



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
VOTERS GUIDE  
NON-PARTISAN... REALLY!

DALLAS COUNTY EDITION  
GENERAL/PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020

# CON

**VOTING BY MAIL**

**EARLY VOTING**

**ELECTION DAY VOTING**

**CANDIDATE RESPONSES ON THE  
ISSUES THAT AFFECT YOU**

**ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT  
[VOTE411.ORG](https://vote411.org)**



# County Elections Voters Guide for Dallas County Voters

## League of Women Voters of Dallas

### Helpful Information

#### Websites

Dallas County Elections Department	DallasCountyVotes.org
Texas Secretary of State	VoteTexas.gov
League of Women Voters of Dallas	LWVDallas.org
League of Women Voters of Texas	LWVTexas.org
Dallas County Democratic Party	DallasDemocrats.org
Dallas County Libertarian Party	LPDallas.org
Dallas County Republican Party	DallasGOP.org

#### Telephone Numbers

Dallas County Elections Department	(469) 627-8683
Texas Secretary of State - Elections Division	(800) 252-8683
League of Women Voters of Dallas	(214) 688-4125
League of Women Voters of Texas	(512) 472-1100
League of Women Voters of Irving	(972) 251-3161
League of Women Voters of Richardson	(972) 470-0584

### About the Voters Guide

The Voters Guide is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Dallas (LWV Dallas). The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization whose mission is to promote political responsibility through the informed participation of all citizens in their government. The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

This Voters Guide lists most of the the candidates who will appear on the ballot in Dallas County. Questionnaires were not sent to write-in or unopposed candidates. Questionnaires were not sent to candidates in races where only a small portion of the jurisdictions lay in Dallas County. Several Dallas County jurisdictions opted not to participate. Jurisdiction not included in this guide are listed in the Table of Contents on Page 4. Candidate replies were not edited or verified for accuracy. Candidates appearing with no photo did not submit one.

Candidate data for Presidential candidates was collected by the League of Women Voters of the United States. Candidate data for statewide and regional candidates was collected by the League of Women Voters of Texas. Candidate data for several local races was collected by the League of Women Voters of Irving, as noted in the race description. All other data was collected by the LWV Dallas.

### Saturday, May 2, 2020 Local Election Postponed

An election for local, non-partisan candidates (city, school district and Dallas College) and related referendums was scheduled for May 2, 2020. However, Governor Greg Abbott issued a proclamation on March 18, 2020, allowing local jurisdictions to postpone their elections to November 3, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All Dallas County local jurisdictions did so. These candidates and related referendums will appear on ballots in Dallas County and are covered in this printed guide.

### On-line Voters Guide: Vote411

An electronic version of the Voter Guide can be viewed on-line at [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org). In it you can view information on all the candidates who will appear on your personal ballot. The same candidate responses to a questionnaire that appear in the printed Voters Guides also appear on [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org). Spanish language translations are provided for some races. Note that you may not use your cell phone or any other electronic device while at your polling location to look up candidate information or for any other reason.

### Eligibility for Voting

You must be a citizen of the United States, 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 men-

tally incapacitated without the right to vote or are a convicted felon who has not completed your sentence, probation and/or parole.

### Photo ID Requirement

People voting in person must present a form of photo ID or alternative approved by the state or else may only vote provisionally. For more information and exceptions see the Dallas County Elections Department website ([www.DallasCountyVotes.org](http://www.DallasCountyVotes.org)) or call the Dallas County Elections Department (214.819.6300).

### Straight Party Voting

Straight Party or Straight Ticket voting is not an available option in 2020 or in future years.

### Polling Place Times

Any voter registered in Dallas County may vote at any Dallas County polling location during these times:

You are eligible to vote early by mail if you are a registered voter who is:

• Tuesday Oct 13 through Saturday Oct 17	7 AM - 7 PM
• Sunday Oct 18	1 PM - 6 PM
• Monday Oct 19 through Saturday Oct 24	7 AM - 7 PM
• Sunday Oct 25	1 PM - 6 PM
• Monday Oct 26 through Friday Oct 30	7 AM - 7 PM
• Tuesday Nov 3 (Election Day)	7 AM - 7 PM

### 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. For addresses of locations open during early voting and those open on election day, see [DallasCountyVotes.org](http://DallasCountyVotes.org) or call the Dallas County Elections Department at (469)627-8683 or email [dallascountyvotes@dallascounty.org](mailto:dallascountyvotes@dallascounty.org).

### “Dallas County Votes Anywhere”

The Dallas County Elections Department has changed the way voting takes place in Dallas County. Voters now cast their ballots on new voting equipment that produces a paper receipt that voters can check and can vote at county-wide Vote Centers on election day similar to the way they have voted during early voting in the past. On election day, voters now have the option to vote at their neighborhood Vote Center or at a Vote Center near where they work,

shop or go to school. This program is called “Dallas County Votes Anywhere”.

During early voting, Dallas County voters continue to have the option to vote at any convenient location in Dallas County, as they have in the past.

## Dallas County Health Protocols for Voters Voting in Person

For detail, see [DallasCountyVotes.org](http://DallasCountyVotes.org).

In general,

- Voters should perform a Self-Assessment before going to a polling location for signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19.
- Voters exhibiting any of the known symptoms of COVID-19 should consider curbside voting.
- Voters should consider bringing their own marking instruments such as a pen, pencil with eraser, etc.
- Voters should consider wearing their personal cloth face covering when entering the polling place.
- The voter should be prepared to lower or remove their face covering when checking in if the election judge is not able to determine identity while wearing a face covering.
- If a voter contracts COVID-19 or other condition that prevents the voter from appearing at the polling place on election day without a likelihood of needing personal assistance or of injuring the voter's health after the deadline to submit an application for a ballot by mail, the voter should contact Dallas County Ballot by Mail at 214.819.6364 for details about submitting an Application for Emergency Early Voting Ballot.

## Early Voting by Mail (Absentee)

You are eligible to vote early by mail if you are a registered voter who is:

- 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.

If you are voting early because of an expected absence, you may apply in person for a ballot by mail before the Early Voting in Person period begins.

If you are voting by mail because you are disabled or are 65 years of age or older, you may use a single application to request ballots by mail for all county elections in a calendar year. To do so, simply mark “Annual Application” on your application for a ballot by mail when selecting the election for which you are applying. **Note that this option must be renewed every year.**

**Application:** You can request a formal application for a ballot by mail:

### Send Request by Mail:

**Toni Pippins-Poole – Early Voting Clerk**  
Dallas County Elections  
1520 Round Table Drive  
Dallas, Texas 75247

### Send Request by Email:

[evapplications@dallascounty.org](mailto:evapplications@dallascounty.org) for regular applications or  
[earlyvotingmail@dallascounty.org](mailto:earlyvotingmail@dallascounty.org) for FPCA applications

### Request by Phone or Fax:

(469)627-8683 or fax (214)819-6303.

### Print an Application Form online:

Elections Department Website [www.DallasCountyVotes.org](http://www.DallasCountyVotes.org).  
Secretary of State Website [www.VoteTexas.gov](http://www.VoteTexas.gov).

The completed application must be signed by the voter, postage applied, and it must be **RECEIVED** (not postmarked) by Dallas County Elections Department by **Friday October 23, 2020**.

**Returning A Completed Ballot:** Once you have received and marked your ballot it can be returned. Follow instructions for completing the ballot carefully. Note that the signature on the carrier envelope should be comparable to the signature on the individual's vote by mail application form. The completed ballot must be RECEIVED (not postmarked) by Dallas County Elections

- (a) if hand delivered, by 7 p.m. on election day or
- (b) if postmarked, by 5 p.m. on the day after election day or
- (c) by the 5th day after election day if it is mailed from outside the United States.

**Mail:** There have been reports in the news of slower than normal mail delivery. To avoid missing a deadline for either submitting an application for a mail ballot or submitting a voted ballot, voters are urged to mail forms well in advance (several weeks) of legal deadlines. If a voter is concerned about timeliness, a completed ballot may be turned in in person any time up to and including election day at the office of the Early Voting Clerk at 1520 Round Table Drive, Dallas, Texas 75247. The completed ballot may only be turned in by the voter who filled it out, and the voter must show acceptable photo ID.

**Cancelling a Mail Ballot:** If a voter has applied for and receives a mail ballot but decides to vote in person instead over concerns about timeliness of the mail or for any other reason, the voter may turn in his or her uncompleted ballot at any polling place in Dallas County and then vote in person. In this case, the voter should be prepared to wait for up to an hour for the mail ballot to be cancelled in the system before he or she is allowed to vote in person.

**Special provision for active-duty military or living overseas:** If you or family members are active-duty military or living overseas, you are welcome to use the regular vote by mail process through your home county, but you can also take advantage of special provisions available to you through the Federal Postcard Application (FPCA). Information about FPCA and the required application form can be found on-line at [www.votetexas.gov/military-overseas-voters](http://www.votetexas.gov/military-overseas-voters). The FPCA application must be filled out and received by the County as soon as possible but no later than the 11th day before election day.

**More Information:** For more information on early voting by mail, call Dallas County at (214) 819-6300, or email [earlyvotingmail@dallascounty.org](mailto:earlyvotingmail@dallascounty.org) or write to Dallas County Elections at the above address.

## Provisional Voting

Provisional voting is designed to allow a voter to vote whose name does not appear on the list of registered voters due to an administrative error. The provisional voting process involves an affidavit that (1) the voter must complete stating the reasons he or she is qualified to vote; and (2) is used if the voter's registration cannot be verified by the polling place election officials OR if a voter (a) does not possess one of the acceptable forms of photo identification listed above, and a voter can reasonably obtain one of these forms of identification or (b) possesses, but did not bring to the polling place, one of the seven forms of acceptable photo identification listed above, or (c) does not possess one of the seven forms of acceptable photo identification, could otherwise not reasonably obtain one, but did not bring a supporting form of identification to the polling place.

A voter can visit the Voter Registrar's office within six calendar days of the date of the election to “cure” the reason the ballot cast was provisional and not a regular ballot. Detail on this process can be found at the Texas Secretary of State's website at [www.VoteTexas.gov/faq/](http://www.VoteTexas.gov/faq/). If cured, the provisional ballot will count.

The voter-marked provisional ballots are kept separately from the regular ballots, and the voter's records will be reviewed by the provisional voting ballot board (the early voting ballot board), to determine if the ballot is to be counted or rejected. Provisional voters will receive a notice in the mail by the 10th day after the local canvass advising them if their provisional ballots were counted, and if they were not counted, the reason why.

Questions on provisional ballots should be directed to (469)627-8683 or email [dallascountyvotes@dallascounty.org](mailto:dallascountyvotes@dallascounty.org).

## Limited Ballot Option

If you have moved to a new county and have not re-registered in the new county by the October 5, 2020 deadline, you may be eligible to vote a limited ballot in your new county. A limited ballot means that you would be allowed to vote on any candidates and measures in common between your former and new county. This procedure is only available during the early voting period at the main early voting polling place which is the George L Allen Sr Courts Bldg – Main Lobby, 600 Commerce St in Dallas. You may NOT vote a limited ballot on election day.

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**miraedigital**

## You may bring this Voters Guide into the voting booth.\*

In 1995, the Texas law prohibiting use of printed materials, such as this Voters Guide, in the polling place was ruled unconstitutional (Texas Election Code, Section 61.011)

Your contributions to the League of Women Voters of Dallas help us produce the Voters Guide providing unbiased, non-partisan, accurate information about elections, the voting process and issues. If you find this useful and wish to contribute, you may make donations online at [www.LWVDallas.org](http://www.LWVDallas.org), mail a check or call (214)688-4125 for information. The LWVD is a 501(c)3 corporation so all contributions are tax deductible.

LWV Dallas || 6060 North Central Expwy, Suite 500, Dallas TX 75206 || [www.lwvdallas.org](http://www.lwvdallas.org) || [lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net) || (214)688-4125 Phone

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- City of Wilmer General Election
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- Duncanville ISD General Election
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# Presidential Candidates

## About this Voters' Guide

This Voters' Guide is published by the League of Women Voters. The League has a long tradition of publishing the verbatim responses of candidates to questions important to voters. The League offers this Voters' Guide to assist citizens in their decision making as they prepare to participate in the general election. The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

Responses were limited to a specific number of characters and were truncated thereafter.

If a candidate did not respond by the date of publication, 'Candidate Has Not Responded.' is printed.

## Ground Rules

All candidates who will appear on your state's ballot are listed below but only those that meet the following criteria were invited to respond to the League's questions in this guide.

1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for President
2. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the Federal Elections Commission website
3. The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes



The League of Women Voters is where hands on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Learn more at [www.lww.org](http://www.lww.org) and [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org).

## About the Office of President

**Duties:** The President is: the head of state of the United States of America; the Chief Executive Officer; and, the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are prescribed in the Constitution and federal law. The President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices, and federal judges, subject to Senate approval. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress.

**Term:** Four years. Limit of two terms.  
**Salary:** \$400,000 per year

# Presidential Candidates

no  
image

**Donald J. Trump (R)**  
Republican Presidential Candidate

**What actions would you take to balance public health and economic recovery in the US, both in light of COVID-19 and for the long term?:** Candidate has not yet responded.

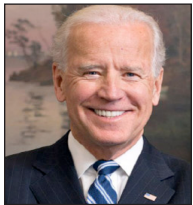
**What is the most important issue facing our country and how do you plan to address it during your first 100 days in office?:** Candidate has not yet responded.

**How will you address racial injustice in our country on day one of your administration?:** Candidate has not yet responded.

**What aspects of our current immigration policy will your administration address first?:** Candidate has not yet responded.

**What will you do over the long term to ensure access to quality healthcare for all?:** Candidate has not yet responded.

**Biographical and Contact Information:** Candidate has not yet responded.



**Joe Biden (D)**  
Democratic Presidential Candidate

**What actions would you take to balance public health and economic recovery in the US, both in light of COVID-19 and for the long term?**

It's a false choice to think we have to choose between our public health and economy; they're linked. On Day One, I'll implement the COVID strategy I've laid out since March – surging testing and protective gear; distributing vaccines safely and free of politics; helping schools and small businesses cover costs; and getting state and local governments resources to keep educators, cops, and firefighters on the job. I'll respect science and tell the truth, period. And I'll build our economy back better, creating millions of good-paying jobs. I'll revitalize manufacturing, build a clean energy economy, and boost caregiving – easing the squeeze on working families, providing paid leave, and getting caregivers the respect and pay they deserve.

**What is the most important issue facing our country and how do you plan to address it during your first 100 days in office?**

Pandemic. Recession. Racial injustice. Climate change. We're facing historic crises; we have to tackle them all at once. Character and experience count. I'll listen to scientists, tell the truth, and make sure we're never so unprepared for a pandemic again. I'll expand the Affordable Care Act, lowering costs and making health care a right for all. I'll build our economy back better, and make racial equity central to recovery. In these crises, we have an enormous opportunity, if we come together. As President, I'll draw on the best of us, not the worst. I'll work as hard for those who don't support me as for those who do. That's a president's job: to represent us all. To take responsibility. To protect the nation. To unite and to heal.

**How will you address racial injustice in our country on day one of your administration?**

America is at an inflection point. It's past time to end our inequities and deal with the denial of our nation's promise to too many for too long. I'll fight to end the health inequities that COVID-19 amplifies; and give every child the same strong start in life by offering universal Pre-K, tripling funding for Title I schools, and making public college debt-free for most families. I'll make racial equity central to our recovery, closing the racial wealth and income gaps, boosting home ownership, and investing in communities and entrepreneurs of color – building a stronger, more inclusive middle class for the future. And, I'll work for real police reform and invest in shifting our criminal justice focus from incarceration to prevention.

**What aspects of our current immigration policy will your administration address first?**

My immigration policy is built around keeping families together. It's past time to reform our broken system, restoring family unification and diversity as its core pillars. As President, I'll reverse Trump's assault on our values on Day One, ending his cruel border policies that rip children from their mothers' arms. I'll act immediately to protect Dreamers and their families, and invest real political capital in finally delivering legislative immigration reform, with a roadmap to citizenship for the nearly 11 million undocumented people who already do so much to make our communities strong. We have to enforce our laws, but in a way that's humane, respects due process, honors our values, and sees the big picture.

**What will you do over the long term to ensure access to quality healthcare for all?**

This pandemic makes clear: All Americans need access to quality, affordable health insurance. That's why I'll protect and build on the Affordable Care Act. I helped to secure the final key votes to pass that landmark law, protecting 100 million Americans who can no longer be turned away or denied coverage for pre-existing conditions, and bringing coverage to 20 million more. As President, I'll build on that progress with a public option and lower health care and prescription drug costs. I'll make all COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccines free; double funding for community health centers that are so often on the frontlines of care; and much more.

**Biographical and Contact Information:** Campaign Website: <http://www.joebiden.com>; Campaign Email: [info@joebiden.com](mailto:info@joebiden.com); Campaign Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/joebiden>; Campaign Twitter: [twitter.com/joebiden](https://twitter.com/joebiden); Campaign Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/joebiden/>; Campaign YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWNpXitY8eJ-ku6M-v25MKw>

**The following candidates have qualified for the Texas state ballot according to the Secretary of State of Texas but did not meet the LWVEF criteria:**

**Jo Jorgensen, Libertarian Party, <https://jo20.com>**

**US PRESIDENT**

**Howie Hawkins, Green Party, <https://howiehawkins.us>**

**US PRESIDENT**

# United States Senator

Six-year term. One of two members of the U.S. Senate from Texas. The Senate has the exclusive power to advise and consent on presidential nominations to executive and judicial offices, to ratify U.S. treaties, and to try impeachments. With the U.S. House, the Senate adopts budgets, levies taxes, borrows money, regulates interstate commerce, provides services, adopts regulations, and declares war. Current annual salary: \$174,000

**BACKGROUND:** What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

**IMMIGRATION:** What are your priorities regarding the immigration system?

**HEALTHCARE:** How would you address access to and the cost of healthcare?

**GUN VIOLENCE:** What are your recommendations to protect students from gun violence?

dents from gun violence?

**COVID-19:** What actions, if any, do you believe are needed to address the health and economic impact caused by COVID-19?

**VOTING RIGHTS:** What actions, if any, would you take to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to safe and fair elections?

**VOUCHERS:** What is your position on using public funds for private school vouchers and why?



## John Cornyn (R) Republican Senate Candidate

**BACKGROUND:** John Cornyn was elected to the Texas Supreme Court in 1990. In 1998, he was elected Attorney General of Texas. In 2002, he was elected to the U.S. Senate. Senator Cornyn serves on the Senate's Judiciary, Finance, and Intelligence Committees.

**IMMIGRATION:** Recognizing we are a nation of immigrants, Senator Cornyn has voted in support of a permanent legislative solution for Dreamers who call Texas their home. The Senator cosponsored the Secured and Succeed Act in 2018, which proposed a solution for DACA recipients that provides a pathway to citizenship for 1.8 million young adults.

**HEALTHCARE:** Senator Cornyn supports a system that: protects those with preexisting conditions; lowers the cost of prescription drugs by increasing generics; increases competition by allowing cross-state health insurance; lowers out of pocket costs for seniors on Medicare; reestablishes the privacy of the doctor patient relationship

**GUN VIOLENCE:** Sen. Cornyn believes the right to keep and bear arms is a sacred Constitutional right for Texans. But we must ensure guns are kept out of the hands of criminals and domestic abusers. He believes we need to eliminate unlicensed firearm dealers, which will mean more people get background checks because all Federal Firearms Licenses are required to complete those.

**COVID-19:** Sen. Cornyn voted for the CARES Act, which sent stimulus checks to individuals who – through no fault of their own – were unable to work and earn a paycheck, and established the Paycheck Protection Program – a critical lifeline that helped ensure businesses could bridge the gap without laying off employees.

**VOTING RIGHTS:** Sen. Cornyn believes that any Texan who wants to vote safely can do so under existing law. If you're over 65 or you're disabled, you can vote by mail. Or if you are not going to be present in your county on Election Day, Gov. Abbott has extended the early voting period.

**VOUCHERS:** School choice empowers parents to choose the setting that best fits their child's unique interests, learning style and educational needs. While education is rightfully managed at the local and state level, our entire country has a stake in ensuring we are raising highly educated, analytical, well-rounded citizens.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website: <https://www.johncornyn.com>; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/johncornyn>; Twitter: [twitter.com/teamcornyn](https://twitter.com/teamcornyn); Campaign Video: <https://www.youtube.com/v/WLnXOc9afTU>



## Mary 'MJ' Hegar (D) Democratic Senate Candidate

**BACKGROUND:** I have served our country, am a working mom, and live the challenges of regular Texans. I served 3 tours in Afghanistan as a medevac pilot, earning a Purple Heart & DFC w/ Valor and took on DC to make our military stronger. I'm the fighter we need.

**IMMIGRATION:** We need comprehensive immigration reform that reflects our core American values - the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We must streamline the process for applying for and receiving citizenship, create a pathway to citizenship for those here, protect DREAMers, permanently end child separation and secure the border with effective procedures & technology.

**HEALTHCARE:** During my 5 years working in health care, it was clear that our skyrocketing costs and high uninsured rate were unsustainable. As we face a pandemic and beyond, I'll fight for access to quality affordable health care for every Texan, and for their right to determine whether that is a public option or their current plan.

**GUN VIOLENCE:** As a mother of two young boys, gun violence survivor and a responsible gun owner, I say enough is enough. We must pass common-sense gun safety legislation to require background checks on every single gun sale, including closing the gun show loophole. We must also stop selling weapons of war to the public.

**COVID-19:** We need to listen to experts, not politicians, when it comes to solving the public health and economic crisis. We must provide adequate testing that is fully covered, protect our frontline workers, and improve contact tracing capacity. The economic recovery must center around supporting small businesses and workers, while enforcing transparency and accountability measures.

**VOTING RIGHTS:** Having served 12 years in the military I'm committed to defending our constitutional rights. I'll work to expand access to registration and voting, fight against voter suppression tactics, and support the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, restoring protections which have been weakened by the Supreme Court.

**VOUCHERS:** I'm a proud product of public school and a mama bear for my two young boys, and I will always fight for public schools and ALL of our kids. I oppose any policy that cuts or siphons funding from public schools.

**Two Minute Video Option:** My entire career I've fought to protect people's right to protest, and I stand with those peacefully demonstrating for change now. It's time for systemic reforms to fix how we train and equip law enforcement and improve their relationship with the public, and action to address the racial disparities that go far beyond our criminal justice system.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://www.mjfortexas.com>; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/MJforTexas/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/mjhegar](https://twitter.com/mjhegar)

## U.S. SenateCandidate — Continued


**Kerry McKennon (L)**  
 Libertarian Party Senate Candidate

**BACKGROUND:** I have served on the executive committee for the Libertarian Party of Texas. I have over 20 years of management in the retail and food industry.

**IMMIGRATION:** Our first priority is that no child is left in a cage or separated from their family, reforming immigration policy means making it as simple as have the same policy for all immigrants from all countries. More judges and caseworkers are needed to determine if those seeking asylum can be allowed in, because an individual in a detention facility for three year is unacceptable

**HEALTHCARE:** Health insurance allowed to be purchased across state lines. The cost of healthcare is due primarily to the amount of money being spent in administration. We see within the VA and Medicare system; where actual treatments are being delayed or not approved due to lack of doctors, but there is never a shortage of admins boosting drug costs.

**GUN VIOLENCE:** Mental health and hate lie at the core of gun violence and those who act in it's wake. Hate is learned and can be unlearned, but is a very tough row to hoe. Mental health is an issue that we can diagnosis and treat. Those are not the answers that some individuals want to hear, but they are closer to protecting our students than any gun ban.

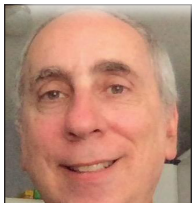
**COVID-19:** I think politicians are damned if they do and damned if they don't in a pandemic situation. What we can do is get the government out of the way of treatment and care. It is difficult to say who is and who is not essential. For the individual working that is now not essential by the government for them that paycheck is essential to feed their family, to have shelter, etc.

**VOTING RIGHTS:** The Voters Rights Act has been a huge success. So much so that preclearance at the federal level is rarely needed to ensure the right to vote. One way to ensure eligible voters can access equal, safe, and fair elections is to stop the gerrymandering that currently occurs from both old parties.

**VOUCHERS:** I oppose using public funds for private school vouchers. The main reason is that those fund have been set aside for the use of public education. If a parent or guardian chooses to send their child to a private school, the taxpayers should not be paying for that choice.

**TWO MINUTE VIDEO OPTION:** Protest are always warranted. Violence as with the Boston Tea Party is sometimes necessary when in defense of Liberty. I would stand with Justin Amash in ending Qualified Immunity and gladly sponsor that bill.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website: <http://www.mckennon2020.com>; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/McKennon2020>; Twitter: [twitter.com/McKennon2020](https://twitter.com/McKennon2020)


**David Collins (G)**  
 Green Party Senate Candidate

**BACKGROUND:** I am a US citizen, 30 years of age or more. In college I studied political science, originally as my major field but eventually as a second field toward a Texas teacher certification. Since then, as an activist, I have followed global politics.

**IMMIGRATION:** Make immigration policy humane, at last. The US has helped make much of Central and South America unsafe for poor and indigenous families for decades; this must stop. Let our neighbors in and give them a path toward citizenship. If the flow of capital is globalized, with national boundaries practically irrelevant, the movement of workers should be just as unrestricted.

**HEALTHCARE:** This nation should do what other wealthy nations have done successfully: guarantee universal, single-payer health care. COVID-19 has made this more urgent than ever. Improved Medicare for All will cover all ages, with dental, mental, and optical coverage and no premiums. Once fully operational, it will save the nation as a whole 50% on health care costs.

**GUN VIOLENCE:** When young people have hope for the future and access to the mental health care they need, they will be far less likely to look to firearms to "solve" their problems. Schools need to be places of nurturing and care for the whole student, especially when their homes often are not. Our government can set a better example by not bombing people to boost corporate profits.

**COVID-19:** Our 4% of the world's population has about quarter of its COVID-19 deaths. If we had shut down public spaces, suspended rent and mortgage collections, and given US residents a livable income for a few months, like New Zealand and other countries, we would have saved thousands of lives and billions of dollars. We could easily pay for this by redirecting defense funding.

**VOTING RIGHTS:** 1. Propose a Constitutional Amendment guaranteeing voting rights for all US citizens 18 and up, including convicted felons, and prohibiting states and counties from purging voter rolls. 2. Enact automatic voter registration and a federal database (which I know scares some people). 3. Approval voting makes elections much fairer by avoiding the third-party "spoiler" problem.

**VOUCHERS:** Vouchers are a lazy solution to an avoidable problem. We can have excellent public schools for everyone, and much more, if we cut our national "defense" budget by half. Side note: Texas school districts should prioritize the mission of actually educating children rather than building palatial football stadia.

**TWO MINUTE VIDEO OPTION:** <https://www.youtube.com/v/j9BLOvw9dys> I wholeheartedly support the Movement for Black Lives, as do the Green Parties of Texas and the US. Our platform calls for reparations and strong measures to end racially motivated police violence.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website: <http://dbcgreentx.net>; Facebook: <http://facebook.com/dbc4senator2020>; Twitter: [twitter.com/dbcgreentx](https://twitter.com/dbcgreentx)

# United States Representative

2 year term. Must be 25 years or older, a US citizen and a resident of Texas. Responsible for representing the citizens of his/her district in the US House of Representatives.

**IMMIGRATION:** Do you support legislation to maintain the DACA program?

**HEALTHCARE:** What legislation would you support, if any, to ensure comprehensive, affordable healthcare for all?

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** Do you believe Congress should adopt policies to combat climate change? If so, what would you propose?

**ECONOMY:** How would you propose to restore the country's economic

health when the COVID-19 pandemic is finally under control? Be specific regarding plans for addressing infrastructure needs. Include your plan for dealing with the national debt and income taxes.

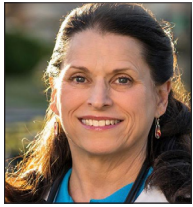
**OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of Congress, and what is your position on these issues?

The above race's information begins on the next page.

## US House District 5

Lance Gooden (R) — No Reponse

US House District 5



**Carolyn Salter (D)**  
US House District 5

**IMMIGRATION:** I do support such legislation, as I believe it is crucial that we protect “Dreamers.” These are children who were brought to this country at a young age, through absolutely no fault of their own. Dreamers are just as American as you and I, and they are a valuable resource for our county’s future. The attacks on the DACA program work to create unnecessary punitive measures, and they ignore the fact that our nation would fall apart without immigrants. I think we must have a bipartisan effort to have meaningful reform of our immigration laws and become that “shining city on a hill” once again.

**HEALTHCARE:** As a physician in congress, I would have influence to reinvigorate and fund public health resources in medically fragile rural areas, especially rural hospitals. We need a total overhaul of our current system. This pandemic has revealed the problems with relying on employer-based insurance for payment for healthcare, an untenable model. I also believe insurance companies play too large a role in our current system, and we need a system that puts people over profits. I would support legislation that limits the amount of influence the healthcare lobby has and stops interference with doctors caring for patients.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** We absolutely need to address the climate crisis, as the recent western apocalyptic wildfires attest to. The reliance on oil leads directly to an untenable boom-and-bust economy. We must start investing in renewable energy. We have seen the busts becoming much more frequent than the booms. There are thousands upon thousands of new jobs to be created in the renewable energy field, and it would help propel many rural communities to new economic opportunities for stable, reliable long-term job growth.

**ECONOMY:** The government is responsible for providing security for its citizens, which means providing economic assistance to the public. The House has already passed the HEROES Act, and it is sitting on Mitch McConnell’s desk. I would urge the Senate Republicans to pass this bill. Roads, water, sewer, and broadband should be addressed by region through project planning with COGs and SMSAs at the local level as opposed to the state level. Any plan to deal with the national debt and income taxes should be bipartisan and without special favors to super corporations and billionaires.

**OTHER ISSUES:** In my hometown of Palestine, small businesses in the heart of our downtown struggle to survive, and many buildings remain vacant. I believe one of the most effective ideas to pursue community investment would be to increase access to free wireless broadband internet services on Main Street. There simply cannot be economic growth in these areas without steady access to affordable internet, which is often not present in the rural areas. Increasing broadband access should be a bipartisan endeavor, and it has the capacity to completely turn around many flailing economies in cities across the nation.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 3/21/1956; Occupation: I am an anesthesiologist.; Education: Medical Degree: UT Southwestern, 1977-1981 Undergrad: Stephen F Austin, 1975-1977; OSU 1974-1974; Website: <http://salterforcongress.com>; Campaign Phone: (903) 480-0328; Email: [carolyn@salterforcongress.com](mailto:carolyn@salterforcongress.com); Facebook: <http://facebook.com/salterforcongress>; Twitter: [twitter.com/salterfortexas](https://twitter.com/salterfortexas)



**Kevin A Hale (L)**  
US House District 5

**IMMIGRATION:** yes...Republicans and Democrats have been saying they were going to fix immigration for my entire life. I’m 50! We need a total reset; I really would like to see us create welcoming facilities similar to Ellis island. Where people wishing to join the American dream, can do so without fear of having their children separated from them. A facility that can first do a health screening, then a background check, and finally issue a work visa and a way for them to pay taxes. It would be very innovative to have “job recruiters” bid to have on sight offices to assist those that come here without a job in hand, to find one!

**HEALTHCARE:** Get government out of healthcare. return the healthcare market to the consumers by making providers have up front pricing for services. This will lower cost and make it affordable for everyone. How do I know this, I have two working examples. Surgery Center of Oklahoma, Their Pricing is online so use it to negotiate with your insurance/hospital. <https://surgerycenterok.com/> The DPC Healthcare This membership model of healthcare is very reasonably priced and can handle close to 90% of regular healthcare needs. Here is a link, <https://dpchealthcare.com/> Consumer driven models work best because you drive the market.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** I believe consumers should adopt buying habits that support environmentally friendly sources of energy and products. Government should not be favoring one source of energy over another with subsidies, tax loopholes and regulations that stifle competition among all sources. My hope is that we would embrace nuclear and hemp to address our environmental changes. Nuclear is the only reliable source that address global warming. Hemp can be used for a plethora of products that can help our planet recover from the CO2 emissions already released. Hemp paper, plastic, textiles, fuel, concrete, pressed board, and body products.

**ECONOMY:** Libertarians believe in free markets. We would work to end unnecessary licensing laws, and regulations that prevent competition in the market place, this will empower the entrepreneurial spirit of Americans. The debt is now the third largest expenditure in our federal budget. We will need to cut spending drastically and may need to sunset some outdated or redundant government agencies and facilities. We are wasting a bunch of money on these unwarranted wars, lets bring our troops home to protect America. That will save us a bunch of money we can then invest in our own infrastructure, like roads, bridges and H2O pipes

**OTHER ISSUES:** End the Wars- none of which are declared by Congress and none of the countries attacked us. Criminal Justice Reform- End qualified immunity, police/ police unions to carry liability insurance, End no knock raids, De-escalation training. End the War on Drugs and focus police on crimes with victims like Theft, fraud, assault, rape and murder. Cronyism is a problem, government is picking the winners in the market place by creating tax loopholes, regulations that prevent competition, subsidizing or worse outright BAILOUTS at taxpayers expense. I want consumers to choose the winners in the marketplace with their dollars.

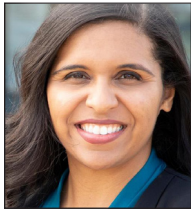
**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 8/30/1970; Occupation: Marketing and Sales; Education: University of North Texas- BBS Marketing; Website: <http://givecongresshale.nationbuilder.com/>; Campaign Phone: (972) 787-1856; Email: [awehale.promo@gmail.com](mailto:awehale.promo@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/GiveCongressHale>; Twitter: [twitter.com/HaleGive](https://twitter.com/HaleGive)

Photo ID for voting in Texas! See [www.DallasCountyVotes.org](http://www.DallasCountyVotes.org) for qualifying IDs and where to get them, and alternatives for those who don’t have Photo IDs.

## US House District 24

Beth Van Duyne (R) — no response

US House District 24



**Candace Valenzuela (D)**  
US House District 24

**IMMIGRATION:** Yes. The situation at the border is personal for me. My great grandfather came to Texas from Durango, Mexico at the turn of the 20th century and fought for the United States in World War I. My family history, like that of so many immigrants, is one of service to this country and hope in the American Dream. We need to break through the partisan gridlock and pass a comprehensive immigration reform package that secures our border, protects our families, and includes a pathway to citizenship for DREAMers. In Washington, I'll work with anyone to make sure we have laws and reforms that fix the problem.

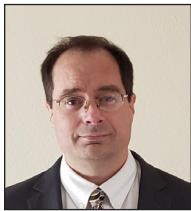
**HEALTHCARE:** I was in a car accident in high school, resulting in chronic back pain. As a result, after graduating college, I was forced to work a second and third job just to afford my health care bills. My story is noteworthy in that it is increasingly common: Far too many North Texans struggle to afford the care they need, and that's wrong. In Congress, I'll stand up to insurance companies and their bought-and-paid-for politicians to protect people with pre-existing conditions and ensure every North Texan has access to affordable, high-quality health care.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** I believe in science. Climate change is real and we need to do everything we can to combat it while we still have the chance. So much of Texas' prosperity has come from our energy industry and the tens of thousands of North Texas families who are tied to it, so I don't support the Green New Deal. However, we have a tremendous opportunity to invest in clean energy and create good jobs across North Texas. In Congress, I'll fight for major investments in energy and clean infrastructure that can cut our carbon emissions and lead to tens of thousands of dignified, well-paid jobs across North Texas.

**ECONOMY:** We must invest in education. Public schools provided the opportunities that allowed me to go from being homeless as a kid to become the first in my family to go to college. But we also have to recognize that college isn't right for everyone and a middle-class life should be available to all. That's why I led efforts to invest in skills training on the school board. Those sorts of job training programs, combined with necessary investments in our aging infrastructure, will lead to tens of thousands of well-paid, dignified jobs for North Texans.

**OTHER ISSUES:** I'm running for Congress because our communities in North Texas still aren't getting the support they need, and politicians in Washington are more interested in bailing out corporate special interests than uplifting working families. In Congress, I'll fight to lower the cost of health care and prescription drugs, control and defeat COVID-19, and jumpstart our economy with major investments in education and infrastructure that will generate tens of thousands of dignified, well-paid jobs for North Texans.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 5/12/1984; Occupation: Educator; Education: B.A. in Government from Claremont McKenna College; Website: <http://candacefor24.com/>; Campaign Phone: (214) 865-9826; Email: [info@candacefor24.com](mailto:info@candacefor24.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/candaceruns/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/candacefor24](https://twitter.com/candacefor24); You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/LcvFzxiu8o4>



**Darren Hamilton (L)**  
US House District 24

**IMMIGRATION:** Yes, I support such legislation. Libertarians believe that all American families came here from somewhere else, whether long ago or relatively recently, and as long as they have no credible plan for, a history of, or perform acts of violence within our country, they should be welcome to immigrate to the United States. As a member of Congress, I would work toward current DACA participants and their immediate families (within one generation) be given temporary protected status for a limited time with an expedited avenue toward becoming a lawful permanent resident ("green card" holder) or to become a U.S. citizen.

**HEALTHCARE:** I remain unclear as to what any federal legislation can do to make such assurances. Libertarians, as a rule, believe that the competition of the open market be used to determine and set affordable pricing in these areas. At a federal level, my efforts would be directed toward streamlining the FDA, and removing administrative blocks set by the government to prevent private and free market enterprises from developing and testing new medications. Protecting the health and safety of Americans is important, but not at the expense of limiting potentially life-saving medications from being developed and tested.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** The areas that most directly affect global climate change have to do with America's energy needs, so I interpret this question to be a combination of addressing America's energy needs in the 21st century while simultaneously addressing climate change. With that in mind, I say "no", Congress should definitely not adopt additional policies to specifically combat global climate change, but should instead support businesses and technologies that make advances in this area possible, not through policy, but through funding of research into multiple sources of green energy, each source appropriate to its local environment.

**ECONOMY:** I'm not sure how to answer this question. For Libertarians, infrastructure concerns fall primarily under private business. From our perspective, government is more often a hindrance than a benefit in infrastructure. To the point of dealing with the national debt, however, phasing out American military bases in many foreign countries (which have not been needed for decades but we spend enormous sums to maintain them) and returning those bases to their countries of origin would have a large monetary benefit, and those monies could then be re-purposed toward federal infrastructure projects and lowering income taxes.

**OTHER ISSUES:** As a statistician and analyst, I work with computer systems and computer security on a regular basis and, without any hesitation, I believe that the most significant threat to American interests is cyber-warfare. Congress should ensure additional funds for cyber-security projects, and should encourage more advanced cyber-security systems, including research into and development of quantum computing, and of artificial intelligence. The advancement of these projects will do more to address additional domestic threats, such as human slavery and sex trafficking, than any increase in enforcement could hope to accomplish.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 4/9/1965; Occupation: Database Admin Manager; Website: <http://www.VoteHamiltonForCongress.com>; Email: [HamiltonForTexas24th@gmail.com](mailto:HamiltonForTexas24th@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.Facebook.com/HamiltonForTexas24th>; Twitter: [twitter.com/DHamilton2020](https://twitter.com/DHamilton2020); You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/Vt9z5RZTI6I>

If voting in person - either on election day or during early voting - you may need to stand in line for a time. Be prepared to vote safely - wear a cloth mask that covers your mouth and nose, and practice social distancing.

## US House District 24 — Continued



**Steve Kuzmich (I)**  
US House District 24

**IMMIGRATION:** I support comprehensive immigration reform that would maintain and expand DACA while increasing boarder security. We can have generous legal immigration and tough boarder security. DACA is not good enough! Deferred action is letting our government use these kids as pawn. We need immediate action. We need immediate adjudication of status and a pathway to citizenship for those who qualify. It is important to note why we are not able to have both generous legal immigration and tough boarder security, because the R and D parties are dysfunctional, unable to solve our problems, and unable to compromise.

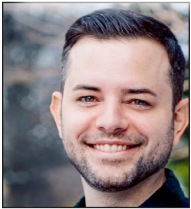
**HEALTHCARE:** My approach combines the left wing's desired single payer plan with the right wing's free market plan. The plan is 17 points and outlined on my web page. I do not have all of the answers, but the plan combines the free market and government to reduce cost and expand coverage. It provides health savings accounts and catastrophic care for all. Most importantly the plan attacks costs.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** Of course, it is one of the biggest problems we face. Congress is just not able to do it, at all. They are so dysfunctional they are not even able to pass an infrastructure improvement plan, how could they ever act on climate change with our broken two-party system. My environmental protection policy focuses on clean air and water because that is the very most our Government can take on locally while recognizing the dangers of global climate change. By solving these problems at a national level and leading the world by example, we can then focus more specifically on the issue of global warming.

**ECONOMY:** The Covid pandemic has been painful, but the pain and economic loss caused by Covid is small compared to the damage that has been done and the debt we have accumulated for decades leading up to Covid. Our past debt left us financially much less able to deal with Covid. The parties have failed us on the budget because they fail to budget. Congress needs to submit and approve, this year, a balanced budget. After getting the annual budget under control, I outline a plan on my web page to eliminate the national debt over 15 years.

**OTHER ISSUES:** A gridlocked Congress that votes straight along party lines is not going to be able to take on any issues in the next Congress nor have they been able to accomplish anything significant in the last 5 Congress sessions. That is why the Congressional approval ratings average around 20%. In contrast, I am in the majority group of Americans that do not want one party in total control pushing their far right or far left agendas. The best balance in Congress would be a group of moderate candidates in the center that would drive more reasonable legislation and govern from the center. I am such a candidate.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 10/8/1970; Occupation: Lawyer; Education: Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics, Texas A & M 1991 Law Degree Baylor School of Law 1994; Website: [http:// www.KuzmichforCongress.com](http://www.KuzmichforCongress.com); Campaign Phone: (972) 638-0293; Email: [Info@kuzmichforcongress.com](mailto:Info@kuzmichforcongress.com); Facebook: [http:// www.facebook.com/kuzindependent](http://www.facebook.com/kuzindependent); Twitter: [twitter.com/SteveKuzmich](https://twitter.com/SteveKuzmich); You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/Gbl7he1RJHQ>



**Mark Bauer (I)**  
US House District 24

**IMMIGRATION:** When the Obama Administration created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, it protected from deportation young people who were brought to the US by their families and who only knew America as home. It made them eligible for work permits, creating economic benefits for all Americans. DACA's status is threatened by a Republican administration that is oppositional to those goals. The program is used as a wedge issue, with major changes depending on who occupies the Oval Office. Congress should draft DACA-like legislation that would create a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers.

**HEALTHCARE:** Nobody should be economically ruined in pursuit of medical treatment to stay alive. A lot of complex factors and variables play a role in sky high healthcare costs. To stop the hemorrhaging, I would support a universal catastrophic coverage plan so that Americans wouldn't be afraid to seek medical care if they need it. From there, I would support legislation to make healthcare costs more transparent to patients. Other contributing factors include needing to pass tort reform to prevent exuberant damages awarded against medical and insurance providers that are passed on to patients.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** We all have an obligation to steward our planet well. Our current political environment makes consensus on this issue difficult. Start where both sides can agree: America needs to lead the way in energy development regardless of source, finding new technologies to lessen the impact all of them have on the environment. From there, remove barriers to a competitive energy market by leveling the playing field to the extent possible in the tax and regulatory code.

**ECONOMY:** Most every major issue covered in this voting guide is an economic issue. Making major changes in healthcare, education and environmental policy will improve the outlook for our economic health in 10-15 years, especially as it pertains to national debt. For immediate economic restoration, help match Americans with skills to job vacancies in other cities and states, and offer relocation pay to offset the risk associated with moving. Congress should extend student loan forbearance an additional six months, and it should pass legislation that increases the taxable earned income threshold to \$20,000.

**OTHER ISSUES:** We are a nation that is deeply divided. Most good ideas offered by Republicans and Democrats don't have a chance to get off the ground because party leaders seek political wins over legislative progress. What good are the best ideas if they never get taken off the shelf? We need to take a good hard look at our misunderstandings so that we can begin to see one another as neighbors again rather than political opponents. Working together is our generation's moonshot.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 11/28/1984; Occupation: Journalist; Education: BA in Journalism, University of Texas at Arlington; Website: <http://bauerfortexas.com>; Campaign Phone: (469) 801-9046; Email: [info@bauerfortexas.com](mailto:info@bauerfortexas.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/MarkBauerTX>; Twitter: [twitter.com/MarkBauer](https://twitter.com/MarkBauer); You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/YSVXrk4HqiA>

## US House District 30

**Eric Williams (I) — No response**

**US House District 30**



**Tre Pennie (R)**  
US House District 30

**IMMIGRATION:** Yes. For several decades, Congress has failed America's undocumented immigrant population because of partisan politics. Years of unresponsiveness to immigration policy reform has resulted in an impending social crisis. I understand the immigration problem and seek to adopt comprehensive legislation that protects the interests of "legal" immigrants on visas seeking status; fairly provides a pathway to citizenship for "Dreamers"; and evaluates asylum requests separate from other immigration filings. I also believe that the privatization of immigration pre-check systems can help to improve the overall immigration process

**HEALTHCARE:** Congress must do more to improve healthcare prescription costs in this country. It is estimated that 19 million Americans import medicine from other countries to save money. On average, they are saving 56% on worldwide imports. Medicare is the largest purchaser of medicines from pharmaceutical companies. However, federal law prohibits the Medicare system from negotiating prices, so the government pays the higher premiums and pass the on to citizens. I will immediately introduce legislation to allow Medicare to negotiate prices

## US House District 30 — Continued

## Tre Pennie (R) — Continued

## US House District 30

directly with drug companies to get better rates for our citizens.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** Yes. America must continually work to reduce its carbon-footprint. Relying on renewable energy sources like wind, solar and hydro would afford greater flexibility in limiting chemical impacts on the environment; however, solutions to addressing climate change cannot be radical and must be based on market-driven solution that will not influence the increase of taxes on our citizens.

**ECONOMY:** On June 24, 2020, I announced my new economic recovery plan called "EARN-IT": Economic-Academic-Reward-Network-In-Training. EARN-IT seeks to leverage public works projects and networks to enhance workforce training, education, and volunteerism for underserved communities. Under EARN-IT, government will play its traditional role of supporting community initiatives, but corporations and the people will have an opportunity to earn economic and social rewards based on their contributions to the recovery process. EARN-IT has been referred to as the 21st Century Version of The New Deal!

**OTHER ISSUES:** Revise CDA 230: CDA 230 is protecting Big Tech corporations, while leaving citizens at risk! Section 230 of the 1996 Communications Decency Act was designed to protect online service providers from liabilities resulting from the misdeeds of third-party users. However, with the advent of social media, the outdated piece of legislation has allowed social media companies to claim immunity protection for illegal activities that they are personally facilitating such as: illegal online drug sales, domestic and international terrorism, piracy, widespread violence, and countless other crimes. Greater federal oversight needed

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 12/17/1977; Occupation: Dallas Police Sergeant ; Education: Doctorate of Education in Higher Education from Texas Tech University ; Website: <http://www.pennieforcongress.com>; Campaign Phone: (469) 493-8950; Email: [Info@pennieforcongress.com](mailto:Info@pennieforcongress.com); Facebook: <http://Pennieforcongress>; Twitter: [twitter.com/sgt\\_pennie](https://twitter.com/sgt_pennie); You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/zJLueaLbMv4>



**Eddie Bernice Johnson (D)**  
US House District 30

**IMMIGRATION:** Yes, I do. For the record, I support comprehensive immigration reform that will foster economic growth, keep our families and our communities together, promote our national security, and protect workers' rights.

