2026 GENERAL ELECTION ★ NOVEMBER 3 ★ EARLY VOTING: OCT. 19–OCT. 30

VOTERS ★ GUIDE

by the League of Women Voters of Texas, League of Women Voters of the Austin Area, & League of Women Voters of Williamson County

VOTING IN THE 2026 GENERAL ELECTION

WHEN

Travis County:

Early Voting:
Monday (10/19)–Saturday (10/24): 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.
Sunday (10/25): 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.
Monday (10/26)–Friday (10/30): 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.*
*Some locations will be open until 10:00 p.m. on the last two days of Early Voting

Election Day: Tuesday (11/3): 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

Williamson County:

Early Voting:
Monday (10/19)–Saturday (10/24): 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.
Sunday (10/25): 12:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.
Monday (10/26)–Friday (10/30): 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

Election Day: Tuesday (11/3): 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

Scan or click on a QR code below for information in your county on polling locations, how to check your voter registration, finding a sample ballot, voting by mail, and so much more!

Travis County

Williamson County

VOTERS GUIDE KEY

The following abbreviations are used throughout the *Voters Guide* to designate each candidate's political party or candidate status:

R = Republican **D** = Democratic
L = Libertarian **G** = Green **WI** = Write-in

STEPS FOR VOTING

1. Register to vote or verify you are already registered to vote. Questions? Find our voter registration guide using the QR code.
2. Find your sample ballot to see what races and ballot measures will be on it using the QR code.
3. Research the candidates and ballot measure topics by using this *Voters Guide*, online at **VOTE411.org**, or using any other method you want. Learn what each elected position does via the QR code.
4. Print your sample ballot, this *Voters Guide*, or your **VOTE411.org** printout, and mark your selections. If you don't have a printer, you can write down your selections on a piece of paper.

   Note: Using electronic devices (e.g., mobile phones) at polling locations is prohibited. This is why we recommend having your selections on paper.
5. Take your photo ID and your piece of paper with your selections to a polling location during Early Voting or on Election Day. Find out what IDs are allowed by scanning the QR code or looking in the back of this *Voters Guide*.
6. Walk up to the reception desk at the polling location and show your ID. Poll workers will ask you to confirm you still live at your registered address, then you'll sign your name to get a blank ballot.
7. Take your blank ballot, walk over to an open voting machine, slide your ballot into the machine, and use the touchscreen to make your selections (you can use your paper with your selections as a reference).
8. When you're done, review and print your completed ballot, walk over to the ballot box, and slide your completed ballot into the ballot box.

   Congratulations! You voted! Take an "I Voted" sticker and wear it proudly!

Want to vote by mail? See instructions at: **LWVTexas.org/votebymail**.

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NATIONAL U.S. SENATOR

Six-year term. One of two members of the U.S. Senate from Texas. With the U.S. House, the Senate makes laws; raises revenues, appropriates federal funds and manages the federal debt; regulates commerce among states and with other nations; declares war and maintains and regulates the military; establishes the federal court system and defines federal crimes; and directs the census every ten years. 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. Current annual salary: $174,000

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

Economy: What policies would you support to reduce income inequality and expand economic opportunity?

Balance of Power: What specific actions would you take to protect the Constitution's system of checks and balances?

Healthcare: What specific steps would you take to make healthcare more affordable for American families?

Voting Rights: What voting rights legislation would you support to ensure voters' ability to participate in our democratic processes?

Ken Paxton (R)

Qualifications: Prior to Attorney General, I was a legislator and business owner. As a dad to three amazing daughters and a great son, I know politics has real consequences. So I lead with Texans at the forefront.

Economy: The American Dream is slowly slipping away, and with it, economic opportunity. That's why my "Protecting the Texas Promise" plan will help Americans as costs continue to skyrocket. My plan will provide the largest tax relief in a generation and put thousands of dollars back in Texans' pockets to buy a home, raise a family, and live a healthy lifestyle without struggling.

Balance of Power: As your next Senator from Texas, I look forward to voting to confirm judges who will strictly uphold the Constitution and the rule of law, not legislate from the federal bench. Further, one of the most sacred check-and-balances we have as Americans is our election system. That's why I look forward to working to protect our democracy and our elections.

Healthcare: While chronic illness continues to rise, corporations continue to profit. America continues to spend more than any other nation on healthcare, and the results do not align. That's why as Attorney General, I repeatedly took on Big Pharma for their deceptive practices, and as Senator I look forward to continuing to fight for healthier outcomes, transparency, and accountability in healthcare.

Voting Rights: Every citizen in the U.S. has the right to vote and to know that their vote counts. When a criminal illegal alien commits voter fraud, every citizen's vote is disenfranchised. That's why I look forward to working to pass the Save America Act that will require voter ID for federal elections; because it will preserve the faith and trust in our electoral process that every citizen deserves.

Campaign Website: KenPaxton.com

James Talarico (D)

Qualifications: I'm a former middle school teacher, Presbyterian seminarian, and Texas State Representative. I've passed bipartisan bills to lower the cost of prescription drugs, child care, and housing.

Economy: We need a government that serves working people instead of giant corporations by: closing tax loopholes that billionaires and corporations exploit, raising the corporate tax, raising the tax on corporate stock buybacks, passing a cost-of-living tax cut, and incentivizing raising wages by creating a tax on corporations that pay their top executives more than 250 times their median worker's salary.

Balance of Power: I will prioritize legislation to cap campaign contributions at every level of government, ban dark money groups and super PACs, and ban partisan gerrymandering so that every American has an equal say in our politics and our policymaking. I will outlaw Congressional stock trading and impose term limits on Supreme Court Justices and Members of Congress — and hold them to high ethical standards.

Healthcare: In the legislature, I capped insulin at $25 and imported cheaper drugs into the US. As Senator, I'll ensure every American can access a public healthcare option, cap copays for more prescription drugs, protect reproductive care, save rural hospitals, and break up the healthcare monopolies driving up prices. I'll protect Medicaid, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act and fully fund the VA.

Voting Rights: In the Legislature, I broke quorum twice to fight back against gerrymandering and defend the freedom to vote. In the Senate, I will cap campaign contributions, ban dark money groups and super PACs, and ban partisan gerrymandering so that every American has an equal say in our politics and our policymaking. We must also pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to protect our right to vote.

Campaign Website: jamestalarico.com

VOTE 411
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

Ted Brown (L)

Qualifications: I've been an activist for liberty my entire adult life, promoting personal freedom, economic freedom, and an anti-war foreign policy. My professional experience has been in the insurance industry.

Economy: More economic opportunity will lead to reduced income inequality. I strongly support small business and entrepreneurship and want people to be able to easily start their own businesses without all kinds of licensing and red tape to hold them back. We need to encourage job creation with lower taxes and less business regulation. We need to encourage more young people to learn high-paying trades.

Balance of Power: Congress needs to re-assert their constitutional role as the legislative branch. I oppose presidents governing by executive order, since this violates the Constitution. Executive orders should need congressional approval to go into effect. Congress has abdicated their warmaking powers, and presidents ignore any oversight. Congress must cut off war funding to rein in the President.

Healthcare: We need less government in healthcare, since that involvement drives up costs. Obamacare should be repealed. Insurance companies should be able to offer different types of policies, like catastrophic care. Consumers should be able to buy drugs from other countries. Open up medical training to more students to become doctors to allow more competition. Less red tape and regulation is needed.

Voting Rights: Voter choice is limited by laws that make it hard for alternative party candidates to run for office. I would make it easier to run. It should be easier to vote, both in person or by mail. I reject Republican voter fraud paranoia and see no evidence that ineligible people have been voting. I oppose the SAVE Act, since there's no reason to make it hard for people to register to vote.

Campaign Website: tedbrown.org

Avery Ayers (WI)

Please see **VOTE411.org** for responses.

Bradford "Brad" Hall (WI)

Please see **VOTE411.org** for responses.

Zul Mohamed (WI)

Please see **VOTE411.org** for responses.

Jade Simmons (Independent) (WI)

Please see **VOTE411.org** for responses.

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NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. Representatives are elected from congressional districts to serve in the Congressional House. They propose and vote on federal laws, taxes, and spending, and elect the Speaker of the House. The House also has the power to bring impeachment charges against federal officials. Representatives serve two-year terms.

DISTRICT 10

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Healthcare: What steps should Congress take, if any, to ensure that healthcare is effective, affordable, and accessible for all Americans?

Affordability: What will you do to combat the underlying issues driving the inflation rate such as the rising costs of housing, childcare, energy, and groceries?

Immigration: What steps should Congress take, if any, to assure that the U.S. immigration system is both effective and humane?

Checks and Balances: What does Congress need to do, if anything, to preserve the Constitution's checks and balances to keep the government accountable to the people?

Chris Gober (R)

No response received

Caitlin Rourk (D)

Qualifications: Army intelligence officer, private-sector leader, and experience working on bipartisan policy issues. I've learned to solve complex problems and put mission over politics.

Healthcare: Congress should protect and strengthen the Affordable Care Act, lower prescription drug costs, increase competition and price transparency, protect rural hospitals, and hold insurers accountable. I'll fight to expand affordable coverage and make health care costs more transparent and predictable for American families.

Affordability: People are working hard and still not getting ahead. I'll tackle the underlying costs by building more housing, expanding childcare supply, lowering health care and prescription drug costs, and supporting reliable, affordable American energy. We also need predictable trade and tax policies that reward work and give businesses the certainty to invest, grow, and create jobs.

Immigration: For too long, both parties have used immigration as a political weapon instead of solving it. I'll work for a system that is secure, orderly, and humane: securing the border, investing in technology and ports of entry, adding asylum officers and judges, expanding legal pathways, and providing an earned path for Dreamers and long-term residents.

Checks and Balances: Congress must reclaim its constitutional role, regardless of who is President. That means conducting real oversight, enforcing the power of the purse, protecting independent inspectors general and whistleblowers, demanding transparency, and strengthening safeguards against corruption and abuses of executive power.

Campaign Website: www.caitlinrourk.com

DISTRICT 11

Background: What training and experience qualify you to serve as a Representative for Texas Congressional District 11?

Issues: What are the most pressing issues facing the next session of Congress?

Priorities: What are your three top priorities for the next session of Congress?

Affordability: What will you do to combat the underlying issues driving the inflation rate such as the rising costs of housing, childcare, energy, and groceries?

Concerns: What legislation would you support or introduce to address the top concerns of voters in Texas Congressional District 11?

August Pfluger (R)

No response received

Claire Reynolds (D)

Background: I've been an attorney for 25 years, and for the past decade I was responsible for prosecuting attorney misconduct at the State Bar of Texas. I don't like bullies, and I can't stand injustice. But more than that, I know how to hold my peers accountable when they put their own interests ahead of their clients–or their constituents. I'm also a mother who has raised four teens, so nothing scares me.

Issues: I believe the most important issue facing this country is that billionaires and corporate interests have far too big a say in determining who is elected. Until we address that, politicians will continue voting for corporate interests over the interests of the hardworking, everyday Americans who they're supposed to represent. I will work to fight big money's influence in our elections, institute term limits, and ban members of Congress from owning individual stocks.

Priorities: In addition to fighting the outsized power held by the ultra-wealthy over our elected representatives, I want to pass legislation to: 1: Make healthcare more affordable–extending the ACA subsidies while working to find a long-term solution to the problem of high premiums. 2: Overhaul our immigration system– focusing on making it fair, predictable, and humane. And 3: Ensure that women have the right to the healthcare they need–including making their own reproductive decisions and decisions over their own medical care during pregnancy.

Affordability: The biggest driver of inflation right now is that the Strait of Hormuz remains closed due to the ongoing war with Iran. I will work to get us out of that war as quickly and as painlessly as possible. In addition, we need to eliminate the pointless tariffs employed by the current administration, in a blunder resulting in a regressive tax that hits those struggling the most. Lastly, I want to improve our guest worker program, as the cost of food and housing have been driven higher by the indiscriminate, overzealous, and ill-advised deportation of immigrant workers that our economy depends on.

Concerns: I would introduce legislation giving local communities the power to determine whether or not a data center can be built in their area and what kind of regulations it must follow if it is. In addition, I would support any legislation to limit eminent domain, so that landowners cannot have their land taken for things like the 765kv extra high voltage electric transmission lines.

Campaign Website: www.clairereynoldsforcongress.org/

DISTRICT 17

Pete Sessions (R)

No response received

Casey Shepard (D)

No response received

SAVE TIME—USE OUR INTERACTIVE *VOTERS GUIDE*

More information about the candidates can be reviewed by visiting **VOTE411.org**, a one-stop online resource for upcoming elections made possible by the League of Women Voters Education Fund. Simply enter your address to find your polling place, build your ballot with our online *Voters Guide*, and compare candidates side by side. Answers from candidates who didn't respond by the print deadline may be available online.

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NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 27

Q1: What education/training and experience qualify you for this position?

Q2: What should be Congress's role in protecting all eligible citizens' access to voting while ensuring election integrity?

Q3: Are there Congressional actions necessary to ensure America has reliable, affordable energy while protecting the environment?

Q4: What should the role of Congress be regarding public lands?

Q5: In your opinion, how should Congress maintain the separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches?

Q6: What is your position on federal spending priorities and strategies for addressing the national debt?

Michael Cloud (R)

No response received

Tanya Lloyd (D)

A1: I've taught kindergarten and first grade in rural Texas for 20 years, watching federal policy play out in the daily lives of working families. My husband Scott and I led our local 4-H club. We support FFA, and help fund scholarships for local students. I grew up on, and still live on, the family farm my parents built with my father's VA benefits. I've driven 50,000+ miles across every county of TX-27 listening to voters, and building real campaign infrastructure. Congress needs a kindergarten teacher: someone who listens, tells the truth, and puts people first.

A2: Congress must protect every eligible citizen's right to vote; that is how you protect election integrity. I support restoring the Voting Rights Act, automatic, same-day, and online voter registration, and mail-in voting for all. The real threat to integrity isn't voters, it's partisan gerrymandering that lets politicians pick their voters instead of the reverse. I support banning partisan gerrymandering and creating independent redistricting commissions so district lines are drawn fairly. Democracy works when every legal vote is counted, clearly and without obstruction, under fair rules.

A3: Yes. I support an "All of the Above" energy strategy: high-paying jobs in solar, wind, hydrogen, and geothermal, while keeping our traditional energy sectors the cleanest and most efficient in the world. Texas should lead the nation's energy transition. But reliability and affordability start with protecting the grid: unchecked AI data center growth is driving up rural utility bills and straining water and farmland. I've called for a federal moratorium on new data centers until we ensure they won't harm communities, resources, or ratepayers. Energy policy should serve people here first, not big tech.

A4: Congress's most urgent public-lands job right now is stopping the bulldozers tearing through Big Bend National Park. In June, an amendment was put forward in the House Appropriations Committee that would have barred DHS from bulldozing through Big Bend National Park and State Park, while maintaining sensors and cameras for border security. Some places are too precious to bulldoze for a wall that covers less than 1% of border crossings. I would have voted to protect Big Bend, and I'll fight to stop this destruction in Congress.

A5: Congress has let too much of its own constitutional authority slip away. This is especially true for war powers by refusing to assert Congress's authority over unauthorized war. The Constitution gives Congress, not the executive, power to declare war, and Congress must reclaim that authority. We must apply that same principle across the board to ensure that Congress is not writing blank checks for authoritarian policies that threaten our way of life.

A6: We must ensure billionaires and big corporations pay their fair share instead of shifting the burden onto working families. I'd raise the Social Security tax cap so the ultra-wealthy don't stop contributing at $184,500 of income. On spending, I'd prioritize childcare, rural hospitals, schools, and infrastructure. Instead of spending billions for unauthorized war and tax cuts for billionaires and corporations, I'd focus on the needs here at home in our district.

Wayne Raasch (WI)

No response received

DISTRICT 31

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

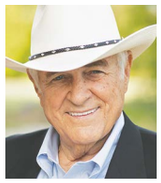
Healthcare: What steps should Congress take, if any, to ensure that healthcare is effective, affordable, and accessible for all Americans?

Affordability: What will you do to combat the underlying issues driving the inflation rate such as the rising costs of housing, childcare, energy, and groceries?

Immigration: What steps should Congress take, if any, to assure that the U.S. immigration system is both effective and humane?

Checks and Balances: What does Congress need to do, if anything, to preserve the Constitution's checks and balances to keep the government accountable to the people?

John Carter (R)



Qualifications: Before I was a U.S. Representative, I was a district court judge in Williamson County for 21 years. I was an attorney before sitting on the bench.

Healthcare: I believe individuals with pre-existing conditions should be covered by health insurance, and I also agree that health care costs are too high. I cosponsored the Protecting People from Surprise Medical Bills Act, and I've also supported legislation to lower the cost of prescription drugs. I've also appropriated as chairman the highest amount for veteran health care in the history of the VA.

Affordability: I support President Trump's trade policies to make our trade deals fairer. Other countries are taking advantage of American producers, which stifles the economy, jobs, and prices. I supported the Working Families Tax Cuts to safeguard $540 billion in American wages, because families should keep more of their hard-earned money.

Immigration: We must have laws regarding our nation's sovereignty, and it's important to hold those who break the law accountable. I support additional resources for immigration services to do their jobs effectively and humanely. I support more immigration judges so that cases are handled swiftly, and we can reunite families quickly.

Checks and Balances: As a member of the Appropriations Committee, Congress must fulfill its funding obligations and maintain the power of the purse. When Congress does not pass appropriations bills, the government shuts down, which gives the executive branch significant power in the interim. We need to meet our Constitutional responsibilities.

Campaign Website: www.johncarterforcongress.com

Justin Early (D)

Qualifications: Veteran, cybersecurity architect, and small business owner. Protect critical infrastructure, champion civil liberties & tech accountability, & lead w/ community-first, coalition-building values.

Healthcare: Accessible healthcare, by ensuring coverage through a federal fallback for Medicaid and supporting community clinics that bring care directly to neighborhoods.

Affordability: Affordability starts with supply and accountability. I'll back zoning reform to build more housing, push tax credits to cap childcare costs, expand domestic energy production to lower utility bills, and support antitrust enforcement against price-fixing in groceries. Real relief means fixing root causes, not just naming problems.

Immigration: Immigration should be fair, just, and humane. I'll push for a clear pathway to citizenship, end family separation and for-profit detention, protect Dreamers permanently, and defend naturalized citizens' rights from polit-

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NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 31

Justin Early (D) (*continued*)

ical attacks. Real border security and due process aren't opposites. I'll fight for both.

Checks and Balances: Congress must reclaim its constitutional authority, not defer it to the executive. I'll push to restore war powers and spending oversight, protect inspectors general from political removal, strengthen whistleblower protections, and defend an independent judiciary. Checks and balances only work if Congress has the backbone to use them, regardless of which party holds the White House.

Campaign Website: VoteJustinEarly.com

Greg Stoker (G)

No response received

DISTRICT 37

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

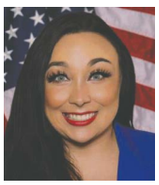
Healthcare: What steps should Congress take, if any, to ensure that healthcare is effective, affordable, and accessible for all Americans?

Affordability: What will you do to combat the underlying issues driving the inflation rate such as the rising costs of housing, childcare, energy, and groceries?

Immigration: What steps should Congress take, if any, to assure that the U.S. immigration system is both effective and humane?

Checks and Balances: What does Congress need to do, if anything, to preserve the Constitution's checks and balances to keep the government accountable to the people?

Lauren B. Peña (R)



Qualifications: As a mother living in the heart of the district, Lauren brings public policy experience, legal advocacy, legislative experience, grassroots leadership, and firsthand knowledge of our community.

Healthcare: Lauren will fight to expand competition by allowing health insurance to be sold across state lines, giving families more affordable choices. We should strengthen price transparency, expand health savings accounts, reduce unnecessary regulations, protect patients with preexisting conditions, and preserve the freedom to choose one's own doctor and coverage.

Affordability: Lauren will fight reckless federal spending, reduce burdensome regulations, restore American energy independence, and strengthen domestic supply chains to lower everyday costs. I will support tax relief for working families, expand housing supply by cutting federal barriers, and promote flexible, market-based childcare options that respect parents' choices.

Immigration: Lauren will fight for lawful immigration pathways, improve case processing, combat human trafficking, keep families together when safely possible, and treat every person with dignity while protecting American sovereignty and public safety.

Checks and Balances: Lauren will fight for Congress to reclaim its constitutional authority, conduct strong oversight, enforce subpoenas, control federal spending, and stop delegating lawmaking power to unelected agencies. She will defend the separation of powers regardless of which party is in control and keep government accountable to the American people.

Campaign Website: lauren4congress.com

Greg Casar (D)

Qualifications: I was elected to Congress in 2022 and chair the Congressional Progressive Caucus, leading the fight against Trump and for working people. I served as an Austin City Council Member and labor organizer.

Healthcare: I strongly opposed Trump's cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act, which are devastating our health care system. I support a Medicare for All system to ensure that every American has access to high quality healthcare, and I support bringing down the cost of prescription drugs.

Affordability: I oppose Trump's blanket tariffs, cuts to Medicaid, and reckless war in Iran that are all driving up prices. I support cracking down on corporations that are ripping off working families. I have proposed new bills to bring down the cost of utilities and everything Americans buy online. As Progressive Caucus chair, I have championed the New Affordability agenda to bring down prices.

Immigration: Trump is attacking immigrants who have done nothing wrong, tearing apart our community. I have stood up for our immigrant communities and led the charge to hold Trump accountable. Congress must pass comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship and pass bills to rein in Trump's abuses and keep families together, not rip them apart.

Checks and Balances: Congress must pursue vigorous oversight of the Trump Administration, and it must reassert its role to stop Trump from misusing taxpayer dollars. Meanwhile, we must strengthen anti-corruption laws to make the government answer to the people, not billionaires. And we must reform the courts so they follow the law, not special interests.

Campaign Website: www.casarforcongress.com

STATE GOVERNOR

Four-year term. The governor is the chief executive of the state. They appoint members to boards and commissions; appoint statewide executive officials, state judges and district attorneys when vacancies occur; declare special elections to fill vacancies in certain elected offices; deliver the State of the State address; provide guidance to the legislature; call special sessions of the legislature and set the agenda; and serve as commander-in-chief of the state's military forces. The governor can veto legislation (including a line-item veto on appropriations), sign legislation, or allow it to become law without their signature. Current annual salary: $153,750

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

Healthcare: What would you do to make health care more affordable for Texans?

Immigration: How would you address immigration issues affecting our state while ensuring all individuals within our borders have access to due process protections?

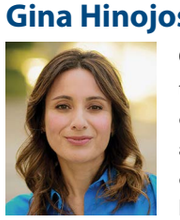
Education: What would you do to ensure that public schools are adequately and reliably funded?

Elections: As Governor, how would you empower voters to participate in democracy?

Greg Abbott (R)

No response received

Gina Hinojosa (D)



Qualifications: I'm running for governor to build opportunity, not division. As a civil rights attorney, public education advocate, and legislator, I've spent my career delivering for working Texans.

Healthcare: Every Texan deserves affordable, high-quality health care. I'll deliver billions for local health systems and will expand coverage, insure every Texas

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STATE GOVERNOR

Gina Hinojosa (D) (*continued*)

child, and rein in insurers that profit from bad-faith denials and prior authorization red tape. We need transparency and accountability so families get the care they already paid for.

Immigration: We can secure the border while treating immigrants humanely and protecting due process. Longtime, law-abiding residents should have a path to legal status. Fear-driven crackdowns that separate law abiding families and deter witnesses from cooperating with law enforcement make communities less safe, not more.

Education: I've fought Abbott's voucher scheme and for real, reliable funding for neighborhood public schools. As governor, I'll wipe clean the corrupt vendor contracts to raise teacher pay, end the voucher scam, and ensure Texans' taxpayer dollars go where they belong: into the neighborhood schools families depend on.

Elections: I've filed and supported dozens of bills to expand voting access, including online voter registration and better ballot access for students. I led the 2021 quorum break to protect Sunday voting and oppose barriers targeting eligible voters. I also support an independent redistricting commission so politicians can't pick their voters.

Campaign Website: www.ginafortexas.com

Pat Dixon (L)

Qualifications: Twice elected to city council Served 10 years as chair of Libertarian Party of Texas Have held executive positions in political, nonprofit, and industry **https://www.linkedin.com/in/dixonpatrick/**

Healthcare: The governor has leverage over health-care affordability, but many of the biggest changes require the Legislature, and some require cooperation from the federal government. Allowing more choice and competition will lower prices. While restrictions to new hospitals and health care have been reduced, I defend the free market. Open the market to new competitors and lower cost providers.

Immigration: If you are peaceful and productive, welcome Trump has dramatically reduced border crossings, but the ends don't justify the means. Praising Trump for these results while killing and harassing people is like being happy if crime was eliminated by putting everyone in prison. **https://patdixon.org/the-border/**

Education: Ideally, I would like a statewide scholarship. Every child would be given the same amount of money to follow them to any school. This would resolve the Robin Hood (Chapter 41) disputes and remove politically motivated testing mandates. **https://patdixon.org/parent-teacher-empowerment/**

Elections: When you can only choose one candidate on the ballot, the incentive is for candidates to attack each other. There is no incentive for common ground. I favor Approval Voting, where you can vote for any candidate you approve of. **https://patdixon.org/non-partisan-redistricting/ https://patdixon.org/approval-voting/ https://patdixon.org/election-integrity/**

Campaign Website: patdixon.org/

STATE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Four-year term. The lieutenant governor is powerful because of their position as president of the Texas Senate, where they appoint the chairs and vice-chairs of committees; appoint senators to committees; assign bills to committees; and control the Senate's agenda. They are also a member of several commissions and boards, and serve as governor in the governor's absence. Current annual salary: $7,200 plus $221 for every day the Legislature is in session, including any special sessions.

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

Women's Health: What changes need to be made to Texas abortion laws to ensure women have access to proper medical care in the event of pregnancy complications?

Water: What legislation would you support to address the electricity and water demands of data centers while maintaining reliability and affordability for Texans?

Education: What would you do to ensure that public schools are adequately and reliably funded?

Elections: What election legislation would you bring to the floor?

Dan Patrick (R)

No response received

Vikki Goodwin (D)

Qualifications: I've served 8 years in the TX Legislature and have worked across the aisle to pass meaningful laws. I'm a small business owner, mom, wife, involved community leader, graduate of UT & the LBJ School.

Women's Health: Too many women are dying in Texas due to pregnancy complications. Texas has the highest number of deaths in the US due to pregnancy/postpartum issues. Women need to be able to make their own personal, private healthcare decisions in consultation with their doctors, and doctors need to be able to practice their full scope of medicine without fear of losing their license or going to prison.

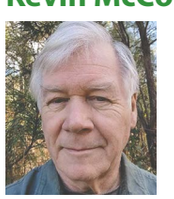
Water: Legislation should: 1) require data center developers to provide information about how much water and energy they will use and where it will come from, 2) ensure costs for new transmission are not pushed onto household ratepayers, 3) end all data center sales tax exemptions, 4) allow counties land use authority and strengthen in cities, 5) ensure energy and water needs don't exceed capacity.

Education: The Texas Constitution calls for the provision of a free public education, not private education. I would end the voucher program in order to better fund our public schools. We must catch up to inflation; increase the basic allotment to at least $7500/student with a provision to keep up with inflation through automatic adjustments. Simplify the formula, and base it on enrollment not attendance.

Elections: I would bring: 1) online voter registration, 2) improvements to vote by mail: no numbers required on the back of the envelope, online mail-in ballot request processing, 3) college student IDs accepted as forms of identification, and 4) improved high school civics classes. Given the recent attempts to decrease the number of polling locations in some counties, better polling location requirements.

Campaign Website: Goodwin4Texas.com

Kevin McCormick (G)



Qualifications: I have a degree in Political Science and a Law degree. I have practiced law, worked in agriculture, managed small business, and taught high school math. I am familiar with all the regions of Texas.

Women's Health: I have a detailed proposal on public health. I favor expansion of FQHC clinics, taking full advantage of Medicaid, and expanding access. I would seek to repeal laws that discourage specializing in women's care or single out providers who offer abortion related services. I believe abortion is primarily the choice of the woman up to about 24 weeks. Also, it should be easier to have children.

Water: I am opposed to tax breaks or incentives to data centers and they should pay for any increased capacity they require. Water use should be strictly limited and pollution forbidden. I am skeptical of the business case for data centers.

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STATE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Kevin McCormick (G) (*continued*)

I believe they are part of the AI bubble and an example of Wall Street mal-investment and of how our monetary system is not appropriate for the future.
Education: The state wastes a lot of money with high-stakes testing and excessive bureaucracy, which should be spent on teacher and parent resources and the well being of students. The voucher program is a threat to public education funding and should be repealed or at least means tested. I would consider the state acquiring school district bond debt and collecting only the principal, waiving interest.
Elections: I have a detailed election code reform proposal. I propose ranked-choice voting, a statewide primary for four parties and independents, reduced candidate filing fees, more polling places with better access, and a constitutional amendment with rules for electoral districts to eliminate gerrymandering. The voters' power in democracy must be restored.
Campaign Website: kmm2026.org

Anthony Cristo (L)

No response received

Arturo Espinosa (WI)

Please see **VOTE411.org** for responses.

Stephen Samuelson (WI)

Please see **VOTE411.org** for responses.

STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Four-year term. The attorney general is the chief law enforcement officer of the state; represents the state and state officials in legal matters; issues opinions; oversees collection of child support; administers the crime victims compensation fund; enforces the open records/open meetings acts; approves public bond issues; and enforces consumer regulations. Current annual salary: $153,750

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

Elections: How would you protect Texans' voting rights while maintaining election security?

Immigration: How would you address immigration issues affecting our state while ensuring all individuals in Texas have access to due process protections?

Ethics: How would you increase public trust that the office is acting fairly and ethically?

Litigation: What is your position on legal actions against other states that provide abortion medications?

Mayes Middleton (R)

No response received

Nathan Johnson (D)

Qualifications: As a Texas state senator, Ipassed more than 100 bills affecting virtually every policy space; built coalitions and led with independence and political judgment; commercial litigation practice.
Elections: Enforce existing election security laws without bias or political motive. Work closely with counties to ensure all rules are followed, election workers are not harassed, and voters are not intimidated. Challenge federal overreach in court (example: attempt to immediately block mail-in voting).
Immigration: Immigration concerns the AG related to public safety, individual constitutional rights, and separation of powers. Where appropriate I will work with federal authorities, but will not re-direct the AG's office away from its constitutional and statutory obligations. I will use investigative powers to counter threats from border activity and ensure that federal officers respect constitutional rights.
Ethics: It took time to lose the public trust; restoring it will take time also. I will end the culture of corruption and politically-motivated investigations and lawsuits, and direct the office toward functions it was intended to serve: consumer protection, fair market enforcement, investigating and fighting corruption, assisting law enforcement, upholding the rule of law and preserving individual rights
Litigation: Texas law does not have extra-territorial jurisdiction.
Campaign Website: www.nathanfortexas.com

Tom Oxford (L)

Qualifications: With over 40 years of trial experience, including almost 20 years in management positions, I am fully qualified to both represent the state and manage the office.
Elections: Every citizen has a right to vote. I will take all steps necessary to enforce that right. That will include using the power of the AG's office to block any efforts to intimidate voters at the polling locations. I also support easy voter access with more polling locations and secure mail in voting.
Immigration: Due process applies to all of our neighbors, regardless of their legal status. It is a fundamental right recognized and protected by both the U.S. and Texas Constitutions. We can protect our borders without walking away from our founding principles. To the extent possible, I will use the powers of the AG's office to protect and promote due process.
Ethics: Limited only by the obligation of attorney/client confidentiality, my office will be completely open and transparent. The days of back room deals and false narratives will end.
Litigation: These efforts will be ended on my first day in office. The state should have no involvement in decisions about our personal health.

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STATE COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Four-year term. The comptroller is the chief financial officer of the state; collects state taxes and fees; pays the state's bills; provides revenue estimates to the legislature; certifies the budget; reports the condition of the state's finances; and provides economic development assistance to local governments and private businesses. Current annual salary: $153,750

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

Budget Surplus: How do you think Texas should use its Budget Surplus?

Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs): What oversight measures will you support to ensure that ESAs (school vouchers) are funded and administered transparently?

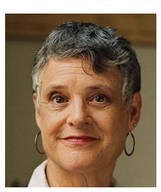
Budget Management: How will you ensure budget transparency so taxpayers can easily see how their money is allocated and spent?

Efficiency: What changes would you make, if any, to the office of the comptroller?

Don Huffines (R)

No response received

Sarah Eckhardt (D)



Qualifications: Lawyer; Master in Public Affairs; State Senator; Travis County Judge; etc - two decades of experience on and managing professional teams, budgets, tax rates, purchasing and contracts.

Budget Surplus: The state has enjoyed two bienniums with historic budget surpluses The Rainy Day Fund is projected to hit $28B. I would tap the fund immediately to assist low income Texans with health insurance costs in the first year after loss of ACA tax credits. I would also advise the Legislature on the cost avoidance and economic benefits of 1-time Fund investments in water infrastructure, statewide extreme

Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs): I will honestly audit the voucher program, showing who benefits most, least or not at all. I will also show how publicly subsidizing exclusive private schools is gutting public schools, which must accept any Texas child and are closing at an alarming rate due to underfunding and overregulation. I will also vigorously review the $50M Odyssey contract to administer the program.

Budget Management: To build public trust, I will pursue modernization in the Comptroller's office to enhance transparency and increase accessibility. There should be a web-based dashboard providing easy-to-navigate overview of revenue and expenditures, supported by clear textual and graphic explanations that make it easy for the average Texan to understand how public funds are invested and performing.

Efficiency: I will immediately rebuild the nonpartisan tax and audit expertise that has either fled or been fired since my opponent's appointment. I will follow the law and follow the money, refocusing the office on fair and efficient tax collection, revenue estimation and economic forecasting and away from punitive & duplicative oversight of public schools and politically motivated investigations.

