



GARLAND 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 Garland and Garland Independent School District 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**.

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Helpful Information

Websites

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

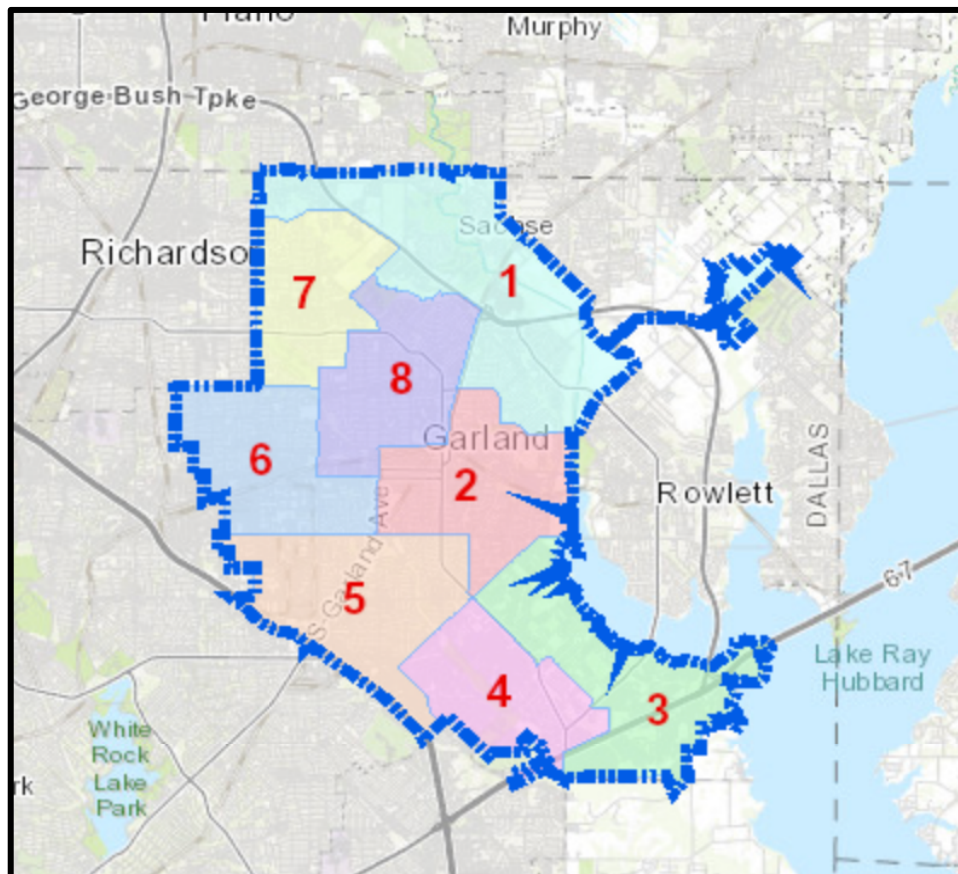
DallasCountyVotes.org
 VoteTexas.gov
 LWVDallas.org
 LWVTexas.org

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 OF GARLAND SHOWING CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS



CITY OF GARLAND

Garland is chartered as a Home Rule City and operates under the Council-Manager form of government. The City Council appoints a City Manager to administer City operations, while the Council is responsible for City policy-making. The Manager makes budget and other recommendations to the City Council and advises the Council of the City's current conditions and future needs. City Council consists of the Mayor (elected at large) and 8 council members elected from Districts, all of whom serve two year terms. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the vote, there will be a runoff election.

GARLAND MAYOR

ROEL G GARCIA



Facebook: www.facebook.com/MayorRoelGarcia

Campaign Phone: 469-487-6538

Education: Richland College

Occupation: Educator

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

A: The reason I am qualified to run for mayor is because, I have been a citizen of Garland for over 58 years. I am part of the leadership program for the Garland Chamber of Commerce, which enabled me to talk with several of our city leaders to see what great accomplishments have been done and what challenges need to be worked on.

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. Homeowners and renters need to be more compliant to the neighborhood compliance codes. I do believe there is a need for increased safe, quality, and affordable housing. Our city needs more compliance staff to make sure that the citations issued to violators are made compliant. So, we would need to take a look at the budget to see where we can get funding for this. This would help property values stay up and the safety of our neighborhoods.

