



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

2017 DALLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS  
SPECIAL ELECTION

NON PARTISAN

# VOTERS GUIDE

EARLY VOTING • OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 3, 2017

ELECTION DAY • NOVEMBER 7, 2017 • POLLS OPEN 7AM TO 7 PM

## BE A TEXAS VOTER

### About This *Voters Guide*

This printed *Voters Guide* lists the proposition that will be on the ballot for the November 7 Dallas County Schools (DCS) Special Election and provides a description and arguments for and against. This *Voters Guide* is published by the League of Women Voters of Dallas (214.688.4125) which does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

### Vote411.org

The on-line Voters Guide is at [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org).

### Voter Identification: What to Take to the Polls

The 7 forms of approved photo ID are: (must not be expired more than 4 years)

- Texas Driver License
- Texas Election Identification Certificate
- Texas Personal Identification Card
- Texas Handgun License
- U.S. Military ID Card containing the person's photograph
- U.S. Citizenship Certificate containing the person's photograph
- United States Passport

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

- Valid Voter Registration Certificate
- Certified Birth Certificate (must be an original)
- Copy of or original current utility bill
- Copy of or original bank statement
- Copy of or original government check
- Copy of or original paycheck
- Copy of or original government document with your name and an address (original required if it contains a photograph)

ID address does not have to match voter registration address.

### Early Voting Times & Locations

Monday October 23 – Saturday October 28	8AM to 5PM
Sunday October 29	1PM to 6PM
Monday October 30 – Wednesday November 1	8AM to 5PM
Thursday November 2 – Friday November 3	7AM to 7PM

Bethany Lutheran Church	10101 Walnut Hill Ln	Dallas
Cedar Hill Govt Center	285 Uptown Blvd	Cedar Hill
Crosswinds High School	1100 N Carrier Pkwy	Grand Prairie
Disciple Central Community Ch (replaces DeSoto Town Center Lib)	901 N Polk St	DeSoto
Duncanville Library	201 James Collins Blvd	Duncanville
Eastfield Col Pleasant Grove	802 S Buckner Blvd	Dallas
El Centro Col-West Campus	3330 N Hampton Rd	Dallas
Farmers Branch City Hall	13000 William Dodson Pkwy	Farmers Br
Fretz Park Library (replaces Churchill Rec Center)	6990 Belt Line Rd	Dallas
George L Allen Sr Ct Bldg (replaces Records Bldg) MAIN LOCATION	600 Commerce St	Dallas
Glenn Heights City Hall	1938 S Hampton Rd	Glenn Heights
Grauwylar Pk Rec Center	7780 Harry Hines Blvd	Dallas
Irving City Hall	825 W Irving Blvd	Irving
J Erik Jonsson Library	1515 Young St	Dallas
Josey Ranch Library	1700 Keller Springs Rd	Carrollton
Lakeside Activity Center	101 Holley Park Dr	Mesquite
Lancaster Vet Memorial Lib	1600 Vet Memorial Pkwy	Lancaster
Lochwood Library	11221 Lochwood Blvd	Dallas
Marsh Lane Baptist Church	10716 Marsh Lane	Dallas
Martin Luther King Jr Core Bld	2922 Martin Luther King Blvd	Dallas
Martin Weiss Rec Center	1111 Martindell Ave	Dallas
Mountain Creek Branch Lib	6102 Mountain Creek Pkwy	Dallas
Oak Cliff Sub-Courthouse	410 S Beckley Ave	Dallas
Our Redeemer Lutheran Ch	7611 Park Lane	Dallas
Paul L Dunbar Lan-Kiest Lib	2008 East Kiest Blvd	Dallas
Richardson Civic Center	411 W Arapaho Road	Richardson
Richland College-Garland Cam	675 W Walnut St	Garland
Rowlett City Hall Annex	4004 Main St	Rowlett
Sachse City Hall	3815 Sachse Road Bldg B	Sachse
Samuell Grand Rec Center	6200 East Grand Ave	Dallas
Valley Ranch Library	401 Cimarron Trail	Irving

### Election Day Times & Locations

Polls open 7 AM to 7 PM on November 7, election day. For election day locations see [www.DallasCountyVotes.org](http://www.DallasCountyVotes.org) or call 214.819.6300.

Voters Guides for the State Constitutional Amendments & City of Dallas Bond Referendum available separately.

# PROPOSITION A DALLAS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL ELECTION

## OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

Proposition for the continuation of Dallas County Schools Student Transportation Services. Authorizing the continued operation of the county board of education, board of county school trustees, and office of the county school superintendent in Dallas County and the collection of the Dallas County school equalization ad valorem tax.

## DESCRIPTION

Dallas County Schools (DCS) is a county school district that provides services to independent school districts. The primary service provided is bus transportation for students in several area districts:

Aledo	Carrollton-Farmers Branch
Cedar Hill	Dallas
DeSoto	Highland Park
Irving	Lancaster
Richardson	

Additional services such as psychological and testing services, school crossing guards and campus security may be contracted by school districts as well but are minor functions compared to providing bus transportation.

Funding is provided by a \$.01 per \$100 assessed valuation property tax levied on Dallas County property (the statutory maximum), state funding and contractual fees for service.

Recently DCS has been criticized on several issues including: failing to pick up and deliver students in a timely manner, investing heavily in a stop arm camera program which failed to generate expected revenue and generated a \$23 million loss in 2015 and 2016, several hundred reported incidents of buses running red lights over the last few years, and the recently reported sale and leaseback of land where buses are parked. Sweeping management changes have occurred since these issues came to light including the departure of the Board President and Superintendent.

In 2016, DCS's auditors stated that DCS's recurring losses "raise substantial doubt as to its ability to continue as a going concern. The Texas Attorney General will not allow DCS to restructure its debt until after the November election. DCS defaulted on debt service due June 1 though management says bondholders were later made whole. Moody's downgraded DCS's debt to junk status and issued a negative outlook. DCS's 2017-2018 budget is unbalanced, showing an \$8 million deficit.

**Arguments For:** The district has put a new management team in place for 2017-2018 and believes that it has made big improvements in operations including improved on-time goals. As of the date of this report, management says it is working on a budget amendment.

Students from several area school districts, including DISD, depend on DCS bus service to transport hundreds of thousands of students. If not handled well, dissolution of DCS could put these districts and students in a bind and be expensive.

Should the people of Dallas County vote to dissolve DCS, the instructions from the legislature on how to accomplish the dissolution and distribute assets are unclear according to some DCS officials, which could result in lawsuits and delay.

**Arguments Against:** DCS's financial condition is quite serious and finance professionals (bond rating agency and external auditor) have expressed doubt as to whether it can survive. The Texas State Legislature also expressed doubt through its bipartisan move to put the matter of DCS's continued existence to the voters.

Should the people of Dallas County vote to continue DCS and it subsequently declares bankruptcy, participating districts could experience disruption and additional expense.

Several DISD Trustees have publicly expressed the opinion that they could provide essential bus service more cheaply than DCS does currently.

An orderly transition is planned if the proposition fails. A dissolution committee will be formed to manage the existing DCS buses and employees for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year. After that period, each ISD served by DCS can develop their own plans for bus transportation and other services including managing the buses themselves or hiring another entity to manage the function for them.