Campaign Website: saraheckhardt.com

Shehla Faizi (G)

Qualifications: I'm a Texas mom sick of big political donors buying influence on our schools and government. My activism focuses on social and economic justice via my podcast, "I'm a Muslim (And That's Okay!)"

Budget Surplus: Let's invest in Texas, not in foreign countries. We must divest from Texas' $280 million in Israel bonds – no more Texas taxpayer money for ANY foreign bonds. I support using the budget surplus for programs that serve Texans, like public schools, healthcare, and affordable housing. I don't take PAC money, so I work for Texans, not donors. No more tax breaks or handouts to big donors!

Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs): The school voucher program drains money out of our public schools and gives handouts to private schools and education vendors. As Comptroller I would use all legal means and public pressure to end this program and focus on equitable funding for our public schools. Every Texas child should have equal access to an excellent free public school education.

Budget Management: The Comptroller office's website should be much more user-friendly and accessible. It should have clear infographics and charts. There should be an English AND Spanish version of the website. Just like TxDOT has billboards about safe driving, the Comptroller's office should sponsor billboards about the state budget. Most Texans would be surprised to see our state's budget priorities.

Efficiency: The Comptroller's office should be run with honesty, straightforwardness and dedication to the betterment of Texans. Audits must be done without bias. Let's depoliticize Texas taxes, spending, and investments. The Comptroller's office should decline to enforce unconstitutional laws, like the Anti-Boycott of Israel Law and the Anti-Fossil Fuel Boycott Law.

Campaign Website: www.faizifortexas.com

V. Alonzo Echavarria-Garza (L)

No response received

STATE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Four-year term. As head of the General Land Office, the commissioner manages state lands, including oil and gas properties (which supply funds to the Permanent School Fund) and the Alamo. The commissioner chairs the Veterans Land Board, which administers programs for Texas veterans, and is responsible for environmental protection of Texas' coast. Other state boards chaired include the School Land Board and the Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee. Current annual salary: $140, 938

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

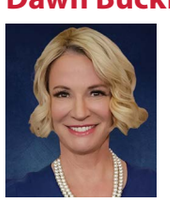
Disaster Recovery: What measures should the state take to respond quickly and effectively to disasters?

Veterans: What new initiatives or programs would you support to help veterans?

Flood Plain Management: What strategies would you support to reduce flooding risk and strengthen long-term community resilience and disaster recovery?

Education Funding: What role should the General Land Office play in making sure that state lands generate long-term financial benefits for Texas public schools?

Dawn Buckingham (R)



Qualifications: As a wife, mom, surgeon, small-business owner, former state senator, and Texas' first female Land Commissioner, I bring real-world experience and a proven record of delivering results for Texans.

Disaster Recovery: Texas must prepare before disaster strikes and act decisively afterward. I will continue to invest in mitigation, resilient infrastructure, and flood planning; strengthen state, local and federal coordination; and cut red

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STATE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Dawn Buckingham (R) (*continued*)

tape so aid reaches families faster. Recovery must help Texans return home, reopen businesses and rebuild stronger. Planning saves lives, property, and tax dollars.

Veterans: Texas is home to millions of Veterans, and we must help them thrive after service. As Veterans Land Board chair, I delivered nearly $2 billion in loans to over 7,200 Veterans and their families, raised the home-loan limit, expanded land loans and stewarded 10 Veterans Homes and 5 Veterans Cemeteries. I will keep expanding access to homeownership, employment, healthcare, and long-term care.

Flood Plain Management: The GLO has delivered billions in flood mitigation during my tenure. I will continue investing in drainage and mitigation projects, improve floodplain planning, strengthen critical infrastructure and help communities prepare before storms arrive. The GLO will direct resources toward projects that protect homes, businesses, roads, and schools. Investments today will better protect Texans tomorrow.

Education Funding: The GLO must maximize the long-term value of state lands for Texas schoolchildren. I have generated over $6 billion for public education without raising taxes. We will responsibly develop oil, gas, rare earth minerals, geothermal and nuclear energy, and other emerging resources while protecting Texas energy jobs and pursuing opportunities that strengthen our economic engine to benefit all Texans.

Campaign Website: www.dawnbuckingham.com

Benjamin Flores (D)

Qualifications: I've spent almost thirty years in cybersecurity and risk management, and I served on the Bay City City Council. I raise heritage pigs in Matagorda County, so I know land and livestock.

Disaster Recovery: Texans shouldn't wait until disaster strikes to get organized. I'll have recovery vendors vetted and under contract before hurricane season, not after. I'll build recovery teams inside the regional councils of governments so local officials aren't starting from scratch. And I'll publish where every dollar goes and how long each step should take.

Veterans: Most veterans I meet have never heard of the Veterans Land Board. So I'd take it to them. I'll put VLB outreach teams in rural and South Texas counties, working alongside county service officers, instead of waiting for applications to show up in Austin. I'll set a published deadline for every loan decision. And I'll keep pushing for a full VA hospital in the Valley.

Flood Plain Management: I live in Matagorda County. Down here, we're getting priced out by insurance long before the next storm shows up. Any home rebuilt with GLO money will meet current flood maps and use stronger roofs and elevation, because that's what brings premiums down. I'll protect the dunes, wetlands and drainage that take the first hit for us.

Education Funding: This is the whole reason the office exists. The Permanent School Fund is worth over $60 billion, and it should be earning from solar, wind and geothermal, not just oil and gas. I'll responsibly lease state land for every dollar it can honestly return, publish what each acre earns, and send more of it to classrooms. That money belongs to schoolkids, not to politics.

Campaign Website: letsgowithben.com

Neill Snider (L)

Qualifications: I have been a Mechanical Contractor for 33 years. I would bring knowledge from my industry to assist the General Land office in all aspects of construction,

Disaster Recovery: Work with local and national food and construction material suppliers to get everything to everybody in storm affected areas. Get money directly to the people in need.

Veterans: I wouldn't create any new programs. I would ensure existing Texas veterans are being well taken care of. If it doesn't already exist, possibly issue a debit card for them to receive treatments at any medical facility in Texas.

Flood Plain Management: Work with nature and not against it. Make changes to areas that might be frequently damaged from storms and hurricanes. Nature eventually wins regardless of what we attempt.

Education Funding: Revenue from the General Land Office goes into the Permanent School fund. Open the Permanent school fund to all Texas school children and not only Public school children. Include Private school and Homeschool children. Let's support all Texas school children.

Campaign Website: voteneillsnider.com

STATE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Four-year term. The agriculture commissioner's principal job is promoting Texas' agricultural products. In that capacity, the commissioner facilitates trade and marketing of agricultural products; regulates weights and measures; regulates pesticide use and application; certifies organically produced products; administers the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs; provides financial help to farmers; and helps solve issues related to natural disasters. Current annual salary: $140,938

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

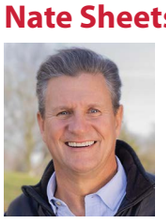
Food Assistance for Children and Schools: How would you ensure the nutritional needs of Texas children are met year-round?

Health: In what ways can the Texas commission work to improve nutrition and public health outcomes?

Protecting Herds and Crops: What would you do to protect Texas ranches and farms from invasive pests (such as the New World Screwworm) and disease?

Water: What policies would you support to balance water usage between the needs of farmers and the development of data centers?

Nate Sheets (R)



Qualifications: I'm a Navy veteran and ag entrepreneur who built America's #1 honey brand from one backyard beehive. I know how to create jobs, grow businesses, and help Texas producers sell more to more customers.

Food Assistance for Children and Schools: Texas ranks 44th in school lunches under current leadership. Texans should feed Texans year-round. I'll prioritize Texas-grown meat, produce, and whole foods over ultra-processed options, giving our children better nutrition while creating dependable revenue for Texas farmers and ranchers. Better food means healthier kids and a stronger Texas. Food should make our children healthier, not sicker.

Health: What we eat impacts our health, and agriculture is at the tip of the spear. From day one, my campaign mantra has been "Grow Food Better, Grow Better Food." Ultra-processed foods now make up 57% of the average American's calories, this must change. I'll champion cleaner, more nutrient-dense food, greater transparency, and Texas agriculture that helps build healthier Texans.

Protecting Herds and Crops: Biosecurity is national security. Texas must detect threats early, respond quickly, and work closely with federal and state animal-health experts. On New World Screwworm, we need proven solutions, not publicity stunts. I'll strengthen surveillance, coordinate

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STATE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Nate Sheets (R) (*continued*)

with USDA, and make sure ranchers and farmers have the information and resources to protect their operations.
Water: I'm very concerned about data centers. Growth must work for Texans, not against them. Farmers and ranchers cannot be expected to sacrifice the water that produces our food to private development. Data centers must have responsible plans for water and electricity use, invest in needed infrastructure, protect local communities, and certainly should not receive tax subsidies.
Campaign Website: NateSheets.com

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ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

Clayton Tucker (D)

Qualifications: I grew up working on my family ranch, researched water and agriculture policy, and serve as the Texas Farmers Union Secretary. I know agriculture from the pasture to public policy.
Food Assistance for Children and Schools: I will fight for free school meals for every child and defend summer food assistance. I will work to replace ultra-processed school foods with healthy meals sourced from Texas farmers and expand school community gardens. I will also allow qualified nonprofits to use school kitchens to prepare meals for children when school is out.
Health: I will use the Texas Department of Agriculture to improve the food Texans eat by strengthening food safety, removing harmful chemicals and highly processed foods from school meals, and rebuilding local food systems. I will also use the State Office of Rural Health to expand access to affordable healthcare in rural communities.
Protecting Herds and Crops: I will use every proven tool available to protect Texas agriculture from invasive pests and disease. For New World Screwworm, I support combining sterile flies with SWASS rather than relying on one method alone. I will also push to maintain permanent response capacity so Texas can act quickly when the next biological threat emerges.
Water: I will put Texas agriculture and our water supply ahead of irresponsible data center development. Data centers should not compete with farmers, ranchers, or families for drinking water. I support requiring sustainable water plans, protecting farmland and aquifers, and using brackish or other non-drinking water for responsible projects.
Campaign Website: www.claytontuckertx.com

Austin R. Kelly (L)

No response received

STATE RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

Six-year term. The Railroad Commissioner is one of the three-member Texas Railroad Commission. The commission regulates the oil and gas industry, gas utilities, pipeline safety, safety in the liquefied petroleum gas industry and surface coal and uranium mining. It has no regulatory authority concerning railroads. Current annual salary: $140,937

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

Environmental and Public Safety: What would you do about uncapped abandoned oil, gas, and injection wells across the state?

Data Centers: How should Texas prepare its energy infrastructure for increasing demand from data centers and population growth?

Monitoring and Enforcement: How would you ensure that the Commission is able to provide adequate monitoring and enforcement to the oil, gas, and mining sectors?

New Energy: What energy technologies should be promoted to support a reliable way to meet energy demands?

Bo French (R)

Qualifications: I have personally been in the industry for decades. I also have extensive business expertise and am a rancher and mineral owner. I understand each perspective involved in Commission business.
Environmental and Public Safety: There are enforcement mechanisms that push operators to handle plugging of wells. Despite this, the Commission ends up having to plug many of them. I believe there are several inefficiencies at the Commission which, if addressed, will allow it to plug many more wells with the money appropriated for this purpose, and thus dramatically cut down on abandoned wells. This is just the beginning.
Data Centers: I am interested in finding any solution we can find that will seriously and adequately address this issue. I will hear out any effective solution and work to make it happen. As far as energy generation is concerned, particularly in places like the Permian Basin, I believe increasing natural gas electricity generation is one solution that will help address this issue.
Monitoring and Enforcement: Technology has allowed businesses to do things we couldn't have dreamt of a few decades ago. It's no secret that the Commission is painfully behind on adoption of technology. I intend to bring the Commission into the 21st century, which will allow it not only to monitor and enforce regulations far better than before, but will make it much more transparent and responsive to citizens as well.
New Energy: Energy demand is skyrocketing. The Commission should work alongside industry, which spends massive resources developing new technologies to solve issues like this. We should ensure that they are able to develop and effectively deploy whatever innovations will allow Texas to meet our increasing demand. That's what I will do if elected.
Campaign Website: bofrench.com

Jon Rosenthal (D)

Qualifications: I worked 25 years in oil & gas as a project manager and engineer, leading billion-dollar projects worldwide. Also, four terms in the Texas House, including serving on the Energy Resources Committee.
Environmental and Public Safety: Lobby for increased RRC funding to ramp up well plugging. Incentivize responsible operators with lower costs and streamlined permitting; repeat violators get fined and face tougher permitting requirements. This will accelerate well plugging while discouraging bad operators. Update plugging best practices, monitoring, and evaluation requirements so the RRC can keep pace with the growing problem.
Data Centers: We need statewide guardrails for systems that protect communities while enabling growth. Require resource management plans for water and power before construction, prohibit sites near homes, and coordinate plans with local governments. Preserve local input while avoiding a patchwork of regulations, ensuring communities are

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STATE RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

Jon Rosenthal (D) (*continued*)

protected and industry provides sufficient justification and incentives.

Monitoring and Enforcement: I'd advocate for the RRC to get the resources it needs to enforce our current laws. Good operators ought to be expedited, bad operators disincentivized, and the RRC should help actors comply with the law. I'd also lobby for heavier fines and bonding for bad operators, third-party audits, site-level compliance reporting, public dashboards, and real-time complaint tracking.

New Energy: I support an "all-of-the-above" approach to our energy strategy. Natural gas, along with wind, solar, and nuclear, is doing a decent job keeping the lights on. We should incentivize new power generation startups of all types, across the board, to promote a healthy energy portfolio for Texas.

Campaign Website: jonrosenthaltx.com

Arthur DiBianca (L)

Qualifications: I have no personal connections to the oil and gas industry. I have no conflicts of interest, and there is no risk of "regulatory capture".

Environmental and Public Safety: Going forward, all well-owning companies must be insured and/or bonded against well abandonment, as a condition of their liability protection. However, dealing with the damage caused by decades-old abandoned wells is a difficult problem. Remediation and capping should not be financed solely by taxpayers. Oil and gas companies should also pay into a fund for remediation and capping.

Data Centers: Texas should allow all forms of energy production to compete in a free market. The state should not pick winners and losers. However, restitution should be readily available for property owners when oil and gas production causes property damage. That restitution can be provided in the form of insurance, bonding, and/or cleanup funds. Also, pipeline regulation should be transferred to TxDOT.

Monitoring and Enforcement: The legislature needs to ensure that the RRC has the tools it needs. Regulations should ensure that energy producers fully respect the property rights of landowners, and should provide for prompt restitution when the activities of energy producers cause property damage. Regulations should follow the principle that rights are more important than interests.

New Energy: As stated above, Texas and the RRC should not try to promote specific technologies. Energy producers and innovators should be allowed to compete in a free market. "Free market" means no favoritism, no cronyism, and no picking winners and losers.

Campaign Website: votedibianca.com

STATE TEXAS SUPREME COURT

Six-year term. This Court includes a Chief Justice and eight justices, each of which is elected by voters of the entire state. Responsibilities of the Chief Justice include hearing appeals, assigning opinions, voting and deliberation. In addition, the Chief Justice has an administrative role by appointing judges to committees, presiding over meetings to evaluate court dockets, managing the assignments of justices and overseeing the rollout of statewide judicial technology. Current annual salary: $266,700

CHIEF JUSTICE

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

Ethics: How will you ensure your rulings remain impartial and free from both political pressure and the interests of your campaign donors?

Equity: What role should the Supreme Court play in expanding access to justice for persons or groups who may be underserved?

Issues: What do you see as the most pressing challenge facing the courts today, and how would you propose addressing it?

Precedent: What factors should the Supreme Court of Texas consider when deciding whether to change a past court ruling?

Jimmy Blacklock (R)

Qualifications: I have served on the Supreme Court since 2018 and as Chief Justice since 2025. My experience, judgment, work ethic, and commitment to the Rule of Law qualify me to continue serving.

Ethics: My oath requires me to support and defend the U.S. and Texas Constitutions and follow the law wherever it leads. The text of the law and the Constitution's original meaning are my guides. If following the law costs me an election or angers a supporter, so be it. I would rather lose my job than violate my oath. Impartial courts are essential to liberty and justice.

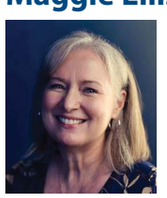
Equity: SCOTEX leads the way in promoting access to justice for every Texan. We've developed forms that allow Texans to create basic documents like wills without expensive legal fees. We've promoted funding for legal aid programs. And we are always working to make Texas law clearer and simpler so that Texans can know their rights. There is much more to be done, but I am proud of the Court's steadfast work

Issues: Lawsuits should be decided by who is right under the law, not who can better endure the expense and burden of litigation. Too often, costs keep injured plaintiffs from court or force innocent defendants to settle. We should make procedural rules more efficient, while judges apply the law consistently and predictably. The Supreme Court works to promote clarity, consistency, and adherence to the law

Precedent: Precedent promotes stability and predictability, so prior decisions should not be changed lightly. My oath, however, is to defend the Constitution, not Supreme Court decisions. Courts throughout Texas must follow our decisions, so if a Supreme Court precedent is clearly wrong, we may be the only people who can fix it. We must be open to doing so, guided as always by prudence and humility.

Campaign Website: www.JimmyBlacklock.com

Maggie Ellis (D)



Qualifications: I've handled thousands of matters in court as a Justice on the Court of Appeals, a prosecutor, and as an attorney representing individuals around Texas. I've also led and counseled large organizations

Ethics: Experience and a proven history of advocating fairly from all sides of the docket are good indicators of a candidate's likeliness to be fair and impartial. I have handled thousands of matters from all sides, including: ruling over cases fairly as a judge; defending individuals at risk of losing their liberty, their children, and their homes; and advocating for justice as a prosecutor.

Equity: The Court should be a leader. As a child who grew up transient and homeless and with 15% of Texans living below the poverty level, I understand the need. I have been awarded for my work helping our most vulnerable have access to the court system by drafting legislation and establishing pro bono clinics. I will bring this experience to expand the commissions that address access to the courts.

Issues: We are experiencing an erosion of our separation of powers and of our civil rights. This election comes at a crit-

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STATE TEXAS SUPREME COURT

CHIEF JUSTICE

Maggie Ellis (D) (*continued*)

ical time when our judiciary is under attack and under political pressure. As the first openly gay woman to serve as an appellate justice in Texas, I will bring balance back to our courts; I will not bow to political pressure; and I will protect the laws that protect everyone.

Precedent: For the public and practitioners to have confidence in our court system, it is imperative that rulings are consistent and follow the law. However, when a rule or law has proven unworkable, the Court should use its discretion and take great care to bring these rulings in line, so that they reflect the sound development of the law.

Campaign Website: www.maggieforjustice.com/

JUSTICE

Six-year term. The Texas Supreme Court is the court of last resort for civil matters in Texas. This Court includes a Chief Justice and eight justices, each of which is elected by voters of the entire state. This court issues final decisions on civil and juvenile appeals; issues certain orders to governmental officials to act and individuals to appear before the court; and has jurisdiction over orders or judgments of trial courts if the Supreme Court determines them important to the Texas legal system. Current annual salary range: $210,000–$264,600

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

Ethics: How will you ensure your rulings remain impartial and free from both political pressure and the interests of your campaign donors?

Equity: What barriers prevent Texans from accessing the court system, and what can courts do to reduce those barriers?

Issues: What do you see as the most pressing challenge facing the courts today, and how would you propose addressing it?

Philosophy: What qualities are most critical for a judge to possess for fair administration of justice?

PLACE 2 (UNEXPIRED TERM*)

James P. Sullivan (R)

Qualifications: I've been a Texas Supreme Court Justice since January 2025. I previously served as Assistant Solicitor General and as the Governor's General Counsel, and attended Harvard Law School.

Ethics: I take my judicial oath seriously and will always remain committed to saying what the law is, not what I might like it to be. Every litigant who comes before our Court is entitled to fair and impartial consideration of their arguments, without respect to who's making them.

Equity: The Texas Supreme Court has been a leader in narrowing the justice gap, as seen in the fundraising and volunteerism efforts of our Access to Justice Commission. And by making judicial proceedings more efficient through our rulemaking function, the Court can reduce the costs of accessing the court system.

Issues: Judges at every level face security threats that are corrosive to the rule of law. To address that risk, adequate funding must be given to the law-enforcement officers at DPS who keep us safe.

Philosophy: A good judge must have the courage to make an unpopular decision when that's what the law requires; the humility to understand that the judiciary plays an important but limited role in our system of government; and the work ethic to ensure that careful consideration is given to every party in every case.

Chari Kelly (D)

Qualifications: Justice of 3rd Court of Appeals since 2019; authored 800+ opinions. One of 19 Texas judges board-certified in Judicial Administration. Former US Army JAG Captain, Texas Assistant AG, Assistant DA.

Ethics: Independence is part of my record. On the 3rd Court, I ruled that the Texas Attorney General was not above the law in a whistleblower case, and that the governor does not possess absolute authority under the Texas Disaster Act. On the Supreme Court, I would decide cases the same way: based on the law, the record, and the arguments presented, not politics, donors, pressure, or personal preference.

Equity: Texans face barriers including cost, transportation, language, disability, lack of counsel, and legal complexity. As an appellate judge, UT Law adjunct professor, past Austin Bar president, and published writer on the need for pro bono legal services, I know courts must be accessible to everyone. Courts can expand plain-language resources, remote access, interpreters, and legal-aid partnerships.

Issues: The public lacks confidence that courts are independent and accountable. My record includes rulings on state power and public accountability. As a Texas Assistant Attorney General, I helped secure a $19.9 million Medicaid fraud settlement for taxpayers. As a Supreme Court justice, I would continue to write clear and timely opinions, be transparent, and enforce the rule of law.

Philosophy: A judge needs integrity, independence, courage, patience, humility, command of the law, and freedom from bias. My lifelong public service as an Army paratrooper, prosecutor, appellate judge, Austin Bar president, and mentor to young attorneys has taught me that fair judging requires discipline, careful listening, respect for people, and decisions rooted in the law and the record.

PLACE 7

Kyle Hawkins (R)

No response received

Kristen Hawkins (D)

Qualifications: I am board certified in judicial administration, civil-trial law, and personal-injury law. In 2021, I was TexABOTA Judge of the Year. I have presided over more than 200 jury and bench trials.

Ethics: As a trial-court judge, I base my decisions on the facts and the law—not on campaign contributions. If elected to the Supreme Court, that would not change. I strive for predictability and consistency so the parties know what to expect when they come to court. I treat everyone with courtesy and respect, regardless of socioeconomic status, political affiliation, or whether they have donated.

Equity: Many Texans lack the financial resources to hire lawyers. The Supreme Court can adopt rules expanding access to the courts and to ensure that Texans, including self-represented litigants, are not effectively locked out of the judicial system. The Court should choose cases important to all Texans and be mindful that the right to a trial by jury is embedded in the Texas Constitution.

Issues: The persistent attacks on judges—both at the state and federal levels. The judicial branch is a coequal branch of government, and maintaining judicial independence is necessary to sustain our democracy. I would rule based on the law and facts and strive for consistent and fair application of the law without favoring any party.

Philosophy: The Constitution requires every party appearing in Court be treated equally under the law and guarantees a right to a jury trial. It is critical that judges apply the law equally to everyone who appears in court and ensure that juries and their verdicts are respected. Consistent and predictable application of the law is what every Texan should expect from our judicial system.

Campaign Website: www.judgehawkins.com

*"Unexpired Term" means that the incumbent left the office before the term officially ended, so this election is for a partial term.

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STATE TEXAS SUPREME COURT

PLACE 8

Brett Busby (R)

Qualifications: Based on my experience as a board-certified appellate lawyer and record as a fair judge, every Democrat and Republican in the Texas Senate voted unanimously in favor of my Supreme Court appointment.

Ethics: My 14-year judicial record shows that I honor my oath by giving everyone the fair day in court they deserve and ruling impartially based on the law and the facts—not on politics, pressure, or personal preference. Compare the reviews we receive from lawyers who know our work: they consistently rate me among the best, hardest working, and most impartial appellate judges in Texas in anonymous polls.

Equity: With legal costs rising much faster than overall inflation, many Texans can't afford lawyers. I'm leading efforts to reform outdated regulations so that qualified paraprofessionals who pass an exam can become certified to help Texans with simple legal needs at reasonable prices. Like nurse practitioners for limited legal services, they would be trained and tested to ensure quality and ethics.

Issues: Court dockets are growing quickly as more Texans try to use AI to represent themselves. But court systems were designed to be used by lawyers, and AI-generated filings are often not on point or include mistakes. I am taking action to make courts easier for non-lawyers to use without AI by updating rules and procedures, creating plain-language forms, and educating Texans about available resources.

Philosophy: A Justice must give each side a fair hearing, study their arguments carefully, decide the case impartially based on the law and the evidence, and write a clear opinion so everyone can understand their rights and obligations under the law. A Justice must also work hard to improve the fairness, efficiency, and accessibility of the whole justice system by making changes like those just discussed.

Gisela D. Triana (D)

Qualifications: UT Law-JD-1988. UTSA-BA-Poli Sci-1985 I have been a judge in Texas for over 30 years, serving on every level of Texas trial courts. I am currently serving on my 8th year at the 3rd Ct of Appeals.

Ethics: By following the rule of law, since it is the bedrock of our democracy. It ensures we are governed by established legal rules rather than the mandates of the powerful. Judicial independence is paramount and as judges we must remain independent from special interests, donors and political pressure. Over my 30 years of service as a judge, I have developed a reputation for treating everyone fairly.

Equity: Lack of resources is the biggest barrier to access to justice. The courts should insure that the state has robust legal aid programs, especially in areas where there is the most need in indigent populations like housing, collections, and family law. However, access to justice should mean more than just opening the door to the courthouse, it should also be that justice is done once you are there.

Issues: Independence and legitimacy of the judiciary. It used to be that people believed in 3 separate but equal branches of the government with checks and balances between them. More now, the judiciary is and is perceived to be an extension of the other 2 branches, like a rubber stamp. We must do better at reclaiming our independence and worry less about keeping our jobs by placating political pressure.

Philosophy: Fairness, impartiality, and independence. A judge's role is to apply the law fairly and equally. Justice should not be sold to the highest bidder and judges should not be beholden to political parties or donors. All people and entities, including the government, should be held accountable under the rule of law. Laws should be publicly promulgated, equally enforced, and independently adjudicated.

STATE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

Six-year term. The Texas Court of Appeals is Texas' highest court for criminal cases. The Court includes a Presiding Judge and eight Judges, each of which is elected by voters of the entire state. The court must review all cases in which the death penalty is assessed. It also exercises discretionary review in other criminal cases and issues rulings about wrongful imprisonment. Current annual salary range: $210,000–$264,600

JUDGE

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

Ethics: How will you ensure your rulings remain impartial and free from both political pressure and the interests of your campaign donors?

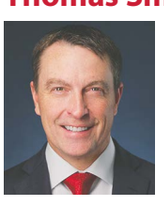
Equity: What barriers prevent Texans from accessing the court system, and what can courts do to reduce those barriers?

Precedent: What factors should the Court of Criminal Appeals consider when deciding whether to change a past court ruling?

Philosophy: What is your judicial philosophy?

PLACE 3

Thomas Smith (R)



Qualifications: 30 years of legal experience including serving as a law clerk for the Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court, and currently as a Special Assistant Attorney General for Criminal Justice.

Ethics: Rulings are grounded in the law, not politics. The primary function of a judge is to apply the law faithfully.

Equity: That is a question that is best directed to those in charge of judicial administration in this state and the Legislature.

Precedent: Again, rulings are grounded in the law. To the extent a past ruling may be overturned, it means the previous ruling did not properly apply the law.

Philosophy: Originalist.

Campaign Website: **www.smithfortexas.org**

Okey Anyiam (D)

Qualifications: I have practiced Criminal Law for 28 years and handled several thousand criminal cases. My goal has been to see that the due process rights of defendants are upheld, and justice is truly served.

Ethics: I will abide by the Judicial Oath, just as I have upheld my Attorney Oath. I will be impartial. My rulings will be based on the law, independent of any outside influences.

Equity: Texans who live far from the courthouse will benefit from more satellite offices to meet with counsel, and virtual court proceeding where appropriate. A messaging system to keep abreast of court settings and requiring a court appearance only on disposition settings will reduce bond forfeitures. Lowering the threshold to qualify for court appointed counsel will help lower income earners.

Precedent: New evidence such as scientific evidence that fundamentally changes the basis of the past ruling may be considered. Legislative changes may also be considered. A persuasive recantation of the evidentiary testimony that formed the basis of a past ruling may also be considered.

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STATE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

PLACE 3

Okey Anyiam (D) (*continued*)

A past ruling may also be changed where it no longer serves the needs of today.

Philosophy: I believe in equal access to justice for all, upholding the law and following its clear intent, without legislating from the bench.

Campaign Website: okeyanyiamforjudge.com

Mark Ash (L)

Qualifications: I have worked as a criminal defense lawyer for over 30 years. Also, I have been a property tax arbitrator for over 15 years.

Ethics: I am not running as a Democrat or Republican. As a Libertarian, I will keep partisan politics out of my judicial decisions.

Equity: Court websites should be user friendly and uniform.

Precedent: Judges need to follow the law. Statutes, administrative rules and other laws do change and the court must keep up with those changes. F

Philosophy: Follow the law as the legislature intended for it to be interpreted. Be fair and just to all parties.

PLACE 4

Kevin Patrick Yeary (R)

Qualifications: St. Mary's Univ. Law School, 1991 Law clerk to Judge Bill M. White on the CCA, 1991-1992 Private Attorney, 1992-1995 Appellate Prosecutor, Dallas, Harris, Bexar Counties, 1995-2014 CCA Judge 2015-now.

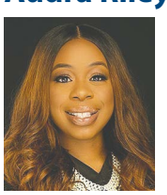
Ethics: I apply principles based decision making on the Court. One of my early and most commanding principles is that "opinions are not the law." By that I mean that Judges do not make law, we only apply law written or adopted by others. Opinions are important, but they are not the actual law. I have a list of 14 other principles, including "States are separate sovereigns from the Federal Government."

Equity: Lawyers are expensive. And language barriers exist for some too. We need Judges who understand these potential barriers and work to limit their impact. Our State Bar can help by producing information to assist people forced into our legal system. And I know our State is looking at possible changes that could lead to paralegals who demonstrate competence being allowed to provide legal help.

Precedent: Opinions that judges write are not the law. The law is written by the Legislature. Opinions are important to explain rulings to parties, and they bind the lower courts, but when Judges see an opinion that has misconstrued the law, the opinion should be overruled. I can hardly imagine a more corrupting influence on judges than to tell them their opinions will be defended no matter how bad.

Philosophy: Our government separates powers on purpose. Judges do not set policy and do not make law. Those are the job of the Executive and Legislative departments. The text of the constitution and laws mean what they meant to reasonably educated citizens on the day they were written, nothing else. State judges should also understand their unique role in American federalism. States are separate sovereigns.

Audra Riley (D)



Qualifications: I bring 20+ years of criminal justice experience, including six years as a Criminal District Judge, nearly a decade as a prosecutor, criminal defense attorney, and work as a correctional officer.

Ethics: My oath as a judge comes before any campaign contribution or political pressure. Every person who comes before me deserves a fair and impartial decision based on the law and the facts. Campaign contributions do not buy access, influence, or favorable rulings. That has been my standard on the bench, and it will remain my standard on the Court of Criminal Appeals.

Equity: A person's ability to understand and participate in the criminal justice system should never depend on income, language, or circumstance. Courts can reduce barriers by ensuring timely access to qualified interpreters and counsel and by making court procedures and legal rights clear and understandable. Meaningful access to justice means understanding the process and being heard.

Precedent: Precedent provides stability and consistency in the law, but a prior ruling should not stand simply because it came first. The Court should consider whether the original ruling got the law right, whether the law has changed, how it has worked in practice, and the consequences of overturning it. Precedent deserves respect, but so does the Court's responsibility to correct the law when necessary.

Philosophy: My judicial philosophy is simple: follow the law, be fair, and treat every person with dignity and respect. Justice should never depend on who you are, or who you know. A judge must be impartial and consistent, while never losing sight of the people affected by each decision. The law must guide the outcome, but fairness, sound judgment, and humanity should guide how justice is administered.

PLACE 9

John Messinger (R)

Qualifications: For almost 16 years, I have represented Texas in the Court of Criminal Appeals (CCA). In that time, no one has done more petitions for discretionary review, briefs, or arguments in the CCA.

Ethics: As a career prosecutor, my ethical duty has always been to seek justice rather than convictions. In a system of law, justice can only come from following the law. I have followed the law even when I did not like where it led. My supporters know that my adherence to the law will eventually result in unpopular votes and opinions. For most of them, that adherence is the reason they support me.

Equity: In criminal law, defendants get access to the courts whether they like it or not. The more appropriate question for them is whether they have access to quality representation. Texas spends a tremendous amount of money on this. And courts are fairly lenient when it comes to filings made by defendants who for whatever reason proceed without counsel.

Precedent: The most important factor is whether its ruling was correct. Courts do not make law, legislatures do. If the CCA misinterpreted a statute, the CCA should fix it. The exception is for statutes that were genuinely ambiguous when passed. If the CCA made a good-faith effort to interpret it and that interpretation has stood for a significant amount of time, that decision is owed some deference,

Philosophy: Courts exist to settle disputes and interpret laws, not to force their personal policy preferences on the public. Judges should have the humility to accept their limited authority. Too many judges (or would-be judges) view the courts as the place to do what is right in their own eyes regardless of what a statute or rule says.

Campaign Website: messingerforjustice.com

Holly Taylor (D)

Qualifications: Having been a prosecutor, defense attorney, professor, and court attorney with broad jury trial and appellate experience, I've seen the system from all sides. I will work for just and fair rulings.

Ethics: Judges must perform their duties without bias or prejudice, yet those who are not wealthy must raise money to campaign for office—often from lawyers who practice before them. The system needs to be reformed. Only a small number of my donations came from lawyers that practice in this court. I will recuse from any case where I served as counsel or where there is any possibility of bias or prejudice.

Equity: The judicial system is complicated and intimidating.

