**VOTING IN TEXAS PRIMARIES**

When you vote in a political party’s primary, you become affiliated with that party for the next two years. At the time you vote, your voting certificate will be stamped with the name of the party in whose primary you vote.

You may vote in only one party’s primary. If there is a runoff, you may vote only in the same party’s runoff election. (Note that in the General Election in November, voters may vote for any candidate they wish, regardless of whether they voted in a party primary or runoff or participated in a party convention. All candidates from all parties are on the same ballot.)

Only party members can participate in the precinct, county, or senatorial district, and state conventions of a particular party. Proof of party affiliation (your stamped voting certificate) is needed for admission to a party’s convention. Parties other than those whose candidates are listed in this Voters Guide are not holding primary elections; instead, their candidates are nominated and selected in their precinct, county, and state conventions.

Party precinct conventions are the first step in the process that adopts the state party platform; certifies the party’s nominees for state office in general elections; selects delegates to the party’s county or senatorial district, and the state and national conventions; nominates presidential electors; elects national party committee members; and writes the national party platform.

**WHAT TO TAKE TO THE POLLS**

**VOTER REGISTRATION CARD**

The precinct number can be used to find your polling place.

These boxes indicate your...

- ... state Senate district
- ... state House district
- ... Congressional district
- ... county commissioner precinct
- ... school district
- ... justice of the peace precinct/constable precinct
- ... in which city you may vote
- ... school board member district

When you go to vote, take your registration certificate with you. If you do not provide a voter registration certificate, you may vote by providing some other form of identification and signing an affidavit at the polls. You will be allowed to vote if your name appears on the rolls in your county of residence. The following are acceptable forms of identification for the May 29, 2012, election:

- Drivers license
- Personal identification card issued by the Dept. of Public Safety
- Another form of identification containing your photograph
- Birth certificate
- United States citizenship papers
- United States passport
- Official mail addressed to you from a governmental entity
- Pay check that shows your name and address
- Current utility bill
- Bank statement
- Government check, or other governmental document that shows your name and address.

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The Austin American-Statesman has partnered with the League of Women Voters on this guide to the May primary elections. Using content gathered from candidates by the League, the Statesman designed and published the guide.

In addition to being carried in the Sunday, May 13, Statesman, several thousand copies will be distributed by the League at various locations, and both the League and the Statesman will provide the content on their websites, statesman.com and lwvaustin.com.

Funding of Voters Guides is furnished by the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area Education Fund, which is supported by contributions from individuals and corporations. The Education Fund gratefully acknowledges major contributions from:

- **Barbara Hankins**
  Carolyn Baker, Maxine Barkan, Nancy Bene, Dr. Mathis and Mary Blackstock, Jeb Boyt, Joan Hilgers, Melissa Jones, Joann Lovelace, Janice May, Frances McIntyre, Margit and Arnold Orange, Judy and Ed Parken, Susan and William Reid, Kathy Rider, Dabney Roe
This printed Voters Guide lists candidates in contested races who are on the May 29, 2012, Primary Election ballot and provides their answers to questions posed by The League of Women Voters of Texas and The League of Women Voters–Austin Area.

Additional information can be accessed online at www.VOTE411.org including an online Voters Guide with candidate videos, races not included in this Voters Guide, and an “On Your Ballot” feature allowing voters to enter an address and review races and ballot initiatives specific to that address.

This Voters Guide lists candidates for President of the United States, as well as statewide, regional, and local races in Texas, including U.S. Senator, Railroad Commissioner, Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals, Courts of Appeals, and the State Board of Education. Only candidates in political parties that select their candidates in the Primary Election are included, currently Democratic and Republican parties.

Candidates in other parties are selected by convention. Questionnaires were sent to candidates in races that are contested within the same party. Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification. Due to space restrictions, candidates were given strict word limits. Replies exceeding the word limit are indicated by slashes (/ / /). Candidates were also asked to avoid references to their opponents. Candidates appearing with no photo failed to submit one.

This Voters Guide is organized by office. Ballot order may vary from county to county. The names of unopposed candidates are also listed.

**President of the United States**

The following candidates qualified for the Texas ballot according to the Secretary of State. They will appear on the Republican or Democratic ballot for President.