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

A: I think it is overall acceptable. Not at this time, but it wouldn't hurt to take another look at the process to see where improvements can be made.

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

A: We need to hire more police officers, in order for Garland to be competitive, we need to take a look at the budget to see how we can have increased hiring and retention bonuses and re-evaluate our benefits to stay competitive with the surrounding 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: No I think the current process works just fine.

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

A: I believe Garland's biggest challenge is finding a solution to the homelessness issue. The opportunities would be, since Garland is renovating the downtown area, this will bring more businesses and jobs opportunities to our city.

SCOTT LEMAY



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 Education: 1986 Graduate- Lake Highlands HS
 Occupation: Store Planner- The Container Store

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

A: I made a commitment to serve this city in 2005 as I prepared to run for the first time in 2007. I didn't win that year but was appointed to the Plan Commission where I served until 2013 when I was elected to serve in District 7. During my 3 terms in both of those positions over 12 years I learned everything I could about the city and the people. That time reinforced my commitment and drove me to want to do more. I was first elected mayor in 2019 and re-elected again in 2021. I still enjoy the challenges and wish to continue to serve until May of 2025 when I will term out of office.

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 always a need for safe, quality affordable housing in any city. As a city that is virtually built the opportunity to add housing is difficult. Our focus has shifted to improving the existing housing stock we have. We have accomplished this for almost two decades now through our Office of Neighborhood Vitality. They have programs to assist neighborhood groups with matching grant funds for improvements. Three years ago we initiated our Home Improvement Incentive Rebate Program to assist individual homeowners with updates and/or repairs. I have and will support these programs in the future.

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

A: I feel that our permitting process is adequate and fulfills our legal obligations to ensure safety and quality. That being said there could always be improvements. Part of those improvements would be better outreach to the end users. Better explanations upfront of the processes and timelines could alleviate some frustrations.

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

A: Our City Council has worked very closely with City Management and our Chief of Police on this in recent years as the problem has escalated. We have worked to increase starting salaries for recruiting as well as the overall pay structure for retention. We have also expanded our recruitment efforts to include veterans as well as experienced officers from other jurisdictions. Our "lateral transfer" program has been a very successful new tool. It allows for easier transitions of experienced officers to our department in training and seniority.

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 question comes up every few years as municipal voter turnout struggles. Having municipal and school district elections in November would certainly increase the opportunity for greater voter input on the outcomes. Unfortunately what I think it would also do is interfere with our non-partisan offices. By holding non-partisan offices we are better able to address the daily concerns and needs of the residents. We also could not do the odd numbered years suggestion since this would put all nine of our councilmembers up for election or re-election up at the same time. This would be too disruptive to the process. We stagger our elections every year with only four of eight districts up at one time to help maintain continuity.

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

A: One of our biggest challenges is limited citizen participation. During my time in office I have worked very hard to encourage participation and foster future representatives. Our greatest opportunity right now is the 635 East project. With the completion we will for the first time have continuous service roads and individual cross street entrances/exits. Not having those service has always been problematic for traffic flow as well as access to businesses along the corridor. This project should conclude in late 2024. Our city is already preparing for this by updating the surrounding surface streets and adjacent property acquisitions.

GARLAND DISTRICT 3

ED MOORE



Occupation: Retired

Education: Doctor of Ministry, Master of Divinity, Bachelor of Arts, Associate of Arts

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

A: My lifelong love of servant leadership, ability to bring stakeholders together, commitment to assuring all voices are heard, and persistence at completing the job are qualities that help at being an effective City Council member.

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: Annual reviews regarding housing inventories allows for planning increased safe, quality, affordable housing in our community.

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

A: Garland regularly assesses the licensing and permitting process annually through committees and audits to assure compliance and comparability.

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

A: Annual reviews of salaries, training, equipment, and retirement benefits are some of the ways we support, attract, and retain public safety personnel.

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: Traditionally, voter turnout is slow during May elections. Moving the elections during odd numbered years may save some tax dollar expense and increase the turn out.

