



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

DESOTO
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 DeSoto and the DeSoto 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



CITY OF DESOTO

The City Council is the governing and lawmaking body of the City of DeSoto and consists of a mayor and six Councilmembers. All are elected at large, by qualified voters of the entire city, and members must reside in the district they represent. The mayor represents the city as a whole and is not required to live in a particular district. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the votes, there will be a runoff election. Elected officials serve staggered terms of three years.

City Council are open to the public and are held on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.at City Hall.

DESOTO CITY COUNCIL PL 2

EMMANUEL JOHNSON, GILBERT GRAIM: NO RESPONSE

PIERETTE PARKER



Occupation: Business Owner/Sr. Business Analyst

Education: Bachelors of Science - University of North Texas, Associates of Arts - Richland College

Campaign Phone: 2143080689

Website: www.pparker4place2.com

Campaign Email: pparker4place2@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PParker4DesotoPlace2/

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

A: Professionally I work with teams regarding the processes that help departmental groups, and individuals perform a task or multiple tasks to do everyday work. I plan to dig into processes that can be assessed to find what currently is working, not working, or is non-existent that may help Desoto residents and those that come in and through the City. I believe that "How" a City does what it does is just as important as the "What" they do. When processes are clearly defined and communicated many of the issues that arise regarding lack of fiduciary duty, integrity shortfalls, and little or no transparency can be lessened or eradicated.

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 are several ideas regarding affordable housing that I would like to explore. My biggest concern with affordable is its built-in regulations that in my opinion are there to keep people at a certain level instead of encouraging them to go further. I think having affordable housing is important but they must find a way to build the program to help and not harm as I feel it is built today.

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

A: Currently, I see issues in that the process is not as clear as it could be. I think there should be an opportunity to provide more information about the process and timelines that are currently not readily available. These are the kinds of processes that I would like to get more involved with to help make information consumable to those that are ending to consume it.

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

A: I believe the process of when the Care team comes to a scene may need to be changed and an increase in those members. I would also like it if the City had a Public Health Advisory Committee implemented to provide the community with a place to learn more about issues related to public health. Such as one already implemented in Grand Prairie, Texas. This type of implementation could help the Police in that there are so many health emergencies that could be addressed by this team.

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 not opposed to the elections changing to a day in November instead of May. Right now I think there is so much going on the campaign trail that could be better done during the latter part of the year instead of the beginning.

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

A: Bringing the community out of their homes into the community. To grow and attract new businesses one of my ideas is; Desoto is a great city with a vast number of remote workers and entrepreneurs. Desoto could leverage our wonderful parks/greenspace and open areas to create more remote work opportunities like a type of work-away-from-home remote workspaces right in Desoto. Along with making changes to structural infrastructure changes to the digital infrastructure, are needed to make this possible. With these types of updates, businesses can add retail shopping and restaurants to various locations for all residents to sustain the businesses.

DESOTO CITY COUNCIL PL 4

ANDRE BYRD, SR: NO RESPONSE

ERIKA ESTES



Education: Graduate Cum Laude University of North Texas
 Website: www.ErikaEstes.com
 Occupation: Real Estate Broker
 Campaign Phone: 2147055700
 Campaign Email: Askerikaestes@gmail.com
 Facebook: [Facebook.com/ErikaEstesBroker](https://www.facebook.com/ErikaEstesBroker)

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

A: What qualifies me to run is 30 years of grassroot organizing and community activism working for behalf of the community. Recently while living in my senior community, me and other residents had some serious issues and no one would help us. I had no choice but to take action, and running for Desoto City Council Place 4 is one of many steps.

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 need for community/public safety education: The Community Crime Prevention Intervention is an active education platform that I have spoken to Desoto Police Department about and have posted to all the community, in order to help them learn how to use the tools that the Police Department already have in place. Examples:

1. Using 411 and anonymous calls for reporting Crime.
2. Get to know your Lieutenant on shift duty in your community area and forward him your Ring camera footage of the crime occurring & more.

All the multi-family communities I have lived in have shared the same issues. Poor management and high crime..

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

A: I have not had gone through any licensing and permit issues with any of my clients. Nor have I heard of any complaints.

