called "Voter's Declaration of Reasonable Impediment or Difficulty." The voter must mark on the form one of the following reasons for not providing a photo ID.

- Lack of transportation
- Disability or illness
- Lack of birth certificate or other documents needed to obtain an acceptable form of photo ID
- Work schedule
- Family responsibilities
- Lost or stolen identification
- Acceptable form of photo ID applied for but not received

"Substantially similar name"

The name on the photo ID should match the voter registration card or be "substantially similar." If the names don't match exactly but are substantially similar, the voter will initial a box for similar name when signing in to vote.

Voter harassment

- Election officials cannot question a voter about the use of an ID type
- Poll watchers may never question a voter about Voter ID issues

U.S. PRESIDENT

The following candidates qualified for the Texas ballot according to the Secretary of State and will appear on the Republican and Democratic ballots.

» REPUBLICAN PARTY

- » Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente Guerra (R)
- » Zoltan G. Istvan (R)
- » Matthew John Matern (R)
- » Bob Ely (R)
- » Donald J. Trump (R)
- » Joe Walsh (R)
- » Bill Weld (R)

» DEMOCRATIC PARTY

- » Michael Bennet (D)
- » Joseph R. Biden (D)
- » Michael R. Bloomberg (D)
- » Cory Booker (D)
- » Pete Buttigieg (D)
- » Julián Castro (D)
- » John K. Delaney (D)
- » Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente (D)
- » Tulsi Gabbard (D)
- » Amy Klobuchar (D)
- » Deval Patrick (D)
- » Bernie Sanders (D)
- » Tom Steyer (D)
- » Elizabeth Warren (D)
- » Robby Wells (D)
- » Marianne Williamson (D)
- » Andrew Yang (D)

For additional information on presidential candidates, go to VOTE411.org.

U.S. SENATOR

Six-year term. One of two members of the U.S. Senate from Texas. The Senate has the exclusive power to advise and consent on presidential nominations to executive and judicial offices, to ratify U.S. treaties, and to try impeachments. With the U.S. House, the Senate adopts budgets, levies taxes, borrows money, regulates interstate commerce, provides services, adopts regulations, and declares war. Current annual salary: \$174,000

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

Immigration: What are your recommendations to improve the immigration system?

Health Care: What legislation would you support to address access to and cost of healthcare?

Gun Violence: What are your recommendations to curb gun violence in our country?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of Congress, and what are your positions on these issues?



» Virgil Bierschwale (R)

Background: I've been studying the effects of Free Trade Agreements and the tidal wave of non-immigrant guest workers since it first happened to me in 2003 and I can show you why our homeless population is increasing and all of the holes in the employment/unemployment propaganda which will have an impact on your business or organization.

Immigration: In 2018 we had 533,557 legal immigrants. During that same year we issued 9,028,026 non-immigrant visas to take the jobs that your family needs to provide for themselves. We need legal immigrants who come to America and make America better for everybody, not just themselves. Illegal immigration is illegal, and that is all that needs to be said about that.

Health Care: I believe health care will resolve itself if we take the "Profit" out of it and make it available to everybody

Gun Violence: Hold people accountable for what they did Try them by a jury, and if found guilty, carry out the sentence.

Other Issues: we need jobs for our citizens so that they can provide for their families. The top 3 job groups if we compare 2018 against 2010 are nurses aides, food service, and truck driving. Can you build a better future for your family if those are the only jobs you can find?

Education: 14 years Military Technical Schools Licensed Realtor

Campaign Website: <http://bierschwaleforussenate.com/>

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Virgil-Bierschwale-for-US-Senate-104055040948099/?modal=admin_todo_tour

Twitter: twitter.com/VBierschwale

Video: <https://youtu.be/fXFdnbZPBDQ>



» John Anthony Castro (R)

Background: My current net worth is in the mid-\$20 million range. I am an OPM Fellow at Harvard Business School, and I earned two law degrees: a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Taxation with Certification in International Tax from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington DC, and a Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.) from UNM School of Law. I know what needs to be fixed.

Immigration: Our immigration system is critical to national strategy. Are we bringing in anyone so we have a sufficient supply of low-cost labor with the risk that wages stay artificially low, or are we bringing in only the best to grow our economy with the risk that we share the limited economic pie with non-American-born immigrants? I choose a point-based merit system.

Health Care: Tackling health care requires a multi-faceted approach. The short answer is an unlimited tax credit for student loan debt for MD degrees, a government-sponsored entity (GSE) health insurance company to keep private insurers accountable to the people, and mandatory use of generic brands after patent expiration of name brands. All of this will significantly drive down costs.

» John Cornyn (R) No Response Received



» Dwayne Stovall (R)

Background: I'm a 54 yr old native Texan, husband, father, business owner, w/ a deep historical knowledge of the office of U.S. Senator. I'm in construction & the oilfield. I've traded construction equipment internationally since the 90s & have a solid grasp of monetary policy. I have firsthand experience of what

that policy does to US Citizens as well as to other countries' economies

Immigration: Build the wall in every location possible, allow the border patrol to stop and turn around illegal aliens, make employers of illegal aliens come to the table for their part in this problem, and remove any and all access to taxpayer funded programs (healthcare / education / welfare of any kind).

Health Care: The Constitution of the United States offers the federal government no authority whatsoever to manage the healthcare industry, or any other industry for that matter. The only correct legislation would be to remove it from the issue altogether and allow the citizens of the individual States to manage this issue according to their will.



» Mark Yancey (R)

Background: Mark Yancey, a longtime Dallas resident, is a veteran of the financial services industry. He has helped build four successful investment management firms, which in turn, created hundreds of well-paying jobs. The four firms combined managed north of \$100 billion in assets for institutions and sovereign wealth funds. Mark is currently the CEO of Attacca International.

Immigration: • Build the wall - all 500 miles. • Stop the flow of illegal drugs and find the cartels operating in the U.S. • Support our Border Patrol and ICE agents.

• Immediately deport illegal immigrants who have committed crimes.

Health Care: I would abolish the Affordable Health Care Act - ALL OF IT. I support private pay healthcare. The insurance companies have been gouging the American public since the inception of ACA on March 23, 2010. I would bring

Gun Violence: Guns are not the problem. More than 90% of all school shooting can be traced back to anti-depressants. Do the research yourself. The solution is plain and simple: if you're prescribed anti-depressants, you're not permitted to be in the same home as someone who owns or possesses a firearm. This would have prevented 90% of school shootings in the past 20 years.

Other Issues: Expanding public education to cover Pre-K to Ph.D. Achieving energy independence with the use of GSE manufacturers and construction companies to mass produce wind turbines, solar panels, and hydroelectric dams. A new Entrepreneur Tax Credit to fuel small business growth. Expansion and more strategic use of the R&D Tax Credit. Introduction of tax-free retirement post-65.

Education: OPM, Harvard Business School LL.M., Georgetown University Law Center J.D., UNM School of Law B.A., Texas A&M Int'l University

Campaign Website: <http://www.JohnCastro.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/drjohnanthonycastro>

Twitter: twitter.com/realJohnACastro

Gun Violence: The Constitution of the United States offers the federal government no authority whatsoever to be involved in the issue. As with healthcare, leave it to the citizens of the individual States to manage this issue according to their will. That is the only constitutional answer.

Other Issues: The continued disregard for the constitutional limitations placed on the federal government, and the perpetual centralization of power in the hands of a few. We must - MUST - elect people who understand the authority offered them in Article III to divest power away from the federal back to the States. I understand that authority.

Education: Attended Kilgore Jr. College and SWTSU

Campaign Website: <http://www.DwayneStovall.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/texansforstovall.com>

Twitter: twitter.com/DwayneStovall

Video: <https://youtu.be/fnfaFGzu-Dk>

ALL health insurance providers before Congress and understand the disparity among high premiums and record insurance company profits.

Gun Violence: Enforce current laws. Guns do not kill people. Mentally ill people kill people with guns. I will filibuster any Bills Democrats introduce that Republicans perceived as a threat to Second Amendment rights, including expanded background checks.

Other Issues: 1). Fiscal responsibility and accountability. Congress's spending behavior is out of control. 2). Term-Limits. Two terms and you're out.

Education: University of Oklahoma - Finance Harvard University

Campaign Website: <http://voteformark.com>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/votemarkyancey>

Twitter: twitter.com/votemarkyancey

Video: <http://www.facebook.com/votemarkyancey/videos/992988377755065/>



» Chris Bell (D)

Background: The only candidate in this race with experience in Congress and running statewide - Served 5 years on Houston City Council (1997–2001), chairing the Ethics Committee and Customer Service and Initiatives. - Served as US Congressman (TX-25) as a member of the Whip Team. - Earned the 2006

Democratic Nomination for Governor, coming the closest any Dem since Gov. Ann Richards

Immigration: - Pass the DREAM Act and create a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and DREAMers. - End family separation and border detention facilities - Decriminalized unauthorized border crossings and migration. - Reform CBP and ICE in order to best protect our borders while treating immigrants with dignity and integrity.

Health Care: - Create an automatic enrollment public option, otherwise known as access to Medicare for All. - Lower prescription drug prices by making generic drugs more accessible and mandating the government to negotiate directly with pharmaceutical manufacturers. - Protect access to women's health providers. Texas is the number one state in maternal mortality. This must end.

» Michael Cooper (D) No Response Received



» Amanda K. Edwards (D)

Background: For the last four years I have represented 2.3 million Texans as a Houston City Council Member, where I spearheaded efforts on Hurricane Harvey recovery and technology & innovation, and oversaw a multi-billion dollar budget. Prior to public service I practiced as a municipal finance lawyer,

and was involved in numerous non-profit activities. My focus is achieving results.

Immigration: Comprehensive immigration reform is long overdue. We can have a secure border, treat people with dignity and respect, keep families together and reduce the years-long backlog of those waiting to lawfully enter. Enforcement should focus on serious criminal activity like drug and human trafficking, and the US should work to stabilize nations that are sources of immigration.

Health Care: Health care is a life or death issue for many. We should strengthen the ACA to cover more people. The federal government should offer an affordable public option and lower costs of premiums & prescription drugs. Texas should expand Medicaid, which would cover more than 1 million uninsured residents. Those who are satisfied with their current coverage should keep it



» Jack Daniel Foster, Jr. (D)

Background: Article 1, Section 3, Clause 3; States you must be 30 years of age and a nine year resident of the state you live. There is no real experience that prepares a person to be an elected official at any level, but I have waited all my life for our "experienced politicians" to come up with big ideas for us all

and they have failed us. So, I ask, "What has experience did for us?"

Immigration: While a person awaits their asylum claim, a property-homeowners should be able to invest in immigrants, within Texas Counties, for skilled vocational trades- welding, plumbing, wind turbine technology, water technology, solar panel technology, etc. Whether asylum is granted or not, an immigrant will have the ability to take care of themselves. My economic model bears this.

Health Care: I support ACA Medicaid expansion, but I have other big ideas about access and cost. The most expensive aspect of healthcare is hospitalization; we address this by allowing counties to team up and negotiate in their regions, these are their neighbors, not Washington. I also want to use the IRS codes for exclusionary income, so people can obtain insurance for the uninsured.

Gun Violence: - I support universal background checks and red flag laws that 90% of Americans fully support. - I would close the Charleston and Gun Show Loopholes. - Would take a step further and support a ban on assault weapons and a mandatory buyback program that would allow citizens to give up their weapons of war, otherwise under civil penalties.

