

Governor

Four-year term. Must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Texas for the five years immediately preceding the election. Among duties: executes all laws and conducts all business with other states and the federal government; fills appointive offices; fills vacancies in state or district elected offices by appointment; calls special sessions of the Legislature and sets their agenda; signs or vetoes bills passed by the Legislature. Current annual salary: \$150,000.

Background: What training and experience qualify you for this office? (50 words)

State Rank: Texas is among the top-ranked states in the nation in some areas (such as fastest-growing cities, low business taxes, wind power) and among the lowest-ranked in other areas (such as greenhouse gas emissions, tax burden for low-income residents, teen pregnancies, wrongful convictions, uninsured children). How would you address these issues? (75 words)

Economy: What are the most important issues for the state's economy and jobs and how would you address them? (75 words)

Other Issues: Aside from the issues above, what do you consider the two most serious issues facing Texas during the next four years, and how would you address them? (75 words)

Rick Perry (REP)



Background: My experience balancing budgets without raising taxes, trimming billions in unnecessary spending and creating a climate that has helped Texas generate more jobs than any other state this decade embody the Texas values of limited government, low taxes and fiscal restraint that our state needs to continue its forward momentum.

State Rank: Texas will continue implementing policies based on principles of limited government, low taxes, restrained spending and individual freedom. Although Texas has its challenges, we have the tools to effectively tackle these issues. We believe that the government's role is to create a climate that frees people to succeed and then get out of the way to let the private sector create the jobs that Texans need to provide for their families and contribute to society.

Economy: Texas is the example that other states should emulate to strengthen their economy and create jobs. There are four basic rules we have stuck to: don't spend all the money and keep taxes low; keep a predictable regulatory system so that employers aren't burdened with unexpected changes; maintain a legal system that minimizes frivolous lawsuits; and strengthen education by holding schools accountable and calling students to higher standards as we build the workforce of tomorrow.

Other Issues: Texas needs to remain competitive in the national and global economies so Texans are free to succeed. We'll achieve this goal by maintaining our focus on economic development, job creation, fiscal responsibility, education and border security. We will also continue to resist the encroachment of the federal government upon our liberties. Their spend it all, spend it now, one size fits all approach to governance will cripple our economy.

Bill White (DEM)



Background: With a long business career, I've met a payroll, balanced budgets, and increased efficiency. In six years as Houston's mayor, I brought people together to get results. We led the nation in job growth, cut crime, cut property tax rates, and helped the city become a clean energy leader.

State Rank: Texas should be a leader, and our poor rankings in children's health insurance and education are troubling. I worked to make Houston a top city in the US, and will work to repeat that success statewide. Existing programs like CHIP should have higher enrollment. I helped cut the drop-out rate in Houston by reaching out to students not returning to school. Giving students access to summer school and tutoring increases student investment in education.

Economy: The deficit facing the state means that as governor, I would be responsible for identifying efficiencies and productivity improvements that would allow a reduction in spending without the compromise in service delivery. We need to cut costs and stimulate job growth in the state. As governor, I will work to bring new business here, allow small businesses to flourish, and will ensure a skilled workforce by focusing on improving education and job training.

Other Issues: Education is key in Texas. For the first time, young Texans entering the workforce are less educated than the previous generation. Our long term economic future depends on the investments we make in students today. We must improve achievement in public schools, cut the dropout rate, and reduce barriers to higher education. Examples of potential solutions to improving achievement include: voluntary summer programs, expanded pre-K, closing the digital divide, attracting and retaining great teachers.

Non PartisanREALLY.



Texas State Races

Kathie Glass (LIB)



Background: I am a civil trial lawyer and citizen who has run a business and understands our Constitution, history, and rule of law. I played no role in the corruption and cronyism that created our problems. “Experienced” people caused this mess; “experienced” people will not lead us out.

State Rank: Such dubious negative rankings are attempts to foist increased taxes and spending upon us. Other states really cannot compare to Texas. In things that matter most -- the desire, will, and ability (given effective leadership) to assert our sovereignty and resist unconstitutional federal acts, defend our border, restore fiscal sanity, and defeat seizure of private property to enrich well-connected cronies -- Texas is No. 1.

