



Voter Guide for the May 2021 Election in Blanco County

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan civic organization and does not support or oppose any candidate or candidates or political party or parties. The information provided on this voter guide is also available at the website VOTE411.org, sponsored by the League of Women Voters - Hill Country Texas. All responses to questions come directly from the candidates and are not edited by LWV-Hill Country Texas.

Blanco County South Library District Board of Trustees

2 Trustees: 2-year term of office each

The Blanco County South Library District was created to fund the public library in Blanco. Voters who reside in Blanco County Precinct 1 and Precinct 4, excluding the voters who live in the City of Blanco, are eligible to vote for the Board of Trustees. The Texas law for Library Districts allows one half of one percent of the sales tax collected in this District to be used for the operation of the Blanco Library. The five members of the Board of Trustees are elected at-large, and each trustee represents all residents within the Blanco County South Library District. The election is for two at large positions, and the two candidates with the highest number of voters will be declared as elected.

Duties: appoint the library director; oversee the library director and the direction of the library; approve the library budget; set salaries and benefits of library employees; and pass library policies.

Table with 3 columns: W. Mark Gentry, Joni Kirkwood, Andrea Whitesides. Rows include Email, Phone, and Website.

1. What in your background qualifies you to serve on the Board for the Blanco County South Library District?

W. Mark Gentry: Candidate has not yet responded.

Joni Kirkwood: I have worked in multiple libraries for more than 10 years, from my beginning position as a page shelving books to managing a staff and volunteers. I understand the workings of a library and feel my experience will assist in making solid decisions that benefit the library, the staff and the community.

Andrea Whitesides: For the past 14 years, I have volunteered at our library. In the last 3 years, I have been on the BCSLD as Projects Trustee and now serve as Secretary. Prior to living in Texas, I worked at NASA Langley Research Center in the Conference Center. Working and helping others, I believe, makes me qualified for this position.

2. What is the most pressing issue facing the Blanco County South Library District and what do you hope/plan to do about it?

W. Mark Gentry: Candidate has not yet responded.

Joni Kirkwood: I feel we need to work on providing quality programs that benefit the wants and needs of our community.

Andrea Whitesides: The most pressing issue facing our library is reopening with Covid 19 still infecting our citizens. With vaccinations being available now, the library director and deputy librarian are in the process of planning for the complete reopening of the library. The library will still mandate mask wearing since not all people or all our staff are eligible for the vaccination. Our patrons are very important to us and we need to keep everyone as safe as possible



Blanco County South Library District Board of Trustees

2 Trustees with 2-year term of office each

3. What are the citizens of Blanco County telling you about library problems?

W. Mark Gentry: Candidate has not yet responded.

Joni Kirkwood: The consensus of members I have had conversations with is that they want to have the library open for more hours of public use, of course in a safe manner.

Andrea Whitesides: Besides dealing with reduced library hours due to Covid 19, I can honestly say I haven't heard of any problems. The Board is always listening to our patrons and, if at all possible, do try to bring programs and classes for our patrons to participate in.

Voting Information for Blanco County South Library District Board of Trustees

Take a photo ID with you to the voting location. Curbside voting available.

EARLY VOTING

Location: Blanco Library Conference Room 1118 Main Street Blanco

Table with 7 columns (Sunday to Saturday) and 2 rows of voting hours. Row 1: April 18-24. Row 2: April 25-May 1. Hours are 9:00am to 5:00pm for most days, except Saturday May 1 which is Election Day.

ELECTION DAY: SATURDAY, MAY 1 from 7:00am to 7:00pm

Location: Blanco Library Conference Room 1118 Main Street Blanco

Dates to Remember for the 2021 Election

- Last day to register to vote: Thursday, April 1
Last day to update voter registration: Thursday, April 1
First day of Early Voting (in-person): Monday, April 19
Last day to apply to vote by mail: Tuesday, April 20
Last Day of Early Voting: Tuesday, April 27
Last day to return mail-in ballot: Saturday, May 1
Election Day: Saturday, May 1

Compare candidates online: www.VOTE411.org

Website sponsored by the League of Women Voters - Hill Country Texas: nonpartisan and nonprofit.