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

A: To attract and retain public safety personnel in my opinion would be to start engagement with the community by starting Career Fair Interaction at the high school grade levels throughout the city with students. I believe creating a campaign solely focusing on recruitment would be beneficial as well.

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: If moving the city's elections would increase voters' turn-out I would be open for the move.

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

A: The City of DeSoto current and greatest challenge is Community Engagement, with DeSoto have over 58,000 residents and less than 3500 people are coming out to vote signals there are big issues. Therefore, the opportunity to have new City Council members who can and will bring the community together would be great for all the citizens of DeSoto.

DESOTO CHARTER AMENDMENT ELECTION

The city of DeSoto serves a population of 56,000. It proposes 36 amendments (PROPOSITION A - PROPOSITION LL) to its home rule charter, the document that sets forth the city's structure and describes its powers and duties. Texas cities review their charters periodically, usually at five-to-ten-year intervals. DeSoto's charter was last reviewed in 2017.

As a home-rule city, DeSoto may pass the laws and regulations it deems necessary unless prohibited by state law. By contrast, a smaller general-law city may only do what is authorized by the state legislature.

A Citizens Charter Review Commission was appointed by the city council in August 2022. It met four times and considered recommendations in detail. The City Council reviewed those recommendations and determined items to be voted on in the May 2023 election.

See more detail and discussion at <http://www.ci.desoto.tx.us/2174/Charter-Review-Propositions-2023>

BALLOT LANGUAGE AND IMPACT

Vote "For" or "Against" each proposition separately.

PROPOSITION BALLOT LANGUAGE	IMPACT	REASONS TO VOTE FOR	REASONS TO VOTE AGAINST
PROPOSITION A: Shall Article I, Section 3, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to remove the references to outdated State law and reference current State law as it relates to the general powers of the City?	Charter language currently reflects references to outdated statutes. This language is cleaner, removes references to outdated statutes, uses the terminology that the City exercises those powers allowed under the constitution and laws of the State of Texas.	Aligns City Charter with current State law.	No reason to vote against.

PROPOSITION B: Shall Article I, Section 6, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to require the City's boundaries to be established by ordinance and that the City Secretary shall maintain an official map of the City's boundaries as required by State law?	Removes language that references "a book called 'Official Record Describing the Metes and Bounds of the City of DeSoto' and references what is required by law.	Aligns City Charter with current State law.	No reason to vote against.
PROPOSITION C: Shall Article I, Section 7, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to reflect current State law as it relates to the ability of the City to annex and deannex any property?	The amendment reflects current law on annexation and deannexation and removes any reference to annexation without consent.	Aligns City Charter with current State law.	No reason to vote against.
PROPOSITION D: Shall Article II, Section 1, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to remove the following language that places term limits on the Mayor and City Councilmembers: "A person who has served as a Councilmember for six (6) or more consecutive years shall not be eligible to become a candidate for, or to serve as, a Councilmember for any place on the City Council, except Mayor, until at least one (1) year has elapsed from the expiration of such person's previous term of office. A person who has served as Mayor for six (6) or more consecutive years shall not be eligible to become a candidate for, or to serve in, any place on the City Council, including Mayor, until at least one (1) year has elapsed from the expiration of such person's previous term of office as Mayor?"	Office positions of the Mayor and City Council are limited to serving no more than 6 consecutive years. This amendment would remove that requirement allowing persons filling those offices to serve longer.	Term limits are unnecessary. Voters can decline to reelect a candidate at any election. Also, the skill and experience of good councilmembers are lost when incumbents are forced out due to term limits. We should let the term limits go.	Mandatory breaks in service encourage more candidates for office as some people are reluctant to run against incumbents. Also, new council members will bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the job. We should keep the term limits.
PROPOSITION E: Shall Article II, Section 2, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to delete the reference to the "DeSoto Economic Development Corporation" and the "DeSoto Park Development Corporation," and replace with the "DeSoto Development Corporation?"	This paragraph reflects the current reference for the DeSoto Development Corporation and removes the old reference to the Economic Development Corporation and Park Development Corporation.	Updates the Charter, removes obsolete references.	No reason to vote against.
PROPOSITION F: Shall Article II, Section 3, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to comply with State law by requiring Councilmembers to reside within their representative district 1 year prior to the date of the election?	The State Election Code does not allow a charter to provide for residency longer than 12 months prior to election date. This proposition amends the charter to conform to state law.	Aligns City Charter with current State law.	No reason to vote against.
PROPOSITION G: Shall Article II, Section 7, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to remove the requirement that the Mayor signs all contracts and conveyances entered into by the City and allow the City Manager to execute contracts and conveyances?	The City Manager is regularly delegated authority to sign contracts on behalf of the City Council.	Signing contracts that have been approved according to law is a routine matter that is regularly delegated to the city manager. This amendment simply formalizes the process.	No reason to vote against.