Economy: Problem: High property taxes and a budget that doubled the last decade. Solution: Slash the budget 50% to levels seen 10 years ago. Eliminate property taxes, reduce education spending, increase local control including the ability to supplement funding. Medicaid was 26% of our \$180,000,000,000 budget when Obamacare increased our liability by 75%. Texas should opt out, using the savings to fund healthcare we choose, creating better services at lower cost.

Other Issues: The most serious issues facing Texas are unconstitutional federal acts in violation of our 10th Amendment sovereignty and our unsecure border. We must restore Texas sovereignty and resist unconstitutional acts using nullification and interposition. We must defend our border using our Texas State Guard and eliminate taxpayer-funded services to non-citizens. Our porous border is also an economic issue, as 25% of our \$180,000,000,000 budget goes for non-citizens.

Deb Shafto (GRN)

Background: I have sold insurance, owned and operated a moving company, adolescents, run a group home for disturbed adolescents and taught kindergarten. I put a son through college, a daughter through nursing school. I know what meeting payroll means, keeping within budget, doing hard work and being where the buck stops.

State Rank: First, we need a graduated state income tax. We need to strictly follow EPA guidelines. We need state medicare for all. We need to give factual, relevant sex information to our adolescents and stop pretending that ignorance works. We need to put a premium on justice not on convictions, and we need a judicial review to be sure all evidence has been presented and tested, not just when the defendant can afford it.

Economy: We need to create living wage jobs to create renewable energy throughout the state, create a power grid to get the energy where it is needed, and retrofit public buildings and private housing to be energy efficient. We need to rebuild and update drainage solutions and repair aging infrastructure, including schools, streets and highways. Good schools and subsidized college in-state tuition will attract business, and bring jobs.

Other Issues: We need to rethink education entirely. We are 49th among 50 states and, clearly, more of the same will not bring improvement. We are born learning machines and need authentic opportunities to experience and learn, not discipline and grinding memorization which dulls the brain and discourages the learner. We need longer school days to accommodate the work force and classes interspersed with physical activity to maintain alertness and physical health. We need to de-emphasize testing (///)

Lieutenant Governor

Four-year term. Must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Texas for the five years immediately preceding the election. Among duties as part of both the Executive and Legislative branches: assumes powers of Governor when Governor is absent or unable to serve; acts as President of the Senate; by statute, is a member of several Legislative branch boards and committees. The salary is that of a state senator when serving as President of the Texas Senate and that of the Governor when serving as Governor.

Background: What training and experience qualify you for this office? (50 words)

Education: How should Texas finance public education in light of reduced revenues from property and business taxes? (75 words)

Transportation: What is the best way for Texas to meet its growing transportation needs? (75 words)

Function: What do you think is the most important function of the Lieutenant Governor during the legislative session? (75 words)

David Dewhurst (REP) - No reply received.

Linda Chavez-Thompson (DEM)



Background: I've led an international union with millions of workers. I've negotiated contracts, developed policy papers, and secured a living wage for thousands of workers across in my 28-year career as a labor organizer, culminating as the first woman of color to serve as Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO.

Education: State leaders are failing to heed the warnings of former state demographer, and Bush appointee, Steve Murdoch, who has warned that real wages will be lower in 2030 than they were in the year 2000. Today's economy is driven by technology and innovation — and leaders of the new economy understand its an economic imperative that big business paying its fair share. This message was echoed in a recent report by the Texas Association of Business.

Transportation: Response does not meet criteria

Function: Response does not meet criteria

Texas State Races

Herb Gonzales Jr. (GRN)

Background: My experience is based on studying and being actively involved in politics and government. I have a BA in polisci and was a representative for student group in student government. I was elected precinct chair and a delegate to Green convention. I have been campaign coordinator in city and county.

Education: The present system is in need of dismantling and creating a Permanent Public Education fund that is financed by a minimum tax on the fortune 500 corporations that whether they are chartered in Texas or not will pay this minimum tax in order to profit from the income of Texans.

