



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

DUNCANVILLE
2023

NON PARTISAN

VOTERS GUIDE

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 Duncanville city council races. 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 during early voting and those open on election day, see www.DallasCountyVotes.org or call 469.627.8683.

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**.

Helpful Information

Websites

Dallas County Elections Department
Texas Secretary of State
League of Women Voters of Dallas
League of Women Voters of Texas

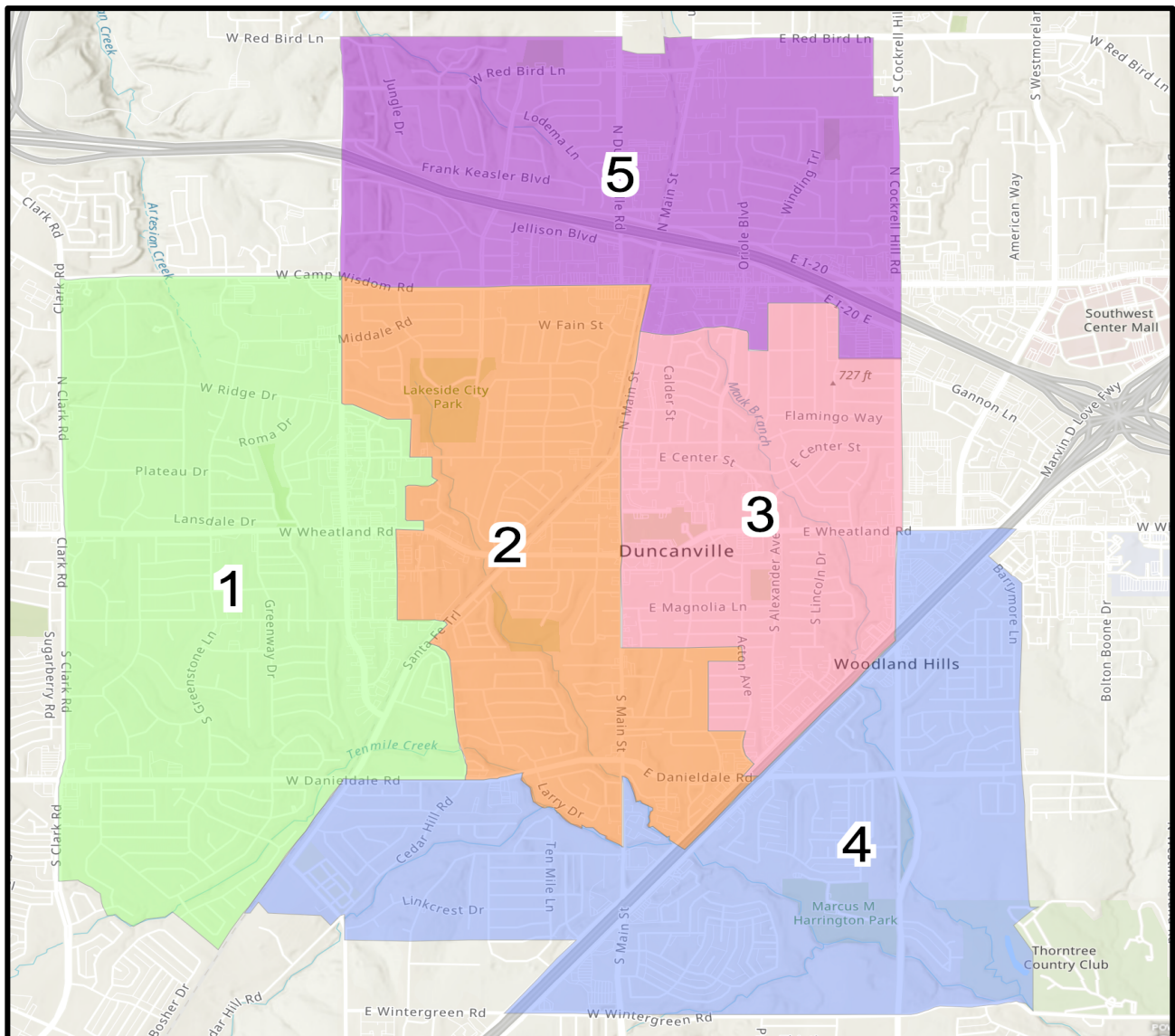
DallasCountyVotes.org
VoteTexas.gov
LWVDallas.org
LWVTexas.org

Telephone Numbers

Dallas County Elections Department
Texas Secretary of State - Elections Division
League of Women Voters of Dallas
League of Women Voters of Texas

(469)627-8683
(800)252-8683
(214) 688-4125
(512)472-1100

MAP SHOWING CITY OF DUNCANVILLE SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS



DUNCANVILLE CITY COUNCIL

The Duncanville City Council consists of 7 members, including the mayor and 1 councilmember elected at large, and 5 councilmembers elected from single-member districts.

City Council members serve 2-year terms, expiring in staggered years. The terms for mayor, district 2 and district 4 members expire in even-numbered years. Councilmembers for districts 1, 3 and 5 and at large expire in odd-numbered years. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the vote, there will be a runoff election.