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STATE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

PLACE 9

Holly Taylor (D) (*continued*)

Lawyers are expensive yet self-representation is not a good option for most. The appointment system in criminal cases can lead to overloaded lawyers and inadequate representation. Poor and minority litigants are disproportionately impacted. A crucial first step is to sufficiently fund indigent legal and interpretation services.

Precedent: Following past rulings promotes stability and helps ensure that litigants with similar facts are treated fairly. When deciding whether to change a ruling, the court should consider the impact of new laws and high court cases, protection of constitutional rights and freedoms, the extent other courts have relied on the ruling, and its workability. The court should not act merely due to disagreement.

Philosophy: I am dedicated to upholding a justice system that is: independent, impartial, and not beholden to special interests; grounded in the constitution and the rule of law; free of bias based upon race, sex, religion, or other unconstitutional factors; respectful of due process and other constitutional rights; and fair, just, and compassionate to litigants, victims, and others before the court.

Campaign Website: www.hollytforjudge.com

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Four-year term. The fifteen-member board decides curriculum, standards, student testing, special education programs, and textbooks for Texas public schools. It also oversees the Permanent School Fund. Current annual salary: Members of the Board do not receive pay, but are reimbursed for expenses to attend meetings.

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

Teacher Support: How can the SBOE invest in the profession of teaching to support high-quality instruction?

AI in the Curriculum: What knowledge and skills related to artificial intelligence (AI) should be included in the Texas curriculum?

Civics: How can Texas improve civics education and understanding of government?

Reading Lists: What considerations would guide your recommendations when revising books lists for required reading?

DISTRICT 5

Mica Arellano (R)

No response received

Allison Bush (D)

Qualifications: 25 years in public education as a classroom teacher, administrator, and advocate. Proven leader committed to integrity, collaboration, accountability, and serving students, families, and communities.

Teacher Support: Strengthen the teaching profession by decreasing unnecessary administrative burdens, providing high-quality instructional resources, and supporting educator preparation and mentorship. Teachers should be treated as respected professionals, not political pawns. The SBOE should elevate educator voices, improve retention, and allow teachers to focus on what matters most: helping students succeed.

AI in the Curriculum: AI should be a tool that enhances learning, not replaces it. Students must be prepared for a future workforce where understanding AI is essential. The SBOE should develop clear curriculum standards that teach responsible AI use while emphasizing innovation, ethics, equity, digital literacy, and critical thinking so students can use these tools effectively and responsibly.

Civics: Understanding government, the legislative process, voting, and civic engagement build informed citizens. Emphasizing critical thinking, civil discourse, media literacy, and the evaluation of reliable sources, along with hands-on experiences such as debates, service projects, and student government, helps prepare students for active participation in their communities and in democracy.

Reading Lists: Required reading lists should provide guidance, not limits. Teachers should have autonomy to match books to students' interests, backgrounds, and reading levels. When students see themselves in stories and explore topics they care about, they are more likely to develop a love of reading. The focus should be on student engagement, literacy growth, and access to diverse, age-appropriate literature.

Campaign Website: www.allisonfortx.com

STATE COURT OF APPEALS

Texas Courts of Appeals review civil and criminal cases appealed from lower courts in their regions. Court of Appeals District 15 is a statewide district. Each court has a Chief Justice and other justices. Justices are elected to six-year terms.

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

Ethics: How will you ensure your rulings remain impartial and free from both political pressure and the interests of your campaign donors?

Equity: What barriers prevent Texans from accessing the court system, and what can courts do to reduce those barriers?

Precedent: What factors should the Court of Appeals consider when deciding whether to change a past court ruling?

Philosophy: What is your judicial philosophy?

15TH COURT OF APPEALS

CHIEF JUSTICE

Scott Brister (R)

No response received

Jerry Zimmerer (D)

Qualifications: As a former 14th Court Justice with a J.D., two LL.M.s and PMP/Six Sigma credentials, I combine judicial experience with process expertise to manage complex dockets fairly and efficiently.

Ethics: I strive for impartiality by anchoring every ruling strictly in the trial record, statutory text, and established precedent. My core philosophy is built on civil respect for all parties. I have sponsored the HBA Implicit Bias Program, and my record demonstrates I actively work to eliminate

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STATE COURT OF APPEALS

CHIEF JUSTICE

Jerry Zimmerer (D) (*continued*)

outside influences, ensuring equal justice unaffected by political pressures.

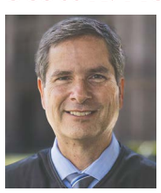
Equity: Physical, financial, and digital barriers limit access to justice, I have advocated through HBA DEI for greater inclusion of people with disabilities. Courts can reduce these barriers by streamlining e-filing, expanding virtual access, and supporting legal aid. Technology can make justice more affordable and accessible for all Texans.

Precedent: To change a past ruling, I balance legal stability with active reasoning. I view stare decisis as a shield against arbitrary power, but I believe we must always favor constitutional correctness over erroneous precedent. Superior court rulings always override my intermediate decisions. When I seek change, I write detailed opinions to provide clarity for our trial judges.

Philosophy: I believe a judge's role is to preserve the constitutional structure established by the people, and I favor our individual liberties as reflected in our Constitution. Stare decisis is my shield, but constitutional correctness comes first. Ruling with impartiality and efficiency, I call cases exactly as I see them - no fear and no favor.

JUSTICE, PLACE 2

Scott K. Field (R)



Qualifications: Current Justice, 15th Court of Appeals. Previously Justice on the Third Court of Appeals and Judge of the 480th District Court, Williamson County. Eleven years as judge; 20 years private practice.

Ethics: Our campaign donations are limited to small amounts that will not influence decisions. I comply with those limits. Many news outlets have correctly written on our court's judicial independence. I do not allow politics to play a role in deciding a case.

Equity: For an appeals court, the barriers are fewer than in other courts. But one barrier is the cost of the trial court record for litigants. My hope is that measures can be taken to reduce those costs, whether it be from free access to clerk's records or use of AI to streamline record preparation.

Precedent: As a court of appeals, we are bound to follow Texas Supreme Court precedent. Absent a new case from that court that is in conflict with a prior ruling, then the other cause for a change would be a new or modified law created by the Legislature. We do not make law, we follow it; we would therefore ensure that our cases follow any new or modified law.

Philosophy: To apply the law in every case as written, without regard for who wins or loses a given case. In other words, no matter who the parties to the case or the lawyers involved in the case are, my decisions cannot and will not change.

Tom Baker (D)

Qualifications: I served 2019 - 2024 as Justice, Place 5, Third Court of Appeals, Austin, which had jurisdiction over the cases now within this new court's jurisdiction. I have 42 years of law experience.

Ethics: I will ensure my rulings remain impartial and free from outside influence by focusing on the reporter's and clerk's records from the trial court, studying the applicable state and federal law and collaborating with my staff counsel and talking to the panel about the court's decision. I will not be concerned with running again for this office as I will not seek another term to this Court.

Equity: The biggest barrier to access to the court system is legal representation. The Court can reduce that barrier by fostering pro bono representation through the State Bar of Texas and its appellate law community. Alternatively, the Court can provide tools for litigants to represent themselves if the pro bono options are lacking. Education of the public about this new court is needed.

Precedent: The Court should first determine whether precedent and stare decisis strictly control our decision. A court should consider changing a past court ruling where it causes a manifest injustice to a class of persons or it leads to some fundamental unfairness in justice. This appellate court must defer to Supreme Court precedent and may only suggest that Court to reconsider prior ruling.

Philosophy: My judicial philosophy is to respect discretion and decisions of trial courts unless a clearly wrong decision has occurred in the law or the sufficiency of the evidence. Only where the law is not clear does the appellate court step in to interpret the intent and words of the law. Even if I do not agree with the law, I will apply it as I read and understand it unless it violates the constitution.

JUSTICE, PLACE 3

April Farris (R)

Qualifications: Our Court handles business and constitutional appeals. I was an appellate partner at a top business litigation boutique. I am chair elect of the State Bar Constitutional Law section.

Ethics: I take my oath to defend the constitution seriously. A judge has the obligation to rule without fear or favor. I have already developed a strong reputation for impartiality and fairness, even when criticized by powerful interests. Judicial campaign contribution limits are low in Texas. I have donors from both parties and divergent interests who believe in my ability to fairly interpret the law.

Equity: Texans often know very little about the legal system. Our court is a new court that many Texans may not know about. I have spoken at many legal and civic functions to inform people about the Fifteenth Court of Appeals and what it does. The judge that I clerked for taught me to personally review pro bono cases and not rely exclusively on staff attorneys to analyze them.

Precedent: Factors include the constitutional soundness of the prior ruling, the workability of the prior ruling, and whether there have been any sweeping changes in technology that might not have been accounted for in the prior ruling.

Philosophy: I am a textualist. I believe that words have meaning, and that meaning can be interpreted from statutory context and tools like dictionaries. My role is to call balls and strikes. It is not to rewrite the law to suit my policy preferences.

Marc M. Meyer (D)

Qualifications: While I have not been a judge, I am a trial attorney, Board Certified in Administrative Law, (highly relevant for the 15th Court), and I am a retired firefighter and RN with real world life experience

Ethics: If elected, I am bound by the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct. As noted in the preamble to the Code, the legal system is based on the principle that an independent, fair and competent judiciary must honor and respect judicial office as a public trust. While the system to elect judges is a political system, judges must remain impartial to maintain confidence in the judicial system.

Equity: The greatest barriers to access is the cost of litigation with high legal fee and steep court costs that limit low income individuals from asserting their rights; and the complexity of the process due to specialized legal jargon, and confusing paperwork. The courts can address these issues by advocating for expanded legal aid and streamlined court proceedings.

Precedent: Stare decisis is an important legal doctrine, and Appellate Courts should not take lightly any consideration of overturning a prior ruling. Some factors to consider: - Is there controlling precedent from the Supreme Court of Texas; - Is there splits between the other 14 Courts of Appeals; - Is there a compelling factual or legal issue that raises an issue with real world consequences

Philosophy: To a large extent my judicial philosophy would be based on prudentialism, a philosophy that emphasizes pragmatism, caution, and consideration of the real-world consequences of judicial decisions, rather than focusing solely on abstract legal principles or moral arguments.

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STATE COURT OF APPEALS

3RD COURT OF APPEALS

CHIEF JUSTICE

Cory Liu (R)

No response received

Darlene Byrne (D)

Qualifications: I hold this position now and for the past 6 years, before that I was a trial judge for 20 years and prior to that practiced law for 13 years. I have a strong work ethic and love for public service.

Ethics: As this is my 7th campaign, I have an established record of remaining impartial, even when making hard decisions involving cases in which there are individuals who have invested in my campaign.

Equity: The primary barrier is cost of legal services. At the 3rd COA we have a pro bono appellate application process and now with AI, more pro se litigants than ever before are accessing the court.

Precedent: If the opinion is a prior published panel opinion of the 3rd COA, we must have the full en banc court reconsider the case to determine whether to change the prior decision of the panel.

Philosophy: Courts are a safe place for all to come to receive justice and have their disputes decided by fair and impartial judges who are learned in the law and compassionate to the people coming before them.

Campaign Website: Www.justicedarlenebyrne.com

STATE TEXAS STATE SENATE

Texas has 31 State Senators, each elected from a district to serve in the Texas Senate. They propose and vote on state laws, approve the state budget, and serve on committees. The Lieutenant Governor leads the Senate. Senators serve four-year staggered terms.

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Education: What would you do to ensure that public schools are adequately and reliably funded?

Resources: What steps, if any, should the Legislature take to ensure Texans have reliable, affordable energy and water while protecting the environment?

Healthcare: What specific steps would you take to make healthcare more accessible and affordable for Texans?

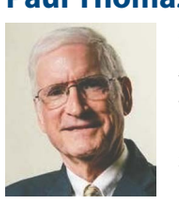
Data Centers: What is your position on data center development, and what specific policies or regulations regarding natural resource usage would you support regarding data centers?

DISTRICT 5

Charles Schwertner (R)

No response received

Paul Thomasson (D)



Qualifications: I have been a United Methodist Minister for over 43 years, 40 1/2 full-time. I have acted in Numerous intense ministries; I have loved and ministered to the needy, the wealthy, and all those between.

Education: First, I would quit DEFUNDING them through the voucher system! Moreover, I would find ways to not tie further defunding to property taxes. The Billionaires of Texas have no-tax deals that have cost the state of Texas HUGE sums of money. I'd also advocate more state assistance and examine Economic Stabilization Fund usage. But I'd end Billionaire Governance and deals defund most Texas children.

Resources: For electrical issues, I believe the Data Centers should pay for ALL the energy infrastructure they require. Second, they should not be given favorable electricity rates and be free from taxes. Third, our grid must be dependable and affordable. For water, I advocate more water conservation districts for counties, state-wide water oversight and environmental projects, and fair, long-term planning

Healthcare: First I would quit turning down Medicare funds that are dispensed 10 to 1. I would do what I could at the state level to restore ACA provisions that have been watered down or eliminated. If possible I would strongly advocate a strong TSHIP (Texas State Health Insurance Program) that minimized the self-serving role of "for profit" health-care costs and medical decisions. Also, aid rural hospitals.

Data Centers: Data Centers are the result of Billionaire Governance in Austin. They are being rammed down the throats of Texans without taxation, minimal costs to the billionaires and maximum costs to the rest of us. They should pay taxes! They should pay for the electrical infrastructure they require. They should only be allowed in if the local voters vote them in. The cooling should protect local water.

DISTRICT 21

Julie Dahlberg (R)

Qualifications: U.S. Army service, business development education, public policy studies and decades of business ownership, nonprofit development, consulting and charitable volunteer service and leadership.

Education: I would make school funding predictable, prioritize classroom instruction and increased teacher pay over bureaucracy, and demand transparency and accountability for every taxpayer dollar. I would support policies that improve outcomes, especially reading proficiency, while giving local districts flexibility to meet their students' needs.

Resources: Prioritize restoring and securing Texas' water supply to meet current needs before permitting additional heavy water-use industries. Invest first in conservation, storage, aquifer recharge, desalination and infrastructure, then build the capacity necessary for responsible economic growth. Reliable, affordable energy must likewise be supported by expanding dependable generation and infrastucture.

Healthcare: I would expand access to affordable care by increasing competition, reducing unnecessary regulations and costs, expanding telehealth and rural healthcare options, and supporting incentives for doctors and providers to serve underserved communities. I would also promote price transparency so Texans can compare costs and make informed healthcare decisions.

Data Centers: Texas' existing water and energy needs must be met before allowing additional water-intensive data center development. I support a moratorium on heavy water- and energy-use industries until we restore diminished resources through new water sources, aquifer and waterway recharge, and then develop the capacity and infrastructure to support these industries in the right locations.

Campaign Website: juliefortexassenate.com

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STATE TEXAS STATE SENATE

DISTRICT 21 (*continued*)

Judith Zaffirini (D)

Qualifications: Qualifications: 76,000+ consecutive votes; 1,500+ bills, more than any legislator in Texas history; B.S., M.A., PhD, UT-Austin; businesswoman & award-winning communication specialist; former teacher.

Education: Texas should define education as a right, not a privilege, from early childhood through higher ed, making it accessible, accountable, affordable & excellent; fully/equitably fund public schools; expand flexibility to meet local needs & disparities; support libraries, technology, special ed, mental health, & broadband access; & pay all educators significantly better to recruit/retain excellence.

Resources: Legislators must ensure energy is accessible, reliable, affordable, sustainable & environmentally protective; highest users pay fair share of infrastructure costs & respect environment; balance economic development with concerns; modernize electric grid; create more reliable/resilient systems; expand battery storage; close regulatory gaps; incentivize wind & solar energy; & raise efficiency goals.

Healthcare: The state must ensure healthcare is a right, not a privilege, & is accessible, accountable, affordable, available & excellent for all Texans, including low-income families & rural residents. Options include telemedicine, mobile medical units, incentives for medical providers/facilities in rural & low-income areas & Medicaid expansion. Eliminating waiting lists for critical services is imperative.

Data Centers: I support a moratorium on data centers to allow legislators to adopt safeguards to protect communities, the environment, fauna & natural resources; preserve local control & property rights; preclude noise pollution & energy & water usage at expense of taxpayers & ratepayers; study permanent/temporary job creation, economic benefits, tax revenue; & require buffer zones & public feedback/support.

Campaign Website: www.judithzaffirini.com

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DISTRICT 24

Background: What training and experience qualify you to serve as the Senator for Texas District 24?

Issues: What are the most pressing issues facing the next session of the Texas Legislature?

Priorities: What are your three top priorities for the next session of the Legislature?

County Authority: What steps should the Legislature take to increase the authority of counties, including data centers, electricity/grid, land development, water, and other resources?

Concerns: What legislation would you support or introduce to address the top concerns of voters in Texas Senate District 24?

Pete Flores (R)

No response received

Joe Paz Herrera (D)

Background: I bring more than 20 years of business and leadership experience, supported by a BBA from UTSA and an MBA from Our Lady of the Lake University. Throughout my career, I have managed large budgets, negotiated complex agreements, and worked with businesses and communities across Texas. Living in Natalia Texas has also given me firsthand insight into challenges involving healthcare access, public education, water, property rights, and affordability. I will bring that real-world experience and a practical, accountable approach to the Texas Senate, putting the needs of District 24 residents ahead of partisan politics.

Issues: The next Legislature must focus on affordability, strengthening public education, protecting property and water rights, and improving access to healthcare in rural communities. We also need to address rapid growth by investing in water infrastructure, roads, flood prevention, and a reliable electric grid while ensuring large developments and data centers do not unfairly burden local taxpayers or resources. Finally, we must strengthen public safety and emergency preparedness. Texas is growing rapidly, and our priority should be ensuring that growth improves the quality of life for Texans rather than leaving families and rural communities behind.

Priorities: My top three priorities would be: 1. Strengthening public education by increasing classroom funding, supporting teachers and staff, and keeping taxpayer dollars in our public schools. 2. Protecting Texas families and communities by addressing rising costs, expanding rural healthcare access, improving public safety, and protecting individual freedoms. 3. Protecting our water, land, and infrastructure by strengthening property rights, investing in water and flood infrastructure, and ensuring data centers and large developments do not threaten local water supplies or shift costs onto Texas families.

County Authority: Texas should give counties greater authority to manage growth and protect local resources. Counties need reasonable tools to address land development, data centers, quarries, water use, and projects that place significant demands on the electric grid and local infrastructure. I support giving counties greater oversight and planning authority while respecting private property rights and avoiding unnecessary regulation. Local officials and residents understand their communities best and should have a meaningful voice when major projects could affect water supplies, roads, public safety, property values, or taxpayers.

Concerns: I would support legislation that protects our water supply and strengthens safeguards for clean, reliable drinking water. I support pausing further data center expansion until Texas has stronger protections for water, electricity, and surrounding communities, while giving counties greater authority over major developments. I will defend property rights and ensure local landowners are not pushed aside for the benefit of powerful corporations. I would also prioritize adequately funding our public schools, supporting teachers, and addressing affordability so working families can keep more of what they earn while ensuring our communities have the resources they need to thrive.

Campaign Website: herrerafortexas.com/

ABOUT THIS *VOTERS GUIDE*

This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas (LWVTX), the League of Women Voters Austin Area (LWVAA), and the League of Women Voters Williamson County (LWV Wilco). We invite every candidate in competition for office to provide information. We list the names of unopposed candidates but do not send them questionnaires. The League reserves the right to redact portions of a candidate's response, but avoids doing so as much as possible; any redactions are noted. Ballot measure explanations are written by League volunteers with a focus on being informative and unbiased.

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STATE TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Texas has 150 State Representatives, each elected from a district to serve in the Texas House of Representatives. They propose and vote on state laws, approve the state budget, serve on committees, and elect the Speaker of the House. Representatives serve two-year terms.

DISTRICT 19

Background: What training and experience qualify you to serve as the Representative for Texas House District 19?

Issues: What are the most pressing issues facing the next session of the Texas Legislature?

Priorities: What are your three top priorities for the next session of the Legislature?

Data Centers: What is your position on data center development, and what specific legislation would you support regulating energy and water consumption by data centers?

Concerns: What legislation would you support or introduce to address the top concerns of voters in Texas HD19?

Ellen Troxclair (R)

Background: I have never been afraid to challenge powerful interests or stand firm when taxpayers are ignored. As a small business owner and mom, I understand firsthand the impact government decisions have on families and employers. Serving on City Council taught me how those decisions are made at the local level and the importance of demanding accountability. In the Texas Legislature, I have carried that experience forward, fighting for lower taxes, private property rights, responsible government, and the values I was elected to defend.
Issues: Texas must manage continued growth while keeping our state affordable and protecting the resources communities depend on. Water supply, energy reliability, rising property taxes, infrastructure demands, and pressure on private property will all require serious attention.
Priorities: My top priorities are delivering lasting property tax relief, protecting our water resources and private property, and investing in an excellent education for every Texas child. I will continue working toward the goal of eliminating school property taxes for homeowners while ensuring Texas remains affordable. These priorities are essential to keeping Texas a great place to raise a family.
Data Centers: Texas should welcome innovation, but data centers must pay their own way and cannot come at the expense of Texas families or our natural resources. I support Governor Abbott's plan to require data centers to cover the infrastructure costs they create, add to Texas' energy capacity, report their energy and water use, and utilize water-efficient or water-reuse technologies. I also support appropriate safeguards for neighboring communities, including setbacks and noise mitigation. Texas can remain open for business while protecting taxpayers, water supply, and quality of life.
Concerns: I will continue supporting legislation that delivers lasting property tax relief, protects water resources and private property, and ensures Texas' growth is thoughtful and responsible. In House District 19, that includes addressing incompatible industrial development, major transmission infrastructure, aggregate operations, and other projects that can significantly affect surrounding communities. I will also continue working to strengthen education, protect taxpayers from unnecessary government growth, and defend the constitutional rights and community values that make Texas strong.
Campaign Website: troxclairfortexas.com

Tom Luck (D)

Background: A 6th generation Texan, my family came here in 1845 as German immigrants to escape class structure and oppression in Europe. The vast majority were against racism, slavery, secession, and the civil war. That's the kind of Texas I remember and care about, and why I'm running for Texas House District 19. In over forty years of ministry in the Episcopal Church, I was involved in church legislation of policy making around issues of poverty, racism, health care, gender equality, and hunger. I was the founding Convener of the Hunger Free Mason Community Collaborative.
Issues: Get Dark Money out of politics and have term limits. End School Vouchers. Assure affordable and accessible health care for all. Raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour for everyone. Fully fund public education. Fully fund teacher retirement. End White Christian Nationalist indoctrination. Regulate data centers and water use. Pass laws governing data centers. End hunger and reduce grocery prices by sustainable agriculture from local producers and support Texas Wine.
Priorities: End dark money in politics, rescind the school voucher program, and regulate data centers.
Data Centers: I am immediately calling for a Special Legislative Session to pass laws that regulate data centers to protect local communities. The Governor is relying on audits which are not legally binding for agencies he is already controlling. Among the laws passed should be: Ending tax breaks for data centers. Data centers should pay for themselves without government subsidies. Ensure that American workers, particularly union workers, are building data centers. We need protections for clean water, air, and electricity. Cease the practice of giving data centers priority of water use over local citizens.
Concerns: Rescind school vouchers, regulate data centers by laws that support average Texas communities, expose dark money in politics.
Campaign Website: luckfortexashouse.com

ALL DISTRICTS EXCEPT 19

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Education: What would you do to ensure that public schools are adequately and reliably funded?

Resources: What steps, if any, should the Legislature take to ensure Texans have reliable, affordable energy and water while protecting the environment?

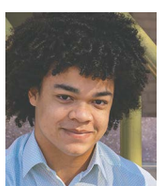
Healthcare: What specific steps would you take to make healthcare more accessible and affordable for Texans?

Data Centers: What is your position on data center development, and what specific policies or regulations regarding natural resource usage would you support regarding data centers?

DISTRICT 20

Terry M. Wilson (R) No response received

Matthias-Jonah Early (D)



Qualifications: As an EMT and hospital worker, I saw firsthand how our healthcare system fails everyday people. I studied political science after pre-med, giving me both frontline and policy experience to fix it.
Education: I would vote to increase per-student funding so it keeps pace with inflation, raise the basic allotment that's been frozen for years, and boost teacher pay to recruit and retain educators. I would oppose diverting public dollars to private school vouchers and fight for full, reliable state funding so districts aren't forced to rely on local property tax hikes.
Resources: I'd require data centers to pay their fair share of grid upgrade costs instead of passing them to homeowners, invest in grid resilience and renewable energy to lower long-term costs, and protect water resources from over-extraction by large developments. Texans shouldn't foot the bill for infrastructure strain caused by corporate growth in our district.
Healthcare: I'd fight to expand Medicaid, bringing billions in federal dollars home to cover more Texans and keep rural hospitals open. I'd push for transparent medical billing so families aren't blindsided by hidden costs, and support outcome-focused reforms that pay providers for keeping patients healthy, not just for procedures. No family should go bankrupt because they got sick.
Data Centers: Data centers shouldn't get a free ride while families pay the price. I support requiring data centers to pay their fair share of grid and water infrastructure costs, mandating water-efficient cooling technology, and requiring impact assessments before large facilities are approved near residential areas so growth doesn't come at the expense of families.
Campaign Website: votematthiasearly.com

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STATE TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 46

Sheryl Cole (D)

Unopposed

DISTRICT 47

Jennifer Mushtaler (R)

Qualifications: Texas licensed and boarded Ob/Gyn doctor, small business founder, Medicaid Advisory Panel 10 yrs, President HOA Limited District, 2-term City Planning Commission, DSHS Commission appointed by Governor

Education: Thank you to the teachers in my family and district education leaders. Solutions begin by bringing the people with boots on the ground into the conversation to understand our challenges and opportunities. I will lead by bringing stakeholders and education leaders together via transparency and mutual respect to pass reform that reliably funds our schools to make Texas education the best.

Resources: The legislature will need to move forward allocating the Water Fund as approved by voters to study water usage, repair antiquated systems and expand conservation of aquifers and watersheds. We need to continue to invest in upgrading power transmission and demand response systems while managing costs. We need strategic planning policy for innovation and conservation that balances growth with costs.

Healthcare: As the only obgyn in the legislature, I will promote evidence-based policies informed by real experience caring for women. I will propose policies that reduce administrative costs and hurdles to directly reduce premiums, that improve the healthcare landscape so we can recruit doctors and nurses and reduce appointment wait times, and that support our world-class medical institutions.

Data Centers: I grew up across the street from NASA and earned my degree in electrical engineering from UT before medical school. I believe in the ingenuity of Texans to again lead the world in innovation while protecting natural resources. I will work with industry experts to establish responsible frameworks for development that not only conserve but also cost contain and protect Texans financially.

Campaign Website: www.drjenfortexas.com

Pooja Sethi (D)

Qualifications: Attorney. Mom. Chief of Staff for this district for four years. Former Travis County Democratic Party Chair. Wrote bills, passed laws, helped residents across the district. Ready to serve on day one.

Education: Protecting public education is a top priority for me. Texas needs to raise the basic allotment, adequately pay teachers and staff, roll back vouchers, and fully fund special education. We also must reform recapture. Our community schools should not be shutting down while sending local tax dollars away. Every student deserves better, but it starts with the Legislature investing in our kids.

Resources: Texas should invest in repairing aging water infrastructure, reducing water loss, supporting wildfire mitigation, and expanding conservation and reuse, including purple pipe systems. We need enough generation and storage to keep the grid reliable, including renewable energy. I also support incentives for homeowners to make energy-efficiency improvements that lower their electric bills.

Healthcare: Making healthcare more affordable and accessible is a top priority for me. I support the following: expanding Medicaid and CHIP so more Texas children have coverage; lowering prescription drug costs; increasing the number of doctors and healthcare providers in Texas; protecting IVF and maternal healthcare; and expanding telehealth and mental health programs like TCHATT.

Data Centers: I support a pause on major new data centers while Texas puts clear regulations in place. We need to understand what these projects mean for our water supply, electric grid, and natural resources before they are built. Texas communities deserve to know how much water and power the data centers will use, whether our infrastructure can support them, and have a voice in these decisions.

Campaign Website: Poojafortexas.com

DISTRICT 48

Anthony Gupta (R)

Withdrawn

Donna Howard (D)

Qualifications: I have had the honor of representing House District 48 for the last twenty years. I am now the longest serving member on the House Appropriations Committee and the Higher Education Committee.

Education: For the past several sessions I have introduced legislation that would increase the basic allotment and provide for an annual adjustment as determined by the comptroller applying the inflation rate to the allotment for the preceding school year. My bill would make this change as a constitutional amendment, so it remains an automatic adjustment that our districts can rely on.

Resources: We must fund supply, infrastructure, and conservation projects that local water development boards, cities, and counties identify as necessary. To meet increased energy demand, we must utilize our uniquely diverse energy portfolio to increase existing generation capabilities in thermal, solar, and wind while also building out nuclear and geothermal capabilities and ensuring adequate transmission.

Healthcare: Improving healthcare affordability and access will require both an increase in funding for programs, services, and providers who deliver care and policy solutions that improve the workforce pipeline for nurses, physicians, and other healthcare professionals. For the latter, we must align course curriculums and improve coordination between education systems for Texas students.

Data Centers: We need policies which address community and environmental concerns while allowing Texas to continue serving as a hub for technology and innovation. I support giving local governments the necessary land-use and regulatory authority to ensure developers are responsive to community and environmental concerns and follow through on promised economic investments.

Campaign Website: www.teamhowardtx.com

DISTRICT 49

Montserrat Garibay (D)

Qualifications: A bilingual pre-K teacher, I became a union leader after organizing to save funding for full-day pre-K in Austin ISD. Later served as an officer at TX AFL-CIO and in Biden-Harris Dept of Education.

Education: We must increase education funding, tie it to inflation, and close corporate tax loopholes. We should guarantee full-day Pre-K, free and healthy school meals, multilingual programs, and more funding for special education. Our teachers and staff need living wages and respect, not book bans, curriculum censorship, and partisan attacks. I also support lower tuition, academic freedom, and free speech.

Resources: Texas must strengthen its electric grid and transmission systems without putting the cost on consumers. I support investing in energy storage; improving efficiency; prioritizing wind, solar, and renewables; and expanding job training. We must also invest in water supply and planning, repair aging pipes, promote reuse and recapture, regulate data centers, and hold utilities and industry accountable

Healthcare: Every Texan deserves high-quality, affordable healthcare close to home. We should expand Medicaid and strengthen mental health care. We must restore reproductive freedom and ensure abortion, IVF, and birth control are accessible and affordable. I also support increasing access to primary care and improving state programs for early childhood screenings, vaccinations, and chronic disease prevention.

Data Centers: I am supportive of calls for a moratorium until stronger sustainability conditions are met. Many communities are wholly unable to stop harms from data centers and current regulations are inadequate. At a minimum, they

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STATE TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 49

Montserrat Garibay (D) (*continued*)

must fund their own infrastructure upgrades, pay impact fees, meet energy-efficiency and water-use limits, use modern cooling, and provide co-located clean energy and storage.
Campaign Website: www.MontserratForTexas.com

Arshia Papari (G)

Qualifications: My qualifications are being a Co-Chair of the GPUS, a former DNC Delegate & Youth Leader of the Ceasefire Delegation, experience in the Texas Capitol twice in policy development, & youth activism.
Education: I will fight to fully fund our public schools, without compromise or excuses. I will work to modernize the funding formula, invest in our communities through increasing the basic allotment, raising teacher pay, expanding disability support, and student care, to truly create a safe, strong learning condition for our children. Texas must fund educational excellence, for our communities & our future.
Resources: I will bring forth a Texas Green New Deal to modernize our energy grid, expand affordable clean energy, protect & invest in our water infrastructure, defend our aquifers and natural resources, & expand conservation efforts to protect our environment. We can build climate resilience, lower costs, & protect our land & water for our posterity, together against billionaires, corporations & corruption.
Healthcare: Healthcare is a human right, not a privilege. I will fight for universal healthcare that guarantees every Texan is able to receive quality treatment and care, regardless of their financial status, along with strengthening rural hospital & eliminating medical debt. No Texan should go bankrupt or die due to their inability to afford the commodification of basic dignity.
Data Centers: I will support banning AI Datacenters! There is no question about it. We all hate them.
Campaign Website: arshiafortexas.org

DISTRICT 50

Howard Olsen (R)

No response received

Samantha Lopez-Resendez (D)

Qualifications: I'm a former public school educator who spent seven years in the Texas Legislature, rising from legislative staffer to Chief of Staff for State Representative Donna Howard.
Education: As a former public school educator, this is personal. I'll fight to raise the basic allotment and tie it to inflation, increase teacher pay, fully fund special education, and reform recapture so public education dollars stay in public education. Our schools deserve reliable funding they can plan around, not one-time fixes.
Resources: Texas can grow without sacrificing reliability or our environment. I'll support a more resilient grid, an all-of-the-above energy strategy that expands renewables, and investments in transmission. We must also secure our water future by repairing aging infrastructure, reducing water loss, and investing in conservation and new supply.
Healthcare: Texas has the highest uninsured rate in the nation. I'll fight to expand Medicaid, re-establish reproductive healthcare, strengthen maternal and mental health services, and lower prescription drug costs. No Texan should skip a doctor's visit or go into debt because they cannot afford the care they need.
Data Centers: Data centers can bring investment and jobs, but Texans should not subsidize their strain on our grid and water supply. I support stronger transparency on energy and water use, conservation and efficiency standards, and requiring large users to help pay for the infrastructure their demand requires. Growth must be responsible and protect our natural resources.
Campaign Website: www.samanthafortexas.com

DISTRICT 51

Jessica Martinez (R)

No response received

Maria Luisa "Lulu" Flores (D)

Qualifications: Lawyer with 25+ years Capitol experience. Former President, National Women's Political Caucus. Long-time community volunteer, including Planned Parenthood, YMCA Austin, and Austin Arts Commission.
Education: Texas schools are chronically underfunded. We must raise the basic allotment of per pupil funding to reduce recapture, lower property taxes, and ensure every student has the quality educational opportunities our families deserve. We should repeal the costly voucher scam, move to an enrollment-based funding model, and ensure any mandate from the state comes with sufficient funding attached.
Resources: We should invest in wind, solar, and clean-energy jobs; prioritize water conservation; improve recapture and reuse; repair aging pipes; and address transmission congestion. We must protect residents from environmental hazards and hold corporate polluters accountable. I'm also opposed to attacks on local environmental ordinances that protect our trees, endangered species, and water.
Healthcare: I support Medicaid expansion; driving down the costs of health insurance and prescription drugs; and addressing the shortage of doctors, nurses, and specialists. We must invest in reproductive healthcare and family planning. I'll also work to reverse Texas' abortion ban, ensure Planned Parenthood can receive Title X funding, and demand real accountability on so-called "crisis pregnancy centers."
Data Centers: I support a moratorium on data centers unless we have proper regulatory frameworks. Data centers should pay their fair share through impact fees, meet strong mitigation requirements, use on-site renewable generation, and have closed-loop cooling using recycled water. I support transparency, accountability, and meaningful community input. We should repeal the costly tax subsidy for data centers.
Campaign Website: www.voteluluflores.com

DISTRICT 52

Caroline Harris Davila (R)

No response received

Chris Jimenez (D)

Qualifications: I'm a Marine veteran, small business owner, husband, and father. I've seen property taxes, utility rates, and grocery bills go up, so I understand how hard families are working to stay afloat.
Education: I will fight to increase the basic allotment and move Texas toward enrollment-based funding so schools have reliable resources to plan, retain great teachers, and manage rising costs. Instead of diverting public dollars to a private-school voucher scam, we should invest them in our classrooms so every student, regardless of their ZIP code, has the opportunity to succeed.
Resources: Texas families need reliable energy and water they can afford. I support strengthening our power grid and investing now in aging water infrastructure, diversified water sources, and drought preparedness. We can meet the urgent needs of a growing Texas while protecting the Texas we know and love for the next generation.
Healthcare: Healthcare costs are crushing Texas families. I'll fight to lower prescription, insurance, and out-of-pocket costs, hold large corporations accountable when they put profits ahead of patients, and expand access to preventive, mental health, and maternal care. Texans should be able to see a doctor, get the medicine they need, and care for their families without going into debt.
Data Centers: I support a moratorium on new data centers until Texas has safeguards for our water, grid, and taxpayers. Data centers consume enormous resources, and families shouldn't pay the price. I'll require transparency on water and energy use, protect groundwater and rural wells, and make large users pay their fair share of infrastructure costs. Growth cannot come at taxpayers' expense.