Transportation: Texas should begin to invest in transportation that will be used by all to reduce and eliminate the need of oil and gas. Urban areas must began to create a public transport system that is energy efficient in not releasing greenhouse gases. Monies should be directed at creating not toll but roadways that are for public transportation electric and rail and to create a system to rebate citizens who use public transport instead of privately (///)

Attorney General

Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years old, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Texas for at least 12 months. Among duties: lawyer for the state; defends the laws and Constitution of the state; represents the state in litigation; approves public bond issues; enforces health, safety and consumer regulations; collects court-ordered child support; administers Crime Victims' Compensation Fund. Current annual salary: \$150,000.

Background: What training and experience qualify you for this office? (50 words)

Consumer Fraud: What are the most serious areas of consumer fraud in Texas and how would you address them? (75 words)

Regulations: What should be the role of the Attorney General's office in enforcing health, safety, consumer and environmental regulations? (75 words)

Responsibilities: What advisory and enforcement responsibilities of the Attorney General's office will need the most attention and resources in the next four years, and how would you address them? (75 words)

Greg Abbott (REP) - No reply received.

Barbara Radnofsky (DEM)



Background: Wife, mother, teacher, mediator. Lawyer for 30 years. I've represented people and businesses of every kind. Head of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section, Vinson & Elkins (retired 2006). Listing "Best Lawyers in America" for the past 17 years. Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas 1988.

Consumer Fraud: Wall Street misconduct harmed Texans and our economy. Texas' top ten investments lost \$35 billion (2007-2009). I will: Fight to get back our billions lost to Wall Street fraud. Declare the margin income tax unconstitutional, helping businesses create Texas jobs. Declare war on Internet child predators. Reform the Attorney General's Child Support Division. Fight insurance, electric utility companies, pay day lenders, and profiteers.

Regulations: The Texas Attorney General should protect the economic and physical well being of the people. Profiteering and misuse of state resources have led to sky high electrical and insurance rates and Texas' number one ranking of several key pollution measures. The Attorney General should be enforcing the law, instead of suing the EPA to protect polluters.

Responsibilities: The office of Attorney General should: Provide leadership from the top, respect for the career employees, training and resources to serve the public. Reform Child Support, correcting computers to properly administer law of child support and serve Texans. Declare margin income tax unconstitutional. Declare war on Internet child predators, drug, human and gun traffickers. No longer neglect concrete evidence of crime, as occurred in the Texas Youth Commission scandal.

Jon Roland (LIB)



Background: Founder and president of the Constitution Society, and webmaster of its website. Editor of the most important works, online there, on constitutional history, law, and government. Author of several peer-reviewed and other articles on constitutional issues. Intervenor in several court cases, and co-author of Supreme Court amicus briefs.

Consumer Fraud: The two most important and neglected are for the public as consumers of government contracting, and as consumers of government services, especially at the local level. There is too much cronyism, bribery, and intimidation taking place, especially at the local level, that has compromised local judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement agents. Would open grand juries to complaints by private citizens, and try to revive the practice of private criminal prosecutions of public officials.

Regulations: Would seek to have them handled by grand and trial juries, and insist that issues of law be argued in the presence of juries. Would seek to reduce unproductive paperwork and meddling by anonymous bureaucrats. Would seek to have Texas Rangers moved to Office of the AG for use against public corruption. Would insist constitutions be defended in all cases, and that whistleblowers be adequately represented as required by law.

Responsibilities: Would work to institute a Federal Action Review Commission, a grand jury empowered to hear citizen complaints about unconstitutional federal activities, and authorize disobedience of them by state agents and citizens. Would seek to move most child support enforcement to the county level. Would seek a new, clean State Constitution, with greater protection of rights, providing for "superstatutes" approved by referendum that are superior to ordinary statutes but inferior to constitutional provisions.

Texas State Races

Comptroller of Public Accounts

Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years old, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Texas for at least 12 months. Among duties: collects taxes and fees owed the state; reports the state's financial condition to the Legislature at the end of each fiscal year and provides estimates of revenue for the coming year; provides economic development assistance to local governments and businesses; audits the performance of Texas schools. Current annual salary: \$150,000.