DUNCANVILLE MEMBER AT-LARGE

DeMonica Gooden



Occupation: City Employee
 Campaign YouTube URL: https://youtu.be/Gw_dcqXRDNY
 Campaign Email: de.gooden@yahoo.com
 Website: www.degooden.com
 Campaign Phone: 2142288259
 Education: Master of Public Administration

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

A: My experience as a 20 year city employee, my compassion for people and my education has provided me the experience, empathy and knowledge qualifies me to set policies and approve budgets for our local government.

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: The great thing about Duncanville is we are a melting pot of all status. We have all types of housing options, rent, own, acres, lots, houses, apartments, duplex and so on.

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

A: I believe our permitting process currently meets the regulation requirements. As a compliance auditor, I am never opposed to reviewing and identifying if and where improvements are necessary.

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

A: I am open to consider all options. At the top of mind is competitive salary but that isn't all that retains personnel. Healthy work life balance is key as well. Also, let's look at workload and our internal practices. Challenges of employee retention varies and we must be willing to have those tough conversations.

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 am open to consider anything that will support quality of life for our city. No conversation is off limits.

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

A: Our current challenge is completing projects (Capitol or Bond) during a time of inflation. At the beginning of the project the funding required was a certain amount but after a pandemic, staff shortage and inflation the price tag has increased.

PATRICK LEBLANC: NO RESPONSE

DUNCANVILLE DISTRICT 1

JOE VERACRUZ: UNOPPOSED

DUNCANVILLE DISTRICT 3

JEREMY KOONTZ



Education: BA Literature/Language

Website: www.jeremykoontz.com

Campaign Email: jeremyjk@hotmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100014058363865

Campaign YouTube URL: <https://www.youtube.com/@jeremykoontz6489>

Occupation: Minister

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

A: In addition to my passion for citizen advocacy, I now bring 2 years of experience on the Duncanville City Council. I have developed a better understanding not only of how local government functions (and malfunctions), but also of the needs of city departments, the budget, as well as the complicated political dynamics of the city. I offer our District an opportunity for continued growth and improvement through a consistent presence and voice on the 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: The concern I have for the city of Duncanville is not the quantity of available housing across income levels, but the quality of housing that is available, multi-family housing as well as rental properties. The city can address this issue by updating, improving, and enforcing ordinances regarding apartments and rental properties to prevent situations in which those who live in lower income housing are not the victims of neglect from property owners and managers. Building codes need to be updated, improved, and enforced to ensure that housing across all income levels, single or multifamily, is safe and inhabitable.

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

A: While I have not had direct experience with the licensing and permitting process in Duncanville, my understanding from citizens who own businesses is that it can be a struggle to get inspections and permits complete in a timely manner. I believe this is due to current inadequate staffing levels and, at times, poor communication across departments. I would recommend a review of the communication channels and methods, but believe bringing staffing levels up ought to be a high priority as well.

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

A: At the time of this writing, our Police Department is short about 9 officers. Duncanville has also fallen behind other cities as far as maintaining competitive salaries and benefits for first responders. One of my primary goals if re-elected is to work with our finance, police, and fire departments in introducing an incremental pay increase to our budget so that, over the course of 2-3 years, we can gradually bring the salaries and benefits of our first responders to more competitive levels.

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: No. I would be more in favor of not moving them at all or moving all city elections to November, both on odd and even numbered years.

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

A: The greatest challenge is ongoing division in the city. Duncanville is very diverse in its demographics, culture, as well as in its political views, and this often creates challenges in achieving unity. The greatest opportunity is the increasing citizen engagement. In the past few years, Duncanville citizens have been getting more and more involved in what is happening in the city, and more and more proud of their community. The more citizens get engaged and the more pride we have in who we are, the more growth we will see of local businesses, the more beautification efforts we will see, and the more overall positive change we will see.

LA'TRENA BARRETT



Campaign Phone: 4694071466

Website: barrett4duncanville.com

Campaign Email: barrett4dville@gmail.com

Facebook: facebook.com/barrett4duncanville

Campaign Twitter Handle: [barrett4duncanville](https://twitter.com/barrett4duncanville)

Campaign YouTube URL: instagram.com/barrett4duncanville

Occupation: Financial Risk Management

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

A: There is no other candidate with more experience or more dedicated to Duncanville as myself. My focus on key issues: public safety, livable wage jobs, population growth, affordable housing for families and seniors and the expansion of small businesses is priority. Residents deserve to have their voices heard by leaders who are seasoned in the community and fair and impartial in decision making. Duncanville needs leadership that can effectively manage growth, financial stability and economic success. I possess that leadership. My business and educational background are an invaluable asset if elected for Duncanville City Council District 3.

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: Yes, I believe there is a need for increased safe, quality, affordable housing in the city of Duncanville. Unlike neighboring cities, Duncanville is landlocked which presents challenges in offering housing across income levels. I support reimagining older properties throughout the city and historical designations where eligible.