**HEALTHCARE:** I believe that the benefits of the Affordable Care Act greatly outnumber any issues that need to be addressed in the law. This law has already saved seniors millions of dollars in prescriptions drugs costs, has increased the number of insured youth, and has provided numerous protections for women who were charged more by insurance companies, simply because they were women. I would like to see Members of Congress work together in a bipartisan manner to make further improvements to law so that Americans can continue to benefit.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** As the Chairwoman of the House Space, and Technology Committee, I continue to advocate to fulfill our responsibility to leave this world better than we inherited it. America must continue to be an innovative leader in the fight against global climate change. We need intelligent conservation policies that preserve our natural resources and an energy policy that is not solely focused on drilling, but makes smart investments in clean and renewable energy to lower costs to the American taxpayer while protecting the air, land, and water.

**ECONOMY:** Short term recovery leading towards long term growth is one of the major ideas driving passage of the stimulus funds, CARES Act, and Heroes Act. These bills were designed to stop the critical losses in important local industries like the restaurants, microbusinesses, small and medium sized businesses, as well as major companies in the transportation and airline industries. For individuals, the stimulus checks were very helpful and immediately placed back into local economies and neighborhoods. I am concerned with deficit spending. The U.S. Government should be responsible in how it spends taxpayer's funds.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Three "E"s are my top priorities. Environment, Education and Economy. I serve on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and have worked to create and pass legislation to address and improve the infrastructure of our Nation. Our roads, bridges, highways, railway, waterways and all areas of surface transportation are in need of upkeep, repair, improvement and growth.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 12/3/1934; Occupation: Member of Congress; Education: nursing certificate, St. Mary's College, 1955; B.S., TXU, 1967; M.P.A., SMU, 1976; Website: <http://www.ebjcampaign.com/>; Campaign Phone: (214) 871-9291; Email: [ebjcampaign@gmail.com](mailto:ebjcampaign@gmail.com)

## US House District 32



**Genevieve Collins (R)**  
US House District 32

**IMMIGRATION:** I support legislation to finally solve the problem that Congress has been kicking down the road for years. Dreamers were raised here, and know America as their home. If they want to work here and live here, we should afford them that opportunity assuming they meet strict guidelines. I do not believe kicking Dreamers out of the country that they grew up in and were taken to through no fault of their own is an option. We need to address the issue, and we need to do so with compassion. That's exactly what I'll do in Congress.

**HEALTHCARE:** The pandemic has put health care policy at the forefront. We are in critical times, and Americans need good and affordable healthcare. While I would like to see changes like price transparency, one thing I will never vote on is a bill that takes away pre-existing conditions. The medical industry is the only industry where you don't know what you are paying until after you

already receive treatment, which is insane to me as a businesswoman. As Congresswoman, I would support legislation that lowers drug prices, cuts out surprise billing, and caps out-of-pocket costs at affordable levels for Medicare patients.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** I am absolutely a conservationist, and I support smart decisions that promote good environmental policies that coincide with economic growth. Texas is actually the leader in producing wind energy, and we have an extensive energy resource portfolio that includes both renewable and non-renewable energy. In the last decade, we have significantly reduced our reliance on coal, and moved towards natural gas and other renewable sources of energy like solar and wind. As Congresswoman, I would promote innovation and policies that would get us completely energy reliant as a nation.

**ECONOMY:** It's concerning to me that every bill introduced these days has a trillion-dollar price tag, and we haven't passed a budget in a decade. If every household can balance a budget, there is no reason Congress shouldn't be doing the same thing. I am the only candidate in the race that has run a business, balanced a budget, and forecasted growth. This is a top priority, and we have to get our debt under control. I believe our government should implement zero-based budgeting in order to regularly review duplication and waste in government agencies. Also, we need to be absolutely laser focused when passing relief bills.

**OTHER ISSUES:** I believe the learning loss our students have suffered as a result of the pandemic will have lasting effects and I believe Congress needs to address this. I have advocated for technology access for children my entire career, and I will ensure that we give these kids the resources they need to be successful now and in the future. In Congress, I want to make sure we not only give these kids and families the technology and freedom to move forward, but we actually examine the learning loss from the pandemic and come up with real solutions to get these kids back on track.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 6/24/1986; Education: University of Tennessee- Knoxville, B.S. in Communications SMU, MBA in Strategy and Entrepreneurship; Website: <http://gcforscongress.com>; Email: [info@gcforscongress.com](mailto:info@gcforscongress.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/genevieve-collinstx>; Twitter: [twitter.com/gcforscongress](https://twitter.com/gcforscongress); You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/uyJGOQKmVPO>

## US House District 32 — CONTINUED



**Colin Allred (D)**  
US House District 32

**IMMIGRATION:** Dreamers, many of whom have known no other country as their home, deserve to come out of the shadows, fully contribute to society and live their version of the American Dream. I am a co-sponsor of The Dream and Promise Act which works to provide a pathway to citizenship to DREAMers, as well as certainty for immigrants seeking asylum.

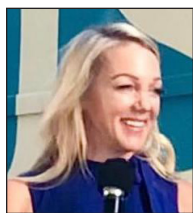
**HEALTHCARE:** Texas has the highest uninsured rate in the U.S. and it's grown higher during this crisis. My priority has been to lower health care and prescription drug costs, and expand access to coverage. No one should go without the care they need, which is why I led the charge to protect our care from the Administration's lawsuit that would gut the Affordable Care Act, including protections for folks with pre-existing conditions. I support stabilizing health care markets, allowing Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug costs, creating a public option to introduce more competition into the market, and expanding Medicaid.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** As a nation, we should continue to invest in wind, solar and other clean energy sources, and lead the way into a new generation of renewable and clean energy economic growth. Texas is a leader in renewable energy and I support efforts to move to an entirely clean energy economy by 2050. In Congress, I was a cosponsor of the Climate Action Now Act which has called on the Trump Administration to remain in the Paris Climate Accord. I support policies that incentivize innovation and promote public and private investment in clean and renewable sources of energy.

**ECONOMY:** We need bold action to support families during COVID-19. In Congress, I voted for the CARES Act which provided aid to assist small businesses, unemployed workers and industries impacted by COVID-19 and the HEROES Act which extends economic relief and funds the Postal Service. I also voted for a historic infrastructure investment that will support transportation projects like the high-speed rail project from Dallas to Houston and make the job-creating investments we need. As students move to online learning, we need to expand broadband access to ensure that access to high-speed internet is not a barrier for anyone.

**OTHER ISSUES:** I've worked across the aisle to deliver results for North Texas and I'll continue that approach next Congress. From opening the new Garland VA to passing a trade deal with Mexico to support North Texas jobs, I'll always put North Texans ahead of party politics. No one should have to go without the health care or medicines they need. That's why I led efforts to stabilize health care markets and negotiate lower prescription drug prices, and I'll continue that work. We also must ensure our democracy works for everyone, not just the wealthy and well-connected, which is why I led the charge to pass the For the People Act.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 4/15/1983; Occupation: Congressman, Lawyer; Education: Hillcrest High School, Baylor University, Berkeley Law; Website: <http://www.colinallred.com>; Campaign Phone: (469) 261-3829; Email: [callred@colinallred.com](mailto:callred@colinallred.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ColinAllredTX>; Twitter: [twitter.com/ColinAllredTX](https://twitter.com/ColinAllredTX)



**Christy Mowrey (L)**  
US House District 32

**IMMIGRATION:** No

**HEALTHCARE:** The government needs to get out of the healthcare business. We need to give tax dollars back to individuals and create a better free market system.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** No. Efforts to protect the environment should be done through private organizations, charities and volunteerism.

**ECONOMY:** The national debt is unsustainable. The debt per taxpayer is over \$214,325 and nearly \$27 trillion in national debt. We never should've shut down the economy for a virus that is mild for most people. Now that it's done, we need to reduce Income tax for individuals, abolish property tax, and open the economy 100%. We need to look at private companies and the free market to meet the needs of our communities and drastically cut unnecessary government spending.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The biggest issue is the national debt. However, we also need to remove overbearing regulatory burdens in order to deal with the next "pandemic" faster without shutting down the economy. Throwing more government and more money at a problem doesn't work. This country is more divided than ever and the two party system is failing. We must get the power back to the people where it belongs. We must allow individuals, not government, to make business, education, and healthcare decisions based on their individual circumstances. To help those in need we must support churches, charities and private organizations.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 5/8/1973; Occupation: School Director/Principal; Education: MSA Education Administration CC, TCC Early Childhood Education; Website: <http://Christymowrey.com>; Facebook: <http://Mowrey for Congress>



**Jason Sigmon (I)**  
US House District 32

**IMMIGRATION:** I support legislation that leads to immigration reform and avoids keeping people in permeant limbo status. All existing legislation does not address the problem.

**HEALTHCARE:** Low cost community clinics, break up big pharma, limit drug prices.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** Congress should focus on preserving the environment in three key areas: food, water, and air. By reducing pollution in those areas, everyone benefits.

**ECONOMY:** Jobs: Create a program similar to Civilian Conservation Corps / Works Progress Administration that focuses on rebuilding infrastructure and retraining people. As private sector jobs come back, begin rolling people off of public projects. National debt: no one in Congress is serious about tackling at the moment. The only way that gets addressed is fresh faces and campaign finance reform. Income taxes: Simplify the tax code to reduce loopholes and ensure corporation profits get taxed.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Campaign finance reform and term limits affect the majority of issues. Until we federally fund elections and prevent people from serving decades in Congress we will not see real progress in this country.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 12/23/1991; Occupation: Consultant; Education: University of South Carolina & Chinese University of Hong Kong; Website: <http://jasonsigmon.com>; Campaign Phone: (919) 891-3173; Email: [jason@jasonsigmon.com](mailto:jason@jasonsigmon.com); Twitter: [twitter.com/jasonxsigmon](https://twitter.com/jasonxsigmon); You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/cylRNbL2QU8>

## US House District 33



**Fabian Cordova Vasquez (R)**  
US House District 33

**IMMIGRATION:** I support and applaud the President on his planned executive order that would include a road to citizenship for such immigrants, known as "Dreamers." I support options which include a life span in years of good merit with no criminal record, serving two full terms in the military and including public service in community organizations whether church or non-profit. If they are contributors to society and respect our sovereign laws then I believe all should be allowed the opportunity seek the right to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness for all peoples.

**HEALTHCARE:** Again, I support and applaud the President on his efforts to reduce medical costs and transparency from such medical providers. No one should have to be forced to choose between paying soaring healthcare premiums, increasing prescription drug prices and high co-pays during doctors visits or the basic necessities of life. Every American should have access to quality, affordable healthcare. I will introduce and/or support immediate legislation that will address this issue in a way that favors the patient.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** Researchers state the main cause of climate change is burning fossil fuels such as oil, gas, and coal. When burnt, fossil fuels

## US House District 33 — Continued

## Fabian Cordova Vasquez (R) — Continued

## US House District 33

release carbon dioxide into the air, causing the planet to heat up. I believe we must continue to strive for a balanced solution to our Country's clean energy needs. I will encourage innovation, research and development in renewable clean energy sources to continue decreasing our reliance on foreign oil. I will also continue to support our President's policies by keeping America the #1 producer of energy in the world.

**ECONOMY:** I stand firm on safeguarding our economic growth as our Nation's highest priority. We must continue to be competitive in the global market. I will introduce and/or support sound economic policies to promote not only domestic but foreign investments in the U.S. We need to bring back 'Made In The USA' and continue to build confidence and strength in the U.S. dollar at home and abroad as the global currency. The U.S. is in significant need of expansion, replacement and repair of its infrastructure. I will continue to support the President's vision of infrastructure improvements. Immediate attention to our national debt.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The sanctity and innocence of human life is not only a matter of Christian beliefs but was also acknowledged by our Founding Fathers in the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence. I believe that until and unless anyone can prove with factional evidence that a unborn "heartbeat" child is not a living human being, then that innocent life should be protected. As your next Congressman for Texas's 33rd Congressional District. I will introduce and/or support a bill that will abolish elective abortion on a federal level.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Age: 1/28/1977; Occupation: Conservative Candidate; Education: Over 20 years in Business Retail Management, Medical Sales and Precious Metals ; Website: <http://www.FCV2020.com>; Campaign; Phone: (817) 770-0995; Email: [campaign@FCV2020.com](mailto:campaign@FCV2020.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/FCV2020Campaign>; Twitter: [twitter.com/FCV2020Campaign](https://twitter.com/FCV2020Campaign)



**Marc Veasey (D)**  
US House District 33

**IMMIGRATION:** As a strong supporter of comprehensive immigration reform, I recognize the importance of having a fair, effective, and common-sense immigration system in our country. I believe the DACA program must be upheld, that is why I joined my colleagues to pass the Dream and Promise Act of 2019--legislation that offers a pathway to citizenship for these and certain similarly situated immigrants who have spent much of their lives in the United States. I believe in the upcoming years, Congress must work in a bipartisan manner to bring a commonsense comprehensive immigration reform bill to the floor for a vote that protects workers, unite families, offers hardworking immigrants an earned pathway to citizenship, and secures our borders. Immigration reform is the right thing to do for our economy, our security, and our future.

**HEALTHCARE:** I am a longstanding supporter of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which to date has provided quality, affordable health coverage to more than 300,000 North Texans. As a state legislator, I fought to expand Medicaid coverage in Texas under ACA, which would have closed the health coverage gap and brought billions of Texas taxpayer dollars back home to support our state economy. As a member of Congress, I have continued the push to expand access to affordable medical care for Texas families by hosting enrollment workshops to help people get the coverage they need. We also need a robust response to mitigate the growing health and economic crisis that we are facing. In May, the Democratic-led house also passed the HEROES Act, which allocates funding for testing, tracing, and treatment of the COVID virus for frontline workers.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** Texas has been the unquestioned energy leader for more than a century. If we play our cards right and make the right investments, Texas will continue to be an energy leader in the 21st century. Fighting climate change and supporting a strong Texas economy with jobs are not mutually exclusive. Measures like my bill, HR 3607, ensure our federal government is investing in research activities at the Department of Energy to help create the next generation of clean energy technologies to allow us to responsibly utilize the significant oil and gas resources of our state while reducing emissions. My bill reauthorizes the Office of Fossil Energy & refocuses the research on areas like carbon capture and better methane leak detection technologies. This will help to make sure our state's energy industry will continue to flourish and help our country meet its energy needs.

**ECONOMY:** We need a robust response to mitigate the growing health and economic crisis. This year, I have joined my colleagues to pass multiple pieces of bipartisan legislation that will give relief to working families and businesses, while also ensuring we have the right tools like testing that will help us detect the virus. In May, the Democratic-led house also passed the HEROES Act, which allocates funding for testing, tracing and treatment; local, territorial and tribal governments to pay health care workers, police, fire, transportation, EMS, teachers and other vital workers; and also ensures direct payments to families up to \$6,000 per household, new payroll protection measures to keep 60 million workers connected with their jobs and extending weekly \$600 federal unemployment payments through next January and strong protections for renters.

**OTHER ISSUES:** I serve proudly as a Deputy Whip Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. I also joined my colleagues to pass the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019. This measure is the largest step towards gun control in the United States in nearly 25 years because it expands federal background checks for gun purchases to include all sales — closing loopholes that would allow private sales of guns, or sales at gun shows, without a background check. The bill also includes an amendment, introduced by Republicans, that requires gun sellers to notify Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) when an undocumented immigrant attempts to buy a gun. I also joined my colleagues to pass H.R. 1112, which extends the number of days government authorities have to complete federal background checks for those attempting to purchase firearms and ends a rule allowing the sale to be completed if the check isn't done.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 1/3/1971; Occupation: Member of Congress; Education: B.S. Mass Communications; Website: <http://www.marcveasey.com>; Campaign Phone: (817) 446-8222; Email: [campaign@marcveasey.com](mailto:campaign@marcveasey.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/MarcVeasey/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/marcveasey](https://twitter.com/marcveasey)



**Jason Reeves (L)**  
US House District 33

**IMMIGRATION:** I believe DACA should be maintained but reworked.

**HEALTHCARE:** I would support legislation allowing policies to be obtained throughout the states with a free market approach to obtaining coverage. This would lower prices for everyone to get coverage, and allowing competition to get better and cheaper policies and coverage. People should be able to only buy the coverage and services they want. The federal government should not be in the business of providing or mandating healthcare.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** Climate change should be addressed by the private sector and not by federal government.

**ECONOMY:** Getting businesses open is the key to restoring economic health. Infrastructure should be handled by the private sector and not by the federal government. The national debt requires a balanced budget amendment that doesn't raise taxes. Cutting all programs and expenditures not mandates by the U.S. Constitution would save billions. Income taxes should not be raised.

**OTHER ISSUES:** School choice is vastly important right now. The federal government should get out of education and allow the states and the local levels to handle education. Parents would then have more control over curriculum and schools. The 2nd Amendment should not be infringed upon.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 4/5/1973; Occupation: TSO at DHS; Education: Some College High School Diploma Mountain View High 1991; Campaign Phone: (702) 538-4990; Email: [mamet\\_king@yahoo.com](mailto:mamet_king@yahoo.com)

Photo ID for voting in Texas! See [www.DallasCountyVotes.org](http://www.DallasCountyVotes.org) for qualifying IDs and where to get them, and alternatives for those who don't have Photo IDs.

## US House District 33 — Continued



**Rene Welton (I)**  
US House District 33

**IMMIGRATION:** Yes.

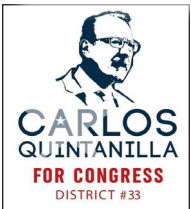
**HEALTHCARE:** Healthcare affordability requires that usury-rate healthcare costs be regulated like usury-rate interest rates. Second, affordability implies that individuals have sufficient income to pay insurance premiums. Finally, a modified form of universal healthcare provides healthcare cost incentives while maintaining a free market.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** Yes; Congress must continually monitor the effects of global warming and implement legislation that supports common sense actions to reduce negative effects.

**ECONOMY:** A federal guaranteed job program will eliminate unemployment incrementally. The introduction of a new business credit repository and new opportunities for business lines of credit with reduced qualifying criteria promotes self-preservation. Economic oversight of inequitable industry practices. The national debt is directly related to individual income levels and inflation rates. Income tax rates must be equitable and reasonable.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Racism- the world is on notice of the inequities in the U.S. regarding racism. I will advocate for equality. Justice System- The U.S. Justice System requires reform to eliminate inequity. I will advocate for equality. Economy- The U.S. economy has many inequities. I will advocate and fight for economic equality.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 10/1/1983; Occupation: Teacher; Education: Doctor of Jurisprudence; Website: <http://www.welton4us.com>; Email: [email@welton4us.com](mailto:email@welton4us.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Welton4US/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/Welton4US](https://twitter.com/Welton4US)



**Carlos Quintanilla (I)**  
US House District 33

**IMMIGRATION:** DACA is not enough, when we talk about Immigration we must also talk about DAPA, legal status for parents of DACA, who have made great contributions to this country, paying taxes, creating businesses, employing people and respecting the law. We must also talk about Comprehensive Immigration Reform as a final solution to the dysfunctional immigration system in America.

**HEALTHCARE:** I will and do support legislation that would provide comprehensive health coverage for every citizen, military veteran and inhabitant of the United States, with no out of pocket expenses, that would include dental, vision and prescription drugs.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** Absolutely, we must work towards significant reduction in dependency of fossil fuels, and curb planet- warming green house gas emissions. We need to have federal legislation that prohibits the contamination of our water resources, lakes and tributaries by strengthening EPA regulations that would limit fracking and other intrusive penetration of our water supplies. Unfortunately, we have a sitting Congressman who is anti environment, who voted against the Clean Water Bill, voted in favor of the Keystone Pipeline and has been silent on exploration and drilling in protected areas. Receiving millions in contributions.

**ECONOMY:** I am most concerned about restore the economic disparities that exist in the 33rd Congressional District, significantly reducing unemployment by creating vocational training programs, on the job training and access to small business capital so that those in our district will have access to business start up funds through Community Development Block Grant Monies that would go directly to small and medium businesses. I would do a infrastructure evaluation of the needs of our district and work diligently to obtain funding for those infrastructure priorities. I would support a fat tax on millionaires and billionaires.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Reallocation of Police Funding and the use of federal fund.. Drug treatment programs are critically needed in the 33rd CD. Minority incarceration and recidivism and second chances. Access to college for students who have limited resources. Elimination of Student Loan debt. Decriminalization of marijuana and vaping. increasing funds for Mental Health. Ending unlimited contributions from special interest, corporation and incognito contributions, like the ones our current Congressman receives,

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 11/7/1957; Occupation: Activist/Business Owner; Education: University Of Illinois Depaul University 26 hours short of a Bachelors, 30 Hrs masters Level courses; Website: <http://quintanilla2020.com>; Campaign Phone: (817) 770-2273; Email: [cquintanilla@activistalegal.com](mailto:cquintanilla@activistalegal.com); Facebook: <http://Carlos Quintanilla for Congress>; Twitter: [twitter.com/accionamerica](https://twitter.com/accionamerica)

## Railroad Commissioner

Six-year term. The railroad commissioner is one of the three-member Texas Railroad Commission. The commission has no regulatory authority concerning railroads. Instead, it regulates the oil and gas industry, gas utilities, pipeline safety, safety in the liquefied petroleum gas industry, and surface coal and uranium mining. Current salary: \$137,500 / What does the railroad commissioner do? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5uZASQUUOs&feature=youtu.be>

**QUALIFICATIONS:** What training, experience and background qualify you for this position?

**PIPELINES:** What can the Texas Railroad Commission do to further ensure compliance with pipeline regulations to avoid environmental harm?

**NATURAL RESOURCES:** What can the Texas Railroad Commission do to promote the reclamation and reuse of water resources used in fracking operations?

**FLARING:** What, if any, further regulations or limits are needed to address the impact of flaring on the environment?

### James "Jim" Wright (R) — No Response

### Railroad Commissioner



**Chrysta Castañeda (D)**  
Railroad Commissioner

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have over 30 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, as an engineer and attorney. I know the complex technical and legal issues that face the industry. I will protect our natural resources and environment and keep industry functioning.

**PIPELINES:** The Commission should increase safety and emissions monitoring to end catastrophic failures and eliminate methane leaks. It should implement a more robust information system to know where all smaller intrastate and gathering lines are located and permitted. The legislature must assign oversight authority for pipeline permitting, right-of-way acquisition and condemnation.

**NATURAL RESOURCES:** A reclamation and reuse program would ensure less fresh water is used and would reduce the need for disposal wells. Program guidelines, informed by experts, could provide best practices for operators. Updated permitting and reporting requirements would ensure operator compliance. To work, oversight must be provided by adequately trained and compensated professionals.

**FLARING:** If the Railroad Commission would simply enforce the laws on the books, we would dramatically impact greenhouse gasses and pollution. Flaring and venting of natural gas are illegal activities and the Railroad Commission should enforce those laws, which Texans enacted long ago to protect our natural resources and our environment.

Railroad Commissioner — Continued

Chrysta Castañeda (D) — Continued

Railroad Commissioner

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website: <http://chrystafortexas.com>; Facebook:: <http://www.facebook.com/ChrystaForTexas/>; Twitter:: [twitter.com/ChrystaForTexas](https://twitter.com/ChrystaForTexas)



**Matt Sterett (L)**  
Railroad Commissioner

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I run a small Oil & Gas Software company. Clients use the software to forecast well data. Sometimes, that data is from the RRC. I've been in the building & met w/ a few RRC team members - I'm familiar with the organization's digital operations.

**PIPELINES:** Punt the responsibility to the courts. Texas is a litigious state. I think the Texas courts have broadly supported property rights. As a Libertarian, I believe in strong private property rights. I also don't believe in expanding regulators activities. If / when environmental harm is done, I'd rather is be settled in a court than a government agency.

**NATURAL RESOURCES:** As a Libertarian, I believe in strong private property rights. I also don't believe in expanding regulators activities. If / when environmental harm is done, I'd rather is be settled in a court than a government agency.

**FLARING:** I'm against Flaring on the grounds that it's \*wasteful\*. We have a limited amount of natural resources. In the past, when we've had to import, it has meant foreign policy that led to wars. Title 3, Sub-chapter B Sec. 91.015 of the TX Natural Resources Code ([statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/NR/htm/NR.91.htm](http://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/NR/htm/NR.91.htm)) calls to "prevent waste of oil, gas". The RRC has not upheld this.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Website:: <http://www.mattrrc.org/>; Facebook:: <http://www.facebook.com/sterett>; Twitter:: [twitter.com/matthewsterett](https://twitter.com/matthewsterett)



**Katija Gruene (G)**  
Railroad Commissioner

**QUALIFICATIONS:** 3 decades of project & bus.mgmt. along w/consensus-based facilitation; 2 decades of experience doing legislative work, coalition building, campaigning, and leading an environmental & social justice movement in a litigious & hostile environment.

**PIPELINES:** First, no new pipelines. Second, properly inspect and review existing permits for compliance and safety. Third, hold corporations accountable for violations including restoration of & restitution in areas already harmed. Fourth, stop taking political contributions from those they are regulating. Fifth, enforce new 2020 regulations, including updating existing pipelines.

**NATURAL RESOURCES:** Ban Fracking Period. There is no need for such a highly wasteful, unsafe, and unsustainable practice. All water used in these operations is no longer potable and because it is chemically altered, scientists believe it may never be returned to the state of water - h2o. The emerging tech of onsite carrier gas desalination plants could become a valid option if successful.

**FLARING:** There are solutions, we just need to require them: power oxidation process, flare gas power generation, flare gas reinjection in secondary oil recovery, feedstock for petrochemical plants, LNG, CNG, & a small reactor that inexpensively breaks water and methane into carbon monoxide and hydrogen in the field (syngas), which can then be used for energy and industrial products

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Facebook:: <http://facebook.com/GreenTXRRC>; Twitter:: [twitter.com/qweekat](https://twitter.com/qweekat)

Justice, Texas Supreme Court

Composed of the chief justice and eight justices, the Supreme Court of Texas is the court of last resort for civil matters in the state. The Supreme Court is in Austin, immediately northwest of the state Capitol.

Supreme Court justices are elected to staggered six-year terms in statewide elections. When a vacancy arises the governor may appoint a Justice, subject to Senate confirmation, to serve the remainder of an unexpired term until the next general election. Justices must be at least 35 years old, a citizen of Texas, licensed to practice law in Texas and must have practiced law (or have been a lawyer and a judge of a court of record together) for at least ten years.

By statute the Court has administrative control over the State Bar of Texas. The Court is also the sole authority for licensing.

What does the Texas Supreme Court do? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuRIMQt57Xo&feature=youtu.be>

**QUALIFICATIONS:** What training, experience and background qualify you for this position?

**JUDICIAL SELECTION:** Texas is one of the few states that elects judges in partisan elections. What changes, if any, in the judicial selection process would you recommend?

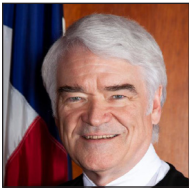
**STANDARDS:** What changes, if any, do you think are necessary to

improve public confidence in the legal profession?

**BIASES:** What training and practices do you recommend for trial judges to guard against implicit biases?

**OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you believe will be the most pressing for the Texas Supreme Court?

Chief Justice, Supreme Court



**Nathan Hecht (R)**  
Chief Justice, Supreme Court

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Yale BA 1971; SMU JD w/ honors 1974; USNR JAGC 1971-1979 (hon. disch); 1976-1981 Locke firm assoc., ptr; 1981-1986 95th Dist. Ct., Dallas; 1986-1988 5th Ct. of App., Dallas; 1989-2013, Tex. Supreme Ct Justice; Chief Justice 2013-present

**JUDICIAL SELECTION:** Voters should decide who their judges are, but in partisan elections, they don't get to, because there are too may judges on the ballot to know their qualifications. It's not voters' fault. Party politics and campaign fundraising are poisonous. Judges must follow the law. Appoint on qualifications, then voters elect to retain based on performance, holding them accountable.

**STANDARDS:** Judges and lawyers should engage with community leaders to ensure the justice system is seen as fair to all, as the Supreme Court and I did in a "Beyond the Bench Summit" in Dallas. Civics education in schools should be stronger and more creative. A great example is the South Texas program for students to enact mock trials in a real courtroom, playing different roles.

**BIASES:** Training Texas judges on issues of race and fairness has been required for many years. Implicit bias training is conducted annually for new

## Chief Justice, Supreme Court — Continued

### Nathan Hecht (R) — Continued

### Chief Justice, Supreme Court

judges and by the Texas Center for the Judiciary in many other courses and conferences. The Supreme Court's "Beyond the Bench Summit" featured implicit bias training. The Judicial Council that I chair is preparing other training.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The Court's work is completely current and has been since I've been Chief Justice. Its challenges are to continue to guide Texas courts through the pandemic and equip them with all they need to function. In these tight economic times, the Court must help ensure adequate funding for courts, and also for legal aid for the poor, to ensure equal access to justice for all.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website: <http://justicenathanhecht.com/>; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/hechtyes>; Twitter: [twitter.com/NathanLHecht](https://twitter.com/NathanLHecht)



### Amy Clark Meachum (D) Chief Justice, Supreme Court

**QUALIFICATIONS:** As a district court judge for a decade, I have presided over all types of cases heard by the Supreme Court: civil, family and administrative appeals. I am a guest lecturer for ethics, a member of the Public Law Council and an advocate for legal aid.

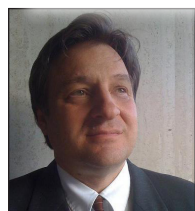
**JUDICIAL SELECTION:** The State should help voters by sending an information packet to each voter and providing that information at polling locations. The packet should contain background information, qualifications, and a statement of judicial philosophy for each candidate. That information would assist voters to make an informed selection and would reduce campaign costs for candidates.

**STANDARDS:** Texas should increase public membership and participation on the Committee on Disciplinary Rules and Referenda, which recommends proposed changes in legal ethics rules in Texas. Currently, under Texas Gov't Code § 81.0872, just 2 of 9 members are public members. Also, members of the public who file grievances should be allowed to participate in some parts of the process.

**BIASES:** We need to require every judge and lawyer in the state to take implicit bias training. This is simple and achievable. When I am elected Chief Justice this fall, we will make this part of the Texas justice system's mission on Day 1. We need to add a pledge of "Equal Justice under the Law" to the lawyer's and judge's oaths. It is past time to create a more fair system.

**OTHER ISSUES:** All Texans should have access to essential legal services. Access to justice is a top priority of mine, and one of the cornerstones of a fair and just society, especially during COVID. The current Court is considering a \$1.2 million cut to legal aid, but rising evictions, layoffs and domestic violence cases are creating a more urgent need for legal services - not less.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website: <http://amymeachum.com>; Facebook: <http://facebook.com/JudgeAmyforChiefJustice/>



### Mark Ash (L) Chief Justice, Supreme Court

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have mostly practiced criminal defense law for the last 27 years. Also, I have represented individuals in civil matters including divorce, property rights and personal injury.

**JUDICIAL SELECTION:** Elections for judges should not be based on political party affiliation. At a minimum, judges should be in good standing with the state bar and have actively practiced law in Texas for a minimum time period of 5 or 10 years. Also, term limits for judges should be seriously considered limiting judges to no more than 2 or 3 terms per court.

**STANDARDS:** The public needs access to more data from the state bar. The public needs to know how many clients the lawyer has represented in the criminal or civil courts. Many times, clients are not aware of the limited experience a civil lawyer may have in criminal court and a criminal lawyer may have in civil court. Also, malpractice insurance information needs to be disclosed.

**BIASES:** Judges should be required to attend a minimum number of hours of continuing legal education. Information about the courses/classes that the judges attended need to be available online for the public to view. Also, user friendly access to campaign contributor information needs to be made available to the public.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The Texas Supreme court should continue to make more and more user friendly legal forms available online for simpler legal matters such as for family, probate and real estate. Links should be provided to trusted websites that give up-to-date information for pro se litigants.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/markashfortexascourtofcriminalappeals>

## Justice, Supreme Court, Place 6 - Unexpired Term



### Jane Bland (R) Justice, Supreme Court, Place 6

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have served more than 20 years at three levels of the state judiciary: as a trial judge, as a justice on the court of appeals, and now on the Supreme Court of Texas. I am board certified in civil trial law and civil appellate law.

**JUDICIAL SELECTION:** No change in judicial selection can happen without the support of the voters and their elected representatives. Governor Abbott and the Texas Legislature have formed a bi-partisan commission charged with making recommendations about judicial selection. I look forward to these recommendations, and I support this process.

**STANDARDS:** We can improve public confidence by respecting and valuing all people who encounter our courts, reducing the cost of resolving disputes through innovation and technology, educating lawyers about best practices, and serving needs of those who cannot afford a lawyer. I have done that work through leadership positions in the bar and as a community volunteer.

**BIASES:** I recommend that trial judges cultivate standards of excellence by incorporating the best practices of others from all walks of life and foster understanding even in disagreement or when faced with terrible circumstances. The Texas Center for the Judiciary offers excellent courses for judges on understanding implicit bias and improving decision-making.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The Court will continue to work toward advancing justice and the rule of law during the pandemic.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website: <http://www.justicejanebland.com/>; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/judgejanebland/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/courthouse\\_mom](https://twitter.com/courthouse_mom)



### Kathy Cheng (D) Justice, Supreme Court, Place 6

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have almost twenty years of legal experience in areas including complex commercial issues, divorce and probate, tax and real estate cases. I have also served as adjudication officer for the City of Houston for about six years.

**JUDICIAL SELECTION:** The beauty of democracy is that citizens can vote for individuals who they believe reflect their values, which in the State of Texas includes the election of judges. If that choice turns out to be a bad choice, being able to vote elected officials out of office is a mechanism to hold said officials accountable. As such, I see no need for change at the present time.

**STANDARDS:** As time evolves, the means of disseminating the rules and standards for the legal profession shall also evolve. With the ease of digital accessibility, there should be more educational information available to the general public by digital means of the rules and standards governing said profession so that the general population are better informed as to their rights.

**BIASES:** Raising awareness of the existence of implicit bias through regular meeting discussion can debias the years of exposure to cultural stereo-

## Justice, Supreme Court, Place 6 — Continued

## Kathy Cheng (D) — Continued

## Justice, Supreme Court, Place 6

types, narratives and/or systemic policies. In addition, implement a mandatory annual implicit bias training for judges and staff members.

**OTHER ISSUES:** With the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision to refrain from hearing challenges of partisan gerrymandering, partisan gerrymandering cases will now go before the Texas Supreme Court, which is an example of how this Court impacts its citizens even though the citizens themselves may never go before this Court.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website: <http://www.chengforjustice.com>; Facebook: <http://chengforjustice>; Twitter: [twitter.com/chengforjustice](https://twitter.com/chengforjustice)

## Justice, Supreme Court, Place 7

## William Bryan Strange, III (L) — No Response

## Justice, Supreme Court, Place 7

**Jeff Boyd (R)**

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 7

**QUALIFICATIONS:** My extensive and varied legal career—including 16 years in private practice, 3 years as the deputy attorney general in charge of civil litigation involving the state, and 2 years serving as general counsel and chief of staff for the governor's office

**JUDICIAL SELECTION:** Electing judges creates issues that undermine the public's confidence in the system, but it also requires judges and judicial candidates to interact with the public. This gives the public the opportunity learn who will best serve to counteract those problems. If we were building the process from scratch, leave it to the public to decide to alter the system.

**STANDARDS:** We must continue to make the system more accessible by reducing the costs and delays required to resolve common civil disputes. We must do more to promote the legal profession as a means for public service instead of private profit. And we must continue to promote transparency into the operations and activities of our courts and judges.

**BIASES:** Programs like the "Beyond the Bench" conference the Court sponsored in 2016 can be effective for that purpose. Requiring judges' participation in such well-designed, high-quality programs as part of their annual continuing-education requirements would be a meaningful step in the right direction.

**OTHER ISSUES:** (1) Ongoing implementation of evolving technology to increase efficiency within the judicial system. (2) Maintaining timely decision-making processes through changes in the Court's make-up over time. (3) Ensuring continued operations throughout the judicial system in times of natural disasters.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website: <http://justicejeffboyd.org>; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JusticeBoydTX>; Twitter: [twitter.com/JeffBoydTX](https://twitter.com/JeffBoydTX)

**Staci Williams (D)**

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 7

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am in my second term as Judge of the 101st District Court. The 101st District Court handles primarily commercial, personal injury, medical malpractice, oil and gas, and consumer issues. I have over 27 years of legal experience.

**JUDICIAL SELECTION:** Texans have elected judges in partisan elections for more than 100 years. While I believe that this Texas tradition should not be disturbed, a Commission has been established to study options to selecting judges in urban areas by methods other than partisan elections. Recommendations will be made at the end of the year. I look forward to reviewing these alternatives.

**STANDARDS:** The legal profession needs to get more involved in the community. My judicial outreach program, the Citizens' Civil Academy ("CCA"), was launched to educate citizens about the civil court system. The CCA explores the types of cases heard in the civil courts and what happens to a case from the time the case is filed until it is disposed. There have been over 350 graduates.

**BIASES:** I believe they should attend training sessions and evaluate on a monthly basis what practices or procedures can be modified to reduce implicit bias. Every day, the judge should ask him/herself, "would I have treated this litigant differently if he had been a member of my own race?"

**OTHER ISSUES:** The Texas Supreme Court will be faced with what to do about the bar examination. Many states have an apprentice licensing program. We must consider how the Court will ensure safe testing locations and procedures or if the Supreme Court will allow the 2020 graduates to practice without an examination.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website: <http://judgestaci.com>; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JudgeStaci/> Twitter: [twitter.com/JudgeStaci](https://twitter.com/JudgeStaci)

## Justice, Supreme Court, Place 8

**Brett Busby (R)**

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 8

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Based on my experience as a board-certified appellate lawyer and my record as a fair court of appeals judge, I earned the support of all Democrats and Republicans when the Texas Senate voted unanimously to approve my appointment to the Supreme Court.

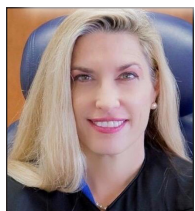
**JUDICIAL SELECTION:** Our process should select experienced judges who will deliver justice: giving everyone the fair day in court they deserve and ruling impartially based on the law, never imposing their personal or political views to reach a desired result. I support the work of the Texas Commission on Judicial Selection, which the Legislature created to report on selection options in 2021.

**STANDARDS:** Important conversations are taking place across Texas about equality and justice under the law. The Supreme Court's "Beyond the Bench: Law, Justice, and Communities Summit" developed a toolkit to foster dialogue on real solutions that will enhance public trust in our justice system. I encourage lawyers, judges, and local leaders to use this kit in their communities.

**BIASES:** The Texas Center for the Judiciary provides all new Texas judges with training on recognizing and responding to implicit biases. As part of our ongoing commitment to assure that equal justice under law is a reality for all, the Center also offers continuing education on unconscious processes that affect decisions and best practices for increasing sound decision-making.

**OTHER ISSUES:** As the Court's liaison for access to justice, I champion reforms that help Texans of limited means—including veterans, domestic violence victims, families, and the elderly—get the basic civil legal services they need. Example: online hearings can significantly increase access and reduce cost, so we are planning how to use them most effectively even after the pandemic.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website: <http://www.BrettBusby.com>; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/justicebrettbusby/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/BrettBusby](https://twitter.com/BrettBusby)

**Gisela Triana (D)**

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 8

**QUALIFICATIONS:** For over 24 yrs, I have served as a judge in Texas: Municipal Ct, JP, County Ct, District Ct, Appellate Ct. I will be the first person on the TXSCT to have served on every lower level court. Most of my 32-yr legal career has been in public service.

**JUDICIAL SELECTION:** This is a legitimate discussion if there was a nonpartisan way to select judges that Texans could trust. The issue is the timing: after the party that has been in power and benefited from partisan election of judges for decades begins to lose that power. It makes the concern seem self-interested. Texans have clearly shown a preference for electing judges, I support that.

**STANDARDS:** I believe that in today's racially and politically charged climate, lawyers and judges should be at the forefront and lead by example by requiring mandatory implicit bias training for all members of the Bar. We all have implicit bias and some even explicit bias. We need to learn how to identify it and work diligently to overcome it. I try to do this on a daily basis.

**BIASES:** There are several continuing legal education courses that deal with the psychology behind our unconscious bias, how to identify it, and how best to

## Justice, Supreme Court, Place 8 — Continued

## Gisela Triana (D) — Continued

## Justice, Supreme Court, Place 8

combat it. Such courses should be compulsory for all Bar members. Project Implicit has several online tests that can be startling, yet should also be required for all judges. <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>

**OTHER ISSUES:** Restoring balance to the Court. Currently, all members are Republican. 7 of the 9 were originally political appointments by a Republican Governor. Our founders were wise to create a jury system that brought people from different walks of life, with different experiences to judge a case. We need diversity of thought on the Court, as well. It makes for better jurisprudence.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website:: <http://www.JudgeTriana.com>; Facebook:: <http://www.facebook.com/JudgeTriana>; Twitter:: [twitter.com/JusticeTriana](https://twitter.com/JusticeTriana)



### Tom Oxford (L) Justice, Supreme Court, Place 8

**QUALIFICATIONS:** With almost four decades of legal experience I will bring a broad range of knowledge to the bench. I have had the pleasure of successfully representing Texans before both the Texas Supreme Court and the United States Court of Appeals.

**JUDICIAL SELECTION:** The problem is not the partisan nature of the elections. The problem is the massive amount of money given to these candidates by the very firms that will be appearing before them. If a firm wants to give funds to a candidate that is their right. However when that firm appears before that same Judge appropriate conflict of issue standards should be applied.

**STANDARDS:** An open system that treats all parties with an even hand, regardless of race or socio-economic status would be a good start. Too often a litigant's chances depend more on who their lawyer is and what connections they have with the judge than on the actual facts of the dispute. An honest recognition of that fact by our profession would be a good start.

**BIASES:** I am not sure how to answer this question. You cannot train bias out of someone, it is part of human nature. We all favor our family over our neighbors, our neighbors over our community and our community over the community down the road. We must recognize our bias and constantly guard against it. A difficult task indeed!

**OTHER ISSUES:** Historically Judges decided the law and juries decided the facts. We have gotten away from that respect for the Jury System in Texas. Too often, when there are honest factual disputes, Judges will overrule the jury and substitute their own opinions for the Jury's. This tension will continue to be a pressing issue.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** No Response

## Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals

6-year term. Must be age 35-74 years, a U.S. Citizen, a Texas resident, licensed to practice law in Texas, a registered voter, and have at least 10 years experience as a lawyer or judge. Reviews all death penalty cases and applications for habeas corpus in felony cases, hears final appeals on criminal cases, and administers publicly funded judicial and attorney education.

**BACKGROUND:** What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position? District Court Judge.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** How should the Court of Criminal Appeals address mental health issues of those who come before the court?

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** What opportunities are there, if any, to improve the state's indigent defense system in criminal cases?

**OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Court of Criminal Appeals?

### Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 3



### Bert Richardson (R) Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 3

**BACKGROUND:** I am the incumbent in this race and have been a State judge for over 20 years. I am a former State and Federal prosecutor that is Board Certified in Criminal Law. I have participated in hundreds of appeals, writs and over 50 capital cases.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Mental health issues are litigated at the trial level. As an appellate judge, in cases with mental health issues, I write legal opinions that determine whether a trial court properly admitted, or excluded mental health evidence. If evidence of mental health is improperly excluded, the Court has the authority to grant a new trial.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** There are opportunities to improve the system, but that requires additional funding and that assistance has to come from the legislature and individual counties, not the courts. In order to attract qualified lawyers to represent indigent defendants, the State will have to compensate those lawyers, or create more public defender offices.

**OTHER ISSUES:** In light of the current COVID crisis, one of the most pressing issues will involve getting the courts across the State back to work. I anticipate several legal challenges will follow the "new normal" including speedy trial claims, jury selection issues, witness testimonies and jury deliberations that result in fair verdicts.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website:: <http://www.electjudgerichardson.com/>; Facebook:: <http://www.facebook.com/JudgeBertRichardson/>; Twitter:: [twitter.com/None](https://twitter.com/None)



### Elizabeth Davis Frizell (D) Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 3

**BACKGROUND:** I have 27 years of trial experience and 13 years as a private practitioner. I have 20 years of experience as a Judge where I was elected as a Dallas County Criminal Court Judge and Dallas Criminal District Court Judge.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** The Court of Criminal Appeals should ensure that trial courts examine mentally ill defendants for their capacity to know the difference between right and wrong as well as whether a mental illness affected their judgment and was properly asserted and applied for sentencing purposes.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** The State Bar should require internships similar to internships in the medical field where newly licensed attorneys work for non-profit organizations, government agencies, and firms doing trial work and appellate work for at least one year prior to becoming licensed. This will give non-profit and pro bono agencies more attorneys to handle an increased caseload.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Disparate sentencing, wrongful convictions, and death penalty cases.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website:: <http://www.Frizell4Judge.com>; Facebook:: <http://www.facebook.com/frizell4txjudge>

## Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 4



**Kevin Yeary (R)**  
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 4  
(2015-Present)

**BACKGROUND:** \*Law Clerk- Texas Court of Criminal Appeals 1yr (1992-1992) \*Private Lawyer- Criminal/Civil Defense 3yrs (1992-1995) \*Appellate Prosecutor- Dallas, Houston, San Antonio 19yrs (1995-2014) \*Judge- Texas Court of Criminal Appeals 5+yrs

**MENTAL HEALTH:** The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, along with the Texas Supreme Court, recently established the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health “to engage and empower court systems through collaboration, education, and leadership, and to thereby improve the lives of individuals with mental health needs and persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).”

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** The Texas Indigent Defense Commission “provides financial and technical support to counties to develop and maintain quality, cost-effective indigent defense systems that meet the needs of local communities and the requirements of the Constitution and state law.”

**OTHER ISSUES:** The Court must follow the rule of law and ensure that the written law provides the even playing field that all citizens should expect from our judicial system. Judges must not be policy makers, but should instead decide disputes between parties to litigation, guided by reference to the constitution and laws, which are written by others.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website:: <http://www.judgeyeary.com/>; Facebook:: <http://www.facebook.com/JudgeKevinPatrickYeary>; Twitter:: [twitter.com/JudgeYeary](https://twitter.com/JudgeYeary)

## Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 4 — Continued



**Tina Clinton (D)**  
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 4

**BACKGROUND:** I am the presiding district court judge of the oldest Criminal District Court in Texas. I have 14 years experience as a trial court judge over a felony district, county criminal and municipal courts. I have tried over 400 trials in my career.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** The CCA is an appellate court so issues of mental health raised on appeal are the issues that may be addressed. The CCA also funds education programs and grants for judges, lawyers and prosecutors. Expanding the funding for additional education on mental health in criminal cases would make a vast difference in the entire criminal justice system.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** First, review cases of ineffective assistance of counsel closely. One can be ineffective not merely by not doing something they should have done but also for the lack of time they have based on carrying too heavy of a case load, based on ABA standards. Second, indigent defense attorneys must be given adequate resources for investigators, experts and other tools.

