



2023
LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

**Carrollton & Farmers
Branch**

VOTERS GUIDE

NON PARTISAN

EARLY VOTING • APRIL 24, 2023 – MAY 2, 2023

ELECTION DAY • MAY 6, 2023 • POLLS OPEN 7 AM TO 7 PM

BE A TEXAS VOTER

About This *Voters Guide*

This printed *Voters Guide* lists items that will be on the ballot for the May 6 election, which includes elections for Carrollton, Farmers Branch, and the CFBISD. Candidate responses are presented as submitted without editing. This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Dallas which does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

Vote411.org & LWVDallas.org

You may also see all items on your ballot on-line at Vote411.org. The LWV Dallas website at www.lwvdallas.org has a wealth of practical information for voters.

Eligibility for Voting

You must be a citizen of the United State, registered to vote in the county of your residence 30 days prior to election day, and must be at least 18 years old on election day. You cannot vote if you have been declared by a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote or are a convicted felon who has not completed your sentence, probation and/or parole.

Polling Place Times & Dates

Monday April 24 – Friday April 28	8AM to 5PM
Saturday April 29	8AM to 5PM
Sunday April 30	12PM to 6PM
Monday May 1 & Tuesday May 2	7AM to 7PM
Saturday May 6 (ELECTION DAY)	7AM to 7PM

Polling Place Locations

Voters registered in Dallas County may vote in person at any of the Dallas County polling locations during early voting and on election day ("Dallas County Votes Anywhere"). For addresses of locations open

Early Vote by Mail (Absentee)

Because of changes enacted by the state legislature in 2021, it is important that voters applying for mail ballots not use application forms issued before 2022. The new forms and also mail ballot envelopes ask voters to provide additional identification. We recommend voters provide BOTH a Texas Driver's License or Texas Personal Identification Number AND the last four digits of their social security number on the new application form and ballot envelopes.

You are eligible to vote early by mail if you are registered and:

- 65 years of age or older on Election Day
- Out of the county during the entire election including early voting
- Sick or Disabled
- Confined in jail but eligible to vote.

People voting by mail due to disability or age may use a single application to request ballots by mail for all elections in a calendar year. To do so, simply mark "Annual Application" on your application for a ballot by mail. **This option must be renewed every year.**

Once you have received and marked your ballot it can be returned.

- If hand delivered or if delivered by a common or contract carrier without a delivery receipt, it must be **RECEIVED** by the early voting clerk by **7 p.m. on election day**.
- If mailed and postmarked by 7 p.m. on election day or delivered by common or contract carrier and accompanied by a delivery receipt showing the voter submitted the ballot for delivery by 7 p.m. on election day, it must **ARRIVE** by **5 p.m. on the next business day after election day**.

Track your mail ballot at www.DallasCountyVotes.org.

Other Information

For more information on any of these topics or on provisional voting, limited ballots, photo ID, military or overseas voting, health protocols or any other voting topic see www.lwvdallas.org or www.DallasCountyVotes.org or call 469.627.8683.

A runoff election, if any is needed, will be held **Saturday June 10**.

Table of Contents

Carrollton City Council	Page 3
Farmers Branch City Council	Page 11
Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD	Page 14
Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD Bond Election	Page 17

Helpful Information

Websites

Dallas County Elections Department	DallasCountyVotes.org
Texas Secretary of State	VoteTexas.gov
League of Women Voters of Dallas	LWVDallas.org
League of Women Voters of Texas	LWVTexas.org

Telephone Numbers

Dallas County Elections Department	(469)627-8683
Texas Secretary of State - Elections Division	(800)252-8683
League of Women Voters of Dallas	(214) 688-4125
League of Women Voters of Texas	(512)472-1100



CARROLLTON CITY COUNCIL

The City of Carrollton is a Home Rule municipality with a council-manager form of government. The City Council is made up of a mayor and seven councilmembers. All members of the Council are elected at-large and serve three-year staggered terms. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the vote, there will be a runoff election. They are community volunteers who meet in regular meetings twice a month. The role of the Mayor and City Council is to enact local legislation, provide vision for the future of Carrollton, set policy, and hire a City Manager.

CARROLLTON MAYOR

STEVE BABICK



Occupation: Chief Financial Officer

Education: BS Finance - Florida State University; MBA - Amberton University; Leadership Certificate - Harvard

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Q: WHY RUNNING: What qualifies you to be an effective City Council member?

A: As the current Mayor of Carrollton, I bring 1 year of experience in this role and on Council back to my first election in 2014 – 9 years in aggregate. Having served the City back to 2007 on Boards and Commissions (Historic Preservation Advisory Board; Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Board; Property Standards Board) prior to City Council, I am the most experienced candidate in the field of City Council and Mayor, with Leadership positions beyond Mayor, including Chair of Redevelopment Committee, Chair of IT Committee, Chair of Audit & Finance Committee and various ad-hoc and community board liaisons assignments with City and ISDs.

Q: HOUSING: Do you believe there is a need for increased safe, quality, affordable housing in your community? Are there other housing issues? What do you recommend?

A: Carrollton looks at the overall cost of service for typical household for property tax, water and sewage at a basket level compared to benchmark cities - consistently the 2nd or 3rd most bargain-based city. Affordable housing and diversity of housing options has continued to be balanced with a healthy mix of single family and multi-family homes. The city leverages its partnership with Metrocrest Services for short-term affordability needs and partners with major employers for corporate rates with some of our in-city apartment complexes that allows volume discounts to be passed to residents to assist with PPP based affordable housing.

Q: LICENSING AND PERMITTING PROCESS: How do you rate your city's licensing and permitting process? Do you recommend changes?