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

A: Garland's greatest challenge is recognizing we are part of a Geo-region that will see extreme population growth during the next 25 years ... having a plan for how we will handle this influx is both our greatest challenge and opportunity.

PC MATHEW



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Education: BS IN ACCOUNTING

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Campaign YouTube URL: <https://studio.youtube.com/channel/UCsAyFcvs26M-deZX-c1-Ukg/editing/images>

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

A: I am running because I would like to make a change. I would like to see Garland as one of the safest cities, wherein we can live, work and do business.

Based upon my experience in the city of Garland after my last election in May 2021 as the Run-Off Candidate, I have proved that there is lot of support from the District for me.

A Veteran of Bahrain Defense / US Army Corps of Engineers.

Served at Shaikh Isa Military Airbase During Gulf War.

Graduated year-long LEADERSHIP GARLAND program.

Member of Garland Chamber of Commerce.

Served on the Environmental & Community Advisory Board.

Rustic Oaks HOA Board Vice President, Garland.

etc.

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 we need to increase safe, quality, and affordable housing. There is a great shortage of housing. We need to attract builders and investors to Garland.

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

A: The current licensing and permitting process is okay to an extent. However, we should see we can make it simple and transparent for the citizens.

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

A: The current public safety is fine when you look from afar. However, we are still not the safest City when you compare it with other cities. We can take some more effective measures.

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 doesn't make any difference to me because the people know who they should vote and who can make changes, and who can be the voice of the people.

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

A: Multicultural community and its welfare is the greatest challenge. Bringing them to civic engagement is another challenge. The city can have several programs to bring them together.

GARLAND DISTRICTS 6, 7, 8

CARISSA DUTTON, DYLAN HEDRICK, CHRIS OTT: UNOPPOSED

GARLAND ISD

The 7 board members are elected at-large to 3-year terms. They serve on a volunteer basis, devoting many hours to overseeing the management of the district. School trustees make all final decisions regarding school district priorities, policies, personnel, textbooks, expenditures, and growth management. Trustees adopt a budget which is necessary to maintain and operate the schools, levy taxes to support the budget, and submit bond issues to the citizens of the district to finance construction projects.

Whichever candidate gets the most votes wins. There are no runoff elections.

GARLAND ISD PL 4

DAPHNE STANLEY



Occupation: Manager, Store Planning
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 Campaign YouTube URL: <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?pli=1#inbox?projector=1>

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

A: 20+ yrs as a Business Analyst managing millions of dollars. Navigating through the Public School systems in California, Idaho and here in Texas. Battling the red tape brought upon schools by legislators and many times the Administrators who have lost touch with the day to day struggles within our schools. My greatest asset is the role I have played in being a mother and grandmother. There is no harder task then raising a family, working outside the home and still maintaining a presence in your children's lives. I have shown that I listen, research and engage with our community in making decisions that affect our district.

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: GISD has a very robust school choice system currently. We can always improve any system. The current Board requested an in-depth audit of all our school programs last year. This will be a tool in determining what is and is not working. I will support any and all programs that are showing that our students are engaged and growing in their knowledge and self-worth.

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: Curriculum decisions need to be brought back to local control. SBOE needs to be returned to the public. The original intent was for these representatives to be a voice for parents. They have been stripped of most oversight of school curriculum by our State Legislators and turned their oversight over to the TEA that answer to no voting public. Parents should be appointed by their Board Members to sit on review committee to see firsthand what vendors, tools that Administrators will push down to teachers for use in teaching our kids.

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

A: We must get the State to increase the basic allotment. This will allow districts to increase teacher salaries. This will help to attract teachers back into teaching and attract young people to seek a career in teaching. We must return control of classrooms back to our teachers. Teachers need to be allowed to teach to comprehension and not to a check list created by State and Federal Agencies. The way that our State has structured school finance, it dictates that schools must come to the taxpayers via bonds to renovate, replace, and build new facilities. This method means that additional tax burdens will always be present.

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: We must provide quality instruction in the classrooms. While on the board I voted to approved 50 additional positions strictly for assisting teachers with more prep and instructional planning time. I would like us to look at bringing on Behavior Specialists for all campuses. Our teachers cannot provide quality instruction and work to solve specific behavior issues. Counselors needs to be allowed to spend their time in providing parents with current community resources to assist in mental health in not only our students but in the family unit.