**OTHER ISSUES:** (1) To help answer and educate members of the legislature on where bail reform is currently in Texas. (2) Review staffing needs for additional lawyers on writs that come into the CCA. (3) To consider using differing platforms to increase transparency to the public. (4) Diversify internships to give access to law students that have not traditionally been given access.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website:: <http://facebook.com/JudgeTinaClinton>; Facebook:: <http://facebook.com/JudgeTinaClinton>; Twitter:: [twitter.com/JudgeTClinton](https://twitter.com/JudgeTClinton)

## Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 9



**David Newell (R)**  
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 9

**BACKGROUND:** I serve you as a Judge on the Court of Criminal Appeals. I have over two decades of experience handling and deciding criminal appeals as either a lawyer or a judge. I am board certified in both criminal and criminal appellate law.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** It can adopt dynamic standards to allow non-dangerous citizens suffering from mental illness who commit a crime to easily transfer out of the criminal justice system from a jail bed to a hospital bed so they can get the help they deserve. Violent offenders should also be treated for their illnesses, but in a secure facility for the safety of the community.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** Creation of more regional public defender’s offices could help ensure a standard level of competent representation. Additionally, the Court of Criminal Appeals could pro-actively set out minimum standards for representation of indigent defendants in serious cases

**OTHER ISSUES:** Mental health issues, mentioned above, are obviously pressing. Wrongful convictions based upon junk science or police misconduct are also very serious. Additionally, reforming bail practices so that the indigent are not incarcerated for extended periods of time prior to conviction unless there is a flight or safety risk is another significant to address.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website:: <http://keepjudgenewell.com>; Facebook:: <http://facebook.com/judgedavidnewell/>



**Brandon Birmingham (D)**  
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 9

**BACKGROUND:** Two-term Felony Trial Court Judge, former Presiding Judge-all Felony District Courts, Dallas. Lead counsel on over 100 jury trials from DWI to Capital Murder. 2 specialty court dockets, visiting professor at SMU Law School.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** My experience has taught me how important properly addressing mental health issues are to reducing recidivism. The CCA should help increase training for lawyers on these issues, and where appropriate, work to increase funding for courts across Texas for worthwhile mental health programs.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** Justice shouldn’t depend upon a person’s access to resources-lessons we’ve learned from the Dallas County exonerations. We must increase funding through the legislature to help counties pay for reasonable and necessary costs of providing indigent defense. Second, we have to establish state-wide best practices to define and manage the case loads of indigent defense counsel.

**OTHER ISSUES:** From allowing a verdict to stand while a lawyer slept in court, to letting politics impact decisions, or reversals by the United States Supreme Court in death penalty cases, rulings from the CCA have contributed to the public’s skepticism of our criminal courts, and illustrate very clearly the need for change. If we don’t learn from history, we are doomed to repeat it.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website:: <http://JudgeBirmingham.com>; Facebook:: <http://www.facebook.com/JudgeBirmingham/>; Twitter:: [twitter.com/JudgeBirmingham](https://twitter.com/JudgeBirmingham)

Before you go to vote, make sure you know where your polling place is. Sometimes polling locations change. Find polling locations for both early voting in person and election day at [www.DallasCountyVotes.org](http://www.DallasCountyVotes.org) or call Dallas County or the League of Women Voters of Dallas.

# State Representative

Two year term. Must be 21 or older, a US citizen, resident of Texas and the district represented. Responsible for representing the citizens of the district in the Texas House of Representatives.

**REDISTRICTING:** Are you in favor of a nonpartisan independent citizen redistricting commission? Aside from the creation of a nonpartisan independent citizen redistricting commission, how would you ensure that the process is fair and protects communities of interest?

**BUDGET DEFICIT:** Should Texas use the Rainy Day Fund to bridge the budget deficit until recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is complete? If not, how would you propose to deal with the deficit?

**HEALTHCARE:** Are you in favor of the Medicaid expansion? If not, what measures do you think the state should take to expand access to health care?

**VOTING:** Are you supportive of election modernization measures like online voter registration?

**OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas Legislature and what is your position on these issues?

## State Representative, District 100

Jasmine Felicia Crockett (D) — Unopposed

State Representative, District 100

## State Representative, District 102



**Linda Koop (R)**  
State Representative, District 102

**REDISTRICTING:** We should begin with forming an independent commission to appoint judges instead of electing judges according to party affiliation.

**BUDGET DEFICIT:** Yes. This will be necessary.

**HEALTHCARE:** Yes. While in the Texas Legislature, I authored and passed into law a bill that expanded portions of Medicaid in Dallas County.

**VOTING:** I would be in favor of online registering to vote when you renew your driver's license online; thereby ensuring the registration is secure.

**OTHER ISSUES:** I am for the following: Ensuring that the state adequately funds and supports public education Ensuring school safety in our public schools. Expanding women's health resources Property appraisal reform in order to lower property taxes

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 6/21/1950; Occupation: Retired business owner; Education: University of Texas at Dallas - MA

- School of Management Colo. State Univ. - BA ; Website: <http://Lindakoop.com>; Email: [Linda@lindakoop.com](mailto:Linda@lindakoop.com); Facebook: <http://LindakoopForTexas>; Twitter: [twitter.com/LindaKoopTX](https://twitter.com/LindaKoopTX)



**Ana-Maria Ramos (D)**  
State Representative, District 102

**REDISTRICTING:** I fully support a nonpartisan independent citizen redistricting commission. We have seen the effects of allowing politicians to handpick their own voters. It's time we let voters decide who represents them. This goes along with ensuring that underrepresented communities are no longer victims of being cracked or packed.

**BUDGET DEFICIT:** There is expected to be about \$8.5 billion left in the rainy day fund when the next legislative session begins. It is crucial that we use this resource to help the working families in Texas recover from the effects of the COVID-19. We should explore using that money to provide for cities, counties, and municipalities waiting on federal money with appropriate funding. I will look to use the fund to make a direct impact on people's lives as we recover from COVID-19. As for the future of the fund, we should look into placing it into an interest-bearing account so that it may gather more investments and continue to grow.

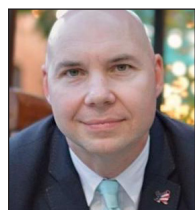
**HEALTHCARE:** Healthcare is a right, and we must fight to expand access to Medicaid. When I had my daughter at 15, it was through Medicaid services that I was able to receive quality care from a good hospital. For too long, Texas lawmakers have pushed healthcare aside, resulting in our state is the #1 uninsured state in the country. Increasing the accessibility of quality postpartum and prenatal care for low-income women is of the utmost importance. Any fight to increase access to healthcare must also include protecting and covering those with preexisting conditions, especially with the threat posed by COVID-19.

**VOTING:** It is crucial that we work to reform our mail-in ballots and voter ID laws. Texas is a voter suppression state and the current voting laws function to only further voter suppression in our state. It is not a coincidence that Texas ranks near the bottom at voter participation among states. I support exploring ways to expand our voter turnout in our state, which includes making voter registration more accessible to Texans by expanding towards online voter registration. We must also make the act of voting more accessible by looking towards other states that have adopted or expanded their vote-by-mail programs.

**OTHER ISSUES:** It is essential that we protect our public schools from any budget cuts due to COVID-19 and make sure we do not shift responsibility to homeowners. Last session, we passed an \$11.6 billion school finance measure, which included \$6.5 billion in new funding, and increased per-student base funding by almost 20%. But this is not enough, as our school population continues to rise we must continue to fight for lawmakers to return to funding 50% of our public education budget as we did just a decade ago. I also believe we must move towards Universal Pre-K to ensure that all children are given equal opportunity to succeed.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 6/16/1976; Education: JD- SMU MBA -Texas Woman's University BA in Communications- University of Texas At Arlington; Website: <http://ramos4texas.com>; Campaign Phone: (469) 912-1082; Email: [teamramos@ramos4texas.com](mailto:teamramos@ramos4texas.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ramos4texashd102/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/ramos4texas](https://twitter.com/ramos4texas); You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/VORIS2NuGRs>

## State Representative, District 103



**Jerry Fortenberry II (R)**  
State Representative, District 103

**REDISTRICTING:** It is time to remove the drawing election districts from sitting legislators and give that power to to an independent, nonpartisan body of citizens. Keeping the process fair is inherently challenging but by setting out a non-partisan criteria for drawing the lines that involves citizen and community input so that their is equal representation of the members of said community so that one party is not favored over the other.

**BUDGET DEFICIT:** We should tap into the Rainy Day Fund to help mitigate the revenue loss due to the Covid shutdown in conjunction with other cost savings. The Legislature needs to help businesses recover and reemploy our workforce to its fullest capacity and focus on supporting the business sector, especially small businesses that have suffered. When these businesses fail, jobs are lost, and consumer demand gets destroyed permanently. We need to at least temporarily cut corporate taxes and license fees and delay some corporate taxes to help businesses get back on their feet and bring workers back.

## State Representative, District 103 — Continued

## Jerry Fortenberry II (R) — Continued

## State Representative, District 103

**HEALTHCARE:** Healthcare is not political, it is personal. We can give access to affordable quality health care to disadvantaged people while allowing those who have good private healthcare to keep it. More choices equals better costs so that more people have access to high quality healthcare at a price they can afford. Texas is the state with the largest uninsured population and if Medicare expansion can save Texans lives with improved access to care, affordability of care, and no reductions in employment while boosting our economy than it is something we should do.

**VOTING:** Online voter registration improves access and provides better integrity of the voter roles so I am for that as long as we address concerns about potential vulnerabilities to online voter registration systems and enhancing security protections to mitigate fraud.

**OTHER ISSUES:** School Choice - Every child in every neighborhood should have access to high quality education - school choice is a civil rights issue - The government doesn't tell you where to buy groceries - so why should it tell you where to send your child to school based on a zip code? Occupational job skills training - the most direct route out of poverty is an occupational skill Property Tax reduction/elimination - elimination of crushing property taxes - putting money back in homeowners and renters pockets Healthcare is not political, it is personal. We can give access to affordable quality health care to all Texans.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** **OCCUPATION:** Cybersecurity ; Education: Holmes - Registered Nurse - Nursing Further education - UTA/TU; Website: <http://www.fortenberryfortexas.com>; Email: [jerry@fortenberryfortexas.com](mailto:jerry@fortenberryfortexas.com) Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/FortenberryForTexas/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/jerryfortexas](https://twitter.com/jerryfortexas); You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/g8wgAGn7jUo>



**Rafael M Anchia (D)**  
State Representative, District 103

**REDISTRICTING:** For too long, elected officials have used partisan gerrymandering to manipulate district lines to benefit themselves and their party. This process allows elected officials to select their constituents, rather than the other way around. During my time in the legislature, I have filed multiple bills to create an independent redistricting commission. Last session I authored HJR 59, which proposed a constitutional amendment to establish the Texas Redistricting Commission to redistrict the Texas Legislature and Texas congressional districts. This is the most effective method to ensure all voices are represented fairly.

**BUDGET DEFICIT:** The Texas Economic Stabilization Fund ("Rainy Day Fund") is the state's emergency savings account. Per the Texas Comptroller's Office, the current balance of the fund is just over \$10 billion. As a state, we should activate these funds when Texas families are in need, when 3 million Texans have applied for unemployment insurance. We should activate these funds when tens of thousands of families wait hours in line for emergency food aid, and thousands more are at risk of losing their homes. We must invest these funds now, or direct the Legislative Budget Board to front-load disbursements to help struggling families.

**HEALTHCARE:** Texas leads the nation in the number and percentage of people without health coverage. In 2019, 121,000 fewer Texans had health coverage than had coverage a year ago. Even more concerning, from 2016-2018, Texas saw a 16% increase in the number of uninsured children (873,000 children uninsured in 2018). And in July of this year, Families USA, published a report that showed the devastating effects the pandemic has had on Texas' already abysmal uninsured rate. The report showed that a staggering 29% of Texans under 65 lack health insurance. I fully support Medicaid expansion—this should not be a partisan issue.

**VOTING:** I support all measures that grant individuals greater access to exercising their right to vote, including but not limited to online voter registration. Rather than expanding the franchise to include all eligible voters, state politicians work tirelessly to illegally narrow the universe of Texas voters. I've had many conversations with stakeholders including election administrators, parties, candidates and voters, and the two overriding considerations are consistent: public health and democracy. We should be encouraging greater participation in our elections, including expanding mail-in voting for any eligible Texans.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The murders of Botham Jean, Ahmad Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Michael Ramos, George Floyd and many other women and men who have unjustly lost their lives at the hands of law enforcement have weighed heavily on me. While I have long worked on criminal justice reform, I have been challenged to reexamine whether I am doing enough in my public service, business life and personal life. The legislature must have deliberate and uncomfortable conversations in order to protect all citizens in our state, build trust within our law enforcement agencies, and provide resources to support programs for our underserved communities.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 9/26/1968; Occupation: Managing Director; Education: BA - Southern Methodist University JD - Tulane Law School; Website: <http://rafaelanchia.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 868-5440; Email: [info@rafaelanchia.com](mailto:info@rafaelanchia.com); Facebook: <http://rafaelanchia>; Twitter: [twitter.com/rafaelanchia](https://twitter.com/rafaelanchia)

## State Representative, District 104

## Jessica Gonzalez (D) — Unopposed

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 104

## State Representative, District 105



**Gerson Hernandez (R)**  
State Representative, District 105

**REDISTRICTING:** I am not in favor of a nonpartisan independent citizen redistricting commission. At an initial glance it could appear as a fairer way to divide electoral districts, as opposed to giving power to elected officials whose jobs are contingent upon the very same district lines. However, dividing districts is based upon the Constitutional premise of checks and balances. If voters within a district disagree with how the lines are drawn, they have the power to vote out their elected officials. By establishing an independent commission, it takes away the power of voting.

**BUDGET DEFICIT:** It's premature to tap into the Rainy-Day fund in Texas for COVID-19, due to a lack of a complete report of the economic damage and assigned allocation of funding. As Governor Abbott has yet to call a special session to tap into Rainey-Day funding, we need to continue focusing on other resources to support Texans.

**HEALTHCARE:** I'm not in favor of Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act. Since President Obama passed his health care legislation, we've seen an increase of health care costs, drug prices, and limited health care options. It is crucial Texans find a way to establish a health care plan benefiting everyone.

**VOTING:** America was founded on the democracy of individual voting, however modern voting measures such as online voter registration are unregulated and therefore unAmerican. Every citizen has the right to their vote but unless we continue to hold voters accountable, the accuracy of honest elections will collapse.

**OTHER ISSUES:** One of the most important issues facing Texas is economic recovery following COVID-19. Next session the Texas legislature needs to focus on re-igniting the prosperous economy before the Coronavirus pandemic.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 2/3/1991; Occupation: Executive Director ; Education: Attended Christ for the Nations ; Website: <http://GersonforTexas.com>; Campaign Phone: (469) 660-9770; Email: [Gerson@gersonfortexas.com](mailto:Gerson@gersonfortexas.com); Facebook: <http://GersonHernandezforTX>

Photo ID for voting in Texas! See [www.DallasCountyVotes.org](http://www.DallasCountyVotes.org) for qualifying IDs and where to get them, and alternatives for those who don't have Photo IDs.

## State Representative, District 105 — Continued



### **Terry Meza (D)** State Representative, District 105

**REDISTRICTING:** Yes, I favor a non-partisan independent citizen redistricting commission. I would abide by the non-partisan Legislative Council prepared district maps as closely as possible. I attended the League of Women Voters-Irving forum, when we heard from a member of the California independent citizen redistricting commission. I was impressed with their process and the extent that it goes to ensure inclusivity. Rep. Anchia, Rep. Gonzalez, and I plan to work together to address the unconstitutionality of our districts' boundaries as outlined by the three-judge panel in San Antonio.

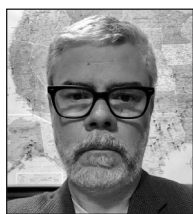
**BUDGET DEFICIT:** Yes, I would consider the Rainy Day Fund when working to bridge the budget deficit from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Rainy Day Fund was created to balance the ebb and flow of the Texas economy, and it would be appropriate to consider the fund as a part of the solution.

**HEALTHCARE:** Yes, the ongoing global health crisis has exposed the need for Medicaid expansion. We need to expand the program and accept the accompanying federal funds. Texas ranks first in the nation for its number of uninsured, both by percentage and raw numbers. The expansion would not only give people access to health insurance, but also help healthcare providers to be reimbursed for services that are currently non-reimbursable.

**VOTING:** I am fully supportive of modernizing the electoral system to include online voter registration. I have already submitted this reform to the Legislative Council to be a bill in the 87th Legislature, along with other reforms such as same-day voter registration, ranked-choice voting, statewide county voting centers, among others.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Bridging the digital divide and maintaining adequate funding for public schools are important issues. The pandemic has exposed the fault lines in education and internet access. The digital divide is not exclusive to rural areas; it affects our urban communities as well. It was our hope to return to the next legislative session to improve upon the advancements in funding public schools which was accomplished with HB3. However, the budget crisis may make it difficult to do more than hold onto that level of funding.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 8/1/1949; Occupation: State Representative ; Education: Bachelor's Degree - UT Arlington Graduate Studies - UD, UTA JD - Texas Wesleyan School of Law; Website: <http://terrymeza.com/>; Campaign Phone: (972) 914-9043; Email: [info@terrymeza.com](mailto:info@terrymeza.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/TerryforTexas/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/terryfortexas](https://twitter.com/terryfortexas)



### **Bret Bolton (L)** State Representative, District 105

**REDISTRICTING:** Very much so. The gerrymandering of our district is a serious issue, and limits voter's voice. Keeping the commission nonpartisan would be an ongoing struggle.

**BUDGET DEFICIT:** Texas's economic stabilization fund is the largest in the country. Started in 1988 to help deal with large cuts in state services, it has grown to astronomical size. As far as using it now? I'd propose (with shrinking the size of Texas government drastically) dissolving the fund and returning the tax money to those it was gathered from. As far as dealing with the deficit? Cut spending, and cut government. As far as dealing with the deficit? Cut spending, and cut government.

**HEALTHCARE:** I would not support any expansions of Medicare. The government should not be involved in health care at all.

**VOTING:** I support any and all measures to make voting easier, accessible to more people, and this year...safer.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The next session will still be dealing with the effects of the global pandemic we are in today. The state government has been stepping on the rights of some business owners, and are partially to blame for their current situation. As the state opens back up, it will be important to open without government interference in the free market.

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## State Representative, District 107



### **Samuel Smith (R)** State Representative, District 107

**REDISTRICTING:** Yes. Redistricting should be based on natural (municipal, geographic, and economic) boundaries. For example, in our district, the White Rock Lake community of East Dallas is predominantly upper-middle to upper class, whereas the Far-East Dallas and much of the Mesquite and Garland portions of the district are lower-middle to middle class and much more ethnically diverse. There are clearly different priorities for each of these areas, so it would make more sense if each had its own unique representation in Austin. The sole goal should be achieving the best possible representation for every citizen.

**BUDGET DEFICIT:** Yes. This next session, the Rainy Day fund should be only used as a temporary stop-gap to keep our schools funded while simultaneously enabling us to keep taxes as low as possible on our businesses so that they can recover quickly and get our economy booming again. However, we should never use the Rainy Day fund to expand recurring expenses and we should refill its balance as quickly as possible once economic growth returns. If we value sustainably funding our schools and and growing our economy, we need to ensure that we elect fiscally responsible legislators.

**HEALTHCARE:** Not at this time. With a projected \$4.6B deficit and high property taxes, we can't afford an additional program that has proven elsewhere to cost far more than initially predicted. We can more efficiently expand health care access through revenue-neutral property tax reform to reduce rents/mortgage escrows and free up funds for medical costs, increasing medical care cost transparency, and decreasing prescription drug costs and barriers to treatment. Texans also already have access to Federally Qualified Health Centers, Telemedicine, and Health Share groups (which I use) that offer very affordable quality healthcare.

**VOTING:** Registering and casting votes should be as convenient, efficient, and secure as possible. Online voter registration has been successfully practiced in the majority of the states in the country, provides enormous cost savings, and as long as full security measures are practiced to maintain voter roll integrity, I am supportive.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Jobs/Economy: Get Texans safely back to work and support small businesses and critical industries like nursing and education. Fiscal responsibility: with a projected \$4.6B deficit and property taxes already at high levels, we must cut wasteful spending to keep Texas on a sustainable economic and fiscal footing without gutting education, healthcare, and infrastructure. Education: protecting/improving teacher pay and teacher's pensions will be a priority. I will work alongside our ISDs to find ways to reform/replace the STAAR. Criminal Justice: Give offenders with improved behavior a second chance at a productive life

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 10/17/1990; Occupation: Business Owner; Education: United States Military Academy at West Point - B.S. in Civil Engineering and Mathematics; Website: <http://www.samuelsmithfortexas.org>; Campaign Phone: (682) 313-5983; Email: [votesamuelsmith@gmail.com](mailto:votesamuelsmith@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/SamuelforTexas>; You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/IA9VCyrU6zg>



### **Victoria Neave (D)** State Representative, District 107

**REDISTRICTING:** Working with Common Cause Texas, our office filed HJR 123 and had a hearing during the 2019 Legislative Session on the need for a non-partisan independent redistricting commission to serve as an independent body that would help develop the Texas Legislative and congressional district boundaries and to take the redistricting process out of the hands of politicians and put it into the hands of the people of Texas. We've had courts that have held that there's been intentional discrimination against Latino and African-American voters, and we need to make sure that the process is fair and equitable.

**BUDGET DEFICIT:** I plan to file legislation to assist historically underutilized businesses/ small businesses create jobs and tax revenue, which would help Texas families put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads. My legislation would be funded by the Rainy Day fund and help small businesses that were left behind federal funding programs, like the SBA Paycheck Protection Program. I have also advocated for use of Rainy Day funds to help fund public education and TRS-Care (a health insurance program). Funds should be used to stabilize the budget, so that Medicaid and services for low income and disabled Texans are protected

## State Representative, District 107 — Continued

## Victoria Neave (D) — Continued

## State Representative, District 107

**HEALTHCARE:** I support Medicaid expansion and have supported legislation and amendments that help our community meet the financial burdens of healthcare. Texas is home to the largest number of uninsured individuals of any state in the country. Healthcare is a basic human right, not a privilege. We need to expand Medicaid to ensure everyone has access to affordable healthcare, especially as a result of COVID-19 and all the health implications that may result after contracting the virus. Expanding Medicaid would result in significant budget savings and overall economic growth for Texas through matched federal funds 9-to-1.

**VOTING:** Yes. Texas is one of 10 states in the country that does not have access to online voter registration services. Access to the ballot box is a fundamental right which must be protected. We must also make sure that voting centers have access to disposable face masks, hand sanitizer, proper physical distancing, and sanitizing equipment. My biggest priority on Election Day is public safety. That's why I support the opening of the American Airlines Center as the largest voting center in Dallas County on Election Day as it will provide an opportunity for safe and physical distancing, ample parking, and DART access.

**OTHER ISSUES:** We must bridge the digital divide and provide PPE for our kids and staff. I co-authored a major school finance bill and secured more money for our schools-- \$70 million for Dallas ISD, \$25 M for MISD, and \$14 M for GUSD for FY 2020. Two bills I wrote expand access to \$300 million dollars of financial per year so college is more affordable. I am working on legislation to address the challenges faced by women-owned businesses, businesses owned by people of color, veterans, and small businesses. We must also consider creating a cannabis industry by expanding medical use and legalizing adult use to generate revenue.

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## State Representative, District 108


**Morgan Meyer (R)**  
 State Representative, District 108

**REDISTRICTING:** When it comes to redistricting, I'm supportive of a fair process that protects every community and provides a legislative body that truly represents the people. In regards to this specific question, I would need a better understanding of how we create a "nonpartisan, independent citizen redistricting commission" to manage a process that is inherently political.

**BUDGET DEFICIT:** Flexibility and creativity will be key in supporting economic recovery. Budget writers in both chambers have already signaled that the legislature will discuss using a portion of the Rainy Day Fund during the upcoming session. I believe that we must make good on the promises we made during the previous session, including our historic support for public schools. We don't yet know the extent of the impact of the pandemic, but latest projections indicate that it will be significant. It will take experienced leadership to deliver things like strong public education funding and public safety support for this district.

**HEALTHCARE:** In the past, I've supported Medicaid expansion legislation targeted specifically at ensuring the most vulnerable Texans have access to healthcare, something that will be especially important in the wake of the pandemic. In the pandemic landscape, we should consider providing Medicaid coverage to low income essential workers who are not covered by any other form of insurance. This should be a key issue in the next legislative session - with a bipartisan approach we can do what's best for our citizens.

**VOTING:** Every Texan must have the ability to vote and make their voice heard. At the same time, we must make sure that our voting systems are secure and reliable so that Texans have confidence in our elections.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Recovery from COVID will be the top priority next session. It's critical that we craft a smart state budget that protects education funding gains made in the 2019 session even in the face of historic uncertainty in the state's budget. We must create a robust plan to address jobs and growth to help heal our economy and lead Texas back to being a beacon of economic might. We need to continue supporting public safety while leading for community-based solutions that will help combat root causes of crime, poverty and desperation. In addition to these issues, I look forward to continuing the fight against human trafficking.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 8/8/1974; Occupation: Attorney; Education: J.D., Washington and Lee University School of Law B.A., Southern Methodist University; Website: <http://morganmeyerfortexas.com>; Campaign; Phone: (469) 554-0428; Email: [Morgan@MorganMeyerforTexas.com](mailto:Morgan@MorganMeyerforTexas.com); Facebook: <http://facebook.com/MorganMeyerforTexas>; Twitter: [twitter.com/MorganMeyerTX](https://twitter.com/MorganMeyerTX)


**Joanna Cattanch (D)**  
 State Representative, District 108

**REDISTRICTING:** I am in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting committee because I believe voters should choose their representatives and not the other way around. I pledge to be an advocate for communities of interest and communities of color. I am endorsed by the National Democratic

Redistricting Committee, have attended local redistricting hearings, supported Census completion efforts, and will continue to work with non partisan groups and voters to make sure every vote counts and every voter counts. There must be transparency and representation at the table and in every hearing for the redistricting process to be fair and honest.

**BUDGET DEFICIT:** An unprecedented pandemic and economic downturn is unquestionably a "rainy day." Our state should ensure that crucial services such as health care remain funded by tapping its Rainy Day Fund. The fund itself has seen losses as well and there is no question that across the board cuts will happen, but the state must meet its commitments to public schools and a science-based approach to safely re-open. We must find ways to increase state revenues and decrease wasteful spending so that our economic recovery is sustained. We have an obligation to make sure that Texas families and small businesses and industry can recover.

**HEALTHCARE:** Yes, I am in favor of Medicaid expansion. As a former foster care child, I was a Medicaid recipient and as an adult I have both been insured and at times uninsured. Medicaid expansion isn't just morally responsible it's fiscally irresponsible to continue to deny our own federal tax dollars our state desperately needs. Local tax payers are paying a deeper burden for uninsured residents but more importantly, Texas now lags behind Oklahoma and Missouri and most of the country on Medicaid expansion. Count me as one of the strongest advocates for expansion and for health Texas families.

**VOTING:** I am in absolute support of election modernization and of the state complying with its own responsibilities including registering voters online at the same time they apply online for their driver's license. We are in the midst of a pandemic and our state refuses to allow people with underlying health issues or concerns to safely vote by mail. We do not have statewide and universal vote by mail as option to keep voters and election workers safe. This pandemic has highlighted the absolute need for modernization from equipment, to registration, to mail service and more.

**OTHER ISSUES:** We cannot forget our commitment to pass common sense gun legislation in Texas. Our state has seen tragic and violent mass shootings, and we must pass legislation that strengthens background checks, closes the gun show loophole, addresses the need for red flag laws and a statewide gun surrender policy for domestic abusers. These measures are needed as we also address the need for criminal justice reform in Texas.

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## State Representative, District 108 — Continued

**Ed Rankin (L)**

State Representative, District 108

**REDISTRICTING:** Yes, if constructed carefully. I think we need to ensure the composition of any such commission includes representation from independents, Libertarians, Green Party members and others.

**BUDGET DEFICIT:** I would prefer we cut state spending and return the Rainy Day Funds to the taxpayers.

**HEALTHCARE:** No, Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security are failed Ponzi schemes. We need to cut regulations and allow a free market to reduce healthcare costs like it has in cosmetic medicine.

**VOTING:** I am in favor of eliminating barriers to participation in the political process, including voting. However, it's essential the integrity of the voting process is ensured. I believe paper ballots, or any other legitimate, auditable processes are essential to ensure the process is free and fair.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The state's response to pandemics-I believe Texas needs its own system for determining the state's response to future events Education-I believe we should expand vouchers and charter schools. Economic Development-I believe we need to continue to reduce the size of state government, reduce taxes and regulation. The property tax burden is too high. We should consider eliminating property taxes and raising state sales taxes

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 1/5/1957; Occupation: Leadership Advisor; Education: PhD, MA, MS, BS; Website: <http://voteedrankin.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 803-6526; Email: [ed\\_rankin@yahoo.com](mailto:ed_rankin@yahoo.com)

## State Representative, District 109

**Eugene Allen (R)**

State Representative, District 109

**REDISTRICTING:** Thank you for that question, Yes I support a nonpartisan independent citizen redistricting commission that would ensure the process is fair, and protects communities of interests through a selection that includes people from the communities that will be affected the most. I think we should establish training for those who have never participated in such a forum.

**BUDGET DEFICIT:** Thank you for your question, Yes Texas should use the rainy day fund to prevent or reduce the effect of COVID-19, and I believe Texas should really take a look at financing schools, drug treatment centers, and skills schools along with subsidizing home taxes through legalizing and taxing cannabis use.

**HEALTHCARE:** Thank you for your question, yes I would be in favor of the medicaid expansion, I think it would help people who need it badly.

**VOTING:** Thank you for your question. Yes I not only support election modernization measures, but would advocate for eligible americans for free, fair, and accessible means, such as providing cost free driver license or I.D. card for eligible voters who register to vote.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Thank you for that question. I truly believe that there is nothing more pressing than law and order. Even with the pandemic, if we do not restore law and order anything we attempt before that will be met with lawless opposition. Then we have the pandemic, schools, businesses. As for my position on law and order if we do not enforce the laws we have on the books, to what point do we make new laws? If we do not contain the virus then we should co-exist with it. Using technology to teach our kids and developing ways for them to interact safely. Business should adjust and adapt to safe service for public.

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**Carl O Sherman Sr (D)**

State Representative, District 109

**REDISTRICTING:** I would be in favor of nonpartisan redistricting. Right now, politicians in Austin get to choose their voters, and the voters are the ones who should choose their representatives. In addition, it's crucially important that Democrats compete in every single house district, so we

can win back the Texas House and really have a voice and a seat at the table when it comes to redistricting. This is the most important election because if Democrats win back the House, Republicans will no longer have total control over the redistricting process.

**BUDGET DEFICIT:** Yes. The Rainy Day fund should be used for rainy days. We had a rainy day in 2009 during the great recession. And it appears that we may be headed towards another rainy day this current year. We must maintain basic services for all Texans - including education and public health and safety funding. As a former Mayor, I know the importance of saving during the good times, so we can make it through the darker days. That's called good governance, and I do believe that securing and maintaining a strong Rainy Day fund is essential.

**HEALTHCARE:** Yes, we need to expand Medicaid right away. The only reason Medicare has not been expanded is because the Affordable Care Act has been rebranded as "Obamacare". It is an absolute shame that Austin refuses to accept Medicare expansion funds - just because of the President who signed the bill into law is a Democrat. I've always supported Medicare expansion and it's due time my colleagues on the other side of the aisle wake up - our citizens need health care now more than ever!

**VOTING:** Absolutely, we need online voter registration and same day registration as well. The right to vote is the most fundamental right we have as Americans. My ancestors fought and died in order to ensure that women and people of color have the right to vote. The Republican efforts to suppress voter turnout with photo IDs and discriminatory gerrymandering are counter to democratic values and our democracy roots. Republican efforts serve as an enterprising solution in search of a problem. We should advocate for laws that increase voter participation and turnout, not less.

**OTHER ISSUES:** 1. Education (A) Student Debt - tuition cost (B) Sustaining the commitments of HB3 (C) Retired teachers- pay increase to keep up with inflation. 2. Livable Wages & Benefits (A) Equal pay for women (B) Family leave pay (C) Increase the minimum wage 3. Criminal Justice Reform (A) Sentencing disparities (B) Technical Revocation (C) Prison reform (body cameras, A/C units, better conditions)

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 6/13/1966; Occupation: Pastor and Businessman; Education: B.B.A. Northwood University; Website: <http://shermanfortexas.com>; Email: [shermanfortexas@gmail.com](mailto:shermanfortexas@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ShermanForTexas/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/ShermanForTexa](https://twitter.com/ShermanForTexa)

## State Representative, District 110

**Toni Rose (D) — Unopposed****STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 110**

## State Representative, District 111

**Yvonne Davis (D) — Unopposed****STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 111**

## State Representative, District 112

**Angie Chen Button (R) — No response.****STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 112**

## State Representative, District 112 — Continued


**Brandy K Chambers (D)**  
 State Representative, District 112

**REDISTRICTING:** I am in favor of a nonpartisan independent redistricting commission. I don't see any other fair way to handle it. The people who will benefit the most by drawing the lines should not be the ones drawing them, plain and simple.

**BUDGET DEFICIT:** The Economic Stabilization Fund is there for these exact circumstances. I do support tapping it only after the Legislature has explored reasonable options to creating new revenue for the State like scrubbing the tax code for outdated exemptions, closing corporate loop holes and legalizing marijuana.

**HEALTHCARE:** Medicaid expansion will save lives and billions of our own tax dollars. One of the biggest challenges for my district is access to affordable healthcare. Expanding Medicaid will bring back \$9 for every \$1 Texas spends. It will help absorb the costs of indigent care provided by county hospitals which would in turn reduce the expense paid by our property taxes. In short, expanding medicaid provides health care access, helps lower property taxes, creates jobs and economic opportunity. It is a win-win.

**VOTING:** Yes, I fully support online voter registration. I also fully support no excuse absentee voting, same day registration, reforming voter id laws, making election day a national holiday, and making early voting three weeks with all weekends and hours from 7 a.m to 8 p.m. up to election day.

**OTHER ISSUES:** With the help of the local NAACP and Black law enforcement officers, I drafted a set of police accountability proposals that I will work with the Black Democratic Caucus and all interested members to prioritize and enact. They are reporting, accountability, protection, training, and community and legal standards. These are not meant to be the only actions taken but rather a starting place for discussion and progress. <https://brandykchambers.com/police-accountability>

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 11/18/1972; Occupation: Attorney; Education: B.A.in Sociology with Minor in Psychology- 1995 J.D. - 1998 Both from University of Oklahoma; Website: <http://brandykchambers.com>; Campaign Phone: (903) 461-4102; Email: [brandy@brandykchambers.com](mailto:brandy@brandykchambers.com); Facebook: <http://facebook.com/brandyfortexas>; Twitter: [twitter.com/BrandyforTexas](https://twitter.com/BrandyforTexas)


**Shane D Newsom (L)**  
 State Representative, District 112

**REDISTRICTING:** yes

**BUDGET DEFICIT:** Yes, but we also should watch how we spend our money. Start cutting things out that is not needed in the time.

**HEALTHCARE:** I don't believe its the government job to give out healthcare

**VOTING:** I am supportive of any way the people can vote. We first need to allow other groups to be on the ballot and not fight each party to stay on the ballot.

**OTHER ISSUES:** War on drugs, Taxes and human rights.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 7/24/1978; Education: Bachelor's Degree in CIS; Website: <http://newsomforstaterep.com/>; Email: [shanefordistrict112@pm.me](mailto:shanefordistrict112@pm.me); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ShaneForTexasHouseDistrict112>

## State Representative, District 113


**Will Douglas (R)**  
 State Representative, District 113

**REDISTRICTING:** I believe that the elected members of the Texas House of Representatives, not unelected bureaucrats, should be responsible for redistricting in a fair and accountable process.

**BUDGET DEFICIT:** In talking with District 113 constituents, I hear the same thing over and over: our Rainy Day fund is reserved for times like now. The Legislature should protect the fund during the good times to keep it secure for economic downturns like we're currently experiencing. As a fiscal conservative, I will resist attempts to raid the fund for uses other than covering gaps in revenue like we are experiencing during COVID.

**HEALTHCARE:** Throughout my time as a pharmacist and business owner, I have seen first-hand just how expensive and out of reach healthcare can be for the ordinary family. With that in mind, in the legislature I will advocate for more affordable healthcare access, so that every Texan can rest assured knowing that when they're in need of medical assistance, it won't break the bank.

**VOTING:** I want every registered voter to actively participate in our elections in the safest, most secure way possible. I look forward to considering solutions that advance this goal.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The people of House District 113 are in a battle to save their jobs, their homes, and their family's livelihood. The COVID-19 epidemic has brought much of the world economy to its knees. As a pharmacist and pharmacy owner, my employees and I have been hard at work getting people the care they need. I'm running for the Texas House because our district needs someone who has the work ethic to represent their interests in Austin day in and day out. I'm running to ensure Texas is a job creating machine with a level playing field for hard working families.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 10/1/1986; Occupation: Pharmacist & Businessman; Education: University of Oklahoma - B.S, 2009 - Pharm.D, 2013; Website: <http://WillDouglasForTexas.com>; Email: [info@willdouglasfortexas.com](mailto:info@willdouglasfortexas.com); Facebook: <http://WillDouglasTX>; Twitter: [twitter.com/WillDouglasTX](https://twitter.com/WillDouglasTX)


**Rhett Andrews Bowers (D)**  
 State Representative, District 113

**REDISTRICTING:** A nonpartisan independent citizen redistricting commission may be something to consider moving forward. I believe in fair representation and that voters should pick their representatives, not the other way around. I believe voters deserve to have a voice in

how their district maps are drawn.

**BUDGET DEFICIT:** We have not been able to see the full impact of COVID-19 on our state and in my opinion it is too early to decide that those funds come from the Rainy Day Fund. When we return to the 87th legislative session we will have to consult with our colleagues and be advised by the Legislative Budget Board as to which bills or agencies have funds that could possibly be used.

**HEALTHCARE:** I am in favor of Medicaid expansion. Texas is one of 13 remaining states that has not expanded Medicaid. Over 5 million Texans - more than 20% - are uninsured. Texas' decision to reject Medicaid expansion cost us billions in federal dollars and incalculable financial losses for individuals. It has been proven in other states that Medicaid expansion actually improves the economy.

**VOTING:** I am supportive of election modernization measures like online voter registration. I support every citizen's right to vote. I believe we should be encouraging voter engagement, not discouraging it with lots of restrictions in place for voters showing up at the polls. We should be making it easier for voters to exercise their right to vote, not making it harder by closing polling locations and having very strict Voter ID laws.

**OTHER ISSUES:** In House District 113, citizens are concerned with access to quality healthcare, the safe reopening of our neighborhood schools and the racial injustices our communities are facing. I will continue to work alongside my colleagues in the Texas House to make sure more Texans have access to quality affordable healthcare. I support our school districts and will work with our superintendents to make sure our Texas teachers, students and families can get back to school safely. I will work with my colleagues to find reforms that all citizens can be happy with moving forward and continue working toward racial reconciliation.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 7/22/1967; Occupation: Consulting Firm, Owner; Education: BA Texas Southern University in Telecommunications/ Broadcast Journalism minor ; Website: <http://www.rhettabowers.com>; Campaign Phone: (972) 379-8080; Email: [Bowers4tx@gmail.com](mailto:Bowers4tx@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/rhettabowers>; Twitter: [twitter.com/RhettForHD113](https://twitter.com/RhettForHD113)

## State Representative, District 114

Luisa Del Rosal (R) — No response

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 114



**John Turner (D)**  
State Representative, District 114

**REDISTRICTING:** Yes. A number of states already have such a commission, and it would be a good thing for Texas for us to follow suit. The tendency of some officeholders to worry more about partisan rankings and scorecards than about getting good legislation passed is made worse by gerrymandered districts. Voters should choose their elected officials, not the other way around. If such a commission cannot be passed into law, we must hope that legislators will act in a principled fashion in drawing the new lines, doing their best to respect geographic and neighborhood boundaries and ensure fair districts for communities of interest.

**BUDGET DEFICIT:** Yes. The upcoming legislative session is likely to be a textbook case for when Rainy Day funds should be used. The primary purpose of this fund is to address temporary revenue shortfalls in a recession. We are in such a recession, and we should be willing to use these dollars to avoid harmful cuts to public education, health care, and other critical priorities. Recent estimates are that the fund may have a balance of up to \$8.8 billion at the end of FY 2021. I would support using a substantial portion of the fund to supplement our budget, assuming the revenue picture remains difficult as is now expected.

**HEALTHCARE:** Yes. I have long supported Medicaid expansion, which is now more important than ever in light of the pandemic. Texas is one of a minority of states not to have made this decision, yet Texas has the highest rate of uninsured in the nation. By one recent estimate, 29 percent of all Texans under 65 are uninsured. That doesn't lead to good public health outcomes and it makes insurance premiums higher for everyone. Medicaid expansion is a major step that we could take to lower the number of uninsured, improve the reach of mental health services, and keep more Texans healthier.

**VOTING:** Yes. We should be making it easier for people to vote and to register to vote, not harder. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 40 states now offer online registration, with one more (Oklahoma) in the process of implementing it. Online registration is secure, convenient, and saves taxpayer dollars. I am disappointed that Texas has thus far declined to join the majority of states in taking simple steps such as this to make voting easier. We should also add our state to the majority that allow all registered voters to vote by mail, which we currently limit to people meeting certain criteria.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Our continuing response to the pandemic will be critical. Bringing the virus under control is the key to so much: saving lives, reducing unemployment, reviving small businesses, going back to school in person safely, getting back to sports and community activities. A top priority must be to take the measures that science and public health expertise tell us are necessary to stop the spread. This is the shortest and surest path to resuming normal life. We must also pass a responsible state budget that supports public and higher education, research, health care, and the infrastructure we need for economic growth.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 11/12/1974; Occupation: Attorney; Education: J.D., Yale Law School, 2000 A.B., Harvard University, 1997 Crockett High School, 1993; Website: <http://www.johnturnerfortexas.org>; Campaign Phone: (972) 275-9230; Email: [campaign@johnturnerfortexas.org](mailto:campaign@johnturnerfortexas.org); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/johnturnerfortexas/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/TurnerforTX](https://twitter.com/TurnerforTX); You Tube: [https://www.youtube.com/v/L\\_jDGf6aFzI](https://www.youtube.com/v/L_jDGf6aFzI)

## State Representative, District 115

Karyn Brownlee (R) — No response

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 115



**Julie Johnson (D)**  
State Representative, District 115

**REDISTRICTING:** Yes, we need an independent commission. Commissioners could be appointed equally by both parties. Meetings to preview draft plans should be subject to the open meetings act, inviting public contribution at every step of the way. These meetings could be scheduled to take place in regions that are representative of the populations being considered and all proposed maps could be shared by community partners ahead of time.

**BUDGET DEFICIT:** The Economic Stabilization Fund should be just that, an emergency fund used in times of economic downturns to provide stabilization so that the state's priorities continue to be funded. We should also consider legalizing and taxing cannabis products to help bridge our mounting deficits.

**HEALTHCARE:** As our nation and state struggles during the COVID-19 pandemic, the "donut hole" in our healthcare system for the working poor has never been more apparent. Tying healthcare to jobs has also proven to be a bad solution as the nation suffers massive unemployment and underemployment. It's time for Texas to accept Medicaid expansion, once and for all.

**VOTING:** I fully support online voter registration, automatic voter registration at the age of 18 and universal mail-in voting. If we can pay our taxes online and by mail, we should be able to vote the same way.

**OTHER ISSUES:** My constituents and their families are on the brink of economic ruin and suffer from a lack of healthcare like too many families all over Texas. Helping Texas businesses survive, expanding Medicaid and increasing healthcare access should be at the top of our agenda. Education also remains a top priority. The lack of childcare access and parity in learning access has been apparent during the pandemic. The importance of our educators is plainly obvious in the shadow of COVID-19. Our teachers need a real fix for their pensions and a secured increase in pay; no more band-aids or one-time solutions.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 5/2/1966; Occupation: Attorney; Education: B.A. - University of Texas at Austin J.D. University of Houston Law School; Website: <http://juliejohnsonfortexas.com>; Campaign Phone: (469) 607-7555; Email: [campaign@juliejohnsonfortexas.com](mailto:campaign@juliejohnsonfortexas.com); Facebook: <http://facebook.com/juliejohnsonforTX>; Twitter: [twitter.com/juliejohnsonTX](https://twitter.com/juliejohnsonTX)

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 5/2/1966; Occupation: Attorney; Education: B.A. - University of Texas at Austin J.D. University of Houston Law School; Website: <http://juliejohnsonfortexas.com>; Campaign Phone: (469) 607-7555; Email: [campaign@juliejohnsonfortexas.com](mailto:campaign@juliejohnsonfortexas.com); Facebook: <http://facebook.com/juliejohnsonforTX>; Twitter: [twitter.com/juliejohnsonTX](https://twitter.com/juliejohnsonTX)

For those who qualify (65 or older, disabled, etc), voting by mail to avoid standing in line is an option. If you received your ballot in the mail, you may safely return it in the mail if you do it well in advance of election day. Be aware that mail delivery may be slower than usual so do not delay!

# Justice, 5th Court of Appeals

6-year term. Must be age 35-74 years, a U.S. Citizen, a Texas resident, licensed to practice law in Texas, a registered voter, and have at least 10 years experience as a lawyer or judge. Reviews all death penalty cases and applications for habeas corpus in felony cases, hears final appeals on criminal cases, and administers publicly funded judicial and attorney education.

**BACKGROUND:** What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** What recent technological developments provide opportunities to improve the state's indigent defense system in civil and criminal cases?

**MENTAL HEALTH:** How should the Court of Appeals address mental health

issues of those who come before the court?

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Which responsibility of a Court of Appeals justice is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?

**OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Court of Appeals?

## Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 3



**David Evans (R)**  
Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 3

**BACKGROUND:** I have 20 years of judicial experience as a court of appeals justice and trial judge. As a justice, I have authored more than 700 opinions and participated in approximately two thousand appellate decisions. As a trial judge, I tried 368 civil jury trials to verdict and decided thousands of motions. The Committee for a Qualified Judiciary found me qualified.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** The Fifth Court of Appeals was the first to create an on-line attorney portal so attorneys and parties who represent themselves can access the record of their appeal electronically. Trial courts, not appellate courts, are responsible to decide whether a party is indigent. The Fifth Court of Appeals has a volunteer, pro-bono appellate representation program for indigent.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Defendants in criminal and mental health cases have counsel appointed to represent them writing briefs and oral argument.