A: The Council and city staff have a business friendly posture to assist contractors and businesses to enjoy a one-stop shop, single point of contact to respond to permitting and licensing requirements. Feedback from contractors and commercial investors into Carrollton have provided positive input as to our one-stop approach. While no immediate changes are required as to efficiency reasons, given the diverse population, we are working to broaden our multi-lingual use and support beyond English, Spanish and Vietnamese to include Korean and Chinese as we have growing business and residential growth.

Q: PUBLIC SAFETY STAFFING: What changes, if any, would you support to attract and retain public safety personnel?

A: Applicant pools need to increase to ensure the funnel of candidates making it through the testing, selection and training protocols resolve our current turnover and staffing challenges pervasive across all cities with respect to Attracting and Retaining a Qualified, Motivated team. A few key areas I have prioritized include:

- I. Hiring First Responder Recruiting Officer
- II. Incentives and programs for Officer Referral
- III. Nationwide Recruiting – Attract quality candidates from other cities and regions
- IV. Image & Morale – Best Tools, Best Culture and Best Training to yield a sought-after department
- V. Agile & Digital Savvy Training

Q: TIMING OF ELECTIONS: Would you support moving the city's election from May to November of odd numbered years? Why or why not?

A: I support whatever we can do to increase voter turnout and education among registered voters. In general however, I am in favor of retaining May elections for local races such as City Council and School Board, which are non-partisan and tend to be accessible to a broader reach of local candidates. Pros and Cons, exist for both a May and November election.

One benefit of a May election for local elections is the separation from partisan-based political races that tend to be held in November vs May, which can be more divisive and expensive.

While November has greater turnout the cost and partisan aspects offset benefit of an informed voter.

Q: CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: What is the city's greatest challenge and opportunity over the next several years?

A: Key Challenges include:

- Aging Infrastructure
- Employee Turnover and Tight Labor Market
- Public Safety vacancies
- Sales Tax changes - \$5-10M impact to City Budget
- Aging Infrastructure
- Fentanyl Crisis and need to partner with Schools

Opportunities

- Economic Development to attract multi-national corporations to occupy www.trinitymillsstation.com development
- \$1B Development
- Redevelopment Renaissance
 - o #Carrollton Experience – Quiet, Safe Neighborhoods, Bustling Cosmopolitan Shopping & Expansive Parks & Trails
 - o #SilverLine & TOD Districts – Live, Work & Play
 - o #DestinationCarrollton – Entertainment Venues, Historic Grapevine RR

YOUNG SUNG

Occupation: Real Estate Broker/Developer

Education: Brevard College, Maryville College, Le Tourneau University, Southern California University

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Q: WHY RUNNING: What qualifies you to be an effective City Council member?

A: I have a deep commitment to our community, and a passion for improving the lives of everyone who lives here. I have spent many years working and volunteering in our city, and I understand the challenges and opportunities that we face. As a former city councilor, I have also built strong relationships with community leaders, businesses, and residents across our city.

Q: HOUSING: Do you believe there is a need for increased safe, quality, affordable housing in your community? Are there other housing issues? What do you recommend?

A: I believe that there is a pressing need for increased safe, quality, and affordable housing in our community. Everyone deserves a place to call home, and it is our responsibility to make sure that our citizens have access to housing that meets these criteria.

Q: LICENSING AND PERMITTING PROCESS: How do you rate your city's licensing and permitting process? Do you recommend changes?

A: I am pleased to acknowledge that our city's licensing and permitting process has been functioning effectively and efficiently. Our dedicated staff has been instrumental in ensuring that businesses and residents can navigate the process with relative ease. There is always room for improvement and I believe that modernizing the user experience would further enhance our licensing and permitting process.

Q: PUBLIC SAFETY STAFFING: What changes, if any, would you support to attract and retain public safety personnel?

A: I understand that public safety is a vital component of a thriving and prosperous community. Attracting and retaining dedicated public safety personnel is essential to ensuring the well-being of our residents. To achieve this, I would support a competitive compensation and benefits program, more training and professional development, mental health and wellness support, more community engagement and collaboration, and more diversity within the public safety sector.

Q: TIMING OF ELECTIONS: Would you support moving the city's election from May to November of odd numbered years? Why or why not?

A: I do not support moving the city's election from May to November of odd-numbered years. One of the primary reasons for this is that our municipal race is non-affiliated. Moving the election to November would coincide with state and national elections, potentially transforming our municipal race into an affiliated contest. By keeping our city's election in May of odd-numbered years, we can maintain a clear distinction between municipal and state or national elections. This separation allows our community to concentrate on the unique issues at hand.

Q: CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: What is the city's greatest challenge and opportunity over the next several years?

A: The greatest challenge of our city is embracing change. I would like to address the outdated systems and processes that have hindered progress and caused inequalities. The greatest opportunity for our city is location. Its proximity to major highways, airports, and public transportation hubs (DART) makes it an ideal destination for businesses and tourists. To take advantage of this opportunity, I would promote our location as a key selling point to potential investors and visitors.

ADAM POLTER

Occupation: IT Director and Consultant
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Q: WHY RUNNING: What qualifies you to be an effective City Council member?

A: I'm running because I have seen firsthand the results of bad leadership, and I care too much about my city to stand by and not challenge the status quo! Current leadership has repeatedly shown they value political expediency over the best interests of the city. Also, Carrollton's City Council is dysfunctional as groupthink is pervasive, with most of the sitting members too afraid to vote in such a way that might go against the mayor, staff's recommendations, or would result in them being part of the minority in a 6-1, 5-2, or 4-3 vote. Courage is missing on Carrollton City Council. That is what I bring, and that is what I hope to restore.

Q: HOUSING: Do you believe there is a need for increased safe, quality, affordable housing in your community? Are there other housing issues? What do you recommend?