**Democratic Party**

BOB ELY, http://workmorekeepless.com/  
BARACK OBAMA, http://www.barackobama.com/  
JOHN WOLFE, http://www.johnwolfeforamerica.com/  

**Republican Party**

MICHELE BACCHMANN, http://www.michelebachmann.com/  
JOHN DAVIS, http://www.johndavisforpresident.org/  
NEWT GINGRICH, http://www.newt.org/  
MITT ROMNEY, http://www.mittromney.com/  

**United States Senator**

Six-year term. Must be at least 30 years old, a resident of the United States for at least nine years, and a resident of Texas. One of 100 members of the U.S. Senate which has specific powers to advise and consent to presidential appointments and treaties and to try impeachments. Powers the Senate shares with U.S. House of Representatives include the power to levy taxes, borrow money, regulate interstate commerce, and declare war. Current annual salary: $174,000

**Questions for U.S. Senator Candidates**

**Background:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position? (50 words)

**Trust:** Concerns have been expressed that the public has lost its trust in government to work in the best interest of the people instead of special interests. How would you promote the public interest rather than the interests of a special industry or region? (75 words)

**Immigration:** What changes, if any, would you propose to our current immigration policy? Please explain. (75 words)

**Jobs:** What would you propose to stimulate job growth in this country? Explain how your proposal would actually create jobs. (75 words)

**Energy:** How would you balance our need for clean air and our need for energy independence? (75 words)

**Informed Voters Know...**

WHERE TO VOTE: You must vote in your precinct of residence on Election Day (unless your area is participating in a countywide vote center trial). Your precinct is listed on your registration card, or you may find out where to vote by calling 512-238-VOTE, or by going online with your county election division. If you report to the incorrect polling place, you will be redirected to the correct polling place, or offered a provisional ballot. You may vote by provisional ballot, but if it is determined that you are not registered in that precinct, your ballot will not be counted.

YOU MAY BRING THIS VOTERS GUIDE INTO THE VOTING BOOTH! In 1995, the Texas law prohibiting use of printed materials, such as this Voters Guide, in the polling place was ruled unconstitutional (Texas Election Code, Section 61.011).

**President, U.S. Senator**

**About This Voters Guide**

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**Jobs:** What would you propose to stimulate job growth in this country? Explain how your proposal would actually create jobs. (75 words)

**Energy:** How would you balance our need for clean air and our need for energy independence? (75 words)

**Addie Dainell Allen (D), Sean Hubbard (D), Paul Sadler (D)** No reply received

**Grady Yarbrough (D)**

**Background:** Have a Bachelors degree in business education, a Master of Education Degree, in Counseling, also an Administration Certification. I have a total of 50 years in the field of Education.

**Trust:** First, I will work to overhaul the campaign finance laws. Corporations should not be allowed to finance candidate’s election through PAC’s. It is my belief that corporate money should not be permitted in any election. This would restore confidence in the electoral process.

**Immigration:** The first step is to secure our border, because our security is very important. I will work to implement the “Dream Act”100%. Furthermore, I would not support deporting anyone, from the Americas, who have lived, and worked for five years, without arrest, from the U.S.

**Jobs:** I would stimulate job growth by encouraging manufacturing to return to the United States, by permitting a reduction in the Minimum Wage paid by manufacturing companies. Under my plan, one half of the minimum wage would be paid by the employer, the remainder would be paid by a department of the Government (Labor department) to complete the total amount paid. This would drastically reduce the labor cost for employers. This plan can be adjusted as (/ / /)

**Energy:** We should move rapidly toward the use of solar, and wind energy, thereby reducing our dependence on imported fuels. Our air and water quality would be drastically improved with these measures.

**Glenn Addison (R)**

**Background:** Business owner since age 26, school board member, community leader, church missions committee leader and member, budget balancer with Magnolia ISD, effective communicator as evidenced by grassroots straw polls at Tea Party Forums, devotee to our constitution, profound respecter of founding fathers, follower of Christ, devoted husband, father and Papa

**Trust:** The only Republican candidate to pledge, in the spirit of the founding fathers to serve one 6 year term and come home to my day job. No one has their hooks in Glenn Addison. To demonstrate my sincerity I will close my campaign fund the day I take office. Will reject lavish pension and health care benefits and work for We The People and then come home. I go to serve and not be served.

**Immigration:** Bring troops back from Europe to guard our border. Modify 14th Amendment by requiring citizenship test to include a citizen parent before declaring newborns citizens. End federal benefits to non–citizens. Deport all undocumented residents who can’t speak English. Also deport all undocumented residents who don’t have jobs. Fine undocumented English speaking workers and offer an option to apply for citizenship for who go back home and come in the legal way.