PROPOSITION H: Shall Article II, Section 10, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to remove the requirement that the City publish in the official newspaper of the City the official meeting dates for the City Council?	Publishing the ordinance or resolution setting the Council's regular meeting schedule in the official newspaper is not required by State law. This would not change meeting notice requirements and would reduce costs.	This merely refers to publication of the ordinance or resolution that sets the official Council meeting dates in a newspaper. The meeting dates themselves are published according to state law.	No reason to vote against.
PROPOSITION I: Shall Article II, Section 11, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to add the language "except as otherwise permitted by State law" when referencing that the meetings of the City Council will be open to the public?	State law allows for specific topics such as legal advice and discussions to purchase land to be held in executive session to protect confidentiality. This language complies with State law for these discussions.	Aligns City Charter with current State law.	No reason to vote against.
PROPOSITION J: Shall Article II, Section 11, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to remove the requirement that the rules of procedure for the City Council must be adopted and readopted at the first meeting following the annual municipal election?	The existing requirement to adopt the Rules of Procedure at the first meeting following the election is administratively difficult when newly elected Council Members are seated and must then immediately adopt Rules of Procedure.	The newly elected council members should not be expected to immediately adopt Rules of Procedure until they have experience.	No reason to vote against.
PROPOSITION K: Shall Article II, Section 13, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to add language "or as otherwise allowed by State law" when referencing the requirements for publishing of Ordinances in the newspaper?	Allows the City to utilize different publication mediums if they are available and allowed under State law.	Aligns City Charter with current State law.	No reason to vote against.
PROPOSITION L: Shall Article III, Section 5, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to require the returns of all municipal elections, canvass of the vote and declaring the results of the election to conform with State law requirements for such?	This amendment references State law for canvassing and declaring results of general and special elections.	Aligns City Charter with current State law.	No reason to vote against.
PROPOSITION M: Shall Article III, Section 6, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to add language that reflects State law requirements that the City Council shall order a runoff election to be held not earlier than twenty (20) days nor later than forty-five (45) days after the final canvass of the regular election, or as such other time period as may be prescribed?	This amendment references the State law requirement for runoff elections.	Aligns City Charter with current State law.	No reason to vote against.