A: There is a very significant need for more affordable housing in our city. As our city has grown and been redeveloped, the percentage of homes and apartments that meet the definition of affordable has dropped. As property values, interest rates, and rents skyrocket, home buyers and renters are having to look to other cities, either further from Dallas, or in older, more depressed areas that have not seen their property values spike to the degree that they have in Carrollton. For now, Carrollton needs to invest in multi-family developments that will provide a number of affordable rent-stabilized units, and other innovative housing solutions.

Q: LICENSING AND PERMITTING PROCESS: How do you rate your city's licensing and permitting process? Do you recommend changes?

A: I believe our licensing and permitting process is reasonable. However, I'm not confident that we are staffed sufficiently to complete the approval end of the permitting process in the amount of time that would deliver greater value to our residents, contractors, developers, and businesses. I would recommend a review of this very outward facing municipal function, to include appropriate staffing levels, to ensure that we are exceeding the expectations of those that follow our requirements and seek to obtain licenses and permits.

Q: PUBLIC SAFETY STAFFING: What changes, if any, would you support to attract and retain public safety personnel?

A: I would recommend that we reduce the amount of time it takes for an officer to reach the top of their position's salary range to five years from the current fifteen years, to be in line with Irving's practices. I would also support increasing the number of paid holidays, adding tuition reimbursement to our benefits package, and increasing the number of approved officers in Carrollton per 10,000 residents from 12.6 to at least 14, where the average for cities the size of Carrollton is 15.9. We also need to fill our existing openings as we currently have as many as 20 unfilled positions.

Q: TIMING OF ELECTIONS: Would you support moving the city's election from May to November of odd numbered years? Why or why not?

A: This is one of the first items I mention under Priorities on my campaign website at <http://adampolter.com>. I support moving our elections from May to November in odd number years because when I was elected in a November election, over 43000 Carrollton residents voted in my race. In last year's May election, we had a record high turnout of just 6851. The more voters, the more representative and more democratic the outcome. Also, seating new Council members in November gives them six additional months to learn about city government before they are required to vote on the next fiscal year's budget items and staff performance reviews.

Q: CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: What is the city's greatest challenge and opportunity over the next several years?

A: Carrollton's long-term challenge is the need to remain relevant, to be more vibrant and innovative, and to shake off the sleepy "bedroom community" label and become known as a destination in the Metroplex, not the pass thru city we are today. We are stagnating beneath the status quo, and we have to move in a different direction if Carrollton is to thrive and survive! On the opportunity side, we are a mere thirty-minute drive from almost everywhere in the Metroplex. If we change course now, create a modern, forward-thinking vision, and then deliver according to that vision, Carrollton will redefine its identity, and will be rediscovered!

CARROLLTON CITY COUNCIL PL 2

JASON CARPENTER



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Q: WHY RUNNING: What qualifies you to be an effective City Council member?

A: My service to our city over the years as chair of Planning and Zoning Commission, chair of Traffic Advisory Committee and as a member of the Capital Improvements Plan Advisory Committee has motivated me to step up and serve all residents in Carrollton as their elected representative. I believe my demonstrated experience and leadership has prepared me for this office and I look forward to serving the citizens of Carrollton.

Q: HOUSING: Do you believe there is a need for increased safe, quality, affordable housing in your community? Are there other housing issues? What do you recommend?

A: Housing in Carrollton is diverse given the wide range of properties throughout the city. Carrollton's options range from multifamily, single family, and even gated communities. This diversity helps create the fabric of Carrollton and provides opportunities for many to live here. Additionally, we can leverage those options for housing in Carrollton to create a city where everyone can be safe and engaged at all levels of our city.

Q: LICENSING AND PERMITTING PROCESS: How do you rate your city's licensing and permitting process? Do you recommend changes?

A: Licensing and permitting are necessary functions to ensure buildings and businesses are safe for our residents and visitors, but we should be careful to avoid unnecessary or overly burdensome processes and regulations. I'm pleased that Carrollton's permitting process is one of the fastest and most user-friendly in the area, but we should always seek to review our laws, policies, and procedures and look for opportunities to improve them while continuing to keep those in our city safe. I will always support Carrollton's efforts to remain transparent and to look for opportunities for improvement.

Q: PUBLIC SAFETY STAFFING: What changes, if any, would you support to attract and retain public safety personnel?

A: We should seek all creative manners of recruiting when the market is competitive, like it is now. While money is often a driver for employment decisions, I have found in my professional career that money alone does not often keep the interest of employees over time. Therefore, in addition to financial incentives, we should seek methods that involve other types of benefits. These benefits will depend on what is important to public safety personnel and could vary depending on the position being filled. We must seek to understand what motivates public safety personnel in this marketplace and act on it when recruiting.

Q: TIMING OF ELECTIONS: Would you support moving the city's election from May to November of odd numbered years? Why or why not?

A: Carrollton's three year terms do not coincide with an election every two years. Therefore, we are not currently able to hold elections only in odd numbered years without making changes to the city charter. Because the city and school district elections are nonpartisan, I prefer the May elections as they help to maintain the separation between partisan and nonpartisan elections and it helps to increase voter information and access to local candidates that often get lost in the mix by up-ballot races in November.

Q: CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: What is the city's greatest challenge and opportunity over the next several years?

A: Carrollton's challenge and opportunity both revolve around the tremendous momentum we have generated with the economic development happening in our transit oriented developments and city gateways. Our location, proximity, and access to the region make it a place citizens and businesses want to call home and we must capitalize on this great asset of Carrollton. Access to Carrollton from the region is quick and easy via the three major highways bounding or running through the city as well as the existing DART Green line and the future Silver line which will provide quick access to and from DFW Airport.