**Jobs:** Transfer regulatory power concerning jobs, labor, and occupations to the states where the constitution says they belong. Abolish Department of Labor, OSHA, National Labor Relations Board. Return environmental regulations to the states and create tribunals, as authorized by the constitution, to mediate disputes between states. Return endangered species regulatory powers to the states.

Lower corporate tax on manufacturing to 10%. Offer 0% corporate tax for 10 years to companies reopening factories here.

**Energy:** The states should regulate clean air standards and let We The People hold state legislators accountable for that responsibility. Set up tribunals, as authorized by the constitution, to mediate disputes between states. Return regulatory authority on energy to the states where the constitution says it belongs. States should decide what happens in their oil fields and gas fields and not federal bureaucrats. States will practice sound practices protecting their environment, promoting tourism, etc.

**Joe Agris (R), Curt Cleaver (R), Ted Cruz (R), David Dewhurst (R), Ben Gambini (R), Craig James (R)** No reply received

**Tom Leppert (R)**

**Background:** I’m a conservative businessman with over 25 years of proven, private sector experience. I’ve created thousands of jobs, balanced budgets in... Continued on next page
Continued from previous page

good times and bad, and been accountable. As mayor of Dallas, I helped cut crime by 30%, reduce spending, and cut the size of city government without raising taxes.

Trust: I am not a career politician, and don’t intend becoming one. The first bill I will introduce would limit the benefits for members of Congress to the midpoint of the

private sector. I will also introduce legislation that not only institutes term limits, but bans lobbyist for 10 years. We must remove the financial incentive to run for and personally benefit from political office. Finally, I propose withholding salary if a budget is not passed.

Immigration: I am a proponent of legal immigration, however we must stop illegal immigration. I oppose amnesty – laws must be respected and obeyed. We must secure our border, giving communities and law enforcement the resources they need to get the job done. Illegal immigration is a threat to our economy and national security. WE cannot let the federal government and career politicians abdicate their responsibility to secure the border and enforce the law.

Jobs: I have released the most comprehensive and detailed jobs plan in the county. It addresses tax reform, entitlement reform, unleashing American energy, shrinking the size of the federal government, cutting government red tape, cutting the debt and our deficit, and changing the culture of Washington. To get the economy back on track, we need to empower American families and small businesses, by reducing government, strengthening the private sector and restoring economic and individual liberty.

Energy: We need to unleash American energy like never before. I support building the Keystone XL Pipeline, increasing domestic oil and gas exploration, repealing Obama’s offshore drilling moratorium, and building the infrastructure needed to maximize production of America’s vast natural gas resources. American energy independence is an economic and national security issue. It is time to get rid of the federal government’s unnecessary and burdensome regulations and roadblocks to energy independence and lower prices.

Lela Pittenger (R)

Background: I have a background in agriculture, business and healthcare as well as a B.A. in English and an M.A. in Dispute Resolution with a focus on mediation, negotiation and conflict management.

Trust: I am a lifelong Texan who has lived in 8 different cities and towns and has experienced the variety of people in our state. As a candidate I have not pursued endorsements or taken money from any PAC, SuperPAC, or special interest group. All of my donations and support come from individuals with Texas.

Immigration: Quality legislation and processes exist for immigration, border security, and workplace law, but are not properly funded or supported by the Federal government. By properly funding Citizenship & Immigration Services, we can better serve those who wish to be here legally and discourage illegal entry. We must also make Visas based on the market as well as adjust the types of Visas available to accurately reflect what is happening in the job sector and economy.

Jobs: To stimulate job growth we must move to a Fair Tax, end the IRS and its fear-based powers, repeal the Dodd-Frank bill that has caused small lenders, repeal Obamacare to end its unfunded mandates and open-ended regulation, and freeze creation of new regulations that lack funding or data on their impact on businesses. By stabilizing the tax code and making the moves of government more predictable, we will foster the environment needed to create jobs.

Energy: We need energy diversification for our security and independence. Federal agencies have failed at this for 40 years. Americans are aware of the environment, familiar with its impacts on health and how to improve the space closest to them. It is time we turn the management of energy resources over to the states and let their own people decide through purchases, business creation and elections how they wish to manage the resources of their state.