<p>PROPOSITION N: Shall Article IV, Section 2, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to add language that states “the qualified voters of the City may require that any ordinance enacted by the City Council be submitted to the qualified voters of the City for approval or disapproval and to further clarify what types of ordinances are subject to referendum by adding language that states “the power of referendum shall not apply to ordinances levying taxes, appropriating money, authorizing the issuance of bonds, zoning, and any ordinance not the proper subject of referendum by the State Constitution or State law”?</p>	<p>Cleans up language regarding the referendum process to identify what items are not subject to referendum per State law.</p>	<p>Aligns City Charter with current State law.</p>	<p>No reason to vote against.</p>
<p>PROPOSITION O: Shall Article IV, Section 4, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to remove the language requiring the City Secretary to declare invalid any petition that does not have an affidavit attached and requiring the City Secretary to write “D.V.” representing that the person is a disqualified voter and add language requiring the City Attorney to review each petition to determine if it is the proper subject and in proper form?</p>	<p>Removes duplicate language since the affidavit is part of the petition. Simplifies the process for the City Secretary to certify the results and present to City Council.</p>	<p>Aligns City Charter with current State law.</p>	<p>No reason to vote against.</p>
<p>PROPOSITION P: Shall Article IV, Section 7, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to require a petition for recall to be first filed with the City Secretary and the petition shall name the Mayor or Councilmember to be removed, contain a statement of the grounds for which the removal is sought, and require a separate petition for the Mayor or each Councilmember whose removal is sought?</p>	<p>Outlines the process by which a petition to recall the Mayor or a council member is filed with the City Secretary and that such petition shall state the grounds for recall. Requires a separate petition for each official being recalled.</p>	<p>This amendment would increase the disclosure requirements in connect with a recall effort. Those seeking a recall should be required to state in writing their reasons for such a serious step.</p>	<p>Current requirements for a recall petition are adequate.</p>
<p>PROPOSITION Q: Shall Article IV, Section 8, of the Home Rule Charter be amended to add language to require the City Secretary to examine a petition for a recall election to determine if it is signed by the required number of qualified voters and providing for a process for the petition to be amended within 10 10 days from the date the City Secretary attached a certificate to the petition?</p>	<p>Provides more details for the recall election process and removes the requirement for a public hearing.</p>	<p>Someone in authority should verify that the number of signatures on a recall petition is adequate.</p>	<p>An elected official facing a recall should be able to rebut the reasons stated for a recall in public. This is only fair.</p>
<p>PROPOSITION R: Shall Article IV, Section 10, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to add language that requires a vacancy in office to be filled in accordance with State law and the City Charter?</p>	<p>Cleans up language to reference following State law.</p>	<p>Aligns City Charter with current State law.</p>	<p>No reason to vote against.</p>

PROPOSITION S: Shall Article IV, Section 11, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to state that no recall election shall be filed against the Mayor or Councilmember within 3 months after such election or appointment to the City Council, and in no case within 3 months prior to the expiration of such person's term of office?	Prevents a recall petition being filed within 3 months prior to the expiration of the officer's term of office.	It would be wasteful to file a recall petition before an elected official has had time to prove fitness for office, or too close to the time when the official's term of office is about to end.	Citizens' right to file a recall petition should not be constrained.
PROPOSITION T: Shall Article V, Section 2, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to clarify that the City Manager has the authority to employ and remove employees except those that are appointed by the City Council?	Clarifies that the City Manager is responsible for appointing and removing all staff positions that are not otherwise appointed or removed by the City Council.	Clarifies the duties of the City Manager.	No reason to vote against.
PROPOSITION U: Shall Article VI, Section 2, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to require the Municipal Judge and Alternate Municipal Judge to be a licensed attorney in the State of Texas and serve as provided by State law?	Reflects State law requirements for appointment and term of the municipal judge. Adds reference to appointing an alternate judge.	Aligns City Charter with current State law.	No reason to vote against.
PROPOSITION V: Shall Article VI, Section 2, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to provide that the Municipal Judge and Alternate Municipal Judge shall receive compensation as is approved by the City Council?	Provides clarity that the City Council is responsible for establishing the amount of compensation that the Municipal Judge and Alternate Municipal Judge receive.	This specifies that compensation for alternate court judges as well as compensation for the Municipal Judge shall be set by the City Council that also appoints them.	No reason for vote against.
PROPOSITION W: Shall Article VII, Section 2, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to provide that the budget submitted to the City Council shall contain an itemized list of proposed expenses by office and department, including a list of capital projects, as compared to actual expenses of the last ended fiscal year and the present year to date?	Reference that the budget shall comply with all state law requirements. Deletes the requirement that expenses be itemized by employee and clarifies that projects includes capital projects.	Routine clarification to budget reporting requirement.	No reason to vote against
PROPOSITION X: Shall Article VII, Section 3, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to remove redundant language and state that when the budget is submitted to the City Secretary, it shall be open to the public?	The amendment removes redundant language.	Cleans up Charter language.	No reason to vote against.
PROPOSITION Y: Shall Article VII, Section 4, of the Home Rule Charter be amended to require a public hearing on the budget as required by State law?	Reflects State law requirements.	Aligns City Charter with current State law.	No reason to vote against.