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STATE TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 136

Theodore Schramm (R)

Qualifications: Years running projects, airport operations, and logistics taught fiscal discipline and results. Safety leadership and ICS training prepare me to protect families and demand accountable government.

Education: I would make school funding reliable by increasing the state's share from 38 percent to at least 45 percent, reducing pressure on local property taxes without raising overall taxes. Districts would receive that support only after forensic audits of board, campus, and PTA spending, with savings directed to teachers and classrooms.

Resources: The Legislature should keep energy and water affordable by capping utility-rate hikes at inflation unless voters approve bonds for real maintenance. Require annual reviews that tie fees to actual revenue growth, not population talking points. Pair that with audits of waste and practical conservation so reliability improves without squeezing families or funding pet projects.

Healthcare: I would expand access through state-led sliding-scale clinics and telehealth, without full Medicaid expansion. Require hospital price transparency so families can shop and compare. Fund mental-health care and protect coverage for pre-existing conditions while letting private innovation drive down cost.

Data Centers: I do not support data-center development. These facilities create almost no lasting jobs while consuming enormous amounts of electricity, water, and land that should serve businesses with real payrolls. I would deny tax abatements, require full public disclosure of power and water use, and block projects that shift costs onto households or lock up land better used for genuine economic growth.

Campaign Website: theodoretx.com

John H. Bucy III (D)

Qualifications: Four-term state representative, fmr WilCo Dems chair, small business owner, proud father. Consensus builder fighting for public schools, healthcare, voting rights, affordability, housing, & transit.

Education: Strong public schools are the foundation of a strong society. The state must increase its share of funding to closer to 60 percent, raise per pupil funding, switch to an enrollment-based model, end unfunded mandates, and reform recapture. We also must end the voucher scam that is draining resources from our neighborhood public schools without transparency, accountability, or educational standards.

Resources: We must invest in renewables, reduce transmission congestion, and improve job training for clean energy. Water conservation, improving sustainability, and repairing aging infrastructure while protecting pristine streams and increasing water supply is a matter of life and death. I'm vehemently opposed to what's happening in Big Bend and believe we must protect our parks, beaches, and public lands.

Healthcare: We must expand Medicaid, increase reimbursement rates for providers, and invest in community health centers. We have to address the consolidation that is driving up costs of care, prescription drugs, and insurance premiums. I also believe Texans deserve access to the full range of pregnancy-related care, including contraception, family planning, IVF, abortion, and prenatal and postpartum care.

Data Centers: We must distinguish between data centers used to support research, advanced computing, and consumer technologies we rely on from the hyperscalers and bad actors. I support requiring industry to pay their share of costs as opposed to passing them on to consumers, strict sustainability measures, water conservation, on-site renewable energy and battery storage, and empowering local communities.

Campaign Website: bucyfortexas.com

LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

CIVIL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

Civil District Judges hear cases involving divorce, property disputes, election contests, contracts, and other civil matters. They make legal rulings, conduct trials, and issue judgments in cases assigned to their courts.

201ST CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Amy Clark Meachum (D)

Unopposed

250TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Kennon Lily Wooten (D)

Unopposed

261ST CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Daniella Deseta Lyttle (D)

Unopposed

419TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Catherine A. Mauzy (D)

Unopposed

455TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Laurie Eiserloh (D)

Unopposed

459TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Maya Guerra Gamble (D)

Unopposed

CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

Criminal District Court Judges hear felony criminal cases, including serious offenses that can result in imprisonment. They oversee court proceedings, make legal rulings, conduct trials, and impose sentences when required.

147TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Cliff Brown (D)

Unopposed

299TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Karen R. Sage (D)

Unopposed

331ST CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Chantal Melissa Eldridge (D)

Unopposed

403RD CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Brandy Mueller (D)

Unopposed

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LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

JUDGE, COUNTY COURT AT LAW

County Court-at-Law Judges hear misdemeanor criminal cases and certain civil cases. They oversee court proceedings, make legal rulings, and conduct trials with or without a jury. Travis County has seven County Courts at Law focused on criminal cases and two focused on civil cases.

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 1

Todd Wong (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 2

Leslie Dippel (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 3

Bianca Garcia (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 4

Dimple Malhotra (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 5

Mary Ann Espiritu (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 6

Denise Hernández (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 7

Elisabeth Earle (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY PROBATE COURT NO. 1

The Probate Judge handles wills and estates, determines heirs when someone dies without a will, and oversees guardianships for minors and people who cannot care for themselves. The judge also handles court-ordered mental health commitments and eminent domain cases.

Guy Herman (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK

The District Clerk keeps district court records, collects court fees, manages funds held by the courts, coordinates jury selection, and maintains historical court records.

Velva L. Price (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY CLERK

The County Clerk administers county elections, maintains records for the Commissioners Court and county courts, and keeps public records such as deeds and birth and death certificates. The office also issues marriage licenses and maintains other official county records.

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Poll Workers: How would you encourage citizens to apply to be poll workers and ensure they are fully trained?

Elections: What mechanisms would you use to educate voters regarding election laws and the voting process?

Record Keeping: How would you improve public access to county records while maintaining necessary security?

Other Issues: What other issue do you consider most important and how would you address it?

Dyana Limon-Mercado (D)

Qualifications: I have 15+ years of experience, including as a nonprofit executive for Planned Parenthood, as Travis County Democratic Party Chair, being a community advocate for equity, and working as a court clerk.

Poll Workers: Poll workers as one of the most important parts of the voter experience. When someone walks into a polling place, the election workers are the face of our democracy. They need to be welcoming, knowledgeable, and confident in their responsibilities. We have hosted election worker job fairs, strengthened outreach to community partners, and made the Student Election Clerk Program a priority.

Elections: During my first term, I created a division dedicated to community outreach including year-round voter education. Some of our efforts include partnering with the LWV on efforts like Paws to the Polls, conducting mock elections at schools such as elementary career days, and meeting grassroots groups like IMOMs directly to run hands-on election demos and answer questions about the voting process.

Record Keeping: To improve access, our office has expanded to two additional satellite locations for Recording services beyond main office. We're procuring a notification tool so residents can monitor documents filed under their name or address, helping prevent property deed fraud. We're balancing these access improvements with strict ID verification and redaction protocols to keep sensitive records secure.

Other Issues: Our office is defending vote-by-mail in the LULAC v. Executive Office lawsuit as a plaintiff, we are partnering with the Sheriff's office on law enforcement security training, and adding on-site/cyber safeguards. In addition to elections, our office has worked with community partners on estate planning access for low-income residents and invested in online access tools for historical records.

LaShawn Nash (WI)

Qualifications: I have 30 years of experience w/ the Travis County Elections Division. Serving in various roles required learning policies and procedures, maintaining good record keeping and strong people management.

Poll Workers: I would begin by raising awareness of who I am and what I do. A County Clerk who is both active and visible in the community is one of the most impactful ways to share information, increase public understanding and encourage civic participation. Training would meet varied learning needs-from novice to advanced—w/ accessible hands-on practice and ongoing support, to help establish and anchor them.

Elections: Voter education is truly a Top Priority! I will add a tab on the Clerk's website that provides updated local and legislative changes, establish and maintain a program that shares information to news outlets, and continue the Nash Nuggets via social media. I will incorporate virtual and in-person forums and educational sessions about election laws, voting procedures and the voting process.

Record Keeping: People greatly benefit from having digitized access. I would like to establish conversations with

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LaShawn Nash (WI) (*continued*)

other Texas counties and branches of government, for an awareness of vendors that can provide secure, accessible and fiscally responsible services to county residents. Having a tiered level of access is ideal. Level 1 - Open/Downloadable public access and Level 2 - Restricted to proven identification.

Other Issues: Dignity, Excellence, Accountability, Effective Operations and Customer Service all matter to Me equally. I endeavor to invest in both the staff and the community. Employees can provide great service when education is understood and meaningful. The community benefits when information is clearly provided and easily accessible. I will Empower staff, Include the community and Champion for growth.

Campaign Website: Lashawnnash.org

COUNTY TREASURER

The County Treasurer receives, manages, and pays out county funds. The office also handles county bond payments, processes bail bond funds, and pays jurors.

Dolores Ortega Carter (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY JUDGE

The County Judge presides over the County Commissioners Court which oversees the county's annual budget, acts as the County's chief administrator, and is the Director of Emergency Management for the County.

Andy Brown (D)

Unopposed

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

The Travis County Commissioners Court consists of four County Commissioners (a judge also sits on this court). Together, they adopt the county budget and property tax rate, approve county spending and contracts, set employee pay and benefits, maintain county buildings and facilities, and oversee county operations and services.

PRECINCT 2

Brigid Shea (D)

Unopposed

PRECINCT 4

George Morales III (D)

Unopposed

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Justices of the Peace hear traffic and other minor criminal cases, small civil cases, and landlord-tenant disputes, including evictions. They also perform duties such as setting bail, conducting inquests, and may perform marriage ceremonies.

PRECINCT 1

Ciara Parks (D)

Unopposed

PRECINCT 2

Mariel Kelley (D)

Unopposed

PRECINCT 3

Sylvia Holmes (D)

Unopposed

PRECINCT 4

Raul Arturo Gonzalez (D)

Unopposed

PRECINCT 5

Tanisa Jeffers (D)

Unopposed

TRAVIS COUNTY CONSTABLE

County Constables are elected law enforcement officers who serve specific precincts. They serve warrants and other court papers, carry out court orders, enforce state and local laws, and provide law enforcement services for Justice of the Peace courts.

PRECINCT 4 (UNEXPIRED TERM)

Gabriel Padilla (D)

Unopposed

TRAVIS CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Central Appraisal District Board hires the Chief Appraiser and Taxpayer Liaison Officer, approves the district's budget and contracts, and sets general policies. The Board does not appraise property or set property values.

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Criteria: What do you think are the most important criteria for assessing property values?

Hiring: What qualifications will you look for in a Chief Appraiser and in a Taxpayer Liaison Officer?

Board Experience: What experience have you had serving on governmental boards/commissions that impact the taxation of county residents and businesses?

Appraisal Experience: What experience do you have in either residential or commercial real estate appraisal methods?

PLACE 1

Skyler Korgel

Unopposed

PLACE 2

Brian Peña

Unopposed

PLACE 3

Phil Gorman

Qualifications: Professionally, I monitor and optimize tens of millions of dollars of costs each year. I am also the treasurer on the Circle C HOA Board of Directors, where I oversee an annual budget of $7 million.

Criteria: The job of the Board of Directors is governance, not appraisal. But the legal standard for property assessments is clear: market value, applied equally and uniformly. Fairness is the law, so compliance is non-negotiable. No special deals for taxing entities, and no special deals for connected owners.

Hiring: The ideal TCAD Chief Appraiser should have experience leading other appraisal districts or large teams within other appraisal districts. There are legal minimum technical requirements, but they must deeply understand

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LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

PLACE 3

Phil Gorman (*continued*)

mass appraisal, operate with independence and integrity, and be totally committed to transparency and communication. A TLO should be a property tax expert, organized, and independent.

Board Experience: I serve as the Treasurer on the Circle C HOA Board of Directors, so I understand what it means to be a good steward over dues paid by hardworking property owners. With over 5600 dues-paying households and a $7 million budget, I have learned that fiscal responsibility, transparency, and accountability are necessary to maintain trust when you're spending other people's money.

Appraisal Experience: The job of the Board of Directors is governance, not appraisal. I have firsthand experience as a Travis County property owner who protests every year. And every year I experience the same uncertainties and frustrations with the process. I've learned how notices, evidence, and hearings actually work, and I will use my experience to push for a process that is clear, consistent, and fair for everyone

Yvonne Muñoz

Qualifications: I have worked in public policy and government for over a decade. My Master's degree focused on measurement and assessment, and my consulting practice includes performing data analysis and evaluation.

Criteria: Property values should be based on accurate data, widely accepted appraisal methods, and consistent treatment of comparable properties. The public should also be able to understand how those values are determined. That requires ensuring TCAD has the staff, technology and resources needed to do its work successfully.

Hiring: A Chief Appraiser should have strong appraisal expertise, a track record of effective leadership, fiscal responsibility, and a commitment to accurate and fair appraisals. For the Taxpayer Liaison, I would prioritize knowledge of the property tax system, clear communication and a commitment to helping the public understand and navigate the process.

Board Experience: I serve as Chief of Staff to a Texas House member on the Ways & Means Committee, ensuring he is prepared to evaluate policy proposals. Over the past decade, I have advised elected officials and public sector leaders in Texas and California. As a consultant, I provide data analysis and technical assistance to higher education leaders to support data-driven use of state and local resources.

Appraisal Experience: My experience in data analysis and evaluation, along with graduate training in Assessment and Measurement, provides a strong quantitative foundation for this work. I am trained to examine methodologies, assess the validity and reliability of results and evaluate the accuracy and consistency of outcomes. These skills are directly applicable to evaluating appraisal methods, comparable property data.

LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

DISTRICT JUDGES

District judges hear felony criminal cases, civil cases involving awards over $200, divorce, juvenile cases, land titles, and contested elections.

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Equal Access: How would you ensure that all individuals receive equal access to justice?

Fairness: What in your background demonstrates that you would ensure fairness when evaluating conflicting interests?

Efficiency: How would you balance efficient case processing with due process?

Judicial Reasoning: What steps, if any, would you take to reduce the rates of detention/incarceration and/or reoffending?

277TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Stacey Mathews (R)

Unopposed

368TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Sarah Bruchmiller (R)

Unopposed

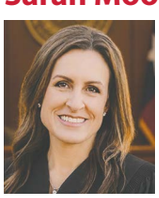
480TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Terence Davis (R)

Unopposed

512TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Sarah Moore (R)



Qualifications: After almost 20 years as a trial attorney (over 100 felony jury trials) plus half a year (so far) serving as Judge of the 512th, I bring knowledge and hands-on experience unmatched by my opponent.

Equal Access: Every person who comes into my courtroom is listened to and treated with respect and dignity. As Judge, I make myself available to ensure there are regular dockets and consistent opportunities for trial to prevent unnecessary delays. Decisions are made according to the law. No person is above or beneath the law: all are bound and protected by it in the same way.

Fairness: Having served as both a prosecutor and a defense attorney, and having been a business owner and represented people hurt by businesses, I always evaluate both/all sides of an issue before me while keeping the law always at the forefront. The law decides the issue; my experience ensures individual people aren't forgotten in the process.

Efficiency: Access to the Court, meaning the ability to schedule hearings and have matters heard in a timely fashion is paramount. As Judge, I work hard to make myself available for exactly that reason: due process requires it. Since April, my court has already had 6 jury trials - an outward sign that access to justice and due process are alive and well in my court!

Judicial Reasoning: The law provides all the guidance necessary to accomplish this task. Bail factors written in the law must be considered by the Judge in determining the amount of bail and any bond conditions. Sometimes, giving a person access to mental health and/or substance abuse treatment can treat the underlying issue(s), thereby reducing the risks of that person reoffending. Each individual is different.

Campaign Website: www.mooreforwilco.com

Leslie Booker (D)

Qualifications: I have over 25 years experience as a felony trial lawyer. I have tried serious cases as both a chief felony prosecutor as well as a defense lawyer. I've tried cases in several counties in Texas.

Equal Access: Of course I will be fair and impartial, while following the law. Having worked on both sides of the aisle in the legal system, I have established a solid foundation for serving people from all walks of life. I understand people have layers and are complex. I see ALL

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LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

512TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Leslie Booker (D) (*continued*)

people and would make certain that no one gets special favors due to their socio-economic status or connections with the fortunate.

Fairness: My personal background has given me the foundation needed to engage with everyone, no matter their background. I've grown up with less than fortunate means. I've gone to school with people from all walks of life. I've worked with folks who come from different backgrounds from me. No matter where I stand, I can comfortably engage. I never feel or act as if I am out of my element.

Efficiency: While we have to follow the law, there is no one formula when applying the law. I will handle each case based upon its own merits, facts and circumstances when applying the law. And I will engage and treat every individual with dignity and respect. No matter what they are facing in the court.

Judicial Reasoning: When it comes to violent crime, we have to be tough as public safety is a priority. However, let's be smarter in how we deal with nonviolent crime. We should utilize all resources available to reduce recidivism. I'd engage community organizations as stake holders when coming up with solutions to reduce low level crime. The more we all invest in our community, the less crime we'll experience.

Campaign Website: booker4judge.com

JUDGE, COUNTY COURT AT LAW

Williamson County has five County Courts at law, which handle misdemeanor criminal, civil, and probate cases.

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 1

Brandy Hallford (R)

Unopposed

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 2

Laura Barker (R)

Unopposed

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 3

Kathryn Fowler (R)

Unopposed

COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 4

David Oliver (R)

Unopposed

COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK

The District Clerk keeps district court records, collects court fees, manages funds held by the courts, coordinates jury selection, and maintains historical court records.

Cathy Mendoza (R)

Unopposed

COUNTY CLERK

The County Clerk keeps property and other public records, maintains records for probate, civil, and misdemeanor courts, and issues birth, death, and marriage records.

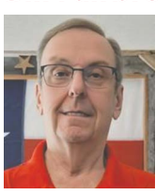
Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Efficiency: What would you do to improve efficiency and customer service?

Record Keeping: How would you improve public access to county records while maintaining necessary security?

Other Issues: What other issue do you consider most important and how would you address it?

Bill Fairbrother (R)



Qualifications: Chief Deputy County Clerk (3+ years),Extensive training from organizations covering almost every aspect of the office, Degrees in Computer Science and Mathematics, Technology experience with Dell & IBM

Efficiency: Regularly review our processes/procedures for opportunities to improve efficiencies and continue providing excellent customer service Monitor proposed legislation/rules to offer feedback before it is adopted & prepare for any changes Leverage my background in technology to benefit our customers, employees, and taxpayers

Record Keeping: We already have online portals available to the public at any time for public records. We offer FREE property fraud alerts & encourage the public to take advantage of this service. Maintain our call center to field questions and assist the public in finding documents and other information. While following applicable laws and regulations, staff are available to assist customers in their search.

Other Issues: Retaining and training employees: When well-trained and experienced employees leave, it creates financial, operational, and institutional knowledge losses. My strategy: Highlight benefits and working conditions, increase communications and education opportunities, & continue cross-training programs already underway. This ensures great customer service & reduced costs of training new employees.

Campaign Website: billfairbrother.com

Erin Block (D)

Qualifications: I'm an accountant with experience managing budgets & complex systems across the private, nonprofit, & public sectors. I'll bring fresh eyes, fix inefficiencies, & make county government work for you.

Efficiency: Too often, government asks residents to navigate outdated systems, unnecessary steps, and confusing processes. That's backwards. I'll bring my accounting and government finance experience to review how the office spends money, uses technology, and serves residents – cutting unnecessary bureaucracy and building a Clerk's office where getting a simple answer or record is actually simple.

Record Keeping: Public records belong to the public, but accessing them can still be unnecessarily difficult. I'll modernize how residents search for and request records, make instructions and fees clear upfront, and protect sensitive information with strong security practices. Transparency and security should never be competing goals - a well-run Clerk's office can deliver both.

Other Issues: Williamson County has grown faster than many of the systems meant to serve us. We shouldn't accept county government that is always playing catch-up. I'll use my background in budgeting, forecasting, and management to plan for growth and modernize services so the Clerk's office is ready for the county we are becoming – not running the county like it's still the 20th century.

Campaign Website: www.erinforwilco.com

COUNTY TREASURER

Manages the financial operations of the county, overseeing revenues, expenditures, and investments. Manages public funds and resources.

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Efficiency: What would you do to improve efficiency, accuracy, and responsiveness of the Treasurer's Office?

Oversight: How will you provide effective oversight of county funds and investments, while managing risk and protecting taxpayer dollars?

Priorities: What are the most pressing challenges facing this office and how will you address them?

Experience: What in your background would assure voters that you would be an effective steward of County funds?

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LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

Carole Callahan (R)

Qualifications: As Assistant Treasurer since 2018, I manage county investments and daily operations. My legislative experience, MBA, former educator and leadership training uniquely qualify me to serve.

Efficiency: The County is implementing a new data system, and I have embraced it as a foundation for improvement. I actively participate, provide daily operational feedback, and cross-train staff to prevent disruptions. I measure performance, identify gaps, and refine processes. I continuously seek staff input to ensure efficiency, accuracy, and responsiveness.

Oversight: I will leverage my investment training and daily experience managing county funds to ensure prudent oversight. I will implement diversified, low-risk strategies aligned with state law, maintain strict internal controls, and conduct regular reconciliations. I will monitor market conditions daily and provide transparent, timely reporting to Commissioners Court and the public.

Priorities: Managing rapid growth while protecting taxpayer dollars is the top challenge. Williamson County is one of Texas's fastest growing, straining infrastructure and budgets. I will leverage financial acumen to spend wisely, manage our strong fiscal position, and safeguard against uncertainties while ensuring the Treasurer's Office remains efficient and reliable.

Experience: Eight years of hands-on experience, investment training through the Texas Association of Counties, NACO leadership certification, and an MBA strengthen my financial expertise. My legislative experience provides insight into government funding. As a former teacher, I know every dollar counts. I am committed to transparent, accountable stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Campaign Website: www.carolecallahan.com

Brian Walbridge (D)

Withdrawn

TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR (UNEXPIRED TERM)

The Tax Assessor-Collector collects property taxes and other government fees, processes vehicle, trailer and motorcycle registrations and titles.

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Accomplishments: What specific past accomplishments make you the best candidate?

Customer Service: What are your plans, if any, for making it easier and more efficient for citizens to interact with your office?

Management: What are your plans, if any, to improve recruitment, training, and retention of staff?

Catherine Totty (R)

Qualifications: 25+ years in banking and financial services, with executive leadership and regulatory experience, combined with my current service as Williamson County Tax Assessor-Collector.

Accomplishments: I built a 25+ year career in financial services, advancing into executive leadership, earned my bachelor's degree, and was recognized in 2021 for service to a local nonprofit. I was selected by Commissioners Court to serve as Tax Assessor-Collector, bringing my leadership, financial experience, and commitment to community service to the office.

Customer Service: As Williamson County grows, our services must grow with it. I will focus on expanding online services, providing clear and accessible information, reducing wait times, and evaluating processes for greater efficiency—while ensuring taxpayers can still reach knowledgeable staff and receive responsive, personal service when they need it.

Management: With more than one-third of our staff serving the Tax Office for over 10 years, we have a strong foundation of experience. I will continue investing in training and development, creating opportunities for advancement from within, and fostering a positive workplace that helps us recruit and retain knowledgeable, service-focused staff.

Campaign Website: votecatherinetotty.com

Eric Hanke (D)

Qualifications: For 12 years, I've served Texas county and district employees, helping 7,000+ plan their financial futures. I'll bring that experience, trust, empathy, and service to the Williamson County Tax Office.

Accomplishments: I've worked with hundreds of county and district employers across Texas, serving county employees and speaking at statewide conferences. I've also held leadership responsibilities helping hire, train, and evaluate team members. This experience has prepared me to lead a high-performing Tax Office focused on service, accountability, and results.

Customer Service: I'll use technology to modernize and streamline Tax Office processes, improving efficiency while making responsible use of taxpayer dollars. My goal is to maximize the customer experience, reduce unnecessary barriers, and ensure every interaction demonstrates that local government can work efficiently and effectively for the people it serves.

Management: My experience as a TCDRS retirement educator will help us use our excellent retirement benefits to recruit and retain talented employees. I'll also invest in training and build a workplace culture rooted in empathy, service, and care—ensuring we serve not only the public, but also the employees who make the Tax Office work.

Campaign Website: hankefortexas.com/

COUNTY JUDGE

Presides over the County Commissioners Court which oversees the county's annual budget, acts as the County's chief administrator, and is the Director of Emergency Management for the County.

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Housing: Can you improve affordability and reduce the number of people who are unhoused in the county? If so, how?

Infrastructure: How would you implement infrastructure that supports quality living and business conditions in the county?

Priorities: What are the top three countywide issues you would like to address over your next term, should you be elected?

Disaster Management: What steps would you take to ensure our community is better prepared for natural disasters, including coordination with neighboring jurisdictions?

Steve Snell (R)

Qualifications: 28 years of executive experience including 11 years as a school superintendent leading one of the highest-performing ISDs in the state, where I managed over $1 billion in construction projects.

Housing: We must tackle housing affordability through smart growth and wise fiscal management. Attracting commercial businesses expands our tax base and provides opportunities for property tax relief. To support the unhoused, we should partner with proven non-profits and faith-based groups to distribute grants for emergency shelter and mental health care.

Infrastructure: Williamson County has an excellent Long Range Transportation Plan that has prepared us to respond to the exponential growth and plan responsibly for the future. As County Judge, I have also worked with CAMPO to secure $130 million in grants to help reduce the burden on the taxpayer. Our county must continue to work collaboratively with the state and cities to fund regional transportation projects.

Priorities: 1. Safety: Keep our county safe by supporting

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Steve Snell (R) (*continued*)

law enforcement with competitive pay and needed resources as well as improve disaster preparedness. 2. Infrastructure: Manage rapid growth through practical mobility solutions and build out critical infrastructure. 3. Fiscal Discipline: Protect taxpayers through conservative budgeting, avoiding wasteful spending, and making services more efficient.

Disaster Management: As head of disaster response for the county, I led through the 2025 floods and recent ice storm. We must provide first responders with the equipment and advanced training needed to respond to disasters, work closely with state and local agencies, and build partnerships with the faith-based community to ensure that we are prepared for immediate emergency response and long-term recovery.

Campaign Website: TexansForSnell.com

Heather Jefts (D)

Qualifications: 4-term Cedar Park Council prepared me to manage growth: I lowered tax rates, created our Homestead Exemption, served on CAPCOG's Exec & Clean Air Board, & hold a UT degree in Sustainability and Econ.

Housing: As County Judge, I'll use our Court's budget and policy authority to expand housing options along transit corridors, uphold non-discrimination standards, and seek out partnerships for supportive housing for vulnerable residents. I'll back civil legal aid, housing navigation services, and manage county finances responsibly - delivering property tax relief to keep residents stably housed.

Infrastructure: Rapid growth demands infrastructure that works. I'll expand and integrate water and wastewater systems so our county can grow responsibly, close broadband gaps so every home and business gets online, invest in transit that moves people and goods safely and efficiently, and build the economic development infrastructure that attracts good jobs and strengthens our tax base for generations to come.

Priorities: My top priorities as County Judge are: modernize public safety with a Medical Examiner's Office, a Crimes Against Children task force, and address mental health service gaps; protect and connect our water systems, fund flood mitigation projects, and guard against data center and overdevelopment impacts; modernize the transit plan to ease congestion; bring fiscal discipline for real tax relief.

Disaster Management: With my CAPCOG experience, I've already coordinated on regional emergency plans. As Judge, I'll strengthen CodeRED and WarnCentralTexas, build joint operations protocols and mutual aid agreements with neighbor counties, run joint drills, and fix access gaps like Sandy Creek—reachable through Williamson County, yet stranded when coordination failed. Preparedness means showing up before a disaster.

Campaign Website: jeftsforjudge.com

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Consists of four County Commissioners (a judge also sits on this court). Together, they adopt the county budget and property tax rate, approve county spending and contracts, set employee pay and benefits, maintain county buildings and facilities, and oversee county operations and services.

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Social Services: How can the Commissioner's Court improve services for the unhoused, the elderly, the mentally ill, people with addictions, and other vulnerable community members?

Infrastructure: How should the Commissioners Court improve infrastructure to better support quality living and business conditions in the county?

Regional Cooperation: How do you plan to work with other jurisdictions on issues such as water, emergency services, disaster management, planning, and other issues that affect multiple jurisdictions?

Affordability: How can the Commissioner's Court improve affordability in areas such as food, housing, healthcare, transportation, and mobility?

PRECINCT 2

David McDonald (R)

Unopposed

PRECINCT 4

Harmon Rhea (D)

No response received

Russ Boles (R)

No response received

Tish Flores (WI)

Qualifications: The combination of nonprofit financial mgmt., real estate expertise, corporate experience, and public education equips me to manage Wilco County's rapid growth while preserving fiscal accountability.

Social Services: The Commissioners Court can improve care by expanding 24/7 Mobile Outreach Teams, investing in specialty diversion courts, strengthening Bluebonnet Trails partnerships, and increasing senior transport.

Infrastructure: To maintain high quality of living and support strong business conditions, the Williamson County Commissioners Court must focus on proactive, balanced, and sustainable infrastructure management that keeps pace with rapid regional growth.

Regional Cooperation: Jurisdictional boundaries must not become barriers to effective governance. The Commissioners Court must prioritize proactive intergovernmental collaboration across five key pillars.Regional Water Security & Environmental Protections Emergency Services & First Responder Readiness Unified Disaster Management & Flood Resilience Synchronized Transportation & Land-Use Planning Intergmntl Transperancy

Affordability: Rapid regional growth in Williamson County has increased cost-of-living pressures for working families, seniors, and low-income residents. While the Commissioners Court does not set retail prices or municipal utility rates, it controls key levers in county taxation, infrastructure planning, grant funding allocations, and intergovernmental partnerships to improve affordability. By combining fiscal discipline at the county level with targeted investments in essential health, housing, and mobility services, the Commissioners Court can ease everyday financial burdens for all residents across Precinct 4 and Williamson County.

Campaign Website: Tishflores.com

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Justices of the Peace hear traffic and other minor criminal cases, small civil cases, and landlord-tenant disputes, including evictions. They also perform duties such as setting bail, conducting inquests, and may perform marriage ceremonies.

PRECINCT 1

KT Musselman (D)

Unopposed

PRECINCT 2

Angela Williams (R)

Unopposed

PRECINCT 3

Evelyn McLean (R)

Unopposed

PRECINCT 4

Rhonda Redden (R)

Unopposed

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LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

WILLIAMSON COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Central Appraisal District Board hires the Chief Appraiser and Taxpayer Liaison Officer, approves the district's budget and contracts, and sets general policies. The Board does not appraise property or set property values.

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Criteria: What do you think are the most important criteria for assessing property values?

Hiring: What qualifications will you look for in a Chief Appraiser and in a Taxpayer Liaison Officer?

Board Experience: What experience have you had serving on governmental boards/commissions that impact the taxation of county residents and businesses?

Appraisal Experience: What experience do you have in either residential or commercial real estate appraisal methods?

PLACE 1

Hope Hisle-Piper

No response received

Clint Stephenson

Qualifications: I, with my wife, have owned several businesses and properties in Williamson county and the state of Texas. I have served several non-profits in and around Liberty Hill over the same course
Criteria: To be fair and consistent.
Hiring: Someone who is not looking to extract as much money as they can from Williamson County tax payers. The process should be fair, it should not be combative, or stacked against the tax payer.
Board Experience: Liberty Hill School Board. I served as a Member, Vice President, and President.
Appraisal Experience: The experience I have is from protesting my residential, Ag, and commercial properties in Williamson County for over 10 years. I found the process to be stacked against the tax payer, and quite frankly Un-Texan.

PLACE 2

Stephan Zaparolli

Unopposed

PLACE 3

Mason Moses

Unopposed

LOCAL CITY OF AUSTIN

CITY COUNCIL

Together with the Mayor, Council members adopt the city budget, set the property tax rate, pass local laws, and make decisions about city services and policies. Some localities may use the term Alderman/Alderwoman and term lengths are based on the local or city ordinance.

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Public Safety: How do you plan to address issues related to public safety, keeping communities safe while preserving individual rights?

Infrastructure: How would you bolster infrastructure in regards to population growth, especially in traffic / transportation and housing?

Data Centers: What is your position on data center development, and what specific policies or regulations regarding natural resource usage would you support regarding data centers?