EDDIE LOPEZ



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Q: WHY RUNNING: What qualifies you to be an effective City Council member?

A: As a citizen of Carrollton, I understand the challenges facing many of our citizens and I believe I can help bring about positive change. I'm inspired to engage the community to bring people together, foster shared success and create innovative solutions. Bridging the gap between citizens and city government is critical to achieving a good relationship with those who are elected to serve. I plan on maintaining an open door policy to foster open dialogue with my constituents.

Q: HOUSING: Do you believe there is a need for increased safe, quality, affordable housing in your community? Are there other housing issues? What do you recommend?

A: Due to the fact that Carrollton is "land-locked", we can't grow "horizontally", so we must grow "vertically". The need for affordable housing is in crisis mode. There simply aren't enough units available for those in need. Land availability, zoning obstacles, and the simple fact that government is not designed to be real estate developers are some reasons we can't get more affordable housing. What is the correct answer? I have no idea, but I am willing to listen to and consider all ideas. We must do our part to make living in Carrollton affordable for all.

Q: LICENSING AND PERMITTING PROCESS: How do you rate your city's licensing and permitting process? Do you recommend changes?

A: Licensing and permitting in my opinion, are a necessary evil. I would recommend reviewing the current system. Thereafter, I would revamp where needed.

Q: PUBLIC SAFETY STAFFING: What changes, if any, would you support to attract and retain public safety personnel?

A: This is an issue currently at the forefront of my campaign. Carrollton is currently 25 police officers short. We need to understand how this got to this point and what we can do to prevent it from happening again. I plan on working with city management to review the current policies, compensation packages and benefits packages available to the men and women who protect us. We must take care of those that take care of us.

Q: TIMING OF ELECTIONS: Would you support moving the city's election from May to November of odd numbered years? Why or why not?

A: Personally, I have no preference on when city elections are held. Some would say the timing can aid or detract from local voters. Too many candidates to choose from can be daunting, especially when trying to remember who is running for what and if they align with your views. My only real concern is that the elections are fair and unbiased.

Q: CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: What is the city's greatest challenge and opportunity over the next several years?

A: Safety is by far the greatest challenge facing us. The influx of people moving to North Texas is putting a strain on safety as well as our infrastructure. We need to attract and retain quality peace officers as well as equip them with the proper equipment and training. Then we can move onto the infrastructure.

CARROLLTON CITY COUNCIL PL 4

ANDREW PALACIOS, BRITTNEY VERDELL: NO RESPONSE

CARROLLTON CITY COUNCIL PL 6

MIKE DOOLING



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Education: Bachelors of Science in Business Administration Information Systems

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/MikeForCarrollton

Q: WHY RUNNING: What qualifies you to be an effective City Council member?

A: I have led a lifetime of service; In the military as a US Marine; Volunteer organizations such as Team Rubicon and Habitat for Humanity; And my community: On my neighborhood association board; As a graduate of the Citizens Police Academy; Citizens Fire Academy; Volunteering with both agencies; As well as the Carrollton Disaster Response Alliance. I have been actively attending city council meetings and work sessions for almost eight years to remain informed and engaged. I already have a level of experience & familiarity with the process & I'm not afraid to ask questions & collaborate with council partners in pursuit of additional solutions.

Q: HOUSING: Do you believe there is a need for increased safe, quality, affordable housing in your community? Are there other housing issues? What do you recommend?

A: Carrollton has been moving in the right direction, although there remains a great need for an increase in housing. We do have issues, although I believe as Carrollton transitions from a sleepy, bedroom community to a vibrant community at a North Texas crossroads in-fill and redevelopment with more multi-use in smart locations such as transit-oriented development is going to be integral in driving up the housing supply to stabilize prices by driving down demand.

Q: LICENSING AND PERMITTING PROCESS: How do you rate your city's licensing and permitting process? Do you recommend changes?

A: I believe in general, that licensing and permitting have become excessive across the board, not just in Carrollton. I don't have any immediate targets in my sights and have higher priorities in mind. However, I'd be interested to hear more from the community – this just hasn't been one of those issues many residents of Carrollton have been bringing to me as a concern.

Q: PUBLIC SAFETY STAFFING: What changes, if any, would you support to attract and retain public safety personnel?

A: I believe that a staffing survey must be performed to assess our city's public safety staffing strengths and weaknesses and then consider some mix of the following:

Fill existing openings to get us back top current approved levels. Increasing sworn officer levels to align with Carrollton's size.

Competitive Compensation, Professional Development, Improved Working Conditions

Recruitment Programs, Support for Mental Health

Q: TIMING OF ELECTIONS: Would you support moving the city's election from May to November of odd numbered years? Why or why not?

A: Moving municipal elections from May to November in odd-numbered years may help get more people involved in voting simply because elections traditionally occur in November. The democratic process works much more effectively when more people participate in it.

Q: CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: What is the city's greatest challenge and opportunity over the next several years?

A: Managing growth and development: Carrollton is a rapidly growing city, and managing growth while maintaining the quality of life for residents can be a challenge. The city will need to plan and manage development carefully to ensure it is sustainable and beneficial for all. Supporting economic development: Carrollton may need to attract new businesses and industries to the area to create jobs and support the local economy. This could involve creating a business-friendly environment, investing in infrastructure, and promoting the city to potential investors and entrepreneurs.

DAISY PALOMO



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Q: WHY RUNNING: What qualifies you to be an effective City Council member?

A: Several factors have prepared me and have qualified me to run for Carrollton City Council. First, being a wife and mother to 7 amazing kids while being both a small business owner and holding corporate level positions has uniquely qualified me. My upbringing in a very humble Oak Cliff, being the first in my family to graduate from college and earning a master's degree in finance, has prepared me for this position. Although I have been serving my community for several years now, I am running for this municipal office to better serve all the residents of Carrollton and to inspire our next generation to get involved in civic engagement.