Background: What training and experience qualify you for this office? (50 words)

Data: How would you ensure that state officials and the public have timely and accurate data about the state's financial status? (75 words)

Spending: What measures do you support to make sure that state tax money is spent wisely? (75 words)

Other Issues: Aside from the issues above, what do you see as the two most serious issues the Comptroller will face, and how would you address them? (75 words)

Susan Combs (REP)



Background: Have managed the CPA for 4 successful years, comprehensively reformed online transparency efforts; served in state legislature and understand budget process; worked on Wall Street in corporate finance; small business owner for 30 years; former prosecutor; have found nearly \$173 million in tax underreporting; pushed Texas to buy smarter.

Data: We frequently update legislators on economic condition in preparation for the Biannual Revenue Estimate. I developed two programs called "Where the Money Goes" and "Where the Money Comes From" so that people everywhere can search where the money is allocated from and what it is used for. All state funds come from the taxpayer and it's my job to ensure that they are informed regularly with transparent, accurate briefings.

Spending: As a small business owner I understand the importance of spending money wisely and, most important, efficiently. I have pushed Texas to harness the buying power of purchasing in bulk and have saved the state over \$51 million. I have put all state expenditures online and have worked to balance the books of other state agencies. By making state spending transparent I have uncovered various ways to see Texas government work smarter.

Other Issues: The budget deficit that we face heading into a legislative session in 2011 will cause shortages of funds for state programs and agencies. We will be providing specific suggestions for cost containment. Secondly, the statewide unemployment rate, though one of the lowest in the nation, must improve. I will work tirelessly to allocate money to job training and the creation of jobs statewide.

Mary Ruwart (LIB)



Background: My Ph.D. in biophysics and 30-year career in the sciences has given me ample training in computational analysis. In addition, I have kept the books for a number of small businesses throughout my career, as well as analyzing budget items for the Libertarian National Committee.

Data: Because government entities in the United States use cash basis accounting, anyone monitoring the books sees what the State of Texas has already paid, but not necessarily what it still owes. The Comptroller can provide more transparency and accuracy by including additional information, such as outstanding bills, in its reporting to mimic the accrual accounting system used by most businesses. Otherwise, even conscientious watchdogs can get a very skewed picture of Texas finances.

Spending: Annual audits by independent accounting firms and implementation of accounting controls are used in the private sector to cut fraud and waste. The Comptroller should demonstrate the potential savings from these procedures by having its own office independently audited and implementing appropriate controls. The Comptroller can then recommend that other Texas agencies follow suit. If Texans must tighten their financial belts in today's economy, they should expect their government to do the same.

Other Issues: From 2008 to 2009, employee wages and benefits in the Comptroller's office rose from \$192 to \$202 million, a 10%+ increase. Texans should never be expected to tighten their financial belts to grow bureaucratic government, especially in these difficult times. The Comptroller must set the example for other government agencies by first cutting back waste and spending and then by exposing the government agencies which fail to follow its example.

Edward Lindsay (GRN)



Background: Married 34 years, 3 children, Vietnam Era Veteran, 2 Honorable Discharges, 3 college degrees (Mathematics, School Administration, Administration), Licensed Insurance Broker, Licensed Real Estate Broker, past Treasurer of the Texas Junior College Teachers Association, Certificate of Recognition (U.S. Secretary of Defense, 1991), Certificate of Appreciation (U.S. Army, 2009).

Data: The Texas State Comptroller's Office is responsible for collecting state revenue, tracking state expenditures, and monitoring the financial condition of the state. To insure that state officials and the public have timely and accurate data about the state's financial status, I will employ accountants and attorneys who are experienced in state budgets, ad valorem and occupation tax records, bonds, and computers. I will work closely with the State Legislative Branch and the media.

Spending: Measures I support to make sure that state tax money is spent wisely are to provide close monitoring of proposed state budgets to insure items comply with state law, to ascertain if revenues meet expenditures, and to collect data to insure tax monies are being spent on their intended purposes. Furthermore, I will make recommendations for retiring any debt which the state has incurred.