Other Issues: - Reforming the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. We must make a more equitable tax system that requires the ultra-rich to pay their fair share. - Establish a \$15 minimum wage indexed to inflation. - Rejoin the Paris Climate Accord and enact measures to fight Climate Change. - Invest in Education and make college debt dischargeable.

Education: B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin and a J.D. from South Texas College of Law

Campaign Website: <http://electchrisbell.com/>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/ChrisBellForSenate/>

Twitter: twitter.com/BellForSenate

Video: <https://youtu.be/QEz96tdOR4g>

Gun Violence: Universal background checks and nationwide "red flag" laws are crucial first steps. Limiting the availability of high capacity weapons and ammunition also should be considered. While mass shootings receive a great deal of attention, most gun deaths occur in less high profile ways, and a majority are suicides. A comprehensive approach must proceed with that in mind.

Other Issues: Growing income and wealth inequality are huge concerns. With Texas being number 1 for rural hospital closures and number 1 for uninsured Americans, we must ensure that sustainable wage jobs with benefits are available in urban centers, suburbs and rural communities across America. We must also make available portable job training credits for those in manufacturing.

Education: B.A. Emory University, 2004 J.D. Harvard University, 2007

Campaign Website: <http://www.amandafortexas.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/amandafortexas/>

Twitter: twitter.com/amandafortexas

Video: <https://youtu.be/PNSyB86wpPM>

Gun Violence: I do not want to encroach on anyone's Second Amendment rights, I know it's not right for criminals to be armed better than law enforcement, therefore I would press hard for manufactures to begin putting fingerprint technology on all weapons. We also need federal legislation for background checks on all purchases, assembled weapons bought on-line as well, "air tight" laws.

Other Issues: The three pillars of our society are education, healthcare, and retirement; nothing will ever be more pressing than these issues in any session of Congress. My economic model addresses these issues through incentives, allowing property-homeowners to invest in people, who live in their county, for skilled vocational trades. Creating personal security is paramount for all.

Education: B.S. Clinical Laboratory Science, ASCP Master's Degree in Finance State Certified Teacher- Secondary Ed. Economics, Biology Certified Retirement Counselor

Campaign Website: <http://www.votejackdaniel.com>

Twitter: twitter.com/JackDanielFostl



» Annie 'Mama' Garcia (D)

Background: I'm not a politician. I have built 2 small businesses and a non-profit, all profitable. Our family relies on all our paychecks to live. I speak 3 languages & have lived in 3 other countries. I am a 'fed-up mama' with 3 small kiddos.

I'm running because we are running out of time. I have the moral clarity, political courage & work ethic to do what no politician will.

Immigration: This is personal. My husband is a naturalized citizen, we have Cuban family & I practice immigration law. Politicians lack the courage to fix it & now we separate families & kids die in our care. The irony is that our success is a direct product of our diversity. We must rebuild the system so we honor our values & benefit our economy. More @ www.runannierun.com.

Health Care: My daughter nearly died from a heart defect. We didn't have insurance. She lived thanks to \$1,500,000 in treatment. Here, we would be bankrupt, but she was born in Spain, where healthcare is a right. Americans deserve the same. Here it costs 2xs as much, doesn't cover ¼ of Americans & up to 400,000 patients die annually from medical error. Read more @ www.runannierun.com.

» Victor Hugo Harris (D) No Response Received



» Mary "MJ" Hegar (D)

Background: I'm a combat veteran and working mom who understands the challenges facing Texas families and has never backed down from standing up for what's right. I served 3 tours in Afghanistan as a medevac pilot, receiving the Purple Heart and Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor, and built a bipartisan coalition to open hundreds of thousands of jobs to women in the military.

Immigration: We need to permanently end child separation, ensure asylum claims are properly processed, secure the border with effective procedures and technologies instead of robbing our military and seizing land from Texans to waste billions on an ineffective wall, and build a path to citizenship for undocumented residents that reflects our core values as Americans.

Health Care: Texas has the highest uninsured rate in the nation, and that's unacceptable. We must protect the progress made by the Affordable Care Act while making much-needed improvements, including a public option to make Medicare available for all who want it. We should also lower the cost of prescription drugs by allowing Medicare to negotiate prices with pharmaceutical companies.



» Sema Hernandez (D)

Background: I've been a community advocate & organizer for over 12 years. I'm a fenceline community resident in a sacrifice zone, exposed daily to the hazards and risks posed by the fossil fuel industries. I am a co-founder of the Texas Poor People's Campaign & co-founder of an environmental justice coalition

working with local & statewide organizations to enforce regulations.

Immigration: I will introduce and/or co-sponsor legislation that will provide permanent resident status to all DACA & TPS registrants, as well as for their family members & extend permanent resident status to persons who were denied DACA status due to registration deadlines. I will introduce legislation to abolish ICE and restore immigration enforcement to the Department of Justice.

Health Care: I support Medicare For All, US Senate Bill S.1129. This is the direct way to provide full healthcare benefits for everyone and raising the standard of healthcare. The bill provides everyone with the same coverage, regardless of gender, socioeconomic status, race, religion, and other demographic status, while eliminating premiums, copays, deductibles, and the Donut Hole.

Gun Violence: More Americans die every WEEK from guns than most countries experience in a YEAR. This Is Not Normal. It's a trade-off between the GOP & NRA- GOP power for gunmaker profits, paid for yearly in the blood of 40,000. We must do it all & more. Gunowners must carry gun liability insurance, like we do for cars. Let insurance companies access risk. More @ www.runannierun.com.

Other Issues: There are so many existential threats that have been made worse by this administration, I can't pick one. Poverty. Crappy healthcare. Domestic terrorism. Climate change. Security. Voter suppression. What I know is that we can overcome all of this, if we have the moral clarity, political courage & work ethic. Email me at annie@runannierun.com.

Education: Rice University (Houston) University of Texas School of Law (Austin) Humboldt Universität (Berlin, Germany) Estudio Sampere (Cuenca, Ecuador) Escuela de Español Santa Barbara (Madrid, Spain)

Campaign Website: <http://www.runannierun.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RunAnnieRun>

Twitter: twitter.com/RunAnnieRun2

Video: <https://youtu.be/ZnctebfrLzM>

Gun Violence: We must pass common-sense gun safety legislation to require background checks on every single gun sale, stop the sale of assault weapons, pass red flag laws and close the "boyfriend loophole" to block access to firearms for domestic abusers, and strengthen laws preventing gun trafficking. I am also calling for state and local officials to end open carry.

Other Issues: I believe climate change is the greatest threat to my children's future, and will advocate for aggressive action and investment in new clean energy production, infrastructure and manufacturing to address the climate crisis. I will also make it a priority to protect reproductive rights and pass comprehensive campaign finance, voting rights and ethics reforms.

Education: B.A., University of Texas at Austin, 1999; AFROTC Detachment 825; E.M.B.A., University of Texas at Austin, 2016

Campaign Website: <http://www.mjfortexas.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MJforTexas/>

Twitter: twitter.com/mjhegar

Video: <https://youtu.be/bIYHz6fPAGo>

Gun Violence: I will use the Commerce Clause to regulate gun sales and manufacturing, introduce and/or support legislation which will require mandatory universal background checks, close gun-show loopholes, outlaw the sale of assault weapons, end the manufacturing of ammunition for assault weapons, and protect the rights of gun owners, while offering voluntary buy-backs of weapons.

Other Issues: Voting Rights: I will introduce legislation to create uniform requirements for voting, in order to ensure equal protection of voting rights under the laws. Indigenous Rights: Honor all treaties and tribal sovereignty. Criminal Justice Reform: I will vote to repeal the 1994 Crime Act and de-fund states which maintain sentencing mandates that were enacted in response to it.

Education: Acute Medical Training and Certificate Program Dual Licensed Insurance Agent

Campaign Website: <http://www.semafortexas.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SemaForTexas>

Twitter: twitter.com/_SemaHernandez_

» **D. R. Hunter (D)** No Response Received



» **Adrian Ocegueda (D)**

Background: My professional background is both in local government and in private equity. The issues that we face today are exceedingly complex and an honest assessment of these issues suggests that collaboration beyond one person will be required. My candidacy places a premium on the approach to policy development rather than simply advocating for one position over another.

Immigration: A limited view of improving our immigration system would simply be to improve our system for processing requests for asylum. However long-term concerns should also be addressed, this requires an evaluation of our foreign policy, from support for emerging economies, to supporting international agencies eradicating corruption or addressing regional climate change impacts.

Health Care: I believe there is an opportunity to build bi-partisan support for initiatives to reduce costs, as many in both the public and private sector have come to the realization that we are at a tipping point on healthcare costs. Expanding coverage, through some form of public sponsored insurance may help promote cost changes more swiftly, but the impacts will vary.

Gun Violence: Most of the discussion related to this issue has been to impose some restriction or added regulation to reduce access to & the number of weapons. I believe we can also adopt a public-health approach that seeks ways to decouple the availability of arms from circumstances where the use of firearms leads to lethal violence, such as safety modifications & data-driven alerts.

Other Issues: Two additional issues that will face our nation in future legislative cycles is the inequality of our economy and climate change. Both of these issues are highly complex, interrelated, and face trend & structural headwinds that that will require a collaborative and constructive political environment, that depresses mis-information and places a premium on facts.

Education: Princeton University, BA- Political Economy Southern Methodist University, Masters in Business Administration

Campaign Website: <http://www.texasreason.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TexasReason/>

Twitter: twitter.com/TXReason

Education: Princeton University, BA- Political Economy Southern Methodist University, Masters in Business Administration

Campaign Website: <http://www.texasreason.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TexasReason/>

Twitter: twitter.com/TXReason



» **Cristina Tzintzun Ramirez (D)**

Background: I have spent over a decade leading some of Texas' most important labor and voting rights organizations. I have helped change laws at the local and state level for workers and have traveled across the state registering and mobilizing young voters in our state, empowering them to tackle the problems that we face. I will continue to advocate for everyday Texans in the Senate.

Immigration: I support extending citizenship to DREAMers, but I also believe that we need to legalize the status of the millions of hardworking immigrants that have been part of our communities for years. We need an immigration system that allows future generations to come here safely and legally, that fills our labor needs, and that empowers all immigrants to live their full lives.

Health Care: I want to ensure that Texas families are healthy. I support Medicare for All because it is the most efficient and cost effective way to make sure every American has quality healthcare, and it will allow small businesses and entrepreneurs to accelerate their growth instead of trying to worry about how to cover the cost of healthcare for themselves and their employees.

Gun Violence: Every 3 hours, we lose a Texan to gun violence. I have endorsed the March for Our Lives Peace Plan and I will advocate for gun legislation that the majority of Americans support, including universal background checks, banning and buying back assault weapons like AR-15s and AK-47s, and holding the gun lobby accountable for the harm they have done to our communities.

Other Issues: Climate Change: I support the Green New Deal because it will create millions of new jobs, and will support oil and gas workers as we transition from fossil fuels to cleaner energy sources. Education: I support funding our education system from kindergarten through college, and investing in our greatest asset: our people. This means universal Pre-K and free public college.