Q: HOUSING: Do you believe there is a need for increased safe, quality, affordable housing in your community? Are there other housing issues? What do you recommend?

A: Currently, 35% of all housing options fall under multifamily housing. I believe this is a good ratio for Carrollton. As we continue to grow and our communities grow older, our needs for housing change as well. I believe the city can effectively partner with developers, multifamily management, companies, and owners by incentivizing them to provide more low-income housing offerings.

Q: LICENSING AND PERMITTING PROCESS: How do you rate your city's licensing and permitting process? Do you recommend changes?

A: We have a fantastic permitting process in Carrollton. Compared to surrounding cities it is very efficient and timely. The technology our city uses via the CityServe Portal has allowed for ease of use in the way we work with residents, developers, and contractors. Our processes have allowed continued economic growth and a safe standard of living in Carrollton. While we must always evaluate and address any concerns in all our city procedures, this so far has been up to par.

Q: PUBLIC SAFETY STAFFING: What changes, if any, would you support to attract and retain public safety personnel?

A: A good marketing campaign, and an attractive compensation plan would be a great way to attract good solid talent. I would also propose a longevity graduated bonus plan in place of a sign-on bonus to not only recruit, but just as important to retain great public safety personnel. We currently have a shortage of officers, and the city needs to allocate additional funds to attract and retain more police officers. Public Safety is paramount for me, and I will advocate for our first responders.

Q: TIMING OF ELECTIONS: Would you support moving the city's election from May to November of odd numbered years? Why or why not?

A: I would like to see our municipal elections stay as they are currently held. This allows city elections to remain non-partisan and allows for citizens to be able make more informed choices. Moving elections to November can potentially create very lengthy ballots and I am afraid candidates and issues would be diluted. Currently our voting schedule allows for ballots to remain small, and citizens are not overwhelmed by researching dozens of positions to fill.

Q: CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: What is the city's greatest challenge and opportunity over the next several years?

A: Our greatest challenge is always going to be the well-being and safety of the residents and visitors that are within our city. That well-being consists of safety of our school systems, public areas, and living communities. Opportunities exist by providing our first responders with all the tools and resources they need. Maintaining our infrastructure is another challenge and we have the opportunity to continue our Pay As You Go improvement and funding strategy. Growing our economic footprint to increase our tax base and easing that burden on residents addresses two challenges.

FARMERS BRANCH CITY COUNCIL

The City Council features a mayor, elected at large, and 5 Councilmembers, elected from 5 single member districts. The Mayor and City Council have 3-year terms, staggered so that 2 positions are up for election each year. The Mayor and Councilmembers serve without pay. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the votes, there will be a runoff election.

FARMERS BRANCH MAYOR

TERRY LYNNE



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 Facebook: www.facebook.com/Terry4FarmersBranch
 Occupation: Business Owner, Time-Out Media

Q: WHY RUNNING: What qualifies you to be an effective City Council member?

A: After serving on City Council for six years, I realized that my work was not done. I hope to improve City Hall communication with residents, get our police department fully staffed so we can slow traffic down throughout the city, provide true and transparent tax relief to our residents, improve Code Enforcement, create a more robust Neighborhood Revitalization Program, assess the condition of all of the city's current assets and prioritize maintenance and replacement, and partner with the City of Dallas to more effectively address the homeless situation under and along 635. I want to deliver better local government to my fellow residents.

Q: HOUSING: Do you believe there is a need for increased safe, quality, affordable housing in your community? Are there other housing issues? What do you recommend?

A: Taking a holistic look at the city's housing stock, about a third of all housing is deemed "affordable", about a third is moderately priced and a third is luxury. It's easy to say that Farmers Branch offers something for everyone.

The greatest need is for new, modern housing stock in the core of our city. Many years ago, The City instituted a Demo/Rebuild Incentive Program to attract new construction. Many of the homes in Farmers Branch are over 50 years old. Some would argue that they may be outdated for today's larger families and active lifestyles.

Q: LICENSING AND PERMITTING PROCESS: How do you rate your city's licensing and permitting process? Do you recommend changes?

A: Top Notch! Farmers Branch has always been able to turn licenses and permits, especially building permits, quickly. Recently, some requirements were changed which allowed for certain building permits (fences, some concrete work, roofs and other) to be issued on-the-spot. Fees associated with these permits are very reasonable. Permits for new home construction or major remodeling usually take about 3 weeks. We are very fortunate that our staff has been able to handle the demands of growth and still meet reasonable expectations and turnaround times.

Q: PUBLIC SAFETY STAFFING: What changes, if any, would you support to attract and retain public safety personnel?

A: I am the only candidate that is supported by the Farmers Branch Police Officers Association. My service to our police department while on Council is unmatched.

The biggest concern is staffing and the lack of officers. We must recruit and retain officers without lowering our standards. Once we have filled open positions, then we can provide more resources to the main topic of concern to residents which is the speed of traffic throughout our city. I will continue to work for a police pay scale that is above the market average, as I did while on City Council.

Q: TIMING OF ELECTIONS: Would you support moving the city's election from May to November of odd numbered years? Why or why not?

A: Moving elections to November of odd years might be a plus and help to eliminate "voter fatigue", but that would necessitate a change in the length of City Council and Mayor terms. I would support any change that makes it easier for voters to cast their ballot and increases engagement in local elections.

Q: CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: What is the city's greatest challenge and opportunity over the next several years?