Other Issues: The two most serious issues the Comptroller will face involve collection of tax revenues and authenticating the use of taxpayers' money for their intended purposes. With a projected shortfall of nearly \$18 billion, it is imperative that tax dollars be collected and used for legitimate means. I intend to address these issues through diligent efforts, capable personnel and tireless energy for the people of Tex-

Texas State Races

Commissioner of General Land Office

Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years old, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Texas for at least 12 months. Among duties: management of state lands and mineral-right properties totaling 20.3 million acres and providing revenues for the Permanent School Fund; repository of state land documents; responsible for the prevention of and response to oil spills that occur on "submerged" lands out to 10.3 miles in the Gulf of Mexico. The Commissioner also serves as a chairman of seven state boards, including the School Land Board, the Veterans Land Board, and the Coastal Coordination Council. Current annual salary: \$137,500.

Background: What training and experience qualify you for this office? (50 words)

Coastal Lands: What are the most serious threats to Texas coastal lands and how would you address them? (75 words)

Energy Revenue: How will emerging alternate energy sources affect the Permanent School Fund revenues from oil and gas leases? How would you address a possible change in revenues? (75 words)

Beachfronts: In managing Texas beachfronts, how would you balance the concerns of taxpayers, ecologists, environmental groups, residents and commercial developers? (75 words)

Jerry Patterson (REP) - No reply received.

Hector Urribe (DEM)



Background: Thirteen years in the Texas legislature and service on the Finance, Education and Natural Resources committees prepared me to plan for the future funding, educational and environmental needs of our state. I chaired the Senate's standing sub-committee on Water and vice-chaired the joint subcommittee on Oil Spills and Water Pollution (///)
Coastal Lands: Coastal development, off-shore and inter-coastal waterways drilling, sea level rise and dams - that increasingly starve our coastlines of sediments that feed beaches and limit water-flows that impact the salinity of coastal waters and threaten sensitive habitats are threats to coastal lands and habitats. I oppose efforts to divert water and sediment in our rivers from our environmentally sensitive coastal lands and support greater funding for a rapid and comprehensive response to an oil spill.

Energy Revenue: Texas owns submerged lands (10.3) miles in the Gulf. The GLO should promote the development of wind farms on our submerged lands to provide a clean and renewable source of energy to our coastal cities that would also create a new and permanent source of funding for our PSF. The installation of approximately 5000 wind turbines would generate as much income as generated by our mineral leases in our peak year - 1984.

Beachfronts: Our beaches belong to all Texans. Our coastal communities are great income generators for state and local businesses. I support the enforcement of the Dunes Protection Act, the Open Beaches Act and the granting of ordinance making powers to counties to address beachfront development. I'll be a strong advocate for beach replenishment programs. Engineering solutions - seawalls, breakwaters and groynes, are often ineffective. Beach replenishment is preferred on both economic and conservation grounds.

James Holdar (LIB)



Background: Age 67 years. Resident of Texas since 1969. Military: US Army. Education: BSCE Civil Engineering. Registered Professional Land Surveyor. Registered Professional Engineer. Owned an engineering and land surveying company for 27 years. Served as District Engineer for Drainage Districts in Cameron and Willacy Counties.

Coastal Lands: The most serious threats to Texas coastal lands are beach erosion and storm surge flooding. I will work to change laws and regulations to allow private property owners to protect their lands from erosion, while preserving the public's right to the public beach easement. This will include energy dissipating structure when practical. I will work with the coastal counties to allow the maximum local control of the public beach.

Energy Revenue: Alternate energy sources should not affect the revenues to the Public School Fund. I will work at leasing state lands for alternate energy development. I will work at insuring the oil and gas lessees develop their leases to maximize revenues from the leases. I will work at leasing state lands to produce the maximum revenue.

Beachfronts: I will work at developing ecological preserves on land that is not under pressure for development by private property owners. I will work with private property owners and developers to optimize the benefits for the State and public. This will include increase property values, increased recreational use by the general public. I will encourage protection and development of environmental resources for the benefit of the public.