Education: BA in Liberal Arts & Latin American Studies, The University of Texas at Austin

Campaign Website: <http://cristinafortexas.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TzintzunCris/>

Twitter: twitter.com/cristinafortx



» **Royce West (D)**

Background: I have been a practicing attorney for more than 40 years and I've owned my own practice for 25 years. I know what it takes to own and operate a business. I have also served in the Texas Senate since 1993 which gives me an unmatched depth of knowledge about the legislative process.

Immigration: First, we have to dramatically increase the number of judges available to hear asylum cases. Second, we need to pass DACA and get the Dreamers back on solid ground. Third, we need comprehensive immigration reform to simplify the process and give everyone here without citizenship a path to it if they want it.

Health Care: I would support strengthening the ACA with a public option. I do not believe nationalizing insurance is the best path forward. We need competition on standard products so that people can decide for themselves. I am looking at a number of ways of removing politics from this to stop future Administrations from gutting the ACA.

Gun Violence: I am for restoring the ban on assault rifles and instituting a ban on magazines that hold more than 8 rounds. I support a national background check system that closes all loopholes, even individual sales.

Other Issues: I believe criminal justice reform, a woman's right to choose, equal pay for women, student debt relief, and employment non-discrimination will be key issues in the next session. I favor a multitude of criminal justice reforms, favor a woman's right to choose, support equal pay for women, support a comprehensive student debt relief program, and will vote to pass ENDA.

Education: University of Texas at Arlington, BA, MA University of Houston, JD

Campaign Website: <http://roycewest.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RoyceWestTX/>

Twitter: twitter.com/roycewesttx

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

Six-year term. The railroad commissioner is one of the three-member Texas Railroad Commission. The commission has no regulatory authority concerning railroads. Instead, it regulates the oil and gas industry, gas utilities, pipeline safety, safety in the liquefied petroleum gas industry, and surface coal and uranium mining. Current salary: \$137,500

» What does the railroad commissioner do?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5uZASQUUOs&feature=youtu.be>

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

Pipelines: What are your recommendations relating to regulation of pipelines?

Natural Resources: How do you plan to balance oil, gas, and mining interests with protection of natural resources?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Railroad Commission?

» Ryan Sitton (R) No Response Received



» James 'Jim' Wright (R)

Background: I own five businesses and am associated with 14 other businesses that deal with environmental and transport issues in a wide range of industries, including the oil and gas business. I have been involved in these businesses since 1986. I am also a rancher.

Pipelines: — Increased automated leak detection systems. — More pipelines developed as part of our state's infrastructure to deliver our natural resources in a safer and more economically feasible method.. .

Natural Resources: Implementation of better rules and the way that waste byproducts are handled currently are crucial to balancing the public interests and the economic needs of our citizens. The Railroad Commission needs to be

more involved in using the volume of resources that are available under today's technology.

Other Issues: — Implement and use proven technology for better communication with citizens and members of the oil and gas industry. — Stronger self-policing actions and reporting by Natural Resource producers. — Life cycle analysis and development to ensure that future generations are reliant on best environmental management practices by the Industry.

Education: Calallen High School in Corpus Christi

Campaign Website: <http://www.wrightfortexas.com>

Facebook: <https://imwrightfortexas>

Twitter: twitter.com/JimWright4Texas



» Roberto R. "Beto" Alonzo (D)

Background: As a former State Representative, I know the law, legislative and the budget process which funds the RRC and other state agencies. As an experienced litigator, I can rule on appeals regarding oil and gas, pipeline, utility and environmental issues before the RRC an. Originally

from Crystal City, I know the oil and gas issues impacting both rural and urban communities.

Pipelines: The Legislature should enact laws to ensure that regulation of pipelines is meaningful. An application for a permit should require comprehensive information regarding routes , economic, environmental and historical impact, and not based on a simple form. The exercise of Eminent Domain should be fair to all . Monitor compliance with rules and regulations by industry.

Natural Resources: Review and update provisions to allow development, reduction of waste while protecting the environment. Ensure that the public has notice of development and impactful changes in their area and opportunity to submit input on the proposals. Study cost effective methods to reduce flaring in order to reduce waste and increase access to pipelines.

Other Issues: Monitor the relationship between drilling and seismicity and support innovation in drilling processes including the use of water in fracking. Encourage the use of alternative fuels. Review agency processes for award of contracts, compliance with HUB and diversity in hiring at all levels. Monitor practices in the field to increase worker safety.

Education: University of Texas at Austin Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Campaign Website: <http://alonzo4txrrcommissioner.com/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/alonzo_for



» Chrysta Castaneda (D)

Background: I am an engineer, oil and gas attorney, community organizer and mom, with over 30 years of experience working in and around the oil and gas industry. I know both the law and the business of oil and gas and will work tirelessly to get the Railroad Commission back on track in enforcing our

environmental protections and safety regulations.

Pipelines: The Commission oversees pipeline safety for intrastate pipelines and we need to update those regulations to meet today's standards. Laying new pipelines creates challenges beyond the Commission's powers, and addressing those challenges will require the Legislature to act. I'll use my expertise to press for a framework that includes transparency and public input.

Natural Resources: We must enforce existing laws prohibiting flaring, the harmful practice of burning natural gas. It wastes our natural resources, takes

revenues away from our state and causes environmental and health concerns. I will use my expertise to deploy alternative technologies that will reduce the amount of flaring, convert it to usable electricity and clean up our air.

Other Issues: We need to reduce harmful methane emissions. Methane escapes through leakage, aging equipment, and intentional venting, which is against the law. I will improve the detection and enforcement programs. We can use drones equipped with infrared cameras to detect leaks. Education can improve prevention and we will need to better enforce existing laws.

Education: SMU Dedman School of Law, J.D. cum laude, 1991 Kansas State University, B.S. Industrial Engineering, 1985 Harvard College, Applied Math major, 1981–1983

Campaign Website: <http://chrystafortexas.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChrystaForTexas/>

Twitter: twitter.com/ChrystaForTexas

Video: https://youtu.be/ikCIa_v3Gew



» Kelly Stone (D)

Background: As an educator, I've implemented harm reduction strategies to improve health, taught capstone college courses regarding policies, laws, & regs affecting individuals & families at local, state, & fed levels. As an environmental activist, I've worked to clean up litter & pollution, encourage waste

consciousness, change consumer behavior, & advocated for environmental policy.

Pipelines: Kinder Morgan & Whitewater Midstream & all pipeline companies must conduct environmental impact studies first. Construction & Operation of these pipelines could impact health at Jacob's Well, Cypress Creek, Blanco River, Barton Springs, San Marcos River and Pecos, Dimmit, Kenedy, Maverick, La Salle, Duval, Jim Wells, Nueces, Gillespie, Blanco, Hays & Caldwell counties.

Natural Resources: Balancing interests vs. protections? The RRC's protection of oil & gas interests have far outweighed that of our natural resources. In order to find balance, I'd increase protections of natural resources by denying permits



» Mark Watson (D)

Background: I have directly participated in drilling oil and gas wells in Texas. I have worked for Exxon, J. Ray McDermott, and the EPA. In the last twenty years I have watched the growing influence of the energy industry on the RRC. Texas has a proud history of protecting her natural resources. I will promote smart energy production to help hardworking men and women of Texas.

Pipelines: Safety first. Pipelines account for 70% of oil transport in the US. I will ensure that companies regularly inspect and maintain pipelines to prevent environmental hazards. Care must be taken to protect property owners from abusive use of eminent domain. Pipelines are absolutely essential to the Texas Oil Economy. Adopt newest pipeline technology and materials.

for flaring & committing to the initiatives of the GND, transitioning to healthy outcomes & full employment as we eliminate crude oil export by 2040.

Other Issues: We must change the name of the Railroad Commission. Comprised of 3-statewide elected officials, the RRC has nothing to do with railroads & everything to do with oil, gas, & pipelines. Until it becomes more transparent to voters, the intentionally confusing name continues to allow the tyranny of Big Oil, regulating itself w/o regard for the climate crisis or our environment

Education: HS Diploma—Aldine Senior High School (8th in class); BS in Family and Consumer Sciences—Texas State University (formerly Southwest Texas State University) GPA=3.55; MA in Health Education/Health Promotion—The University of Texas at Austin GPA=4.0

Campaign Website: <http://votekstone.com>

Facebook: <https://Facebook.com/votekstone>

Twitter: twitter.com/teamkstone2020

Video: <https://youtu.be/I4V7o5x7mbA>

Natural Resources: Protecting Texas energy resources and the environment is a primary objective of the RRC. The intelligent and safe production of energy resources overlaps with best practices in the oil patch. I will err on protecting the environment and the health of Texas energy resources. The RRC will ensure that smart energy practices take priority in the Texas Oil and Gas Industry.

Other Issues: We need smart energy practices. Flaring is the practice of burning unused gas from oil wells causing air pollution in beautiful West Texas skies and elsewhere. Coal mining reclamation decisions by RRC allow mining companies to leave behind toxic material, destroying value and causing dangerous contamination. Today's RRC favors big business over hardworking Texans.

Education: JD, Tulane University BA, Tulane University

Campaign Website: <http://Watsonforrailroadcommission.com>

» VOTING FOR JUDGES IN TEXAS



Although in some states judges are appointed, most judges in Texas are elected.

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. 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 and 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 <https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1444966/court-structure-chart-october-2019.pdf> for a chart of the Texas court structure.

Learn more <https://www.txcourts.gov/about-texas-courts/>.

CHIEF JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

Six-year term. A member of the court that hears only civil cases. The Supreme Court issues final decisions on civil and juvenile appeals, issues writs of mandamus/habeas corpus, and has jurisdiction over orders or judgments of trial courts if the Supreme Court determines them important to the jurisprudence of the state. Current salary: \$171,000

» What does the Texas Supreme Court do?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuRIMQt57Xo&feature=youtu.be>

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

Judicial Selection: Texas is one of a few states that elects judges. What changes in the judicial selection process would you recommend, if any?

Standards: What changes, if any, are needed to provide better protection to the public regarding rules and standards for the legal profession?

Responsibility: Which responsibility of a Texas Supreme Court justice is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Supreme Court?

» Nathan Hecht (R) Unopposed



» Amy Clark Meachum (D)

Background: For almost a decade, I have presided over thousands of proceedings and trials in the types of cases for which the Texas Supreme Court has jurisdiction: civil, family and administrative appeals. I am a guest lecturer with the Texas Center for Legal Ethics, a member of the Administrative

Law Council, and before taking the bench, practiced at two of the best firms in Texas.

Judicial Selection: The State should help voters by sending an information packet to each voter and providing that information at polling locations. The packet should contain background information, qualifications, and a statement of judicial philosophy for each candidate. That information would assist voters to make an informed selection and would reduce campaign costs for candidates.

Standards: Texas should increase public membership and participation on the Committee on Disciplinary Rules and Referenda, which reviews and recommends proposed changes in Texas lawyer-ethics rules. Currently, under the Texas

Government Code, just 2 of 9 are public members. Also, persons who file grievances against lawyers should be allowed to participate throughout the process.

Responsibility: The Code of Judicial Conduct requires a judge to perform duties “impartially and diligently” and to be “faithful to the law.” We need to restore a balanced judiciary on the Texas Supreme Court. I am committed to deciding all cases fairly and impartially, rather than on a result-oriented, partisan basis that favors special interests. Texans—and the law—deserve no less.