The Fifth Court of Appeals reviews written records of trial courts; we are not a trial court, so we do not investigate facts and have no means to independently assess the mental health of parties to cases.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Thoroughly studying the briefs, preparing well for oral argument, and authoring carefully reasoned opinions that follow Texas law are my highest priorities. That is the core job of justices on the Fifth Court of Appeals for which my entire education and experience has well-prepared me.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The Fifth Court of Appeals is the largest and busiest in Texas and needs a justice with the breadth and depth of appellate experience in all the areas of law that come before our Court. The Court needs to make transparent and public how justices and cases are assigned to panels.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website: <http://justicedavidevans.com>



**Bonnie Lee Goldstein (D)**  
Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 3

**BACKGROUND:** A broad 30-year legal practice that includes both civil and criminal litigation, administrative proceedings, and judicial experience for 11 years as a municipal judge and five years as a civil trial judge in the 44th Judicial District Court.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** COVID required innovation, flexible accommodations, ensuring continuous access to the courts and justice via virtual and telephonic platforms, virtual public access to proceedings, while maintaining a physically open courthouse for those with limited electronic capabilities, with vigilant attention to safeguarding constitutional protections and equal access to the courts.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** The Texas State Bar provides support and resources through the Texas Lawyers Assistance Program for members of the Bar and Judiciary directed at mental health issues. Continual training to identify and address the need at all levels of the judiciary, in the legal profession and with litigants is of vital importance to safeguard the integrity of our justice system.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** To ensure the law is applied correctly in keeping with the Judicial Canons that prohibit a judge from being swayed by partisanship. The independence of the judiciary is paramount. Each judge must act with integrity to set aside partisanship, ideology, outside influence, philosophy, platforms, religion and all other forms of bias once she dons the robe and takes the bench.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Legal challenges created by the public health emergency will ultimately be heard at the trial level and thereafter appealed. The disposition of appeals to ensure a fair and correct outcome, so the parties know they were heard, and clear precedence set for the lower courts and litigants within the appellate jurisdiction will be a novel, pressing issue for the COA.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website: <http://judgegoldstein.com/>; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JudgeBonnieGoldstein>

## Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 6



**John Browning (R)**  
Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 6

**BACKGROUND:** My work on the appellate court, coupled with 31 years of trial and appellate experience, qualify me. Also, the most important skill of an appellate judge is writing; besides all of the appellate briefs I have written, I've written 4 books and hundreds of legal articles.

My work has been cited by courts all over Texas, and I teach appellate lawyers and judges.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** Lawyers representing the indigent face crushing caseloads with limited support staff. As Chair of the State Bar's Computer & Technology Section, I pioneered annual free training programs for Legal Aid attorneys and public defenders that provided technology training in areas to help level the playing field, like free research databases, document creation software, and apps.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** The Court of Appeals is not a trial court, and doesn't hear witnesses; we review decisions of trial courts. But like them, we ensure equal justice for all, including the mentally ill. Judges must treat everyone with objectivity and dignity. Judges have opportunities at multiple stages to provide a party access to mental health services, like diversion programs.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** My greatest responsibility is to apply the law as it was written, not as I wish it to be. Justices are not legislators making law, and they must not go beyond a text's plain meaning to find and enforce an unwritten "spirit" which frequently mirrors a judge's own preferred outcome. This is not a partisan approach; Justice Elena Kagan famously said "We're all textualists."

**OTHER ISSUES:** The pandemic has resulted in nearly all trials in Texas being postponed; when things return to normal, there will be a backlog of cases that will ultimately impact the appellate courts. Technologies like Zoom have led to questions that appellate courts must resolve: do remote hearings violate Constitutional rights? Racial representation on juries also remains pressing.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website: <http://www.johnbrowningforjustice.com>; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/johnbrowningforjustice>; Twitter: [twitter.com/therealjohnbrow](https://twitter.com/therealjohnbrow)

## Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 6 — Continued



### Craig Smith (D)

Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 6

my career. I was named ABOTA Trial Judge of the Year in 2008 in recognition of my commitment to justice.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** Improvements continue for bail bond setting for indigent defendants to set reasonable bonds and still protect the public. In civil matters, the increase in pro se litigants is a symptom of the high cost of litigation and the difficulty in finding pro bono assistance. The DBA's Access to Justice program continues to raise funds, awareness and local attorney participation.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Mental health issues of litigants, lawyers and parties arise throughout our judicial system. However these issues are mostly presented at the probate and trial court level.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** The top responsibility of a justice is to thoroughly review cases on appeal and make sure everything occurred properly at the trial court level. This requires extensive knowledge of the law and procedures, the willingness to pursue legal research, and the ability to craft strong opinions, work collaboratively and help shape the decisions of the appellate panels.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Much change occurred in Texas appellate courts in 2018, with many new justices being elected. This was ultimately a good thing because it brought fresh perspectives and more diversity to these courts. These courts look more like Texas today than they did before. But I believe we need strong, experienced leadership on these courts and I can be a strong asset in that regard.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website:: <http://www.judgecraigsmith.com>; Facebook:: <http://www.facebook.com/JudgeCraigSmith>

## Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 8



### Bill Whitehill (R)

Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 8

analysis, and writing. I also have an extensive record of professional and community service.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** Our automated document management systems and electronic portal make it more efficient and less expensive for us to manage and access court records and for parties and their counsel to do the same.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** A party's mental health issues come to a court of appeals in legal issues that the party or counsel raise in his or her briefs based on the written record developed in the lower court. If a mental health issue first arises on appeal, we would refer the matter back to the trial court to develop the facts and to make a legal ruling that we can review.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Our highest priority is to decide cases fairly and impartially with fidelity to the rule of law within our constitutional framework. I do that by working hard; being prepared; and being diligent in writing clear, concise, and consistent opinions that are useful to the bar, judges, and public. I work respectfully with others and decide each case on its individual merits

**OTHER ISSUES:** Our court ordinarily operates very efficiently. The most pressing issue facing us near term is returning to normal operations and oral arguments once the pandemic's effects are controlled.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website:: <http://www.whitehillforjustice.com>; Facebook:: <http://www.facebook.com/bill.whitehill.96>



### Dennise Garcia (D)

Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Place 8

COA. From 1986 to 2016, the court always had at least one Justice with a family background.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** Before March, court appointed attorneys had difficulty meeting with clients. Since then, the Office of Court Administration and the Texas Supreme Court approved courts' use of zoom and YouTube for remote proceedings. This technological infrastructure makes it easier for defense counsel to meet with their clients, and makes it easier for litigants to appear at court.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** As a trial judge, I interact with enough of the public to recognize that some require assistance because of undiagnosed mental health issues. To address this, I have appointed attorneys to assist the litigants in finding resources that will get them the help they need. The judicial system as a whole could use a better system for addressing mental health issues.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** My highest priority is getting appropriate family law and child welfare representation on the court. I frequently teach family law and child welfare law at continuing legal education courses, and have high bar poll ratings as a Family Judge. Having a resource on the court, who is knowledgeable in the areas of law that most personally affect Texans is my highest priority.

**OTHER ISSUES:** no response

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Website:: <http://Judgegarciaforjustice.com>; Facebook:: <http://www.facebook.com/JudgeDenniseGarciaCampaign>; Twitter:: [twitter.com/Kdgarcia](https://twitter.com/Kdgarcia)

## Civil Court Judge

Civil cases heard by District Courts include personal injury and property damage suits, landlord-tenant matters, contractual and other business disputes. Must be a US citizen and Texas resident between 25 and 74 years old, a practicing lawyer or judge, or both combined for at least 4 years. 4 year term.

**BACKGROUND:** What training, experience and characteristics qualify you for this position?

**PERFORMANCE & EXPERTISE:** Please outline your legal experience, including any specializations. Describe any public reprimands or suspensions you have received.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** What, if anything, should be done to improve access

to justice for low income residents?

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Which responsibility of this position is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?

**OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in this court and how would you address them?

The above race's information begins on the next page.

## District Judge, 14th Judicial District



### Jessica Voyce Lewis (R) District Judge, 14th Judicial District

**BACKGROUND:** I am a qualified and experienced attorney with a worldview that calls me to pursue justice and reconciliation for all people in Dallas County and with a history of doing so. My practice has ranged from serving corporate clients at international firm Baker Botts L.L.P. to representing brave individuals who sought to clear their neighborhood streets from oppressive criminal activity. Whether working at a large, small, or non-profit firm, I've been committed to serve Dallas through other volunteer efforts as well. Collectively, these experiences have left me well equipped for administering justice for Dallas County.

**PERFORMANCE & EXPERTISE:** I began at Baker Botts L.L.P. in 2010 focused on complex commercial bankruptcy, insolvency, and litigation matters, and I currently practice at Ross & Smith, P.C. handling similar matters. In this capacity I have worked on complicated restructuring and litigation representations involving corporate, securities, environmental, tax, franchise, and other areas of law in jurisdictions around our country and occasionally beyond. During my time with Act (Advocates for Community Transformation), a local non-profit, I focused on state court litigation matters aimed at seeking justice for inner-city residents.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** Access to justice is an issue for low- and middle-income residents. Justice should not be for sale, but often those having to interact with the legal system can get the impression that it is. From the bench, change starts by not favoring those with power, influence, or greater resources or a particular background, as none of that should dictate whether justice is available to you. Off the bench, we need structural changes to make the system more accessible and more incentives for attorneys to more regularly provide quality services at a manageable cost. Providing better education about the legal system is also key.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** My highest priority is to provide a neutral forum for the administration of justice that ensures that our freedoms are protected and that justice is accessible to all parties before me. To this end, I would set aside personal preferences and instead let applicable laws, within the framework of the U.S. and Texas Constitutions, dictate outcomes. Where there is discretion, my focus would be on truth. Advancing the rule of law and an accessible justice system protects our communities, as we can better thrive as citizens when our courtrooms reflect integrity, humility, and respect for each individual before the court.

**OTHER ISSUES:** I am on mission to help restore faith in our Dallas County court system. Having to go to court is stressful enough without the concern that the process itself is set against you. Political affiliations or influence should not determine whether you will win or lose a case in our courts. Nor should political forces have such a strong hold on the bench. By humbly serving the residents of Dallas County both on the bench and in our communities, I can set example that such change is possible and that justice is attainable.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 9/14/1981; Education: Juris Doctor from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, cum laude; Campaign Phone: (469) 609-7215; Website: <http://www.lewisfordallas.com>; Email: [jessica@lewisfordallas.com](mailto:jessica@lewisfordallas.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/LewisforDallas>; Twitter: [twitter.com/JLewisforDallas](https://twitter.com/JLewisforDallas)



### Eric V Moye (D) District Judge, 14th Judicial District

**BACKGROUND:** I have been a Member of a Bar in Texas since 1979, and am a Member of Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, the Fifth and Ninth Circuit Courts of Appeals, and all four of the U.S. District Courts of Texas. I am also a Member of the State Bar of Texas and the State of New York. I have been trying precisely the type of cases which come before the District Courts since 1978. I was appointed District Judge by The Hon. Ann Richards, serving from 1992-1995. I was elected to my current Bench in 2008, serving to this time.

**PERFORMANCE & EXPERTISE:** In 1979, I commenced my practice as an Associate at Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, subsequently creating a Firm with another Akin, Gump attorney. After my first term on the Bench, I joined Vial, Hamilton, Koch & Knox. Several of our Partners left that Firm to form a new firm, where I practiced until ascending the Bench in 2009. My practice has been exclusively focused on Commercial Litigation, representing both Plaintiffs and Defendants in resolving all manner of business disputes. I have never been reprimanded or otherwise disciplined by any tribunal.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** I was appointed to serve as a Commissioner by the Texas Supreme Court on the Texas Commission on Access to Justice. In that role, I have worked to ensure that more Texans are represented in our Courts. I have supported increasing the resources directed to entities which provided legal services to the under-served communities and encouraged Law Firms to make more pro bono services available. I also served as a member of the Founding Board of the University of North Texas as Dallas School of Law, which is providing a new set of attorneys with a commitment to service of our Community.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** The delivery of Justice via the swift and fair resolution of disputes is the first priority of a Judge. During my tenure on the Court, I have endeavored to move the cases on the Court's docket without delay, in order to give the litigants resolution of preliminary issues in pre-trial as well as the substantive determination of issues via jury trial or trials before the Court.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The COVID pandemic has altered the way Courts are performing. The inability of the State to create an environment in which Citizens could come to the Courthouse to litigate their issues and to serve on Juries has made the delivery of Justice more problematic and has created a crisis in the Justice System. I have, as Presiding Judge of the Civil District Courts, led the initiative to create a set of Emergency Orders to ensure the continued delivery of Justice during the pandemic, which include the utilization of remote technology permitting citizens to continue to transact their business at the Courthouse.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 8/22/1954. Education: B.A. w/ Distinction in Pol. Sci. Southern Methodist University 1976 J.D. Harvard Law School 1979; Campaign Phone: (214) 385-8691; Website: <http://JudgeMoye.com>; Email: [EVMoye@yahoo.com](mailto:EVMoye@yahoo.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JudgeMoyeCam>; Twitter: [twitter.com/none](https://twitter.com/none)

## District Judge, 95th Judicial District

Mike Lee (R) — No response

District Judge, 95th Judicial District



### Monica Purdy (D) District Judge, 95th Judicial District

**BACKGROUND:** With 27 years of experience, including service as a municipal court judge and for the past seven years as associate judge for our civil courts, I know I am ready to preside over the 95th District Court. I have earned a strong reputation with those that have appeared before me, including a 90 percent overall approval rating in the most recent Dallas Bar Judicial Evaluation Poll. I believe in public service, and I want to bring my knowledge of the applicable law, strong work ethic and impeccable judicial temperament to this court. I am well prepared and qualified to serve all citizens that come before this court.

**PERFORMANCE & EXPERTISE:** My 27 years of legal experience includes representing both plaintiffs and defendants in the areas of civil and criminal litigation. I have appeared in both state and federal courts. In addition, I have tried both civil and criminal matters. I have gained valuable experience as an appointed municipal court judge and currently as an associate judge for our civil district courts. In my current role, I support several of our civil district courts, performing a wide range of judicial tasks, including presiding over jury and bench trials. I have no public reprimands or suspensions as an attorney or judge.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** Lately, we have more indigent litigants appearing in our courts who are unable to afford counsel and proceed with their case on a pro-se basis. Many times this proves fatal to their case. The Texas Access to Justice Commission is working to centralize some common forms and pleadings filed in our courts in an effort to assist with some very basic types of cases we see on a routine basis. Our area law schools are also providing invaluable legal clinics to many of our low income residents. The problem requires more funding, very strong coordination among the groups trying to solve the issue, and raising awareness.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** The highest responsibility for any judge is to ensure justice for those who appear before the court. My priority is to make fair, balanced rulings in a timely manner. With the numerous vacancies created on this court and the subsequent appointment of judges, there will be a backlog of cases to

## District Judge, 95th Judicial District

### Monica Purdy (D) — Continued

### DISTRICT JUDGE, 95TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

manage. As the newly elected judge of this court, I would develop an aggressive trial calendar and dismissal docket to move cases that have been stagnant. **OTHER ISSUES:** This court is in need of a judge who offers consistency, so that lawyers and parties know what to expect. It is also critical that the judge be efficient and hardworking, so that cases move through the system. I announced my intent to run for this open bench after the presiding judge won his election to the Fifth Court of Appeals. The governor has since appointed two judges to this seat, which has led to uncertainty for attorneys and litigants. I am ready to bring consistency, work ethic and efficiency on day one, because this is a job I have handled now for seven years.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 2/26/1968; Education: Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University, J.D. Spelman College, B.A.; Campaign Phone: (214) 335-4472; Website: <http://www.judgemonicapurdy.com>; Email: [monica.purdy@judgemonicapurdy.com](mailto:monica.purdy@judgemonicapurdy.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/judgemonicapurdy>; Twitter: [twitter.com/JudgePurdy](https://twitter.com/JudgePurdy)

## District Judge, 162nd Judicial District



### Jordan Montgomery Lewis (R) District Judge, 162nd Judicial District

**BACKGROUND:** In addition to my legal training, I have extensive experience/education in business, having worked for both large corporations and in small business. I have owned my own business, and I have spent a lot of time trying to help others start, maintain, and reorganize their businesses. For litigants with commercial issues, there will be few judges with a better understanding of commercial issues. Moreover, I have a lot of “real world” experience, having been poor or homeless in my youth before my family later became better off. I am well-read and am very adept with technology. Finally, I clerked for a federal judge.

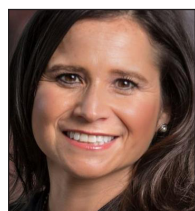
**PERFORMANCE & EXPERTISE:** Paralegal, Oct. 2011 through July, 2014 Judicial Law Clerk to the Hon. Harlin D. Hale (Bankr. N.D. Tex.) in Dallas from August 2014-August 2015 Licensed in Texas (2014) and Louisiana (2016) Practiced with Cavazos Hendricks Poirot P.C. from 2015 until May of 2018. Counsel and Texas Area President for First Guaranty Bank, 2018-present No reprimands or suspensions

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** 1. Court should maintain a roster of newly licensed lawyers who opt in to work at preset, low hourly rates (anticipated cap of \$30/hour), overseen by mentor lawyers 2. Expanded access to online filing and record access by non-lawyers 3. Uber-style technology-based solutions wherein opt-in lawyers can advertise their availability and rates, parties can preview their cases to potential lawyers, and litigants can “shop” rates and leave feedback.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** The highest priority is to ensure that we have a judge who respects the rights, liberties, and obligations of all people in Dallas County under the Texas and U.S. Constitutions. The people in Dallas needs someone who stands for them, their families, their communities, their businesses, their neighborhoods, and their children, and who will not be swayed by political power, influence, movements, wealth, or whim. I intend to apply each law upon its original principals and interpret it strictly. I will not create remedies where none exist. And I will not apply unconstitutional mandates.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The people of Dallas need to be empowered with some basic legal principals and resources to help protect/build their communities. These include how to address neighborhood disputes, how to deal with crime or code issues on one's street, what our duties and obligations are as property owners or tenants in the city, how to form neighborhood organizations, and who to turn to if you need help with these issues. This is very basic public information that everyone needs, but only a few know. Within the rules of ethics and judicial propriety, I would do my best to involve the public in the legal system.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 9/25/1982; Education: B.A. in English, LSU (2004) M.B.A., SE Louisiana University (2007) J.D., SMU Dedman (2014); Campaign Phone: (469) 609-7215; Website: <http://Lewis4Dallas.com>; Email: [jordan@lewis4dallas.com](mailto:jordan@lewis4dallas.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Lewis4Dallas>; Twitter: [twitter.com/JMLewis4Dallas](https://twitter.com/JMLewis4Dallas)



### Maricela Moore (D) District Judge, 162nd Judicial District

**BACKGROUND:** Since January 2017, I have served as the Presiding Judge of the 162nd District Court. In 2019, I was named the Dallas Trial Judge of the Year by the American Board of Trial Advocates. I also received one of the highest ratings of any civil district court judge by

the Dallas Bar Association based on a poll of attorneys who appeared in my court. In addition, I was selected by my colleagues to serve as the Presiding Judge over Jury Civil Jury Services. I am also the only civil district court judge who is Board Certified in Labor and Employment Law.

**PERFORMANCE & EXPERTISE:** Prior to serving in my current judicial capacity, my practice focused on the prosecution and defense of commercial and employment claims in state and federal courts. I represented both employees and employers in disputes regarding theft of trade secret claims, and claims regarding the enforceability of employment contracts, restrictive covenants, and confidentiality agreements. I also consulted employers on compliance with state and federal employment laws. I was appointed by the Fifth District Court of Appeals to investigate allegations of workplace misconduct by a sitting United States District Court Judge.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** I frequently have low income individuals appear before me who cannot afford to obtain legal services to assist them with enforcing their rights in court. We need to find creative ways to partner attorneys who need experience in court with these individuals. One program that I support is the Dallas Bar Association Entrepreneurship in the Law Program. This program provides training to lawyers who are interested in opening their own legal practice. In exchange, the program participants agree to provide 200 hours of pro bono or “low bono” legal services.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** One of the most important responsibilities of the judge is to preside over all cases in a fair and impartial manner. The litigants and counsel who appear in my court need to trust that when they appear before me, I will be prepared and ready to listen to the matters presented to me for my determination. I fulfill my responsibility to be a fair and impartial judge by studying the pleadings and caselaw that are submitted to me before the hearing so that I can engage with counsel in a thoughtful and fair-minded manner.

**OTHER ISSUES:** One of the most pressing issues that I see in the civil district court system is that people do not appear for jury service. Only 18% appear for service. The failure of people to appear jeopardizes our commitment to the Seventh Amendment of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to a jury of our peers. The process we currently use is inefficient and needs to be replaced with a system that will bring a more diverse jury pool to the courthouse. Therefore, I worked with the Commissioner's Court to adopt a new system that is currently in implementation.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 8/31/1975; Education: J.D., George Washington University Law School, 2001 B.S., magna cum laude, Boston College, Carro; Campaign Phone: (214) 544-0381; Website: <http://judgemaricelamoore.com>; Email: [judgemaricelamoore@gmail.com](mailto:judgemaricelamoore@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/maricela.siewczynskimoore>

If voting in person - either on election day or during early voting - you may need to stand in line for a time. Be prepared to vote safely - wear a cloth mask that covers your mouth and nose, and practice social distancing.”

## District Judge, 254th Judicial District

Ashley Wysocki (R) — No response

District Judge, 254th Judicial District



**Kim Brown (D)**  
District Judge, 254th Judicial District

**BACKGROUND:** I am an attorney with more than 25 years of legal experience with a focus on family law issues. I am experienced in high conflict resolution cases and CPS cases. I am a certified and skilled mediator in civil and family law areas. I was also a visiting judge in Dallas County and

**PERFORMANCE & EXPERTISE:** I began my career as a state attorney for the TX Dept of Family and Protective Services working to protect children from abuse/neglect. I then went on to work for Lawyers Against Domestic Violence where I represented survivors and their families in all areas of family law. My volunteerism and work with survivors have also led me to make a personal and career commitment to work against

violence in our homes. I have also opened my own private law practice and continue to represent clients in divorce, high conflict custody disputes, complex property divisions, and more. I have received no reprimands nor suspensions

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** Residents who need assistance in family court and cannot afford an attorney can use document prep services, inability to pay affidavits for filing fees, family law clinics through the Dallas Bar and Legal Aid, among other avenues. Improvements are needed though to increase availability of these services to meet the demand. Through the assistance of our family law clinics plus electronic submission of agreed orders and testimony by affidavits through our existent Texas e-file system, I believe that courts can efficiently accommodate increase in demand for these services for our low income residents.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** A court best serves in the interest of justice by following the law, being impartial, and serving its constituents with respect. When addressing their cases, people want to feel that the Court has heard them and considered every possible legal outcome favorable for them and their families. If elected judge, a priority for me would be ensuring that every one in my court is equally, respectfully and impartially considered given the needs of their case.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The pandemic allowed us to experience firsthand the positive impact of technical conveniences. For example, a person doesn't have to take a day off from his job, find transportation to the courthouse, find child care for their child, pay costly parking fees, travel from out of town, etc. Now since most have phone app capability, a person can request 30 minutes from their employer to go to their break room at the job, participate in their hearing through their phone app, and then go back to work and their lives. If elected, I will ensure our technical advances help the court benefit our litigants & taxpayers.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 11/6/1968; Education: BA, Political Science, Spelman College JD, University of Texas School of Law; Campaign Phone: (469) 510-9815; Website: <http://Www.kimbrown4judge.com>; Email: [Info@kimbrown4judge.com](mailto:Info@kimbrown4judge.com); Facebook: <http://Www.facebook.com/kimbrown4judge.com/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/Kimbrown4judge](https://twitter.com/Kimbrown4judge)

## Criminal Court Judge

4 year term. Has jurisdiction in all criminal actions involving felonies punishable by imprisonment one year or longer or death and in misdemeanor cases involving official misconduct.

## Criminal District Judge, Court No. 2

Nancy Kennedy (D) — Unopposed

Criminal District Judge, Court No. 2

## Criminal District Judge, Court No. 3

Audra Ladawn Riley (D) — Unopposed

Criminal District Judge, Court No. 3

## Criminal District Judge, Court No. 4

Dominique Collins (D) — Unopposed

Criminal District Judge, Court No. 4

## Sheriff

4 year term. Must be 18 years or older, a US citizen, a resident of Texas and a resident of the county. Responsible for law enforcement in the county and operation of the county jail.

**BACKGROUND:** How does your work experience equip you to be able to run the nation's 7th largest jail? Please be specific

**JAIL STAFFING & MORALE:** What steps, if any, would you support to improve staffing levels and morale at the County Jail? How would you pay for changes?

**MENTAL HEALTH:** As the largest provider of mental health service in the county, how should the jail ensure inmates receive proper mental health sup-

port? Would you like for the jail to move out of this role and how do you think this could happen?

**OTHER PROGRAMS:** What programs, if any, would you support to lower re-cidivism, for example training for technical job skills, college in prison, other?

**OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you believe will be the most pressing for the county Sheriff and how would you address them?

The above race's information begins on the next page.

## Sheriff



### Chad Prda (R) Sheriff

**BACKGROUND:** As a veteran officer with over 16 years experience with the Dallas County Sheriff's Department, I am honored to have a work experience no other candidate can come close to possessing. Starting as a clerk 16 years ago, I passed on the position of Sergeant several times choosing to stay on the front lines and gaining work experience within the various sections of the Dallas County Sheriff's Department. That work history has given me the ability and skill set needed to run the nation's 7th largest jail.

**JAIL STAFFING & MORALE:** Working within the current budget I would not ask for an increase that would require additional taxes or funding from other Dallas County sections. Initially, I would increase morale within the Dallas County Sheriff's Department decreasing the attrition rate. This would be done by implementing several policies and changing the leadership model of the Department, employees would be vital to

the Department and investments in our future. Recruitment programs will be implemented at local community schools and work programs, as well as a lateral program that would increase hiring of veteran officers from outside agencies.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** As a strong supporter of mental health professionals being added to the roster of every jail across the nation, I would begin by requesting Parkland hospital take a greater role in providing mental health training and programs for officers and inmates within the Dallas County jail. Mental health professionals should and will work alongside law enforcement.

**OTHER PROGRAMS:** In order to address the recidivism rate in Dallas County, I will work with local businesses and community programs to facilitate the offering of training for technical jobs and trade skills to inmates within Dallas County. In addition to technical jobs and training skills I will work with local community leaders and resources to offer additional counseling and classes.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The Dallas County Sheriff's Office needs to be more involved in the community and Dallas County as a whole. When elected I will ensure the Dallas County Sheriff's Office is involved with community events, schools and resources not just in a law enforcement capacity but as a community service. As law enforcement professionals we should serve and participate in our community, in order to bridge the gap between the community and law enforcement as well as strengthen trust and cultivating a stronger working relationship with those we serve.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 7/15/1981; Occupation: Law Enforcement consult; Education: Dallas Sheriff Academy; Website: <http://www.prda4sheriff.com>; Email: [prda4sheriff@gmail.com](mailto:prda4sheriff@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://prda4sheriff>; Twitter: [twitter.com/prda4sheriff](https://twitter.com/prda4sheriff)



### Marian Brown (D) Sheriff

**BACKGROUND:** For twenty-eight of my thirty-two years of law enforcement experience, I have managed law enforcement personnel, processes, policies and procedures. I have been managing the Dallas County Jail for almost three years. During that time, we have been successful at passing our annual unannounced state mandatory jail inspections; we've achieved compliance with State data regulations; we've implemented a community relations unit to keep us connected to the voice of the community.

**JAIL STAFFING & MORALE:** Morale in any setting fluctuates because it is affected by many variables. This year, COVID 19 has had a huge impact on morale. CDC social distancing guidelines prevented us from celebrating our employees and acknowledging the various groups of employees, as is traditionally done each year. We have utilized some non traditional methods to encourage our employees, such as bringing in

meals from over fifty restaurants to celebrate our employees and submitting to employees' request for a more casual uniform to be worn. These efforts were made available through a community partnership and uniform funding already allocated

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Inmates receive mental health services from licensed mental health care professionals on site. To move out of this role, it would be necessary to for the County to provide alternative services for mentally ill persons who might ordinarily be booked into the jail.

**OTHER PROGRAMS:** Although limited right now due to COVID 19, The Dallas County Jail provides many services for inmate, including general and computer education, and specialty areas, such as OSHA training and construction.

**OTHER ISSUES:** On the Detentions side of the Department, the most pressing issue right now, as is always, is to manage the care of inmates, especially during this time of COVID 19. We continue to do this with the help of onsite licensed health care professionals from Parkland. On the law enforcement side, the most pressing issue is to rebuild and strengthen community relationships. We are doing this through various programs (although limited with COVID 19 right now) and through the creation of a community relations position to facilitate our efforts.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 12/29/1964; Occupation: Sheriff, Dallas County; Education: Bachelor of Arts; Website: <http://MarianBrownforSheriff.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 458-6595; Email: [marianbrownforsheriff@gmail.com](mailto:marianbrownforsheriff@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://@marianbrownfordallascountysheriff>; Twitter: [twitter.com/SheriffMBrown14](https://twitter.com/SheriffMBrown14)

## County Tax Assessor/Collector

4 year term. Must be 18 years or older, a US citizen, a resident of Texas and a resident of the county. Responsible for assessing and collecting all taxes imposed on property within the county and for collecting motor vehicle fees.

**John R Ames (D) — Unopposed**

**County Tax Assessor/Collector**

Don't forget to take your qualifying photo ID with you when you go to vote.  
For qualifying photo IDs, check at [www.DallasCountyVotes.org](http://www.DallasCountyVotes.org).

# County Commissioner

4 year term. Must be 18 years or older, a US citizen, a resident of Texas and a resident of the district represented. Responsible for representing the citizens of the district in which he/she is elected in the Commissioners Court which conducts the general business of the county and oversees financial matters.

**BUDGET:** What areas of the budget would you like to see increased or decreased during the next term?

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Are there opportunities for the county to tackle mental health challenges in the community that lead to homelessness, crime and family violence?

**COVID-19 RESPONSE:** How would you rate the County's response to the

COVID-19 pandemic? What would you do going forward to help with infection control and eventual recovery?

**HOMELESSNESS:** What changes, if any, would you like to see the county implement to help the homeless and those in danger of becoming homeless?

**OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you believe will be the most pressing in the county and what is your position on these issues?

## County Commissioner, Precinct No. 1



**Patrick Harden (R)**  
County Commissioner, Precinct No. 1

ideas consist of prioritizing the allocation of tax dollars based on basic citizen service needs. We should freeze non-essential capital projects where possible until funds become available. Use parts of the cash reserves as needed and as a last resort cut departments that have minimum impact on service delivery. People need to be working.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Yes; opportunities are within the public and within the jail systems. More public awareness of what the symptoms of mental health issues look like in children. I think we have made progress with making people aware of mental issue from an adult perspective, but not so much with adolescents and young children. They have to deal with anxiety, depression, stress due to life changes no different than the average adult. Currently the County is assessing inmates for mental issues that could lead to explaining their behavior for criminal activity. It's a needed improvement to have a good assessment tool and detection process.

**COVID-19 RESPONSE:** The County's response was one big nightmare of one man, Judge Clay Jenkins, operating solely without working with the Court or any of the mayors. As of today, change and adapt should be where our focus should be. Our business community has done a wonderful job doing this. It's time for County officials to do the same. What I would lead is working with the medical & business community on brainstorming how we can live in this pandemic. Our country is known for innovation, we can figure something out if given a chance. In my opinion, the County choose the easy way out by freezing everything and waiting for a cure.

**HOMELESSNESS:** The homelessness issue needs to be addressed with solutions that extend compassion and support. The solution is not as simple as just providing a person with a home. The solution that will make homelessness non-recurring needs to be a coordinated approach that delivers more than just housing. It needs to include the means to maintain and keep a house which would take into account securing steady employment, availability of financial literacy training and health services. For those who are homeless and are not ready for that responsibility, it's important we provide shelter, food and day programs.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The most pressing is crime. As Commissioner, I would consult with the sheriff, where in the areas of crime can they assist other police departments like in the areas of theft, drug busts, drag racing, or street policing etc., and put together a plan. Then meet with the area police departments to get buy-in and coordinate our efforts. As Commissioner, I will work with the other Commissioners on procuring jail tracking software for our criminal judges and jail personnel, and I'll advocate for change in the decriminalization of low-level crime with the DA's office. People who commit a crime need to be held responsible.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 7/3/1973; Occupation: State Farm Employee; Education: BA. Journalism - Stephen F. Austin (1997) MA. Conflict Resolution - SMU (2007); Website: <http://www.harden4dcc.com>; Campaign; Phone: (214) 283-3818; Email: [harden@harden4dcc.com](mailto:harden@harden4dcc.com); Facebook: <http://HardenforDallasCountyCommissioner>



**Theresa Daniel (D)**  
County Commissioner, Precinct No. 1

funds to respond to County crises with mind on community needs, i.e. COVID consequences such as eviction prevention measures; address lack of access to broadband. 3. Watch jail costs carefully plus have added case management staff to transition inmates to community resources resulting in less recidivism. 4. Watch rate AND tax bills impact on taxpayers.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Through Beh Health Leadership Team (Co-chair) the stakeholders rallied for: 1. The Living Room: supported Beh Health Authority facility to navigate gap between jail, hospitals and community with support services. 2. Deflection Center: partnership Homeward

Bound, DA, Parkland so police can take 911 persons for mental health assessment; short stays. 3. Partner for support items, i.e. transportation for needy in CBD; housing for increased homeless population; court diversion. 4. Community education through HHS, NAMI, NTBHA re: description of signs and places for help for mental health, substance abuse, family abuse.

**COVID-19 RESPONSE:** Dallas County responded to every new twist of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic so high rating; cautiously optimistic that county efforts following CDC recommendations will help decrease the spread, plus: Timely testing: finding locations throughout county; shifting resources as needed for better service to public. Contact tracing: vastly increasing capacity to follow virus' path to curtail spread. Eviction prevention: identifying individuals/families on verge of eviction to work with applying CARES Act funds to avoid homelessness. Also funded business assistance, child care, leverages broadband access resources.

**HOMELESSNESS:** The foundation is created through the Dallas Area Partnership to End Homelessness and Dallas County Housing Workgroup so Dallas County, all cities (huge efforts by City of Dallas, Irving, Garland, Mesquite, plus), MDHA + numerous shelters/service providers, developers, private sector, philanthropies, nonprofits and consumer work together to tackle the following: More housing, new and repurposed; Match services to keep people housed; Mental health, substance use services; Support services, i.e. transportation, entitlements like VA, SSA; Assistance for families/youth for appropriate housing. We are not done yet!

**OTHER ISSUES:** Voting is the backbone of a democracy and Dallas County has focused on improvements in the mechanics of voting by buying new voting machines/related equipment. The County has also increased the security of voting by added cybersecurity measures to protect that vote. To make it safe to vote in person during COVID, we have sanitation supplies, Plexiglas protection and space for social distancing. - Clean Air monitoring efforts must go on. - As VP of Regional Transportation Council (RTC), I have witnessed the start of 635-East improvements; followed up Loop Trail progress; partnered with city projects.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 7/11/1953; Occupation: County Commissioner; Education: PhD UTA Public Admin/Policy, MPA UT-D, MSSW UTA, MA Urban Stud UTA, BA St Mary's College, ND IND; Website: <http://commissionerdaniel.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 457-4424; Email: [thersesadanielforcommissioner@gmail.com](mailto:thersesadanielforcommissioner@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://CommissionerTheresaDaniel>

## Dallas County Commissioner Pct 3


**S.T. Russell (R)**  
 Dallas County Commissioner Pct 3

**BUDGET:** I would like to see taxes decreased, which is always welcome news for us taxpayers. If elected, I will look at each department's budget, itemize what each department needs, and know how much funds each department currently receives. By reviewing these departments' financial records, I will know which departments deserve an increase, and which ones deserve a reduction. Personally, being a conservative voter/taxpayer, I hope to find a path to cut funding in each department by 10%, while reducing property taxes by 5%.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Yes, there are opportunities. If elected, I totally support reform that will mandate 45 days in supervised custody for mentally ill citizens to ensure that the mental health system is truly needed and that no person abuses the care system. This would be similar to the mandatory fee the sheriff's department is currently making inmates pay to get evaluated for such services. Also, supervised custody monitoring will aid with the County's medical treatment decisions on which type of medical assistance will provide the most successful mental healthcare.

**COVID-19 RESPONSE:** If elected, my role going forward to help with Covid-19 infection control and eventual recovery would be to encourage everyone to stay 6 feet apart for social distancing measures whenever possible, wear masks/face coverings whenever 6 feet social distancing is not possible, and voluntarily limit the number of people in any gathering.

**HOMELESSNESS:** I would like to see the County install more Porta-Pots in areas frequented by the homeless. I would also like to examine the arrears tax property records to determine which families in the County need government help to avoid becoming homeless due to back property taxes owed.

**OTHER ISSUES:** One issue I believe will be the most pressing in the County is the appearance of my Southern District 3. The high weeds/grass and trash on the highways within District 3 make it look ugly. If elected, I believe that with my leadership the District will be able to address/fix this one particular issue. Another issue I believe is pressing in the County is the overgrowth of the waterways, which harvest mosquitos and possibly the West Nile virus. Also, more bridges need widening with u-turn availability on the access roads.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 12/13/1963; Occupation: Self-Employed; Education: • US Air Force Management Trainer Certified • Bachelor of Science in Psychology ; Website: <http://strussell.com>; Campaign Phone: (469) 245-2813; Email: [russell4you@yahoo.com](mailto:russell4you@yahoo.com)


**John Wiley Price (D)**  
 Dallas County Commissioner Pct 3

**BUDGET:** Because Dallas County has one revenue stream and carries the 5th lowest tax rate among the 254 counties in the State of Texas, the 3rd lowest of urban counties, we must stay the course. We are compliant with the NNR effective rate as established by House Bill 2.

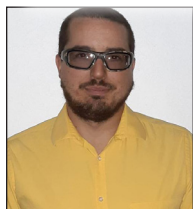
**PUBLIC HEALTH:** We continue to pursue the State of Texas through the North Texas Behavioral Health Authority to allocate funding commensurate with the rising service demands. Dallas County has no waiting list and is continuously innovative in custody services (jail) diversionary programs and care team initiatives.

**COVID-19 RESPONSE:** The COVID-19 pandemic is not the main issues. The communities most adversely impacted are the same ones I and others have complained about for two or three decades. How do we address infection control under the auspices of the standing CHNA? (Community Health Needs Assessment) Those issues are consistently neglected and makes these communities more vulnerable to pandemics, disease and "normal" issues that most citizens overcome.

**HOMELESSNESS:** - no response -

**OTHER ISSUES:** Given the posture of the State of Texas on Medicare expansion, while also cutting their budgets by 5% will force us to stay the course. The Southern sector is growing, however, infrastructure growth is my greatest concern.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 4/24/1950; Website: <http://www.johnwileyprice.com>; Email: [john.price@dallascounty.org](mailto:john.price@dallascounty.org); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/johnwiley.price.3/>


**Andrew Jewell (L)**  
 Dallas County Commissioner Pct 3

**BUDGET:** Most areas of the County budget need drastic cutbacks, considering the over 200,000,000 dollar indebtedness of the county. In particular, the Tech Share partnership that has cost massive amounts of tax dollars toward a private company developing a prison management software, that hasn't even shown results worth a fraction of our investments, should be ended immediately. We also need to review highway maintenance contracts, for improved completion times and better prices.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Step one is to stop criminalizing homelessness and the efforts of private citizens to help those in need. We should encourage private citizens and the many charitable organizations in our community to address the issues, and remove the problem of government regulations interfering with solutions. Too often people trust government for help, and government only makes it worse. We need to empower those who already want to help, to do so. Those seeking help should be able to find it, without the government telling them they cant.

**COVID-19 RESPONSE:** The County has done so much harm by its mandates to close and restrict private businesses, we will be seeing the negative effects for years. We will see homelessness increase, as all the small business owners and employees lose all they have because the government forbid them making an income. While I feel it is wise to wear a mask in public, and all businesses should be reviewing their procedures to protect their employees and customers, the government has ZERO right to destroy lives en masse under the claim of saving people from their own choices.

**HOMELESSNESS:** As I said prior, decriminalize homelessness. Getting "caught" sleeping outside, under bridges, etc. should not result in a trip to jail. Also individuals or groups feeding the homeless, providing them with clothes and toiletries, helping them in any way often currently results in police chasing the do-gooders away or even arresting them, WE MUST LET PEOPLE HELP PEOPLE. Get government out of the way of being human.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Rebuilding our economy in the aftermath of Covid and the Mandates of State and County will be a monumental task. We have countless small businesses, many Women- and Minority-owned, that are struggling to stay afloat. We also need to ensure that large corporate chains do not get special treatment or preference, we cannot give advantages to those who already have the edge. The next few years need to see a surge in small business growth, and its important that we encourage that by giving them fair opportunities, using tax relief incentives and easing zoning/permitting to make it easier to build a business.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 5/2/1988; Occupation: Industrial Mechanic; Education: High School; Website: <http://voteforAndrewJewell.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 734-5713; Email: [voteforandrewjewell@gmail.com](mailto:voteforandrewjewell@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/voteforandrewjewell/>

Usually polling places are busiest in the early morning as people vote before going to work, during the noon lunch break, and at the end of the day after work.

Plan your trip to the polls to avoid the crowds!

# TOWN OF ADDISON SPECIAL CHARTER AMENDMENT ELECTION

*Answer For/Against*

## **PROPOSITION A**

Shall the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be amended to provide clarification by changing “qualified voter” to “registered voter” because “qualified voter” is defined as a “registered voter” in the Texas Election Code?

## **PROPOSITION B**

Shall the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be amended in various sections to remove specific state law references and instead require that the City Council shall act in accordance with state law?

## **PROPOSITION C**

Shall Section 5.19 “Power to correct errors” of the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be renamed to “Power to cancel taxes” to clarify what that section actually addresses?

## **PROPOSITION D**

Shall Section 2.10 “Meetings of the City Council” of the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be amended to allow special meetings of the City Council to be called by three (3) councilmembers instead of four (4) as currently stated?

## **PROPOSITION E**

Shall Section 2.10 “Meetings of the City Council” of the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be amended to allow special meetings of the City Council to be called by the City Manager?

## **PROPOSITION F**

Shall Section 11.23 “Rearrangement and numbering” of the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be renamed to “Non- substantive changes” and amended to provide ongoing authority for the city council, by ordinance, to make non-suve changes for clarity, change terms of gender to gender-neutral terms and remove Section 11.18 “Gender clause?”

## **PROPOSITION G**

Shall Section 5.31 “General powers” of the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be renamed to “General powers of taxation” to avoid confusion regarding the Town’s ability to levy taxes as authorized by state law and make clear it is not intended as a general grant of powers to the City Council?

## **PROPOSITION H**

Shall Section 11.15 “Publicity of records” of the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be deleted because the availability of records to the public is already governed by the Texas Public Information Act?

## **PROPOSITION I**

Shall the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be amended to remove outdated forms of petitions and simply require that all petitions conform with the requirements of state law?

## **PROPOSITION J**

Shall the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be amended to require that persons who sign a petition for candidacy for office or a ballot measure must include either their date of birth or voter registration number, as required by the Texas Election Code?

## **PROPOSITION K**

Shall Section 8.03 “Nominations” of the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be amended to provide that an individual may become a candidate for Mayor or City Council by petition only and remove the option for self-nomination?

## **PROPOSITION L**

Shall Section 8.03 “Nominations” of the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be amended to increase to 25, the minimum number of signatures for a petition to place a candidate in nomination for a City Council office in accordance with state law?

## **PROPOSITION M**

Shall Section 8.03 “Nominations” of the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be amended to increase to 50, the maximum number of signatures for a petition to place a candidate in nomination for a City Council office?

## **PROPOSITION N**

Shall Section 11.24 “Town depository” of the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be deleted because the selection and designation of a depository for the Town is exclusively governed by state law?

## **PROPOSITION O**

Shall Section 2.08(f) “Powers of the City Council” of the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be amended to require members of the Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Adjustment to be residents and registered voters of the Town?

# TOWN OF ADDISON SPECIAL CHARTER AMENDMENT ELECTION — Continued

## Answer For/Against

### PROPOSITION P

Shall Section 2.08(f) “Powers of the City Council” of the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be amended to state that no one may serve concurrently on the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board of Zoning Adjustment?

### PROPOSITION Q

Shall Section 7.04 “Planning and Zoning Commission” of the charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be amended to change references to “City Zoning Commission” and “City Planning Commission” to the “Planning and Zoning Commission?”

### PROPOSITION R

Shall Section 5.11(1) “Bonds, warrants and other evidences of indebtedness” of the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be renamed to “Bonds, warrants and other debt matters”?

### PROPOSITION S

Shall the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be amended to clarify that the Town is authorized to issue debt for economic development purposes?

### PROPOSITION T

Shall Section 2.04 “Compensation” of the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be amended to remove the requirement that the City Council approve at a public meeting, any reimbursements to councilmembers for actual expenses incurred in the performance of official duties? Expenditures would still be approved by the City Council during the budgeting process and records would be available in accordance with open records requirements.

### PROPOSITION U

Shall Section 7.03 “Master plan” of the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be amended to change the wording “official master plan” to the “Comprehensive Plan” since that is the name of the Town’s long-range planning document and to state that the City Council may amend the Comprehensive Plan by majority vote of the City Council members present at a Council meeting?

### PROPOSITION V

Shall Section 11.26 “Disaster clause” of the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be amended to remove the references to the “local Chamber of Commerce” and “Board of Trustees of the local school district” and instead direct that the Dallas County Judge appoint a commission, which shall include all surviving members of the City Council, in the event of a disaster when a quorum of the City Council cannot be assembled because of death or injury?

### PROPOSITION W

Shall Section 2.17 “Induction of Council into office” of the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be amended to clarify that the first meeting of the City Council following an election of members of the City Council shall be the meeting to canvass the election as provided by state law and the first order of business shall be to canvass the election, declare the results and seat the newly elected members?

### PROPOSITION X

Shall Section 8.06 “Conducting and canvassing elections” of the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be amended to clarify that the first meeting of the City Council following a municipal election shall be the meeting to canvass the election and declare the results as provided by

### PROPOSITION Y

Shall Section 11.27 “When provisions take effect” on the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be deleted because it only applied to the initial Home Rule Charter election in 1979 and is now unnecessary?

### PROPOSITION Z

Shall Section 11.30 “Ordinance, rules and regulations validated” of the Charter of the Town of Addison, Texas, be deleted because it only applied to the initial Home Rule Charter election in 1979 and is now unnecessary?

### Explanation

These routine charter amendments are to clarify, modernize and streamline the City Charter and to bring it into conformity with current state law. It is normal for cities to clean up their charters from time to time in this manner.

# City of Balch Springs General Election

The City operates under a "Council-Manager" system where the City Council sets the policies and budget and the City Manager is responsible for City operations. The City Council appoints the City Manager. The City Council consists of the Mayor and 6 City Council members, 5 of whom shall be elected from single member Districts and 2 of whom (Mayor and Place 2 ) shall be elected at large.

Four of the council members shall be elected in odd numbered years (Mayor and Places 3, 5 and 7) and 3 of the council members shall be elected in even numbered years (Places 2, 4 and 6). All positions serve a 2 year term. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the vote, there will be a runoff election.

**BUDGET:** How will you balance the city's budget with the loss of sales tax revenue and potentially property values due to COVID? Will you support cuts in services or raising the tax rate? Please, be specific.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** How can your city support residents during the pandemic and through recovery? Discuss jobs, housing and other specific impacts the pandemic may have on your city

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** With the high cost of housing, pressure increases for affordable housing options for families and city workers. It is becoming unaffordable for some to live in their own neighborhoods. Do you support

additional apartment construction in the city? What changes, if any, would you support?

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** How would you rate the city's performance in the area of public safety? Would you recommend changes? If so, how would you pay for them? How would you prioritize these upgrades compared to other city needs?