Commissioner of Agriculture

Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years old, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Texas for at least 12 months. Among duties: regulates fuel pumps and weights and measures devices; regulates pesticide use and application; certifies organically produced products; facilitates trade and market development of agricultural commodities. Current annual salary: \$137,500.

Texas State Races

Background: What training and experience qualify you for this office? (50 words)

Role: What do you see as the role of agriculture as Texas becomes increasingly urbanized? How would you support that role? (75 words)

Environment: What are the main environmental concerns for Texas agriculture (such as water and pesticides) and how would you address them? (75 words)

Other Issues: Aside from the issues above, what do you see as the two most serious issues the Commissioner of Agriculture will face during the next four years, and how would you address them? (75 words)

Todd Staples (REP)



Background: Having been involved in agriculture my entire life, I understand it's the backbone of the Texas economy. As Agriculture Commissioner I will continue to ensure we have access to the safest, most reliable, and affordable food supply in the world, and I will continue to fight the overreaching federal government (///)

Role: We know that as Texas continues to grow we must utilize new technology to ensure our farmers and ranchers have the tools necessary to be able to do more with less. We certainly don't like being dependent on foreign oil, we must not become dependent on foreign food. Additionally, I will continue to fight for private property owners' rights and see that we have true eminent domain reform in Texas.

Environment: Recently, the EPA has pushed forward with establishing controversial rules that would declare carbon dioxide (CO2) to be a pollutant. I feel that implementing this rule would have a very negative impact on Texas agriculture. Studies show it would kill jobs. As Texans we need the bureaucrats in Washington to step aside and let the true stewards of our land (farmers and ranchers) do their jobs.

Other Issues: Texas is the envy of the nation. In order to continue to be successful I'm committed to protecting private property owners' rights, ensuring we have the safest, and most reliable food supply in the world, protecting consumers from the grocery store to the gas pump, promoting Texas products through the GO TEXAN program, improving the health of Texas children and families, and working to promote job opportunities and the Texas economy.

Hank Gilbert (DEM)



Background: I've spent my entire adult life in Agriculture. For me, Agriculture is both a vocation and an avocation. I graduated with my BS from Texas A&M. I've taught Agriculture as a public school teacher and has a 4H adviser. I've been a rancher most of my life.

Role: There's a misconception about the role of the Commissioner of Agriculture. The Texas Department of Agriculture oversees all transactions where a product is sold using a weight or measure, including a cash register. Every time someone uses a bar code scanner or buys gas (for example), TDA has the responsibility to make sure the device is accurate. This is a role that is absolutely essential to both urban and rural Texans.

Environment: Overall, the biggest threat is climate change since Agriculture, more than any other industry, is completely dependent on the environment. We have to find a proper balance and keep ridiculous regulation, like EPA's proposed dust restrictions, off small producers. Water use and efficiency will increasingly play a roll in our state and I'm looking forward to working with the Legislature to address Agricultural concerns as they make water policy for the next 50 years.

Other Issues: The biggest issue is food safety, making sure that the food we eat is safe from field to plate. Currently, the regulations covering food safety are a patchwork filled with holes, one of the reasons nine people died in 2009 as a result of one salmonella incident. It's something that has to be addressed now. The other issue is eminent domain abuse which must be addressed with real restrictions on the state.

Rick Donaldson (LIB)



Background: I had a Pesticide Applicators License from about 1979 to 1985 when I decided to go Natural/Organic. I've been involved in Hands On Natural and Organic Agriculture since 1985. Currently, I am a spring and Fall Truck Farmer and a Small Ruminant producer.

Role: Texans need to be producing more from their own properties to better accommodate themselves and their communities. Texas Constitution Article VIII mandates all Farm Products are tax exempt. Urban Farms, I believe, are to be included. Who, In Texas, is not involved in Agricultural production?