Other Issues: The ethics rules governing Texas lawyers are 30 years out of date. That’s because the rule-making process overseen by the Texas Supreme Court has failed repeatedly. Texas last adopted major rule changes in 1989. By contrast, the American Bar Association has amended the Model Rules of Professional Conduct almost 100 times since then. The Court must do a better job.

Education: University of Texas School of Law, J.D. with honors (2000), Texas Law Review. Southern Methodist University, magna cum laude (1997) B.A. Journalism, B.A. Political Science. Lorena High School (1993).

Campaign Website: <http://amymeachum.com>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/JudgeAmyforChiefJustice/>



» Jerry Zimmerer (D)

Background: I have a broad legal and business background. BA-Houston Baptist University, JD-South Texas College of Law Houston, LL.M. International Law-UofH, LL.M. Health Law-UofH. Ethics Internship-MD Anderson Cancer Center, Advisory Board - UofH Health Law & Policy Institute, Law firm

with broad litigation experience. What others are saying <http://tinyurl.com/wJerryZimmererYouTube>

Judicial Selection: Texans want balance on the courts. Our founding fathers did not trust lawyers, judges or politicians. The only way to keep judges responsive is to make them accountable to the voters. Today, as Democrats start winning elections, Republicans are seeking to change the selection process to keep themselves in office. I believe Texans see this for what it is.

Standards: The Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct are constantly undergoing changes, including some amendments earlier this year. The intent is to increase protections for the public. As Chief Justice, I will support

efforts to protect the public from unscrupulous acts by members of the legal profession.

Responsibility: The highest responsibility of the Supreme Court is to ensure fairness and balance in the interpretation and application of law. For far too many years, only Republicans, most appointed by Governor Abbot or Perry, sit on the Texas Supreme Court as this guardian. I will help bring balance to the Texas Supreme Court.

Other Issues: I believe gerrymandering and public education may come before the Texas Supreme Court.

Education: BA – Houston Baptist University JD – South Texas College of Law Houston LL.M. International Law – UofH LL.M. Health Law – UofH Ethics Internship: MD Anderson Advisory Board: UofH Health Law & Policy Institute Led law firm with real litigation exp.

Campaign Website: <http://www.JerryForJustice.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JerryForJustice>

Twitter: twitter.com/JerryForJustice

JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

Six-year term. A member of the court that hears only civil cases. The Supreme Court issues final decisions on civil and juvenile appeals, issues writs of mandamus/habeas corpus, and has jurisdiction over orders or judgments of trial courts if the Supreme Court determines them important to the jurisprudence of the state. Current salary: \$171,000
» What does the Texas Supreme Court do?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuRIMQt57Xo&feature=youtu.be>

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

Judicial Selection: Texas is one of a few states that elects judges. What changes in the judicial selection process would you recommend, if any?

Standards: What changes, if any, are needed to provide better protection to the public regarding rules and standards for the legal profession?

Responsibility: Which responsibility of a Texas Supreme Court justice is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Supreme Court?

» JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, PLACE 6

» **Jane Bland (R)** Unopposed



» **Kathy Cheng (D)**

Background: For over nineteen years, I represented clients in complex commercial litigation matters, contested divorce and probate cases, tax matters and real estate cases, which are some of the potential types of cases that the Texas Supreme Court hears. I also served as adjudication officer for the City of Houston for the past six years.

Judicial Selection: The beauty of democracy is that citizens can vote for individuals who they believe reflect their values, which in the State of Texas includes the election of judges. If that choice turns out to be a bad choice, being able to vote elected officials out of office is a mechanism to hold said officials accountable. As such, I see no need for change at the present time.

Standards: As time evolves, the means of disseminating the rules and standards for the legal profession shall also evolve. With the ease of digital accessibility, there should be more educational information available to the general public by digital means of the rules and standards governing said profession so that the general population are better informed as to their rights.

Responsibility: Being an efficient, fair justice who upholds the law and educate our citizens of the significance of the judicial system are my top priorities. By understanding and practicing the true meaning of the phrase, “justice for all” so justice is truly afforded to all regardless of ethnicity, race, gender, faith, age, sexual orientation, etc., I am achieving those priorities.

Other Issues: With the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision to refrain from hearing challenges of partisan gerrymandering, partisan gerrymandering cases will now go before the Texas Supreme Court, which is an example of how this Court impacts its citizens even though the citizens themselves may never go before this Court.

Education: Juris Doctor from South Texas College of Law Houston (2000); Bachelor of Science-Biology from Louisiana State University-Shreveport (1995)

Campaign Website: <http://www.chengforjustice.com>

Facebook: <https://chengforjustice>

Twitter: twitter.com/chengforjustice



» **Larry Praeger (D)**

Background: I have been practicing law for more than 30 years. I have extensive trial experience and have argued before every civil court in the state. I am A-V rated by Martindale-Hubbell and Board Certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. I represented individuals and small business. I have served five years on the grievance committee of the State Bar.

Judicial Selection: In the small counties, the current system works well with the voluntary restrictions on campaigns. In the larger counties, where much more money is needed, the current system does not work well. I would recommend that the state publish a listing of all the statewide judicial candidates, their background, and experience, and send it to each registered voter.

Standards: My experience tells me that there should be additional investigative and legal staff to serve the committee. This would shorten the time between when a citizen files a complaint against an attorney and the time that it is adjudicated. I

would recommend that the state commission on judicial conduct remove the category of “private reprimand.”

Responsibility: All of the duties of the Supreme Court Justice are important. The overriding duty of the Supreme Court Justice, however, is to see that an individual trial has been conducted fairly in accordance with the rules and constitutional protections. A Supreme Court Justice is the ultimate guardian of the trial process, and the protector of an individual’s liberties.

Other Issues: The Supreme Court also has the duty to establish and amend rules governing trial procedure in the trial in appellate courts and the rules of evidence. I would use my experience and familiarity with the trial courts to emphasize pre-trial practice and request that trial judges rule on admissibility of exhibits prior to a jury being empaneled.

Education: Simon’s Rock College, BA South Texas College of Law Houston, J.D., May 1981

Campaign Website: <http://www.larrysc6.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/larrysc6/>

» JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, PLACE 7

» **Jeff Boyd (R)** Unopposed



» **Brandy Voss (D)**

Background: I have practiced appellate law for seventeen years. I have been board certified in civil appellate law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization for ten years. I spent five years working as a staff attorney at the Texas Supreme Court and at the Thirteenth Court of Appeals. I estimate that I have

participated in nearly 1,000 appellate proceedings during my career.

Judicial Selection: I believe there is no perfect system for selecting judges. I support a thorough exploration of various methods and the benefits and drawbacks of each before any change to the judicial selection process is made. I do trust our voting public to make the correct choice if that remains as the Texas method for selecting judges.

Standards: Juries are the voice of our communities in the courtroom, and the Constitutional right to a jury trial is the public's last defense against governmental oppression. While I believe the ethical rules prohibit me from speaking publicly about specific proposed rule changes, I believe any rule changes must be geared toward protecting the right to a jury trial.



» **Staci Williams (D)**

Background: I am in my second term as a trial court Judge in the 101st District Court. I have served as an arbitrator for DART, USPS, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, NASD/FINRA, and the Washington Metropolitan Airport Board. My experience includes in-house corporate counsel positions in multiple industries, as well as a trial attorney and administrative judge for the EEOC.

Judicial Selection: Ideally, I would like to see the money come out of judicial races and have the State send out materials to registered voters detailing the experience and qualifications of candidates for judicial positions.

Standards: Before proposing any changes it is important that we first identify

» JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, PLACE 8

» **Brett Busby (R)** Unopposed



» **Gisela D. Triana (D)**

Background: For over 24 years, I have served as a judge in Texas. I worked my way up from Municipal Court to Justice of the Peace, to County Court, to District Court, and most recently, to the Appellate Court. If elected, I will be the only person on the TX Supreme Court who has served at every level of

the judiciary. Most of my 31-year legal career has been devoted to public service

Judicial Selection: A legitimate discussion, if there was a nonpartisan way to select judges that Texans could trust. The problem is the timing: after the party that has been in power for decades (and the beneficiary of partisan elections of judges) begins to lose that power, it makes the concern seem self-interested. Texans have clearly shown a preference for electing judges, I support that.

Standards: I believe the legal profession should emulate the medical profession and prohibit lawyers from becoming romantically involved with their clients while their case is active. There is great risk for conflict of interests and the parties are not in equal positions.

Responsibility: In today's toxic political environment, public confidence in all our civic institutions is falling. I will prioritize strengthening judicial independence—courts should be free from political attacks and intimidation. Also, our state's highest court needs more debate, more diversity, and more dissent before overturning the decisions of juries performing their civic duty.

Other Issues: The need to fund legal services to ensure our courts are accessible to all, especially the most vulnerable, has been advocated by both parties' jurists and political leaders. This call to action requires a greater sense of urgency, or our courts risk being even further removed from the most vulnerable and undermining trust in the principle of justice of justice for all.

Education: Baylor University School of Law, J.D., magna cum laude, 2002; Texas A&M University, B.A., Anthropology 1999

Campaign Website: <http://www.brandyvoss.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BrandyVossforTexas/>

Twitter: twitter.com/brandy_voss

what the perceived problems are, whether existing rules and standards will address the issue and, if they don't, formulate rules that are narrowly tailored to address the issues.

Responsibility: To impartially apply the law to cases that come before the Court, in a way that delivers real justice.

Other Issues: There are a number of them, but I do not wish to violate the Canon of Judicial Ethics by taking a position on any particular issue.

Education: The Hockaday School; Smith College, BA; Georgetown University Law Center, JD

Campaign Website: <http://judgestaci.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JudgeStaci/>

» **Peter Kelly (D)** No Response Received

Responsibility: Being just and fair. Opinions should be based on the Rule of Law, not on personal or political bias. Texans deserve a level playing field, to be treated equally and to have their constitutional rights protected regardless of race, religion, nationality, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability or economic status. I have striven to do this for 24 year and will continue.

Other Issues: Restoring balance to the Court. Currently, all members are Republican. 7 of the 9, were initially political appointments by a Republican Governor. Our founders were wise to create a jury system that brought people from different walks of life, with different experiences to judge a case. We need diversity of thought on the Court, as well. It makes for better jurisprudence.

Education: University of Texas School of Law, J.D., 1988; University of Texas at San Antonio, B.A. in Political Science, magna cum laude, 1985

Campaign Website: <http://JudgeTriana.com>

Facebook: <https://JudgeTriana.com>

Twitter: twitter.com/JusticeTriana

JUDGE, TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

Six-year term. A member of the court with final judgment in all criminal cases. The court must review all cases in which the death penalty is assessed. It also exercises discretionary review in other criminal cases and issues writs of habeas corpus. Current salary: \$171,000
» What does the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals do?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MdspUkvqoZ4&feature=youtu.be>

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

Mental Health: How should the Court of Criminal Appeals address mental health issues of those who come before the court?

Access to Justice: What opportunities are there, if any, to improve the state's indigent defense system in criminal cases?

Responsibility: Which responsibility of a Court of Criminal Appeals judge is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Court of Criminal Appeals?

» JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, PLACE 3



» Gina Parker (R)

Background: Over 30 years handling felony, misdemeanor, & juvenile cases. Private practice since 1991. Also, served as City Attorney, Assistant CA, Assistant DA. As TDLR Commissioner & Chair, a quasi-judicial capacity, ruled on over a 1000 administrative appeals.