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

## For Member of Council, Place 2, At Large

**Nelli Castillo, Sammy Moon — No Reponse**

**For Member of Council, Place 2, At Large**



**Angela Swann Singletary**  
For Member of Council, Place 2, At Large

make serious cuts then I would start with the highest salaries in the City, and not start with cuts to our Police and Fire Departments. I do NOT support increasing the tax rate at all because property taxes are a real burden for everyone. The values on homes, businesses and apartments keep going up faster than what people can afford to pay for.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** The City of Balch Springs has already done a fantastic job by announcing benefits that our residents can receive because of the Cares Act Funding. The City Council has also chosen to help residents who may be feeling the pain of joblessness, and foreclosure / eviction by extending the time frame to prevent those occurrences from happening. Residents of our City are using our food pantry at a very high rate. As I drive down Balch Springs Road. Our City needs to help it's most vulnerable citizens.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** One thing that the City of Balch Springs doesn't have a lack of is affordable housing. Three new apartments have been approved for low income families within the past two years, and our City has plenty of other apartment complexes for use. I don't support building any other apartments until we see the affects that the new apartments will have on our community.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** One of the most needed things in our City is a new police department headquarters. Our City has grown exponentially, and our Officers are packed into a tiny building that they share with our Fire Department. If anyone has toured our police department then you know how confined the offices are, and how they don't have any extra space. If someone needs to come into the police department to make a report then the report is taken in the lobby. I believe it's very important that our city create a new place for our police department to have its own building.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** The greatest challenge that the City of Balch Springs is facing is getting better retail / businesses in our City. The City of Balch Springs has a household median income of \$45K. Quality retail will come to our city if we have a higher household median income. I am excited to see the Bloomfield Homes project come to our City and hopefully we can obtain a better household median income so that quality retail will come to our City.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 9/27/1980; Occupation: Data Integrity Rep.; Education: Graduate of Texas A&M University-Commerce. Class of 2009; Campaign Phone: (972) 971-6000; Email: swannangela@hotmail.com; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Angela-Singletary-for-Balch-Springs-Place-Two-111804277034859>



**Wanda M Adams**  
For Member of Council, Place 2, At Large

will remain flat at .803 same as what we've had since 2015. Our property values dropped a little but due to development, we're still at \$1.1 billion in property values. The city was hoping to decrease our tax rate but we found that remaining flat will give us the revenue needed to get through COVID-19 without job loss and maintaining service to the community.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** Thankfully, the CARES ACT is a grant that was awarded to Municipalities. Our City of Balch Springs was issued \$1.3 million dollars. These are areas where the money is being used: 1. Mortgage Assistance. 2. Rental Assistance. 3. Utility Assistance (Electricity, Gas, etc.). 4. Businesses that need assistance due to loss revenue. 5. Food Pantries is given monies to assist with feeding our residents. For months the City has halted all disconnection and reconnecting and late fees due to loss of jobs. The City has elected not to layoff only to freeze spending until further evaluation of the city's financial.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Yes I support additional apartment construction in our city. Currently, we have 3 Affordable Housing Complex. These complexes caters to the working class and lower income family households. Our demographics shows we can only qualify residents based on income levels, credit and background check. Additionally, these are Tax Credit and Tax Abatement. The City of Balch Springs is reviewing 2 new possible Workforce Housing developments for our lower income due to wage cuts, for senior citizens with limited income and residents living on disability income. Our Veterans are also included in the projects. I fully support.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** There needs to be a change of command within our public safety division. Currently, the city council supervises this department really on a part time basis. I would like to see the Police Department under the City Manager's supervision since the City Manager is the Administrator of all operations in Balch Springs. Our city charter states that we are a home rule city manager govern municipality. The city council should not be the supervisor of our 1st responders because they are not full time staff. I would follow the guideline of our city manager with all of the 1st responders wages increases and staffing.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: CHALLENGES:** 1. Attracting large businesses to invest in our ROOFTOPS and Retail Development. 2. There is still a core group

## For Member of Council, Place 2, At Large — Continued

### Wanda M Adams — Continued

### For Member of Council, Place 2, At Large

that is against growth and development. They prefer the city to remain small. 3. Repairing old and aging infrastructure, waterlines, drainage, streets and sidewalks in very deteriorating area of our city in a reasonable time frame. OPPORTUNITY 1. With growth and development our revenue will grow and allow the ability to issue bonds without increasing property tax rates. 2. Fund Public Safety. 3. Will increase our population with new family members with new ideas.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 7/30/1955; Occupation: Leasing Agent ; Education: BABA Bus. Admin. Dallas Baptist University Graduate ; Website: <http://Wandaadams2020.godaddysites.com>; Campaign Phone: (972) 514-9149; Email: [wandaadams@att.net](mailto:wandaadams@att.net)

## For Member of Council, Single Member District PI 4

### Dawn Segroves — Unopposed

### For Member of Council, Single Member District PI 4

## For Member of Council, Single Member District PI 6



### Steve Tucker

#### For Member of Council, Single Member District, PI 6

the amount of travel and in -person training, postponed several items until mid-year when we can re-visit our financial situation. Overall, council cut over \$252,000 in items we felt could be better spent on our citizens or not spent at all. We did this without laying anyone off, and in fact, added a new staff position to our animal shelter, and purchased life-saving CPR equipment for our first responder team.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** We have been working very hard to get the word out to our citizens and businesses that there is financial relief available through the CARES Act, and we as a city also delayed late fees and disconnections for local utilities for our citizens. We managed

to keep all of our staff employed and redirected duties as needed, even though we closed some of our facilities. I also pushed to fund an updated Emergency Response Plan for our city and fully support our Emergency Services Director in his efforts to keep us all abreast of updates and safe.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** We just opened two brand new work-force housing complexes, with another one to open soon. With those, our city will have of over 3,000 apartment units, of which over 30% are available at affordable or subsidized rates, as well as already being one of the lower rental rate communities in the DFW area, for our full market rate apartments. I'd like to see the addition of some smaller more affordable single family houses or town houses for those starting out or retirees. I would also like to see revitalization programs for our existing multi-family, affordable complexes to bring them up to date.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Considering everything that's going on, they're doing an exemplary job. Our chief has been bringing back community engagement type of service, but the ongoing pandemic is slowing its progress. Staffing is #1 priority. We lose some of our officers due to there not being a lot of specialized positions for officers to work up towards. I'd like to find ways to help create new positions that help with homelessness, and other community affairs issues. Until we can, by using seizure funds, we can embrace technology to monitor multiple targeted areas for criminal activity & respond as needed, enabling us to do more with less.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** We sit in a highly unique position being intersected by several interstate freeways, less than 15 minutes from downtown Dallas, with quite a bit of undeveloped land. Our challenge I would say is to capitalize on these assets without losing the charm and rural, country feel that so many of our citizens say they came and stay here for. I realize growth happens, such as the addition of a new business district hub being built by Hillwood Developers that will bring jobs, but we need to work to carefully encourage the kind of growth that enhances our citizens' quality of life.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Occupation: Retired teamster; Education: Proud graduate of the MISD school system.; Campaign Phone: (214) 906-7082; Email: [stucker@cityofbalchsprings.com](mailto:stucker@cityofbalchsprings.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Steve-Tucker-for-Balch-Springs-City-Council-PI-6->



### Elishima S Myles

#### For Member of Council, Single Member District, PI 6

a moderate income would not be feasible. Elected Officials and City Administrators should examine the budget and identify areas of excessive spending to reduce the city's expenses, then reallocate funding and resources to support citizens and city operations. They can also ease the burden of expenses, holding developers accountable and implementing solid solutions to prevent future loss of revenue.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** The city has a major role to play in helping citizens navigate through the pandemic. Federal and State funding will assist in the recovery, but the city will need to partner with businesses and organizations to make sure the citizens and local businesses get

the help and support they need. Providing consistent updates to citizens regarding COVID-19 cases, testing sites, employment training, business and community outreach to connect citizens to the right support for rent, jobs, mental help, food and other necessities, as the community continue to support local businesses restarting Balch Springs economy.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Affordable housing is vital to the financial growth of a city, I support the construction of affordable single-family homes and town-homes for citizens of Balch Springs for home ownership. Townhomes are an affordable option for families wanting to move to Balch Springs. Cities must consider employment, income and developers, to attract jobs to a city, that will pay citizens livable wages to sustain owning a home. Too many apartments can minimize available space for companies to move a businesses to a small city. Businesses and homes can provide consistent revenue from sales and real estate taxes to support the city.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Public safety consists of several entities, there is no way to place a rating on public safety, but there is always a need for change, things are always evolving and the proper training to deal with situations are important. Balch Springs cannot be compared to other cities; we face different challenges compared to surrounding cities. The city must identify the changes needed to protect and safeguard citizens, funded by grants and sponsors to support initiatives can ease the burden on citizens, while the remaining cost used from budgeted funds, placing priority on the most serious needs of public safety in the city.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Balch Springs greatest challenges will be to create a sound budget to reduce the deficit and increase revenue, protect the city's infrastructure and investments to ensure funds are used for the city's operations and development, maintain parks, strengthen relationships with citizens and law enforcement, and increase revenue through economic development, amending the city's master plan to attract the right companies and developers, then opportunities will exist because of the city's prime location for business development, increase employment with livable wages for citizens to afford housing, and increase city revenue.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Occupation: Higher Education; Education: Master of Business Administration; Campaign Phone: (972) 827-7402; Email: [emyles@suddenlink.net](mailto:emyles@suddenlink.net); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/VoteElishimaMylesCityCouncilPL6/>

Voting in person? Mask up!

# City of Carrollton General Election

The City of Carrollton is a Home Rule municipality with a council-manager form of government. The City Council is responsible for establishing City policies, considering resolutions and ordinances, appointing citizens to various City boards and commissions, adopting the City's Comprehensive Plan and annual budget, approving or rejecting zoning changes and hiring a city manager. The City Council is made up of a Mayor and 7 Council-members who serve without compensation. All members of the Council are elected at-large and serve 3-year staggered terms. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the vote, there will be a runoff election.

**BUDGET:** How will you balance the city's budget with the loss of sales tax revenue and potentially property values due to COVID? Will you support cuts in services or raising the tax rate? Please, be specific.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** How can your city support residents during the pandemic and through recovery? Discuss jobs, housing and other specific impacts the pandemic may have on your city

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** With the high cost of housing, pressure increases for affordable housing options for families and city workers. It is becoming

unaffordable for some to live in their own neighborhoods. Do you support additional apartment construction in the city? What changes, if any, would you support?

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** How would you rate the city's performance in the area of public safety? Would you recommend changes? If so, how would you pay for them? How would you prioritize these upgrades compared to other city needs?

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

## Mayor

no  
image

### Zul Mohamed Mayor

**BUDGET:** I will create digital assets for the city like a youtube channel for advertising revenue and e-commerce stores selling custom merchandise with our city logo on masks, hoodies, etc. Our outdoor amphitheater can be used for outdoor events during Covid-19, which is highly underutilized. Our restaurant selection is a key strong point and I will create coupon incentives for our residents to eat out more. These ideas do not require substantial capital investment and we can highlight our fine points like cultural dining and our outdoor facilities.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** The city can boost funds for Metrocrest Services to help residents cope with financial strain. A community garden starting in Spring is also a great idea to assist with food demand and creating short-term job growth. I will also look at areas where we can do skill-building for residents interested in new career opportunities as well.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Yes, upscale apartment living is highly in demand for skilled members of the economy in the early stages of starting a family. We have many dwellings of this type located on Hebron rd. going toward West Plano, as well as in our ever-growing downtown area. With this type of housing, trendy and highly profitable businesses tend to follow.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** We do well as far as public safety is concerned. I would continue to invest in these areas, especially in our EMT division. Staying on top of cutting-edge technology is very important, and I will prioritize these specific areas as soon as I come to office.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Keeping our local economy intact and maintaining city infrastructure is going to be a challenge in the next couple of years. Keeping us self-sufficient and well-staffed are some of the strategies I intend to employ.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 4/11/1981; Occupation: Web Development; Education: B.A. in Economics, University of North Texas 2006; Website: <http://iamcarrollton.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 414-6158; Email: [info@iamcarrollton.com](mailto:info@iamcarrollton.com)



### Kevin Falconer Mayor

**BUDGET:** Fortunately, one of our strategic initiatives in the last 3 years under my leadership has been planning for a downturn in the economy, which means Carrollton can weather a strong storm. The plan's primary strategy includes reserving a portion of our recurring revenues for one-time uses so that we can absorb a future decline in revenues without requiring a tax increase or cutting services. I also served on city council during the Great Recession, so I have first-hand experience how to survive economic downturns. During that time, we did not raise taxes, and most residents never experienced service declines.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** Carrollton has been actively working to assist our residents and businesses during this pandemic. We have provided "Safe to Work and Shop" kits to our businesses, we provided free hand sanitizer to residents when none was available and we have used our CARES funding to support our residents in financial jeopardy with rental assistance through our non-profit partner, Metrocrest Services.

I plan to continue support of our residents and businesses by partnering with our chamber, non-profit partners and our counties to offer assistance and provide innovative means of growing jobs and opportunities.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Carrollton is fortunate to have one of the most diverse housing stocks in the state. We have quality apartments and entry level homes up to luxury homes, all within one of the safest cities in the Metroplex. We support new multi-family construction in the city, but within the constraints of development standards that ensure those dwellings will be sustainable and safe over the long term and preferably located within a Transit Oriented District. For example, we have added over 1500 multi-family units in our 3 transit districts that provide quality, affordable housing adjacent to DART and a vast array of amenities

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Carrollton is one of the safest cities in the Metroplex. In fact, it is the safest large city in both Denton and Dallas counties, and we have decreased crime by 40% in the last decade. Our Fire Rescue consistently ranks in the top three highest CPR save rates in the NATION. Our police department ensures we hire only those who truly want to be public servants, and both our police and fire regularly host community events like Coffee with a Cop, Neighborhood Night Out and CPR training, and they actively engage our residents in a positive and constructive manner to ensure ALL our residents feel safe, valued and cared for.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Other than the issue of persevering through this pandemic, the biggest challenge/opportunity for Carrollton is that we cannot grow geographically and are built out regarding substantial new development. Consequently, we are aggressively pursuing redevelopment strategies that have proven to be very successful across the city. All our transit districts have seen spectacular redevelopment and we have led the way redeveloping aging shopping centers by working with owners to upgrade centers into vibrant hubs of activity. Moving forward, we will continue to innovate these strategies to address the dynamic needs of our city.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 6/18/1963; Occupation: Mayor of Carrollton, TX; Education: B. Architecture, Texas Tech University, with honors M.B.A., Texas Tech University, with honors ; Website: <http://kevinforcarrollton.com/>; Campaign Phone: (972) 245-6233; Email: [kevin@kevinforcarrollton.com](mailto:kevin@kevinforcarrollton.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/KevinforCarrollton/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/KevinCarrollton](https://twitter.com/KevinCarrollton)

Elections have consequences. Be a voter.

## For Member of Council, PI 2



### **Adam Polter** For Member of Council, PI 2

**BUDGET:** Carrollton enjoys a sizable sales tax buffer thanks to a cap on sales tax revenues that may be allocated to maintenance and operations. Excess sales tax revenue is used to complement our economic development initiatives. Despite a modest loss of sales tax revenues attributable to the pandemic, and detrimental sales tax allocation changes made by the Texas comptroller, Carrollton will not have to cut services in order to balance the FY 2021 budget. However, flattening growth in property valuations may bring an end to our seven consecutive years of property tax rate cuts in order to maintain current service levels.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** Carrollton assists residents impacted by the pandemic via increased support of Metrocrest Services which provides rental and utility assistance as well as a robust food pantry. Carrollton partners with the Metrocrest Chamber to distribute PPE, sanitizer, and information to our local businesses including how and when to apply for PPP loans, and how to work with the SBA to keep our valued businesses afloat. As behaviors are key to reducing the length and severity of the pandemic, the City should use all avenues to educate residents and businesses on the need to strictly follow social distancing and mask guidelines.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** I support multi-family housing in Carrollton, especially within our Transit Oriented Development zone. However, Carrollton must define more reasonable setbacks as buffers for existing single-family homes. With only one tax-exempt apartment complex, and limited Section 8 housing in our city, Carrollton should review our affordable housing options and, where feasible and responsible, create safe and affordable housing for our lower income residents and those employees working at local businesses. For existing homeowners, we need programs to educate eligible residents on available property tax freezes and exemptions.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** I am a proud supporter of Carrollton's police and fire departments, yet there are always opportunities for improvement. They are making headway addressing diversity in recruiting so that our public safety department is a reflection of our community. I favor greater transparency in public safety and I would like to see demonstrations that our officers are receiving training on de-escalation, avoiding the use of excessive force, racial bias, creating positive outcomes when a subject is struggling with mental health issues, and a zero-tolerance policy regarding maneuvers that inhibit a person's ability to breathe.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Carrollton's ongoing challenge is our lack of flexibility due to being almost entirely built out, coupled with the appeal of other nearby cities that are experiencing record growth and have ample room to build. This limits our ability to expand our revenue base as well as our capacity to find funding to reshape our city's future through redevelopment. Our greatest opportunity continues to be our central location, the three highways that bisect our city, and the intersection of DART's Green and Silver rail lines in Downtown Carrollton. As a city, we can do more to leverage our location, visibility, and connectivity.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 7/14/1967; Occupation: IT Operations Director; Education: Bachelor's in Technical Management from Devry, MBA Student at UNT; Website: <http://www.adampolter.com>; Campaign; Phone: (469) 701-0905; Email: [contact@adampolter.com](mailto:contact@adampolter.com); Facebook: <http://facebook.com/PolterForPlace2>



### **Chris "Ax" Axberg** For Member of Council, PI 2

**BUDGET:** I will work with our Mayor, Council Members, and our city management team to ensure a balanced budget every year I am on Council. I will also fight to keep our taxes low and will not look to raise taxes. If funds are needed, I would seek to find efficiencies within Carrollton's City Management Office. I believe there are opportunities to use more cost-effective digital tools, platforms, and media to help address any financial needs we may have in the future. I will fight to keep ANY and all "tax increases" out of Carrollton's budgets.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** I am very concerned about the health and safety of our citizens and business owners. On Council, I would continue my effort to support Carrollton families and business through the Metrocrest Chamber. I would also continue my efforts as a Council Member in delivering the right PPE and medical supplies to the right folks at the right time. I would encourage the City to pay for this critical equipment for our citizens and business with the funds provided to us by the Federal CARES Act by the US government. I will look to increase Carrollton's contribution to Metrocrest Services from \$2M to \$7M through the CARES Act.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** I'm concerned about housing costs and decisions that face the City Council on affordable housing. I will continue to explore opportunities to push for more affordable housing and apartments in Carrollton. I believe our Mayor and Council has done a very good job helping expand affordable housing in our city and I will look to continue this effort on City Council.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** The first priority of City Council is the safety of our citizens & businesses. Our officers & fire fighters do an amazing job keeping us safe but, we have to future-proof all scenarios. On Council, I want to ensure we treat our citizens with respect and equality. I would set up town hall meetings with our citizens & our safety officers to guarantee consistent & open communications. I support our police & fire fighters 100% & will work with them to mandate that we are recruiting the best and brightest. I would not defund our safety departments but would push to invest more in training to mitigate any signs of racism.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** I believe there is a huge opportunity for us to modernize how we communicate and do business with our city. I will explore new ways to pay our bills electronically, receive urgent city notices on our mobile phones, and expand our online footprint to enable our ever-changing and evolving community. I have over 20 years of international experience as a C-Level executive for major companies from the US, Asia, and Europe. I will share my global experience in both senior management and digital media to help our citizens and our city to better communicate and grow opportunities to continually improve our stab

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** AGE: 10/15/1969; Occupation: Digital Marketing Exec; Education: BA Political Science fro Loyola University New Orleans; Website: <http://axbergforcarrollton.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 517-5063; Email: [chris@axbergforcarrollton.com](mailto:chris@axbergforcarrollton.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/AxbergForCarrollton>; Twitter: [twitter.com/caxberg](https://twitter.com/caxberg)

## For Member of the Council, PI 4

**Andrew Palacios — Unopposed**

**For Member of the Council, PI 4**

## For Member of the Council, PI 6

**Young Sung — Unopposed**

**or Member of the Council, PI 6**

If voting in person - either on election day or during early voting - you may need to stand in line for a time. Be prepared to vote safely - wear a cloth mask that covers your mouth and nose, and practice social distancing.

# City of Cockrell Hill General Election

The Cockrell Hill City Council consists of the Mayor and five Alderman in places designated as 1 through 5, all elected at large for 2 year terms by qualified voters within the city limits of Cockrell Hill. The Mayor and Places 1 and 2 are elected in even numbered years and Places 3, 4 and 5 are elected in the odd numbered years. Whichever candidate receives the most votes wins. There are no runoff elections.

The City Council meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month at Cockrell Hill City Hall, 4125 W Clarendon at 6:30 p.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings and comment on items being considered by the Council.

**BUDGET:** How will you balance the city's budget with the loss of sales tax revenue and potentially property values due to COVID? Will you support cuts in services or raising the tax rate? Please, be specific.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** How can your city support residents during the pandemic and through recovery? Discuss jobs, housing and other specific impacts the pandemic may have on your city

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** With the high cost of housing, pressure increases for affordable housing options for families and city workers. It is becoming

unaffordable for some to live in their own neighborhoods. Do you support additional apartment construction in the city? What changes, if any, would you support?

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** How would you rate the city's performance in the area of public safety? Would you recommend changes? If so, how would you pay for them? How would you prioritize these upgrades compared to other city needs?

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

## Mayor

Luis David Carrera — No response

Mayor



**Mike McCoy**  
Mayor

**BUDGET:** As a small business owner in Cockrell Hill, we have only experience minimal loss of revenue due to COVID. The town is open and business are picking back up. The economy does seem to be stabilized, so there will be no need to cut any services or raise any taxes. I would not be opposed to even lowering the taxes, they are already high enough.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** Having lived and worked in this city during the pandemic, I have not noticed that the city has done anything to protect the citizens of Cockrell Hill. There is a lot more that we can do as a city to protect and citizens and businesses. We should be the pioneers in the Covid 19 pandemic instead of the followers.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Yes, I do support further development in Cockrell Hill. Along with the new streets and curbs that have been recently added, further development of all housing types and commercial will j enhance the city's revenues and tax base.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Cockrell Hill is a small town and that the way i want to keep it. I would like to bring Cockrell Hill back to the days when you knew the local officers so that you can wave at each other as you drive down our streets. Currently the feeling from the police officers is not a small town feel. Yes, the response time is unprecedented when compared to Dallas and that is amazing, However there is room for improvement in the relationship between the community and the Police Department. All this talk about de-funding police d is not part the agenda, I feel hiring qualified law enforcement officers is more important.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** The biggest challenge will be to move past Covid 19 successfully. The we will set up opportunities and encourage new growth in our downtown business district, We have seen enormous growth in Oak Cliff in the last 5 years. I feel like it time for Cockrell Hill to join the tidal wave coming through Dallas. Cockrell Hill being one square mile has the potential to grow and build and become part of the new Oak Cliff.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 8/22/1966; Occupation: Family Owned Business; Email: ispyu@att.net

## For Alderman, PI 1

John Mendiola — No Response

For Alderman, PI 1



**Miriam Rodriguez**  
For Alderman, PI 1

**BUDGET:** As of September 2020, we have already passed the 2021 budget. No tax hikes were ever considered on my behalf. When presented with the idea of raising taxes, I knew I could never do that to our citizens who have already suffered enough through this pandemic. To mitigate the effects of COVID-19, there was an increase to water services by 1 cent a gallon approved unanimously by council.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** I've taken steps to ensure our citizen's city services are not shut off because of their inability to make payments due to the pandemic. No late fees will be accessed and their water bill can be made in payments. No jobs were affected in our city and everyone kept their job.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** I fully support affordable housing. Our citizens should be able to live in their own neighborhoods. We currently do have apartments in our city and I take personal interest that their needs are met, such as access to fresh food at walking distance. I take personal interest in every person that reaches out to me with concerns and always try to help them any time they have a problem. I will always support our community. Cockrell Hill has been my family's home for the past 40 years.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Our city is a small one, where we encourage our officers to get to know all of our citizens. Community policing is very important. Building ties with citizens and getting to know them and their families is important. We are stronger together and working for one common goal. I always support continued training for our police department especially when it comes to mental health calls, and working on community outreach with oversight.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** The beautification of our city and streets has been something we have focused on the last few years. We are finally at the ending phase of our beautification project so our citizens can be prideful of where they live. This gives us an opportunity to help attract business to our small city. It will also hopefully attract people from surrounding cities to visit our small business' and support them and their families that live in Cockrell Hill.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 7/4/1953; Email: myriamrod@msn.com

## For Alderman, PI 2

Ruth Salinas — No Response

For Alderman, PI 2

## For Alderman, PI 2 — Continued



**Linda McCoy**  
For Alderman, PI 2

**BUDGET:** No, I will not raise taxes. If the city has lost revenue so have the citizens. I would rather cut services instead of raising taxes. There is no way to give a honest answer until I can see what the situation really is. The city should investigate every possible avenue to receive relief funds offered by the United States Government in the wake of this crisis.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** We are a very small community so I would just have to see what we have to work with if I'm elected. Until I see the books it is difficult to accurately answer this question. I do believe the city should work closely with the businesses in the area so that our citizens can use the city as a resource when looking for employment opportunities in Cockrell Hill and surrounding areas.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** I would absolutely support affordable housing initiatives. The land availability in Cockrell Hill is limited so it will all depend on the future redevelopment of the city. We must find ways to increase the appeal in the city of Cockrell Hill for developers looking to invest. Redevelopment is happening all around us and I believe it's only a matter of time before Cockrell Hill becomes a sought after location.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** On a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the best, I would rate Cockrell Hill a 7. There is always room for improvement as it relates to safety. Safety within the city should always be a top priority and reallocating dollars within the budget is where I would start.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** The greatest challenge and opportunity is increasing the appeal of our city to developers who want to invest in the city of Cockrell Hill. Growing our city with new and exciting businesses will increase revenue for the city and give additional resources to its citizens. Redevelopment is happening all around us and the city of Cockrell Hill is and should be considered a prime location for new growth.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 8/16/1947; Occupation: City CH Business Owner; Education: High School + Police Academy

## City of Coppell General Election

The City of Coppell is a Home Rule city with a Council-Manager form of government. The City Council consists of a Mayor and 7 Council members who are elected at-large by majority vote. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the vote, there will be a runoff election. Each member serves a staggered 3-year term

**BUDGET:** How will you balance the city's budget with the loss of sales tax revenue and potentially property values due to COVID? Will you support cuts in services or raising the tax rate? Please, be specific.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** How can your city support residents during the pandemic and through recovery? Discuss jobs, housing and other specific impacts the pandemic may have on your city

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** With the high cost of housing, pressure increases for affordable housing options for families and city workers. It is becoming unaffordable for some to live in their own neighborhoods. Do you support

additional apartment construction in the city? What changes, if any, would you support?

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** How would you rate the city's performance in the area of public safety? Would you recommend changes? If so, how would you pay for them? How would you prioritize these upgrades compared to other city needs?

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

## For Member of the Council PI 1

**Cliff Long — Unopposed**

**For Member of the Council PI 1**

## For Member of the Council PI 3



**Davin Bernstein**  
For Member of the Council PI 3

its scheduled life as is done today – unlike virtually any homeowner). After that, we have a public discussion on non-essential services & invite citizen input to determine what we need, or reduce spending. This has not been tried and would result in better citizen participation. We need to budget the way citizens manage their home budget.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** The city can support residents by being aware of and participating in government programs that benefit our community, and connecting residents to state and national resources to assist the unemployed. This applies to businesses as well. This includes relaxation of regulations not related to COVID. The city should not be applying additional burdens on top of what the governor has articulated except in extreme circumstances, and only to protect vulnerable people (elderly and frail).

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** There is little opportunity to add multi-unit housing in our core residential areas, but adding apartments within city limits outside the core would bring in more housing options. Every homeowner should have a 20% homestead exemption LIKE ALL CITIES IN NW DALLAS COUNTY – a benefit for PEOPLE living in the city, not the current 5%. Instead, businesses are given up to 6 kinds of preferences and tax rebates that mostly serve to benefit them over homeowners. This homestead exemption is long overdue and my opponent has failed to deliver on property tax relief.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Public safety is a core service of our city. It is one of the best in the area, and I would protect that at all costs. At the budget hearing September 8, 2020, our police chief said the reductions in the 2021 police budget were taken as part of a broader pre-COVID overhaul of inefficiencies and not at the behest of any city council member. I applaud him for this review and consider it long overdue. The city council did not fund about 10 police officer positions in the current budget. This needs to be looked at: either they are needed and should be funded, or they should be eliminated.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** First, we need to become a city that is responsive to citizen input at all stages of program development. Second, we have a lot of large facilities built using taxpayer resources, and those facilities require more staff and maintenance. Can we continue to support them over spending that citizens deem essential, like new trails, sidewalk and street maintenance, and transacting business through our city's website? Under my opponent, the City's latest Citizen Satisfaction Survey shows that the quality of life in Coppell has dropped 16 percent, to only 40% of survey respondents.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 8/24/1965; Occupation: Product Management; Education: BA in Government, Cornell University MBA, Yale University; Website: <http://davinbernstein.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 717-1557; Email: [Davin@DavinBernstein.com](mailto:Davin@DavinBernstein.com); Facebook: <http://facebook.com/DavinForCoppell/>

Your vote is your voice. Be a voter.

## For Member of the Council PI 3 — Continued

**Wes Mays****For Member of the Council PI 3**

**BUDGET:** We have approved the 2020/2021 balanced budget which represented a 13% decrease over our current year budget. This was a result of our careful planning due to the sales tax loss resulting from State Rule 3.334. However, quite unexpectedly, COVID 19 hit. But due to our conservative fiscal approach, we have been able to account 99% of the \$9.2M revenue loss due to COVID-19 alone. These extraordinary results were accomplished by: • Expenditure reductions • Postponing of capital purchases and of capital projects • The freezing of city staff positions • Reduction in Seasonal staff • No salary increases for city staff

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** We have relied heavily on hour partners, such as Metrocrest Social Services and CCA. We have provided additional funding to those agencies to assist with housing, transportation, and jobs. Even small items for some of our seniors, such as grocery shopping were problematic and our partners came through to help. We are providing financial relief through the \$2.2M in emergency funding that we were granted from Dallas County. Some funding was provided for housing and rent assistance. We have also begun a reimbursement program, under the guidelines for our businesses that qualify for aid.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** The city of Coppell is pretty well built out. We have certain areas that remain that could be appropriate for apartments. We have approved several site that have never materialized. Based on my voting record, yes, I can support apartment if they comply with our City's master plan.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** We have one of the highest rated police, fire, and EMS departments in the entire county. Our police department recently was awarded the Texas Police Chief's Association Best Practices recognition. In addition, our fire department was recently re-certified as ISO Class 1, the highest rating issued which results in lower inaccuracy premiums for our citizens. We have recently added a new fire station (#4) that will be coming on line next year. Through careful budgeting and planning, we will have been able to fund this expansion through our normal budget. We give our fire, police, and EMS top priority.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** We have perhaps the largest challenge coming from State Rule 3.334 which changes the method that sales taxes are collected. This particularly impacts our West side business that do a large amount of mail order or internet business. When fully implemented, this could have up to a \$12M negative impact on our revenue. We are actively working with our West side business partners to mitigate some of the impact of State Rule 3.334 and we are also planning for the future through our budgeting process as we shift our budget to reflect what we believe will be the final impact of that rule.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 10/11/1958; Occupation: Director of Engineering; Education: Electrical Engineering Texas A&M University; Website: <http://wesmays.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 724-9008; Email: [wes.mays@gmail.com](mailto:wes.mays@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/WesMaysForCoppellCityCouncil>

## For Member of the City Council PI 5

**Erin Bogdanowicz — No response****For Member of the City Council PI 5****Jim Walker****For Member of the City Council PI 5**

**BUDGET:** Coppell's recent budget process resulted in \$8 million in spending cuts in a single fiscal year. As a result, Coppell lowered its tax rate to \$0.5800 per \$100 of assessed valuation, which is \$0.004 cents lower than last year's rate. Coppell's strong financial position made this possible. Over the past ten years, Coppell's tax rate has been reduced by 10.646 cents. If elected, I intend to continue this bias toward lowering tax rates. I also believe we should take advantage of our coveted AAA bond rating and re-finance our outstanding debt in the current low rate environment to minimize our future borrowing costs.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** Coppell's residents and businesses have not been immune to the physical and financial effects of the pandemic. Our Council has worked hard to inform our businesses about various federal and state funding and related programs designed to offset the detrimental effects of the lockdown and the subsequent reduced economic activity. Coppell has also encouraged its residents to "Buy Local" to support our local businesses and our extraordinary Farmer's Market. For our residents, the City has had "pop up parades," drive-in movies, virtual trivia contests and other fun events to provide a healthy outlet for the community.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Coppell has extremely limited capacity for additional residential development. This is due to our substantial growth over the past 20 years, and the diversification of our tax base by encouraging commercial development on the west side of town. Coppell already has a fairly diverse residential base, with homes of varying values, apartments and some manufactured homes. Coppell has encouraged the successful development of "live-work" residences to reflect the changing workplace and smaller townhomes to facilitate the downsizing sought by many long term residents who want to stay in Coppell after selling their home.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Police Chief Danny Barton is operating Coppell's Police Department using a Community Policing approach. Our police officers are true public servants. Chief Kevin Richardson's Fire Department in 2008 became the 58th department out of 33,000 fire departments nationally to earn an ISO Class 1 rating. This coveted rating accounts for Coppell's growth overall and mitigates property insurance premiums for our residents. Both departments were fully involved in the recent budget cutting without any discernable impact on public safety. Coppell has more officers on the streets, a new firehouse and we have never been safer.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Our state government has steadily diminished Coppell's authority to govern as a Home Rule City. First, the Texas Comptroller declared that sales taxes will be collected based upon the destination of the goods sold, instead of where the sale originated. Second, the Legislature eliminated our Planning & Zoning Commission's authority to regulate materials used in the construction and remodeling of homes and commercial buildings. Now it appears the Legislature will consider removing Coppell's authority to regulate short-term rentals. This decision is best made at the local level where the short-term rentals will operate.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Occupation: Attorney; Education: Austin College, B.A. Business; SMU Dedman School of Law, J.D.; Website: <http://walkerforcoppellcouncil.com/>; Campaign Phone: (972) 400-2720; Email: [WalkerForCoppellCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:WalkerForCoppellCouncil@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/jimwalkerplace5/>

**John Jun****For Member of the City Council PI 5**

**BUDGET:** I will support cutting services first before resorting to raising taxes, which will be the last resort. But before that, I would look into necessities and nonessential services, evaluate the budget and spending, and at the end of the day, reduce budget, reallocate or cut spending if necessary. Police Chief Barton was able to reduce the department's budget by evaluating and adjusting to their needs, and this method should be utilized by all departments. Moreover, I would support looking into having open bids on projects and constructions to get the best bang for the citizen's dollars.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** The city currently has a hiring freeze due to loss on revenue from businesses being affected by COVID, and due to the anticipated change by the comptroller in the way taxes are collected from origination base to destination base, which isn't likely to change anytime soon. The housing market, however, seem to have bounced back as there seem to be a shortage on houses on the market. I support in letting the market run its course, but with that said, one of the things the city can do to lessen the burden on the citizens is to increase the homestead exemption.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** While there isn't a specific solution immediately available, I don't support additional apartment construction because there are nine apartment complexes, with several along the border, and because Coppell is landlocked. Moreover, we have to be mindful of the spill effect that comes with additional apartment, such as the burden on school capacity, the land to be used to build an apartment, traffic, and especially the saving citizens will realize with current demand since some apartments cost just as much as payment on mortgage.

## For Member of the City Council PI 5

John Jun — Continued

For Member of the City Council PI 5

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** The city has done well with public safety by supporting the police and fire to provide the best service. We have one of the best police/fire departments with excellent officers/firefighters from top to bottom, and I will continue to support them to ensure quality service and public safety. As mentioned, I admire Police Chief Barton for looking at their needs and reducing their budget without affecting their operation and service to the community. Every department should be encouraged to follow this approach, which I believe there is room for improvement.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** The greatest challenge would be getting the citizens and businesses back to where it was before COVID, as close as possible. Opportunity is to collaborate and support outdoor events like ones held recently by Coppell Chamber to promote local businesses to make it even more successful, and have open discussions with citizens as to where some services will need adjustments, and perhaps make up some of the difference with abundant volunteers Coppell has to offer.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 6/3/1968; Occupation: Attorney; Education: B.A.-Political Science/Public Policy minor in Philosophy-SMU-2006 Juris Doctor-Florida Coastal; Campaign Phone: (469) 235-1633; Email: johnjun612@gmail.com; Facebook: http://@johnjunforcoppell

## For Member of the Council, PI 7

Mark Hill — Unopposed

For Member of the Council, PI 7

## City of DeSoto General Election

The City Council is the governing and law making 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.

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.

**BUDGET:** How will you balance the city's budget with the loss of sales tax revenue and potentially property values due to COVID? Will you support cuts in services or raising the tax rate? Please, be specific.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** How can your city support residents during the pandemic and through recovery? Discuss jobs, housing and other specific impacts the pandemic may have on your city

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** With the high cost of housing, pressure increases for affordable housing options for families and city workers. It is becoming unaffordable for some to live in their own neighborhoods. Do you support

additional apartment construction in the city? What changes, if any, would you support?

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** How would you rate the city's performance in the area of public safety? Would you recommend changes? If so, how would you pay for them? How would you prioritize these upgrades compared to other city needs?

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

## For Councilmember, PI 2

Pierette Parker — No response

For Councilmember, PI 2



**Jean Green-Frazier**  
For Councilmember, PI 2

**BUDGET:** City of DeSoto is keeping up. The city in past years had no property tax increase, this year a small increase in the property tax but not due to COVID. Our home prices are holding. Industry is doing great;holding strong that is a good factor. There has been a business vacancy issues and my platform has economic growth as one of my main topics. The hotels struggles, decreased 20% like others. No, I do not support cuts in services. I plan to search for more businesses to come to the city but not to look at cuts within the city employees. Essential workers/employees are needed to operate our community

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** I will work with the City Council members and city department heads to attract business and the Chambers to find a company to best fit the needs that are for our DeSoto citizens. I look forward to working with citizens and at town hall meetings to receive their visions. I will be a voice for our residents while headed to recovery of a pandemic;working with the subcommittees already in place to continue focusing on targeted areas. Topics targeted; medical/mental, mask/hand sanitizer distributions, and CARES Act funding to provide for our small business owners. These assists listed are in place and should maintain.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Yes, I will support/recommend apartment construction in our city. After my research of the comprehension plan for our city, I am interested in certain areas on the need for all housing: apartments, single-family dwelling, and the identification of major corners for commercial zone. Of course, with input from our citizens for years, there is a need to strategize and search for investors/investments, then be presented to the mayor and council members and communicated to the DeSoto residents.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** I cannot rate the DeSoto Police Department. Good performance in our city; not enough respect within the community. My major focus to encourage transparency in the Police Department and by communication, citizen's respect and police department respect. I plan to research, advocate, address changes, and assist wherever I can. Past years working in crisis intervention in various counties and alongside Victim Relief Ministries who teamed with Texas Baptist Men, rooted in me a caring need to rebrand to the different entities within our city. I cannot voice enough how important communication aides in many situations.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** My platform speaks. There is a huge disconnect in our economic growth. Join together as a council view thoroughly the comprehensive plan. I will identify/support items addressed for inclusions/changes on plans/policies with timeframes set. Transportation needs more accessibility in the city for more growth; live, work, shop and fun. Information, awareness, and accessibility to those citizens not enough available. COVID has affect in DeSoto death, personal protective items given to citizens. DeSoto must rebrand itself. When elected; work in unity, communicate business retention & attract new businesses for DeSoto.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 5/24/1955; Occupation: Mental Health Professiona; Education: BAAS-Interdisciplinary Public Admin/Psychology MA-Counseling MA-Sociology(Hrs) PhD-Theology (2021); Website: http://www.votejeangreenfrazier.com; Campaign Phone: (214) 881-8288; Email: jgreenfrazier@yahoo.com

For Councilmember, PI 2 — Continued



**Kay Brown-Patrick**  
For Councilmember, PI 2

**BUDGET:** Our City manager and his team has worked hard to present a balanced and efficient budget to City Council. The budget presented took into consideration any fluctuations in property values. We did not raise the property taxes or cut services. DeSoto did not see a decrease in sales tax. In fact we are up 9%. I would support needed modifications to services but not cuts to essential services.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** City Council recently passed a \$2 million dollar package to utilize funding provided by the county for COVID responses to assist residents and businesses. The residential program will assist our constituents with rent, mortgage, utility, and child care payments for a maximum of \$8,000 per household. The business program will assist businesses (up to \$20,000) with rent, mortgage, and utility payments. I had the pleasure of serving as the chair of the ad hoc committee that worked to determine allocation of the funds.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Our demographics reflect the need for affordable housing options. I support high-level multi-family developments being developed on properties zoned for such use on a case-by-case basis.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** DeSoto's crime rate has decreased 3% this year. In light of the current state of our nation, I've supported creating policy changes to address how our officers "police". I am in support of "defunding" as it simply reallocating resources from police departments and reallocating them to non-policing forms of public safety. We kept our Police funding level but shifted some of those funds towards supporting a more effective response to mental health calls.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Our greatest challenge is the narrative being created by individuals and media who don't have intimate knowledge of all the great things happening in DeSoto which is where the opportunity presents itself for us to ensure that we do a better job at telling our own story. Also, we have a great group of future leaders in our youth and I truly believe we are in good hands moving forward if we invest in them now so that they return to DeSoto in the future ready to lead.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 1/1/1985; Occupation: Economic Development ; Education: Masters in Public Administration (University of North Texas); Website: <http://www.vote4kay.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 814-5249; Email: [info@vote4kay.com](mailto:info@vote4kay.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/kaybrownpatrick>

For Councilmember, PI 4

Andre' Byrd Sr — Unopposed

For Councilmember, PI 4

City of DeSoto Special and Charter  
Amendment Election

Answer For/Against

**PROPOSITION A**

"The authorization for the abolition of the sales and use tax within the City of Desoto for the promotion and development of new and expanded business enterprises pursuant to Section 504.251, Texas Local Government Code, as amended, currently at the rate of 0.375 percent; and the adoption, in the place of such abolished tax, of a local sales and use tax in the City of Desoto at the rate of 0.375 percent to be used for the promotion and development of new and expanded business enterprises and all other public purposes pursuant to Section 505.251, Texas Local Government Code; all of which would result in no net increase in the sales and use tax collected by the City of Desoto."

**Explanation**

"A 0.375% local sales tax is currently collected in DeSoto to fund economic development programs that support primary job creation, known as a Type A sales tax. The City of DeSoto is asking voters to expand the list of economic development programs that can be funded with this local Type B sales tax to include primary job creation as well as projects considered to be community development initiatives such as land, buildings, equipment, facilities, expenditures, and improvements for professional and amateur sports facilities, park facilities and events, entertainment and tourist facilities as authorized by the Texas Local Government Code. The expanded use of sales tax is known as a Type B sales tax." Information from city of DeSoto website.

The 0.375% sales tax supports the activities of the DeSoto Economic Development Corporation (DEDC), a component unit of the city which is governed by five board members appointed by the City Council. The Corporation may incur debt with City Council approval. In fiscal 2019, the sales tax generated \$2.6 million in revenue and debt totaled \$1.5 million.

# City of DeSoto Special and Charter Amendment Election — Continued

## Answer For/Against

*In 2019 the former director of the DEDC pled guilty to charges of fraudulent conduct and made restitution of \$9,073. Subsequently, more questions were raised about his conduct so the city engaged a consultant to conduct a forensic investigation. The consultant recommended follow-up on additional areas of questionable conduct and improvements in internal controls and procedures in its January 2020 report.*

Reasons to Vote For	Reasons to Vote Against
1. Conversion of the sales tax to a Type B tax would provide the DEDC more flexibility in attracting businesses to spur economic development in the city	1. Usage of the sales tax should be limited to capital projects and not expanded to job creation as job creation is the responsibility of the private sector.
2. The DEDC is currently financially sound and it would benefit the city for it to be more productive in its work, which more flexibility in the use of tax revenue would provide.	2. While the questionable use of DEDC funds appears to be in the past, the city should wait longer before expanding DEDC authority.
3. This action would not expand the sales tax, only expand its usage.	3. Taxes are too high. The city should reduce taxes rather than expand their usage.

### PROPOSITION B

“Shall Article II; Section 1 of the City Charter be amended to provide for the Mayor receiving compensation in the amount of \$1,250 monthly and Council Members receiving compensation in the amount of \$1,000 monthly for their duties effective January 1, 2021 and further requiring the Council to adopt in the Council Rules and Procedures a minimum attendance policy for such compensation.”

### Explanation

*From the city of DeSoto website annual financial impact is as follows:*

- o Mayor \$20,000*
- o City Council \$90,000*
- o Total Wages \$110,000*
- o Employer Share SS/MEDI \$4,975*
- o Workers Comp \$254*
- o Total Cost \$115,229*

*Currently the mayor and council members serve without compensation. Charter provisions for neighboring cities are:*

- o Duncanville officials receive no compensation.*
- o Lancaster officials receive no compensation.*
- o Cedar Hill mayor gets \$1 per year and no compensation for council members.*
- o Mesquite charter allows for compensation up to \$100 per month for the Mayor and \$50 per month for council members.*
- o Grand Prairie charter allows for up to \$100 per month for the Mayor and \$25 per month for council members.*

Reasons to Vote For	Reasons to Vote Against
1. Meaningful compensation for elected officials enables individuals of limited economic means to serve. It would benefit the city for individuals from all walks of life to be on the council.	1. Individuals should serve on the council because they feel called to service rather than for the money.
2. The cost to the city budget would be minimal.	2. While the cost would not be great with respect to the city budget as a whole, DeSoto should be mindful of all expenditures because they can add up.

# City of DeSoto Special and Charter Amendment Election — Continued

Answer For/Against

## PROPOSITION C

“Shall Article II; Section 7 of the City Charter be amended to provide for the selection of the Mayor Pro Tem from among six (6) Councilmembers shall occur at the first regular meeting following either the general city election or run-off election if such occurs.”

### Explanation

The DeSoto City Charter currently requires that the Mayor Pro Tem be selected at the first regular meeting following a General Election without making provision in case of a run-off. This item is a technical correction to enable the city to comply with the Charter in case of a run-off election.

# City of Duncanville General Election

The Duncanville City Council consists of 7 members, including the mayor elected at large, 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 term for mayor, district 2 and district 4 members expire in even-numbered years. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the vote, there will be a runoff election.

**BUDGET:** How will you balance the city's budget with the loss of sales tax revenue and potentially property values due to COVID? Will you support cuts in services or raising the tax rate? Please, be specific.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** How can your city support residents during the pandemic and through recovery? Discuss jobs, housing and other specific impacts the pandemic may have on your city

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** With the high cost of housing, pressure increases for affordable housing options for families and city workers. It is becoming unaffordable for some to live in their own neighborhoods. Do you support

additional apartment construction in the city? What changes, if any, would you support?

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** How would you rate the city's performance in the area of public safety? Would you recommend changes? If so, how would you pay for them? How would you prioritize these upgrades compared to other city needs?