DISTRICT 1

Alexandria Anderson

Qualifications: Community Leader, small business owner, and 21 year Austin resident. Current Chair of 2 City Commissions with 10+ years of neighborhood leadership and training through Emerge Texas, UT LBJ and Yale.
Public Safety: Public safety and individual rights go hand in hand. I support investing in more prevention collaboration with nonprofits & grassroots orgs, youth programs, apprenticeships, mental health resources and community policing while ensuring accountability, transparency and constitutional rights. Safe communities require both effective public safety and trust between residents and those who serve them.
Infrastructure: We must build infrastructure alongside growth, not after it. I would prioritize road, sidewalks, drainage and transit investments, expand reliable public transportation and safer connection plus ensure new housing is matched with infrastructure capacity. We should also invest in deeply affordable housing and diverse housing options so growth remains attainable and accessible to working families.
Data Centers: I do not support additional data center development until stronger protections are in place, including noise regulations, water-use standards, energy-efficiency requirements, transparent reporting renewable energy use and infrastructure planning. Data center must not place an unsustainable burden on Austin's water, energy, infrastructure, residents & most importantly natural resources.
Campaign Website: www.alexandriaforaustin.com

Steven Brown

Qualifications: I'm a lifelong Austinite, single dad, deacon, and healthcare professional. My crisis management career built accountability. My advocacy proves I fight for working people, earning real trust.
Public Safety: Public safety works best when residents and officers trust each other. I'll expand District 1's community-policing partnerships; growing the Office of Community Liaison's presence, pairing civilian and sworn liaisons, and creating real channels where resident input shapes department policy. I'll also support training that equips officers with strong de-escalation and community-engagement skills.
Infrastructure: Austin's growth is remarkable, but rapid infrastructure development without safeguards has a cost, and District 1 has paid more than its share. My support for growth has one condition: it must be smart in scale, fit neighborhood character, and include real anti-displacement protections, starting with an overlay for 78702. Growth and protecting residents reinforce each other, done right.
Data Centers: Austin shouldn't welcome data centers for tax revenue alone. These facilities demand massive amounts of

VOTE 411
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

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LOCAL CITY OF AUSTIN

DISTRICT 1

Steven Brown (*continued*)

water and electricity; costs that residents shouldn't absorb. Before any incentive or zoning change, a center must prove it won't compromise reliability or affordability and that it meets real environmental and community-benefit standards. East Austin carried industrial burden before. Not again.
Campaign Website: brownforaustind1.com

Amber K. Goodwin

Qualifications: I am an organizer, advocate and attorney. I chaired the task force that created Austin's Office of Violence Prevention, founded two justice nonprofits, and serve as an Assistant District Attorney.
Public Safety: I have seen enforcement alone fail our communities. I will invest in community-led public health approaches to tackle safety including prevention, housing stability, and mental health services to address root causes while protecting due process and civil liberties for all. I have pushed back against federal overreach to our city, including suing the Trump administration to protect our community.
Infrastructure: Start the D1 Economic Opportunity Fund to pair growth with real infrastructure. This includes expanding transit connecting East Austin to jobs, equitable transit-oriented development, and land use plans that meet the neighborhoods where they are. Also expanding small business loans, city land for incubators, and community benefit agreements with local hiring requirements.
Data Centers: Data centers can't have an unregulated blank check in Austin. I would support policies requiring water and power usage disclosures, clean energy standards, and rules ensuring that our environment and vulnerable communities are not harmed. If a data center does get built, the construction jobs should primarily go to local union workers.
Campaign Website: www.amberforaustin.com

Michael Nahas

Qualifications: I'm an economist. I led Austin's economic commission. I pushed for new housing laws that lowered rents $250/month. I found Austin's pension borrowing is wasting 1/3 of our property tax on interest.
Public Safety: To see the problem clearly, we need data not from the police. I'll collect resident opinions, anonymous injury reports from hospitals, and insurance claims. Then, work with residents to prioritize problems and incentivize officers. I'll start by moving Police Oversight under the City Auditor, ban mass surveillance, and only cooperate with ICE on dangerous criminals.
Infrastructure: I will steer development in a way that fixes our budget and minimizes impact to current residents. I'll prioritize tall apartment/condos near downtown, which bring in more tax revenue than they cost the city in services. Their residents will use more sidewalks, buses, and bike/ebike/scooter. These have zero or low pollution and minimize the impact on our congested roads.
Data Centers: AI companies need to be policed, but banning data centers feels like a rash action taken in panic. Data centers have problems, so let's tackle them: Big energy users need to get their own green power or give strong financial guarantees so Austin Energy doesn't raise prices. We should ban wasteful evaporative cooling, have strong noise pollution standards, and ban those NDAs.
Campaign Website: mike4austin.org

Misael Ramos

Qualifications: Business analyst with 20 yrs of experience as community organizer working on zoning, land use & cultural preservation, while leading housing and transit boards, and advocacy for police accountability.
Public Safety: People should feel safe in their bodies, homes, & neighborhoods. That is why I call for ICE abolition and support data privacy over mass surveillance by tech companies for profit. I will promote community-oriented solutions to reduce violent crime, and support funding parity across public safety departments to ensure timely, effective, & quality responses to incidents and emergencies.
Infrastructure: Development should be accompanied by equity and anti-displacement measures, & prioritize deep affordability for working families connected by rapid transit lines routed to essential infrastructure: grocery stores, clinics, & public recreation. We should continue investments in efficient climate resilient infrastructure, like water recapture systems & flood mitigation.
Data Centers: I do not support the development of data centers for AI, or to help enrich tech companies receiving massive tax exemptions from the spread of misinformation, use of our public resources, and destruction of our jobs. I join those calling for a moratorium on them and for the development of a robust public framework to ensure accountability and true benefit to our community.
Campaign Website: misaelforaustin.com

Portia Riggins

Qualifications: I would say my love for Austin prepared me for this position. It's home. My focus is creating a clean budget | the resources will go to all of Austin. In real time change is happening in my campaign.
Public Safety: Being an Austinite I pride myself on keeping the peace in our local community at large. I aim to hopefully be honored with the World Peace Prize one day by my efforts. That's how far I want to improve this great city of ours. Thank you to the longtime residents, and our new neighbors. We will Keep Austin Weird. Prioritizing the best public safety efforts has always been our culture.
Infrastructure: I will prioritize housing, transportation, mobility, and traffic. We as a community enjoy getting to our destination in a timely fashion with efficiency. We also enjoy being able to afford our town. We will boost our economy during my term. We will be effective with real completion rates. We are the leader of America. We will also have a prioritized clean ecosystem .
Data Centers: I strongly support protecting our existing zoning, keep large-scale data centers out of established residential and inner city communities. I would take a firm position against placing large scale data centers in district 1, and our establish residential communities across our city. They can be directed towards the appropriately zoned industrial areas where the infrastructure can best support.
Campaign Website: www.eventbrite.com/e/donate-to-portia-riggins-for-austin-city-council-district-1-tickets-1996664823235?aff=oddtdtcreator

DISTRICT 3

Gavin Fernandez Jr.

Qualifications: Travis County Commissioner pct 4 Chief of Staff, 1991-94, LULAC District 12 Director, El Concilio Mexican-American Land Owners de East Austin - 50yrs. Union member steward, AFSCME 1624, 18 yr.
Public Safety: more communcation with the austin police to gain trust . Host National police day out. Provide safe bike lanes in our neighborhoods . ensure our police, EMs,and Fire force are adequatley funded . Introduce neighborhhod police beats adjacent to music venues. Work with other neighborhoods, business, to alert each other of deviant behavior.
Infrastructure: completion of project connect, increased bus stops and reduced wait time 10 minutes. Increase light syncranation of traffic lights in major intersectations . increase car pooling ride share, biking to work . create low-income housing along project connect route. provide transportation to the rural communities more park and ride. Expand light rail to the West of Austin.
Data Centers: i do not support data centers. none

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DISTRICT 3 (*continued*)

Eduardo "Lalito" Romero

Qualifications: As a daily commuter rail user, I understand our transit challenges firsthand. That's why I support wholesale policy changes while also working to eradicate money's influence in politics.
Public Safety: I would champion kōban-style neighborhood police stations where residents can build relationships with officers who regularly patrol their area. This community-based approach can improve trust and public safety while preserving individual rights through accountability, transparency, and due process.
Infrastructure: Stop with band-aid solutions.Say no to developer deals that displace low-income residents for luxury developments with laughable numbers of "affordable" units. Cut wasteful pet projects to directly invest millions into the public housing budget, which currently receives just 0.9% of the general fund.Use eminent domain on East Austin's slumlords to rebuild the vibrant communities that once existed.
Data Centers: I'm wholeheartedly against data centers in Austin. I will champion roadblocks to the creation of data centers thru zoning changes and installing cost-prohibitive industrial water rates. I will also advance the city's ban efforts indirectly by playing hardball with potential new data centers; no new transit-oriented developments, no TIRZ's, no PID's, no development agreements, no nothing.
Campaign Website: instagram.com/eduardoforaustin

Neha Shah

Qualifications: I'm an immigrant with 20 years in tech, startups, nonprofits & creative arts. I've been a VDR and community organizer even before I became a citizen 8 years ago, that made D3 & Austin my chosen home.
Public Safety: Public safety means community investment, not just bigger police budgets. My priorities: mental health responders on crisis calls, housing over encampment sweeps, full protection for immigrant neighbors under the law, and outcome-based budgeting so spending is tied to results. A safe city is one where everyone's basic needs are met.
Infrastructure: Infrastructure is housing, transit, healthcare. . . and the human community that helps us survive hardships together. Climate change requires sustainable urbanization. Easy and affordable access to healthcare, clean air/water, schools and safe foods is crucial for survival of growing, livable cities. Personally, I don't own a car and will push for reliable transit for all riders.
Data Centers: I'm pro-innovation, but not anti-regulation. Singapore and Germany already hold data centers to strict environmental standards. I am for real clean-energy investment (not fossil-fuel strain), zoning that keeps data centers out of residential, and protected areas. Short-term revenue isn't worth long-term stranded-asset risk, or job losses, when this AI bubble bursts.
Campaign Website: nehaforatx.com

Brock Skinner

Qualifications: My experience in business development, particularly outreach and contract negotiations, has taught me how to stretch limited resources and deliver results.
Public Safety: Public safety requires effective, accountable policing focused on violent and property crime, paired with full protection of individual rights and due process. Safety and civil liberties go together. I also support practical steps on mental health and homelessness that reduce disorder while delivering measurable results and responsible use of tax dollars.
Infrastructure: Prioritize fixing and maintaining existing roads and infrastructure first. Growth requires reliable systems, not just new projects. Target traffic bottlenecks, make better use of current transportation capacity, and ensure housing growth does not overburden infrastructure, while requiring new development to help cover costs.
Data Centers: I am not a strong supporter of new data center development in Austin. If any are approved, they must meet strict standards that protect our natural resources and existing infrastructure. I would require closed loop water systems to minimize strain on our water supply and clear requirements to safeguard the electric grid so residents and local businesses are not left paying higher costs.
Campaign Website: connect-campaigns-now.lovable.app/

José Velásquez

Qualifications: Years of activism, organizing, volunteerism, lived experience and board service prepared me to lead. I'm an advocate and Council Member who remains deeply rooted in the community I serve.
Public Safety: Safe communities are built through trust, connection, and investing in people. I'll continue centering community and investing in neighborhoods, youth, mental health, violence prevention, and services that address root causes. Public safety works best when the community has a seat at the table and everyone's rights and dignity are protected.
Infrastructure: Growth must come with investment and intentionality. We need housing people can afford connected to reliable transit, safe streets, sidewalks, and the infrastructure neighborhoods need. I'll keep pushing to align housing, transportation, and infrastructure investments so we grow responsibly, reduce traffic, prevent displacement, and make it easier for people to get where they need to go.
Data Centers: I strongly oppose data centers and the strain they put on our water, energy grid, and natural resources. We're working to limit their size and resource consumption and ensure strong standards for water, energy, transparency, and siting. Austin's resources belong to our community, and corporate growth cannot come at the expense of our people or our future.
Campaign Website: www.joseforatx.com

DISTRICT 5

Farrah Abraham

Qualifications: Austin business owner, UT paralegal certified, mother, and policy advocate. 18+ years leading local business, civic ordinance reform, property tax relief, and equal opportunity for District 5 families
Public Safety: As a single mother and victim advocate, public safety is my highest concern. I will protect District 5 businesses and families using existing local tools: APD Safe Place partnerships, commercial crime prevention surveys, and multi-disciplinary crisis response like Austin FIRST. We must curb petty crime, defend civil liberties, and ensure every neighbor feels secure.
Infrastructure: Infrastructure must scale with growth using strict accountability. City audits show poor training wastes tax dollars, so I will mandate rigorous training, audit systems, and contractor oversight. To fix traffic and housing, we must adopt smart traffic technology and tech-driven management for multifamily housing, coordinating with local, state, and federal leaders to deliver.
Data Centers: Austin has 50+ data centers bringing vital tech, trade, and engineering jobs to District 5. I support smart development with strict water protections: mandating closed-loop dry cooling systems that eliminate water waste, expanding reclaimed water networks, and requiring large facilities to protect municipal drinking water. We can grow our economy while preserving vital natural resources.
Campaign Website: www.FarrahAbraham.com

Ryan Alter

Qualifications: Nothing fully prepares you for getting a range of policies passed and implemented except doing it. For 4 years, I've honed the skills to not just talk about problems, but instead fix them.
Public Safety: Over the past 4 years, I've helped send clinicians instead of cops to mental health cri-

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DISTRICT 5

Ryan Alter (*continued*)

ses, filled first responder vacancies, and cut emergency response times. I'll build on that by investing in preventing crime before it starts and matching each call to the right responder instead of treating every emergency the same, which creates safer communities, is more effective, and costs less.
Infrastructure: One of my proudest accomplishments is finally building more housing which lowered costs so teachers and seniors can stay here instead of being pushed out. And bond funds that sat unspent for years are finally being put to work, so the roads, sidewalks, flood protection, and parks you asked for are getting built. I am committed to keeping this progress going so we can meet our infrastructure needs.
Data Centers: Large data centers that drain resources and drive up costs have no place in Austin. That's why we acted to keep them out and put water-use protections in place for any large user, data center or not. Smaller facilities that power daily life still offer real benefits, so now they'll need Council approval to locate here, pay their fair share, and be good neighbors.
Campaign Website: Ryan@RyanforATX.com

Liz Brink

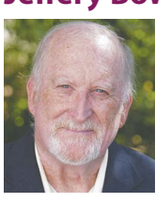
Qualifications: 25yrs of union construction - from ditches to running shops. Labor/Management Training & Cooperatives Negotiations Accountability - budgets, man-hours, production, personnel safety Mother of 2 boys
Public Safety: There needs to be deep dive into Austin's homeless industrial complex and end enabling. Housing First is not working. Enabling Is Not Compassion. We need to look at other cities, like San Francisco, who is proposing legislation to address these difficult issues. Residents of Austin have the right to feel safe in their neighborhoods, to walk the streets, ride the bus, and live their day to day.
Infrastructure: We need to expand the use of AI-driven traffic signals for signal coordination to improve traffic flow. We also need to look at reducing the tolls for 18 wheelers, to be either free or nearly free, to encourage those passing through Austin to bypass the city altogether. Any dense housing developments need to seriously consider input from surrounding neighbors and to be respectful of the community
Data Centers: Data centers are going to be built somewhere. When they are built in our area, they provide a great deal of work with high, competitive pay for many trades. It is important for the data centers to be mindful neighbors in the areas where they are being located - having an open dialogue addressing concerns like water and electricity usage & noise and light pollution. Mindful construction is needed.
Campaign Website: lizbrinkatx.com

David Weinberg

Qualifications: I was Chief of Staff for a State Representative who believed constituent service was job #1 and I worked my tail off at it and came to believe in it. +25 years in and around government, MPA degree.
Public Safety: This is an incredibly important issue for District 5. The very first thing I will do as mentioned above is work extremely closely with the district and very hard as well. The city needs to move to district distributed services for homeless individuals - one or two service centers will not work. I also plan to work closely with experts and advocates in this field to make improvements.
Infrastructure: Public transportation is sorely lacking in District 5. Bus service needs to be improved, including bus public safety. The city should also look at options involving more micro transit services. Expanding mopac south won't help. Signal issues on Slaughter need to be fixed. The city has done a good job building affordable apartments; the government must do more to build affordable homes.
Data Centers: I am deeply concerned about the unchecked, rapid expansion of data centers. This swift, largely unregulated development threatens local power grids, drains water supplies, increases consumer utility bills, and by passes environmental and transparency safeguards. I support a moratorium on the construction of new data centers in Texas.
Campaign Website: www.davidforatx.com

DISTRICT 8

Jeffery Bowen



Qualifications: My 20 years in the USAF provided a solid background in leadership and character, working with experts and asking hard questions to reach the best solutions to issues. Listening / learning is critical
Public Safety: Give priority to fill open positions in police, fire, EMS and 911. Work with departments to resolve public safety issues. Analyze public safety exit surveys to resolve issues causing separation. Continue to address Wildland Fire awareness and preparedness. Address training needs at all levels to provide additional field support for public safety officers in order to create safer public engagement.
Infrastructure: Austin residents own the city's infrastructure. Neglect of the systems impacts us all. Major improvements to the water supply pipes must be addressed. New power sources must be brought on line providing affordable services. Electrical grids must be maintained to prevent outages. CapMetro/rail must provide safe, dependable service city wide. Responsible development of housing should be implemented.
Data Centers: Support current resolution where development must produce a defined, measurable, publicly reported return. Resources needed must be measured against the returns and provide no additional burden on residents. Centers must be self-sufficient or require minimum impact on supplies needed for residents. The use of solar, wind and rain water collection should be mandated in the facilities construction.
Campaign Website: www.jeffbowenforaustincitycouncil.com/

Selena Xie

Qualifications: As a Commander for Austin-Travis County EMS, ICU nurse, and former President of the EMS Association, I've spent my career leading in crises, solving problems, and delivering results for our community.
Public Safety: After 15 years as an Austin first responder, I've seen firsthand what works and where our public safety system falls short. I'll improve EMS, police, and fire response times, strengthen wildfire preparedness, and expand mental health crisis response. We can keep Austin safe while respecting individual rights by sending the right resource to the right call.
Infrastructure: Austin is growing faster than our infrastructure can keep up. We need to invest in public safety, transit, roads, and our utility systems before growth leaves residents paying the price through longer commutes, slower emergency response, and higher bills. I'll push for infrastructure that keeps pace with growth, paired with smarter planning that reduces congestion and sprawl.
Data Centers: Data centers are receiving significant attention right now, and rightly so. And this is an opportunity to establish clear standards for all large industrial energy and water users. I support strong Project Labor Agreements to ensure safe working conditions and fair wages, usage-based fees so those who consume more resources pay their fair share, and safeguards to protect Austin's water and energy.
Campaign Website: www.selenaforaustin.com

DISTRICT 9

Rich Heyman

Qualifications: I taught urban studies at UT for 18 years and worked with community groups on issues including labor, displacement, food access, housing, and tenants' rights, preparing me to make informed decisions.
Public Safety: We need to stop overburdening police with tasks they are not suited for and are more appropriate for

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LOCAL CITY OF AUSTIN

DISTRICT 9

Rich Heyman (*continued*)

EMS or mental health workers. Research shows that the best way to prevent crime is with programs that keep people housed, healthy, and fed, such as deeply affordable housing, eviction prevention, and jobs. We need to think holistically about public safety as building healthy, stable communities.
Infrastructure: We need to ensure that new development pays the direct costs of upgraded or new infrastructure and does not create new financial burdens on the city. We need to stop giving tax breaks to wealthy corporations, thus freeing up money for new transportation projects, which will also require state and federal support, as well as bond funding. We also need more public investment in low-income housing.
Data Centers: We need to suspend data center development in Austin while we consider their impacts. Ultimately, I would support policies that ensure that data centers that are developed in the area have minimal impacts on our power grid, our natural resources (especially water), and our public budgets, while being transparent and supporting good, union jobs.

Kai Huang

No response received

Katie Kam

Qualifications: I have 30 years of experience being of service to Austin as a civil engineer (PhD) & urban planner at the city & in the private sector, local business owner, and former Austin ISD science teacher.
Public Safety: Residents & businesses report frustration with repeat offenders, mental health & drug use incidents, hate & property crimes, & unauthorized camps. I will advocate for: public safety staffing & effective responses; the County to prosecute or commit repeat offenders to involuntary psychiatric stays; better data collection, transparency, & analyses to improve outcomes; compassionate camp clearing.
Infrastructure: Through proactive neighborhoods-based planning & design of operations- & cost-efficient infrastructure. Replace traffic signals with roundabouts. Create lanes for low speed vehicles, golf carts, & e-bikes/trikes. Cancel Project Connect light rail; consider monorail for commuter routes. No highway expansions. Add affordable housing on underutilized parking lots/garages & city real estate.
Data Centers: I support moratoriums; need strict requirements for water conservation informed by water plan, 100% renewable energy, reduced sizes, siting away from homes, & noise control.
Campaign Website: www.katiekamforaustin.com

Zohaib "Zo" Qadri

Qualifications: I've represented District 9 on Austin City Council since 2023, where I've fought to make Austin a city where workers, students, families, and longtime residents can afford to stay and have a voice.
Public Safety: I've fought for better EMS, mental health response and violence prevention while defending civil liberties and police accountability. I was the only Council member to vote against a $218 million police contract that threatened other essential services and weakened oversight. I believe public safety means being safe in your neighborhood and knowing help will come when you call.
Infrastructure: Austin has grown enormously, but too many working people are paying the price through higher rents, longer commutes and worse traffic. I've fought to build more housing by passing HOME, eliminating costly parking mandates and reforming outdated rules. I've also fought for I-35 caps and stitches and better transit. Growth should make Austin better for the people who live here, not push them out.
Data Centers: Our water and power should serve Austinites first. I have publicly opposed new data centers that consume enormous amounts of those resources while ordinary families are being asked to conserve and pay higher bills. I've also supported stronger oversight of large water users by passing policies ensuring corporations do not get special treatment while residents pick up the tab.
Campaign Website: zoforaustin.com

Dave Thadani

Qualifications: As a state employee, student, educator, and lifelong Texan, my lived experience has prepared me to be a catalyst for the people. I will fight for our communities and everyday Austinites.
Public Safety: A safe city is a well-planned city. To ensure an Austin that works for locals and welcomes tourists, we need to integrate focused lighting in heavy foot traffic areas, complete pedestrian infrastructure, and rework police presence, as they are the most effective tools for protecting personal freedoms and delivering a safe and walkable city.
Infrastructure: We need to make sure the city grows with its people and accommodates all of our needs. Proper growth means fixing our old mistakes and preventing new ones. This includes protecting our watersheds and focusing on an expanded drainage system to counteract the flooding caused by impervious cover.
Data Centers: AI infrastructure has no place within the city of Austin at the moment, as current infrastructure is loud, environmentally detrimental, and amasses strain on local resources. Until AI infrastructure becomes more efficient, low risk, and environmentally feasible the conversation on their development should be closed.

PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION A

Ballot Language

THIS IS A TAX INCREASE; the issuance of bonds in the amount of $260,000,000 for citywide park, recreation, aquatic, and open space improvements, and the levy of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds.

Explanation

Proposition A would allow the City of Austin to borrow up to $260 million to improve parks, recreation centers, swimming pools, trails, and open space. The money would fund projects throughout Austin and could be used to buy land for parks, for expanding trails and greenways, and for a new District 6 recreation center. The City estimates a maximum annual tax increase of $8.14 for each $100,000 of a residence homestead's appraised value, based on the assumptions in its voter information document.
A vote FOR would authorize the City to issue the bonds and levy property taxes to repay them.
A vote AGAINST would not authorize the bonds.

PROPOSITION B

Ballot Language

THIS IS A TAX INCREASE; the issuance of bonds in the amount of $35,000,000 for library facilities and the levy of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds.

Explanation

Proposition B would allow the City of Austin to borrow up to $35 million for library facilities. The City has identi-

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PROPOSITION B (*continued*)

fied improvements to the Hampton at Oak Hill Branch Library and a new Colony Park Branch Library as priorities. The City estimates a maximum annual tax increase of $1.10 for each $100,000 of a residence homestead's appraised value, based on the assumptions in its voter information document.

A vote FOR would authorize the City to issue the bonds and levy property taxes to repay them.

A vote AGAINST would not authorize the bonds.

CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Background

The City Charter sets up how Austin city government is organized and outlines basic rules for how it operates. It also shows how residents can be involved in the City's decision-making process. Austin voters will consider eight proposed amendments to the City Charter, Propositions C through J. Most resulted from a City review of the Charter. Proposition I was placed on the ballot through a citizen petition. Each proposition would change a different part of the Charter and is voted on separately.

PROPOSITION C

Ballot Language

Shall the City Charter be amended to clarify that the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC) is independent of City Council control, allow the ICRC to review City districts after changes to the City's boundary lines, create voter registration and residency duration exceptions for student members, provide an effective date for the redistricting plan adopted by the ICRC, increase the number of individuals in the pool of potential appointees to the ICRC, clarify the method and timing of filling vacancies on the ICRC, and allow City staff to communicate with the ICRC outside of a meeting as long as such communication is in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act?

Explanation

Austin's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission draws the boundaries of Austin's 10 City Council Districts. Proposition C would clarify that the Commission is independent of the City Council and change some of its procedures. It would allow the Commission to review Council district boundaries when Austin's city boundaries change, change how commissioners are selected and vacancies are filled, establish when new district maps take effect, and clarify how City staff may communicate with commissioners.

A vote FOR would make these changes to the City Charter.

A vote AGAINST would leave the current rules unchanged.

PROPOSITION D

Ballot Language

Shall the City Charter be amended to delete language providing that the City Council shall meet at least once each week?

Explanation

The City Charter currently requires the Austin City Council to meet at least once each week. Proposition D would remove this requirement, allowing the City Council to decide its meeting schedule.

A vote FOR would remove the weekly meeting requirement.

A vote AGAINST would keep the weekly meeting requirement.

PROPOSITION E

Ballot Language

Shall the City Charter be amended to delete language requiring the City Council to determine its rules and order of business by ordinance?

Explanation

The City Charter currently requires the City Council to create and adopt its meeting rules and order of business by ordinance (otherwise known as a local law). Proposition E would remove the requirement. The City Council could use another method instead.

A vote FOR would remove the requirement that Council rules be adopted by ordinance.

A vote AGAINST would keep the current requirement.

PROPOSITION F

Ballot Language

Shall the City Charter be amended to clarify the meaning of the term "election" and to provide that the campaign contribution and expenditure limits shall be modified each year by January 1st instead of with the adoption of the budget?

Explanation

The City Charter sets campaign contribution and spending rules for candidates for Austin Mayor and City Council. Proposition F would clarify which type of election (runoff, special, or general) these rules apply to. It would also require campaign contribution and spending limits to be updated each year by January 1, rather than when the City adopts its budget, which is usually in August.

A vote FOR would make these changes to the City's campaign finance rules.

A vote AGAINST would leave the current rules unchanged.

PROPOSITION G

Ballot Language

Shall the City Charter be amended to provide that initiative elections and petitioned charter amendment elections must be held on the next available November election date that occurs in an even-numbered year and that allows sufficient time to comply with other requirements of law?

Explanation

Austin residents can use petitions to propose City ordinances or changes to the City Charter and put them before voters if the petitions meet legal requirements. Proposition G would require these citizen-initiated elections to be held at the next eligible November election in an even-numbered year. This could mean a longer wait before voters decide on a citizen-initiated proposal.

A vote FOR would require these elections to be held at the next eligible November election in an even-numbered year.

A vote AGAINST would leave the current election schedule rules unchanged.

PROPOSITION H

Ballot Language

Shall the City Charter be amended to provide that the City Council appoints and removes the City Attorney?

Explanation

The City Attorney provides legal advice to the City and represents the City in legal matters. The City Manager, who is responsible for day-to-day operations and reports to City Council, currently appoints the City Attorney. Proposition H would instead give the City Council authority to appoint and remove the City Attorney.

A vote FOR would give the City Council this authority.

A vote AGAINST would keep the current process.

PROPOSITION I

Ballot Language

Shall the City Charter be amended to require an Independent Affordability and Efficiency Initiative on a regular basis and before any tax rate increase election and requiring the independent contractor to identify annual and multi-year savings that exceed the cost of the contractor's service?

Explanation

Proposition I is a citizen-initiated amendment that would require the City to regularly hire an independent contractor to review City spending and operations and identify ways to reduce costs and improve efficiency. The contractor would be required to identify annual and long-term savings that exceed the cost of the review. An independent re-

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LOCAL CITY OF AUSTIN

PROPOSITION I (*continued*)

view would also be required before the City could hold an election asking voters to approve an increase in the property tax rate. The City already has an efficiency review underway. In 2026, the City approved a contract of up to $5.23 million for an outside contractor to review City departments over several years. Learn more about the existing review plans: **https://www.austintexas.gov/auditor/austins-efficiency-assessment**.

A vote FOR would add these independent review requirements to the City Charter.

A vote AGAINST would not add these requirements.

PROPOSITION J

Ballot Language

Shall the City Charter be amended to make non-substantive corrections of typographical errors, punctuation, and sentence structure, and to change or remove language that is moot or unenforceable because it has been superseded by state law or by a final court order?

Explanation

Proposition J would allow for correction of typos, punctuation, sentence structure, and other technical errors in the City Charter. It would also update or remove requirements that no longer have legal effect because of changes in state law or court decisions. The proposition is not intended to make policy changes.

A vote FOR would make these corrections and updates to the City Charter.

A vote AGAINST would leave the current Charter language unchanged.

LOCAL CITY OF GEORGETOWN

PROPOSITION

Background

Georgetown voters initially approved a dedicated quarter-cent sales tax for street maintenance and repairs in 2002. State law requires that voters approve the reauthorization of the sales tax every four years. The most recent reauthorization was in 2022.

Ballot Language

The reauthorization of the local sales and use tax in the City of Georgetown, Texas, at the rate of one-fourth (1/4) of one percent (1%) to continue providing revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets.

Explanation

If Proposition A passes:

The City estimates that the tax will produce around $7.2 million in the current fiscal year. This revenue will be dedicated to street and sidewalk repairs. The reauthorization will not increase the sales tax rate in Georgetown, which will remain at 8.25%

If Proposition A fails:

Georgetown has been using funds obtained through a quarter percent sales tax as its primary source for street maintenance and repairs since voters first approved the tax in 2002. If voters cast their ballots against the reauthorization, that sales tax will expire "on the fourth anniversary of the date the tax originally took effect or on the first day of the first calendar quarter occurring after the fourth anniversary of the date the tax was last reauthorized." Texas Tax Code, Section 327.07. The City's sales tax rate would drop to 8%. The City would need to identify another revenue source for street repairs.

LOCAL CITY OF HUTTO

PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION A

Background

The City of Hutto is requesting approval of a $48 million bond proposition for construction of a new public safety facility, referred to as the Justice Center, for the Hutto Police Department.

The Hutto Police Department has occupied a station at 401 Front St. since 2002. This building also originally housed Hutto City Hall and City Council chambers. The current police station is an 11,000-square-foot facility and is considered insufficient to meet current and anticipated growth. Since the Hutto Police Department began operating out of the current building in 2002, the population of Hutto has increased from approximately 4,327 to approximately 26,048, making Hutto the 13th fastest-growing city in the United States per the U.S. Census Bureau. Staffing for the Police Department has increased with this growth, from 8 staff members in 2002 to a current staff of 54 certified law enforcement employees and 16 civilian members.

Ballot Language

THIS IS A TAX INCREASE; the issuance of bonds in the amount of $48,000,000 for a new Justice Center to serve as police headquarters and the levy of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds.

Explanation

If passed, the Justice Center Bond will result in an estimated tax increase of $4.82/month or $57.83/year for a home with an appraised value of $100,000. For a home at Hutto's median value of $335,073, the estimated tax increase would be $16.15/month or $193.79/year.

The proposed Justice Center will include an approximately 45,000-square-foot facility and an 8,000-square-foot support building, designed to accommodate current and anticipated departmental growth. The project includes space for all Hutto Police Department divisions, including police administration, investigations, property and evidence storage, crime scene and laboratory functions, and patrol operations. The facility also includes space reserved for a future Communications Center for dispatch operations, along with infrastructure to support the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) in a later phase. There will also be dedicated space for evidence processing and storage. The site includes extra parking, redundant driveways, and security features like privacy fencing, automatic vehicle gates, and a raised, bollard-protected main entrance. The plan also includes a memorial garden and upsized utilities for future growth. Costs associated with infrastructure and site preparation, including drainage work, a required lift station, the length of the water loop, soil remediation, and a deceleration

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LOCAL CITY OF HUTTO

PROPOSITION A (*continued*)

lane on Limmer Loop, are part of the plan. Finally, the bond would support the development of a new collector road from Limmer to Mager to allow for egress to and from the new facility with the understanding that additional Road Use Bond funds may be necessary in the future to complete this portion of the project.

No official decisions have been made about future use of the current Police Department facility at 401 Front Street.

If the bond does not pass, Hutto Police Department will stay in its current facility at 401 Front St. The City would continue to evaluate options for the department's growth going forward and no tax increase would occur at this time.

Website: **www.huttotx.gov/868/Proposed-Justice-Center-Bond**

LOCAL CITY OF JARRELL

MAYOR

The mayor is the chief executive and the public face of a city. The mayor often focuses on issues like city operations, housing, public safety, and transportation. They preside over and vote in city council meetings. Term length varies based on the location.

Lori Allen

Unopposed

ALDERMAN

Together with the mayor, Council members adopt the city budget, set the property tax rate, pass local laws, and make decisions about city services and policies. Some localities may use the term Alderman/Alderwoman; term lengths are based on the local or city ordinance.

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Responsiveness: How will you ensure meaningful two-way communication between residents and City Council?

Infrastructure: How would you bolster infrastructure in regards to population growth, especially in traffic / transportation and housing?