PROPOSITION Z: Shall Article VII, Section 5, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to require the process for the adoption of the budget to reflect State law requirements?	Currently the Charter requires the budget be adopted 10 days before the beginning of a new fiscal year. However, state law does not place this timing requirement on the City for adoption of the budget.	Aligns City Charter with current State law.	No reason to vote against.
PROPOSITION AA: Shall Article VII, Section 9, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to require the City Manager to submit to the City Council each month a report of the financial conditions of the City in a format and containing such information as required by the City Council?	This amendment gives City Council greater flexibility as to the format for the monthly financial report. Currently the Charter spells out the information to be reported.	This amendment allows the Council to specify what they need to see on routine monthly financial reports.	No reason to vote against.
PROPOSITION BB: Shall Article VII, Section 10, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to require expenditures that were not included in the original budget to be approved by ordinance prior to the expenditure of such funds, except in the case of emergencies, such expenditure shall be ratified as soon as is reasonably allowed?	These changes more accurately reflect the current process for amendments to the budget.	This change requires that when the Council has to increase the original budget during the year, it must specify where the additional funds are coming from.	No reason to vote against
PROPOSITION CC: Shall Article VII, Section 11, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended as finally adopted to be filed with to require a copy of the budget, the City Secretary and such other places as required by State law?	Requires that the budget adopted by the City Council be filed both with the City Secretary and all other locations as required by State law.	Aligns City Charter with current State law.	No reason to vote against.
PROPOSITION DD: Shall Article VII, Section 13, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to add language to require an audit at the close of the fiscal year to be in accordance with applicable auditing standards by a Certified Public Accountant or a firm of accountants?	Reflects the current process and clarifies that the City may use an accounting firm to perform the audit. Removes the requirement that the audit results are to be published in the newspaper since they are available to the public for inspection and can also be placed on the City's website.	Since the annual audit is available for inspection by the public, the results do not need to be published in the newspaper, which can be quite expensive.	It is not necessary for audit results to be published in a newspaper, but if not, they should be available on the city's website and it's best for the audit to be conducted by a certified public accountant.
PROPOSITION EE: Shall Article VII, Section 14, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to require the City to comply with State law as it related to the purchase procedure including sealed bids or proposals on specifications for public improvements or purchases?	Deletes the current section in its entirety and replaces it with language that states the City will comply with State law requirements for purchasing.	Aligns City Charter with current State law.	No reason to vote against.
PROPOSITION FF: Shall Article VIII, Section 1, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to reflect the requirement under State law as it relates to the ability of the City to issue bonds?	The recommend language follows State law and provides flexibility if State law changes.	Aligns City Charter with current State law.	No reason to vote against.

PROPOSITION GG: Shall Article VIII, Section 2, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to require proposition(s) to issue General Obligations Bonds, payable from ad valorem taxes, to first be submitted to the voters at an election as required by State law?	These changes follow State laws, which requires propositions(s) to issue GO bonds first be submitted to DeSoto voters.	Aligns City Charter with current State law.	No reason to vote against.
PROPOSITION HH: Shall Article VIII, Section 5, of the Home Rule Charter, be repealed in its entirety because it is duplicative language that is contained in Article VIII, Section 1, of the City Charter?	Deletes the duplicative language that is contained in Section 1 for the different types of bonds.	Cleans up Charter language	No reason to vote against.
PROPOSITION II: Shall Article IX, Section 1, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to eliminate language that conflicts with State law as it relates to the City's power to levy taxes and reference that the City will have such authority consistent with the Charter, the Texas Constitution and State law?	The amended language follows State law.	Aligns City Charter with current State law.	No reason to vote against.
PROPOSITION JJ: Shall Article IX, Section 2, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to eliminate language that conflicts with State law requirements as it relates to when taxes are due and payable and track State law language as to when taxes are due and payable and provide for penalty and interest to be assessed on all delinquent taxes in such amounts as may be authorized by law?	The amended language follows State law.	Aligns City Charter with current State law.	No reason to vote against.
PROPOSITION KK: Shall Article IX, Section 3, of the Home Rule Charter, be repealed and reserved for future use to eliminate redundancy with Article IX, Section 2?	The amendment removes duplicative wording covered in Section 2.	Cleans up Charter language.	No reason to vote against.
PROPOSITION LL: Shall the following sections of the Home Rule Charter be amended to provide for gender neutral language without any substantive change: Article II, Section 9; Article IV, Section 10; Article V, Section 1; Article V, Section 5; and Article V, Section 6?	Several sections of the City Charter use gender terms. An example is that the Charter uses the pronoun "he" when referring to the city manager. Gender neutral language is recommended to be more appropriate terminology for individuals referenced in the Charter.	Cleans up Charter language.	No reason to vote against.