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

## For Member of Council, Dist 2

Hector Sifuentes, Misty Bain — No response

For Member of Council, Dist 2



**Don McBurnett**  
For Member of Council, Dist 2

**BUDGET:** I am supportive of the City of Duncanville and its fiscally conservative policies. As a result, we are providing a City Budget taking the sales tax revenue impact into account while maintaining the quality of City services along with a reduction in the property tax rate.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** Our City through our Duncanville Community and Economic Development Corporation was able to assist with grants to local businesses. Also the CARES act through Dallas County and apportioned to Duncanville is helping Citizens with rent/mortgage assistance, water utilities and such. Also, businesses were notified and informed by our Economic Development team about additional funding. The City relaxed water shut-offs for those affected by Covid-19. The City adjusted to help Citizens and continue to provide necessary services.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** With Duncanville being largely built out and primarily residential, the opportunity areas remaining need to be used for the highest and best use. However, Duncanville does have a wide variety of housing inventory. Duncanville is a beautiful city and good community which offers some of the best pricing options in the Metroplex.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Regarding Public Safety the City of Duncanville has good, proactive leadership, well trained Police Officers and Fire personnel in place. Additionally, there is a Citizens on Patrol group and a Citizens Police Academy. The City has a fire rating of 2. Plus, Duncanville has continued having one of the best response times in cooperation with our sister cities. There is a current need to upgrade to the P25 radio system. This is being handled through our current budget process. Thus, it is being done without sacrificing other projects.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** The City's greatest challenge is the Covid-19 pandemic (hopefully in the short term) along with the recently State imposed tax caps. The pandemic has affected businesses and its Citizens whereas the State tax cap without any carve out for Public Safety limits local decisions on improving the City for its Citizens. The greatest opportunity for Duncanville, the City of Champions, is redevelopment, making the most of our opportunity areas, continue to improve its infrastructure and make our City attractive to businesses and its Citizens.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 2/11/1961; Occupation: Finance/Accounting; Education: Business Administration - Northwood University; Campaign Phone: (972) 296-4179; Email: donindville@gmail.com

Voting in person? Mask up!

# City of Farmers Branch General Election

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

**BUDGET:** How will you balance the city's budget with the loss of sales tax revenue and potentially property values due to COVID? Will you support cuts in services or raising the tax rate? Please, be specific.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** How can your city support residents during the pandemic and through recovery? Discuss jobs, housing and other specific impacts the pandemic may have on your city

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** With the high cost of housing, pressure increases for affordable housing options for families and city workers. It is becoming

unaffordable for some to live in their own neighborhoods. Do you support additional apartment construction in the city? What changes, if any, would you support?

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** How would you rate the city's performance in the area of public safety? Would you recommend changes? If so, how would you pay for them? How would you prioritize these upgrades compared to other city needs?

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

## Mayor

**Brenda Brodrick, Robert C Dye – No response**

**Mayor**

## For Member of the Council, Dist 2



**Michael Driskill**  
For Member of Council, Dist 2

**BUDGET:** We are very fortunate in Farmers Branch because our city's finances are in excellent shape. Our city's tax revenue has held up surprisingly well. This is because we don't rely on a lot of retail tax revenue like many other cities. Roughly 77% of our tax revenue comes from the corporate and business sectors of our city. We have a lot of new residential and business development as well. Additionally, our Council is very fiscally conservative. We are currently able to issue \$10 million in debt while actually decreasing the tax rate. As a Councilman I pledge to be fiscally responsible, accountable and transparent.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** The city of Farmers Branch stepped up efforts on a local level to help our small businesses and residents. Our city has helped get the word out to businesses and citizens by assisting and encouraging them to apply for assistance under the CARES Act and, of course, through unemployment benefits. Additionally, our city has and will continue to help by working closely with and by increasing funding to local non-profits such as Metrocrest Services. This provides money for food and rental assistance. We have also kept our city facilities like our library, recreation center and swimming pool open for our residents.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** First, as a smaller, inner ring suburb of Dallas, I don't believe this is a real issue for us. We have a wide array of affordable housing. Until recently we have had large areas of green space awaiting development. These areas are now under development with hundreds of new families moving into our city. We are part of the dynamic north Texas economic locomotive and people continue to move here for jobs and a better life. As a Realtor and as a proponent of free markets, I believe we have to provide a variety of housing options, including multi-family, town homes, duplexes and single family for our new arrivals.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** I believe our city's Police and Fire Departments are second to none. We have always been one of the safest cities in the DFW Metroplex and we boast one of the very best response times for both fire and police. As a member of Mayor Dye's Policing Task Force we have worked closely with Police Chief Hale to identify areas where we can increase training and support for our officers. We also want to provide our Police officers with lighter, cooler police vests. As a Councilman I will always make the continued strong support of our Fire and Police Departments one of my highest priorities.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** see several. One, working through the COVID19 induced economic recession and positioning Farmers Branch for continued economic development and growth of our business and residential communities. Second, absorbing the rapid new growth on our west side by welcoming and integrating these new residents into our wonderful and diverse community. Third, I believe we need to continue to work hard to help our community heal from the not to distant immigration fight. Fourth, we must work hard to maintain and improve city facilities to accommodate future needs and desires of the young families moving into our city.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Occupation: Realtor; Education: B.A. with Honors, University of Texas at Austin; Website: <http://www.electmichaeldriskill.com>; Email: [electmichaeldriskill@gmail.com](mailto:electmichaeldriskill@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://electmichaeldriskill>



**Nic Rady**  
For Member of Council, Dist 2

**BUDGET:** Our budget this year is proposed to increase 16% year over year. We should be fine if there was decrease.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** On average, Farmers Branch has done about as well as Texas on the whole. There have been a few businesses that I have seen close and a few people move due to job loss. The city has shared money from the federal programs to aid in recovery.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** The apartments that are being built right now seem to cost more per month than many people pay in mortgage. There is a diversity of housing stock in the city ranging from affordable to +\$1M.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** The best in the metroplex.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Our biggest challenge is looking towards the future and finding ways to keep the same quality of services we have enjoyed for decades. Specifically, we need to address the future of our landfill. The biggest opportunity is the future market based redevelopment on the east side.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 6/18/1985; Occupation: Physicist; Education: BA in Physics MA in Physics; Website: <http://nicrady.com>; Campaign Phone: (972) 919-0462; Email: [nic@nicrady.com](mailto:nic@nicrady.com); Facebook: <http://Facebook.com/nicrady>

Don't forget to take your qualifying photo ID with you when you go to vote.  
For qualifying photo IDs, check at [www.DallasCountyVotes.org](http://www.DallasCountyVotes.org).

# City of Garland General Election

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. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the vote, there will be a runoff election.

**BUDGET:** How will you balance the city's budget with the loss of sales tax revenue and potentially property values due to COVID? Will you support cuts in services or raising the tax rate? Please, be specific.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** How can your city support residents during the pandemic and through recovery? Discuss jobs, housing and other specific impacts the pandemic may have on your city

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** With the high cost of housing, pressure increases for affordable housing options for families and city workers. It is becoming

unaffordable for some to live in their own neighborhoods. Do you support additional apartment construction in the city? What changes, if any, would you support?

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** How would you rate the city's performance in the area of public safety? Would you recommend changes? If so, how would you pay for them? How would you prioritize these upgrades compared to other city needs?

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

## For Member of Council, Dist 1

David Gibbons — Unopposed

For Member of Council, Dist 1

## For Member of Council, Dist 2



### Deborah Morris

For Member of Council, Dist 2

**BUDGET:** Property values increased this year, somewhat to our surprise, but sales tax revenue has sharply decreased. This year's budget provided a real-life example of our approach. When times get hard, we cut first internally—banking or eliminating vacant positions, reducing or eliminating merit increases, delaying some major purchases, and making small adjustments mostly invisible to the public. We will not be increasing our property tax rate this year; in fact, we increased two major tax exemptions: the homestead exemption (from 8% to 10%) and the senior exemption (from \$51,000 to \$56,000).

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** Our priorities have been to first, keep our residents safe by providing them with real-time guidance per national health standards and by reducing opportunities for mass spread by closing senior centers, canceling crowd events, and initially closing many city facilities to the public. We have also supported our local businesses and their employees through cooperative signage and social media promotions as well as providing guidance about state and federal assistance available to them. We stopped utility disconnects for months, and offered rental and mortgage assistance funded through CARES, CDBG, and ESG programs.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Garland has some of the most affordable housing in the DFW area, but unfortunately that's largely due to the age of much of our housing stock, both houses and apartments. We have a fair amount of privately-owned land already zoned for mixed-use or apartments where future growth can happen, and a seemingly endless need for additional senior living developments. One new housing option I favor is the ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit) concept where small backyard cottages or offices could be built which could be used for elderly parents, college students, those working from home, etc. Plano recently approved such a plan.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** I'm incredibly proud of the men and women of the Garland Police Department, the Garland Fire Department, and our Office of Emergency Management. As a city, we have chosen for years to invest in public safety, with excellent results. GPD has a culture focused primarily on service rather than enforcement, and offers a multitude of community resources. GFD was just awarded for the 7th straight year with the AMA's "Mission Lifeline: Gold Award." Our Emergency Management staff has worked tirelessly and skillfully this past year to navigate the 2019 tornado and the 2020 pandemic along with all the usual storms, floods, etc.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** It will be a challenge, of course, to emerge from a show-stopping pandemic and forge ahead toward our long-term goals, but the City of Garland is in a strong position to do just that. Years of prudent financial policies and maintenance of an emergency fund (currently \$5.3M) has enabled us to avoid stumbling during this time of unanticipated reversals. Thanks to Garland voters' willingness to invest in the city by approving the \$424M 2019 Bond Program last year, however, we have many new improvements and amenities queued up for the next 5-6 years which will make Garland a more beautiful and pleasant place to live.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 8/23/1956; Occupation: Retired Nonfiction Author; Education: Career Equivalent to a Bachelor's in Journalism; Website: <http://deborahmorristx.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 273-4387; Email: [Deborah@morris.net](mailto:Deborah@morris.net); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/deborahmorriscitycouncil>; You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/oCM471TXONU>



### Koni Ramos-Kaiwi

For Member of Council, Dist 2

**BUDGET:** We have to work to maximize business development to supplement limits to the property taxes. Continue development of hotel/ motel tourism industry and for our city to aggressively market Garland as a lakefront community, especially along the I-30 corridor. We need to capitalize on the lake resource and the economic and entertainment industry it attracts, like our neighboring cities of Rockwall and Rowlett, who have capitalized on this; Hard decisions need to be made. We need to reduce or eliminate redundancy in services. If there are other government services providing the service, like the County or some nonprofi

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** - no response

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** We as a city have to explore plans that not only address the lack of affordable housing and how to create more of it, but also how we improve the ability of our citizenry to better their living situation. Even before COVID played a factor, it only takes a short walk in the downtown area to see the growing number of our neighbors that find themselves homeless or housing insecure, we will no doubt continue to see the numbers rise as we see the temporary reprieves given on foreclosures come to an end. Garland has a diverse housing market and we also have a large rental community. I believe we will have to continue

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Our current police chief has a high respect for our community and the diverse needs of our citizens. He has done a great job in keeping our city safe. Under his leadership Garland Police Department works to assure our citizens are treated fairly and protected within our community. They are highly trained and hold those that do not respect their duty accountable for their actions. Garland is an example of what best practices should be in a larger diverse community such as ours. Of course there is always room for improvement and where we can make changes that improve safety of our community and our officers we should.

## For Member of Council, Dist 2 — Continued

## Koni Ramos-Kaiwi — Continued

## For Member of Council, Dist 2

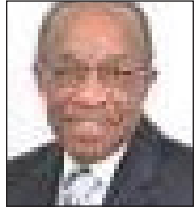
**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Our cities demographics have become more diverse, which can be a great asset to the city as it continues to evolve and grow. The new populations( diversity) have brought new business opportunities from restaurants to panaderias and other evolving businesses. These demographics are also getting grayer which brings new challenges. We will need to explore new senior centers, adult day cares, assisted living and nursing homes. Our city needs to be prepared to face these challenges as they arise.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Occupation: RETIRED-GISD; Education: High School ; Website: <http://www.koniforgarland.com>; Campaign Phone: (972) 965-4031; Email: [koniforgarland@gmail.com](mailto:koniforgarland@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://facebook.com/koniforgarland>

## For Member of the Council, Dist 4

## Jim Bookhout — No response

## For Member of the Council, Dist 4

**B J Williams**

## For Member of Council, Dist 4

**BUDGET:** 1. Conduct an in-depth analysis of projected loss of revenue. 2. Carefully examine and prioritize budget requests from each City department. What items are “must fund now” vs what items can be “future projections/delays”, without impacting services. 3. Obtain public input on what should be budget priorities and acceptable customer service levels. 4. I support reasonable cuts in some non-essential services, in lieu of raising the tax rate or cutting jobs. 5. Examine “best practices” options of implementing modified work schedules and/or operating hours for some city facilities.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** 1. Maximize City’s IT and social media resources to ensure that residents have “real -time” access to credible, sound, medical/health based COVID19 information. 2. Require mandatory wearing of masks/face covering and social distancing at all City owned facilities. Access to timely testing. 3. Establish a task group of City, Chamber, business, residents, non-profits, realtors and faith leaders to

access the impact of COVID19 on residents in all areas (housing, jobs, family mental health, etc.), and make recommendations to City leadership for addressing their findings. 4. Suspend all late fees/service cutoff

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** 1. Council District 4 has 45% of the City’s multi-family housing. Thus, I do not support additional multi-family housing, unless it is balanced across the City. 2. Provide incentives for owners of multi-family properties to reinvest in upgrading the quality of their properties. 3. Increase Neighborhood Vitality outreach program to include multi-family properties. 4. Fully fund, staff and publicize the City’s Office of Fair Housing

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** 1. Public safety (GFD and GPD) rating: 9 on a scale of 10. 2. Conduct an internal review of GPD policies, practices and culture to determine if any show unintended, inherent biases, that could potentially negatively impact interactions between GPD and communities of color. Note: This project will involve no additional costs (consultants, etc.). Priority rating: 9 on a scale of 10. 3. Continue to improve the recruitment of women and people of color in GFD.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Challenges: 1. Protecting “Home Rule” from legislative over-reach. 2. Remaining fiscally sound and maintaining a growing local economy, in the face of uncontrollable outside forces. 3. Aging housing stock. Opportunities: 1. Expand local medical services (e.g., full service hospital). 2. Retain our outstanding City Manager and staff. 3. With the completion of the IH-635 East redesign /reconstruction project, make Garland a desired destination for high quality economic development and job opportunities along that corridor. 4. Increase the active participation of millennials on City Boards and Commission.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 3/17/1947; Occupation: Retired; Education: B. S. (Wiley College-Marshall, TX) M. S. (Amberton University-Garland, TX); Campaign Phone: (972) 898-7672; Email: [bjwill066@gmail.com](mailto:bjwill066@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/billy.williams.14203>; Twitter: [twitter.com/BjwillBilly](https://twitter.com/BjwillBilly)

## For Member of the Council, Dist 5

## Rich Aubin — Unopposed

## For Member of the Council, Dist 5

## City of Garland Special Election

Answer For/Against

**PROPOSITION A**

“Shall the City Council be authorized, as otherwise limited by and pursuant to State law, to approve the construction and use of a library facility within a portion of public property designated as parkland, commonly known as Hollabaugh Park.”

**Explanation**

*In 2019 voters approved a \$10.9 million relocation and expansion of the Walnut Creek Branch Library. Demand for services and computer time has far exceeded capacity at the current location. An expanded location will not only provide needed space but also more computers and other technology that is standard in the modern world. Most of West Garland is built out but the land adjacent to the city’s Hollabaugh Recreation Center would provide everything that’s needed in terms of space for the building and parking.*

*Since the site is part of Hollabaugh Park, voters must approve any non-park use of the land. This ballot item was approved by the city’s Parks Board, Library Board and the City Council.*

If voting in person - either on election day or during early voting - you may need to stand in line for a time. Be prepared to vote safely - wear a cloth mask that covers your mouth and nose, and practice social distancing.”

# City of Garland Special Election — Continued

Answer For/Against

Reasons to Vote For	Reasons to Vote Against
1. The Hollabaugh site provides adequate space, is accessible and is close to the existing library so would accommodate current patrons.	1. Use of park land for the library would reduce green space.
2. There are opportunities for shared programming between the library and the adjacent recreation center.	2. Some park activities would need to be deferred to nearby Watson Park.
3. The site is owned by the city so no land purchase is required.	3. Parking for both the library and the recreation center would be tight though adequate.
4. The item was unanimously approved by both the Parks Board and the Library Board.	

# City of Grand Prairie Special Election

Answer For/Against

## PROPOSITION A

“Whether the City of Grand Prairie, Texas Crime Control and Prevention District should be continued for twenty (20) years and the Crime Control and Prevention District sales tax should be continued for twenty (20) years.”

### Explanation

In 2007, 80% of Grand Prairie voters approved a Grand Prairie Crime Control and Prevention District ½ cent sales tax (CCPD) to build the new public safety building. In 2012, 86% of Grand Prairie voters approved extending the sales tax for 10 years. In 2013, because the amount of money the city collects from the tax is more than the debt payments on the public safety building, 86% of the voters approved adding the ability to hire and equip police officers.

In 2022, the public safety building will be paid off. On November 3, 2020, the city is asking voters whether or not to approve extending the existing ½ cent sales tax for 20 years. The city plans to use the entire ½ cent to hire police officers and pay for their salaries, benefits, equipment and training after the public safety building is paid off. The city’s General Fund would then be used for other city departments, such as fire, parks libraries, planning and development.

If the proposition fails, the city would have to absorb more than \$8 million back into its General Fund by reducing city services including public safety to pay for police officers and related expenses. Alternatively, the city could ask voters to raise property taxes 4-6 cents per \$100 of taxable value to fund police officers. The sales tax would reduce from 8.25 percent to 8 percent.

(information from City of Grand Prairie website)

Reasons to Vote For	Reasons to Vote Against
1. This proposition would not increase the city’s current sales tax rate.	1. Taxes are too high. The city should allow this authorization to expire, providing relief to taxpayers, and find ways to reduce city expenditures elsewhere.
2. Non-residents who shop in Grand Prairie would help to pay for police officers.	2. The city should fund public safety including police officers from the property tax in the General Fund rather than from sales tax. The property tax is a more stable revenue source for ongoing operating expenses.
3. The sales tax would enable the city to maintain its current ratio of 1.5 officers per 1000 population. When the sales tax was first approved in 2007, the ratio was 1.3 officers per 1000 population.	

# City of Irving General Election

The City of Irving operates under a "Council-Manager" system where the City Council sets the policies and budget and the City Manager is responsible for City operations. The City Council appoints the City Manager. The City Council is a 9 member Council that consists of the Mayor (at large), 6 City Council member districts (1,3,4,5,6,7) plus 2 additional City Council members elected at large (districts 2,8). All positions serve a 3 year term.

Questions and candidate data provided by the League of Women Voters of Irving

**EXPERIENCE:** Please explain how you believe your education, work experience, and other experiences qualify you for the position you seek as a city council member.

**DIVERSITY:** With Irving having one of the most diverse zip codes in the nation, what will you do to reach out to these communities to solicit citizens help and support the efforts of the diversity committee?

**COVID-19 ECONOMIC DOWNTURN:** How can the city best recover from the

economic downturn?

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** What action would you support or bring to Council to increase availability of affordable housing in Irving?

**BOND ELECTION:** Since the bond election has been canceled, do you favor holding it in May 2021 and would you recommend any changes to the bond program?

**QUESTIONS AND CANDIDATE DATA PROVIDED BY THE LWV IRVING.**

COVID-19

## Mayor

Olivia E Novelo Abreu — No response

Mayor



**Rick Stopfer**  
Mayor

**EXPERIENCE:** I have dedicated over 25 years of my life to public service on behalf of Irving residents and businesses. I served on the Valley Ranch Homeowners Association board for 20 years (including serving as president), as well as on Irving's Planning & Zoning Committee, the Irving Flood Control District 3 board (including as chair), and on Irving City Council for 14 years. Regionally, I currently serve or have served on the NCTCOG and RTC boards, Metroplex Mayors Council, DFW Airport Board, and DART board. I am a former president of the Heritage Society and have supported numerous nonprofit organizations throughout Irving.

**DIVERSITY:** As Mayor, I pushed for the establishment of the City's first diversity committee and rely on its members for regular input and insight into the diverse communities - of color, ethnicity and faith - that are part of our city's fabric of life. We also launched the "Irving 360" citizen engagement program two years ago that has focused on educating and engaging diverse community members and fostering better communication with and among them. I regularly meet with our NAACP representative, along with leaders from the Sudanese, Bangladeshi, Nepalese, Indian and Hispanic communities.

**COVID-19 ECONOMIC DOWNTURN:** The City is currently making hard decisions about where to make cuts to trim our budget in anticipation of lower tax revenues, minimal gains in property tax revenues and drastically reduced Hotel Occupancy Taxes (which represent 1/3 of the City's debt obligations). We worked with Dallas County to secure \$13 million in CARES Act funds to support small businesses, childcare providers and local residents who need help paying their rent/mortgage and utilities. We continue to work closely with County and State officials in monitoring spread of COVID-19 and its impact on our residents, businesses and schools.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** The City Council actively supports affordable housing in Irving: we support the Housing Choice Voucher Program; we work with area CHDOs (Community Housing Development Organizations) to build affordable housing; and we provide for tax-credit and 55-and-over housing. Each year, we give residents the full 20% homestead exemption and have also raised the Over-65 (and disabled) deduction to \$45,000. In terms of expanding affordable housing, I would like us to prioritize new 55-and-over housing developments to meet the needs of our aging population.

**BOND ELECTION:** I supported postponing the Bond Election from November 2020 to May 2021 in part due to COVID-19 and the economic impacts on our community, but also to ensure it received the attention it needed, rather than adding it to an already expanded ballot due to presidential and congressional elections, city elections and state ballot measures. At this time, I would leave the program as is; residents will have the opportunity to vote on each component of the bond package that was thoroughly vetted and finalized by a citizen review committee.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 11/16/1955; Occupation: Retired Auto Consultant; Education: Attended Dakota State University; Website: <http://www.rickleads.com>; Campaign Phone: (972) 399-6793; Email: [rick@rickleads.com](mailto:rick@rickleads.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/rick.stopfer>

## For Member of Council, Single Member District, Place 3



**Mark Zeske**

For Member of Council, Single Member District, Place 3

**EXPERIENCE:** Your story matters! I'm equipped to hear and understand your story and share it with others. If 10000 reps make an expert, then I am well qualified to tell your story. I have written more than 10,000

articles for well-known publications. No one is more prepared to organize, participate, and lead a meeting. More than 10,000 times I have been in charge of a college or high school classroom. More than 10000 times I have been a coach or a ref or umpire at a sporting event. For almost two decades I have sat on Irving boards and commissions. I have been part of more than 500 cable, library, and planning and zoning meetings.

**DIVERSITY:** You need to ask people. Most people will respond when you ask and support their inclusion. And I plan to ask early and often. Irving is a 21st Century port city, thanks to being located in the heart of the Metroplex and next to DFW Airport, and we need to celebrate the

mosaic we have become. As a journalist, teacher, coach, and referee, I have interacted with all kinds of folks. I'd like to have an international festival that becomes a renowned destination event that Irving is known for. Diversity awards should celebrate who we are.

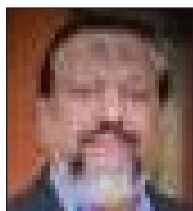
**COVID-19 ECONOMIC DOWNTURN:** The city has faced lean times before and already cut their budget in reaction to COVID-19. Identifying what can be eliminated temporarily without impacting citizen services is the focus. Many removed training and conferences. In the past, vacant jobs have gone unfilled for a finite time to save money. They have combined departments after the retirement of a department leader. I am in favor of a balanced budget, and I promise we will have one. Raising taxes is not an answer for our citizens. Irving residents are resilient and will be partners with the city to make it through this challenging time.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Irving is already one of the most aggressive cities in the DFW area in providing average-income housing. The variety of programs support not only current homeowners, but those currently in the market for a home. According to housing reports, the real problem is housing for low-income citizens. This creates problems such as multiple families living in one home and parking issues throughout our neighborhoods. We face an income challenge, not a housing challenge. I would continue to support and attract businesses that offer a living wage to our Irving citizens.

**BOND ELECTION:** We should hold the bond election as soon as possible after propositions are fully developed. The citizens of Irving have the right to decide on these programs. Since we have additional time, I would be in favor of reconsidering the propositions to present a comprehensive plan with additional citizen input, not simply a wish list from city employees. A challenge to accomplishing this is a lack of citizen involvement. The one thing I am definitely in favor of is road improvements.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 1/31/1959; Occupation: teacher, Singley Academy; Education: Bachelor of Literature--University of Dallas, Masters of Journalism--University of North Texas; Website: <http://www.markzeske.com>; Campaign Phone: (972) 257-3335; Email: [markzeske@yahoo.com](mailto:markzeske@yahoo.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/mzeske>; Twitter: [twitter.com/MarkZeske](https://twitter.com/MarkZeske)

## For Member of Council, Single Member District, Place 3 — Continued

**Abdul Khabeer**

For Member of Council, Single Member District, Place 3

and Board member for two separate HOA communities. I was also member of City of Irving board of adjustment committee (from which I resigned as required because I am running for city council seat). I have served on different non-profit humanitarian organizations. My experience in small business has taught me fiscal responsibilities and I understand needs of small businesses.

**DIVERSITY:** As a matter of fact diversity was one of the reasons, I chose City of Irving as my home. Since I grew up in India in a minority group, I have always cared for and understood needs of minorities. Often minorities are forgotten in major issues, even though experience tells us that minorities bring new jobs through small business. I will make sure I meet with minority groups on regular basis, listen to their concerns and highlight those at the city council level.

**COVID-19 ECONOMIC DOWNTURN:** Small business (like restaurants) have suffered due to Covid-19 downturn. City of Irving has initiated a emergency funding similar to what was done by federal, state and county governments. I think city will have to create some additional incentives for small business to continue to grow and hire additional people. I would also reach out to major corporations with HDQs in Irving to provide resources including but not limited to additional jobs and business growth opportunities.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** This is a very sensitive and important issue. While we would like to ensure housing is affordable to a majority of our citizens we also have to make sure we don't make builders go away to other cities (which are offering heavy incentives) as this will take away much needed jobs in the city especially in South Irving. City council can play a major role in allocating land (which is scarce in Irving) where builders can establish housing communities which meet the needs of average citizen through both affordability and accessibility

**BOND ELECTION:** I believe bond issue may be taken up in May 2021, however when I am elected, I would propose a review to ensure South Irving also benefits from it.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 8/17/1960; Occupation: Business Consultant; Education: Masters in Business Bachelors in Science; Website: <http://abdulforirving.com>; Email: [akhabeerus@yahoo.com](mailto:akhabeerus@yahoo.com); Facebook: <http://abdulforirving.com>

**Mohammed Akbar**

For Member of Council, Single Member District, Place 3

parency, accountability and proactive work culture. Despite my busy work and family life, I continue my civic responsibility. Those exposures helped me to understand the American values, the structure of government, and the culture of this society. Altogether, I believe experiences in dealing with dynamic, challenging, and vital issues in a meaningful way make me an ideal candidate for the Irving City Council.

**DIVERSITY:** I believe diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to a healthy and prosperous community. Below are my policy ideas to support fairness and opportunity for all. 1. Equal access to the services that are essential for stability and wellbeing. 2. Public Safety and fairness in the institution's operations to protect the community. 3. Economic Opportunity for all. 4. Everyone should have access to infrastructure to support a good quality of life, including adequate housing; reliable communication and transportation systems; parks and recreation centers. 5. Health & Wellness program to support well-being, and extended life.

**COVID-19 ECONOMIC DOWNTURN:** I have work experience in the infectious disease field. The number one priority in a pandemic is to maintain the safety, security, and health of the residents. The following actions and services (assuming allowed by law) are necessary to protect the residents from COVID-19 and for economic recovery. 1. Quick detection. 2. Ensuring sufficient personal protective equipment available for all. 3. Implementation and dissemination of prevention programs as mandated by the law. 4. Ensure supportive care to those who need it. 5. Working closely with our state and federal partners to support the small business community.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Overall, in the US population growth is positive. Among many issues that arise with population growth, the most fundamental one is - where will the children be housed and educated? There is no question that we need to meet housing needs in an environmentally sustainable and economically realistic manner. Modern technology can help us to model a city's future in a more meaningful way. As an elected public official, I will be responsive to the demands of the constituents and community members. And I would support involving citizens early in the planning process and will adopt a policy based on the reality on the ground.

**BOND ELECTION:** If it's feasible, then I am open for holding the bond election. The Citizen Bond Task Force committee has prepared a realistic, practical and responsible General Obligation Bond program recommendation for City Council consideration. After careful review, I will provide my recommendation on those projects and programs, including changes if necessary.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 9/21/1975; Occupation: Information Technology; Education: Bachelor - Chemistry Master - Biochemistry Ph.D. - Life science (public health)

## For Member of Council, Single Member District, Place 5

**J Oscar Ward**

For Member of Council, Single Member District, Place 5

many in our diverse communities to speak on a variety of different topics. I have also encouraged them to apply for membership on City Boards and Commissions

**COVID-19 ECONOMIC DOWNTURN:** COVID-19 economic recovery has already started with the aide through the federal, state, county, and local government. Irving has several programs outlined on our website ([cityofirving.org](http://cityofirving.org)).

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** The increase of available affordable housing in Irving has already begun but we still have more to do. Two projects come to mind. One is on West Irving Boulevard and another is on South MacArthur Boulevard near Hunter-Ferrell Road.

**BOND ELECTION:** Since the bond election has been cancelled, I favor the Bond Election to be held in May, 2021. I do not recommend any changes as the council has already approved the bond committee recommendations with some minor changes.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 9/1/1939; Education: B.S. Industrial Engineering, University of Houston/M.B.A. Finance, University of Texas/Arlington; Campaign Phone: (214) 537-4944

In Texas, a Primary election is a political party function. Each of the major parties, Republicans and Democrats, holds its own separate election. The elections are held at the same time and locations, but ballots are separate. Voters choose which party to vote in, Republican or Democratic, and will see only that party's candidates on their ballot.

# City of Lancaster General Election

Lancaster has a “council-manager” form of government. The City Council will enact local legislation, adopt budgets, set the property tax rate, determine policies and hire the City Manager who will run the day to day operations of the city. The City Council shall consist of a Mayor and 6 Councilmembers. The Mayor shall be elected at large and each Councilmember from their district. They will serve without compensation for a 3 year term. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, a runoff election will be held.

**BUDGET:** How will you balance the city’s budget with the loss of sales tax revenue and potentially property values due to COVID? Will you support cuts in services or raising the tax rate? Please, be specific.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** How can your city support residents during the pandemic and through recovery? Discuss jobs, housing and other specific impacts the pandemic may have on your city

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** With the high cost of housing, pressure increases for affordable housing options for families and city workers. It is becoming unaffordable for some to live in their own neighborhoods. Do you support

additional apartment construction in the city? What changes, if any, would you support?

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** How would you rate the city’s performance in the area of public safety? Would you recommend changes? If so, how would you pay for them? How would you prioritize these upgrades compared to other city needs?

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** What is the city’s greatest challenge and opportunity in the next several years?

## For Member of Council, Council Dist 4



### Keithsha Wheaton

For Member of Council, Council Dist 4

**BUDGET:** The budget will be evaluated for possible increases in fees or taxes where there’s opportunity. However, with the increase of property value taxes can be decreased or remain the same to offset the budget. There’s no need to cut services since the city staff has determined that property taxes can be decreased and generate necessary funds for the budget.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** The best way the city can deal with the pandemic by continuing to inform the residents of resources that are available based on their needs.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** I will support quality affordable housing that is well planned and well maintained. Such housing should be built near public transportation with accessibility to based essential needs of life and grocery stores.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Public safety can always be improved. I will assist in establishing relationships with the public and community considering the state of the country. The goal would be to find a middle ground where we can all work together and make changes where necessary.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** The city’s greatest challenge is bringing good businesses in the city that can provide services needed and jobs that will promote growth and financial stability in the community.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Occupation: Government; Education: BBA, MBA; Website: <http://keithshaforcitycouncil.weebly.com>; Campaign Phone: (469) 439-3650; Email: [keithshawheatonforcitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:keithshawheatonforcitycouncil@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Keithsha-Wheaton-for-City-Council-District-4-Lancaster-Texas-103558361486826/>



### Derrick D Robinson

For Member of Council, Council Dist 4

**BUDGET:** Twenty percent of the City of Lancaster general fund budget is sales tax. Although we have experienced a reduction in sales tax and our property taxes came in slightly below the previous year, we are considering a lower tax rate with no reduction in general fund services. We are re-evaluating our recreation programming as these services are funded with sales tax revenue

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** The City of Lancaster received CARES Act funds through the Dallas. We have utilized these funds to cover COVID-19 related operational expenses and to offer programs to our residents for mortgage assistance, utilities, childcare assistance and small business grants. As the unemployment rate continues to increase, there will be impacts felt across the country including Lancaster Residents. We have partnerships with Cedar Valley College to provide job training for industry specific opportunities within our region for employment like distribution and logistics.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** The City of Lancaster has a unique position in that the largest percentage of available housing is work-force (affordable) housing which has addressed the needs of our community.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Lancaster operates under “The State Civil Service Statute”. We have an appointed 3 member Civil Services Commission that reviews change s to the department policies and procedures. City Council was briefed on our “Use of Force” policies and procedures and I am confident that our policies are up to date

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** The city’s greatest challenge is infrastructure. To address this challenge we recently implemented a street maintenance fund where a portion of our operations and maintenance dollars are used for the purpose of street reconstruction projects

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 1/5/1969; Occupation: Professional Driver; Education: High School; Campaign Phone: (972) 227-8908; Email: [ddrobinson2018@att.net](mailto:ddrobinson2018@att.net)

## For Member of the Council, Dist 6

Betty Gooden-Davis — No response

For Member of the Council, Dist 6

If voting in person - either on election day or during early voting - you may need to stand in line for a time. Be prepared to vote safely - wear a cloth mask that covers your mouth and nose, and practice social distancing.”

## For Member of the Council, Dist 6 — Continued

**Nina Morris**

For Member of the Council, Dist 6

**BUDGET:** At this time I believe that city funds should be put where most needed. So when it comes to the budget we need to consider need versus want when allocating money. At this time, taxes should not increase due to the financial strain that our residents are already facing with layoffs, pay-cuts, and lack of employment opportunities. I will support limiting City services i.e. the amount we pay contractors for mowing services could possibly be cut in half while in a pandemic. I don't believe that needed services should be cut completely, however we can scale back.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** We can offer to waive late fees on city services i.e. Water bill. and waving or reducing permit fees while in the pandemic. We could encourage all residents to take advantage of the financial assistance programs provided by the government. Also, I would use our partnerships with the Best Southwest, school system, St. Vincent Charities, churches, and community volunteers to provide rental assistance, financial & mental health counseling, employment search assistance, daycare payments, & food to the children and adults in the community.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** At this time I do support Multi living units in certain areas of our city. For example, the District that I currently represent and desire to continue to represent does not have any apartment units. It would be beneficial for families who wanted to live in the District, but can't afford to rent or purchase a house, have access to apartments.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Public Safety in our community has been good the last few years. Both Fire and Police departments have been very active and engaging in the community. Both Chiefs of each department have been transparent and available to the residents in our community. I however, would recommend mental health evaluations be given every so often after the initial intake of that employee. I would create a line item in the city's Public Safety budget to pay for the assessment and a percentage of money from fines and permits fees would be contributed to that line item. This upgrade would be paramount to the well-being of our community.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Communication and Transparency. Elected Officials must include and execute ideas from the residents who elect them. In order to get through any pandemic strong we must make sure everyone involved feels that their elected officials are reachable and willing to communicate the truths about any matter, whether it be "How do we pay to fix this road and What is the Reality of when it will happen?"; "How do we get businesses to come to Lancaster for longevity?"; and/or "How are we going to handle and communicate the racial pandemic."

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 7/16/1982; Occupation: Legal Assistant ; Education: M.A. Forensic Psychology - Argosy University B.A. Philosophy - Southern Methodist University ; Campaign Phone: (972) 227-8608; Email: ninamorris@att.net; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/councilwomanninamorris>; Twitter: [twitter.com/ninalrichardson](https://twitter.com/ninalrichardson)

# City of Rowlett General Election

The City of Rowlett is a Home Rule City and operates under a 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.

The Mayor and 6 councilmembers are elected at-large and serve for a 3-year staggered term. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, a runoff election will be held. The Mayor Pro Tem and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem are selected by the Councilmembers. The City Council meets the first and third Tuesdays of every month in the City Hall Municipal Building.

**BUDGET:** How will you balance the city's budget with the loss of sales tax revenue and potentially property values due to COVID? Will you support cuts in services or raising the tax rate? Please, be specific.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** How can your city support residents during the pandemic and through recovery? Discuss jobs, housing and other specific impacts the pandemic may have on your city

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** With the high cost of housing, pressure increases for affordable housing options for families and city workers. It is becoming unaffordable for some to live in their own neighborhoods. Do you support

additional apartment construction in the city? What changes, if any, would you support?

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** How would you rate the city's performance in the area of public safety? Would you recommend changes? If so, how would you pay for them? How would you prioritize these upgrades compared to other city needs?

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

## Councilmember Place 1

**Blake Margolis**

Councilmember Place 1

**BUDGET:** Cities across the country are having to make difficult decisions by either making cuts to staff, reducing salaries, and/or deferring some budgeted expenditures. During the first weeks of the pandemic, the Rowlett City Council and Finance team got to work and determined around \$2 million from the budget could be initially cut or reduced in the chance Rowlett was to be affected financially from COVID-19. The City of Rowlett has yet to experience any significant budgetary shortfalls in sales tax and property tax revenue. In fact, the City has collected more sales tax revenue than projected, pre-COVID-19.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** During the first several months of the pandemic, the City Council made the decision to defer water shut-offs as a result of non-payment and to defer code enforcement citations. The Council also allocated additional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars to the Salvation Army for resident utility assistance while also allocating additional funding to local food pantry's. For

the business community, I worked with small business owners and the Rowlett Chamber of Commerce to implement the Rowlett Business Stimulus (ROBUST) grant to aid local businesses suffering financially as a result of the pandemic.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Over the last five years, the City of Rowlett and the region has experienced exponential and unprecedented growth of multi-family, so much so, that from 2018-2020, the D-FW region will have delivered as many units as the Los Angeles and Houston metros combined. Of that growth, the top three sub-markets leading in inventory growth includes Rowlett/Rockwall/Wylie (+21.2%), Carrollton/Farmers Branch (+12.2%) and Frisco (+9.3%). With Rowlett being the 7th leanest city operation in North Texas, the significant population increases has made it more difficult to maintain quality and acceptable services to the citizens.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** The 625 character limit on these responses is not enough to explain the challenges we face in public safety. This is an area in the City that is experiencing great challenges as a result of being one of the fastest growing cities in the region. The increase in call volume and response times has taken a toll on our ability to maintain quality services in public safety. Having strongly advocated for further investment in police and fire, we hired an additional 12 officers and 9 firefighters during my term on Council, however, there is still more investment needed to maintain adequate safety across the city.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** The greatest challenge that the City faces is the ability to continue decreasing the property tax rate annually while also increasing much needed resources to public safety, public works, and quality of life so that we are able to maintain and increase quality services to the citizens. The greatest opportunity is the ability to increase the amount of commercial business in the city from Sapphire Bay, the North Shore, and in other opportunity areas, which will begin to balance the income to the city and reduce the property tax burden off homeowners, while increasing jobs.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 6/3/1999; Education: - High School Diploma - Current Student of Liberty University pursuing Master's in National

## Councilmember Place 1 — Continued

## Blake Margolis — Continued

## Councilmember Place 1

Security; Website: <http://blakeforrowlett.com>; Campaign Phone: (972) 977-3869; Email: [blakemargolis@msn.com](mailto:blakemargolis@msn.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/BmargolisRowlett>. Twitter: [twitter.com/rb\\_margolis](https://twitter.com/rb_margolis)


**Cindy Gonzales-Baker**  
 Councilmember Place 1

**BUDGET:** There is still a high degree of uncertainty and unknown effects this pandemic will have on our City's economic framework. We have no idea what will arise from this unprecedented state of events. The COVID-19 Virus has crippled the United States and every state has its own severity levels caused by this Virus. As for our City, it is going to take time and some hard decisions are going to have to be made. However, I believe if the City and the People work together to identify and understand what areas we need to focus on and ensure these focus-points remain stable during and after the pandemic has run its course.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** The City has a responsibility to inform its Citizens and Business Owners of all relief efforts. When the City receives Grant Monies the process for distribution must be fair across the board. The City also receives State and Government funds that need to be used for their intended purpose(s). I believe that the City needs to cut spending unless it is for essential City Services. All monies received in the form of Grants should be funneled back into the community and to assist in any efforts that ensure the People of Rowlett have food and basic essentials.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Currently, the City of Rowlett has an Apartment inventory of 2,628 units built, with 958 units under construction, and 2,872 units are in the planning stages. That is a total of around 6,500 units completed and ready to move in by the end of this year 2020. Also, I believe the City should evaluate the current levels of occupancy versus vacancies. Additionally, a thorough assessment should be completed on the current state of the City's infrastructure and then proceed with caution, based upon the results. Due to the high value of current apartments, I would not vote in favor of any additional apartments.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** I believe the City's performance regarding the Safety of the people and their property, has significantly improving due to the leadership of our new Chief of Police. At the first of the Year 2020, the new chief of police has received additional Officers and additional Police Vehicles. I believe the Officers of the Rowlett Police Department are some of the best in the nation. As our city's population has increased significantly in the last 10 year's our Police Officers have made the transition without compromising citizens' safety. The City and the People need to continue supporting the RPD and Firefighters.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** Our City is faced with many challenges. However, one of the most concerning areas is the rapid eroding of our infrastructure. This includes the wastewater pipeline system, streets, alleyways, and sidewalks. The Infrastructure issues have been overlooked and unattended that it has become unstable. Traffic congestion is also a major issue. This is due to the overbuilding of a massive number of new apartments and multiple housing divisions build in a rapidly short amount of time. There are so multiple opportunities for new small business development, such as Specialty Retail, and Professional Businesses.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Occupation: Freelance Consultant; Education: AAS/BA Marketing DeVry; 25yrs - Banking & Financial Management, 3yrs - Real-Estate Management; Website: <http://Vote4Cindy.com>; Campaign Phone: (469) 288-4739; Email: [Cindy\\_Gonzales\\_Baker@yahoo.com](mailto:Cindy_Gonzales_Baker@yahoo.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/791421114600255/?ref=share>

## Councilmember Place 3

## Matt Grubisich — Unopposed

## Councilmember Place 3

## Councilmember PI 5

## Pamela Bell — Unopposed

## Councilmember PI 5

# City of Sachse General Election

The City of Sachse is located in 2 counties, Dallas and Collin. It operates under a council-manager form of government. Council sets the policies for the city including strategic initiatives, adopting a budget, setting the tax rate and hiring a city manager.

The City Council members are elected at-large for 3 years terms. They must be at least 21 years of age, a qualified voter, reside in the city for at least 6 months and not be in arrears in payment of taxes or other liabilities due to the city. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, a runoff election will be held.

**BUDGET:** How will you balance the city's budget with the loss of sales tax revenue and potentially property values due to COVID? Will you support cuts in services or raising the tax rate? Please, be specific.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** How can your city support residents during the pandemic and through recovery? Discuss jobs, housing and other specific impacts the pandemic may have on your city

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** With the high cost of housing, pressure increases for affordable housing options for families and city workers. It is becoming unaffordable for some to live in their own neighborhoods. Do you support

additional apartment construction in the city? What changes, if any, would you support?

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** How would you rate the city's performance in the area of public safety? Would you recommend changes? If so, how would you pay for them? How would you prioritize these upgrades compared to other city needs?

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

## For Member of Council, PI 3

## Frank Millsap — No response

## For Member of Council, PI 3

## Councilmember PI 3 — Continued

**Paul Watkins**

For Member of Council, PI 3

**BUDGET:** One of Sachse's strategic goals is financial stewardship. As such, we balance our budget every budget cycle and are intentional in not overextending our citizens resources. We have not seen the loss of sales tax revenue or the decline of property values to this point, because of the strategic focus on development over the last 6 years. The Council has voted to stay at the current tax rate which is below the "no new revenue" tax rate calculated by the appraisal district. Because of our fiscal management, there is no need to cut any city services.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** The city has made funds available to local businesses through our EDC which has directly assisted 8 local businesses. Through the CARES Act funds received from Dallas and Collin counties, the city has allocated funds to 5 Loaves Food Pantry to help with facilities that will enable 5 Loaves to provide even more assistance to people in our community affected by COVID. With CARES

funds, we are making changes to city facilities to make them safer for staff and citizens to visit and participate in activities. CARES Funds is also allocated for equipment to protect first responders and the citizens needing their help.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** The City approved multi-family in two areas that are under development and a senior living facility nearing completion. A wide range of homes and multi-family will be constructed in these areas that will provide affordable opportunities for families. A large multi-family complex began leasing across the road from Sachse in Garland in the last two years. I believe Sachse has the right proportion of multi-family and single residential housing and has a good range of affordable options.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** I rate our public safety performance as excellent. Our Public Safety leaders strive to foster trust with citizens and seek opportunities that make a positive difference in our community. The Police Departments Cops and Campers has been a successful program for our schools. I support our Fire Chiefs efforts to achieve an ISO(Insurance Services Office) rating of 1 as this will benefit our citizens through enhanced services and insurance rate reduction. Upgrades to vehicles or equipment are budgeted annually through a vehicle and equipment replacement fund (VERF) so the City is prepared for timely replacement and growth.

**CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY:** The city's challenge and opportunity over the next several years are retail development and roads. The city is moving to take advantage of opportunities with the PGBT corridor and 5th street retail development. In parallel we prioritize working with our current businesses as it is vital we retain these businesses in Sachse. Road maintenance and construction are expensive, especially in north Texas, as this is a rapidly growing area. We strive to address roads that need maintenance while working with the county and state for funding for strategic expansion of roads in areas vital to our growth and future.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Occupation: IT Manager; Education: B.S. in Business Management from Oklahoma Christian University; Campaign Phone: (972) 955-1911; Email: [pwatkins@cityofsachse.com](mailto:pwatkins@cityofsachse.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Watkins4Sachse/>

## For Member of Council PI 4

## Chance Lindsey — Unopposed

## For Member of Council PI 4

## Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD General Election

School trustees make all final decisions regarding school district priorities, policies, personnel, textbooks, expenditures, and growth management. Trustees adopt a budget to maintain and operate the schools, levy taxes, and submit bond issues to the citizens of the District to finance construction projects.

Trustees serve without pay for overlapping terms of three years and do not represent any specific geographic area. Candidates are elected by cumulative voting which allows you to cast all your votes for 1 candidate or split them between candidates. There are no runoff elections. Board officers are elected by its membership.

(Questions and candidate data provided by League of Women Voters of Irving)

**EXPERIENCE:** Please explain how you believe your education, work experience, and other experiences qualify you for the position you seek as a school board trustee.

**COVID-19 IMPACT:** Considering the current environment, should the schools close? If you favor this action, are you concerned about parents' abilities to monitor their children's school work?

**TOP ISSUES:** What are your top three issues facing the school district and the first steps you would take to begin solving them?

**GUNS:** What is your position concerning the handling of guns in schools and do you favor or oppose teachers having guns?

**STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES:** What do you consider to be the school district's greatest strengths and weaknesses?

## For Members(s) of Board of Trustees, Vote for None, One or Two

**Juan Renteria**

For Members(s) of Board of Trustees, Vote for None, One or Two

common background with many of the students who attend CFBISD. I was fortunate enough to rise out of poverty with the help of a sound educational system and familial support. My education and work experience provide the ability to analyze proposed policies, review budgets and spot potential future problems.