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTIONS FOR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES

1. Please describe what combination of education, motivation and/or experience qualifies you for this office. (75 words or less)

2. Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why? (75 words or less)

3. What, if any, measures would you propose to strengthen our economy and increase employment access? (75 words or less)

4. How would you propose a balance to the federal budget? Do you support tax increases, cuts to entitlements, elimination of government programs or other measures? (75 words or less)

5. Do you believe the current tax code needs to be overhauled? If not, why not? If so, what would you recommend? (75 words or less)

6. Would you advocate overturning the federal healthcare legislation? If so, what alternative would you propose? (75 words or less)

U.S. REP., DISTRICT 10

Michael T. McCaul (R) No response received.

Eddie Taylor (R)

1. B.A. from Ball State University, M.A. from Central Michigan University, Lt. Col USAF (Retired.) Attache for U.S. Embassy-Ecuador, U.S. citizen, CHL holder, Top Secret Clearance. Our country is going bankrupt and no one is doing anything about it.

2. Signed Tax Payeer Protection Pledge from Americans for Tax Reform and my platform is based on cutting the size of government at every opportunity. Only 12 staffers, not 18.

3. By limiting the size of government and decreasing the regulations on business, this will encourage businesses to invest and create jobs.

4. I favor Paul Ryan’s plan and I favor a balanced budget amendment and block granting as many programs back to the states. We must cut entitlements and enforce laws designed to oversee those programs.

5. The current system must go. I prefer the Fair Tax as a conceptually sound plan to eliminate the IRS.

6. I will search for every opportunity to repeal Obamacare. Should the Supreme Court not rule it is unconstitutional.

Tawana Walter-Cadien (D)

1. From my youth until today I’ve had a passion for people, their needs, and my community. Whether organizing voter registration drives or incorporating awareness in regards to cancer and promoting health, I’ve worked for the enhancement of people and the community. I have earned a Bachelor’s Science degree in Nursing and an Executive Master’s in Public Administration and will utilize skills obtained, passion, and commitment to diligently represent and serve the constituents of District 10.

2. I have not signed any pledge that will affect my voice on any issue. Presently I do not hold the position of U.S. Representative, and have not been in a position to vote on any particular legislation. However, if and when there are future legislations in need of my support, I commit to reviewing that legislation with fairness and integrity and will pledge my support accordingly.

3. It is imperative that all avenues to increase employment for the citizens of the United States be analyzed and evaluated. The concerted effort of citizens, business owners and governments, are all needed to reach the goal of reducing unemployment. Local community involvement by simple “word of mouth” as well as utilization of technological applications and opportunities are just some of the small contributions that can reduce unemployment, thus enhancing the U.S. economy.

4. The federal budget is in need of balancing. In order to do so, it will need to be carefully analyzed. The pros and cons of increases and eliminations will also need to be carefully reviewed for immediate, intermediate, and future impact.

5. The tax code as any area of government that affects the federal budget should be analyzed and reviewed. In conjunction with balancing the federal budget, the present and future impact on tax codes must be analyzed from all angles.

6. As a Registered Nurse and Public Administrator, healthcare is a priority. The health of the citizens of the United States will directly impact the future of the United States. Healthcare legislation must reflect careful consideration and dedication to the future of our country. We as a nation must be proactive as opposed to reactive in the case of healthcare. A focus and priority must be placed on preventive care, education, and awareness for all citizens.

William E. Miller, Jr. (D) No response received.

U.S. REP., DISTRICT 17

Bill Flores (R)

1. I currently represent the 17th Congressional District in Congress. I am a CPA, MBA, and entrepreneur with nearly thirty years as a CFO, COO, and CEO of energy companies. As such, I have worked hard to bring a business perspective to Congress. I first ran for office in 2010 and was motivated to run because of the negative impact of the Obama agenda upon the opportunities of future generations to live the American Dream.

2. I have signed pledges to not raise taxes, repeal Obamacare, eliminate the death tax, and to protect the life of the unborn. I believe our federal government does not have a revenue problem, it has a spending problem; and that is why I will not support tax increases. On the other hand, I do support comprehensive tax reform to grow federal revenues through increased economic activity. Protecting the sanctity of life is of critical importance.

3. As a Member of the House Budget Committee, I have helped author two “Path to Prosperity” Budgets that cut spending, reform taxes for families and businesses, and reduce federal spending. By focusing on “Main Street” solutions instead of Washington solutions, and by reducing the federal regulatory impact on the private sector, we can enable our job creators to have enough certainty to invest in people, R&D, and business expansion. //

4. The “Path to Prosperity” Budgets that I have helped craft in the House Budget Committee make serious cuts in government spending, tackle the main drivers of federal debt growth, reform our broken tax code to spur job creation, reverse the President’s policies that increase energy costs, and strengthen health and retirement security. We do this without raising taxes because we focus on expanding our economy and creating more American jobs.