A: The greatest short-term challenge in Farmers Branch is the removal of the ecological disaster known as "Shale Mountain", the large pile of dirt along the north side of 635 between Webb Chapel and Josey, which is part of the I-35 widening project.

Dust from "Shale Mountain" has created health issues for neighboring homes to the north in Farmers Branch. TxDot originally said the dirt pile would be removed by the end of 2022. Now, they are projecting as much as another 2 years. This is unacceptable and continuing to cause extreme health conditions for Farmers Branch residents.

JAIME RIVAS



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Q: WHY RUNNING: What qualifies you to be an effective City Council member?

A: I love this city! My wife and I chose to move here so we could raise our children in a city where the parks are abundant, the streets are safe and the schools are exceptional. This isn't just where I live, it's where I am doing life. Our residents deserve inclusive representation. I am running with pure intent and putting Farmers Branch first. I believe that we can move forward together.

Q: HOUSING: Do you believe there is a need for increased safe, quality, affordable housing in your community? Are there other housing issues? What do you recommend?

A: I believe housing is one of the biggest challenges we are facing. Rising home valuations has caused seniors living on a fixed income to be taxed out of their homes, and has put undue burden on home-owners. Farmers Branch needs a solution for creating affordable housing that is in-line with our median income. I would propose we re-visit the programs in place for new construction incentives and find ways to adjust requirements to allow for housing that serves the community at large. I would also like to see some alternate funding through a grant program to help citizens living in existing, aging homes. Increased code violations does not help.

Q: LICENSING AND PERMITTING PROCESS: How do you rate your city's licensing and permitting process? Do you recommend changes?

A: I can speak from personal experience that the process is complicated. Many people by-pass this step because it is expensive and difficult. This leads to un-permitted work and creates issues down the road. I would like to see the process be less expensive, user-friendly, and less intimidating.

Q: TIMING OF ELECTIONS: Would you support moving the city's election from May to November of odd numbered years? Why or why not?

A: I think it would be help fun for increasing voter turn out to have elections in November. The biggest struggle I see with being successful in a municipal race is increasing awareness. People aren't typically thinking about voting in the spring so it is not on their radar. I think oftentimes citizens don't vote only because they don't realize there is an election happening.

Q: CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: What is the city's greatest challenge and opportunity over the next several years?

A: I think the answer here is one and the same. Growth and Development. Farmers Branch is a well-located city with endless potential. Future development is a great opportunity to bring in new businesses that will allow for tax-burden relief on our residents and increase our quality of life and usability. However, with that growth we will face a new set of challenges in infrastructure, strategy, management, relations, and more. I look forward to our city's future with my eyes wide open to the challenges and successes to come.

FARMERS BRANCH DISTRICT 2

JACOB GIFFIN



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 Education: MBA - Stephen F. Austin State University
 Occupation: Executive Director

Q: WHY RUNNING: What qualifies you to be an effective City Council member?

A: My education (MBA) and career in the nonprofit sector managing teams, creating and implementing strategy, managing budgets, and problem solving has equipped me to be an effective addition to City Council.

Q: HOUSING: Do you believe there is a need for increased safe, quality, affordable housing in your community? Are there other housing issues? What do you recommend?

A: Of course. Housing is a widely-scoped issue encompassing accessibility to quality affordable housing, safe housing for all neighbors, and understanding issues affecting elderly homeowners ability to age in place.

Q: LICENSING AND PERMITTING PROCESS: How do you rate your city's licensing and permitting process? Do you recommend changes?

A: I've not been through the licensing and permitting process with the city. I would welcome any feedback from residents on this process.

Q: PUBLIC SAFETY STAFFING: What changes, if any, would you support to attract and retain public safety personnel?

A: Competitive salaries, benefits, and access to quality support systems (including mental health resources) are a big priority. Additionally, having a more robust exit interview process to pair with surveying current safety personnel will give increased insight as to what improvements can be made to recruit and retain.

Q: TIMING OF ELECTIONS: Would you support moving the city's election from May to November of odd numbered years? Why or why not?

A: My initial thought is the November elections could provide an increased voter turnout. However, a November election could decrease awareness of city elections with the heightened visibility of non-local elections. I would welcome any feedback from residents on this topic.

Q: CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: What is the city's greatest challenge and opportunity over the next several years?

A: I believe the greatest challenge and opportunity for the city are the same: development of non-utilized land and redevelopment of aging homes/neighborhoods.

MARTIN BAIRD: NO RESPONSE

CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRANCH ISD

School trustees make all final decisions regarding school district priorities, policies, personnel, textbooks, expenditures, and growth management. Trustees adopt a budget to maintain and operate the schools, levy taxes, and submit bond issues to the citizens of the District to finance construction projects. Trustees serve without pay.

Trustees serve without pay for staggered overlapping terms of three years and do not represent any specific geographic area. Candidates are elected by cumulative voting which allows you to cast all your votes for one candidate or split them between candidates. The candidate(s) receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. There are no runoff elections.

CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRANCH ISD TRUSTEE

CAROLYN BENAVIDES: NO RESPONSE

WESLEY L NUTE JR



Facebook: www.facebook.com/WesleyNute

Occupation: School Attorney

Campaign Email: wesley@wesleynuteforcfbisd.com

Education: Duke University, B.A.; University of Texas School of Law, J.D.

Website: wesleynuteforcfbisd.com

Campaign Phone: (214)308-2755

Q: EXPERIENCE: What qualifications and experience prepare you to be an effective member of the School Board?

A: As a practicing school attorney, I have had the privilege of representing school districts all over Texas, especially in North Texas. This means that I advise school boards and administrators on matters of policy, personnel, student discipline, and governance, including as to the Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act. I have further advised school districts with respect to redistricting, superintendent searches, and bond issues. I also have experience in the classroom and generally in schools, serving as an America Reads tutor, an operations coordinator with Teach for America, and a substitute teacher. I aim to support educators.