DESOTO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The City Council is the governing and lawmaking body of the City of DeSoto and consists of a mayor and six Councilmembers. All are elected at large, by qualified voters of the entire city, and members must reside in the district they represent. The mayor represents the city as a whole and is not required to live in a particular district. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the votes, there will be a runoff election. Elected officials serve staggered terms of three years.

City Council are open to the public and are held on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.at City Hall.

DESOTO ISD PL 3

MARSHA RAE ROBERSON



Occupation: Chemist

Education: B.S. Chemistry (Biology/Spanish minors) and Ph.D. Chemistry

Facebook: www.facebook.com/RobersonforPlace3

Campaign Email: marsha.c.roberson@gmail.com

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

A: As a scholar, I know firsthand that a great education can lift families and propel communities forward. As a former educator, I taught students how to think critically, actively learn, and successfully secure funding. As a scientist, I am an expert in data analysis, problem solving, and reading through reports and finding “what’s not being said”. As a product of public education and a mother to a 1st grader currently enrolled in our district, I also know the challenges students and parents face today. As a school board member, I want to champion policies and initiatives that create conditions for all students to learn, achieve, and succeed.

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: There is a desire for more school choice and programs and they are being implemented this upcoming year. It is early to determine if the Choice schools approach is working since it hasn't been deployed yet. I am excited at its potential considering the other growth and improvements that have been made in our students and other schools. I would support more options, preferably more hands-on and integrated across disciplines. I would support the superintendent in her plans provided they are reasonably sound and promising.

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 support parents as helpers in the class and also for sharing experiences to connect course material with real life. Their presence is helpful in exposing students to a variety of careers that may not be present in their families. They would also help in keeping order and giving teachers more breaks in the day. The superintendent should be the one to curate the curriculum, learning goals, and assessments based on their expertise and in consideration of what is instructed and what the state requires.

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

A: If elected as Trustee, my commitments to educators are to find ways that our Board can engage our former and current teachers' and acquire a candid understanding of their experiences. Also, I want to review and see if any existing policies are responsible for what our districts' teachers have indicated. Together with the other Trustees and administration, I hope that we can establish policies that make teacher compensation and benefits more attractive. Ideally, if we bring more students with great teachers, we would not have to increase tax rates because the state will provide the additional support we need to teach/use them.

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 need to engage our students and allow them to help us understand how to serve them better. By cultivating the student voice, we can gain insight on how they are learning and what would be needed to maximize their teacher-student experience. We should keep resources and personnel to offer coursework remediation and content mastery for students that have fallen behind or need mental health counselors.

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

A: I am also concerned about establishing a safe and welcoming environment at our schools so that our entire community feels secure in our district's ability to protect and serve (academically, artistically, or athletically) our community.

KAREN E LACY



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Occupation: Educational Diagnostician

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

A: I am a 23 year educator, with an M.Ed. in Administration. I am qualified to be an effective member of the Board of Trustees because I bring relevant educational competence, relevant instructional expertise, relevant data-driven analysis, and relevant critical decision-making skills needed to support the superintendent in overseeing a fiscally responsible budget that will drive and ensure positive student learning outcomes for ALL! My opponent says that she's "different," but if you have cancer, you would not want "different" to perform the surgery. You would want experience. In this race, that's me. I have the proven experience! Support me!

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: Parents are desiring better choices as it relates to the quality of education their child receives. Unfortunately, it is a pressing issue that has resulted in a continuing decline of school enrollment. However, with the hire of our new superintendent, she is introducing new programs that will satisfy the needs of parents, and I support the direction that we are moving towards.

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: Ideally, a “Campus Instructional Leadership” type team would exist, with the inclusion of parents and/or community members. The traditional Campus Instructional Leadership Team consists of a team, including the principal and teachers, who help guide a more effective and consistent implementation of curriculum in the schools. I believe that an extension of the traditional team would allow parents and/or community members insight in the process of how curriculum is implemented via the textbooks and other resources utilized. In the end, each stakeholder has a role and responsibility in being transparent about what is being taught.