Environment: Water collection and consumption are two big issues that need to be improved. Texas Lakes and water collection tanks should be dredged and cleaned out when water levels are reduced to accommodate this work. Home collection should be encouraged and tax incentives should be implemented to allow more Texans the ability to supplement their own water needs. Pesticide usage and water runoff from roadways should be more carefully investigated and controlled. So called chemical usage (///)

Other Issues: More Farmers Markets and Neighborhood Co-ops should be created by the Free Market. The Texas Agriculture Commission should refuse Funding (?) from the Federal Government and Repeal all of the Federal Programs being funded (with promises to pay, i.e. Federal Debt Script money) should be re-evaluated and funded by Teas for Texans, if the need is there. USDA, EPA, NAIS/NADT, APHIS, ad infinitum Federal Programs should all be discontinued and let Texas take care of (///)

Texas State Races

Railroad Commissioner

Six-year term (on a three-person commission). Must be at least 25 years old, a citizen of the United States, a resident and registered voter of Texas. Among duties: regulation of the oil and natural gas industry, including drilling production and environmental protection; natural gas utilities; natural gas and hazardous liquids pipeline safety; surface mining of coal, uranium, and iron ore gravel, including land reclamation; transportation and storage of liquefied petroleum gas, compressed natural gas, and liquefied natural gas; encourages the use of clean-burning propane and researches new technologies for its use. Current annual salary: \$92,217 - \$137,500.

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

Alternate Fuels: How would you balance the use of existing fuel sources with the development of alternate fuel sources in Texas? (75 words)

Urban Drilling: What are the main health and safety issues related to oil and gas drilling and transmission in urban areas, and how would you address them? (75 words)

Other Issues: Aside from the issues above, what are the two most serious issues the Railroad Commission will face during the next six years, and how would you address them? (75 words)

David Porter (REP)



Background: I have spent three decades working with independent oil and gas producers, operators, oilfield service companies and royalty owners providing accounting, financial and tax counsel. As a small business owner from the Permian Basin, I know first-hand the challenges the industry faces, from financial to regulatory to environmental.

Alternate Fuels: I believe we should encourage the exploration of alternative sources by incentivizing their development and production rather than issuing more mandates and regulations. As Texas continues to grow daily, so does our demand for power. To keep our economy growing, we must pursue every source of energy available to power our daily lives, while continuing to develop cleaner and renewable sources including wind, solar, nuclear, clean coal and natural gas.

Urban Drilling: Air and water quality concerns are the most pressing concerns and are currently an area of debate with regards to the responsible state agency. My first priority will be to ensure the health and safety of Texans and, with legislative authority, will consider air and water concerns in relevant cases.

Other Issues: Budget cuts during a time of increased production in heavy populated areas are a major issue. I will work to ensure that public safety is never compromised. The Commission must do a better job informing Texans exactly what we do, and make itself more accessible to Texans. I have proposed that the Railroad Commission create an ombudsman, whose sole focus will be to aid those who contact the RRC with questions or concerns.

Jeff Weems (DEM)



Background: I worked offshore to pay for college. 1983 high honors graduate from the University of Texas in Petroleum Land Management. Worked at Shell as a landman. 1989 honors graduate from Texas Law School. Over 20 years as an energy litigator, currently administrative partner at firm. Voted Energy Super Lawyer (2007). **Alternate Fuels:** I will promote the immediate expansion of natural gas as a transportation and power generation fuel. Texas has been blessed with abundant gas reserves, and this gas burns much cleaner than coal, diesel, or gasoline in both transportation and power-generation uses. We must continue to explore for traditional oil and gas reserves. At the same time, we should encourage development of wind and solar power, although the Commission has no jurisdiction over these sources.

Urban Drilling: Drilling and transmission in urban areas has created issues over air (from emissions) and water quality (from hydraulic fracturing and water usage). The Commission must begin to monitor and oversee gaseous emissions from hydrocarbon facilities. Second, we must oversee frac'ing and press the issue of water reclamation. We also must closely oversee pipeline operations to reduce leakage and dangers from explosions. We could accomplish more by creating a separate district for the Barnett Shale alone.