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

A: I believe that the city of Duncanville offers a timely, efficient and robust licensing and permitting process.

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

A: The greatest public safety concern in Duncanville is attracting and retention of Police, Fire and EMS personnel. I support increasing their salaries to be competitive with nearby cities.

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

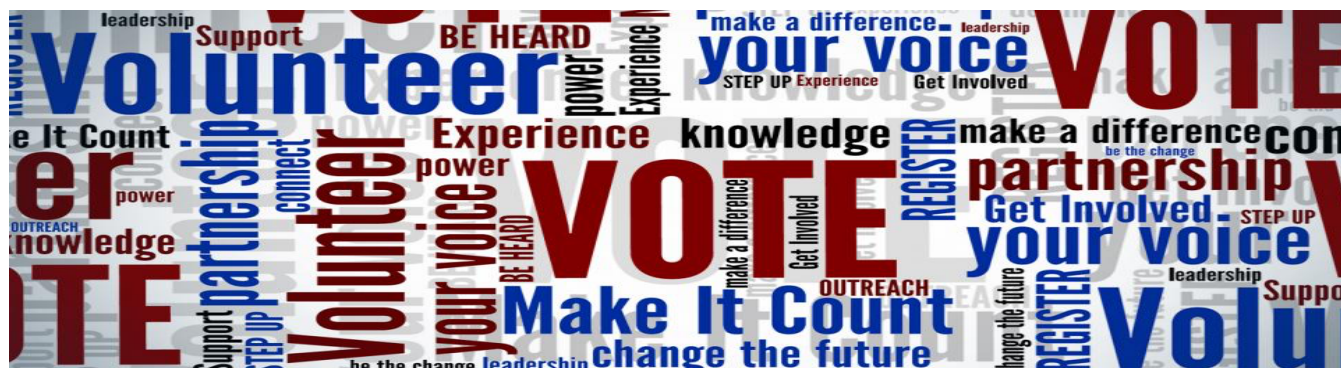
A: The city of Duncanville already has a great system in place regarding the timing of elections. The Councilmember At-Large for a two-year term, one Councilmember from District 1 for a two-year term, one Councilmember from District 3 for a two-year term and one Councilmember from District 5 for a two-year term all of which expire in May of odd numbered years. The Mayor for a two-year term, one Councilmember from District 2 for a two-year term and one Councilmember from District 4 for a two-year term all of which expire in May of even numbered years.

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

A: In promoting Duncanville as a place to live, work and play the greatest need of the city are jobs. A majority of our jobs are filled by people that do not live within the city. I support efforts to offer jobs that will attract Duncanville citizens across all income levels.

DUNCANVILLE DISTRICT 5

GREG CONTRERAS, HOMER FINCANNON: NO RESPONSE



What Is the League of Women Voters' Mission?

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

What Does the League Do Now?

The League of Women Voters is a peoples' organization that has fought since 1920 to improve our government and engage all Americans in the decisions that impact their lives. We operate at national, state and local levels through more than 800 state and local Leagues, in all 50 states as well in DC, the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong. We never endorse or oppose political parties or candidates, but we are political.



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! 

VERIFIQUE SI
ESTÁ REGISTRADO
PARA VOTAR



votetexas.gov

VEA BOLETA DE
MUESTRA, DÓNDE
Y CUÁNDO VOTAR



[↑dallascountyvotes.org](http://dallascountyvotes.org)
or ballotpedia.org

INVESTIGUE A
LOS CANDIDATOS
EN SU BOLETA



Vote411.org

CONOZCA CÓMO
ESTÁ ESTRUCTU-
RADO EL GOBIERNO
DE DALLAS



[bit.ly/Ballotpedia_Dal-
lasGovt](http://bit.ly/Ballotpedia_DallasGovt)

PARA
PREGUNTAS
LLAME
O VISITE



[↑lwvtexas.org](http://lwvtexas.org)
or lwvdallas.org
214-688-4125

¡Tengo preguntas! ¡Tenemos respuestas! **Vote411.org**

¿PROBLEMAS? ¡LA LÍNEA DE PROTECCIÓN ELECTORAL PUEDE AYUDAR! **888-VE-Y-VOTA**

LWVD es una organización cívica no partidista y sin fines de lucro. No respaldamos ni nos oponemos a partidos o candidatos.



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! 

CHECK IF YOU
ARE REGISTERED
TO VOTE



votetexas.gov

SEE SAMPLE
BALLOT, WHERE &
WHEN TO VOTE



[↑dallascountyvotes.org](http://dallascountyvotes.org)
or ballotpedia.org

RESEARCH
CANDIDATES ON
YOUR BALLOT



Vote411.org

LEARN HOW DALLAS
GOVERNMENT
IS STRUCTURED



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QUESTIONS
CALL OR VISIT



↑lwvtexas.org
or lwvdallas.org
214-688-4125

Got questions? We have answers! Vote411.org

GOT VOTING ISSUES? ELECTION PROTECTION HAS ANSWERS! CALL 866.OURVOTE

LWVD is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, civic organization. We do not endorse or oppose parties or candidates