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

A: The approach would be to highlight the management of funds with the focus on scalability of our budget and programs. It will also include looking at how much is being allocated for instruction, instructional support, central administration, district operations, and other use of the funds to see what impact those expenditures will have on the sum as it relates to the overall goal of positive student academic achievement. A main focus would be on finding the means to provide an ongoing competitive salary to recruit and retain teachers and staff.

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: My approach to closing the social and academic gaps exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic will be to work with the Board members to progress monitor the established goals for need of refinement, if any. Additionally, I will work alongside them to adopt realistic and specific goals that target the identified area(s) of need. Once realistic and specific goals have been set, I will work along with the Board in overseeing the progress monitoring of outcomes from programs that are implemented by the Superintendent.

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

A: I plan to work alongside the board and superintendent to determine ways to create excitement around academic achievement. Additionally, I plan to work with them to build a community closeness via creative methods, such as, hosting staff vs. parents softball games or other similar events.

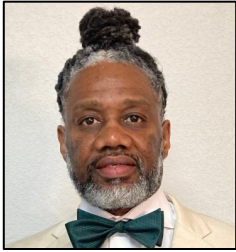
DESOTO ISD PL 4

JAMES (JD) DURHAM: UNOPPOSED

DESOTO ISD PL 5

ABE C COOPER JR: NO RESPONSE

DAVID “DAWUD” EDGERSON



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 Website: www.mreforoffice.com

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

A: With over three decades of experience in Texas public schools, including 3 1/2 years as a DeSoto ISD administrator, I have been privy to the evolution of schooling in this great state. After working in small and large school districts at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, as well as at central office, I understand the needs and concerns of students, teachers, and administrators. Additionally, I recently completed a two-year fellowship program with the Texas Education Policy Institute (TEPI). I am trained in Lone Star Governance (LSG), and I have completed intensive training and development within Leadership ISD.

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: Patrons of the district desire an effective school system that delivers great student outcomes. My community is already saturated with charter and private school programs. Thus, more school choice is not the most pressing need. In its current form, I do not support the proposal for more school choice. I believe if we remove tax dollars from public schools, it will continue to erode existing schools, as well as open pandora's box to a variety of subpar programs with ill-equipped teachers and materials. We should use those funds in ways that strengthen current programs. It can be done. It is being done in public schools across the country.

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 of Texas has a broad curriculum called the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Those TEKS guide school in developing appropriate and specific curriculum for respective Local Education Agencies (LEA), better known as school districts. Superintendents and their administrative cabinet members make the decisions regarding which curriculum should be used. School board members do not decide that function. I would recommend that parents become involved in communicating their desire for program offerings. This allows the superintendent to present ideas, as the team of 8 collectively adopts goals based on communicated values.

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 and maintaining quality teachers and staff is not just a matter of increasing salaries, but more a function of how you care for the human capital that is within your system. This looks like appropriate on-boarding for new employees, and continuing professional development for existing ones. Taking care of teachers and staff also happens in the form of providing environments that are safe, as well as conducive for teachers and learning. Safety includes the physical body, as the mental and emotional state. Safety also equates to support where needed without fear of retribution or reprimand.

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 should ensure there is a sound student support system. There should be a robust initiative to apply social emotional practices to the components of learning. We should follow the guidelines of SB 179, which require that our counselors spend at least 80% of their time delivering true counseling practices that address students (and staff) emotional state. Schools could (should) utilize social workers in schools in as effort to assist students and families with their respective needs. Additionally, learning loss can be mitigated by having research based tutoring programs that has been shown to close learning gaps.

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

A: I intend to join the team of 8 with a laser focus on the goals that were adopted previously. It is important to strengthen the positive work that has already started. Although mentioned earlier, I'll reiterate that safety (in all of its forms) will be a continuing theme of mine. With the continued school tragedies, our system is severely disrupted. We have to develop practices that restore a sense of safety and security. Another focus will be to ensure that the district is financially sound with guardrails in place to prevent waste and/or fraud. All of which creates the desired school culture that attracts families back into the district.



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