Other Issues: The public has lost faith in the Commissioners. I want to eliminate the ability of a commissioner to run for another office or take contributions when they are not running. We should focus our limited resources toward transparency and facilitating public input. We must stop starving this agency that plays such a vital environmental protection role. We must fight for better funding and implement a policy of getting more Commission employees performing inspections.

Roger Gary (LIB) - No reply received.

Art Browning (GRN)



Background: I have worked in the oil and gas business as a geologist since 1975, earned degrees at Ohio State, and hold TBPG Certificate #6148. My experience includes exploration and production on four continents where I have seen a range of practices in the business, good and not so good.

Alternate Fuels: Oil and gas depletion means we simply must move to alternate fuels. Every field begins decline the day production begins. Since we use fossil fuels faster than Mother Nature makes them, it is only prudent to switch to renewable fuels. Furthermore, we must come to terms with living in equilibrium with nature rather than believing that constant growth is possible. Only cancer does that, only until the host dies. What will our grandchildren think?

Urban Drilling: Pipeline explosions in the news highlight the need for more inspections; that and more careful pressure monitoring will mutually benefit public safety and resource preservation. Regarding urban drilling, possible blowouts and hydrogen sulfide emissions raise concerns. With modern directional drilling technology, there should be no need to issue permits for drilling where people live and work. This should also mitigate other issues including noise and heavy equipment traffic.

Other Issues: Increased hydrofracking for shale gas worries citizens. Drillers must prove no invasion of aquifers by gas and injected chemicals before starting new projects. The same applies to waste disposal wells. Constant monitoring in nearby water wells requires more staff. Overconsumption of limited energy will be the greatest challenge. To address it, we must first recognize it. The true cost of energy is not being paid, and inequities exist. The Railroad Commission cannot solve this alone.

Texas State Races

State Board of Education

Four-year term. Must be at least 26 years old, a citizen of the United States, a resident of Texas for at least 12 months, a district resident for at least 12 months, and a registered Texas voter. Composed of 15 members elected from roughly equally populous districts, the Board adopts rules and establishes policies that govern a wide range of educational programs and services provided by Texas public schools. Among duties: establishes goals for the public school system; adopts and promotes four-year plans for meeting those goals; and oversees investment of the Permanent School Fund. Annual authorized salary: none.

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

Curriculum: What criteria should be used in developing and approving curriculum standards for courses? (75 words)

Other Issues: What are the two most serious public education issues facing the State Board of Education during your term, and how would you address them? (75 words)

George M. Clayton (REP)



Background: For over a decade I have been a teacher, department chair, and administrator at North Dallas High School. As an administrator, I supervise 25 English, Reading and ESL teachers. I write lesson plans on both a short and long term basis.

Curriculum: Board members must maintain their objectivity at all times, assuring fair, balanced and unbiased curriculum standards. Board members must seek and receive expert advice from educators and professionals. From the expertise of these professional educators, board members can best create sound curriculum for all students and teachers in Texas.

Other Issues: Recently the board has had some difficulty in maintaining its objectivity; has failed to refrain from interjecting personal biases in determining curriculum standards. Members must maintain objective integrity in exercising their duties. All board members must be very informed and educated in their stewardship of the Permanent School Fund. Decisions on investments and expenditures of the fund must be made from a position of knowledge and integrity.

Place 12

Amie Parsons (LIB)



Background: I am a mother of two children, 6 and 4 years. I have lived in SBOE district 12 for 27 years. I am a former high school history teacher that taught at W.T. White High School and Highland Park High School. I am an active member in the LHAEC PTA.

Curriculum: I think that the committees the board forms should be respected. They are comprised of groups of people including, but not limited to parents, teachers and professors; they are a cross-section of the community. I feel that major curriculum changes should require a supermajority vote of the board. If a supermajority does not happen then it should either be taken to the legislature or to the voting public.

Other Issues: The two problems that face the SBOE are academic and financial accountability. I plan on helping the legislature create a stronger charter for the board; for major curriculum changes push for a supermajority vote. We need to hold the board financially accountable as well when selecting vendors with the Permanent School Fund. They should be held to the same conflict of interest standards that the legislatures are held.

Place 12