**COVID-19 IMPACT:** I don't believe in a binary choice by default. We will have to reshape our definitions of "open" schools. We must be innovative in our approach to Covid-19 and we must maintain the safety of our children, teachers and our community. We should let science and logic direct us to the best practices to provide appropriate schooling to our students. For example, grades K-4 would be outdoors, in person and incorporate some remote learning as needed. Older aged students could be fully remote, provided students have a safe and conducive work environment while giving parents the option of in person learning.

**TOP ISSUES:** 1. Addressing the Covid19 problem so no student is left behind while providing a safe school environment. . 2. Providing more opportunities for

Voting in person? Mask up!

## For Members(s) of Board of Trustees, Vote for None, One or Two — Continued

### Juan Renteria — Continued

### For Members(s) of Board of Trustees, Vote for None, One or Two

students to give them the tools to excel in the future including expanding technical training and ap classes. 3. Retaining teachers and students in the district. **GUNS:** Teachers should not be allowed to carry weapons in school. Weapons at school create a risk of liability for the teachers, students and school officials. I believe the short shortsightedness of the policy won't serve any legitimate purpose for the safety of children, teachers or the community.

**STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES:** Strengths: 1. Superintendent 2. Teachers 3. Potential for students to excel Weaknesses: 1. Community 2. Creativeness  
**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 11/17/1973; Occupation: Attorney; Education: BS - Political Science MPA - Masters of Public Administration JD- Juris Doctorate. Website: <http://voteforjuan.com>; Campaign Phone: (972) 591-8449; Email: [info@voteforjuan.com](mailto:info@voteforjuan.com); Facebook: <http://Vote-For-Juan-113615163632998>; Twitter: [twitter.com/reterialawfirm](https://twitter.com/reterialawfirm)



### Cydnei Drake

#### For Members(s) of Board of Trustees, Vote for None, One or Two

team as we navigated shifting our K-12 programming into a virtual web series in order to ensure that the students we serve have access to our curriculum at home. In addition to this, I quickly adapted as needed to meet the needs of various school calendars across the region and accommodate my team members on maternity leave. I am running for CFBISD School Board Trustee because of my passion and a strong belief in public education.

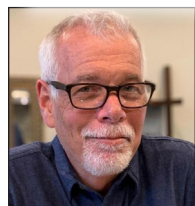
**COVID-19 IMPACT:** As a school board trustee, it is my responsibility to make the best decisions not only for our students but for our teachers and staff. I believe it is crucial to continue working closely with our health authorities as we weigh operational decisions. I believe to be an effective school board member we must listen to those from our community: our parents, staff and students. This pandemic has affected students and their families in a variety of ways and we must support them through any emotional challenges they face as a result as COVID-19.

**TOP ISSUES:** Quality Education For All- I believe in the value of a quality education for all students. Education is one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for sustainable development. Fiscal Responsibility - As a current member of the Bond Advisory Committee, I recognize the importance of fiscal transparency to our community and of showing how our hard-earned dollars are being spent. Community Engagement - As a school board trustee and stakeholder in our community, I would encourage and welcome parents to actively participate in the instructional lives of their students.

**GUNS:** As a student of data, available data suggests that arming teachers will increase the risk of students being shot, not reduce it. Other research has found that in 160 active shooter incidents in other locations, there was only one successful armed civilian intervention—and the civilian in that incident was a highly trained U.S. Marine. Using a gun in self-defense is no more likely to reduce the chance of being injured during a crime than various other forms of protective action.

**STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES:** Strengths - CFB has done a great job developing partnerships with local universities to ensure we are building the best teachers to serve in our district. Weaknesses- I believe public schools everywhere are lacking resources and this has been exacerbated by the pandemic. There are students who do not have access to wifi and students with parents who work full time jobs and are unable to effectively be the student's "Academic Coach". The community is our greatest stakeholder and their involvement is critical for us to accomplish our vision and mission.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 8/8/1990; Occupation: Nonprofit Director ; Education: Master of Social Work Bachelor of Social Work ; Campaign Phone: (972) 399-9660; Email: [cydneiforcfbisd@gmail.com](mailto:cydneiforcfbisd@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/voteforcyd>; Twitter: [twitter.com/cydneidrake](https://twitter.com/cydneidrake)



### Les Black

#### For Members(s) of Board of Trustees, Vote for None, One or Two

experience and expertise necessary to help lead an educational community through these complex times. I am the only candidate running who has significant experience as an educator. I have been a public school teacher and administrator. I am a university professor specializing in education policy and leadership. In addition, I am deeply invested in Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD, having been associated either as an administrator, parent, or both for 23 years.

**COVID-19 IMPACT:** Decisions regarding closures should be collaboratively made by the board and superintendent, in consultation with the local health authorities. The process should include multiple opportunities for stakeholders, including both parents and employees, to provide input. The safety of our students, teachers, families and community in general should always be the top priority. Because it is possible that schools may be forced to close again in the future, it is urgent that the district improve its ability to effectively reach all students remotely and to offer appropriate support to families who are struggling.

**TOP ISSUES:** 1) Declining enrollment: In order to attract and retain our students, I would support strong, comprehensive educational and extra-curricular programs that attract students. 2) Safe, Inclusive Learning Environments: I would encourage practices that promote acceptance and equity. As students may be anxious now due to current events, this work will take on increased importance. 3) Professional Culture of Collaboration and Trust: This, along with a competitive salary and benefit schedule, will enable CFBISD to recruit, develop and retain the best educators who can advance excellence in instruction and leadership.

**GUNS:** I oppose arming teachers. I believe teachers have enough on their plates without placing this on their shoulders. Safe schools develop student cultures that operate much like a neighborhood crime watch program. Students who trust their teachers and school administrators will often report peer behavior that concerns them. The school's job is to educate students about what, when and how to report - and then to respond appropriately to those concerns. I do favor strong collaboration with local law enforcement and high quality school resource officer programs, which also support prevention.

**STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES:** CFBISD has many strengths -- an outstanding GT program, an array of AP and IB offerings, multiple HS academies and elementary choice programs, and top notch fine arts. I work with teachers and administrators from a variety of school districts around DFW, and know that CFBISD enjoys a good reputation as a strong school district. We need to increase enrollment, which we could do by strengthening our commitment to comprehensive programming, cultivating safe inclusive learning environments, building a professional culture of trust and collaboration, and increasing student, parent and community engagement.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 10/7/1963; Occupation: College Professor; Education: Ph.D. - Educational Leadership, 2002, UNT Masters - Educational Administration, 1995, UNT; Website: <http://www.LesBlackforCFB.com>; Email: [lesblackforCFB@gmail.com](mailto:lesblackforCFB@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/voteforlesblack/>

Please follow the necessary protocols and guidelines provided by the CDC and local government officials. Be safe!

# Cedar Hill ISD General Election

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. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the vote, there will be a runoff election.

**EXPERIENCE:** What are your qualifications and experience that will make you an effective member of the School Board?

**BUDGET:** How will you balance the District's budget with the potential decline in property values due to COVID? Will you support cuts in positions and services or raising the tax rate? Please be specific

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** How would you rate the district's performance on its response to the tremendous challenge of educating students during the pandemic? What would you like to see going forward?

**RATINGS:** Cedar Hill ISD received a B grade in recent State accountability standards, up from a C the previous year. To what do you attribute the District's relatively high ratings?

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

## For Member of Board of Trustees, PI 3



### Ramona Ross-Bacon For Member of Board of Trustees, PI 3

**EXPERIENCE:** I am a retired US Navy Gulf War Veteran. My rating is Gunners Mate Missile where I specialized in Vertical Launch Missiles and Weapon Systems. My collateral duties consisted of Departmental Career Counselor, Substance Abuse and Codependency Counselor.

I was also a substitute teacher for 11 years. My background is research, case management, troubleshooting and problem solving. I have developed and written curriculum for a preschool readiness program, written policy/procedures for preschools/daycares and the military, and have written standard operating procedures for various organizations.

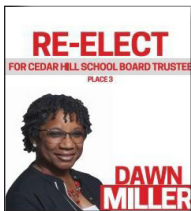
**BUDGET:** Because of the challenges we are experiencing due to the pandemic, resources and funding may be limited however, I will review past proposed versus actual budgets over the last 5 years to identify market trends in revenue and expenditures. Once overview has been completed, I will evaluate programs that are/are not a necessity or that can be considered obsolete. I will ensure all revenue sources can adequately meet the demands for each school year. I will support cuts in positions if it is warranted; however, due to the challenges homeowners are facing due to COVID-19, I will not support raising taxes at this time.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** I would rate it a "B". The teachers and district are in uncharted waters at this moment. I feel that they are doing the best they can considering the challenges that they are faced with. Trying to balance the demands of teaching and caring for their own children and household during this arduous duty says a lot about the character of these teachers. These teachers should be applauded for their efforts. I would like to see these teachers awarded hazardous duty compensation. It is my opinion that they are equivalent to frontline workers.

**RATINGS:** For transparency purposes. The districts score in academic student achievement is a "C." The overall CHISD grade from TEA was a "B" when non-academic data is included. This rating of "B" is due to the Collegiate Pathway schools whose overall GPA is 4.0, (Collegiate Prep, Collegiate Academy, and Collegiate High). The other nine traditional schools combined GPA is 1.4. When averaged together, it gives the district an overall "C" in academic student achievement. All of this information can be found at [www.TxSchools.gov](http://www.TxSchools.gov).

**OTHER ISSUES:** I intend to address academic excellence, career, vocational and military readiness, diversity, teacher promotions, mental health support and intervention, safety/security, community engagement and the operating budget.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 2/25/1965; Occupation: Retired; Education: BA Psychology AAS Substance Abuse Counseling AAS Social Work Educational Support Specialist; Campaign Phone: (469) 865-9902; Email: [vote4ramonarossbacon@gmail.com](mailto:vote4ramonarossbacon@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://bacon4chisd.com>



### Dawn Miller For Member of Board of Trustees, PI 3

**EXPERIENCE:** My qualifications and experience that make me an effective board member are my 7 yrs. of classroom experience, hundreds of hours of training at the state, regional and national levels, engagement with the Texas Legislature's Education Committee testifying on behalf of public education, service as a Regional Vice President and member of the Scholarship Committee with the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members, facilitation of the training of fellow board members regionally at the TASB Governance Camp and other Conventions, involvement in panels with TABSE and SWABSE and my 7 yrs of committed service to CHISD.

**BUDGET:** Our Team of 8 worked with our CFO to accept his expert advice and make the best decisions possible for our district as it relates to our finances. We already have had to learn how to govern with less after losing our bid for the TRE which caused a drop in our tax rate and lowered the amount of property taxes for our residents. We managed this without cutting any positions but rather by taking a detailed view of our expenditures and reducing in areas where we were able while asking each department to make a 25% cut in spending. We've paid off nearly \$25million in debt so I'm confident we will weather this decline.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** I would rate our district's performance above average as evidenced by our superintendent being called upon locally and regionally to share his practices. An excellent line of communication with daily emails, videos on our website and social media platforms as well as phone banks to answer questions during the initial shutdown. We immediately granted the superintendent the latitude he needed to make timely decisions, incorporated a learning management system, professional development for our staff and facilitated Parent University trainings that are available on demand. I'd like all of these efforts to continue.

**RATINGS:** Teamwork from the board and administration to make sound decisions and provide the best resources for our teachers to be effective in the classroom is what I attribute to these high ratings. We knew our campus leaders needed increased support to serve their staff and empower them to perform at their best so we created positions that focused on their development. We took hard looks at our data and monitored the progress of our students on each campus closely to ensure sound instructional practices were happening daily in each classroom across the district and we supported our administration in all of their efforts.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The other issue of importance that I intend to address during my second term is increased board relations with our community. We have to do a better job conveying the hard work that we and our administration are doing on behalf of our staff and students. If no one knows the great things occurring daily across our district and the hard work of our superintendent, his cabinet and the instructional staff across the district supported by all of the other departments they'll never appreciate the great district we have so I intend to work with my fellow board members to tell our story better than we've ever told it before.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 1/26/1971; Occupation: Sales; Education: BA in Spanish - Morris Brown College and MBA - University of Phoenix; Website: <http://www.dawnlmiller.org>; Campaign Phone: (414) 324-1651; Email: [dawn.miller@dawnlmiller.org](mailto:dawn.miller@dawnlmiller.org); Facebook: [http:// @DawnMillerCHISDPlace3](http://@DawnMillerCHISDPlace3); Twitter: [twitter.com/dawnlmiller](https://twitter.com/dawnlmiller); You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/R2qGL9YDoNA>

## For Member of Board of Trustees, PI 4

Kianna Granville-Flowers — No response

For Member of Board of Trustees, PI 4


**Denise Roache-Davis**  
 For Member of Board of Trustees, PI 4

**EXPERIENCE:** I have over 40 years of experience as an educator. I have worked on the elementary, middle, and high school levels and held positions as a teacher, guidance counselor, assistant principal, and principal. I have worked on numerous district committees. I have the knowledge, experience, and time to affect change. I want to be an advocate for CHISD students by implementing policies that positively affect them.

**BUDGET:** The budget can be balanced by reviewing and prioritizing programs and funding those that yield significant student achievement. Establishing robust community partnerships and seeking grants will also assist with needed revenue. Due to the pandemic and the current state of the economy, I would not support increasing the tax rate at this time.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** The district did not inform parents with the needed clarity at the beginning of the pandemic. It was disappointing that technology was not available for each student as the new year began. However, the district has improved communication by establishing an app to keep parents informed. The district should retain the policy of providing each student with an electronic device and providing a hot spot as needed per family. Moving forward, the district should develop a crisis/contingency plan that incorporates transparency, communication, and procedures that continue to reimagine and adapt to unforeseen situations.

**RATINGS:** In 2018, all campuses Met Standard and the district earned a C rating. In 2019, 6 out of 12 campuses earned an A or B rating. However, when you analyze the data, it shows none of the traditional campuses earned above a C in student achievement. That fact is very alarming to me! It screams we must improve instruction! To ensure more students meet state standards will require a consolidated effort of supports. Teacher training through continuous professional development is needed. Also, parental involvement and administrative leadership and accountability are important factors to successful student achievement.

**OTHER ISSUES:** My primary concern is instruction. Other issues are technology support, nurses on each campus, and additional extra-curricular programs that support skills such as coding.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 10/5/1954; Occupation: Retired Educator; Education: B.A. Elem Ed and Early Childhood M.ED. Guidance and Counseling Ed.D. Education Leadership; Campaign Phone: (469) 834-9567; Email: doctordee52@yahoo.com; Twitter: twitter.com/doctordee52

## For Member of Board of Trustees, PI 5


**Jeffrey Saldivar**  
 For Member of Board of Trustees, PI 5

**EXPERIENCE:** I have over 15 years' experience in education as a teacher, athletic director, principal and consultant. As the principal of a High school campus in Dallas ISD our campus earned 7 academic distinctions and was in the top 25% of comprehensive high schools in the state of Texas. Most recently I served as a 9th grade social studies teacher at Collegiate HS in Cedar Hill ISD. Currently I am the assistant principal at Texas Can academy in Ft. Worth.

**BUDGET:** It's critical that school leaders start talking with legislators and their communities about the risks to school funding now. Involve citizen input to help balance the potential decline. I will have the administration create outlines and graphics that illustrate what budget cuts would mean for your schools and be transparent to gain public buy in. Include specific details about how these cuts will impact schools, students, parents, and the taxpayers in our community. Start having discussions about those scenarios in board meetings and with the citizens & parents. I will not support any campus cuts or tax increases

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** I would rate the districts performance as mediocre. I don't believe they involved teachers, parents, and citizens in any of the decision making or even solicited their input other than what type of learning model they prefer for their child. The district has been reactive and not proactive, our district is not a 1-1 (computer for every 1 student) and teachers are not provided laptop computers to use as part of their job duties. Families are having to share 1 computer per family while neighboring school districts over the past ten years ensured that 21st century learning is implemented and their students have laptops.

**RATINGS:** I attribute this to the hard work that teachers, campus support staff, custodians, cafeteria staff and campus administrators do each day. The districts grade was averaged with two domain that did not include the student achievement domain. Student achievement domains at campuses are D & F ratings and the Special Ed & English Language Learners are below the state average in terms of performance. African American student achievement levels are below the state average also.

**OTHER ISSUES:** I will advocate for improved student academic performance, retain & support our best teachers and staff, financial accountability, transparency & community input, decreased classroom sizes, expanded CTE/vocational programs, and emotional Health & school safety I want to be a servant leader and steward for the students, teachers/staff, parents and citizens of Cedar Hill. I believe my experience as an educator & school administrator will enable me to provide insight to the board from an educator perspective, I can look at issues and advocate through the lens of an educator/campus administrator, parent and citizens

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 10/14/1970; Occupation: Assistant Principal; Education: M.Ed, Educational Leadership BS, Criminal Justice AAS, Criminal Justice; Campaign Phone: (214) 991-5964; Email: jeffsaldivarforschooltrustee@yahoo.com; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/jeff.saldivar.12>


**Jeremiah J Martin**  
 For Member of Board of Trustees, PI 5

**EXPERIENCE:** I believe that it is my attention to detail and open minded as well as open eared approach to listening and acting in the best interest and outcome for Cedar Hill ISD and all families of the district. I have Several years of aiding in the classroom. And mentoring in many different aspects of the community. As being a young African American male, as well as a father; I understand many of the challenges faced in our school and in out communities.

**BUDGET:** In regards to balancing the budget due to the extreme Well planning by The Cedar Hill District & School board committees there will be no need for budget cuts or taxes being raised. As a result I believe with our committed joint efforts the books will balance. We are well prepared, property taxes have already been effected and we've already suffered that loss. So therefore I am a strong avid supporter of no taxes being raised as well as no cuts to any of our staff or services.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** My hat is off to the district, our educators, the school board, every official and each family individually and collectively for the tremendous efforts made and their attempt at consistency both remotely and via continued education. However, I do believe there is still quite a bit to be desired.....

**RATINGS:** I truly believe that it has been a group effort with the addition and introduction of Dr. Hudson and his ideals, approaches and techniques as it relates to the quality of our education and educators. Many of the sacrifices and displays of discipline via our community and the district wide effort to change; have come to fruition and continue to be revealed; which I think we can all appreciate. The consistent and cohesive communication on behalf of the Cedarhill ISD and it's continued updates and efforts have been unrivaled in my opinion both as a parent and as a candidate.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The obstacle that stands out the most to me, would be to focus on our current issue as a relates to the current times of life that were in. Our scholars have to adjust to the disparity of connectivity as it relates to trying to learn virtually. Some of our scholars will need direct one on one instructions and without that they risk and my fall prey to regression of education/learning.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Occupation: Prepared Place Funeral Hm; Education: Doctorate Degree ; Campaign Phone: (469) 802-9422; Email: ppfhooffice@preparedplacefuneralhome.com; Facebook: <http://Jeremiah J Martin>

# Coppell ISD General Election

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.

(Questions and candidate data provided by League of Women Voters of Irving)

**EXPERIENCE:** Please explain how you believe your education, work experience, and other experiences qualify you for the position you seek as a school board trustee.

**COVID-19 IMPACT:** Considering the current environment, should the schools close? If you favor this action, are you concerned about parents' abilities to monitor their children's school work?

**TOP ISSUES:** What are your top three issues facing the school district and the first steps you would take to begin solving them?

**GUNS:** What is your position concerning the handling of guns in schools and do you favor or oppose teachers having guns?

**STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES:** What do you consider to be the school district's greatest strengths and weaknesses?

## For Member of the Board of Trustees, PI 4

Neena Biswas — No response

For Member of the Board of Trustees, PI 4



### Thom Hulme

For Member of the Board of Trustees, PI 4

the board. I currently teach adult education for the State Licensing of Realtors and Federal/State Licensing of Mortgage Loan Originators. I feel very confident that I know not only the structure of being a good board member, but additionally I encounter firsthand some of the many challenges our teachers face in this new world of remote learning and online instruction.

**COVID-19 IMPACT:** Our district's plan is in place. We started remote learning and have moved into additional optional face to face instruction for those who feel comfortable with that environment. We are prepared in case we have clusters of outbreaks and will follow CDC and County guidelines to provide as much protection as possible. This decision by the board and the administration was treated with the highest degree of consideration possible. We know that parents who do feel comfortable with at home learning environments will do their very best to meet TEA and Coppell guidelines for attendance and participation.

**TOP ISSUES:** The primary issue we face is making sure the learning environment and the instruction that is being offered by Coppell ISD is up to the high standards we expect as students and citizens. We have wonderful staff and administration that has done everything in their power to provide the tremendous outreach necessary in these challenging times. Second we need our kids to be safe and following the protocols we have put in place which will hopefully maximize our children's safety. The third priority is planning for the financial upheaval caused by our legislature, which we've begun.

**GUNS:** Coppell ISD has made every effort humanly possible to insure the safety of our children. We have spent millions of dollars making sure entry and exit to every school is monitored and secure. In addition, through our partnership with Coppell and Dallas County we have SRO's on all the upper level campuses. Those SRO's are uniformed and highly trained for the worst possible breach by an active shooter on each and every campus. The professionalism and discipline these experts bring to the table are beyond reproach. Why would we ask our teachers to handle an additional load on their already overburdened shoulders?

**STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES:** Our greatest strength is our commitment to our core values. We value collective engagement, great teaching, authentic relationships and everyone contributions. The commitment to our core values is truly a testament to a culture that thrives because it believes in learning. I feel all stakeholders are driven to see the success of the whole as well as the individual. I know that it may seem like I peer through rose tinted glasses, however, I've been blessed to be a part of one of the best districts in Texas for the past 12 years. I am not blind to our weakness but I know collectively we fight to be the best.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 1/31/1957; Occupation: Education; Education: BA in Psychology and Business from Trinity University; Website: <http://hulme4coppellisd.com>; Campaign Phone: (972) 365-4376; Email: [thulme126@gmail.com](mailto:thulme126@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=thom%20hulme%20for%20coppell%20isd>; Twitter: [twitter.com/thom\\_hulme](https://twitter.com/thom_hulme)

## For Member of the Board of Trustees, PI 5



### David Caviness

For Member of the Board of Trustees, PI 5

management. The combination of my personal experiences coupled with my educational and professional expertise have put me in the unique position of bringing several different perspectives to my role as a trustee that have proven invaluable.

**COVID-19 IMPACT:** While I believe the initial decision by Gov. Abbott to close schools in March was the right thing to do at the time, I do not believe schools should remain closed in the current environment. As a district, with input from our community, staff, infectious disease experts and medical professionals, we implemented policies and procedures that I believe will minimize the risk to our students and staff.

**TOP ISSUES:** COVID, Funding, and Local Control. COVID is hopefully a short-term issue. In addition to the added costs, it has created challenges in how we reach and educate our students. We need to continue providing our students with the resources and training necessary to perform their jobs in this unique time. Both funding and local control require us to have good relationships with our representatives in Austin. In addition, limited funding requires us to take a close look internally at our expenditures, specifically within our differing programs across the district, to make sure that we are being as efficient as possible. Loc

**GUNS:** This is a very complex issue that speaks to the crux of needing local control to do what is right for each community and school district. While I am not opposed to the current laws that allow districts to have teachers and staff members trained to be armed, I do not think it is the correct thing for our district at this time.

**STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES:** I believe community engagement is our greatest strength in Coppell ISD. We have a Superintendent and School Board that is open and engaged in the community and our schools. We pride ourselves in being open and transparent with our community. I think our greatest weakness is not having adequate career-related programs such as auto-tech, culinary arts, cosmetology, etc... for our students that may not have an interest to pursuing a higher education at this time.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 9/1/1978; Occupation: Financial Planner; Education: BBA Finance, Texas A&M-Commerce; Campaign Phone: (972) 383-9058; Email: [david@davidcaviness.com](mailto:david@davidcaviness.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/davidcaviness14>; Twitter: [twitter.com/MrDCav](https://twitter.com/MrDCav)

# Dallas Independent School District General Election

DISD Board of Trustees oversees a \$1.6B budget, hires the Superintendent, establishes policies and priorities for the school system, evaluates school performance, issues bonds and sets the tax rate to cover the costs of district operation. Elected from single member districts, the 9 Trustees serve without compensation to 3 year staggered terms. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the vote, there will be a runoff election.

**EXPERIENCE:** What qualifications and experience will make you an effective member of the School Board?

**CHARTER & CHOICE SCHOOLS:** what specific steps should DISD take to compete with charter schools? Discuss establishing choice schools vs improving neighborhood schools.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** How would you rate the district's performance on its response to the tremendous challenge of educating students during the pandemic? What would you like to see going forward?

**2020 BOND ELECTION:** This fall, DISD will ask taxpayers to approve the largest school district bond in Texas history. What is your opinion of the preliminary plan which includes funding for community hubs, an arts performance hall, sports facilities and other projects? Do you believe such a package can be achieved without a tax rate increase as the proponents assert?

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

## For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 2



### Alex Enriquez

#### For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 2

in the last 6 years. I have served on the Lipscomb Elem. Site Based Decision Making Committee, Chair for 3 years. We have renovated the campus library, raised private funds to build a new protective fence, lobbied to have the school offer paid Pre-K, and worked with the principal to expand the Dual Language program. I also sat on one of the hiring committees for a new principal.

**CHARTER & CHOICE SCHOOLS:** DISD is losing enrollment rapidly, we have 8,000 fewer K-12 students than when 'choice' schools opened. But a New York-style open enrollment system is not the answer. Ask any real estate agent & it becomes clear that neighborhood schools are what

drive value & investment. Neighborhood schools currently receive significantly fewer resources than schools students apply into. We must invest in our current students by using bond money to repair already-existing schools before we spend money on new buildings. Every dollar spent on new choice schools is a dollar not being directed to already-existing schools and students.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** C- The main issue facing DISD, exacerbated by the pandemic, is trust. The unfortunate reality is that we are facing a crisis of trust: DISD families do not, at the most fundamental level, trust DISD to act in the best interest of their children. We are losing families at an alarming rate, and the District has done little to change in the last 4 years: at home learning is inadequate, the use of class-size waivers has increased, and staff turnover has accelerated. I am running for school board because I understand the challenges faced by this District stem from this core lack of trust between families and schools.

**2020 BOND ELECTION:** The 2020 bond is almost guaranteed to pass, and we have from now until 2023 to plan how to spend these dollars wisely. I am extremely excited about what a \$3.7B bond could do for our students. Every single student could be learning in a high-quality environment, meaning that my kids could be in facilities every bit the equal of our friends in the suburbs. But the current bond proposal includes a number of projects that looked questionable pre-Pandemic and look extravagant today, like \$100M for a choice school campus downtown and \$133.5M for five indoor practice facilities. Yes, taxes are going to stay level as told.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Black Lives Matter. Equity is a key piece of my progressive campaign platform, and I believe the District must make concrete changes to demonstrate our shared belief in the humanity of Black people. One policy idea I have proposed is removing metal detectors from middle schools. In DISD, currently 97% of black middle school students must go through metal detectors on their way into school; but only 75% of their white peers do the same. Trustees are tasked with taking concrete action to make our district more equitable. It is not enough to pass "resolutions" saying equity is important.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 5/9/1983; Occupation: Education Consultant; Education: B.S. Florida State University '04 H.S. Dallas Bryan Adams '01; Website: <http://www.alexfordisd.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 463-4882; Email: [alex@alexfordisd.com](mailto:alex@alexfordisd.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/alexfordisd>; Twitter: [twitter.com/alexfordisd](https://twitter.com/alexfordisd)

Photo ID vs. Voter Certificate: Your name on your Photo ID should match your name on the registered voters list. If it does not, but is "substantially similar," you will be allowed to vote after initialing a column on the sign-in sheet at the polls. If it is not "substantially similar," you will be allowed to vote provisionally. Check if your name matches by pulling up your voter information at [www.dallascountyvotes.org/voter-information/voter-lookup](http://www.dallascountyvotes.org/voter-information/voter-lookup)

## For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 2 — Continued



### Dustin Marshall

#### For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 2

**EXPERIENCE:** I've served for the last 4 years as a DISD Trustee and as Chair of the Audit Committee. I've also served on the Boards of over 10 different educational non-profits, and I am the CEO of my own business where I oversee a substantial budget and large team of employees. I've helped to launch several schools, tutored and mentored dozens of kids, and I've completed several leadership training programs including the Presidential Leadership Scholars (where we were trained by former U.S. Presidents) and Leadership Dallas. I've consistently invested my time, energy, and resources in only one cause: Advancing Student Outcomes.

**CHARTER & CHOICE SCHOOLS:** To best compete against growing Charter school enrollment, DISD must focus on improving student outcomes, marketing those successes, and providing families with school choices to best meet the needs of our students. By investing in 27 Early College High Schools, 12 Open Enrollment "Choice Schools," and 27 Magnet Schools, DISD has successfully attracted over ~4,000 applications for students not currently enrolled in the district. As we are investing in these unique programs, we also need to invest similarly behind our neighborhood schools to ensure these programs can also compete with their local Charter alternative.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** DISD did an amazing job of mobilizing to handle the crisis – they contacted 98%+ of kids, got devices and 10K+ Hot Spots distributed, provided millions of meals, and pivoted to virtual instruction. Over the summer, DISD has been slow to plan the reopening of schools in order to have the most recent health data. This has caused frustration that could have been avoided with better communication. Now that infection rates have declined, I am eager to turn our attention back towards effective education by giving parents the ability to choose in person or virtual instruction depending on the needs of their families.

**2020 BOND ELECTION:** I strongly support the Bond and encourage voters to do the same. Through prudent financial management, DISD is positioned to service this debt with NO TAX INCREASE, and I believe our kids are in dire need of facility improvement. The average age of a current campus (~51 years) is several years older than the national average and we have over \$6 billion of capital needs thru 2025. We are in critical need of safety and infrastructure improvements. I also believe the timing of this Bond is thoughtful given that municipal tax rates of ~2% are at unprecedented lows which could generate interest savings of ~\$0.8 billion.

**OTHER ISSUES:** My top priorities are 1) Improving Student Outcomes, 2) Rewarding our Best Teachers, 3) Supporting School Choice options within the District, 4) Investing in Facilities, and 5) Transforming Special Education. During my tenure, DISD has seen strong gains for our students, with a 14-percentage point average increase in achievement across all grades and subjects. Since 2015, 35,000 additional students are performing on grade level and being prepared to succeed in life. We need to continue this progress by maintaining a consistent commitment to policies that are working to improve the lives of our kids.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 11/5/1977; Occupation: CEO - Hazel's; Education: BS Economics - Wharton, U. of Pennsylvania; MBA - Kellogg, Northwestern Univ.; Website: <http://www.dustinmarshall.com>; Campaign Phone: (972) 428-3447; Email: [dustin@dustinmarshall.com](mailto:dustin@dustinmarshall.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DustinMarshallForDISD>; Twitter: [twitter.com/MarshallforDISD](https://twitter.com/MarshallforDISD)



### Nancy Rodriguez

#### For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 2

**EXPERIENCE:** I have been advocating for children for over 25 years as a social worker, as a parent, and as an advocate for children and public education. I have served on DISD committees and have successfully lobbied the Board and administration to get things done for our most vulnerable populations. Throughout my professional career, I have been responsible for managing staff and budgets and the decisions I make are ones that affect children and families on a daily basis. As a DISD parent, I have witnessed the impact that DISD policies have on our students and their families. This is a voice that is missing from the board.

**CHARTER & CHOICE SCHOOLS:** What many don't know is that DISD, as a whole, outperforms most charter schools in the area. The district fails at marketing. Many families are not aware of the many innovative programs that DISD offers, such as the IB program, dual language, and personalized learning. These programs exist at our neighborhood schools. For example, both Geneva Heights Elementary and Lipscomb Elementary are neighborhood schools that offer the IB program as well as dual language. The district has opened, on average, six choice schools a year. This is too many and too costly. Let's put money towards our neighborhood schools first.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** As a parent with a child in a DISD school, I have been somewhat disappointed with the district's performance during the pandemic. Rather than creating a plan and sticking with it, the district has come up with a new plan every other week which really puts parents and children at a disadvantage. Also, despite having had many months to prepare, the technology rollout had many flaws and we still have thousands of students without devices or without an Internet connection. I would like to see the district do better at planning and I would like to see the district be more transparent and honest with stakeholders.

**2020 BOND ELECTION:** I do not support the bond as it has been put to the voters because it is too large and includes several projects that are unnecessary, especially during a time of declining enrollment. We need to fix and repair what we have now rather than building new buildings for students that may never come. While I would love for us to have brand new sports facilities and performance halls, the role of DISD is to educate students and until we become better at that, we should not be asking for 3.7 billion dollars. I believe that, if voters pass this bond, there will be a need for a tax rate increase due to a declining tax base.

**OTHER ISSUES:** In addition to focusing on improving our neighborhood schools and working on improving academic outcomes for our most disadvantaged populations, I would focus on fiscal responsibility and transparency. Earlier this year, the district's own internal auditor discovered large overpayments on construction contracts and rather than investigating, the district instead threatened the auditor's job and he eventually resigned. More recently, the district terminated a construction contract and refused to make public the reasons behind the termination. As the D2 Trustee, I would demand transparency and accountability.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Occupation: Social Worker; Education: B.A., Psychology - Fordham University Masters in Social Work - CUNY Hunter College; Website: <http://nancy4disd.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 308-1881; Email: [nancy4disd@outlook.com](mailto:nancy4disd@outlook.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Nancy-ForDISD/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/Nancy4DISD](https://twitter.com/Nancy4DISD)

## For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 8



### Joe Carreon

#### For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 8

**EXPERIENCE:** Being the first in my family to graduate from college, I spent the last decade working to ensure that the opportunities I was allotted were accessible to all children. First, I worked as a teacher's assistant in Dallas ISD. Later, I had the honor to serve President Obama's education policy team. Most recently, I worked with first-generation college students at SMU. I have been a strong supporter of DISD parent organizations, a member of DISD advisory boards, and a mentor in DISD schools. Combined, these experiences have taught me what needs to be done today to create stronger public schools for our students.

**CHARTER & CHOICE SCHOOLS:** Dallas ISD should continue working to improve teacher quality, expand full-day preschool, increase counseling services, empower parental involvement, and create strong choice options. DISD has made strides in many of these areas. Consequently, DISD campuses outperform most charter schools in the North Texas. In creating choice, Dallas ISD must ensure our neighborhood schools also have access to innovative models like Personalized Learning, STEAM, Montessori, and International Baccalaureate schools. Combined with the beforementioned steps we can ensure all students in DISD have access to a quality education.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** The truth is for many students, online education – as administered in the Spring – simply did not address their needs. Far too many families had issues with connectivity and others simply lacked the necessary guidance at home to help with coursework. I am hopeful online instruction for the Fall is different and improved; however, at the beginning of the semester 11,000 students still lacked the needed technology for distance-learning. Going

## For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 8 — Continued

## Joe Carreon — Continued

## For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 8

forward, we must ensure our students are connected and we must make sure parents are kept informed and provided the proper preparation needed to help our students succeed.

**2020 BOND ELECTION:** I am a strong supporter of this tax-free Dallas ISD bond. With an average building age of 51 years, we must improve the condition of our campuses. Too many of our students attend schools in need of serious repair. This bond goes a long way in ensuring the top needs are met at each of our 232 campuses. I applaud the district for creating this bond with equity in mind and I look forward to seeing the development of the “community resource hubs”. Our students cannot meet their full potential without addressing the underlying lack of resources throughout the community. I support the resource hubs funded through this bond.

**OTHER ISSUES:** 1. College and Career Readiness: Our commitment to kids is a district that will prepare them for college and a career. It starts with ensuring full day preschool and quality instruction. This is why we must expand preschool access and lead the country in the professional development of our educators. 2. Counseling and Social Services: To give our kids their best shot at achievement, we must build a district that understands the societal challenges our students face and is not timid in being a part of the solution. We must invest in a counseling program and service partnerships which set the standard for the country.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 12/1/1987; Occupation: Attorney; Education: Southern Methodist University, B.A. Harvard Kennedy School, M.P.P. SMU Dedman School of Law, J.D.; Website: <http://joecarreon.com>; Campaign Phone: (469) 544-6764; Email: [joe@joecarreon.com](mailto:joe@joecarreon.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JoeforDISD/>; Twitter: [twitter.com/joecarreon](https://twitter.com/joecarreon)

**Alicia McClung**

## For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 8

**EXPERIENCE:** My career as a teacher and literacy specialist gives me insight into the joys and hard truths about our education system. Teachers create supportive spaces for students and provide crucial services to our communities. However, less than half of students meet state standards and DISD employees often choose between health insurance or providing for their families. I understand what high quality programs and healthy classrooms look like. I am a preK-12 alumni of DISD schools, raised by my grandmother, a 20 year DISD veteran teacher. I have a direct understanding of how far we have come and vision for where we can go.

**CHARTER & CHOICE SCHOOLS:** The district should invest long term in our neighborhood schools that are losing enrollment to charter schools. This could look like reallocating funds to hire more literacy and math specialists to work with students and train teachers. We should also see the district address misinformation in the community that charter schools are better. This could look like addressing the misunderstanding that ELL students are receiving better English instruction at charter schools, when in reality they are just being denied bilingual education that would actually benefit students more in the long term.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** So far, DISD hasn't proven they have the robust technological infrastructure needed. Within the first week of school, DISD had several outages from their provided hotspots and learning management systems. We have to see the district lobby the state to provide more funding so that each child has access to the technology and broadband internet they need for a 21st century education. DISD should also do a better job of reaching parents. We see some campuses providing weekly town halls for families to talk about issues, while others are not. DISD should require a minimum standard of service from each campus.

**2020 BOND ELECTION:** Our schools need better facilities so that students are positively impacted. I support Props A, B, C and E as long as there is oversight that prioritizes reconstructing and building neighborhood schools. D8 deserves representation that will ensure full fiscal transparency and place a critical eye on each planned project to ensure they are best for students. As for Prop D, I do not believe that there is enough information from the district to justify needing a performing arts facility at this time. Instead, I believe there is value in connecting our students to the many performing arts venues and spaces Dallas has to

**OTHER ISSUES:** To reach our full potential as a district, we must become more transparent and prioritize fixing our core issues, beginning with a persistent lack of racial equity in our schools. I believe the district's Racial Equity Office should collect, study, and publish data on spending per student, student performance, curriculum quality, discipline infractions, parent and community engagement, and college and career readiness for every DISD school so that gaps between race, gender, language and socio-economic status can be identified.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 4/18/1991; Occupation: Educator; Education: Bachelors of Arts from Austin College; Major in English Literature and Minor in Biology; Website: <http://www.aliciamcclung.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 356-1331; Email: [alicia@aliciamcclung.com](mailto:alicia@aliciamcclung.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/AliciaMcClungDallas>; Twitter: [twitter.com/AliciaForDallas](https://twitter.com/AliciaForDallas)

For those how qualify for voting by mail, you may hand deliver your completed mail ballot to ensure it does not get caught in a mail delay. Take it to 1520 Round Table Drive in Dallas anytime the office is open up to 7 pm on election day. Hand delivered ballots must be delivered by the voter in person and the voter must show acceptable photo ID. During certain hours Dallas County will take your hand delivered mail ballot in the parking lot so you do not have to leave your car!

# Dallas Independent School District Special Bond Election

Answer For/Against

## PROPOSITION A:

The issuance of \$3,271,600,000 of bonds for the construction, acquisition, and equipment of school buildings and for the purchase of necessary sites for school buildings; and the levying of a tax sufficient, without limit as to rate or amount, to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and to pay the costs of any credit agreements executed or authorized in anticipation of, in relation to or in connection with the bonds. THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

## PROPOSITION B:

The issuance of \$270,000,000 bonds for the acquisition and updating of District technology equipment, and the levying of a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the costs of any credit agreements executed in connection with the bonds. THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

## PROPOSITION C:

The issuance of \$53,300,000 for the construction, acquisition and equipment to provide improvements and renovations to existing District stadiums, and the levying of a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the costs of any credit agreements executed in connection with the bonds. THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

## PROPOSITION D:

The issuance of \$66,100,000 of bonds for the construction, acquisition and equipment of a performing arts facility and the purchase of a necessary site therefor, and the levying of a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the costs of any credit agreements executed in connection with the bonds. THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

## PROPOSITION E:

The issuance of \$33,500,000 of bonds for the construction, acquisition and equipment to provide improvements and renovations of existing District natatoriums, and levying of a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the costs of any credit agreements executed in connection with the bonds. THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

## Explanation

The Dallas Independent School District (DISD) asks voters to authorize issuance of bonds for capital improvements in five propositions totaling \$3,694,500,000. If passed, it would be the largest local bond authorization in Texas history. Bonds would be issued over 10 years and would be amortized over 30 years rather than the more typical 20 years.

The district does not expect this program to increase property taxes as it will take into account the retirement of currently outstanding bonds, changes in property tax valuations and changes in conditions as it issues new bonds. The current property tax rate is \$1.310380 per \$100 taxable value, down from \$1.412030 the previous year. In 2019 the Texas State Legislature enacted a requirement that Texas school districts include the following on the ballot for ALL bond propositions: "THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE."

Recent DISD bond authorizations were for \$1.5 billion in 2015, \$1.266 billion in 2008 and \$1.35 billion in 2002. The 2015 program is still in progress.

Bond rating agency ratings for DISD are high: Moody's gives it a AA1, Standard & Poor's gives it a AA+ and Fitch gives it a AA+. TEA gives DISD a B overall grade. It grades student achievement at C, school progress at B, and Closing the Gaps at C.

A school district issues bonds to obtain the capital funds needed for the costs of construction and renovation of school facilities, land acquisition, and the purchase of capital items including technology and buses, and the cost of bond issuance. This program would pay for renovations and modernizations to nearly every building across the district and build 14 replacement campuses and 10 new facilities. The district would also spend \$270 for technology, including helping to provide broadband access to families; \$124 million in athletics upgrades; and \$41 million to create four student and family resource centers in the district's neediest neighborhoods.

A citizen's committee and sub-committees worked on the program over the past year and held public hearings. The district says the program is designed to be flexible to allow for change over time. The program was approved by a vote of 8-0 by the board of trustees on August 13. Details of the plan can be found online here:

[https://go.boarddocs.com/tx/disd/Board.nsf/files/BSQQUA6A3ECE/\\$file/2020%20Bond%20August%2013%202020%20Board%20Meeting%20Final.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/tx/disd/Board.nsf/files/BSQQUA6A3ECE/$file/2020%20Bond%20August%2013%202020%20Board%20Meeting%20Final.pdf)

# Dallas Independent School District Special Bond Election — CONTINUED

Answer For/Against

Reasons to Vote For	Reasons to Vote Against
1. No Tax Rate Increase - DISD can manage the bond authorization without a tax rate increase by managing the rate at which it issues the bonds once they are authorized. It can take into account variables such as enrollment, the economy and changes in population throughout the district over time. Also, interest rates on government bonds are at historic lows, stretching taxpayer dollars on bonds issued today even further.	1. Tax Rate Uncertainty - The “no tax increase” promise is based on assumptions about property value growth that may not be realized. The district does not know what the future economy will be after the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Reasonable Tax Burden - DISD property tax rate in 2019 was the 5th lowest in Dallas County, with four school districts having lower rates and eleven having higher rates.	2. High Taxes - Property taxes are too high. DISD should look for opportunities to lower the tax rate rather than using capacity in the I&S fund to issue more bonds.
3. Compelling Need for Equity - DISD students and teachers deserve the same quality of facilities typically found in neighboring, more affluent districts and in some charters. The average age of a current district campus is around 51 years and a 2018 study identified over \$6 billion in capital needs through 2025. This authorization would go a long way toward meeting those needs	3. Program Not Clear - there is not enough detail about what is planned for what schools to validate the district’s claim of equity throughout the district. Voters need to know what they are approving
4. Breadth and Innovation of Investment This authorization proposes to update almost every district campus, construct 24 new/replacement campuses as well as four high school career institutes focused on high demand, living wage vocational training. Quality of facilities and variety of options for students is related to academic success.	4. COVID-19 Effect - The bond steering committee planned the bond before the COVID-19 pandemic. The current economy with high job losses, possible evictions and the changes in the teaching process by using more technology has created unforeseen challenges that are not fully understood or addressed in the bond.
5. Respected Management - DISD is rated highly by outside agencies (bond rating agencies and TEA) indicating third party confidence in district management. The program was approved by the School Board 8-0 in August.	5. Long Program Period - Construction costs and interest rates change all the time as the bonds are being sold. The proposed bond program is spread out over 11 years, meaning some schools needs would not be addressed in a timely manner. The “No Tax Increase” promise is based on certain assumptions. Many of the projects advertised with the 2015 bond have not been fulfilled yet, and there is no assurance that the advertised 2020 projects will be fulfilled. Question: Is this the right bond for this time?

Before you go to vote, make sure you know where your polling place is. Sometimes polling locations change. Find polling locations for both early voting in person and election day at [www.DallasCountyVotes.org](http://www.DallasCountyVotes.org) or call Dallas County or the League of Women Voters of Dallas.

# DeSoto Independent School District General Election

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.

Questions and candidate data provided by the League of Women Voters of Irving

**EXPERIENCE:** What are the qualifications and experience that will make you an effective member of the School Board?

**BUDGET:** How will you balance the District's budget with the potential decline in property values due to COVID? Will you support cuts in positions and services or raising the tax rate? Please be specific

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** How would you rate the district's performance on its response to the tremendous challenge of educating students

during the pandemic? What would you like to see going forward?

**RATINGS:** The DeSoto District received a "C" rating in the most recent TEA Accountability Report, up from a "D" in the previous report. Do you agree with these ratings? What specific steps would you champion to improve education outcomes in the District?

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

## For Member of Board of Trustees, PI 3



### Tongee Flemming For Member of Board of Trustees, PI 3

of policies and processes to help identify weaknesses in our budget process, which enables us to ensure monies are used for their intended purpose(s). I will work with the Superintendent to ensure we have tighter financial controls in place to ensure sufficient funding for our children's academic achievement, and our teachers' salaries.

**BUDGET:** School budgets everywhere are suffering due to COVID-19. This Pandemic has brought our entire city's economy to a halt; and it helps that the Legislators agreed to fund school districts based on the 2019-2020 attendance levels for 2020-2021 school years. Our District has suffered financially over the past couple of years, as has been seen in the recent news and TEA reports, and while I am not in favor of raising the tax rate, which places the financial burden on the taxpayers; I am in agreement with going after the previous administration and others responsible for creating the \$21.6M deficit from 2017-2019

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** The District has implemented extended learning plans and continuously updates the parents on activities/improvements made as a result of COVID-19. The communication and transparency is phenomenal and should be commended. This is all new to everyone, and I believe the District and Superintendent are doing a great job!

**RATINGS:** DeSoto ISD has implemented Goals and Goal Progress Measures to ensure our students are meeting standards. They've made these goal and GPMs available to the public and I commend them for this huge step in not only restoring transparency, but also allowing awareness for the community. This is a "joint" effort and knowing the Goals and GPMs helps us to work together as a team. I support and will work collectively to ensure the standards are exceeded, where possible.

**OTHER ISSUES:** None

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Occupation: Chief, Budget & Contracts; Education: MPA BBA; Website: <http://88710.campaignpartner.net>; Campaign Phone: (469) 772-4795; Email: [tongee.flemmingpl2@gmail.com](mailto:tongee.flemmingpl2@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://@voteTongeeForTrustee>



### Karen Daniel For Member of Board of Trustees, PI 3

experience in academic rigor, curriculum, child development, social-emotional well being, as well as finance and management.