Q: SCHOOL CHOICE: Is the desire for more school choice pressing in your community, or are current programs meeting its needs? Would you support more options for students and, if so, what would you support?

A: CFBISD fortunately has many programs of choice within the district. I support these options for students and especially believe strongly in the vision for our students' participation in career and technical education (CTE) programs of study. Ultimately, as a school board member, my role would be to support the experts and the data that point toward better student outcomes. We want our students to succeed in their postsecondary educations and/or in the workforce. Our students must be prepared for the global economy and the future of work.

Q: DECISIONS ABOUT CURRICULUM: Describe how ideally you would have parents involved in curriculum decisions vs school administrators, the school board and State Board of Education?

A: Parents are integral to curriculum in the sense that our representative government is designed to give them a voice in their child's education. To the extent allowable by law, local board policies should reflect the will of the community. For curriculum decisions that are made on the state level, parents should feel comfortable engaging in robust discussions with lawmakers and the experts who design curriculum in order to make their voices heard as key stakeholders. One way for parents--who are otherwise busy--to influence these decisions is by electing a school board trustee who will fight for them and amplify their voices.

Q: SCHOOL FINANCE: Discuss your approach to the competing needs of attracting and maintaining quality teachers and staff and moderating the tax burden

A: To address these issues, we need to more comprehensively solve school funding. We need great teachers in order to improve our student outcomes. And great teachers are attracted to districts through--among other means--competitive compensation, a positive workplace culture, and professional support. At the same time, CFBISD has its lowest total tax rate since 1992. While I do not support increasing the tax rate, we should be watching this legislative session closely as it pertains to school funding. We need a better approach to financing our schools by the state. For now, we can focus on passing the 2023 bond to overcome budget constraints.

Q: STUDENT SUPPORT: What should your district do to support students struggling with traumatic loss (ex. COVID), mental health issues or other complications that occur outside the classroom but profoundly affect school success?

A: Ensuring that external forces and environmental factors do not undermine our students' education is paramount. We can mitigate these conditions through presently available resources in the district, including counseling services and the use of data driven instruction based on MAP testing. These examples do not represent an exhaustive list. But with MAP testing, for instance, we are able to see a snapshot of student academic performance throughout the year and follow that data to pinpoint how students can improve in a targeted manner. We have some tools at our disposal to focus on the "whole child." Students should have these resources.

Q: OTHER ISSUES: What other issues of importance do you intend to address during your term?

A: Right now, parents and families want to know that their children are safe. School safety must be a determined and collective effort. I believe in focusing our efforts on preparation: with emergency operations plans, safety personnel training, and leveraging technology to identify credible threats. More specifically, there have been recent fentanyl poisoning incidents. All were tragic and preventable. We need to help educate our parents about this dangerous drug and rely on our partners in law enforcement to root out those who would supply our children. Our students deserve to feel safe in our schools. We can address these concerns.

RANDY SCHACKMANN



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 Education: A.A., B.A., M.S.
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 Campaign Phone: 214-620-0138

Q: EXPERIENCE: What qualifications and experience prepare you to be an effective member of the School Board?

A: I bring major board experience to this race. This includes nine years of school board specific training and practice in Texas school finance, policy making, governance, community engagement, executive management, and all the duties prescribed for board members. Additionally, I was a professional nonprofit board trainer during my career and have developed over 200 boards throughout the U.S. In many ways I am considered an expert in “boardsmanship.” Currently, over half of the CFB board has less than 18 months experience, and several have asked me to run and bring experience to CFB (after last year’s election where I was left off the ballot).

Q: SCHOOL CHOICE: Is the desire for more school choice pressing in your community, or are current programs meeting its needs? Would you support more options for students and, if so, what would you support?

A: School choice is a concern. The question asks if I would support more options for students. There are only 4 major choices: public, private, charter, and home schooling. CFB increases choice by adding options from CTE courses, industry certifications, etc. The other part of the question concerns 2 things: [a] how dollars are to be disbursed (vouchers, etc.); and [b] who is empowered to make the choice. Parents should be making decisions choosing the best fit for their family. Funding is more challenging. When tax dollars are being used, there must be assessment(s) to ensure that learning goals are met. Such programs must be accountable.

Q: DECISIONS ABOUT CURRICULUM: Describe how ideally you would have parents involved in curriculum decisions vs school administrators, the school board and State Board of Education?

A: State standards (TEKS) establish all curriculum. It is approved by the SBOE. Subjects are covered in an established rotation. During each review there is time for parental participation in the approval processes. And remember, local SBOE members are elected positions, voted in or out. Parents must be aware of curriculum, classroom materials, and library resources. Districts have some limited supervisory roles in these matters. There needs to be effective, on-going dialog in which parents feel valued, heard, and involved; and educators compassionately listen and follow-through to support best teaching practices. It should be a partnership.

Q: SCHOOL FINANCE: Discuss your approach to the competing needs of attracting and maintaining quality teachers and staff and moderating the tax burden

A: This question has two parts. First is recruiting and maintaining quality staff, and how can this be done with moderate taxes. To start, districts must practice effective management, not focus only on salaries. This includes maximizing teacher support, providing adequate supplies, delivering technology, offering quality professional development, and maintaining a culture that empowers teachers to be part of the process, understanding teacher efficacy. Next, is compensation. Districts must offer competitive salaries, appropriate stipends, and payroll enhancements. Examples include longevity bonuses and quality, cost-effective benefit.

Q: STUDENT SUPPORT: What should your district do to support students struggling with traumatic loss (ex. COVID), mental health issues or other complications that occur outside the classroom but profoundly affect school success?