Data Centers: What is your position on data center development, and what specific policies or regulations regarding natural resource usage would you support regarding data centers?

PLACE 1

Frederick Coy

Qualifications: I've experienced small town growth across central Texas and seen the impacts of development as it relates to education, housing, and economics. Also, my wife is an educator/coach in Jarrell ISD

Responsiveness: I will attend every city council meeting and answer emails in a timely manner. Residents can message me on my social media platforms as well. I will also respond to physical letters I receive in my PO Box. Most importantly, I will always take time to have face-to-face conversations with residents in the community.

Infrastructure: Smart planning of infrastructure so that it can support the future growth of Jarrell. This includes supporting better roads, water management, robust development processes for future housing/business developments.

Data Centers: I"m open to the idea of Data center development contigent on adhering to specific regulations and policies concerning natural resources. I would support closed loop water cooling circulation so that it's not taking away from the community. They would have to be self sufficient when it comes to providing energy to support the data center (i.e. their own power plant, solar, etc.).

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61593985882145

Daniel J. Klepac

No response received

PLACE 2

Tim Jordan

Unopposed

LOCAL CITY OF LAGO VISTA

CITY COUNCIL

Together with the Mayor, Council members adopt the city budget, set the property tax rate, pass local laws, and make decisions about city services and policies. Some localities may use the term Alderman/Alderwoman and term lengths are based on the local or city ordinance.

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Public Safety: How do you plan to address issues related to public safety, keeping communities safe while preserving individual rights?

Infrastructure: How would you bolster infrastructure in regards to population growth, especially in traffic / transportation and housing?

Data Centers: What is your position on data center development, and what specific policies or regulations regarding natural resource usage would you support regarding data centers?

PLACE 2

Adam Benefield

Qualifications: City Councilmember with service on Planning & Zoning and Building & Standards. Business owner with decades of management experience and Texas licenses in water, irrigation, backflow and inspections.

Public Safety: I have consistently advanced health and safety code enforcement through multiple agenda items over the past two years while supporting our Police Department with the equipment and resources needed to protect our community. Public safety must also respect individual rights. When residents raised concerns about Flock cameras and privacy, I listened and supported ending the program.

Infrastructure: I would not promote growth beyond what our infrastructure can support. Developers should pay their fair share for impacts to roads, water and wastewater rather than shifting costs to existing property owners, as I required with Firefly. I support property rights and a predictable Development Services process while opposing added LUEs solely to expand growth and addressing dormant PDD entitlements.

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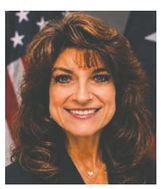
LOCAL CITY OF LAGO VISTA

PLACE 2

Adam Benefield (*continued*)

Data Centers: I oppose data center development that places excessive demands on our water, power or infrastructure. Any proposal should be rooted in resource conservation, with strict limits on water use, full disclosure of projected demand, and requirements that developers pay for infrastructure impacts rather than shifting those costs to residents.
Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61561346850397

Arminae McDonald



Qualifications: My work at the Texas Attorney General's Office, nonprofit leadership, health care and real estate taught me to serve others by listening, asking questions, solving problems and using sound judgment.

Public Safety: Public safety is personal, shaped by military members and first responders in my family and years helping seniors. I support well-trained law enforcement that keeps us safe and respects due process, privacy and equal treatment. I would strengthen wildfire prevention, emergency response and evacuation planning with police, fire/EMS and regional partners, including residents needing assistance.
Infrastructure: We must take care of what we already have, verify the facts, protect taxpayers and plan responsibly as Lago Vista grows. I would use current capacity data and adopted master plans to prioritize essential water, wastewater and road repairs. I would coordinate transportation planning and evaluate housing proposals based on capacity, taxpayer impact and community needs.
Data Centers: My responsibility is to the people who already call Lago Vista home. Our terrain and limited roads and utilities mean I cannot support a data center without proof it would not reduce service or shift costs to residents. I support verified water-use projections, infrastructure funded by developers, efficient cooling and reuse, drought limits and protections for Lake Travis and our neighborhoods.
Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/ArminaeMcDonaldLagoVista

PLACE 4

Norma Owen

Unopposed

PLACE 6

David vonOhlerking III

Unopposed

LOCAL CITY OF MANOR

CITY COUNCIL

Together with the Mayor, Council members adopt the city budget, set the property tax rate, pass local laws, and make decisions about city services and policies. Some localities may use the term Alderman/Alderwoman and term lengths are based on the local or city ordinance.

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Public Safety: How do you plan to address issues related to public safety, keeping communities safe while preserving individual rights?

Infrastructure: How would you bolster infrastructure in regards to population growth, especially in traffic / transportation and housing?

Data Centers: What is your position on data center development, and what specific policies or regulations regarding natural resource usage would you support regarding data centers?

VOTE 411
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

PLACE 2

Robert Edward Battaile

Qualifications: RICE U. Arts 98%SAT Engl. StEd NewCollege. Carpenter Writer PhotogDesigner Programmer, Musician Paul McC inVegas IndieFilm/TV—Jailed for Political Cartoons—Publ ManorMessenger c.1913 Owns Manor Downs™
Public Safety: Fill our EMPTY parks w games/courts/fields/shade. Create PARKS&REC Dept. Bring "good"&"not-as-good" Kids&Parent Mentors together repeatedly Get rid of TX Courts Of No Record - people will feel safer when police can't get warrantsJail&Bail&w/no record. Since Juneteenth, people are allowed to "gather" ~We have"secret" park w 1-mile HowdyWayTrail Loop -City Comp Plan says "parking issues" = mo' txbs.
Infrastructure: Manor taken over by Developers. City passed bogus 605pg Comprehensive Plan usedAsCudgel. City creates TIRZ, OZ and Chapt 380 "Grants" gave Manor Crossing (HEB/HomeDepot) $20 million. Why? Shellgames hide $ from Genl Fund. Where's req'd Public Plazas? ManorVillage is NOT commercial corridor. 2/3 manor = Pete Dwyer DE foreign inc's. StripMalls Elgin2Austin kill local rest. Special Masters &TRO's.
Data Centers: Manor illegally let Dalfen Industries annex 147 acrs for 6 Warehouses &to destroy historic Manor Downs™ Stadium. Data Center or ICE Detention Center - won't say. My "Battle of Texas" Lawsuit has TROs to stop these&other historic erase. D-1-GN-25-000719 Hearing 9/04. Manor hides Sewage Plants & Apts onTOP oF Black Graves.Citizen Complaints never docketed -PD Reports=gone.Wait 4 better Quantum cntrs
Campaign Website: SavingManor.org

Anne Weir

Qualifications: Manor has been the place I've lived & worked a long time. I'm knowledgeable in the complex issues that are specific to Manor. I have 17yrs experience volunteering & participating in this community.
Public Safety: I believe in addressing the root causes of crime without infringing on personal freedoms. Better street lighting, youth programs, sidewalks and mental health crisis support would be helpful to our community.
Infrastructure: I am an advocate for data driven information when it comes to looking at resources for our community especially in the areas of traffic safety & housing given Manor's expanding growth. Regional decisions have left our roads clogged morning,noon and evening. I will continue the city's push to TxDOT and CTMA for needed relief on 290. Continue to advocate to make our intersections safer.
Data Centers: I always supported balanced, smart growth in Manor. I understand that our cities water/ electric capa-

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LOCAL CITY OF MANOR

PLACE 2

Anne Weir (*continued*)

bilities are limited ,we can't allow high volume industries to drain our infrastructure & I definitely don't want to see there be a rise in energy & water costs to our families. Insisting developers pay utility impact fees to fund local water maintenance & developer paid utility upgrades

PLACE 4

Sam Samaripa

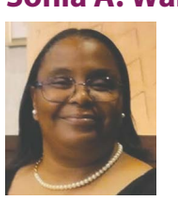
Qualifications: Lifelong resident & Army veteran. UT Austin alumni with BBA. Former Manor Councilman, Manor ISD Trustee, & coach. Current American Legion Post 331 Commander, MEF board member & Manor Chamber member.

Public Safety: Increase police force to align with population growth. Organize a neighborhood watch program. Develop a street crime unit to work at key locations. Post MPD vehicles at key roadway intersections during peak traffic times. Assist Manor ISD in supporting after-school activities to keep young people off the streets. Improve lighting in parks and neighborhoods. Clean bushes and trees to open areas.

Infrastructure: Work with county and state officials to create more roads and improvements. Expand roads to connect the subdivisions along HWY 290 & FY973. Widen major streets to accommodate more traffic. Recalibrate traffic lights for better ease of traffic. Consider allowing driving on shoulders during peak traffic. Repair city roads as needed. Provide more public transportation to reduce traffic.

Data Centers: I am opposed to data centers in the vicinity of Manor. Problems include data center's high electricity and water usage which will ultimately increase the residents' cost for these utilities, noise and air pollution for the nearby residents, and more traffic congestion. There would be an increase of jobs during the construction of data centers but there will be few permanent jobs afterwards.

Sonia A. Wallace



Qualifications: 'I'm qualified because I've shown my commitment by service, listening to residents and working to address their concerns. I have advocated for Improvement to our roads and infrastructure.

Public Safety: I will support strong communication and partnerships between residents, law enforcement, first responders, schools, and community organizations so we can identify problems early and respond effectively. I will advocate for adequate public-safety resources, better lighting and infrastructure in areas where safety is a concern, and community programs that help prevent crime before it happens.

Infrastructure: I will Advocate for road improvements, better traffic-flow planning, sidewalks, and connectivity between neighborhoods. I will support a healthy mix of housing options while encouraging responsible development that fits the character and needs of our community. We need housing that is attainable for working families, seniors, and young people—not simply more housing.

Data Centers: I would support policies that: Protect our water supply, require infrastructure impact studies, establish responsible water-use standards. I am not against economic growth, but growth must be responsible, require transparency and accountability. Manor's water, infrastructure, and quality of life are resources we have to protect for current residents and future generations.

PLACE 6

Selena Chambers

Qualifications: I own my own business that I built from the ground up that I have been running successfully for 6 years. I have also been the Vice President of the Manor Chamber of Commerce for going on 3 years.

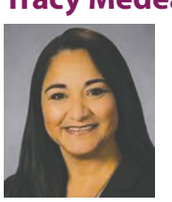
Public Safety: Build a recreational center and develop community youth programs. Court more businesses to Manor that provide activities such as sports complexes, a movie theater, or a skating rink. We need more third spaces.

Infrastructure: I believe that we need to start focusing more on density instead of the suburban sprawl. Change zoning that focuses more on mixed use development. Create more walkable communities where people can live and shop in the same space while also incorporating green spaces.

Data Centers: I am against data centers. There have already been too many instances of these large corporations cutting corners and taking the cheap route at the expense of the local communities. They drain the area of resources, while bringing down property values and driving up costs for the citizens. In many cases, they are given tax subsidies and taxes are raised on the community to pick up the slack.

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/selena4manor

Tracy Medearis



Qualifications: 35yrs of experience supporting c-suite/top level executives of billion $, Fortune500, tech companies; participating in, LRP, strategic planning and collaborative discussions

Public Safety: Ensuring that our police department is well equipped, both with staffing & resources, to cover the city as we continue to expand. Investing in community based programs and building relationships is vital for the department.

Infrastructure: Strengthening relationship to work closely with TxDot to alleviate the areas that have become traffic headaches for over 60k drivers, a day. Maybe discussing flyovers that drop off further then the city limit sign to ensure future growth would remain unaffected. We need to support the Mayor in his role on the Highway290 taskforce to help bring a traffic solution to our problem area.

Data Centers: Although construction of data centers would bring jobs into the area, the actual center itself does not employee enough people to make a significant difference in our community. Manor does not have a nearby water source to feed the center , without disrupting service to our residents, to validate the building of one in our area.

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61593208034110

Felix Paiz

No response received

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® AUSTIN AREA

VOTERS GUIDE PRODUCTION

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LOCAL CITY OF MANOR

PROPOSITIONS

Background

Manor voters will consider four proposed amendments to the City Charter, Propositions A through D. The propositions come from a Charter Review Committee, which is appointed every five years to review the City Charter and recommend amendments.

PROPOSITION A

Ballot Language

Shall Section 1.05 of the City Charter be amended to reorganize the existing list of the City's particular powers into separate provisions for clarity, without substantively changing or expanding those powers?

Explanation

The Manor City Charter lists the powers the City may exercise. Proposition A would reorganize this list into separate sections to make the Charter easier to read. It would not change or expand the City's powers.
A vote YES would reorganize the Charter language.
A vote NO would leave the current Charter language unchanged.

PROPOSITION B

Ballot Language

Shall Section 1.07 of the City Charter be amended to revise the City's annexation and disannexation authority and procedures to require compliance with applicable state law, clarify the rights and obligations of residents and property within annexed territory, and require payment of City taxes and assessments owed before disannexation?

Explanation

Annexation is the process of adding property to the City. Disannexation removes property from the City. Proposition B would update Manor's rules for annexation and disannexation to require compliance with state law and clarify the rights and responsibilities that apply to residents and property in annexed areas. Note that state law already overrides local charter laws if there is a conflict. It would also require City taxes and assessments owed on property to be paid before the property could be removed from the City.
A vote YES would make these changes to Manor's annexation and disannexation rules.
A vote NO would leave the current Charter provisions unchanged.

PROPOSITION C

Ballot Language

Shall Section 7.01(i) of the City Charter be amended to correct the word "insure" to "ensure"?

Explanation

Proposition C would make a wording correction only in this section of the City Charter. It would not change the City Manager's duties.
A vote YES would make this wording correction.
A vote NO would leave the current wording unchanged.

PROPOSITION D

Ballot Language

Shall Section 10.11 of the City Charter be amended to repeal the establishment and requirement for Community Committees?

Explanation

The Manor City Charter currently requires the establishment of Community Committees. Proposition D would remove this requirement from the City Charter, which was added in November 2020 after a proposition vote in the general election. The City has other boards, commissions, and committees whose members are appointed by the City Council. Proposition D applies specifically to the Community Committees required by Section 10.11 of the Charter.
A vote YES would remove the Charter requirement for Community Committees.
A vote NO would keep the requirement.

VOTE 411
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

LOCAL CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE

CITY COUNCIL

Together with the Mayor, Council members adopt the city budget, set the property tax rate, pass local laws, and make decisions about city services and policies. Some localities may use the term Alderman/Alderwoman and term lengths are based on the local or city ordinance.

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Public Safety: How do you plan to address issues related to public safety, keeping communities safe while preserving individual rights?

Infrastructure: How would you bolster infrastructure in regards to population growth, especially in traffic / transportation and housing?

Data Centers: What is your position on data center development, and what specific policies or regulations regarding natural resource usage would you support regarding data centers?

PLACE 2

David Rogers

Qualifications: Six years as City Councilman, Eight years on Board of Adjustment, Two years on Pflugerville Community Development Corporation Board, decades litigating government, Constitution, and real estate issues

Public Safety: Voted to End FLOCK cameras in Pflugerville; voted to INCREASE funding for police education, including de-escalation and mental health training; voted for state of the art equipment for police. Voted to increase size of police force, both sworn and unsworn (civilian) personnel. Voted to expand City dispatch court staff; new full time City Attorney. Implementing new City cybersecurity protocols.

Infrastructure: Voted to complete Kelly Lane Phase 2 project, Colorado Sands expansion, Pecan Street and Immanuel Road improvements. Voted to implement regular resurfacing projects for existing streets. Regularly communicate with City Manager regarding potholes and urgent needs for repairs. Voted for upgrades in water and wastewater capacity. Voted to reduce residential water and wastewater costs to citizens.

Data Centers: Data centers in Pflugerville use very little water. Currently collaborating with Councilman Coffman crafting city code amendments to mandate conservation. One data center uses only seven (7) gallons of water a day. We anticipate requirements for future data centers to build similar closed-loop systems in order to preserve our natural resources.

Campaign Website: electmisterrogers.com

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LOCAL CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE

PLACE 2 (*continued*)

Ceasar Ruiz

No response received

PLACE 4

Trent Barlow

Qualifications: My managerial experience while working in top tier consulting and business operations at a major tech company, as well as my masters and background in accounting.
Public Safety: We should all feel and be safe in our communities, without mass surveillance. We should adopt laws and safeguard that are in keeping with the spirit, not just the letter, of the Constitution. Flock and similar programs are not. The road to public safety with personal liberty lies through economic opportunity, common sense safeguards (lights, safety officers, etc), and a strong sense of community!
Infrastructure: We need to grow our roads and infrastructure before the people arrive, not after. That said, we cannot just spend money freely; there are real constraints: we still need to provide public services. We need to invest responsibly, and ensure our rate of growth is reasonable through targeted development approvals as we grow.
Data Centers: I am in general opposed to significant data center construction based on their current practices. However, I believe they CAN be welcome in our town IF they 1) use a closed loop water system, 2) bring their own electricity/pay the capex to expand the grid themselves, 3) do not take up massive space that could be better used, 4) pay their share of taxes, 5) provide high-pay permanent jobs
Campaign Website: Trentforpf.com

Gregory L. Harrington

Qualifications: Through my 28 years as a Pflugerville resident, I've served on a hosts of area boards. Specific to Pflugerville, I've served on the ISD's Strategic Planning Committee & City's Charter Commission
Public Safety: I believe in wiring with our police department and fire department to better understand what are their to properties and issues. Equally, I want to hear from or citizens to know what's concerns they may have. I publicly supported and advocated for EMS to be returned to Pflugerville Fire Department instead of private Allegiant ambulance. I received many complaints about Allegiant.
Infrastructure: As it relates to infrastructure, our streets need to accommodate the growth that we have. When businesses, suburban areas, and apartment complexes are built, the flow of traffic should be considered for existing traffic and new traffic. We're no longer a small City where country roads are sufficient. I would also like to improve the roads between Manor and Pflugerville to accommodate more traffic
Data Centers: As Technical Sales Representative at Dell, I helped customers to design their data centers. The notion that data centers are disproportionately using resources & taking them from our citizens is simply nonsense & very inaccurate. Water is barely used and each company wants to minimize electricity to reduce its costs. Data centers are doing great work "data is king" and bringing jobs to our city.
Campaign Website: www.gregory-harrington.com

De Juana "De J." Lozada

Qualifications: Public Affairs Officer for the Department of Defense in Europe for more than a decade. Former delegate for the Travis County Democrat Party. Former Precinct Chair. Current VP of the PCDC Board
Public Safety: No initiative should come at the price of individual or collective civil liberties guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. I promote policies that give people better options than committing crimes. Better jobs with better pay has been demonstrated to reduce crime and drug abuse. More affordable child care and family support services lead to a reduction in domestic abuse and other violence.
Infrastructure: Every infrastructure project must clearly demonstrate how it will be paid for as well as how much of the burden will fall on the taxpayers. Strategic planning should be stewarded by credentialed experts, not just by those who might happen to hold a title. Short-term plans must fit as seemlessly as possible with identified long-term objectives. Projections should be realistic and based in facts.
Data Centers: I do not support data center development that infringes on the people or the environment. Any requests for data centers in my community must demonstrate through independent analysis the environmental and monetary impact on the residents. Data centers must not rely on drinking water for cooling and/or other operational usage. The noise must be properly mitigated, and the air quality must not suffer
Campaign Website: votedej.com

PLACE 6

Oscar R. Mitchell

Unopposed

CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Background: The City Council is required to appoint a Charter Review Committee every five years. The most recent committee was appointed in November of 2025 to review the charter and propose any recommended amendments. These were presented to the City Council in July of 2026. In compliance with Section 9.004 of the Texas Local Government Code and Section 11.11 of the Home Rule Charter for the City of Pflugerville, the City Council called for a special election to put forward these amendments to voters.

PROPOSITION A

Ballot Language

Shall the City of Pflugerville City Charter be amended to authorize monthly compensation for members of the City Council in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars ($750.00) per month for the Mayor and five hundred dollars ($500.00) per month for Council Members?

Explanation

City Council members currently serve without pay, although they may be reimbursed for necessary expenses related to their official duties. Proposition A would pay the Mayor $750 per month and each Council Member $500 per month.
A vote FOR would authorize this monthly compensation.
A vote AGAINST would keep Council members unpaid, except for reimbursement of approved expenses.

PROPOSITION B

Ballot Language

Shall the City of Pflugerville City Charter be amended to add a new section requiring the City Council to adopt protections governing the collection, use, retention, and oversight of data, facial recognition, and surveillance technologies, to establish transparent approval processes for such technologies, and to require a responsible artificial intelligence framework?

Explanation

Proposition B would require the City Council to adopt rules for how the City collects, uses, keeps, and oversees data and technologies such as facial recognition and surveillance systems.

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PROPOSITION B (*continued*)

It would also require a transparent approval process for these technologies and rules for the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI).

A vote FOR would add these requirements to the City Charter.

A vote AGAINST would not add these requirements.

PROPOSITION C

Ballot Language

Shall the City of Pflugerville City Charter be amended to revise the procedures for adopting ordinances, including eliminating the requirement that a proposed ordinance be read at two Council meetings and instead requiring an additional reading only when the City Council determines that an amendment substantively changes the ordinance, and revising related notice and public-availability procedures?

Explanation

The City Charter currently requires a proposed ordinance (a law or rule) to be considered at two City Council meetings. Proposition C would require just one reading, with an additional reading only when the City Council determines that an amendment substantially changes the ordinance. It would also update requirements for public notice and access to proposed ordinances.

A vote FOR would make these changes to the ordinance approval process.

A vote AGAINST would keep the current Charter requirements.

PROPOSITION D

Ballot Language

Shall the City of Pflugerville City Charter be amended to lower, from fifteen percent (15%) to ten percent (10%), the percentage of qualified voters required to sign a petition for an initiative, referendum, or nonbinding referendum?

Explanation

The City Charter currently requires signatures from at least 15% of qualified voters registered to vote at the last regular City election. Proposition D would lower the requirement to 10%. Reducing the number of signatures needed might make it easier for a citizen-proposed ordinance or a repeal vote (referendum) to get on the ballot.

A vote FOR would lower the petition signature requirement from 15% to 10%.

A vote AGAINST would keep the 15% requirement.

PROPOSITION E

Ballot Language

Shall the City of Pflugerville City Charter be amended to revise City Council meeting and agenda procedures, including requiring that an item submitted by a Council Member with the support of a second Council Member be placed on an agenda within sixty (60) days, requiring the Mayor to include such items on the agenda, and clarifying the Council's meetings requirements with City-created boards and commissions?

Explanation

Proposition E would allow one Council Member, with the support of another Council Member, to require an item to be placed on a City Council agenda within 60 days of submission. The Mayor would be required to include qualifying items on the agenda. It would also clarify that the City Council meets with Council-created boards and commissions as needed.

A vote FOR would make these changes to City Council meeting and agenda rules.

A vote AGAINST would leave the current Charter provisions unchanged.

PROPOSITION F

Ballot Language

Shall the City of Pflugerville City Charter be amended to provide that voter petition requirements be completed in compliance with state law and extending, from two (2) weeks to four (4) weeks, the deadline to file a supplementary petition after a petition is certified insufficient?

Explanation

Proposition F would make two changes to how petitions are handled. First, signatures for recall petitions would need to comply with the rules set by state law, which is available at **https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/petitions.shtml**.

Second, it would also give organizers more time to collect additional signatures when a petition does not have enough valid signatures, increasing the deadline for amending the petition from two weeks to four weeks. This longer deadline would apply to recall petitions and to other petitions, like those asking for a new law or a public vote on a law.

A vote FOR would make these changes.

A vote AGAINST would keep the current Charter provisions.

PROPOSITION G

Ballot Language

Shall the City of Pflugerville City Charter be amended to revise the requirements governing the development and content of the City's annual budget, including requiring that the City Manager prepare and present the budget in accordance with Government Finance Officers Association budget-award guidelines, requiring comparative budget information and a five-year financial forecast, and to add a new charter section requiring a publicly accessible reporting system and final close-out reports for major capital projects?

Explanation

Proposition G would add requirements for how the City prepares and presents its annual budget, including information that makes it easier to compare year-over-year revenues, spending, staffing, and long-term financial obligations. The City would also be required to provide a five-year financial forecast including projected revenues, expenses, debt, capital spending, and expected effects on property tax and utility rates. For major capital projects, the City would be required to provide public online reporting and a final report when each project is completed. The final reports would be kept for a minimum of five years.

A vote FOR would add these budget and capital-project reporting requirements to the Charter.

A vote AGAINST would leave the current Charter requirements unchanged.

PROPOSITION H

Ballot Language

Shall the City of Pflugerville City Charter be amended to authorize the Mayor alone to excuse the City Manager from attending a meeting?

Explanation

The City Charter currently requires the City Manager to attend City Council meetings unless excused by the City Council. Proposition H would instead allow the Mayor alone to excuse the City Manager from attending a meeting. The City Manager is still appointed by City Council, and remains responsible to the City Council in their role.

A vote FOR would give the Mayor this authority.

A vote AGAINST would keep the current requirement that the City Council excuse the City Manager.

PROPOSITION I

Ballot Language

Shall the City of Pflugerville City Charter be amended to allow City Council to appoint residents of the city's ETJ as non-voting advisory participants on city boards and commissions?

Explanation

Pflugerville's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) includes areas outside the city limits where the City has some authority. Proposition I would allow the City Council to appoint ETJ residents as non-voting advisory participants on selected City boards and commissions when allowed by law.

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LOCAL CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE

PROPOSITION I (*continued*)

These participants could provide input but could not vote, count toward a quorum, or serve as chair or vice-chair of a board or commission.

A vote FOR would allow ETJ residents to serve in these non-voting advisory roles.

A vote AGAINST would not add this option to the Charter.

PROPOSITION J

Ballot Language

Shall the City of Pflugerville City Charter be amended to provide that the Mayor and City Council set the strategic direction and general policy framework of the City?

Explanation

The City Charter currently says the Mayor and City Council determine City policies. Proposition J would change this language to say that the Mayor and Council set the City's strategic direction and general policy framework.

A vote FOR would make this change to the Charter's description of the Mayor and City Council's role.

A vote AGAINST would keep the current language.

PROPOSITION K

Ballot Language

Shall the City Charter be amended to allow public comment during removal proceedings without requiring City Council approval?

Explanation

The City Charter contains procedures for hearings involving the possible removal of the Mayor or a City Council member. Currently, public comment during these Councilmember removal proceedings requires approval from a majority of the Council members present. Proposition K would allow public comment without first requiring a Council vote. The City Council could still establish rules for public comment.

A vote FOR would allow public comment during removal proceedings without prior Council approval.

A vote AGAINST would keep the current requirement.

PROPOSITION L

Ballot Language

Shall the City of Pflugerville City Charter be amended to remove the requirement that the Municipal Court Judge reside within the City?

Explanation

The City Charter currently requires the Municipal Court Judge to be a licensed Texas attorney and a Pflugerville resident. Proposition L would remove the requirement that the judge live in Pflugerville. The requirement that the judge be a licensed Texas attorney would remain.

A vote FOR would remove the City residency requirement.

A vote AGAINST would keep the residency requirement.

PROPOSITION M

Ballot Language

Shall the City of Pflugerville City Charter be amended to add a new Section 11.05 specifying how the public may participate in City Council meetings, including the submission of written comments on agenda items and participation by remote communication to the extent permitted by state law?

Explanation

Proposition M would add requirements for public participation in City Council meetings to the City Charter. People could submit written comments on posted agenda items. Comments submitted according to City procedures would be provided to the City Council and included as part of the meeting minutes. The City would also be required to allow remote public participation to the extent permitted by state law. The Council could also define how people participate remotely, including but not limited to registration requirements, time limits, and other governing measures.

A vote FOR would add these public participation requirements to the Charter.

A vote AGAINST would not add these requirements.

PROPOSITION N

Ballot Language

Shall the City of Pflugerville City Charter be amended to make non-substantive technical and conforming corrections, including standardizing capitalization throughout the Charter; adopting language conforming with state law, and amending or deleting language that is unnecessary or duplicative of state law?

Explanation

Proposition N would make technical changes throughout the City Charter, such as making capitalization consistent, updating language to comply with state law, and changing or removing language that is unnecessary or duplicates state law. The updates are NOT intended to change City policy.

A vote FOR would make these technical and legal updates.

A vote AGAINST would leave the current Charter language unchanged.

LOCAL CITY OF SUNSET VALLEY

MAYOR

The Mayor is the chief executive and the public face of a city. The mayor often focuses on issues like city operations, housing, public safety, and transportation. They preside over and vote in city council meetings. Term length varies based on the location.

Marc Bruner

Unopposed

CITY COUNCIL

Choose 0, 1, or 2 candidates.

Together with the Mayor, Council members adopt the city budget, set the property tax rate, pass local laws, and make decisions about city services and policies. Some localities may use the term Alderman/Alderwoman and term lengths are based on the local or city ordinance.

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Public Safety: How do you plan to address issues related to public safety, keeping communities safe while preserving individual rights?

Infrastructure: How would you bolster infrastructure in regards to population growth, especially in traffic / transportation and housing?

Responsiveness: How will you ensure meaningful two-way communication between residents and City Council?

Robert Johnson

Qualifications: I am in my sixth year of being on the Sunset Valley City Council. I am the liaison to the Public Safety Committee and previously was Vice Chair of the Arts Commission.

Public Safety: Public safety is the bedrock of civic legitimacy. I support our Chief and Police Department in pursuing community policing to build public trust. Fully staffing our force boosts morale and fosters long-term community relationships. To safeguard individual rights, I oppose mass surveillance. Instead, I trust our officers' professional skills and investigative abilities to keep us safe.

Infrastructure: In Sunset Valley, our vital infrastructure priorities are streets and water. We are transitioning our ro-

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LOCAL CITY OF SUNSET VALLEY

bust Street Fund to a condition-based repair model, cutting waste and extending resources. We must also invest the time and proper funding needed to make our water utility self-sustaining, eliminating its reliance on nearly 20% of our general city budget.
Responsiveness: Sunset Valley already excels in outreach with active committees, meeting video streaming, Engagement HQ, and open public comment. Building on this foundation, my focus this term is refining digital communication: making it quick and simple to sign up for email notifications and verify subscriptions, ensuring clear, dependable communication between residents and City Council.

Sarah Ponder

Qualifications: BA & MBA from UT; CFP®; institutional investment & budgeting experience; St. David's church investment committee (prior); Hospice Austin investment committee (present); former public school teacher.
Public Safety: Sunset Valley has caring and professional police officers. I would preserve our small-city community policing model by continuing to support visibility and prevention, and use our Public Safety committee to raise resident issues such as keeping streets safe for walkers & bikers. We can also continue to increase resident awareness and coordination for severe weather emergency preparedness.
Infrastructure: Sunset Valley is at a critical point where we are reviewing options for the sale or redevelopment of Sunset Valley elementary, and we need to review the land development code. I will advocate for smart land use choices that preserve our unique quality of life, natural space, property value, and ensure that developments on or near city land do not adversely affect our public infrastructure systems.
Responsiveness: The city publishes reams of information online. It is too much for most residents to digest. The city should make it easier to understand what council proposing, why it matters, what are the alternatives, and how residents can comment. We should empower neighborhood leaders to set up formal and informal communications from residents to council to increase the breadth of feedback the City receives.
Campaign Website: www.linkedin.com/in/spponder/

Charles Young

No response received

PROPOSITION

Reauthorization of the Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD) and sales tax

Ballot Language

Whether the City of Sunset Valley Crime Control and Prevention District should be continued for ten (10) years and the crime control and prevention district sales tax should be continued for ten (10) years.

Explanation

Sunset Valley voters created the Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD) and its sales tax in 2021 for a five-year term. The District will expire unless voters reauthorize it. 0.125% of the existing 8.125% sales tax rate in Sunset Valley is for the CCPD. This proposition would continue the CCPD and its sales tax for another 10 years. There will be no change to the tax amount.
A vote FOR would continue the Crime Control and Prevention District and its sales tax for 10 years.
A vote AGAINST would allow the Crime Control and Prevention District and its sales tax to expire.

LOCAL CITY OF TAYLOR

CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Background

The City of Taylor's Charter Review Commission was created in December 2025 for the purpose of recommending and reviewing amendments to the city's home rule charter document. The commission was composed of nine (9) Taylor citizens that worked with support from both the city clerk and city attorney. During 8 public meetings held between March through June 2026, 57 total submissions were considered and narrowed down to the 7 proposed amendments, approved by City Council, to be placed on the November 2026 ballot.

PROPOSITION A

Ballot Language

Shall Section 4.1 of the Charter of the City of Taylor be amended to delete language which is redundant of and inconsistent with other sections in the Charter?

Explanation

This amendment seeks to remove redundant wording from this section of the charter related to a council member's term length as well as the inconsistent and now inaccurate language related to selecting the mayor.

PROPOSITION B

Ballot Language

Shall Section 4.2 of the Charter of the City of Taylor be amended to delete the requirement that a Councilmember shall not be indebted to the City for consistency with state and federal law?

Explanation

Taylor's city attorney recommended that the current requirement that a candidate for Councilmember cannot be indebted to the city conflicts with certain state and federal laws. Based on this advice, the commission recommends this requirement be removed from the city charter. If passed, this amendment will remove the requirement that a candidate for councilmember cannot owe money to the city of Taylor.

PROPOSITION C

Ballot Language

Shall Section 4.4 of the Charter of the City of Taylor be amended to provide that, if a vacancy on the City Council occurs with twelve (12) months or less remaining in the unexpired term, the City Council may, by majority vote of the remaining members, fill the vacancy at the next regularly scheduled election?

Explanation

Currently, if a council seat becomes vacant, a special election is required to fill the seat regardless of how much time is remaining on that seat's term. This amendment seeks to avoid calling for special elections outside of the regular election cycle to fill vacant seats. This amendment will allow for council members to fill a vacant seat on the City Council without calling a special election if the remaining term is 12 months or less.

PROPOSITION D

Ballot Language

Shall the Charter of the City of Taylor be amended by adding Section 4.6 to impose term limits on the offices of Mayor and City Councilmember providing that no person may serve more than four terms in any combination of the office of Mayor or City Councilmember and that a person who has served four terms be permanently and for life ineligible to seek election or appointment to either office?