**BUDGET:** We have just raised the tax rate slightly. I would support cuts in certain positions, but I would never support cuts in number of teaching positions. I already feel we need to lower the student-teacher ratios in our classrooms. I would carefully limit some services, but I am opposed to making any cuts in services that directly support our teachers and students.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** We are being very careful to monitor health conditions and CDC recommendations for student safety. We have our PPE supplies and our guidelines for starting school both virtually, and when the time comes, in person. We have our Anywhere, Anytime learning module set up, and it is fully operational. We have supplied our families as much as possible with the technology and resources they need. We are emphasizing a rigorous curriculum and checks and balances for student participation in both online and in-person learning. I would rate our response performance as excellence. It certainly exceeds expectations.

**RATINGS:** Yes, I agree with these ratings. We have much work to do to bring the rating up to an A. I would champion hiring the most highly-qualified, most innovative and energetic teachers for our students. I would advocate for a rigorous curriculum aligned with the TEKS, and I would enlist the aid of parents and other community partners to engage in quality education for our students. I would instill pride in our students so they want to be the smartest, most well-educated students in the state of Texas. I would want students to have academic pride in their achievements. This pride comes from feeling personal responsibility.

**OTHER ISSUES:** I intend to address all the issues that are the responsibility of the school board from wisely spending taxpayer dollars, to providing the rigorous education our children need to succeed in this world, to being concerned for the social-emotional welfare of our students, to housing our students in safe buildings, to preparing our students to have self-discipline, and to preparing our students for leadership roles in society.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 6/11/1946; Education: BA English, UTA Master of Education UNT Mid Management Administrator Certification; Email: [kjwdaniel2020@gmail.com](mailto:kjwdaniel2020@gmail.com)

Voting in person? Mask up and social distance!

## For Member of Board of Trustees, PI 4

**Sabrina M Mathis**

For Member of Board of Trustees, PI 4

**EXPERIENCE:** I've worked in various positions as an educator which include: curriculum director, principal, teacher (elementary through high school), and coach. I've opened new campuses, supervised campus leadership, managed campus operations, and overseen curriculum and instructional programs. As an educational leader, I have implemented customized curriculum platforms, strengthened organizations through relationship building, evaluated employee performance, and provided district-wide training. Most recently, I received my doctoral degree in Educational Administration from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

**BUDGET:** Should cuts in resources or positions be required to maintain a functioning budget, I would review the following areas prior to making any decision. A five-year historical review of revenues and expenditures must be done to determine the extent of how resources have been used throughout the district and how using these resources affects academic achievement. During the August 24, 2020, DeSoto ISD school board meeting, the board approved the adoption of an increased tax rate to support the 2020-2021 district budget as presented earlier. Based on this recently approved tax increase, I would not be inclined to as

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** The health, safety, and well-being of everyone is a top priority for DeSoto ISD. DeSoto ISD has taken a proactive approach to educating students during a time in which innovative practices are necessary. The current plan in place supports public health and safety measures provided by designated health officials and endeavors to maintain an environment of learning. Currently, I have no suggestions but I applaud DeSoto ISD for addressing technology needs and making adjustments for the community as needed.

**RATINGS:** Based on the evaluation system provided by the Texas Education Agency for accountability, the "C" grade is correct. However, this score does not represent the academic performance of the district currently. Recently, there have been major performance gains in advanced academics and special programs. I would advocate improving academic performance through project-based teaching. Increased use of a project-based learning model within DeSoto ISD would improve student performance by enabling students to take a leading role in developing an environment tailored to each student's learning needs.

**OTHER ISSUES:** One area on which I would like to focus is improving resources for special education and English learners. There is room for improvement here, as well as in the further support of parents of pupils with special educational needs. Another focus would be to attract and retain the best instructors for DeSoto ISD. We must value, respect and support educators by providing them with the resources and tools needed to enable teachers to provide effective teaching. Once teachers feel valued as leaders in the instructional development of students, the probability of losing talented teachers will decrease.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 5/16/1976; Education: Doctor of Education (Educational Leadership), Masters (Educational Admin), Bachelors (Biology); Website: <http://www.voteforsabrinamathis.com>; Campaign Phone: (469) 333-0314; Email: [mathissabrinam@gmail.com](mailto:mathissabrinam@gmail.com)

**Tiffany Clark**

For Member of Board of Trustees, PI 4

**EXPERIENCE:** DeSoto is my home as an alumna and lifelong resident. I have extremely high expectations for our schools. It is important to have someone who knows the community & school system from the inside out. I have committed to the work and I am not done with the work to serve our students in DeSoto. I also have experience & good judgment. Take a look at the tough decisions I have made, and the transparency I have provided to the public, and that's exactly why I'm asking for reelection. Voters should choose me because we have enough teachers and administrators on the board, but we do not have a mental health counselor.

**BUDGET:** I am a strong advocate for zero-based budgeting. This year we started with a zero-based budget and allowed each department to submit the funds they used last year to create the overall district budget. Our district has worked extremely hard to get our budget and finances under control. We did have to make cuts a few years back (just as any large business would do) in order to get our fund balance to a stable place. If we continue to emphasize fiscal responsibility, I am hopeful that we will not have to make any extreme changes moving forward. Finally, I have not supported any increases to the tax rate.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** I believe our district has done well with educating our scholars during the pandemic. Nothing is possible unless our students and staff feels safe. This means having a robust remote learning program that provides a high quality education for every child regardless of where they "do school". We need to ensure that each student has access to the appropriate technology and that we plan for an eventual return to school that is safe, according to science. Moving forward, we must work to get more people continually engaged in PTA, parent/teacher conferences by using the technology platforms we have utilized this year.

**RATINGS:** I am proud that our district had a 12-point gain to move from a F rating to one point from a B rating. Even with so many distraction going on, our staff, teachers and students were resilient. The district has adopted a goal specifically around math and reading to ensure all students in the district reach grade level. We have also brought in culturally responsive textbooks from elementary to high school to engage our scholars by allowing them to see themselves in the textbooks, especially in English/Language Arts classes. I am very optimistic with the academic progress we've made in just one academic year.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Academic Achievement and Financial Stability. We can achieve nothing as district unless we have a balanced budget and a strong fund balance. That is why I always push for the Administration to present a Budget that is balanced and even adds to our savings account. We must restore community trust in our finances and that is a top priority. Yet, we are in the business of educating children - and this means that our number one focus must always be on student achievement. I will continue to fight for RIGOR in our classrooms. We must push to get back on topic Academically as we've been in the past.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 1/13/1989; Education: BA- Psychology M.Ed- School and Community Counseling Ed.D- Educational Leadership ; Website: <http://www.tiffanyc4desoto.com>; Email: [info@tiffanyc4desoto.com](mailto:info@tiffanyc4desoto.com); Facebook: <http://TiffanyClark>

## DeSoto ISD PI 5

**Abe C Cooper Jr — unopposed****DeSoto ISD PI 5**

Dallas County Vote Anywhere! During early voting AND ALSO on election, not matter where you live in Dallas County you can vote at Dallas County polling location. Vote where you live, work or go to school. Check [www.DallasCountyVotes.org](http://www.DallasCountyVotes.org) for early voting and election day polling locations.

# Garland Independent School District General Election

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.

**EXPERIENCE:** What are the qualifications and experience that will make you an effective member of the School Board?

**BUDGET:** How will you balance the District's budget with the potential decline in property values due to COVID? Will you support cuts in positions and services or raising the tax rate? Please be specific

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** How would you rate the district's performance on its response to the tremendous challenge of educating students

during the pandemic? What would you like to see going forward?

**RATINGS:** The Garland District received a "B" grade in the most recent TEA Accountability Report, as in the previous report. Do you agree with these ratings? What specific steps would you champion to further improve education outcomes in the District?

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

## For Member of Board of Trustees, PI 4

Ana Maria Aguilar DeYoung — No response

For Member of Board of Trustees, PI 4



### Bob Duckworth

For Member of Board of Trustees, PI 4

**EXPERIENCE:** Have been an active member of the local communities for over 50 years. Retired from the banking industry with almost 50 years of service in these communities. I will bring conservative values to the board.

**BUDGET:** I am not sure there there will be a decline in the property values in these communities this year. If there is, the proposed TRE should put the district on good footing for the year. I would consider cutting positions and services as a last resort effort for the sake of the district. The district currently has a strong fund balance and has proposed a Tax Ratification Election to the voters on November 3. If approved this will increase the M & O tax rate and strengthen the district financially and provide a positive operating budget for the 20-21 school year.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** The district has performed very well in dealing with the challenge. Parents should continue to be allowed to make the choice of in home vs. in school education of their children during the pandemic.

**RATINGS:** As a large diversified district, I believe the B rating is a good rating, believing the district will always strive for the A. To improve the district rating during these challenging Covid times which will overlap two school years will be a challenge.

**OTHER ISSUES:** I will support a Bond Program in the next year or so to provide for the many needs in the district. I will support a teacher stipend of \$300 or so for each classroom to aid teachers in preparing for each new school year. I believe the district should continue to grow and support the trades, career and technology courses in the district for students who may not wish to attend college.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 9/18/1943; Occupation: Retired; Education: Community High - Nevada, 'Texas, Southwestern Graduate School of Banking; Campaign Phone: (972) 742-9676; Email: dicieduck@aol.com



### Jed N Reed

For Member of Board of Trustees, PI 4

**EXPERIENCE:** Experience, leadership and engagement while on the GISD School Board since 2016. A 40 year career in Public Education at all levels (Teacher, Campus Administration, Central Office HR Administrator) that provides a base for the understanding of the technical concepts of instruction, student performance, employee relations and finance that are unique to Texas and the Garland ISD.

**BUDGET:** The district has been blessed with decades of leadership by the GISD in the area of strong financial management. Property value increases generate income to the State General Fund not the operational accounts of the GISD. While we have decreased the local property tax rate (due to compression by the State) we still need funds to support on going programs. The Board is asking the voters to approve a VATRE (Voter Approved Tax Rate Election. If this passes the rate of \$1.46 in 2018 would be reduced to a proposed rate of \$1.3463 for 2020.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** We are attempting to comply with all guidelines and procedures as approved by our Health Authority (City of Garland Health Department). The District has spent million's of extra dollars on devices, hotspots, barrier shielding, cleaning supplies and the additional personnel to disinfect areas on campuses and buses. We are currently providing dual instruction (both online and face-to-face) depending upon the choice of the student's guardian and will allow changes every nine weeks. As we move forward we must be constantly aware of the changing directives and guidelines.

**RATINGS:** Actually the District went from an 81 rating to an 88 in 2019. A significant improvement. Had the pandemic not taken place I believe the district would have been on course for an A rating. With the pandemic slide we will have to re-evaluate our students progression, implement appropriate intervention while maintaining forward improvement. A target area, in my view, will be the transitional grades of 5th to 6th and 8th to 9th. These are crucial instructional and developmental periods for our students and a focus on those grouping will provide ongoing instructional benefit.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Key issues for my next three years include the instructional impact of the pandemic; financial management of the district; the up coming session of the Texas Legislature; and, employee/staff support. These areas are of key importance. A close engagement at the state level is going to be of extreme interest for all public school districts and employees as Austin must address the management of the state and the setting of state expectations, especially for education, without creating additional unfunded mandates back onto the school district.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 2/1/1951; Occupation: Retired Educator; Education: South Garland HS BSED Texas Tech University Masters of Public Ad. East Texas State U.; Email: jed4gisd@gmail.com

## Garland ISD PI 5

Jamie Miller — Unopposed

Garland ISD PI 5

# Garland ISD Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election

Answer For/Against

**PROPOSITION A**

“Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate of \$1.3463 in Garland Independent School District for the current year, a rate that will result in an increase of 12.62 percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the district for the current year as compared to the preceding year, which is an additional \$25,095,092.”

***The Garland Independent School District (Garland ISD) covers the cities of Garland, Rowlett and Sachse. Garland ISD’s tax rate per \$100 of assessed value over time is as follows:***

	M&O	I&S	TOTAL
2021*	\$1.04	\$0.305	\$1.3463
2020	\$0.97	\$0.42	\$1.39
2019	\$1.04	\$0.42	\$1.46

*\*tax rate contingent on approval of this ballot item*

The M&O portion of the tax rate pays for maintenance and operations expenses such as teacher salaries, utilities and supplies. The I&S portion of the tax rate funds the Interest and Sinking Fund which is used to pay debt service on previously issued debt.

Garland ISD will be holding a Tax Ratification Election on Tuesday, November 3rd. The election calls for raising the M&O rate to \$1.04 while lowering the I&S rate to \$0.305. This would result in a total tax rate of \$1.34, the lowest for the district in several years. The rate will be nearly 5 cents less than last year’s total adopted rate of \$1.39.

Due to increasing property valuations and the increased rate, the district expects to realize \$42 million in additional revenue to pay for competitive teacher salaries and innovative programs for students should the proposition pass. If it fails, Garland ISD will face a deficit.

Garland ISD’s bond ratings are the highest given by rating agencies: Moody’s Aaa and Fitch AA+. Its TEA overall accountability rating is B, the second highest possible rating.

While Garland ISD’s total tax rate would decrease nearly \$0.05 cents, state law requires that it be advertised as a tax increase due to the increase in the M&O portion and the increase in property valuations.

REASONS TO VOTE FOR	REASONS TO VOTE AGAINST
1. Garland ISD’s tax rate would be lower than or comparable to rates of other Dallas County school districts.	1. Taxes are too high. Garland ISD should seek ways to further lower the tax rate.
2. Garland ISD’s high ratings by third parties reflect confidence in district management.	2. Low property tax rates are an important incentive for attracting businesses. Garland should seek to reduce taxes further to attract businesses.
3. Excellent education is a major attraction for people deciding where to live and establish businesses. Garland ISD needs funds to maintain its high standards.	

# Irving Independent School District General Election

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 receives the most votes wins. There are no runoff elections.

Questions and candidate data provided by the League of Women Voters of Irving

**EXPERIENCE:** Please explain how you believe your education, work experience, and other experiences qualify you for the position you seek as a school board trustee?

**COVID-19 IMPACT:** Considering the current environment, should the schools close? If you favor this action, are you concerned about parents' abilities to monitor their children's school work?

**TOP ISSUES:** What are your top three issues facing the school district and the first steps you would take to begin solving them?

**GUNS:** What is your position concerning the handling of guns in schools and do you favor or oppose teachers having guns?

**STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES:** What do you consider IISD's greatest strengths and weaknesses?

## For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 1



### Rosemary Robbins For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 1

see district needs at all levels. My work in schools with high need student populations when I was an administrator gives me a "boots on the ground" perspective. I understand that Irving ISD is a majority minority district with many challenges. However, I am thankful to have seen student success first-hand. I know all students can learn and meet high expectations.

**COVID-19 IMPACT:** As I respond to this question Covid-19 cases appear on the decline in Dallas county. However, we know situations can change overnight. Currently, in Irving ISD, we have faculty teaching at school and students learning remotely. The battle against an unknown enemy cannot be planned in advance. A I do have an understanding of the hardship on parents. I was a single-parent and a full-time working professional. Finding childcare and assisting with homework after dinner made for a long day. We will bring students back when it is safe. Teaching mandated objectives can be caught up, however, the loss of one child is forever.

**TOP ISSUES:** We must monitor the Legislature (and also lobby them, if needed) to not reduce our funding. The funding situation is significantly different from the last Legislative session. We know that items must be cut from the State budget, however, we must work for no reductions in public school funding. The second issue is that we have no idea how long the pandemic will last. We must begin planning for the myriad of situations in which we could find ourselves. The third issue would be to constantly evaluate and improve our remote-learning curriculum so that both teachers and students feel comfortable and have success.

**GUNS:** I believe that guns belong in the hands of professionally trained law enforcement officers. I would not support teachers bringing firearms to school. Having worked at all levels of schools: elementary, middle, and high, and now, at DBU, I believe I understand the environment at these institutions. Teachers are trained professionals who masterfully deliver instruction. We should not expect educators to go through the strenuous training required of law enforcement officers. We are fortunate to have professionally trained Irving law enforcement officers who are school resource officers (SRO's) and weapons' experts.

**STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES:** Our strength is also our greatest challenge. We have the most diverse zip code in the U.S. Our students speak over 75 languages. I don't call our diversity a weakness; instead, it is a launching pad for success. We are preparing our students to enter workplaces that did not exist when many of us were in school. We have graduates from engineering studies, that are engineering specialists for NASA. We have students who graduated from our entrepreneurship studies, earning six-figure incomes at national technology companies. We proudly celebrate that these students are bilingual and in many cases, multilingual.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 4/18/1948; Occupation: Professional Educator; Education: Bachelor of Science, University of Texas at Austin Both my Masters and Doctoral Degrees, UNT; Campaign Phone: (214) 600-7577; Email: rorobbins@irvingisd.net; Facebook: <http://Facebook.com/RosemaryRobbinsIrving>



### Charles Nutt For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 1

to ensure their needs are met, and led personnel primarily involved in customer service activities. Much of the work I have done has involved problem solving, gathering and interpreting feedback information, negotiation, seeking alternate methods, crisis management, and interpreting and applying regulations and policies.

**COVID-19 IMPACT:** The safety and security of our students, educators, and staff must be paramount in the decisions we make, seasoned with the TEA, and student's guardians to give input and participate in the decision regarding the return to a regular learning environment is the best course to follow going forward. I say regular because I believe it will be some time before we identify what normal is. I don't believe closing the campuses is in the best interest of the District's constituents.

**TOP ISSUES:** Quality leadership at the campus level- we spend a great deal of time considering best practices to obtain, develop, and retain quality classroom teachers. We must ensure that we are giving focused attention to obtaining and developing quality administrators. Curriculum- obtaining, creating, and supporting curriculum which effectively guides and facilitates the delivery of materials leading to student success. I believe we may address this need through local development of materials and tools, tailored to the student populations we serve. Safety - we must be sensitive, aware and agile in our overall approach

**GUNS:** I am in favor of any program which provides real, significant improvement to the safety of our District facilities. While I agree that it is the place of the Board to consider the merits and act on any request to consider a program like the Marshal program for example, I do not believe the board should initiate this discussion. This, I believe, falls under the purview of the District Safety and Security team. It is my opinion that any request for consideration of this program or any program arming individuals on the campuses outside the Student Resource Officers should flow through them before coming to the Board.

**STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES:** IISD is fortunate to have made a decision long ago to work towards 1-1 provision of technology for all students. This put us in much better position than many when the COVID situation arose. Having both the technology available and the personnel trained and equipped to assist our classroom educators in rapidly deploying distance learning paid great dividends. There is always a need to have greater involvement from our community and our student's guardians. While the distance learning experience has served to press this somewhat, it has also demonstrated our need to better prepare our student's "safety nets".

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 1/1/1958; Occupation: Retired after 37 at Oncor; Education: BS in Electrical Engineering (82) from Texas Tech University; Campaign Phone: (972) 986-9058; Email: cdnutt4iisdistrict4@gmail.com

## For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 2



### Michael Kelley For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 2

**EXPERIENCE:** As a Realtor and growing up here, I know the area and demographics well. I have served on the Irving Parks and Recreation Vision Committee; I am the President of my Neighborhood Association and I am also the V/President of the Greater Irving - Las Colinas AMBUCS. While working on these different boards I have learned to work with others to get things done. Having a child who attends Irving ISD, I would be a parent voice. Right now, we do not have a current board member with children in Irving schools therefore, I would bring a different perspective to the board.

**COVID-19 IMPACT:** I am in favor of parents being able to choose if their child participates in distance learning or in person learning. As a parent with a child in the school district we had to make this decision and it is not an easy decision. For our situation we felt it is better for our child to go back to school for the social and emotional learning and the in-person instruction. Every situation is different, and parents must decide what is best for their family. I also believe we must make sure every student and teacher that returns to the classroom are safe and we need to make sure that they have the equipment to stay healthy.

**TOP ISSUES:** • Protecting staff and students from COVID-19 • Parent involvement • Trying to find a balance of classes geared toward college readiness and work force readiness. The first steps to get any of these issues addressed is to work together with other board members to find a solution to these issues.

**GUNS:** I am in favor of the current practice of an armed security guard at the campuses and resource officers at our middle schools and high schools. I personally do not think that teachers here in Irving need to have a firearm with them in the schools.

**STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES:** I think the greatest strength Irving ISD has going for it right now is that current district staff, teachers and coaches are moving the district forward by making sure that every student no matter their background can get a great education and be ready for college. I think our greatest weakness is parent involvement.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 5/26/1982; Occupation: Realtor; Campaign Phone: (214) 850-8904; Email: michaelK@lonestarconnect.com; Facebook: <http://Vote Michael Kelley>



### Jose Luis Parra For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 2

**EXPERIENCE:** I hold an educational doctorate as well as master's and bachelor's degrees. With over 30 years serving Texas public education in virtually every position from teacher to superintendent, I am uniquely qualified to serve as a school board trustee. I worked closely with boards at the executive level for almost 15 years, attended over 400 school board meetings, and am a Registered Texas School Board Training Provider. As we face COVID-19, it is critical for a school district to have a new trustee with my level of school district experience who can immediately step into the role with virtually no learning curve.

**COVID-19 IMPACT:** Closing schools is always a last resort as it can put tremendous strain on students and parents. However, I do agree with the district delaying students' return until September 28, because that decision was based on local health authorities' recommendations. I know that parents want to monitor their children's schoolwork, but I also understand that their ability to do that can be limited by time (due to work constraints) and training (educational expertise). As a district we must find ways to help parents monitor their children's schoolwork. By doing so we create a stronger school/family relationship.

**TOP ISSUES:** Two issues facing the district are tied to COVID-19: student and staff safety, and student learning. In addressing safety, I think we must use solid scientific approaches to create a learning environment that helps students and staff feel safer. I would then address COVID-19's short- and long-term effects on student learning. We must identify and implement solutions so our students continue their learning success. The third issue is how the district moves forward after we adapt to COVID-19. To address all issues, I will work with the board and administration as a unified team to identify and develop solutions.

**GUNS:** The administration should recommend whether, and which, individuals should be authorized to have guns in schools. Irving ISD currently authorizes School Resource Officers (SROs) - Irving Police Officers - to carry guns in schools. Beyond SROs, the administration has to consider multiple elements when determining who should handle guns in schools. The superintendent will assess safety needs and liabilities in relation to the District's overall security plan before bringing such a recommendation to the Board. I will then work with the board to consider any recommendation brought to the board by the administration.

**STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES:** Irving ISD's greatest strength is the quality and desire of its entire staff to ensure that the students of the District feel supported and are successful in everything they choose to pursue. Students can then achieve their fullest potential. Although all district campuses and facilities are well-maintained and clean, they could benefit from renovation and updating to meet instructional and/or maintenance needs. That's not necessarily a weakness, but for the district to continue moving forward in its efforts to provide students with expanded instructional choice models, facilities may need modifications.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 9/7/1960; Occupation: Noted above.; Education: Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) Master of Arts (M.A.) Bachelor of Arts (B.A.); Campaign Phone: (830) 832-6230; Email: [parraforirvingisd@gmail.com](mailto:parraforirvingisd@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ParraForIrvingISD/>

## Lancaster Independent School District General Election

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.

Trustees serve a term of three years each. Whichever candidate receives the most votes wins. There are no runoff elections. Following the annual election, the Board elects a president, vice-president, and secretary to serve for a one-year term.

**EXPERIENCE:** What are your qualifications and experience that will make you an effective member of the School Board?

**BUDGET:** How will you balance the District's budget with the potential decline in property values due to COVID? Will you support cuts in positions and services or raising the tax rate? Please be specific

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** How would you rate the district's performance on its response to the tremendous challenge of educating students

during the pandemic? What would you like to see going forward?

**RATINGS:** The Lancaster District received a "B" rating in the most recent TEA Accountability Report, up from a "C" in the previous report. Do you agree with these ratings? What specific steps would you champion to improve education outcomes in the District?

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

## For Member of the Board of Trustees, Dist 4

LaRhonda R Mays, Daryle W Clewis, Keandrea Bailey — No response

For Member of the Board of Trustees, Dist 4

## For Member of the Board of Trustees, Dist 5

Alton Dixon — No response

For Member of the Board of Trustees, Dist 5

**Ty G Jones**

For Member of the Board of Trustees, Dist 5

**EXPERIENCE:** I have served as a Trustee of the Lancaster ISD Board for nine years, six as president. During my tenure Lancaster ISD has gained national attention as the first K-12 STEM district in Texas, for improving student performance and board leadership & governance. I have completed more than 500 hours continuing education and completed Leadership TASB in 2014. I have served as a public educator for more than twenty years ranging from a classroom teacher & a central administrator for more than a decade. I chair or serve on several education boards & task force advocating for public education nationally.

**BUDGET:** Lancaster ISD has been conservatively budgeting since I joined the board in 2011. The potential decline in property values will not impact our budget for the 2020-21 school year. During our August board meeting, we approved our budget and reduced the tax rate for our community, provided an employee retention payout scheduled to be paid to staff in October and are projected to place about \$2M into fund balance. There will not be a need for us to reduce positions or increase taxes. We will continue to monitor the impact of COVID on local, state and federal revenue generators and our expenses in the coming years.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** Our district has performed well in response to this pandemic. The board & administration agreed to delay in-person instruction for students until October and possibly November dependent on how COVID progresses within our community and Dallas County. We have plans in place for mitigation and purchased personal protective equipment and supplies to meet the needs of our students and staff upon returning to in-person instruction. We have also implemented a rigorous instruction plan to meet the academic needs of our students & preparing teachers to provide synchronous & asynchronous instruction to ensure students learn.

**RATINGS:** According to the TEA Accountability for the 2017-18 & 2018-19 school years, Lancaster ISD grew from a 79 (C) - 81 (B). I plan to champion measures which will support our staff to meet the needs of our students during & after COVID, increase student performance on any and all assessments which they are presented, and close academic gaps. For example, during the 2018-19 school year, students achieved: 78% at the Approaches Grade Level, 45% at the Meets Grade Level & 17% at the Masters Level. I will work with the board and administration to review policy and provide funding for initiatives that will accomplish each.

**OTHER ISSUES:** During my term, I plan to work collaboratively with the superintendent and fellow trustees to establish district and board goals that will -position our students to attain academic levels which exceeds 70% at the Meets Grade Level on STAAR or an equivalent assessment, -increase the number of students in GT, -increase the number of students enrolled and graduating with an Associate's degree from our early college, -provide a platform for the board to receive direct input from our students & parents regarding their education, & -provide the students, parents and community with regular updates from me.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 10/7/1971; Education: M.Ed. - University of Texas at Arlington BS - University of Houston Associates - Navarro College; Website: <http://www.tygjones.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 802-3776; Email: [tyg@tygjones.com](mailto:tyg@tygjones.com); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/TyGJones4LISD5>; Twitter: [twitter.com/TyGJones](https://twitter.com/TyGJones)

## For Member of the Board of Trustees, Dist 7

Kendall L Smith — No Response

For Member of the Board of Trustees, Dist 7

**Ellen Clark**

For Member of the Board of Trustees, Dist 7

**EXPERIENCE:** I have served for 11 years on the board and currently as Board President. I have been active in school events, PTA, President of the Chamber of Commerce, served on City Economic Development, Lancaster Education Foundation, Lancaster Fire and Police Foundation, serve on the board of the North Texas Area Association of School Boards, have a Master Trustee designation from Texas Association of School Board Leadership Class of 2014. During my term the board has hired Dr. McFarland and Dr. Granger. While on the board I served on facility committee designing for 3 new schools and STEM application committee for TI grant.

**BUDGET:** On August 27, 2020 the Board passed the budget for 2020-2021 that reduced the tax rate by 2.85cents for citizens. This is a conservative budget knowing other issues will change due to the COVID. It does allow devices and connection for all students and teachers, extra pay incentives for the additional work done by teachers and staff, virtual learning programs, strong safety for students, meals for students. When I went on the board in 2009 we had a conservator. In August 2020 LISD received A for our finances. We have built 3 schools on time and on budget. In 2018 Lancaster created our own bus system.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** I would rate LISD as A++ Lancaster staff has worked with no vacation since last March to see that our students receive the best education possible. Last March chrome books were ordered for 1 to 1 distribution for the new year. Safety for all students and employees has been designed into the new rules and procedures for this school year. Opportunities for social and emotional growth have been created for everyone. Virtual school opened September 8th and in school opportunities will be phased in at the end of September. Career, fine arts and athletics are open by choice. I want students in school when safe.

**RATINGS:** Ratings have several different components besides grades. We had a 79 and went to a 81 because we took steps to increase test scores, career opportunities, college readiness, and other areas. If we had completed the 2019-2020 school year our projection would have been above 85. The board must take steps and watch student progress because many will fall behind in this coming year. Teachers are monitoring and taking time to offer extra help to move these students up to grade level or above. Our strong curriculum team and instructors are looking at student's individually, designing their learning path for success.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The district has just completed our next five year vision plan. We know our district will grow so additional facilities will be needed but just as important is the maintenance plan for our current property. Planning financially for repairs or replacements using data to plan these is important. Also planning for technology as it seems to change every day. Looking as the changes in education and career paths that are needed to be sure our graduates are prepared to be successful in this changing world is necessary. Offering life skills like financing, character building, more career certifications are needed.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 1/28/1941; Occupation: Real Estate Broker | Education: Associates Degree Navarro College plus real estate education courses for past 40 years; Campaign Phone: (972) 227-1705; Email: [townsq1@airmail.net](mailto:townsq1@airmail.net)

For those who qualify (65 or older, disabled, etc), voting by mail to avoid standing in line is an option. If you received your ballot in the mail, you may safely return it in the mail if you do it well in advance of election day. Be aware that mail delivery may be slower than usual so do not delay!

# Dallas College (DCCCD) General Election

Dallas College Board of Trustees consists of 7 members elected from single member districts who serve without compensation for 6 year staggered terms. The Board oversees 7 campuses with over 86,000 students and 6,300 paid faculty, staff and administrators. The annual budget for Dallas College is nearly \$560 M. The Trustees set the tax rate to cover the cost of operations of Dallas College.

**EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL:** The Early College High School program on Dallas college campuses is ever more popular, with more students taking dual credit courses that lead to college-level career and technical education certificates and associate degrees. What is your opinion of this program, and would you like to see it grow?

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** How would you rate the district's performance on its response to the tremendous challenge of educating students during the pandemic? Has it affected completion rates? What would you like to see going forward?

**ONE COLLEGE CONFIGURATION:** As the District merges the seven colleges that comprise the DCCCD into one institution (Dallas College), a configuration that will make it easier for students to earn degrees, how will the campuses continue to meet the needs of the diverse communities they serve?

**ONLINE COURSES:** All of the Dallas College Campuses offer online courses. What is your opinion of this option for students? What are the tradeoffs compared to live classroom settings?

**OPPORTUNITY/CHALLENGE:** What do you view as Dallas College's biggest opportunity and/or challenge during the next Trustee term?

## For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 5

Dinesh B Mali — No response

For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 5



**William Wesley Jameson**  
For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 5

**EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL:** To bolster the high school-to-college pipeline, we have partnered with several area institutions on the Dallas County Promise. This program helps students complete college and begin careers while reducing or eliminating financial barriers. Dallas College is expanding facilities and industry partnerships to support over 10,000 Early College High School and P-TECH students and 20,000 additional students taking career and technical courses leading to credentials or core curriculum dual credit courses that will transfer. In the past 5 years there has been a 91% increase in dual credit students. Let's keep it growing.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** I would give us a very high rating. We decided to move to remote learning very early in the pandemic. In a matter of days we transitioned all of our students and our staff to online learning and remote working. We have begun to offer limited face-to-face instruction on an appointment-only basis to meet increased student demand. We have not seen a drop in our completion rate. We are seeing that students are taking fewer classes. Going forward, I would like to see Dallas College assist our students in completing their educational goals. This includes short term certificates, tutoring, and job training opportunities.

**ONE COLLEGE CONFIGURATION:** Dallas College allows us to ensure the right programs are offered in the right locations to provide students with a relevant portfolio of options critical to career success. We are able to provide students with skills and opportunities to secure well-paying jobs with career potential in order to support economic mobility. We connect employers with students who are capable of providing what their workforce needs, utilizing employer input to define and develop a workforce-relevant curriculum. At Dallas College, we are truly placing our students on a path toward success.

**ONLINE COURSES:** The pandemic has provided us an opportunity to serve both employers and students by our ability to offer online classes in most of our programs of study. In a matter of days, about 99% of face-to-face courses throughout the colleges had successfully transitioned online. This equates to over 66,000 students in addition to the 14,000 already learning online. We have re-opened face-to-face tutoring, library, and computer lab usage on an appointment only basis for students who struggle with online learning. We have focused on increasing the teaching effectiveness of our faculty regardless of the learning modality.

**OPPORTUNITY/CHALLENGE:** At Dallas College we consider ourselves to be a "tech enabler" by doing our part to engage employers, teach skills that are in demand, and provide employers with talent that can enter the workforce ahead of the curve. Last year we partnered with Google and Amazon to create a state-wide Associate of Applied Science degree in Cloud Computing which has been the most in demand skill on LinkedIn for several years in a row. I see partnerships like these growing over time. Collaborating with employers is critical to building programs that provide students a living-wage career and more.

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFO:** Age: 11/18/1951; Occupation: Retired AT&T Executive; Education: BA, Psychology and Biology. Graduate hours in Clinical Psychology. Trinity University, San Antonio.; Website: <http://www.wesleyjameson.com>; Campaign Phone: (214) 914-2414; Email: [jamesontrustee@att.net](mailto:jamesontrustee@att.net); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/wesleyjameson.961>



**Cliff Boyd**  
For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 5

**EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL:** I think it is a great program and should be expanded as long as all necessary resources are available at the associated college. This is a way to make better use of high school students available time. It is a great way to reduce the the ultimate cost of a 4 year degree for parents and students For the student paying their way through college, the program will allow students to enter the workforce with an Associate degree upon graduating from high school and earn a higher wage while working and completing their remaining degree requirements. I support enhanced relationships between the ISDs and Dallas College.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** From my perspective as a private citizen and grandfather of a student at Dallas College, I believe the district performed ok under the circumstances. I am sure there are individual circumstances that are much worse than others. College managements needs to be given an opportunity to correct specific situations. As in all cases where you are required to perform out of the norm, you will benefit in the future from the lessons learned during this period. I will aggressively monitor how management responds to the areas that had success and extensive failures, These trials will make the college better and stronger.

**ONE COLLEGE CONFIGURATION:** It is my hope and understanding that the individual campuses will retain their individual personalities in the area of the district they reside. One of my concerns is that too many students have been taking and completing many hours over the required number of hours for an Associate degree, yet not qualifying for their Associate degree. I think the one college concept and better counseling will help alleviate this issue. Excessive hours cost the students financially and consumes college resources.

**ONLINE COURSES:** Online courses are great for some students and ineffective for others. Again for the student who must work to afford a college education, online courses allow greater flexibility. The working student will graduate sooner because of online course availability. It is a major effort for college management to monitor and ensure quality online courses. Proper completion and effective testing must be closely monitored.

Please be mindful of any flu-like symptoms and act accordingly.

## For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 5 — Continued

## Cliff Boyd — Continued

## For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 5

**OPPORTUNITY/CHALLENGE:** To be a true partner with the students, local businesses and the college faculty. Ensure that economically disadvantaged students are afforded an equal opportunity for a secondary education. Increase the number and quality of business partners. Ensure that students have a guided pathways to complete credentialing in 66 college hours. Continue to improve the relationships with the K-12 campuses. Make maximum use of facilities and capital assets.

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## For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 6

**Angela Enciso**

## For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 6

economically disadvantaged, making access to higher education more difficult for the majority of our students. These partnerships provide students with the opportunity to graduate from high school with college credits or an Associate's degree, helping to reduce the cost of post-secondary education for students. I would love for all students in our community to have access to these opportunities.

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** Dallas College did a tremendous job of making the important decision of going virtual through the end of Fall 2020. This decision allows students, faculty, and staff more clarity about what to expect in the semester ahead, rather than the confusion that other school districts are facing during these uncertain times. While completion rates may be impacted slightly, other factors may have also contributed (i.e., financial burdens due to COVID, loss of childcare for parents, etc.). Going forward, I'd love to see a plan for identifying and supporting high-risk students, especially marginalized students, in the year ahead.

**ONE COLLEGE CONFIGURATION:** The recent merging of the seven colleges, now known as Dallas College, is an exciting opportunity for the College to continue improving student, faculty, and staff experiences and working to reduce disparities by campus and racial groups. The new configuration allows for a more streamlined approach to creating structures that support students through the completion of their degree or certification programs. In the midst of the pandemic, the College will need to partner with the community to better understand their needs and to ensure priorities are aligned with those needs. Transparency will be essential moving ahead.

**ONLINE COURSES:** Online courses play an important role in the community college experience. They create access to students who need more flexible schedules due to various reasons, such as family and work responsibilities that make in-person learning difficult. Online courses can also be taught synchronously (live virtual instruction) or asynchronously (pre-recorded instruction), offering students different ways to engage in learning. I believe online courses are necessary, especially in the midst of the pandemic, when learning must be accessed remotely. Overall, online courses are a great choice for community college students today.

**OPPORTUNITY/CHALLENGE:** One of the biggest challenges for Dallas College will be its ability to prepare its students for a post-COVID workforce and economy. Current trends of rising college enrollments demonstrate a need for institutions to meet the increasing demands of larger and more diverse student populations. Community colleges, like Dallas College, offer students an affordable higher education option, and are better equipped for virtual learning, a necessity in today's world. Dallas College has the opportunity to be a top choice for students seeking to gain a new degree or certification and for employers seeking exceptional talent.

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**Diana Flores**

## For Member of Board of Trustees, Dist 6

college credits while they are in high school without having to pay for tuition and books. The PTech High Schools and Collegiate Academies are other innovative models that we have for students to earn college credit while in high school. These programs have been widely expanded in several Dallas County ISDs with my support. Dallas College is a leader in the nation in this area; the more, the better!

**DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC:** I would rate Dallas College's performance during the pandemic as superior. Classes were moved online within a two-week timeframe and staff worked remotely. We have followed all CDC guidelines and have taken additional steps to minimize exposure to the virus while students and staff may be on our campuses. Students did better in completion of courses and grades (10% increase) this spring than they have done in previous, regular in-person semesters. Going forward, we will continue to offer online courses and offer the availability of complete degree and certificate programs online, something we did not offer previously.

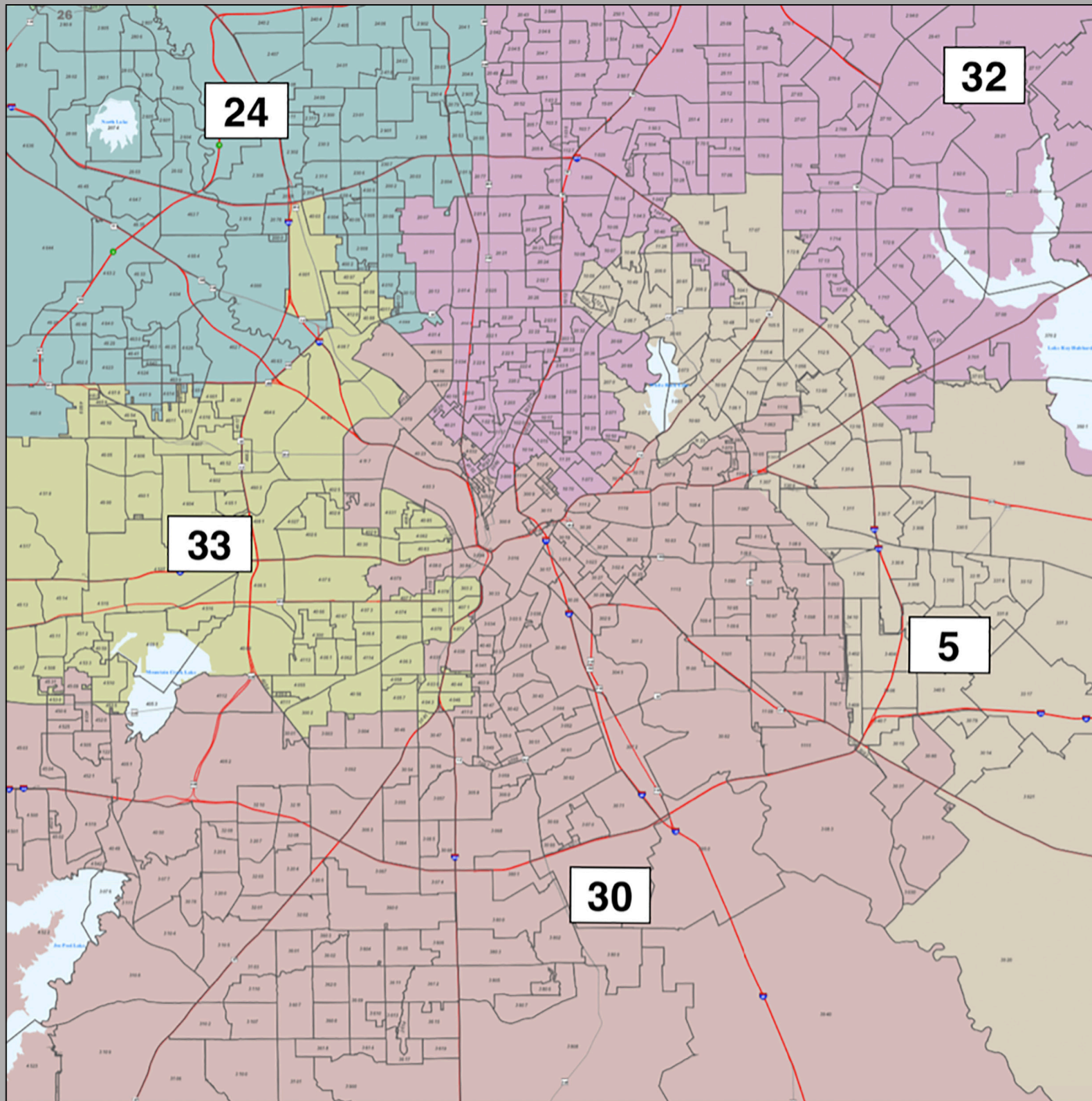
**ONE COLLEGE CONFIGURATION:** Every student, every community is important to Dallas College. Our mission - to transform lives and communities through higher education - demonstrates the importance we place on positively impacting every student and every community. Existing programs which have positive impacts on students will continue. New programs may be developed as the need arises to assure we are serving the 21st century needs of students and communities. As Chair of the Board of Trustees, I formed the first-ever Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee so that we are more deliberate in our efforts to foster and support DEI.

**ONLINE COURSES:** For students who can successfully acclimate to online courses, this modality makes it possible for them to work on their degrees on the days/times that work best for them, whether that be at 2:00 pm or 2:00 am. This option is especially beneficial for working adults who want a college education that will qualify them for better-paying jobs. The lecture portion with the professor is taught online, usually in the evenings. They then work on the required assignments in their own time with a set deadline to submit them. A major trade-off is not being able to connect as easily with other students nor build collegiality.

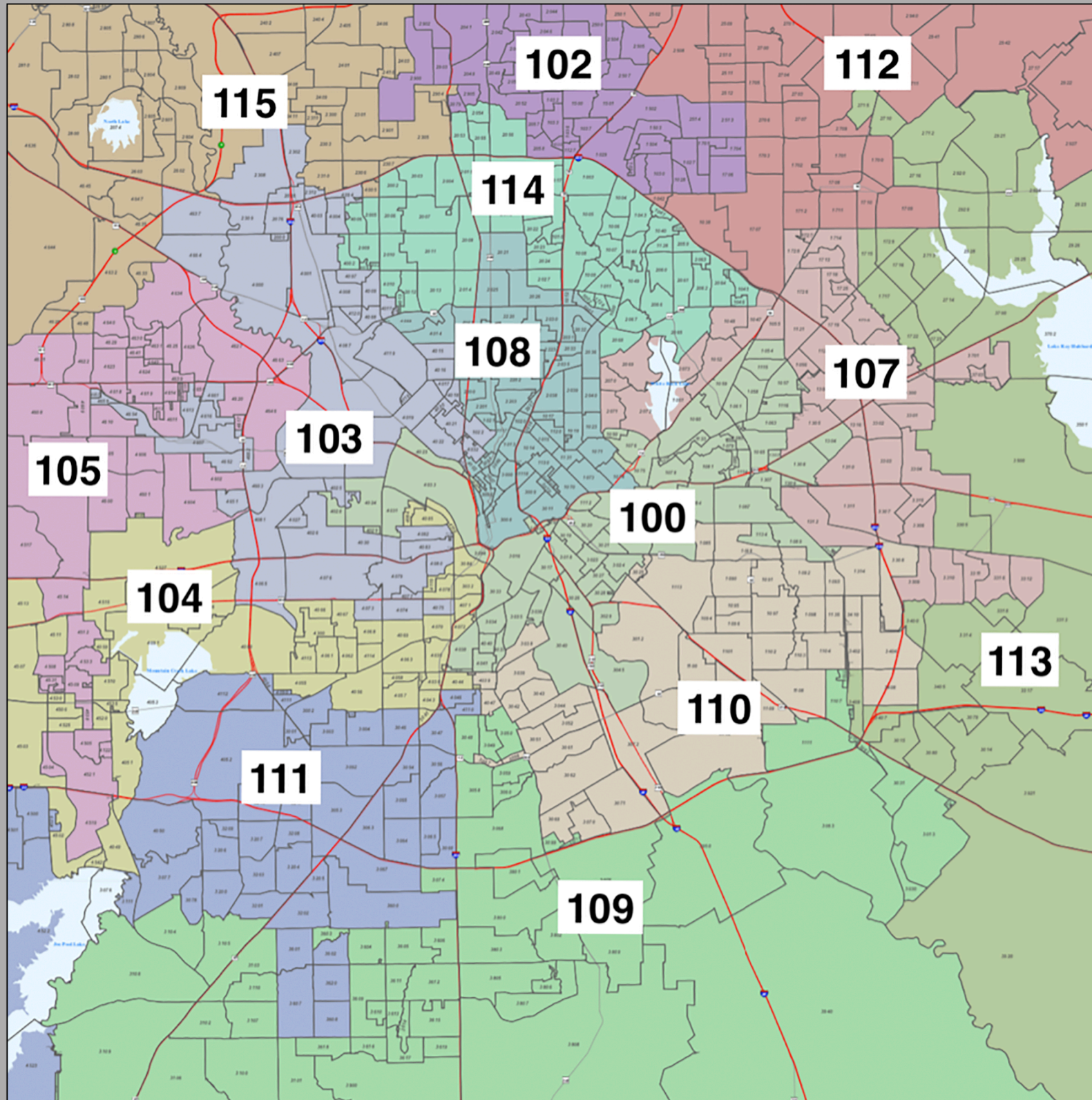
**OPPORTUNITY/CHALLENGE:** The biggest opportunity is to continue to build the Dallas College structure in a way that works best for students by removing barriers to completing their education because we are now one college instead of seven. Being set up as seven colleges inadvertently caused inconsistent processes for the students and presented unintended barriers. Another opportunity is to be able to respond more nimbly to the new training and education programs needed because of the new jobs being created in this ever-expanding technological world we live in. Again, working through one college instead of seven creates new opportunities.

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# Dallas County — U.S. Congressional District Map



# Dallas County — Texas House District Map



# Dallas County Commissioners District Map