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

A: Long range strategic plan to rebuild insufficient schools, right size our district and overall improvement of our infrastructure. Should the 2023 bond pass, I am qualified to provide guidance in managing the bond. Keeping projects on track to complete in an efficient timely manner and within budget. I have firsthand experience in supply chain issues, budget management as well as resource management during the last 3 years in the public sector. Where many retailers have closed their doors due to these issues, I have been on a team that has not only survived but come out stronger and more agile than ever before.

JED N REED



Occupation: Retired Educator

Education: South Garland H.S.; BSEd Texas Tech University; Masters in Public Administration Texas A&M Commerce

Campaign Email: jed4gisd@gmail.com

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

A: Previous experience as an elected GISD board member (2016-2020) during which the board oversaw the implementation of the 2016 Bond Issue/hired a new Superintendent and improved the performance of students and the State ranking given to the District. 40+years of public-school experience as a teacher; campus leader; and central office administrator.

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: The GISD has had school choice within the district for several decades. This choice system allows parents to select campus location and specialized programmatic campus that best meets the need for their child. Some of the selections are based upon interest and others are based upon admission standards that are part of the acceptance process. The District is constantly reviewing the offering and guidelines to enhance the choice and meet the development of new concepts within the district.

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: Parental engagement and review of curriculum content is not new within the operation of the district. One example that can be used as a model would be the District's School Health Advisory Council (SHAC). This committee is made up of staff; community leaders and parents and makes recommendations to the Board on various health issues and reviews curriculum concerning a wide area of health/mental health/human sexuality curriculum that the district uses. Other advisory committees could be established to address curriculum as allowed by State Law and directives from the Texas Education Agency.

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

A: Personnel costs are approximately 85% of the budget. When dealing with funding shortfalls, unfunded mandates from the state and federal government and the growing needs of a student population that exceed 70% low socio-economic status the process is difficult. Add this to the shortage of potential teacher candidates the district is at a critical point. Create recruitment proceeds to bring new employees forward for consideration need to be used. Staffing and program reviews need to be an annual process to make sure that the budget support efforts that are producing positive student gains. Much relief could come from the state action.

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: The support of student mental health issues and the resulting impact upon performance and behavior must be addressed. It must be done with the full and transparent engagement of the parents with appropriate and timely notification of concerns and actions. Additional state funding for school base counselor support is needed to provide that outreach to students.

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

- A:**
- Should the 2023 School Bond pass the board will need to be very engaged in the oversight of the implementation of the projects approved by the voters.
 - On-level reading skills by 3rd grade.
 - Increase of student performance while closing the gap between student groups.
 - Stronger support for students in the transitional years of 5th to 6th and 8th to 9th to increase student success moving into High School.
 - Implementation of new state mandates to the College/Career/Military Readiness (CCMR) process for the benefit of student success after graduation
 - Update the Board Goal's to post COVID expectations.

GARLAND ISD PL 5

JAMIE MILLER



Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100062951876098&mibextid=LQQJ4d
 Campaign YouTube URL: none
 Campaign Email: jnmillertx@gmail.com
 Campaign Phone: 214-536-9817
 Education: Bachelors Degree from Texas Tech University in Business
 Occupation: Banker

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

A: I am a servant leader who loves to meet with people to get things done. I work to build a consensus and will take the time to explore and understand various viewpoints and as a former Board President these qualities brought our Trustee team together during an unexpected pandemic. My belief in empowering others is also evident from my long history in banking and providing leadership for many charities, churches, and community organizations that I have served on in my career. Entities that I have served include Baylor Hospital of Garland, New Beginning Center of Garland, Chair of Garland Eco. Dev, and Garland Education Foundation.

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: GISD is a Freedom of Choice district and it has allowed us to provide a wide variety of programs benefitting all of our students. I favor programs that help kids thrive and GISD offers a wealth of diverse options. From IB, Magnate, MST Gifted and Talented, Bi-Lingual, Dyslexia, Fine Arts, Athletics to College Dual Credit GISD is very well rounded. We have recently opened 6 new magnate schools. Our recently opened Career Technology Center has opened a world of career paths for students and opened doors of opportunity. The Metroplex has many options for students, but I believe that none can match GISD in its program offerings.