Mental Health: The Judicial Committee on Mental Health assesses the resources available; recommends ways to improve communication between the courts, attorneys, clients, and mental health providers; provides training to judges; and continues to make recommendations for improvement of the current system. Unquestionably, these efforts should continue.

Access to Justice: The rule of law is undermined when defendants cannot afford counsel. The Fair Defense Act was established to administer appropriations and policies to help counties with indigent defense programs. Also, transparency

and accountability at the local level will ensure fairness, eliminate conflicts of interest and cronyism. Pro bono work is a way to provide counsel.

Responsibility: Above all other duties, judges should uphold the rule of law. Additionally, they should be independent and impartial, and they should demonstrate appropriate temperament by respecting all parties to a case and should have good character.

Other Issues: Keep pace with the ever-changing challenges of technology in order to appropriately address DNA issues. Also, make sure the Michael Morton law is properly enforced, so the right persons are charged for criminal offenses.

Education: Baylor School of Law, 1986 BBA, Baylor University, 1983

Campaign Website: <http://www.GinaforJudge.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GinaParkerCampaign/>

Twitter: twitter.com/GinaParkerTX

Video: <https://youtu.be/VACHjYsPWzA>



» Bert Richardson (R)

Background: 1) I have practiced criminal law full-time for over 31 years. 2) Former State and Federal prosecutor with substantial trial and appellate experience. 3) Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. 4) Judge for over 20 years and appointed by Gov. Bush. 6) Adjunct Law Professor 12+ years. 6) Distinguished 2015 Law Graduate StMU.

Mental Health: Early intervention is critical in cases dealing with mental health issues, as such, trial courts are in a better position to assist the immediate needs of citizens in those cases. The Court of Criminal Appeals and Texas Supreme Court are part of a joint commission that provide training to professionals assisting those with mental illnesses.

Access to Justice: The TCCA oversees funding to train those organizations that represent indigent defendants. That is a starting point. However, in order to improve the system, both counties and the State must commit to providing the financial resources necessary to staff offices in counties with lawyers that have substantial experience in the criminal justice system. Putting defense lawyers on the same pay scale as prosecutors would encourage more to apply for those positions. Other opportunities from the legislature, such as passing procedural and discovery rules, as they accomplished in recent sessions would contribute to improving the system.

Responsibility: The TCCA is the busiest appellate court in our country reviewing all death penalty cases, post conviction writs (including claims of actual innocence) and appeals from 14 intermediate appellate courts across the State. The

total number of cases in any given year is in the thousands. Timely disposing of these cases for all parties is my highest priority.

Other Issues: Post conviction writs (including actual innocence claims) constitute the largest number of cases the TCCA reviews. Given the changes in modern day science and technology that can be used in the courtroom, it is imperative that our court keep up with these changes and recognize those that can have both negative and positive impacts on cases before the TCCA.

Education: BYU, B.S., August 1982 St. Mary's University School of Law, J.D. 1987

Campaign Website: <http://www.electjudgerichardson.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JudgeBertRichardson/>

Twitter: twitter.com/None

Video: <https://youtu.be/9sXRzRrPPDgs>



LWV Be a Texas Voter! Texas Primaries March 3, 2020

JUDGE, TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

(continued)



» William Pieratt Demond (D)

Background: One of three 2019 Texas Super Lawyers in constitutional law; established constitutional rights in *Turner v. Driver*, 848 F.3d 678 (5th Cir. 2017) (recording police) and *Zadeh v. Robinson*, 928 F.3d 457 (5th Cir. 2019) (pre-compliance review of subpoenas to doctors); filed 19-676 at the Supreme

Court; pierced grand jury secrecy; & CLE instructor regarding constitutional law.

Mental Health: The Court should dispense with its unconstitutional “adaptive functioning analysis” in death penalty cases involving mental health issues, follow the medical community’s adaptive-functioning inquiry on adaptive deficits, and voluntarily honor U.S. Supreme Court jurisprudence concerning the death penalty (rather than being repeatedly reversed because it refuses to do so).

Access to Justice: Monitoring appointments to ensure caseloads do not render appointed counsel ineffective, establishing public defenders’ offices in counties that do not have them (thereby facilitating additional training to the indigent

defense community), and providing reliable resources for investigators, scientific testing, and mental health evaluations.

Responsibility: Protecting the People’s constitutional rights (especially in death penalty cases and for unrepresented inmates in habeas corpus proceedings); by retraining (or replacing) my staff, by prohibiting the closure of the courthouse to those seeking emergency relief, and by adjusting technological policies to facilitate communication when emergency relief is sought.

Other Issues: Actual innocence standards, the Court’s 2010 elimination of factual sufficiency review (despite its existence under Texas law since 1837), death penalty jurisprudence, and ineffective assistance of counsel.

Education: B.A., Asian Studies, Furman University; J.D. (international law concentration) and M.A., Diplomacy and International Relations, Seton Hall University.

Campaign Website: <http://williamdemond.com>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/williamforjustice>



» Elizabeth Davis Frizell (D)

Background: • Criminal District Court 7, Presiding Judge, Dallas County, Texas, Felony Court; • County Criminal Court 11, Presiding Judge, Dallas County, Texas, Family Violence Court; • City of Dallas, Associate Municipal Court Judge; • City of Princeton, Municipal Court Judge; • City of Lucas, Municipal

Court Judge; • City of Balch Springs, Municipal Court Judge; • The Frizell Firm

Mental Health: The Court of Criminal Appeals should ensure that trial courts examine mentally ill defendants for their capacity to know the difference between right and wrong as well as whether a mental illness affected their judgement and was properly asserted and applied for sentencing purposes.

Access to Justice: We should require internships similar to internships in the medical field where newly licensed attorneys work for government agencies, firms and solo practitioners doing trial work and appellate work for at least one year prior to becoming licensed. This will give non-profit and pro bono agencies more

attorneys to handle an increased case load, while giving indigent defendants and civil respondents much needed legal representation.

Responsibility: Death Penalty Cases. My priority is to ensure defendants sentenced to capital punishment, have cases reviewed regardless of the date the death penalty is scheduled to be implemented. Rather than implementing Stays of execution, the sentence should be commuted to life imprisonment until the appellate process is complete.

Other Issues: Wrongful convictions. We should examine the case law premise that there are many trials which occur at the state court level that have errors, but frequently the errors are not considered to be reversible error. This prevents many defendants from receiving a fair trial.

Education: Prairie View A&M University- B.A. Thurgood Marshall School of Law- J.D.

Campaign Website: <http://www.Frizell4Judge.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/frizell4txjudge>

» Dan Wood (D) No Response Received

» JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, PLACE 4

» Kevin Patrick Yeary (R) Unopposed



» Tina Clinton (D)

Background: I am currently the presiding felony state district judge of the oldest Criminal District Court in the State of Texas, the Criminal District Court, located in Dallas County. I have been a misdemeanor county court judge, a municipal court judge, a criminal defense attorney and a

prosecutor specializing in criminal cases in Texas. I have experience with over 400 trials.

Mental Health: The Court of Criminal Appeals is an appellate court so issues of mental health raised on appeal are the issues that may be addressed. The Court

of Criminal Appeals also funds education programs and grants for judges, lawyers and prosecutors. I believe that expanding that funding for increased mental health education in law would make a vast difference.

Access to Justice: I believe there are two avenues of improvement. First, to review cases of ineffective assistance closely and with a critical eye. One consideration might be outright ineffective assistance for not doing one’s job. The other can possible be because attorneys are carrying too high of a caseload based on assignments. Both instances should be reviewed carefully. Second, the Court of Criminal Appeals funds education, programs and grants for judges, lawyers who work in indigent defense and prosecutors as well as court personnel. I think the administering of these grants, programs and education liberally and requesting

JUDGE, TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

(continued)

» Tina Clinton (D) (continued)

more funding from the legislature so we can robustly tackle education throughout the system would improve the state's criminal justice system on indigent defense.

Responsibility: (1) Speak to the Legislature about their attempts at bail reform laws. (2) I believe the Court receives 5000 habeas writs plus per year. This work is tasked to staff attorneys. These cases raise issues of actual innocence, ineffective assistance, and other reviews. We should review the need to increase staff so each case may be given full consideration.



» Steven Miers (D)

Background: I am Board Certified in Criminal Law and Criminal Appellate Law. For 7 years I have been named a "Super Lawyer" in criminal law by Texas Monthly. I have handled over 125 cases as lead counsel on appeal. I have represented persons at trial and on appeal in many death penalty cases. My

website has a link to watch an oral argument I did, and opinions of my cases on appeal.

Mental Health: The Court must address how to define intellectual disability for purposes of the death penalty. It has failed to do this even though directed to by the Supreme Court. The Court fails to make sure that indigent inmates with mental illness are appointed lawyers at every stage of the writ of habeas corpus process. Many of these inmates have no access to attorneys.

Access to Justice: The Texas Indigent Defense Commission has no authority to sanction counties which have failed to implement or follow a proper indigent defense plan. While each county must have a plan, there is no enforcement authority to police these plans. The good ol' boy system still encourages trial judges to not follow a wheel system for appointments of competent lawyers, especially in death penalty cases. The creation of state-wide standards for the appointment of attorneys in felony cases would assure competent representation and develop-

Other Issues: One of the tasks of the Court is to help provide (1) grants for technical assistance projects to judges and court personnel, and (2) grants for innocence training programs. I believe these areas need to be aggressively administered and expanded to help access to justice throughout the State. Many areas do not have funds for technical assistance or education otherwise.

Education: Juris Doctorate from SMU School of Law; Bachelors of Art in Philosophy from University of Texas at Austin

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/JudgeTinaClinton>

Twitter: twitter.com/JudgeTClinton

ment of competent criminal defense lawyers. A plan's use of flat fees paid to appointed attorneys and investigators encourages and rewards ineffective assistance of counsel. The development everywhere of online portals for appointed lawyers to access the court's file and DA discovery is needed. And ability to talk to inmates on webcams would assist communication.

Responsibility: The highest priority of a CCA judge is to review cases where the death penalty has been given. This occurs on direct appeal from the trial and on writs of habeas corpus. I will not leave this duty to clerks. I will personally read every record. I will not "go along to get along" with other judges on the CCA who refuse to examine the death penalty under current laws.

Other Issues: The most pressing issue for the CCA will be processing writs of habeas corpus filed by inmates. Last year the CCA handled over 3,500 writs. Each of these writs deserves personal attention from the Judge it is assigned to. These writs continue to bring to the attention of the CCA pervasive incompetence by appointed lawyers, prosecutorial misconduct, and bad forensic experts

Education: I graduated Madison High School in Houston, Texas. I received a B.A. with honors from Austin College. I have a doctorate of jurisprudence from Texas Tech University School of Law.

Campaign Website: <http://SteveMiersForJudge.com>

Facebook: <https://SteveMiersForJudge>

» JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, PLACE 9

» David Newell (R) Unopposed

» Brandon Birmingham (D) Unopposed

» VOTE BY MAIL

Who can vote by mail in Texas?

- Over 65
- Sick or disabled
- Out of the county on election day or early voting,
- In jail but otherwise eligible to vote

Apply to Vote By Mail!