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LOCAL CITY OF TAYLOR

PROPOSITION D (*continued*)

Explanation

Currently, there is no limit to how long a citizen can serve on the City Council. This amendment seeks to place lifetime term limits on City Council both as a councilmember and mayor; define what a term is; and establish the effective date for counting terms. This amendment will place a lifetime cap on the length of service for council members and the mayor at four (4) terms as well as establish the effective date to begin counting terms. Any previous service before the effective date will not be counted.

PROPOSITION E

Ballot Language

Shall Section 7.1 of the Charter of the City of Taylor be amended to provide that every City Councilmember, including the Mayor, has the same power and authority as every other Councilmember except where the Mayor is given explicit duties elsewhere in the Charter; that every Councilmember has the right to place any item on the City Council agenda; that an agenda item requested by a Councilmember must be added to the agenda and may not be refused by the City Manager or the Mayor; and that the City Manager and the Mayor have the authority to order the items on the agenda?

Explanation

The current charter does not address powers related to setting City Council's meeting agenda. This amendment will establish that councilmembers and the mayor have the same power except where the Charter gives the mayor additional duties. It will also specify that all councilmembers can place items on City Council meeting agendas. The mayor and city manager will only be able to order those agenda items and cannot reject any items requested by a councilmember to be on the agenda.

PROPOSITION F

Ballot Language

Shall the Charter of the City of Taylor be amended by adding a new Article requiring that, before the City Council takes final binding action on a matter deliberated in executive session under a project designation, code name, or other non-identifying reference, that before taking action a posted agenda item must provide enough specific information for the public to be made aware of the project including the name of the company?

Explanation

City council may deliberate on a project that has an alias, such as "Project Y". This amendment seeks to provide more transparency to the community on the specific details of this type of project before the council can take any final voting action. This would allow for easier historical tracking of the topic through previous meeting agendas and allow the community to know more details on what the project entails, including the names of entities involved. This amendment will require that any item discussed by council in executive session that is referenced by a code name or alias be placed on the city agenda identifying the specific names of principal entities and details related to the item.

PROPOSITION G

Ballot Language

Shall the Charter of the City of Taylor be amended by adding a section requiring the City Council to appoint a Charter Review Commission at least once every ten years and providing a process for appointment and review?

Explanation

Currently, the charter does not contain any time frames for reviewing the city's charter. A new section is proposed to establish a minimum frequency requirement for future charter reviews; to establish who will do this review and how citizens are selected; and to establish a process for finalizing and distributing the recommendations to the Council and the community. This amendment will add a new section to the city's charter that requires the Council to establish a commission at least every 10 years to review the charter. If necessary, the commission will submit amendments reviewed using the defined review process for distribution and Council action.

LOCAL AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE (ACC)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ACC Trustees are elected to represent residents of the ACC taxing district. Together, the Board sets college policies, approves the budget and tax rate, and hires and evaluates the Chancellor. Trustees oversee ACC but do not manage its day-to-day operations.

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Skilled Workforce: What is your role as a trustee in leading ACC toward meeting the region's need for a skilled and educated workforce?

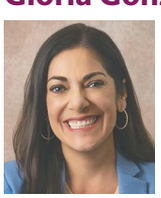
Student Success: What will you prioritize to help students enroll and succeed in the Austin Community College District?

Budget: How would you balance the policy of free tuition for local high school graduates with falling revenue?

Other Issues: What other critical issues do you think are important to your community, and how will you address them?

PLACE 1

Gloria Gonzales-Dholakia



Qualifications: First-generation graduate with a doctorate in education, 8 years on Leander ISD board, nonprofit leader for single moms and their children, former college professor, student-parent coalition partner.

Skilled Workforce: Texas needs a workforce of technicians, nurses and other professional trades; ACC can produce it. My career focus is bridging schools, employers, and communities to create pathways for students. As an ACC ambassador, I will partner with employers to create new career partnerships while responsibly stewarding taxpayer dollars, enabling ACC to continue free tuition and pursue education innovation.

Student Success: Enrollment alone is not success. A degree, certification, university transfer, or a better job is. Students rarely leave college because of classroom struggles. They leave because their car broke down, childcare fell through, or they had to work to put food on the table. I will prioritize flexible pathways, community partnerships, dual-credit offerings and paid apprenticeships.

Budget: Free tuition is a critical investment in Central Texas. The state set funding criteria for colleges based on student completion rates. ACC met those targets, but the State is not fulfilling its promise. I will advocate at the Legislature on behalf of ACC and students needing the most support. I also will be disciplined with the budget, pursue philanthropic support and partner with employers.

Other Issues: With every new technology, some people benefit from access and investment while others get left behind. AI is the newest technology, and ACC must ensure equitable access and balance AI teaching and use with humanity, care, and critical thinking. That is how we prepare students for the jobs of today and the workforce of tomorrow. That is how we make sure no student gets left behind.

Campaign Website: gloriaforacc.com

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LOCAL AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE (ACC)

PLACE 1 (*continued*)

Dana Walker

Qualifications: I have served 6 years as an ACC Trustee, supporting students and overseeing a ~$600M balanced budget. My background in tech, consulting, and public policy brings fiscal discipline and innovation.

Skilled Workforce: I am constantly taking in information from the private sector, residents, students, all levels of government, and experts in education to inform my understanding of in-demand jobs in our region. I prioritize creating educational pathways and partnerships with employers that allow our students to develop the skills they need to work in fields that pay them enough to live in Central Texas.

Student Success: I will maintain a balanced budget while working to expand free tuition. I will stay focused on ACC's priorities of increasing graduation and transfer rates, developing in-demand workforce skills, and supporting the whole student through access to food, mental health support, childcare, etc. I will empower students with tech skills that put people first.

Budget: Free tuition grows revenue since Texas now funds colleges based on graduation and transfer rates. The 2024 free tuition pilot significantly increased enrollment, and those students stay enrolled at higher rates. ACC must also scrutinize operations and spending. I will identify areas to reduce costs and opportunities to increase revenue, and continue advocating for funding and student support.

Other Issues: The cost of college is the number one barrier to obtaining an education according to our students. But it is not the only barrier. Identifying ways to support the whole student is a priority, including food insecurity, access to emergency funds, mental health support, transportation, and childcare.

Campaign Website: DanaWalkerforACC.com/

PLACE 2

Gigi Edwards Bryant

Unopposed

PLACE 3

Trevor Hale

Qualifications: I am a 3rd generation professor now TRS retiree. I understand how to translate skill acquisition into careers. Moreover, I am a former faculty senate president skilled in parliamentarian procedures.

Skilled Workforce: ACC does a great job of skill delivery. I have worked in semiconductor fabs, large distribution centers, and CNC metal cutting shops…I have first hand knowledge of those and other processes. Where I see a need at ACC is in career placement. This should be front and center at any higher education institution and ACC is no different.

Student Success: IMHO, ACC's branding could be better. When the North Harris Montgomery Community College changed their name to Lone Star College in 2007 they then experienced a massive, 10-year long ~112% increase (not a typo) in enrollment. They now serve just shy of 100,000 students. A 6% increase from 2025 at ACC is nice but could it be better? I believe so.

Budget: TBH, there are only two internal answers to falling revenue at institutions of higher education: Raise tuition or increase average class size. That's it. There are a plethora of equally abhorrent external answers including raising property taxes. If we want good things, we need to pay for them.

Other Issues: Term limits for trustees. If elected, I will propose resolutions, garner support, and make motions to make it so. I am an experienced parliamentarian and know how to make this happen.

Campaign Website: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trevor_Hale

Nan McRaven

Qualifications: Served on the Board of Trustees for two decades (elected Chair twice); UT Austin doctorate in Community College Leadership; led successful 2022 Bonds and live, work, and serve on community boards.

Skilled Workforce: To approve a budget and set policies that address the communities workforce needs of today and the future; to hire a Chancellor that can lead our institution and partner with businesses and organizations to help create workforce programs

Student Success: To continue our free tuition program and to align our systems to make navigating enrollment, financial aide, and transferring easier for our students. To help raise funds for scholarships and advocating for increasing Pell grants and state funding/grants. Early intervention programs and tutoring also are important tools to help assist our students to completion.

Budget: Free tuition is a priority for me and I hope our community. We will need the community's support to raise funds to continue the program. Other places like Dallas have been successful in reaching out to community leaders and organizations to help fund these type of programs. Making sure that we approve a budget that meets the needs of the College while having money to help fund free tuition.

Other Issues: Child care and health services are two community issues. We are addressing the child care issues through a join effort with the County and City. We are working with healthcare providers and expanding our nursing, dental hygiene, and other healthcare programs to meet the community's needs. Affordability is definitely an issue and we approved a 2% raise and one time allotment for our faculty/staff.

PROPOSITION

Ballot Language

This is a tax increase. Approving the annexation by the Austin Community College District of the following territory: the territory in the Pflugerville Independent School District that is not already within the Austin Community College Taxing District, and authorizing the imposition of an ad valorem tax for junior college purposes, which is currently set at a rate of $0.1034 per $100 valuation of taxable property.

Explanation

This measure is on the ballot because residents of the Pflugerville ISD area collected signatures from at least 5% of registered voters and the ACC Board of Trustees voted unanimously to accept the petition. The College itself is not for or against the measure. The law does allow the College to respond to questions and provide facts about annexation, which are available online. If passed, the measure would add the parts of Pflugerville Independent School District that are not already in the Austin Community College District to ACC's taxing district. Property in the newly annexed area would become subject to ACC property taxes. Residents of the newly annexed area would become in-district ACC residents, which would allow them to qualify for in-district tuition and participate in ACC Board of Trustees elections.

A vote FOR would add the proposed Pflugerville ISD territory to the ACC taxing district and authorize ACC property taxes in that area.

A vote AGAINST would keep the proposed territory outside the ACC taxing district.

VOTE 411
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

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LOCAL AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

School Board Trustees are elected to represent residents of the school district. Together, the Board hires and evaluates the superintendent, adopts the budget, oversees district spending, sets the property tax rate, and sets policies for the district. The Board may also call bond or tax rate elections.

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Teachers: How would you attract, retain, and cultivate effective and highly-qualified teachers?

Facilities: How would you deal with the challenge of adjusting the number of facilities (whether by closures or by new construction) to match changing enrollment and financial constraints?

Students: What are your top priorities for improving student outcomes?

Budget: Given current financial shortfalls, what ideas do you have to balance the budget while protecting student learning?

DISTRICT 1

Cheryl Bradley

Qualifications: I am a former D1 trustee serving from 2002 to 2014 three (3) terms. My advocacy on the board focused specifically on meeting the needs of students.
Teachers: Ensuring the superintendent understands the importance of hiring the right campus leadership that will respect, mentor and aspire to create a campus culture for effective teaching and learning. We offer salaries with merits increases for effective teaching. A teacher that is ensuring their students move to the next grade on or above grade level deserves to be compensated for their skill.
Facilities: Closures and consolidation should seize. Student enrollment has declined for the past 10 years, and the district's financial constraints remain the same. The focus should be on improving academic achievement, strengthening student outcomes and increasing enrollment. Above all, the district should avoid further harm to students, staff, and communities
Students: Ensuring the resources and supports are in place to help educators improve the outcomes for the students they serve. Ensuring local, state, and federal funds are allocated wisely and equitably to meet the needs of all students, especially struggling campuses. Qualified leadership in administration and campus staffing. Educators are highly qualified before assignment to a struggling campus.
Budget: Teaching and learning should always be protected. The board's team of 10 should review departments for efficiencies and inefficiencies. Are there departments duplicating duties? Can these departments be consolidated for efficiency. Do the departments have an impact on student outcomes. If not, is it needed?
Campaign Website: cherylbradleyford1.com

Candace L. Hunter

Qualifications: I have more than 25 years of experience as an educator, advocate, and AISD parent. I have governed the district during one of the most crisis-ridden periods in the district's history.
Teachers: Build a strong teacher pipeline through partnerships with colleges, educator preparation programs, and Grow Your Own initiatives that help paraprofessionals and other district employees become certified teachers. Competitive pay is important, but teachers also need good working conditions. That includes strong campus leadership, and manageable workloads.
Facilities: Rightsizing the district will continue as enrollment changes and may require additional closures and consolidations. We must balance fiscal responsibility with respect for each school's history, culture, and importance to its community. Facilities no longer used as schools should be repurposed to serve the public and contribute to the community's well-being.
Students: We must continue to identify learning gaps early, monitor progress, and provide timely intervention rather than waiting for students to fail. We must maintain the improvements made in special education, support emergent bilingual students, strengthen attendance, and ensure students feel safe and connected. Success is more than a test score. Students should graduate prepared.
Budget: We must fund the basics first: reading, writing, math, special education, and all legally required services. What good are co-curriculars if children cannot read? Enrichment matters, but it must rest on a strong academic foundation. Every expense should be judged by whether it supports students and produces results.
Campaign Website: hunterforaisd.wixsite.com/my-site

DISTRICT 4

Edward M. Bradfield

No response received

Tricia Mitchell Kim

Qualifications: Mom; 50 year history in D4 as a graduate and parent of graduates; MBA, Rice University; 22 years running a business; Communications Chair, Austin Council of PTAs, 2023-25; extensive volunteer roles.
Teachers: I know from conversations with teachers that they are bearing the burden of underfunding. AISD is already exploring creative ways to attract teachers, such as partnerships with UT, ACC and TSU. As an employer, I will keep a keen eye on teachers as treasured assets and essential investments, advocating for the highest level of pay, benefits, respect, and support our community can provide.
Facilities: AISD must scale back its operations to match our current enrollment and budget. The district has begun assessing the age of buildings, student enrollment vs. building capacity, and neighborhood density. Trustees play a vital role by demanding transparency and accountability, so facilities decisions are made with objective criteria, community input, and space for our community's grief.
Students: AISD has already improved student outcomes by implementing a new system to better measure student progress. Building on that success requires ongoing district-wide consistency, pairing the most effective teachers with students who most need support, and backing up teachers with a team to help quickly identify instances when a student needs a new approach to learn a concept or skill.
Budget: AISD's biggest challenge for the 2026-27 school year is to whittle down the budget to match our current miserable funding constraints. I look forward to analyzing every single line item for alignment with the district's and community's highest vision. I will work toward a standardized academic baseline on all campuses, which may mean giving up "bells and whistles" on some, at least for now.
Campaign Website: www.tricia4aisd.com

Jessica "Jessie" Neufeld

Qualifications: A lawyer for 19 years, 9 in construction law, I can guide policy on campus bonds and repurposing. A decade of PTA and council service, and founding ATX116, taught me to turn parent voice into change.
Teachers: The way we support our teachers must reflect the level at which we value what they do for our children. Teachers need to be paid well, supported with strong and positive leadership (at both the campus and district level), granted sufficient flexibility to teach to their students, and opportunities for professional development so they can hone their craft and continue to grow.
Facilities: The recent facility changes have been drastic and disruptive. I'd like the district to work on a long-term facilities plan that involves a more sustained view of analyzing city development and demographic data. This could include a standing boundary advisory committee, and more frequent conversations both in neighborhoods and with the board to monitor and plan for potential enrollment shifts.
Students: I would set a clear academic baseline district-wide, with consistent, mission-aligned offerings at every school. We need to support campuses and listen to teachers and princi-

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DISTRICT 4

Jessica "Jessie" Neufeld (*continued*)

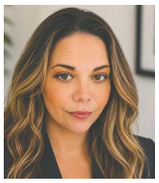
pals on curriculum, planning time, and development. We also need to prioritize a stable learning environment, especially for those students disrupted by the recent upheaval resulting from consolidation and turn around plans.
Budget: No more surprises like last year's shortfall. That means building the budget with the community early and giving the board regular, detailed reporting, so problems surface while there is time to fix them. Austin is resource-rich: I would pursue business partnerships for transportation and wraparound support, and grow the Austin Ed Fund. This session, the state must raise the basic allotment.
Campaign Website: jessieforaisd.com

DISTRICT 6

Sarah Dille

Qualifications: Former high school English teacher, including 11 years at Crockett; district instructional coach; AISD parent; member of numerous district committees; UT Austin professor preparing future teachers.
Teachers: Aside from competitive monetary compensation, which should be a priority, retaining teachers means cultivating a culture where new teachers are guaranteed high-quality mentoring and meaningful support, and veteran teachers are given reasonable workloads and a voice in instructional decisions. Ultimately, teachers should feel valued and supported in the work they do every day.
Facilities: AISD needs a clear, ongoing process for school and facility decisions—not crisis-driven decisions. Enrollment and building costs matter, but so do the human costs and impacts on students and communities. We need a predictable, cyclical process for evaluating our facilities so we can make thoughtful, data-informed decisions before we reach a crisis point.
Students: AISD must focus on instructional quality, not just test scores. Excellent teachers are one of our most critical investments, especially in early literacy and math. We need to identify gaps quickly and provide targeted support to both struggling students and teachers. Rather than continually adding new programs, we should focus on improving what every student actually experiences in the classroom.
Budget: Budget decisions are felt by real people. We need to think long-term, protect student-facing services, and support the community through difficult changes. That means advocating at the state level, while also taking a hard look at our own spending and considering responsible ways to generate additional revenue. We must prioritize savings that have the least impact on classrooms.
Campaign Website: sarahforaisd.com

Marie Lebron



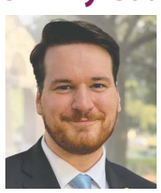
Qualifications: AISD parent and volunteer since 2010 with 15+ years as a PTA leader. A special education advocate and literacy coach trained in the Science of Reading, with a background in operations and accounting.
Teachers: Teachers need to feel valued, supported, heard, and able to do their jobs. That means competitive pay, manageable workloads, supports, strong campus leadership, meaningful professional development, and less unnecessary bureaucracy. I would also focus on growing our own educators and creating clear pathways for paraprofessionals and other school staff to become certified teachers.
Facilities: I am an anti school closures advocate. I do not support closing schools. Facilities decisions should be driven by enrollment, student needs, finances, and the long-term needs of each community—not simply a spreadsheet. Before closing a school, AISD should be transparent about the data, meaningfully involve families and staff, and consider the impact on staff and students.
Students: My priorities are strong literacy instruction, early intervention, special education, attendance, and making sure students and staff receive the support promised to them. We need to identify problems early instead of waiting for students to fail. Student outcomes improve when we invest in our teachers, strong campus leadership, and the supports that allow students to be ready to learn.
Budget: We should protect classrooms above all and our priorities should reflect that. I would look closely at administrative spending, contracts, duplication, and what is producing results before cutting positions or services that directly support students. Every dollar matters, and AISD should be able to clearly explain what we're spending, why we're spending it, and whether students are benefiting.
Campaign Website: MarieforAISDTrustee.com

Alex San Martin

Qualifications: Alex San Martin is a dedicated educator, public policy strategist, and community advocate running to represent District 6 on the Austin ISD Board of Trustees. I'm ready to serve District 6 on day one.
Teachers: Teacher turnover remains a major concern. When I am elected, I will work to: Reduce administrative burdens. Competitive compensation advocacy. Improved classroom support.
Facilities: I'd approach it as a long-term capacity-planning problem rather than reacting to enrollment changes year by year. Ultimately, the goal would be to maintain the right amount of capacity in the right locations at an affordable cost, while protecting educational quality. The key is have transparent, data-driven framework that tells the district when to consolidate, when to invest, and when to wait.
Students: 1. Strengthen foundational learning 2. Provide targeted support 3. Improve student engagement and attendance Overall, my priority would be to combine high expectations with individualized support so that every student has both the opportunity and the resources to succeed.
Budget: AISD has faced major budget challenges and enrollment pressures. Voters want assurance that money reaches classrooms. I will do the following when elected: Protect classroom funding first. Conduct efficiency reviews. Increase transparency on spending. Prioritize teacher retention.
Campaign Website: www.alexforaisd6.com

DISTRICT 7

Jimmy Counihan



Qualifications: I serve as Rep. Donna Howard's Policy Comms Director, advising on pub. edu. policy. I also served at the Legislative Budget Board, Comptroller of Public Accounts & the AISD Advisory Council for 6 yrs.
Teachers: Attracting quality teachers requires competitive incentives and a supportive work environment. I will work to increase teacher pay, protect planning time, invest in professional development, and reduce bureaucracy. Right now, I think our teachers are tired of the instability caused by district leadership. As the son of an AISD teacher, I know when teachers thrive, our students do, too.
Facilities: 12 AISD campuses have closed, and enrollment has fallen in the 2026-27 school year. Opening new campuses for the foreseeable future is not a responsible use of taxpayer resources. I'd like AISD to retain ownership of closed campuses and build new revenue streams with community partnerships to keep facilities in use. Selling and demolishing existing infrastructure erodes community trust.
Students: Improving academic outcomes requires investments in our teachers and programs. Across District 7, we're seeing program reductions that kept students engaged - French at Gorzycki, the Vida Clinic at Bowie, and Communities in Schools at Covington. For students to thrive, they need quality teachers, quality programs, and quality instruction. All of which I will fight to restore in the next budget.
Budget: Restoring financial solvency is my top priority. To achieve this, we need to stabilize student enrollment by listening to families and leading a district-wide recruitment effort. From there, I'd like to reduce inefficiencies at district headquarters, establish new revenue streams by leveraging closed campuses, and partner with the City and local organizations to offload certain program costs.
Campaign Website: www.jimmyforaisd.com

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LOCAL AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT 7 (*continued*)

Laurie Solis

No response received

DISTRICT 9 AT-LARGE

Kirk Becker

Qualifications: Average student, great test scores. Mayoral Candidate for Affordable Housing back in 1997.
Teachers: I'll try to subsidize their pay with a Charter School District. Participating Charter Schools will be subject to evaluation by the Charter School District in exchange for support from the District.
Facilities: AISD is already in a doom loop, selling facilities to pay for operating the remaining facilities. Moving all students to charter schools will free up the $1.5B AISD M&O tax, from which we can solicit donations to support the students with tutoring and supportive services. The State will fund the charter schools, all we need to do is supplement that. We can lease AISD facilities to the charters.
Students: Tutoring, after school programs, and supportive services to students and families.
Budget: The state takes all the tax dollars and funds schools on a per student basis — the money follows the students to the schools. If all students move from AISD to charter schools, AISD won't get any money from the state, but AISD won't have any students, so it won't need to levy a tax either. $0 income, $0 expenses, balanced. The state will pay for charters, all we'll need to do is supplement them.
Campaign Website: Kirk4AISD.com

Pamela Mathai

Qualifications: I am a veteran teacher who has worked at Title 1 schools in areas across the city of Austin, I am a former union member and teacher organizer, and I am a parent to a child in Austin ISD.
Teachers: As a career educator, I know that a district that protects teacher pay and planning time sends the message that it respects its teachers. I also know that a teacher's work is impossible without the help of parent support specialists, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and other classified staff. When tough decisions have to be made, I will protect classified and non-classified workers at all costs.
Facilities: Data has shown that falling birth rates, student mobility factors, and the expansion of charter schools and vouchers have led to declines in the enrollment. Working with the city to expand affordable housing options and revisiting zoning maps will help adjust for these shifts. Investing in our schools will also help draw more families into the district and improve enrollment over time.
Students: Board members must prioritize funding schools based on need by investing in our emergent bilingual populations, low-income communities, and special education students. Focusing our efforts on addressing the needs of our most vulnerable students will ensure all students in AISD have access to a great education.
Budget: At the legislative level, we must advocate for an increased basic allotment for students to match the national average and fight against vouchers that redirect public funds from our schools. At the district level, we must find ways to engage in adaptive reuse of AISD owned properties to create long-term revenue streams and ensure bond money for closed schools follow students to their new campuses.
Campaign Website: pamelaforaisd.com

Cynthia Soliz

Qualifications: Former: Educator, AISD Counsel, PTA VP(x2), SHAC Chair Current: School Advocate, Lawyer, AISD Mom(x2) and Volunteer(x lots) Advocacy Projects: Save Ridgetop, Lead Remediation, Dual Language& Sports
Teachers: 1. Strong Leadership: Teacher retention begins with strong campus leadership and culture. 2. Support Where Needed: Schools on Improvement Plans or missing benchmarks, need the most support, smaller class sizes, classroom assistance. 3. Autonomy and Trust Where Support is not Needed 4. Advocating for the full funding of public schools at the state level (as I have now for years.)
Facilities: As former counsel for this last bond, the closing facilities need to be repurposed and I want to see them used to house affordable teacher housing or generating income. We have so many new beautiful buildings being built with that money; facility envy is coming! (I'm excited.) I think that will help drive students and teachers to these new beautiful spaces & our old spaces need to generate income.
Students: 1. Mitigating the impact of TEA action on AISD. Whether it's full take over, conservatorship, or monitoring, my number one goal is to mitigate the impact to students and campuses. It is imperative that we do this by creating the least disruption at the campus level, support where needed; but, trust and autonomy where it's not. 2. Early Intervention 3. More supports for teachers bridging gaps
Budget: 1. Transportation: Parents with elective campuses who can afford to do so, need to help with carrying the cost of transportation. 2. Transparency: Lets be honest, early, and often. Parents/ private partnerships have mobilized to keep programs that matter, but they need time, truth, and a commitment to work together to help cover some gaps. 3. Resource generation: we need to rent out closed spaces.
Campaign Website: www.cynthiasolizforaisd.com

LOCAL DEL VALLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

School Board Trustees are elected to represent residents of the school district. Together, the Board hires and evaluates the superintendent, adopts the budget, oversees district spending, sets the property tax rate, and sets policies for the district. The Board may also call bond or tax rate elections.

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Teachers: How would you attract, retain, and cultivate effective and highly-qualified teachers?

Facilities: How would you deal with the challenge of adjusting the number of facilities (whether by closures or by new construction) to match changing enrollment and financial constraints?

Students: What are your top priorities for improving student outcomes?

Budget: Given current financial shortfalls, what ideas do you have to balance the budget while protecting student learning?

DISTRICT 3

Charles Burton

Qualifications: I am prepared to serve, drawing on 23 years as an educator, 8 as DVHS Head Football Coach and time at top rated schools, bringing that knowledge here as a former Del Valle parent and employee.
Teachers: Del Valle attracts teachers who want to matter, offering real impact and the area's top pay. We retain and cultivate them by continuing to build safe schools, clear student expectations, and backing from the board, central office, and campus leaders alike. I've seen the impact a supported teacher can have on a student's potential, and I want that for every Del Valle student.
Facilities: As a board, we must ensure our enrollment and financial data are accurate first. Since joining the board, accuracy has been a personal emphasis of mine. Facility decisions, closures or new construction, must be driven by real enrollment trends and what we can sustainably afford, not assumptions. Sound, data backed choices protect both students and taxpayers long term.

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LOCAL DEL VALLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT 3

Charles Burton (*continued*)

Students: Improving student outcomes begins with accountability in district leadership, continuing to provide safe learning environments, and a focus on student learning. Students must be challenged to become college and career ready. I support expanding CTE, dual enrollment, and certifications, for example in welding, IT, and healthcare, so every student enters the workforce certified or college ready.
Budget: Del Valle has earned a Superior "A" rating for financial integrity and balanced its budget the last two years, while surrounding districts faced school closures. Teacher pay and classroom resources are always protected. We balance the budget elsewhere, through continuous professional development, smart planning, and administration's strong work securing grants and partnerships.

Claire Campos-O'Neal

Qualifications: As a founding president of the Del Valle ISD Education Foundation, PTA fundraiser, and longtime district volunteer, I've built skills in leadership, collaboration, and advocacy.
Teachers: Teachers need to feel valued, supported, and safe to speak honestly without fear of retaliation. I want a culture of radical honesty where we learn from experience and hold ourselves accountable. I've supported teachers through PTA appreciation events, educator grants, room parenting, and Secret Scientist. My goal: lighten teachers' load and give them back the gift of time.
Facilities: Del Valle ISD is projected to grow as one of the last affordable places to live in Central Texas, and I'm excited by that challenge. I helped pass the 2019 school bond, which built three new schools. We need to plan ahead, have honest conversations about future bonds, and build the trust needed to bring voters along.
Students: First, students need to feel like they belong. I want schools to be places kids want to be, because belonging drives engagement and attendance—and attendance drives outcomes. In a district with significant economic need, we also have to address students' basic needs so they are ready and able to learn.
Budget: We need to get creative while protecting classrooms. I'd study comparable districts to see how they're managing resources and finding efficiencies. I'd also meet with local nonprofits to identify partnerships that could provide valuable services to our community at an affordable cost. And trustees must advocate for better state funding.

DISTRICT 5

Jason Sierra

Unopposed

DISTRICT 7

Joshua Castro

No response received

Susanna Ledesma Woody

Qualifications: I bring 15 years of experience as a Del Valle ISD Trustee, including board leadership, TASB training, and extensive experience in public education governance, budgeting, and policy.
Teachers: As an incumbent, I have helped make Del Valle ISD the highest-paying district in Region 13 while providing an average of $500 toward employee health benefits. We must continue investing in competitive compensation, benefits, professional growth, and a supportive environment where teachers feel valued and have the resources to succeed.
Facilities: As an incumbent, I believe facility decisions must be guided by enrollment trends, financial realities, and long-term community needs. We must plan ahead for growth while maximizing existing facilities and making difficult decisions transparently, using data and community input to ensure every student has access to safe, effective learning environments.
Students: My top priority is ensuring every student has the support and opportunities to succeed. As an incumbent, I helped establish clear board goals targeting specific student outcomes, which we monitor quarterly. We must continue focusing on strong instruction, early intervention, effective teachers, safe schools, and college and career pathways while using data to close achievement gaps.
Budget: As an incumbent, I have experience making tough decisions to balance our budget while protecting student learning. We have avoided school closures and massive layoffs by identifying efficiencies and planning ahead. Moving forward, we must focus on outcomes, evaluating every dollar based on whether it improves results for students while supporting our staff
Campaign Website: VoteSusanna.net

DISTRICT 8

Robert "Bobby" Hidrogo

Qualifications: Finance, PTA Treasurer, Communication Skills, Strong Attention to Detail
Teachers: Encourage the Superintendent to focus on this effort
Facilities: Since I would be a possible new comer to the board I would dive into the details such as contracts and agreements to ensure everything that was agreed-upon was fair and all agreements and timelines were met.
Students: Safety, attendance, and ensuring the level of education matches the grade the student is in.
Budget: We need to get creative and find out which students need extra support and provide the extra resources to those most in need.

Darla Wegner

Qualifications: I have been a DVISD Trustee since May 2011; completing hundreds of hours of trainings with TASB, NSBA, MASBA and TEA covering topics of good governance, equity, school law, policy, safety and finance.
Teachers: Since I have been on the board, I have taken a fiscally responsible approach to ensure our district attracts high-quality educators by keeping DVISD competitive in the Central Texas region; consistently voting for the highest starting salaries and annual pay increases while covering medical insurance for every employee to reduce the rising costs of living. I will continue to uphold these values.
Facilities: Balancing facilities with changing enrollment and state funding requires a data-driven approach centered on long-term fiscal responsibility and community transparency. Fortunately, DVISD has never had to close a school or lay off teachers and this would continue to be a priority for me.
Students: My top priority is student success. While collaborating with fellow Trustees, I helped set clear board goals with targeted specific student outcomes, to be monitored quarterly. As a district, we must continue focusing on strong, effective teachers, quality instruction, early intervention, safe schools, and college and career pathways while using data to close achievement gaps every day.
Budget: Budgeting is one of the most difficult challenges since we are expected to do more with less and it requires tough decisions. Fortunately, we have avoided school closures and layoffs. My priority is using data driven tracking to ensure every dollar directly supports strong instruction, early intervention, and student opportunities.

DISTRICT 9

Stephanie Arellano

Qualifications: I am a parent, community member, and Alumna. I attended school at 5 of our campuses. I am a proud product of DVISD and my community. I have seen the impact that one positive decision can make.
Teachers: I've always loved that DVISD had teachers with longevity, I always felt that this was a reflection of the leadership and school board members. When you listen you learn. I want DVISD to be a place where teachers feel heard, feel

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LOCAL DEL VALLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT 9

Stephanie Arellano (*continued*)

valued, and feel fairly compensated. I hope to bring a sense of belonging, when teacher and staff know that they are heard and valued, the possibilities are endless.
Facilities: Firstly! I am the voice of the people from my community. Their voice matters, and decisions have to be made with our community , staff, teachers and students at the forefront of every decision that's made.
Students: I strongly believe that PARENTS are the foundation to the success of our students. Learning has changed and they need to understand how their students are learning. We have to start building the bridge and welcoming our parents back into the schools.
Budget: We need to be transparent about our financial position, when you understand how money is moving you can understand why and how decisions are being made.
Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/share /1Gkm7yYz5Q/?mibextid=wwXIfr

Michael Randolph

Qualifications: I'm a parent of 2 DVISD students. Founder of the Gilbert PTO. President of ATD Austin, President-Elect of Austin SHRM, and a talent-development leader by profession. M.S.Ed, Purdue.
Teachers: Attracting and keeping good talent is my professional field. For teachers, pay has to be competitive; we lose too many good people; and earned through honest budgeting the community trusts. But pay isn't enough: strong mentoring for new teachers, real room to grow, and leaders who give actual classroom support. I'll treat the job like the profession it is.
Facilities: Our challenge is growth, not closures. We need sustainable planning ahead of it, without overreaching, capacity built to real enrollment projections, construction phased across new and existing facilities, and straight talk with taxpayers about every dollar. And, I'll work to hold our development partners accountable to get the new high school open.
Students: Start with attendance and the barriers keeping kids from school. More than a third are chronically absent, and no one grows from an empty seat. Then a strong, supported teacher in every classroom, and early reading as the foundation. Work to build a real, immediate action plan for our lowest-performing schools. And measure true student growth, not one rating, honestly.
Budget: I'll protect the classroom first, making cuts start furthest from students. Getting kids back in seats also restores funding, since the state pays on attendance. Push our biggest taxpayers to pay their fair share, and report every dollar plainly. I support the VATRE (Prop A); about a $9-a-year increase on the average home. And press the state to unfreeze funding it's held flat for years.