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: The State determines the curriculum for public education. At GISD we welcome parental involvement. If a parent wants to review the materials used in a particular class we welcome their interest. As an example: in our Social and Emotional Learning we involved parents and community leaders to review our materials for the classroom. At the district level we applaud parental involvement.

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

A: Attracting, retaining and properly compensating Teachers is a topic that is certainly a main issue facing the district. GISD has not been able to fully staff since COVID and that trend continues today. GISD has spent \$55MM since COVID on stipends, supplemental pay and technology devices. Last year GISD was the first to raise salaries to \$60M for starting teachers and give 5% across the board raises. But more needs to be done. Kids need quality instruction in the classroom. We need a State funding formula that allows room for raises from year to year.

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: In addition to having counselors at our campuses, at GISD we encourage kids to be involved in the many after school activities that we offer. We strive to have the students belong to one of the many groups such as athletics, clubs, fine arts, step teams etc. These are all groups that exist to help kids thrive. I believe in keeping kids connected to healthy activities both inside and outside of the classroom.

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

A: Capital Improvements: May 2023 has a critical bond program that will invest heavily in school safety, rebuilding inefficient schools, career readiness, and infrastructure improvements. This passage is imperative to GISD's success. Furthermore, upon passage having the experience and wisdom on how to manage a bond program is of utmost importance. Keeping everything timely and within budget during our record breaking rising cost of living is within my skill set as a Bank President. Academic Recovery and School Safety will remain a priority as it has for the last 6 years while I have served.

KRISTINA STERLING



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Campaign Phone: 8178747213

Education: Doctorate in Education

Occupation: Educator Success Manager

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

A: I have worked in education starting as an interventionist, moved to a middle school teacher and department head, and then transitioned into teacher preparation through alternative certification and higher ed partnership. I also give professional developments to school districts as a personal business. In other words, I have worked with all facets of education from the people side to the business side. I have my Masters and Doctorate in education so I have studied education in many ways and I believe that my 360 degree understanding of education makes my voice unique and important to the school board.

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: I believe that school choice is something great that Garland offers. I think that it is important that students and families feel that they have found a community when it comes to where the student is going to school. I also think that sometimes with special programs it is important for families to be able to have a say in where their child is going to be serviced.

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: I think that parents should understand the curriculum that is being taught. I think that it is important to hear the community and understand if they have any questions but as a parent I want to help build a district where I trust the decisions that are being made and I know that my child is getting a well rounded education that makes them productive citizens.

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 is such a complicated and complex issue but one that needs to be addressed because our teachers need to feel appreciated and we do that through the structure of compensation. My approach would be to see what my colleagues and peers have done because I know that they have put in hard work to create a budget and then be able to use my fresh eyes and perspective to be able to see if there are areas I could offer some suggestions to help us figure this out.

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: We have to provide teachers with the appropriate training. We need to provide targeted training that models how to support children both socially, emotionally, and cognitively. We have to train teachers on how to create communities of safety and respect in their classrooms.

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

A: Mental health of student and teachers, retention and recruitment of teachers, and community partnerships that target the needs of our marginalized populations.

GARLAND ISD BOND ELECTION

Proposition A

THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,103,130,000 OF BONDS BY THE GARLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES, THE PURCHASE OF NECESSARY SITES FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES, BUSES AND VEHICLES AND THE IMPOSITION OF A TAX SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS AND THE COST OF ANY CREDIT AGREEMENTS. THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

Vote “For” or “Against”

Proposition B

THE ISSUANCE OF \$135,910,000 OF BONDS BY THE GARLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR A MULTI-PROGRAM ACTIVITY CENTER AT EACH HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS, AND THE IMPOSITION OF A TAX SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS AND THE COST OF ANY CREDIT AGREEMENTS. THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

Vote “For” or “Against”

Proposition C

THE ISSUANCE OF \$40,605,000 OF BONDS BY THE GARLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT AND THE IMPOSITION OF A TAX SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS AND THE COST OF ANY CREDIT AGREEMENTS. THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