- Applications to Vote By Mail are available from your county election official. For the Texas General Election your application to Vote By Mail must be re-

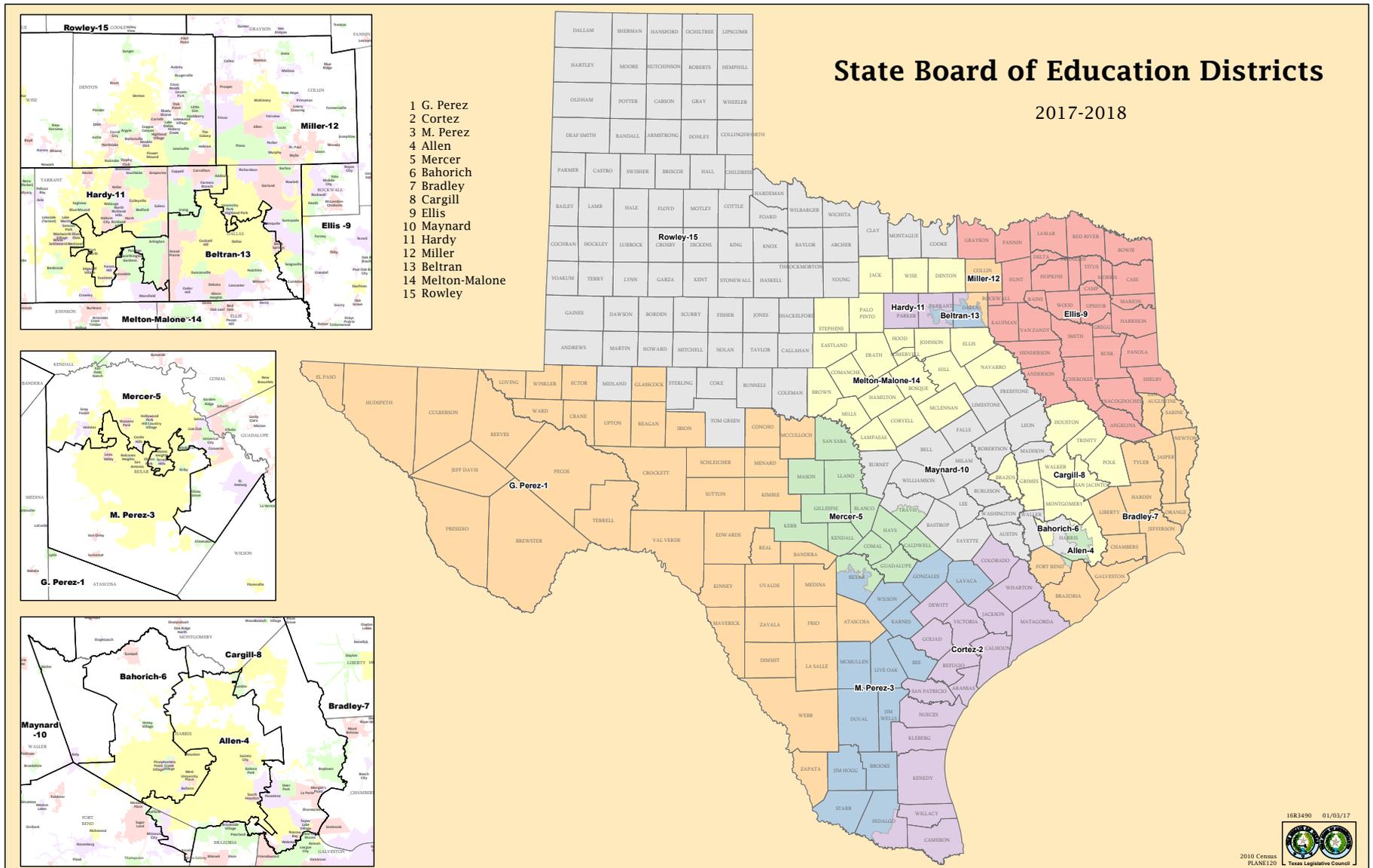
ceived at your county election official's office by Friday, February 21, 2020. Note: postmarks don't count.

- A ballot will be mailed to you. Then Vote!
- Return your completed ballot to your county elections department by 7 p.m. on Election Day, March 3, 2020. If mailed, the ballot must be postmarked by Election Day and received by the next business day.
- *If you are mailing your ballot from outside the United States, the county election official must receive your ballot by the fifth day after Election Day. (It must be postmarked no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day.)

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Four-year term. The fifteen-member board decides curriculum, standards, student testing, special education programs, and textbooks for Texas public schools. It also oversees the Permanent School Fund. Members of the board do not receive pay, but are eligible for reimbursement for expenses incurred in the course of official business.

» What does the State Board of Education do?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3XZK4qoFFIU&feature=youtu.be>



» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

Civic Education: What would you recommend to better prepare students for their civic responsibilities?

Instruction: What is your position on issues related to student testing?

Education Funding: What is your opinion about the Texas Supreme Court decision that Texas education funding is Constitutional but inadequate and inefficient?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the State Board of Education?

» STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 1

» Jennifer Ivey (R) Unopposed

» Georgina Perez (D) Unopposed

» STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 4

» Larry McKinzie (D) Unopposed

» STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 5



» Inga Cotton (R)

Background: When our family began looking at schools for our children, one of whom has a disability, we were apprehensive. I was able to find a public school nearby that worked for our children. During my research I heard from parents across the state who were not as lucky. I made the choice at that time to be a voice for parents and students, advocating for stronger Texas schools.

Civic Education: Effective civics education requires both rigorous instruction in history and hands-on experiences about government in action. Students who gain a deep knowledge of United States history—both the failures and the triumphs—should develop a strong sense of patriotism and a love of liberty, freedom, and the rule of law.

Instruction: We need to reform standardized testing practices and support policies that promote greater competition and accountability in our schools. Schools should not teach to the test, and students should not fear the tests.

Education Funding: In its 2016 decision, the Texas Supreme Court correctly gave deference to the legislature as the policy making branch of government. During the 2019 session, the legislators listened to voters and passed HB3, making changes to outdated funding formulas and appropriating \$11.6 billion to public education.

Other Issues: Adoption of curriculum standards is one of the most important duties of the State Board of Education. Providing students with knowledge-rich classrooms is a powerful way to close achievement gaps. As the parent of a child with special needs, I understand the importance of providing resources for students with disabilities so they can reach their full potential.

Education: B.A. in History from Trinity University (1996) and J.D. from The University of Texas School of Law (1999)

Campaign Website: <http://ingacotton.com>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/ingaforschools>

Twitter: twitter.com/ingaforschools



» Robert Morrow (R)

Background: The Republican party has come the cult of an authoritarian lunatic. I do not think GOP or Democrats should be supporting political criminals who had close associations with a mega child molester [*Candidate's response did not meet the criteria listed in this Voters Guide*]. I oppose any politician

who is a Russian or Zionist stooge & traitor to the USA. I am against criminals in both parties.

Civic Education: Every Texas high school student should read Roger Stone's book "The Man Who Killed Kennedy: The Case Against LBJ" as well as Daniel Hopsicker's "Barry and the Boys" which is about the murder of CIA drug smuggler Barry Seal by GHW Bush and Oliver North. Also, I would make Nick Bryant's book The Franklin Scandal mandatory reading for all high school seniors.

Instruction: Mandatory statewide testing should be eliminated. Let local school districts decide how they want to test student.

Education Funding: It is a complete joke. The taxpayer is being screwed over yet again by judges acting like legislators. I am for ending Robin Hood and replacing it with nothing. Poor school districts can put up GoFundMe accounts.

Other Issues: I think that high school students should be offered elective classes on the safe use of AR-15s. I think all high school senior girls should be offered spring semester elective classes on pole dancing and twerking. I say only girls for those classes because it would too homo for the boys. They need to be playing sports and learning team work.

Education: Tuscaloosa Academy 1983 Princeton - A.B. History 1987 Univ. of Texas - MBA - 1990

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Robert.Morrow.888>

Twitter: twitter.com/DCPolitics2016

» Lani Popp (R) No Response Received



» Rebecca Bell-Metereau (D)

Background: I taught as a Peace Corps volunteer in Chad, interpreter US Air Force grain flights, Assistant to Director of First Year Studies at Indiana University, training new instructors. At TX State, I've led teacher training, developed & direct Media Studies Minor, chaired Environment & Sustainability, Faculty Senator. San Marcos Planning & Zoning, Bond, and Recycling Commissions

Civic Education: Historical context helps students value citizen responsibilities and privileges, with curriculum including practical lessons in how government works, and how to research and vote in city, county, state, and national elections. Let's teach how local, state, and national governments function, with non-partisan information on voting practices ranging from local to worldwide.

Instruction: Studies indicate high-stakes testing is not only ineffective, but actually detrimental to student learning. Responsible teachers use various measures of student knowledge and skills and avoid teaching to the test. Nationally-normed tests, sparingly administered every other year can offer reliable comparative and longitudinal data, used for formative, not punitive purposes.

Education Funding: Hailed by some as a small step in the right direction for acknowledging the inadequacy of our state funding, this ruling says it's constitutional, putting the responsibility with the legislature, which has been reducing its support steadily over the years. The legislature needs to increase funding by at least 50%. One representative rightly criticized the state for "neglecting its responsibilities, failing to pick up its fair share of the school finance tab, and pushing the costs down to overburdened local taxpayers." Abbott's decision to support quality pre-K education is a wise investment, but the legislature must also allocate adequate funds to educate the other 12 grades and plan for a future that diversifies funding for public education from a mix of resources. We must see education as an investment rather than a cost, since it produces an educated work force, contributes to a stable economy, and improves the health and well-being of all citizens. For those who wish to abandon public education in favor of for-profit systems for education, health, and prisons, this may seem like a just ruling, but those who see an educated citizenry as the bedrock of democracy view it as sidestepping a responsibility that will have unfortunate consequences in the future. Inadequate funding of special needs students may lose Texas up to \$223 million in federal funding. SBOE oversees \$41.44 billion, but only about \$2.5 billion was released in 2019–20. SBOE can tell our leaders to do better.

» Rebecca Bell-Metereau (D) *(continued)*

Other Issues: SBOE needs to provide guidance to districts that participate or merge with charters under SB 1882, passed in the 85th session. It's unclear who is responsible for schools at the local level after a charter contract is executed, affecting 13 districts and 609 campuses. Let's update literacy in statistics, civil discourse, coding, finance, sustainability, health life skills.

Education: BA, MA, PhD, degrees in English, Indiana University, specializations in film, rhetoric and composition, pedagogy. Dissertation published by Columbia University Press as Hollywood Androgyny

Campaign Website: <http://voterebecca.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/voterebecca/>

Twitter: twitter.com/voterebecca

Video: <https://youtu.be/3olUQkiAak4>



» Letti Bresnahan (D)

Background: I have lived in San Antonio for 35 years and obtained my MBA from UTSA. Our children graduated from public schools where I spent 25 years volunteering. I served as PTA and Booster Club President. I was elected to the NEISD Board of Trustees - 2008-2016, serving as VP and President.

I am a Board Member for Texas' Region 20 ESC. I work in medical education at UT Health SA.

Civic Education: Civic responsibilities must be taught to our students from the beginning and reinforced and built upon throughout their schooling. Learning formats should be engaging, hands on, and enhanced with modern technology. Real world classroom civic engagement such as meeting with public officials, and participating in legislative activities helps our students understand civics.