Gloria Vera-Bedolla

No response received

PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION A

Ballot Language

THIS IS A TAX INCREASE. Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate of $1.0328 per $100 valuation in Del Valle Independent School District for the current year, a rate that will result in an increase of 19.5% percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the District for the current year as compared to the preceding year, which is an additional $20,038,349.

Explanation

Proposition A proposes a Del Valle ISD property tax rate of $1.0328 per $100 of taxable property value. The 2025–26 tax rate was $0.9489 per $100. The district says this is expected to provide about $13.9 million in new funding this year, and is intended for teacher and staff pay, maintaining student programs, and staffing the new high school scheduled to open in 2028. For a home valued at the district's example of $233,000, Del Valle ISD estimates the increase at about $9 per year, or 76 cents per month. Homeowners who qualify for the over-65 or disabled-person tax freeze would not see an increase, assuming applicable requirements are met.
A vote FOR would approve the $1.0328 tax rate and the additional M&O tax revenue.
A vote AGAINST would not approve the proposed tax rate and additional tax revenue.

LOCAL GEORGETOWN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION A

Background

The City of Georgetown continues to experience significant population growth. Resources directed to the Georgetown Independent School District (GISD) are strained as more students enroll every year. GISD already has one of the lowest tax rates in Williamson County. Without a property tax increase, the GISD Board of Trustees may be forced to reduce budgets, which will impact the District's ability to maintain high-quality educational experiences for its students.

As a result of current conditions, the GISD Board of Trustees has decided it is necessary to implement a modest ad valorem (property) tax increase. They propose an increase of $.09 per $100 valuation for Maintenance and Operations (M&O) and a decrease of $.03 per $100 valuation for Interest and Sinking (I&S), which is the debt service fund. The net increase to property owners will be $.06 per $100 valuation.

The GISD Administration's proposed tax rate exceeds the state-mandated Maximum Compressed Tax Rate (MCR) as calculated by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Therefore, the GISD must obtain voter authorization before it can legally levy the new tax rate. The GISD Board of Trustees deems this action necessary to preserve and ensure a high-quality education for Georgetown's students.

Ballot Language

THIS IS A TAX INCREASE. Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate of $1.1106 per $100 valuation in Georgetown Independent School District for the current year, a rate that will result in an increase of 12.80 percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the District for the current year as compared to the preceding year, which is an additional $17,479,755.

Explanation

The Georgetown Independent School District (GISD) has maintained one of the lowest property tax rates among school districts in Williamson County for years. The last increase that required voter authorization took place in 2012,

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LOCAL GEORGETOWN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROPOSITION A (*continued*)

and only minor increases that the GISD Board of Trustees could implement without voter authorization have occurred since then.

If Proposition A passes, the total property tax would be $1.1106 per $100 of taxable property value. With this increased rate, the GISD Board will be able to generate $8.4 million annually and enable the district to maintain a balanced budget. The increase in the tax rate will also permit the district to maintain reasonable class sizes and provide enrichment experiences for students. In addition, the Board will be able to offer modest salary increases to teachers (3.0 to 3.5%) and staff (3.0%). The net tax increase for property owners in the district will be $.06 per $100 of taxable property value. The average increase for homeowners who own property with a median taxable value of $444,465 would amount to $7.07 per year or $.66 per month.

If Proposition A does not pass, the GISD Board of Trustees will have to consider an increase in class sizes and possible reduction of staff. Salary increases will be more difficult to implement. If the Board is forced to reduce budgets for GISD schools, it is probable that students will have fewer educational resources to ensure that they continue to receive a high-quality education in GISD. The total tax rate will remain at $1.0506 per $100 of taxable property value.

Website: **www.georgetownisdnews.org/2026-gisd-vatre**

LOCAL LEANDER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

School Board Trustees are elected to represent residents of the school district. Together, the Board hires and evaluates the superintendent, adopts the budget, oversees district spending, sets the property tax rate, and sets policies for the district. The Board may also call bond or tax rate elections.

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Teachers: How would you attract, retain, and cultivate effective and highly-qualified teachers?

Facilities: How would you deal with the challenge of adjusting the number of facilities (whether by closures or by new construction) to match changing enrollment and financial constraints?

Students: What are your top priorities for improving student outcomes?

Budget: Given current financial shortfalls, what ideas do you have to balance the budget while protecting student learning?

PLACE 1

Serenity Coats

Qualifications: I am an Accredited Financial Counselor® with a BBA in Operations Management and a MS in School Counseling. I have two decades of experience in educational, military family, and community advocacy.

Teachers: I'll advocate for manageable workloads and adequate state funding to support competitive pay. I would like to explore partnerships with universities and veteran and military spouse educator programs, since military families bring valuable experience and flexibility to the classroom. I would also support an initiative that helps paraprofessionals and LISD graduates become certified teachers.

Facilities: I would rely on data driven enrollment projections, the long-range plan, and community feedback to plan proactively for uneven growth across the district. This would include promoting the district's open transfer policy, exploring repurposing underused space, and engaging community partners to help generate revenue for the district.

Students: My priorities are expanding early intervention services; ensuring equitable access to rigorous coursework like AP, dual credit, and Gifted and Talented programs; and strengthening postsecondary readiness through career exploration, CTE, and financial education. I would also focus on family engagement and attendance, since students learn best when supported both at school and at home.

Budget: I will promote policies that improve attendance and enrollment, since both impact student outcomes and funding. I will advocate with legislators to secure adequate state funding and support spending that directly benefits students and teachers. I will prioritize operational and fiscal efficiency and balanced campus utilization, while keeping the community updated on budget cuts and savings.

Campaign Website: www.serenity4lisd.com

Gerald Prater

Deceased

PLACE 2

Meg Dean

Qualifications: My training in qualitative and quantitative research was thorough. I worked for 10 years making complex info more accessible to others. I can ask key questions to ensure we make the best decisions.

Teachers: Teachers will be most effective when they don't have to worry that their school could be closed in the near future. Additionally, I have supported and would continue to support teacher pay raises and other accommodations (such as schedule improvements) that allow teachers to focus on teaching.

Facilities: I would not close schools; if student populations are imbalanced, I would consider rezoning. Per NCES, the average number of students at a public US elementary school is 439 students, which is consistent with the smaller schools in LISD. (Source: **https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/202324_summary_4.asp**) LISD is also consistent with the average number of elementary schools for its student population.

Students: I want to ensure that class room sizes do not rise substantially. I want to ensure that neighborhood schools stay open, so that students have access to nearby schools without learning disruptions. Lastly, I would maintain and promote critical programs, such as early college high school coursework, gifted and dual language programs, special needs programming, and accelerated coursework.

Budget: As a lifelong Independent, I am not bound by political alliances. If elected, I would continue to contact state leaders about the budgeting gap in Leander ISD. Citing hard facts, such as the per-student funding in LISD versus the per-student funding for charter schools in the same region, I would press state government for funding in an official capacity as a school board member.

Campaign Website: megdean.org

Perla Muñoz Hopkins

Qualifications: Educator, Pro-Bono Student Advocate, Policy Advocate at TX Capitol, USAF Veteran. Masters Degrees: Teaching, Adult Education, Spanish. Proficient in Curriculum Development. Former LISD Teacher/Parent.

Teachers: Teachers are the Pillars of LISD! Let's offer guaranteed annual raises and incentives for Personnel to meet or exceed the national average and the cost-of-living in the Greater Austin Area. Also, TRS advocacy for Teachers, and for Retired Teachers so that they may return to our Texas

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LOCAL LEANDER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

PLACE 2

Perla Muñoz Hopkins (*continued*)

Classrooms more frequently. LISD will provide appropriate pay and working conditions for Auxiliary Staff as well.
Facilities: We must Reduce the Budget and Provide Tax Relief to LISD Families. Like my family of 5, many move to LISD for the Academics, Sports, and STEAM. Families should never be threatened with their schools closing. Volunteer Subject Matter Experts are at the ready to eliminate the Fraud, Waste and Abuse in LISD. NO more Millions of Dollars unwisely spent. LISD will be Transparent & Fiscally Responsible.
Students: •Academic Excellence: Students First! Proficient Readers & Writers, STEAM, Establish LISD Orchestra Program, Quality Instructional Materials, Curriculum aligned with Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills (TEKS)•Educator Code of Ethics: Personnel will honor 19 TAC 247, Appraisals maintained by suspense dates, Reports officially submitted to TEAOIG & SBEC as required•Parental Rights: Our Partners in ED
Budget: We cannot continue throwing money at LISD problems, we pay exorbitant taxes. Trustees must be good stewards of those funds. LISD runs smoothly when the Superintendent and Administration perform under TX Education Code, Policies and Procedures. Trustees ensure under a balanced budget, Admin execute high standards of instruction, a guaranteed and viable curriculum and safety across all 49 Campuses.
Campaign Website: www.PERLA4LISD.com

Chitra Nedun

Qualifications: I am an LISD mom and volunteer in LISD schools and district committee. I am a Technology Leader with a Master's degree and 20+ years of collaboration and complex problem-solving.
Teachers: To retain premier talent, I will champion creative partnerships to address local affordability, ensuring teachers can live in the community they serve. We must also elevate classroom support, evaluate other retention options, reduce administrative burden, and cultivate a culture of deep professional respect for their expertise.
Facilities: I will advocate for a student-centered approach to long-term facility planning using demographic projections, facility utilization, maintenance, and financial impacts. This includes flexible creative multi-use of space for preparing students for the future workforce. Boundary decisions will rely on objective data and transparent, two-way dialogue across all neighborhoods.
Students: I will expand diverse pathways—from advanced STEM and arts to skilled trades—to help fulfill each student's unique potential. We must support the whole child by prioritizing mental well-being, funding early reading interventions, and protecting SPED and multilingual services so that absolutely no student is left behind.
Budget: Taxpayers trust us with their hard-earned dollars. I will implement rigorous program evaluations to optimize spending, keeping resources in the classroom. We must aggressively advocate for state funding to provide relief from unfunded mandates and ensure transparent, strategic financial stewardship our communities can trust.
Campaign Website: www.chitraforlisd.com

PLACE 6

Laura Marques

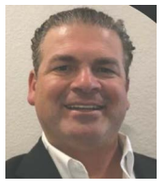
Unopposed

PLACE 7

Jason Embry

Qualifications: I am a professional communicator specializing in state public policy. I've served on LISD district committees and have been a PTA officer at two schools. My kids have been LISD students for 10 years.
Teachers: We must treat teachers as the professionals they are and listen to their input in all major decisions affecting their campus and LISD. Salaries and benefits should be competitive with, or better than, all nearby districts. Teachers need reasonable work loads that allow them to focus on teaching, rather than other responsibilities. Professional development should be relevant to their work.
Facilities: We should be proactive about recruiting students who live in LISD to enroll in our schools because a larger enrollment will help save campuses and programs. Closing schools often does not achieve the cost savings that is promised, and we must consider the long-term impact of closed campuses on our community. I will always prioritize parent and community input in these decisions.
Students: We need to reduce screen time during the school day. Technology should support learning, but too often it distracts from learning. We also need to give our best teachers incentive to work in schools that are struggling. However, we cannot focus solely on passing rates on state tests. All students must be challenged, including advanced learners who are ahead of their peers.
Budget: We need a balanced approach to a difficult budget situation caused by a shortage of state funding. The advent of AI should allow us to reduce administrative costs and make our district more efficient. We should make data-driven budget decisions that prioritize academics. Increasing student enrollment is the best way to bring more state dollars to our district so we can protect academic offerings.
Campaign Website: jasonembry.com

Paul Gauthier



Qualifications: I'm currently a Leander ISD Board member & am very aware of the issues the district is facing. Keeping ALL the Schools open they are in the Center of neighborhoods is paramount & Education for kids!
Teachers: Give the Teachers the support they need without sacrificing the education of the Students. Last yr in a report from the LISD students. 84% of the hiring managers didn't think High School graduates were ready for the workforce. The kids doing the report we're speechless. I was saddened we did so poorly a report card doesn't reflect that kind of failure & feedback! We have to do Better!!!!!!!!!
Facilities: A School partially open school is BETTER than a closed School. As 20-30% of property values drop instantaneously in homes near the School & Crime skyrockets at the closed School, No one is around to tell the criminals to leave! & if the residents do?! Watch out! The Schools have to stay open in the neighborhood school Model! It is like the Sun! They cannot Close!
Students: Going back to what works! There are a whole new approach to education that simply doesn't work! We go back to what works & Do it over & Over again! The "New" ways are a Failure! Stop doing them!!
Budget: I was in a meeting this summer where they wanted to give a Company $250,000 to tell the public Why they might have to close schools! Here's an Idea instead of Spending marketing dollars to convince people to close schools. Focus all your attention & resources to keeping them open! They are gaslighting you! & I'm praying to the Lord Almighty people WAKE UP to what I've been saying for yrs!

ABOUT THE LEAGUE

The League of Women Voters Austin Area and the League of Women Voters Williamson County is a grassroots, all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization promoting informed and active participation of citizens in government. Since 1919, both LWVTX and LWVAA have helped voters cast informed votes when going to the polls. No League organization supports or opposes any political party or candidate. As a nonpartisan organization, the League believes that all of us are stakeholders in making democracy work. We host informative programs concerning important public policy issues, organize and offer voter registration efforts, engage in get-out-the-vote projects, work with local area schools and universities to promote civic participation, and conduct fair and open candidate forums.

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LOCAL LEANDER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROPOSITION

PROPOSITION A

Background

Leander ISD has cut approximately $26 million from its budget over the past two years, including reductions to staffing, programs and services, and the consolidation of an elementary school.

The district continues to face budget deficits due to state funding not keeping pace with costs, the effects of inflation on operating expenses, a decline in taxable property values, and slower enrollment growth.

According to LISD, approving the School Funding Proposition would provide additional funding, improve the district's financial position, and help minimize the need for additional cuts to staffing, programs, and services.

Ballot Language

THIS IS A TAX INCREASE. Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate of $1.1169 per $100 valuation in Leander Independent School District for the current year, a rate that will result in an increase of 3.72 percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the District for the current year as compared to the preceding year, which is an additional $12,066,324.

Explanation

The Proposition asks voters to increase Leander ISD's Maintenance & Operations (M&O) tax rate by 3 pennies, from $0.7569 to $0.7869. The M&O tax revenue pays for the district's everyday costs, including employee pay, programs, and student services.

If approved, the district estimates the tax increase would generate approximately $12 million in additional revenue. However, since the increased tax is subject to recapture by the state, the district estimates it will receive $6.7 million of the new revenue each year.

The district's Interest & Sinking (I&S) tax rate, which pays for debt, would not change and would remain at $0.33.

The district's total 2026–27 tax rate would be $1.1169 for every $100 of taxable property value. For a home with the district's 2026 average taxable value of $460,292, LISD estimates the total annual school district tax bill would be $5,141 if the bond passes. That equates to approximately $27.56 more per year, or $2.30 more per month, than the previous year. Qualifying homeowners age 65 or older have a school property tax ceiling, so their tax rates would not be affected by this change.

If the election does not pass, the 2026–27 district tax rate would be $1.0869 per $100 of taxable value. The district's deficit will continue at a higher level.

LOCAL MANOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION A

Ballot Language

THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE; the issuance of bonds in the amount of $391,500,000 for (1) school facilities, including campus renovations and district-wide safety and security upgrades, and (2) buses, and the levy of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds.

Explanation

Proposition A would allow Manor ISD to borrow up to $391.5 million for school facilities, safety and security improvements, and new buses.

The district says the money would be used to expand Manor New Tech High School and rebuild Bluebonnet Trail Elementary; renovate and consolidate Manor High School and renovate other district facilities; make districtwide repairs and upgrades, including HVAC, electrical, plumbing, lighting and accessibility improvements; improve school safety and security; and purchase new school buses. Property taxes would be used to repay the bonds and interest. Bond money can be used for the projects approved by voters but generally cannot be used for everyday operating expenses such as teacher salaries and utilities.

A vote FOR would authorize Manor ISD to issue up to $391.5 million in bonds and levy property taxes to repay them.

A vote AGAINST would not authorize the bonds.

PROPOSITION B

Ballot Language

THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE; the issuance of bonds in the amount of $8,500,000 for school technology improvements and the levy of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds.

Explanation

Proposition B would allow Manor ISD to borrow up to $8.5 million to replace outdated technology devices used by students and staff. The district reports that 5,861 devices are 7 to 10 years old and have reached or exceeded their expected useful life. The new devices would be used for classroom instruction, testing, communication and access to educational resources. Property taxes would be used to repay the bonds and interest. Bond money can be used for the technology approved by voters but generally cannot be used for everyday operating expenses such as salaries and utilities.

A vote FOR would authorize Manor ISD to issue up to $8.5 million in bonds and levy property taxes to repay them.

A vote AGAINST would not authorize the bonds.

LOCAL PFLUGERVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

School Board Trustees are elected to represent residents of the school district. Together, the Board hires and evaluates the superintendent, adopts the budget, oversees district spending, sets the property tax rate, and sets policies for the district. The Board may also call bond or tax rate elections.

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Teachers: How would you attract, retain, and cultivate effective and highly-qualified teachers?

Facilities: How would you deal with the challenge of adjusting the number of facilities (whether by closures or by new construction) to match changing enrollment and financial constraints?

Students: What are your top priorities for improving student outcomes?

Budget: Given current financial shortfalls, what ideas do you have to balance the budget while protecting student learning?

DISTRICT 6

Jean Mayer

Qualifications: I bring a multitude of experience as a business owner, nonprofit executive, disability advocate, parent & two-term trustee, with hands-on experience in governance, budgeting, policy & public education

Teachers: Competitive compensation matters, but so do trust, resources, workload and culture. We must listen to

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LOCAL PFLUGERVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT 6

Jean Mayer (*continued*)

staff, continue building capacity in campus leadership, invest in personal and professional growth, and strengthen our grow-your-own pipeline so great educators feel valued, supported and want to stay in PfISD.

Facilities: Facility decisions must balance enrollment, educational objectives, finances and community trust. We need transparent, data-driven planning and discipline to examine options before closure, including rezoning, partnerships, repurposing, consolidation and innovative uses of space. We must avoid isolated decisions without considering their long-term impact across the district.

Students: Every student needs a pathway to a meaningful future. My priorities are strong academic foundations, early intervention, special education, safe and inclusive schools, and innovative programs connecting learning to enrollment, enlistment and employment. Students achieve more when they are known, supported, challenged and have a genuine sense of belonging.

Budget: We are already doing far more with less. We must protect student learning while confronting structural costs honestly, aligning staffing and facilities with enrollment, and continuing to pursue new revenue and partnerships. We must aggressively advocate for state funding that addresses our gaps while making reductions strategically, transparently and in ways that maintain community trust.

Nicole Toran

Qualifications: My life & career have been centered on service as a US Army veteran, healthcare professional, and volunteer. As a trustee, I would bring that same service-oriented approach to PfISD for all students.

Teachers: Competitive compensation and benefits are important, but retention requires more than a paycheck. There will always be another organization that can offer more money. What can distinguish PfISD is creating a workplace where people feel valued, supported, connected, and able to grow. I would support efforts that strengthen workplace culture/belonging, provide meaningful professional and leadership.

Facilities: I am passionate about leveraging those closed schools/facilities for a new light and purpose. Those spaces can be repurposed through community partnerships, such as the Boys and Girls Club, for student enrichment and innovation centers rather than allowing those areas to remain vacant. This would create safe spaces where students can continue learning, creating, and growing beyond the classroom.

Students: My top priorities for improving student outcomes follows providing new areas for academic growth, increasing opportunities beyond the classroom, and empowering educators to create dynamic real-world experiences both in-and-out the classroom.

Budget: I would approach the budget by asking whether our resources are producing meaningful outcomes for students while supporting the educators and families who guide them. I would prioritize classroom instruction, student development, retention, and the effective use of district spaces. With delicate and intentional planning, we can balance financial constraints and overall student growth/development.

Campaign Website: nicoleforpflugerville.org

DISTRICT 7

Chevonne Lorigo-Johst

Unopposed

LOCAL ROUND ROCK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

School Board Trustees are elected to represent residents of the school district. Together, the Board hires and evaluates the superintendent, adopts the budget, oversees district spending, sets the property tax rate, and sets policies for the district. The Board may also call bond or tax rate elections.

Qualifications: What specific training and experience prepared you for this position?

Teachers: How would you attract, retain, and cultivate effective and highly-qualified teachers?

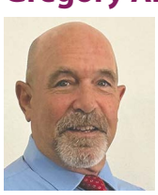
Facilities: How would you deal with the challenge of adjusting the number of facilities (whether by closures or by new construction) to match changing enrollment and financial constraints?

Students: What are your top priorities for improving student outcomes?

Budget: Given current financial shortfalls, what ideas do you have to balance the budget while protecting student learning?

PLACE 3

Gregory Andrew



Qualifications: *Family Nurse Practitioner with Psyche background. *USAR 04 Maj (ret) commanding level 1 medical facilities *Adjunct Professor Concordia University, and ACC *Substitute Teacher RRISD 1997-2002

Teachers: Talk to the experienced teachers, and ask them what their experiences have been, the good and the bad, what has worked and what has not. How have things changed and if you believe you have made a difference. Were you able to understand the changes and did you think they were needed. Visit the local colleges that train new teachers and ask them what their expectations are and why teach?

Facilities: Gov Abbott will begin to implement his 5 point plan. Read the last point, which will eliminate property taxes. This will be seismic event, anyone who says otherwise is delusional. We need to get on this NOW. The money is not going anywhere though; it will be available, and the public, not a school board, will decide how it will be spent.

Students: The students and the student's family should be responsible for their outcome. I have seen the RRISD curriculum, there is nothing about it that a dedicated hard-working student could not complete. It is socially irresponsible for an ISD to promote the idea that any student failing is the fault of the school system. Sure, there are exception to this, but they are not the rule.

Budget: Charter schools are coming, get ready for this inevitability. the days of not being able to get by on a half a billion per year are over. We will be competing for an ever-shrinking pool of money. Fear not, school choice is not the end of public school only that we need to up our game and the public will decide where to spend their money.

Amber Feller Landrum

Qualifications: I have been a trustee for 8 years, 3 years as President & chaired 5 district committees. I am a certified Master Trustee with a MEd. I believe students must be the center of every decision.

Teachers: Teachers are irreplaceable and underpaid so we must find ways to get more money into their pockets through paychecks, benefits and/or time off. We must also support them in their daily job so RRISD is a place where

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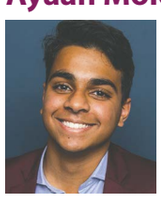
PLACE 3

Amber Feller Landrum (*continued*)

talented educators want to come, stay and feel valued every day. I encourage programs that grow staff within RRISD in becoming teachers and also recruiting from various sources.
Facilities: It is very important to keep a constant pulse on enrollment trends and capacity numbers at each campus. RRISD has been blessed to not have closed any campuses and our enrollment has been steady recently. However, this could change and we must be prepared to adapt. Planning for all scenarios is vital. I do not like the chaos that boundary changes cause, so I would avoid them at all costs.
Students: My top priorities include supporting teachers, making data-driven decisions and focusing on student well-being. I will ensure we look at every student group and work to eliminate disparities because EVERY student matters and should be supported to achieve their highest potential. I will also ensure students feel safe and connected at school so they can focus on academics without distractions.
Budget: Balancing the budget is a two pronged exercise- either increase revenue or cut expenses. Additional revenue comes from increasing student enrollment and attendance, maximizing grant funding and increased PK, CTE and virtual school enrollment. For expenses, we can look for efficiencies within the various departments/programs, while protecting the classroom and teacher workloads.
Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/AmberFellerForRRISDSchoolBoard/

Ayaan Moledina



Qualifications: I went through RRISD schools, I spent time working for a Member of Congress and a member of the State Legislature, and I now serve as a Policy Director for a state-based education policy organization.
Teachers: I would want to study which positions in the District have high turnover and then evaluate what methods could be used to fill those gaps (i.e. bonus stipends for hard-to-fill positions, more peer mentoring programs for new educators, etc.). We also need to look creatively at benefits that improve employees' quality of life (expanding affordable childcare, housing assistance, mental health care).
Facilities: New construction should be supported by credible enrollment projections and a clear demonstration that existing capacity cannot reasonably meet the need. Closing a neighborhood school can have significant consequences, so it should be considered only after a transparent process. Money needs to be spent wisely; every dollar can go toward teachers, student programs, and classroom support.
Students: I want to strengthen student mental health and suicide prevention, implement more social-emotional learning, expand mentoring and support for students facing major life disruptions, and ensure our teachers and staff have the training to recognize when students need help. I want to make sure the use of digital educational programs is equitable and reduce reliance on standardized testing.
Budget: There are non-negotiables to retain funding for: mental health support, diversity & inclusion programs, fine arts, special education and talented and gifted, & teacher pay/healthcare. These topics help improve student outcomes. I wouldn't support additional funding for police in schools, invasive surveillance, or harsh & ineffective disciplinary measures that further the school-to-prison pipeline.
Campaign Website: ayaan4rrisd.com

Vera Southwell

Qualifications: Risk analytics manager focused on complex problems, process improvement and measurable results. MBA, Six Sigma Black Belt, and parent of four.
Teachers: I would use the district's climate surveys, but data is only useful if it translates into action. I want to understand why teachers stay or leave, what matters most, and what they want changed. Then act on what we learn and measure whether it improves retention and engagement. I don't want to just know the numbers. I want to know what we are doing about them and whether it worked.
Facilities: I would approach facilities as a long-term planning project, not simply a choice between closing or building a school at the moment. I would consider enrollment projections, capacity, finances, impact on student outcomes, and community input. Difficult decisions may be necessary, but the goal should be a sustainable, long-term plan that serves students, families, teachers, and the community.
Students: My priority for improving student outcomes would be to look at the whole picture, connecting the data we already have with experiences behind those numbers. Academic achievement matters, but so do students, family and teachers' experiences. If those stories differ, I want to understand why. Then set priorities and measure whether our decisions improve student outcomes.
Budget: A deficit means we have to prioritize. I would protect student learning while questioning every expense for its value and purpose: what problem are we trying to solve? How do we know if it is working? I would avoid across-the-board cuts and look for inefficiencies, duplication, and programs that are not producing intended results. I would not assume something works without measuring it.
Campaign Website: verasouthwell.com

PLACE 4

Alicia Markum

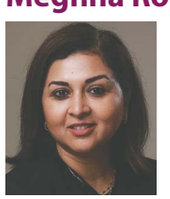
Unopposed

PLACE 5

Miriam Arora

Qualifications: I work with the technology employers use to recruit and hire people, giving me a front-row view of how AI, jobs and skills are changing. Add an MBA, Leadership RRISD and years as an RRISD mom of two.
Teachers: Great teachers shouldn't have to choose between loving the work and surviving the workload. Pay attracts talent; while culture, support and growth keep it. I'd protect planning time, cut low-value tasks, strengthen mentoring and career paths, and act on turnover data. I'd expand flexible, part-time opportunities for community members seeking extra income while easing pressure on teachers.
Facilities: Every school is a community anchor and a taxpayer investment. Facilities decisions must respect both. I'd publish campus-by-campus enrollment, utilization, condition, demand, transportation impact and cost, including charter growth and neighborhood demand. Before closing or building, test boundaries, program moves and shared uses, involve families early, and show which option best serves students.
Students: R^3 means Rigor, Responsibility and Readiness: strong reading and math, real growth and help when kids need it. Add critical thinking, communication, financial and AI literacy. Nearly 70% of U.S. employment is in occupations that typically don't require a bachelor's degree. High school should prepare students for college, trades, credentials, entrepreneurship or work- and the confidence to choose.
Budget: Protect the dollars closest to students first. RRISD currently projects a $23.6M shortfall for 2025-26, including an $11M payroll overage tied to overtime, stipends and vacancies. I'd tighten workforce planning, use my deep contract-negotiation experience to scrutinize vendor costs, protect teachers and student programs, and keep recurring spending sustainable, VATRE or not.
Campaign Website: miriamforrrisd.com

Meghna Roy



Qualifications: RRISD Leadership prgm, RRISD Committee - CCNA, Calendar, LRPC, SHAC , Volunteer - PTA, TAG Liaison, Band Bster Board, Athletics, UIL, Library, Book Fair, Co-founder Access Education RRISD, Tech C-Exec
Teachers: Without teachers the vision for RRISD fails. My 3 point plan is as follows: Ensuring competitive compensation with fiscal responsibility. Measuring exit and stay interviews (with trustable no retaliation) and implementing impactful change. Maximizing the RROCK program that brings ~$1M state money towards new teachers with $3K state paid stipend for their mentors, sustainably building the pipeline.

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LOCAL ROUND ROCK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

PLACE 5

Meghna Roy (*continued*)

Facilities: Adding facilities is a data driven decision that is made at LRPCs through merging community voice with critical data, making these decisions less complex. I will continue that. Closures are crushing decisions that cannot be made on data alone. I will focus strongly on bringing awareness beyond LRPCs and promote alternate expanded use of facilities before any closure decision becomes an option.
Students: Based on current data, my focus will be on expanding academic rigor access for each of the 56 campuses, no exceptions, and with equitable resources. Teacher retention is a mandate and solved through changes based on stay interview, fair compensation and trust in their expertise. Parental resources to have 360 support structures that puts every student first. Zip code should not be a ceiling.
Budget: We are past the ideas phase and in tightening the belt stage for years now, barely holding on. Classrooms must be protected first by creating a stack ranked reduction list for other spend, built with thorough community input. Spending should be on needs with enrollment & equity driving it. Goal would be to find and claim every dollar from the state (eg. RRock) that directly impacts learning.
Campaign Website: www.meghnaroy.com

PLACE 6

Fabian Cuero

Qualifications: I have called Round Rock home since 2000 and have served our schools and community for nearly two decades decades—from volunteering and mentoring students to PTA leadership and serving on the CBC
Teachers: Majority of teacher retention crisis is due to lack of funding. I am committed to explore ways we can continue to provide salary increases for our educators. I will also partner with the community to advocate for public school funding at the next legislative session.
Facilities: I would work with the administration to identify opportunies where we attract students to our district. This will generate funds through student allotment and increase campus enrollment. As a Business Intelligence professional, I will leverage data to guide difficult conversations and develop innovative funding solutions that support student programs.
Students: 1) Elevate the least of our students 2) Continue to challenge the most of our students 3) Analyze discipline data to identify the root causes affecting Black, Brown and ubderserved students.
Budget: Really take a look at how the district attracts students back in to our campuses since this is the best way to generate funds. Evaluate each department's needs to distinguish between what is essential, what is beneficial but not critical, and what may no longer be necessary.
Campaign Website: cuero4rrisd.com

Troy J. Evanovich

Qualifications: I hold degrees in Education and Quality Systems Management, served 29 years in military leadership, taught as an RRISD substitute, and bring extensive business leadership experience.
Teachers: I would prioritize competitive compensation, strong classroom support, manageable workloads, professional development, and a culture that values teachers. We must reduce unnecessary administrative burdens, recognize excellence, provide clear career pathways, and give educators the tools and support they need to succeed.
Facilities: I would use enrollment trends, facility condition, capacity, and financial data to guide decisions. Before closing or building schools, I would evaluate all options, engage affected communities, protect classroom resources, and ensure decisions support long-term district needs.
Students: My priorities are strong academics, safe and disciplined classrooms, excellent teachers, and early intervention for struggling students. I would use measurable outcomes to improve literacy, math, college and career readiness, and ensure resources directly support student success.
Budget: I would protect classroom instruction first, prioritize spending based on student outcomes, reduce administrative inefficiencies, review contracts and programs for measurable value, and responsibly manage staffing and facilities to align with enrollment and available revenue.
Campaign Website: www.troyfortrustee.com

PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION A

Background

Round Rock ISD faces rising maintenance and operational costs, while its revenue is decreasing. Rising costs are largely due to inflationary pressures. The district's flat revenue levels result from multiple factors. First, the last state legislature increased the state's major educational funding mechanism, the per-student basic allotment, by 1%, after six years of making no adjustments. This recent increase was not adequate to compensate for inflation during these years. Second, the district's enrollment has not only leveled off, it has declined by almost 4% since 2016. This reduces the district's Average Daily Attendance (ADA) upon which the basic allotment is based. Fluctuating property values and state legislative increases to property tax exemptions have also contributed to reduced revenue and funding gaps for the district.

The district has implemented cost-cutting measures such as renegotiating contracts and revising staffing to better match enrollment. However, payroll and employee benefits make up over 90% of the district's Maintenance and Operations (M&O) budget. Not only is it difficult to cut in these areas, but a failure to provide minimal salary increases can hurt recruitment and retention of qualified staff, which negatively impacts student outcomes.

Ballot Language

THIS IS A TAX INCREASE. Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate of $0.9484 per $100 valuation in Round Rock Independent School District for the current year, a rate that will result in an increase of 3.09 percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the District for the current year as compared to the preceding year, which is an additional $12,313,099.

Explanation

The district is asking the voters to authorize increasing the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) tax rate (currently $0.7101 per $100 property valuation) by $0.06, bringing the M&O portion of the tax rate to $0.7654. The district plans no change to the Interest & Sinking (I&S) tax rate (currently $0.1830). The overall tax rate would change from the current $0.8931 to $0.9484. The new tax rate would generate approximately $30 million more in M&O revenue. However, this additional revenue would be subject to recapture by the state, so only approximately half of it would be available for the district to use.

If the proposition passes, the district plans to use the increased revenue to fund a 2% pay increase (based on the midpoint of each pay range) for staff and teachers who did not receive a raise through the Teacher Retention Allotment. They also plan to use some of the revenue to make adjustments to reduce the effects of compensation compression. (Compensation compression can occur in competitive labor markets, causing salaries of newer hires to be disproportionate to those of existing employees.)

The district estimates that tax impact for an owner of a median-value home eligible for the homestead exemption would be an increase of $199/year, or $16.59/month.

If the proposition fails, Round Rock ISD will not receive increased funding, and the district will not be able to increase teacher and staff salaries or resolve salary compression inequities. Taxpayers will continue to be taxed at the previous rate of $0.8931 per $100 valuation.
Website: **www.roundrockisd.org/page/2026-vatre**

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