Vote “For” or “Against”

Description

The Garland ISD (GISD) serves 53,000 students on 72 campuses in three cities – Garland, Rowlett and Sachse. The district seeks authorization to issue \$1,279,645,000 in bonds to fund improvements in three areas.:

PROPOSITION A (86%) the largest part of the plan, addresses facilities. Every campus is improved. A list of improvements by campus can be found at <https://garlandisd.net/about/bond-2023> . Plans include:

- Safety and security measures like fencing, removal of all portables from elementary campuses, classroom barrier improvements and other.
- Facility improvements. Four elementary campuses would be replaced with energy efficient new construction. All elementary campuses would get 2 new ADA-accessible playgrounds with canopies. Plans include locker room renovations, new fieldhouses for all high schools, turf fields with bleacher canopies for all high school softball and baseball fields, and other.
- Infrastructure improvements. Infrastructure refers to the basic buildings and systems that support district operations. These improvements include plans for a new transportation center, a new network operations center, expansion of the Gilbreath-Reed Career and Technology Center, and other.

PROPOSITION B (11%) would provide Multi-Purpose Activity Centers at all seven high schools. Multipurpose activity centers are versatile indoor spaces for athletics and student activities including various academic, fine arts and athletic programs.

PROPOSITION C (3%) would provide updated technology devices for students and staff.

The bond package was compiled by a diverse committee of more than 80 people (Citizen Bond Steering Committee) selected by district staff and the Board of Trustees. The Committee met over three months, toured facilities from the long-range facilities plan, and studied finances. An improvement plan was approved unanimously by the Board of Trustees in January which then called for the May election on February 14.

Voters last authorized bonds for GISD in the amount of \$455,500,000 in 2014. All of that authorization has been issued.

If approved by the voters, the 2023 bonds will be issued over the next few years as needed for improvements and as previously issued bonds are retired. The district expects the impact on the tax rate would be an increase of approximately \$.0661 over the current tax rate. Property tax rates for Garland ISD 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 debt is rated Aaa by Moody's and AA+ by Fitch. The TEA accountability rating for the district is B (87 out of 100).

Detail about the plan and proposed improvements can be found at <https://garlandisd.net>

Reasons to vote “For” and “Against” the propositions:

REASONS TO VOTE FOR	REASONS TO VOTE AGAINST
Currently GISD's facilities are aging and due for upgrade. An independent assessment of facilities identified over \$3 billion in necessary repairs and upgrades. The average age of buildings is 44 years. GISD needs to do better for students.	Cosmetic enhancements may be all that's needed to bring GISD up to standard. Just because facilities are old does not mean they need replacement or major overhaul.
Quality education is among the highest of priorities for parents and businesses in a community. Safe, modern facilities make a tremendous difference for students and teachers, enabling them to reach their potential.	Construction and reconstruction projects may be disruptive to students in classrooms. Modest improvements over a longer period would be more conducive to the learning process.
GISD's property tax is among the lowest of nearby and comparable districts and would only be in the middle after the expected rate increase, suggesting that it would not be a barrier to people or businesses seeking to locate to the area.	If we experience a severe recession in the future, debt from this authorization could stress the district financially. The economy is too volatile right now to risk such a large bond authorization.
GISD's very high bond ratings from Moody's and Fitch indicate confidence of experts in the district's financial health and management.	Third parties such as bond rating agencies are not as familiar with our district as residents. Residents should decide for themselves if the 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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Sự Kiện Bầu Cử Địa Phương. Sẵn sàng bỏ phiếu.

 **Bầu Cử địa phương* là Thứ Bảy, 6 Tháng 5!**

- **BẦU CỬ SỚM: THỨ HAI, 24 THÁNG 4 - THỨ BA, 02 THÁNG 5**
- **NGÀY CUỐI GHI DANH BẦU CỬ: THỨ NĂM, NGÀY 6 THÁNG 4**

**Bầu cử địa phương là phi đảng phái. Đây là cơ hội để Quý vị bỏ phiếu cho Thị trưởng, Thành viên hội đồng thành phố và Ủy viên khu học chánh.*

Có tiếng nói trong chính phủ của quý vị! 

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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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