Instruction: Student testing is critical as a diagnostic tool and to provide feedback to our parents/teachers about what our students know. Testing can serve as a tool for teachers/administrators to review and reassess their instruction. However, testing should not be excessive or used for punitive purposes. Testing should not serve as the sole measure of student performance.

Education Funding: The role of the legislature is to pass laws that benefit its citizens, thus the responsibility to adequately fund public schools belongs to the legislature. However, I disagree with the Texas Supreme Court's ruling that the states portion of funding for education is constitutional. The legislature's \$5.4 billion cut in public school funding should have been ruled as unconstitutional because it was unreasonable.

Other Issues: We must prepare all students with the knowledge and skills to succeed in our communities. Curriculum must be factual, objective, and supported with high quality instructional materials. Educators must be skilled and trained to meet the needs of all students. Oversight of the permanent school fund and charter school applications is critical.

Education: Bachelor of Arts - Spanish Bachelor of Science - Business St. Louis University - 1982 Masters of Business Administration University of Texas at San Antonio - 1988

Campaign Website: <http://letti4sboe.com>

Facebook: <https://letti4sboe>

Twitter: twitter.com/Letti4SBOE

» STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 6

» Will Hickman (R) Unopposed



» Debra Kerner (D)

Background: Debra is a lifelong educator and former VP of the Harris County Dept of Education, elected countywide. She's a speech language pathologist who has worked w/ children of all ages. She's active in the Anti-Defamation League and other organizations.

Civic Education: Students should start learning about civics in early grades, learning about and experiencing voting and governing in the classroom, carrying it through to registering to vote in high school. They should learn critical thinking skills to evaluate what they hear and read to be able to make their own conclusions about what is happening in the government.

Instruction: We need to teach to the student, not to the test. Teachers should teach students critical thinking skills and not focus on test taking strategies for a single high stakes test. There are multiple ways to measure student success throughout the year. Students and educators should not be judged based on high stakes testing.

Education Funding: The TX Supreme Court made it clear that the legislature needs to improve the way we fund our public schools. We also need to increase the amount of money our public schools receive. We need to consider the cost of educating all our students, including factors like high poverty rates, English Language Learners and the cost of educating students in special education.

Other Issues: The Permanent School Fund is a very pressing issue. The Houston Chronicle pointed out just how broken the system is and that it is fraught with mismanagement by high paid fund managers who made risky investments. Prop. 7 increased the money which can come from the fund. We need an independent, outside audit to maximize this \$44 Billion fund.

Education: M.S. Columbia University B.S. Syracuse University

Campaign Website: <http://KernerForSBOE.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DebbyKerner>

Twitter: twitter.com/DebbyKerner



» Kimberly McLeod (D)

Background: I am a career educator with experience at every level of education. I have worked in early childhood, public schools and higher education & I'm president of an Ed. Assoc. I have written 14 academic books and support school systems

nationally and internationally. I actively work with many groups in advocacy for Texas public school children and the educators that lead them.

Civic Education: Civic Education can leave a life imprint on a learner. The students that organized after the mass shooting at Marjory High School in Florida were able to learn, apply & advocate for themselves. Civics is a lesson that not only addresses how the democratic process works, but how students

» Kimberly McLeod (D) *(continued)*

engage in it. We should teach civics alongside real time national & community issues.

Instruction: Testing & accountability is a high stakes, high-pressure distracter from instruction. A benefit of testing is that it illuminates blind spots. Why not use this diagnostically for individual students and campuses. We should reexamine the purpose of testing and the high stakes attached to it. We should support schools that have needs rather than punish them.

Education Funding: Adequate school funding, especially those that are working to educate some of the most marginalized populations should be a mantle for Texas in promoting equity, engagement and opportunity. I do believe that in order for Texas to graduate students that are prepared to compete on a national and international level, Texas will have to invest in its public schools. I support any legislative action that requires Texas in increasing its state contribution levels to ensure that no shortfall exists in per-student funding and educator pay. Texas re-



» Michelle Palmer (D)

Background: I have been a teacher for over a decade and have taught middle school math as well as high school social studies. I understand the curriculum that is used in Texas classrooms and have studied the various Texas curricula in depth. I have been a public education advocate for several years and know

how the system works and can work within that system.

Civic Education: We now require a “peaceful police officer interaction” as a graduation requirement. We should also require an interaction with an elected official. I bring elected officials to speak to my government classes every semester and it is eye-opening for the students. In addition, civics should either be a separate course or a much larger part of the government curriculum.

Instruction: Standardized tests do not improve student achievement. The US has gone from 18th to 31st in math since NCLB was instituted. Teaching to the test has become the norm and our students are suffering. Higher-order thinking skills are in decline and the economy of the future depends on the students of today knowing how to think outside the box not take a multiple-choice test.

» STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 8

» Audrey Young (R) Unopposed

» STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 10

» Tom Maynard (R) Unopposed



» Marsha Burnett-Webster (D)

Background: I am a native Texan and a career educator. I have worked as a teacher and an administrator in middle schools, high schools, and colleges across the United States. I have seen what happens when we give our students the best we have to offer. And I have seen what happens when we neglect their educational needs. Our student deserve the best. Help me make that possible.

Civic Education: Civic responsibility begins in the home; schools have a responsibility as well. Primary grade school students are coached on sharing, which

cently increased its funding to public schools to 45%, but until the State pays at least 50% of the costs required to educate students and reviews the 2.5% revenue cap applied locally, we will continue to be constitutional but inadequate and inefficient. The only way to make Texas future ready is to invest in Texas children, and the professionals that lead them - now.

Other Issues: 1. Review the avenues to graduation that create options that speak to the unique needs students may have based on the career pathway they wish to explore; 2. The PSF is geared to fund schools both today and tomorrow. We need to ensure future generations can rely on equitable funding from either the state or PSF; 3. Testing, accountability and teacher certification.

Education: B.S. Interdisciplinary Studies; M.Ed. Counseling; M.Ed. Education Administration; Ed.D. Counselor Education

Campaign Website: <http://www.DrKim4Tx.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DrKim4TX/>

Twitter: twitter.com/DrKim4Tx

Education Funding: With the new funding from SB3, Texas is \$4K below the national average per student. We need to reach at least the national average. In addition, charter schools are draining millions of dollars from Texas public schools every year without transparency or accountability. We also need to look at the Permanent School Fund management. It is costing millions extra per year.

Other Issues: Bringing fidelity to the facts back to the curriculum standards should be the number one goal of the SBOE. Moses should not be in the US History curriculum and climate change science should be in the science curriculum. Rape should not be taught by blaming victims in the health curriculum. LGBT history should not be completely ignored in the history curriculum.

Education: BA Political Science from the University of Houston, Graduate classes in Education at the University of St. Thomas

Campaign Website: <http://palmerfortexased.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/palmerfortexased/>

Twitter: twitter.com/palmer4texased

Video: <https://youtu.be/fpAGDSNAsQI>

» STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 9

» Brenda Davis (D) Unopposed

» Keven M. Ellis (R) Unopposed

is a civic responsibility. Secondary school students must take civics classes for graduation. Additionally, I believe students should complete mandatory community service projects.

Instruction: Standardized testing should be used only as a diagnostic tool to guide the student learning process - a process that should take into account that not all students learn the same way. That is not how these biased tests are used today, however. Instead, they are largely being used to drive student graduation requirements, assess teacher abilities, and school performance.

Education Funding: I wholeheartedly agree that public education funding is ‘inadequate and inefficient.’ The Texas Supreme Court did not and does not write

» **Marsha Burnett-Webster (D) *(continued)***

or amend the Texas Constitution. Only the Texas Legislature can initiate that. If we want to fix our broken education funding problem and provide the best possible education for students, then we must elect candidates (irrespective of party) who will fix this problem - and not candidates who will make it worse.

Other Issues: The SBOE must be involved in designing instructional materials (vocational programs), teacher retention and salary improvements (as well as healthcare for retired teachers), special needs programs, safe and healthy schools,

» **Stephen Wyman (D)**

Background: Raised by Secondary School Teachers; Bachelors degree; Substitute Teacher; School Bus Driver...

Civic Education: Perhaps Civics could replace/supplement Social Studies.

Instruction: Texas Schools do way too much testing; over utilize test scores for over simplified ratings of schools and their success/lack thereof.

Education Funding: It is a reasonably correct assessment of Texas education funding... Is it Constitutional?.

» STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 14

» **Maria Berry (R)** No Response Received

» **Sue Melton-Malone (R)** No Response Received

» **Greg Alvord (D)** Unopposed

review and adoption of textbooks, and establishment of regional education service centers. Each is predicated on adequate and efficient funding.

Education: Doctor of Education, California Coast University; Master of Education, Prairie View A&M University; Bachelor of Science in Industrial Arts, Prairie View A&M University

Campaign Website: <http://www.webstertxsboe10.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Dr-Marsha-Burnett-Webster-for-Texas-State-Board-of-Education-District-10-111737920309467/>

Other Issues: Text books and curriculum based on academic/professional academic's assessment... Review/audit of Texas Permanent School Fund management.

Education: BA, Indiana University, 1979

Campaign Website: <http://blueboomerhd.blogspot.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stephen.wyman.507>

» STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 15

» **Jay Johnson (R)** Unopposed

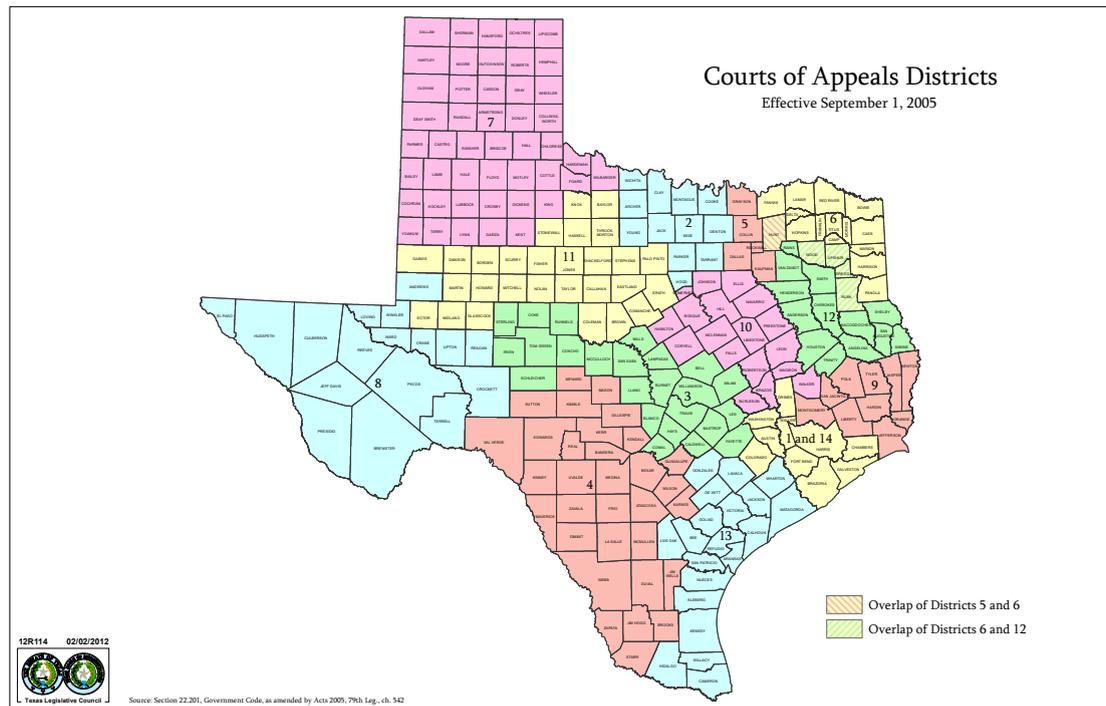
» **John Betancourt (D)** Unopposed



JUDGE, COURT OF APPEALS

Six-year term. Hears appeals on civil and criminal cases from lower courts in its district.
Current Salary: \$154,500.