A: Mental health is a district and board focus. Funding is essential. We’ve added professional nurses, increased the number of counselors to support discipline and student mental health, and even added a counselor to serve staff. Professional development is being targeted at student mental health support, and finally there is attention to social needs: food, clothing, and basic living supplies. Our district is working to support the whole child to maximize learning and growth. The question also asks about learning loss. We follow the state’s recommendations by implementing HB4545 tutorials. December recapture rates were above state averages.

Q: OTHER ISSUES: What other issues of importance do you intend to address during your term?

A: Safety. There will be little learning if safety is not at the heart of everything schools do. CFBISD facilities are safe for all students. We have updated campus vestibules with creating secure entry zones with updated ID systems, increased camera locations in our facilities, installed improved traffic patterns and safety bollards, instituted new procedures, and upgraded technology in the district's security office. We have brought back random-use drug detecting dogs, increased use of badges for all on-campus persons, reduced campus entrance locations, and increased teaching and learning strategies for students on topics of safety.

CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRANCH ISD BOND ELECTION

Proposition A

"THE ISSUANCE OF \$716,440,000 OF BONDS BY THE CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE PURPOSES OF DESIGNING, CONSTRUCTING, RENOVATING, IMPROVING, UPGRADING, UPDATING, ACQUIRING, AND EQUIPPING SCHOOL FACILITIES AND THE NECESSARY SITES FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES AND THE LEVYING OF A TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF. THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE."

Vote "For" or "Against"

Description

The Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD (CFBISD) serves 25,000 students on 38 campuses. The district seeks authorization to issue \$716.4 million in bonds to fund improvements in five areas.

- **Safety & Security (5%)** – door locks, access control, cameras, perimeter fencing, security film, Improvements on all campuses
- **Student Support Facilities (18%)** – special education improvements, early childhood classroom improvements, outdoor learning center/ag site renovations, CTE classroom renovations, fine arts renovations, gym updates
- **Replacement Schools (28%)** – replace the three oldest elementary schools in CFBISD, construct a new combined campus
- **Renovations & Updates (49%)** – new fiber & critical technology infrastructure, restroom updates, front office updates, library renovations, cafeteria updates, classroom renovations, kitchen equipment, building systems roof, mechanical and electrical updates

As required by state law, the ballot language states "THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE." However, the city's financial advisors and finance officer indicate this election will NOT cause a property tax increase because bonds will not be issued all at once but only over time as needed and as old bonds are retired. In addition, the CFBISD tax base has grown providing more capacity in the tax rate. In February the Board publicly stated they do not plan to increase the tax rate.

CFBISD tax rates have dropped steadily in recent years. Tax rates for CFBISD and nearby districts are:

Richardson ISD	1.3146
Grand Prairie ISD	1.3070
Plano ISD	1.2598
Coppell ISD	1.2173
Dallas ISD	1.1849
Garland ISD	1.1725
Irving ISD	1.1474
CFBISD	1.1429

The district's bond ratings is AA1 from Moody's and it has a B rating from TEA.

Voters in CFBISD last approved a bond package in 2018. The projects funded with bonds authorized in 2018 are nearly all complete.

The list of projects and financing was developed by a diverse 60 member Citizen's Bond Planning Committee that met nine times over a six month period and toured facilities. The package was approved unanimously by the Board of Trustees in January.

Details on projects, the process and financing can be found at <https://www.cfbisd.edu/departments/facility-support-services/construction-bond/bond/bond-2023>

Reasons to vote "For" and "Against"

REASONS TO VOTE "FOR"	REASONS TO VOTE "AGAINST"
1. Several CFBISD elementary schools were built in the 1950s and 1960s and are due for replacement. Others were built in the 1970's and 1980's and need upgrades. Roofs, bathrooms and structures are worn and outdated. Our students deserve better.	1. Major reconstruction and renovation of facilities is disruptive to students and teachers. The district should seek simpler improvements to avoid disruption.
2. There is an increased need for safety and security in schools which this bond package will address.	2. The Texas legislature may provide some funding for safety and security in schools, making bond funding unnecessary.
3. Educational needs have changed. There is a greater need for education in technology and students will benefit from the efficiencies brought to classrooms by modern technology as provided by this package.	3. Young people today are already too immersed in technology such as cell phones and social media. We do not need to encourage this trend in the schools.
4. The improvements can be completed without any change in the district's tax rate. CFBISD's tax rate is among the lowest in the area.	4. If we experience a severe recession in the future, debt from this authorization could stress the district financially.
5. The district's high bond rating and good TEA rating indicate third party experts' favorable assessment of district management and financial condition.	5. Third parties such as bond rating agencies and TEA are not as familiar with our district as residents are. Residents should decide for themselves if our district is well managed.



Las elecciones locales son importantes. Prepárese para votar.

 ¡Las elecciones locales* son el sábado 6 de mayo!

- VOTACIÓN ANTICIPADA: **lunes 24 de abril-martes, 2 de mayo**
- ÚLTIMO DÍA PARA REGISTRARSE PARA VOTAR: **jueves 6 de abril**

**Las elecciones locales no son partidistas. Esta es tu oportunidad de votar por su alcalde, miembro del concejo municipal y miembro de la junta escolar.*

¡Tenga una voz en **SU** gobierno! 

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Local Elections Matter. Get Ready To Vote.

 **Local*** elections are **Saturday, May 6!**

- **EARLY VOTING: MONDAY, APRIL 24-TUESDAY, MAY 2**
- **LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE: THURSDAY, APRIL 6**

**Local elections are nonpartisan. This is your opportunity to vote for your mayor, city council member, and school district trustee.*

Have a voice in *your* government! 

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