See VOTE411.org for Court of Appeals candidates in your district.
Compare candidates at www.VOTE411.org



» TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS SERVES THE FOLLOWING TEXAS COUNTIES:

The 1st Court of Appeals: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Harris, Waller, and Washington

The 2nd Court of Appeals: Archer, Clay, Cooke, Denton, Hood, Jack, Montague, Parker, Tarrant, Wichita, Wise, and Young

The 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, and Williamson

The 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, and Zavala

The 5th Court of Appeals: Collin, Dallas, Grayson, Hunt, Kaufman, and Rockwall

The 6th Court of Appeals: Bowie, Camp, Cass, Delta, Fannin, Franklin, Gregg, Harrison, Hopkins, Hunt, Lamar, Marion, Morris, Panola, Red River, Rusk, Titus, Upshur, and Wood

The 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, Ochiltrie, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, Terry, Wheeler, Wilbarger, and Yoakum

The 8th Court of Appeals: Andrews, Brewster, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Loving, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Reeves, Terrell, Upton, Ward, and Winkler

The 9th Court of Appeals: Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery, Newton, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto, and Tyler

The 10th Court of Appeals: Bosque, Brazos, Burleson, Coryell, Ellis, Falls, Freestone, Hamilton, Hill, Johnson, Leon, Limestone, Madison, McLennan, Navarro, Robertson, Somervell, and Walker

The 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, and Throckmorton

The 12th Court of Appeals: Anderson, Angelina, Cherokee, Gregg, Henderson, Houston, Nacogdoches, Rains, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Smith, Trinity, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood

The 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, and Willacy

The 14th Court of Appeals: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Harris, Waller, and Washington



» PARTY PROPOSITIONS

Voters in the Texas Primary may provide feedback to their party via ballot propositions. These propositions do not impact or create law. They will be at the end of the ballot. The Texas Republican Propositions and the Texas Democratic Propositions can be found on VOTE411.org or on your party's website.



» THE 2020 CENSUS IMPACTS REDISTRICTING IN TEXAS!

What is the Census, and how does it impact you?

- **The Census is a count of all persons living in the U.S.** It is conducted every 10 years by the federal government, and it is mandated by the Constitution.
- **Resources for the Community:** We track changes in our population in order to know where to send resources and federal services. Census data is used to distribute over \$800 billion in federal funds annually. States use this money to pay for services and programs that are absolutely vital to the community, such as healthcare, highway funding, and education. Each person counted in your community means additional federal dollars in your community.
- **Basis for Representation:** These population changes also have an affect on our democracy. The Census count is used to determine how many seats each state gets in Congress and how district lines are drawn at every level of government.
- **Community Development:** Census data impacts planning and development in your community. It guides decisions on where to build businesses, subdivisions, schools, and roads. It is used by healthcare officials to plan resources and appropriate care for the surrounding population.

When will the Census be conducted?

Starts: March 2020

Ends: July 2020

How can people complete the Census questionnaire?

- Online
- Over the phone
- The paper form
- Or, by responding to a Census worker at your home

» REDISTRICTING—NEW DISTRICT MAPS TO BE DRAWN AFTER 2020 CENSUS

Once we know how many people live in Texas, the state legislature will start the redistricting process and redraw the boundaries of the state legislative and congressional districts so that they are equal in population. These election maps will be used for the next decade.

Because of partisan gerrymandering, the way the district boundaries are drawn determine the power of your vote. The boundaries determine how you are represented, which other communities are included in your district, and ultimately, who will be elected to represent you. Those elected officials then go on to make important decisions that impact you and your family on a daily basis, such as the quality of the air you breathe, the quality of your child's school, and how much you pay in taxes.

What Can You Do to Influence the New District Maps?

The Legislature has already begun the process for the 2021 redrawing of state and federal legislative districts. In the fall of 2019, the Texas House Redistricting Committee started holding **Public Input Hearings** for the 2021 redistricting. The Texas Senate Redistricting Committee will begin holding hearings in March of 2020. (Schedules can be found below.)

Public comments at the committee hearings will be used to assist the Legislature when it draws district boundaries.

Public Input Hearings Schedule

You are invited to attend a local public hearing to let your state legislators know your concerns, where your community is located and encourage them to conduct

What the Census will send you in the mail

| On or between | You'll receive |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| March 12–20 | An invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census. (Some households will also receive paper questionnaires.) |
| March 16–24 | A reminder letter. |
| If you haven't responded yet: | |
| March 26–April 3 | A reminder postcard. |
| April 8–16 | A reminder letter and paper questionnaire. |
| April 20–27 | A final reminder postcard before the Census follows up in person. |

Are Census Responses Confidential? Yes.

- All Census data are protected by federal law to be kept confidential for 72 years.
- The Census Bureau cannot share data with any other federal agency.
- All Census Bureau employees swear to a lifetime oath to protect respondent information and will be fined \$250,000 and/or face up to 5 years imprisonment for wrongful disclosure.

“It is your right to be counted! Filling out the form is fast, easy, and secure.”

—GRACE CHIMENE, PRESIDENT, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

For more information about the 2020 Census:

<https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2019/comm/2020-everyone.html>

a transparent process. You can find guidance for how to testify on the League webpage, see below.

If you are unable to attend a hearing and would still like to provide testimony, you may email or call legislators on the Redistricting Committee. A list of committee member information can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2KrYk0N>

The League of Women Voters of Texas, working with Fair Maps Texas, is providing training in advance of many of the hearings.

More Information:

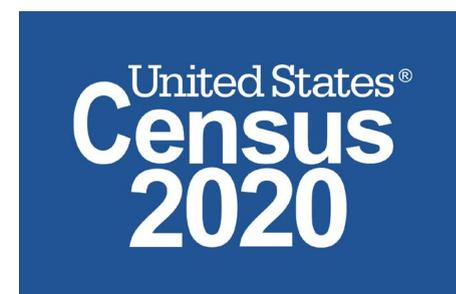
The League of Women Voters of Texas:

<https://my.lwv.org/texas/advocacy-issues/redistrictingcensus>

Fair Maps Texas: <https://www.fairmapstexas.org/>

The Texas Legislative Council: <https://redistricting.capitol.texas.gov>

Texas Legislature's website: <https://capitol.texas.gov>



» REGISTERING TO VOTE

- You must register to vote at least **30** days before the election date. The last day you can register to vote for the 2020 General Election is **MONDAY, February 3, 2020**.
- All eligible citizens wishing to vote must be on the official list of registered voters. If you moved or changed your name you must re-register!

Who Can Register to Vote?

- a citizen of the United States,
- a resident of the county, and
- 17 years 10 months old (to vote you must be at 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.

Suspended Voter

You can still vote if your voter registration is in suspense! “Suspense” means that your county voter registrar needs to confirm your voting address.

Update your voter registration if you have . . .

- Moved
- Changed name
- Not voted in the last four years

Voter Registration Facts:

- You do not need to register before every election.
- Your *county voter registrar* can help you with voter registration concerns. You may ask your county registrar to keep your address off the public record if you are a peace officer or a victim of domestic abuse.
- If you are registered to vote, you will receive a new voter registration card in the mail every two years.
- You must register to vote at least **30** days before the election date.

» STUDENT VOTERS: AWAY AT COLLEGE? BE A TEXAS VOTER!

You must be registered to vote.

- Find out at votetexas.gov
- *Register to vote!* (Note! We don't have online voter registration in Texas)

I am registered at my parents' address!

- Drive home! Early vote or vote on Election Day
- or *Vote By Mail*

I am registered at my college address!

- Skip the lines! Vote Early!
- or vote on Election Day!

You must show an *ID to vote!* You can't use your student ID. Your ID address does not have to match the voter registration address.

» 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 casting a provisional 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.

» WHERE AND WHEN TO VOTE

Vote early!

- Early Voting begins Monday, February 18–February 28, 2020.
- All registered voters may vote early in person at any early voting location in their county.
- Check with your local newspaper or *your county clerk or election administrator* for early voting times and locations.

Where do I vote?

- Contact your County Election Official. They can tell you where you can vote.
- or
- Use VOTE411.org. Enter your address and find where to vote.

» PHOTO ID DETAILS AND EXCEPTIONS

See *WHAT TO TAKE TO THE POLLS* on the front page for a list of accepted photo IDs. Additional information about voter IDs:

- IDs may be expired up to 4 (four) years. Persons 70 years of age or older may use an expired ID.
- The name on the photo ID should match the voter registration card or be “substantially similar.” If the names don't match exactly, but are substantially similar, the voter will initial a box for similar name when signing in to vote.
- The address on the ID does not have to match the voter registration address.
- Voters with a *documented disability* from Social Security or Veterans Affairs can apply for a voter registration certificate exempting them from the photo ID requirement.
- Voters without another acceptable ID can obtain an *Election Identification Certificate (EIC)* from Texas DPS at no cost by providing proof of citizenship and identity and registering to vote at DPS or showing a voter registration card. Requirements for the EIC can be found at <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/electionID.htm>. There is no charge for the EIC but the necessary documentation may have a cost.

Photo ID is generally not required to vote by mail. Voters may apply for a mail ballot if 65 or older, ill or disabled, or absent from their county during early voting and on Election Day. In some cases, first time voters will be asked to supply a copy of an ID to vote by mail.

- Voters who do not show an acceptable ID and do not sign the reasonable impediment declaration can vote a *provisional ballot* and have six days to show the required photo ID.
- Voters who lack a photo ID because of a religious objection to being photographed or because of a natural disaster declared by the president will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot and complete an affidavit within six days of the election.

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

» VOTERS GUIDE SUPPORTERS

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EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

Who else but the LWV is a nonpartisan, political organization and one of America’s most trusted grassroots organizations? The LWV . . . encouraging active participation in government . . . working to increase understanding of major public policy issues . . . influencing public policy through education and advocacy . . . making democracy work!

Learn more about our thirty-three local Texas Leagues and how they help shape today’s important issues by visiting the League’s website at www.lwvtexas.org.

» TEXAS LOCAL LEAGUES

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Amarillo | El Paso | Montgomery County |
| Austin Area | Fort Bend County | Richardson |
| Bay Area | Grayson County | Rio Grande Valley |
| Beaumont | Hays County | San Antonio Area |
| Bell County | Hill Country | Tarrant County |
| Brazoria | Houston Area | Tyler/Smith County |
| Cy-Fair | Irving | Victoria |
| Collin County | Lake Houston | Waco Area |
| Comal Area | Lavaca County | Wichita Falls |
| Cooke County | Lubbock County | Williamson County |
| Corpus Christi | Marshall/Harrison | |
| Dallas | County | |
| Denton | Midland | |

» LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS VOTERS GUIDE

Voters Guide Coordinator: Carol Olewin

» LWV VISION STATEMENT

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.