Continued on next page
Furthermore, the government should never force religious organizations to pay for and implement policies that directly contradict their core beliefs. I support an alternative affordable plan that promotes interstate competition amongst private health care plans and eliminates restrictions on pre-existing conditions.

Lamar Smith (R)

1. I enjoy serving the people of the 21st District as their voice in Congress and am working to earn the privilege of continuing to represent them. I graduated from Yale University and earned my law degree at SMU. My current responsibilities include serving as chair of the House Judiciary Committee and as a member of the Science, Space and Technology and Homeland Security committees.

2. I signed a pledge to oppose raising the marginal income tax rate for individuals and businesses and to oppose the reduction or elimination of deductions and credits, unless matched dollar for dollar by reducing tax rates. The pledge does not involve broader tax reform or closing loopholes. Ultimately, it is the oath of office that I’m sworn to uphold that determines my votes.

3. I do not support tax increases. To my knowledge, they have never strengthened the economy or led to job creation. I believe in reforming entitlement programs, which if left un-checked, will grow to the point of insolvency. My Republican colleagues and I drafted a budget that sustains these programs without imposing job-killing taxes. The Administration’s budget increases the deficit and proposes a record increase in taxes.

4. If current immigration policies were fully enforced, more Americans would be holding jobs, and more people seeking to become Americans would enter the legal immigration process. I introduced the Legal Workforce Act, which requires U.S. employers to use “E-Verify,” an easy-to-use web-based database that checks the legal working status of new hires. Streamlining and standardizing the verification process will ensure that jobs go to citizens rather than to illegal workers.

5. The IRS over-taxes and unnecessarily complicates the lives of most Americans. The current tax code needs to be simplified and the IRS needs to be downsized and reformed. I have a solid history of supporting tax relief plans that benefit all taxpayers by reducing the marginal tax rate for all brackets, repealing the estate tax, increasing the child tax credit, and eliminating the marriage tax penalty.

6. I am committed to repealing the President’s health care law and have voted to do so in whole or in part more than 25 times since the law was enacted two years ago. Instead of unconstitutional mandates and penalties, I support a free-market system letting individual care-seekers – not the government – make personal healthcare decisions. This will curb costs, expand access, and improve the quality of care for all Americans.

Richard Mack (R)

1. I have a degree in Latin American Studies, spent 20 years in law enforcement, and served eight of those as a sheriff. I have been in every major court in this country and won a case at the U.S Supreme Court on the issue of States’ Rights (Mack v U.S 1997). I am running because I love America and hate what’s going on in Washington.

2. I have signed a pledge and taken an oath to limit my terms in office. I have also sworn to uphold and defend the U.S Constitution. I will keep that oath!

3. Cut taxes, cut superfluous federal bureaucracies, and get government off the backs of small businesses.

4. Same as above, cut govt’waste, reduce federal salaries, starting with my own, cut entitlements, including foreign aid, and cut the size and scope of the federal gov’t. Right now we borrow money from China to continue foreign aid to Egypt, Jordan, and other Third World nations. This must stop.

5. The current tax code is un-American, counter-productive and reeks with injustice. The IRS should be abolished and our tax structure easy enough for any high school student to follow and understand.

6. I would absolutely vote to repeal Obamacare and replace it with nothing. It is not the federal government’s job to provide the citizens of this country with health care. I don’t want any government assuming the role of taking care of me or my neighbors. The meaning of liberty is defined by how much govt’ levies us alone. The govt.’s attempt to force us into a health care utopia. Doing such is impossible and ///

Richard Morgan (R)

1. I am a software engineer who specializes in security and performance. Engineers are problem solvers by nature, and our country is facing serious challenges that Congress has not done well at solving. Also, 25% of Austin area payroll is tech-related, and recently Congress has come dangerously close to passing bills like SOPA and HR 1981 which would be devastating to technology businesses. We need someone who will fight for our jobs.

2. I have not currently signed any pledges, but I believe Congress is out of touch, and I will fight to restore accountability by advocating for term limits, pay cuts, and an end to special benefits for members of Congress. I plan to serve no more than 6–8 years and have pledged not to keep more than 60% of the salary and to reject the special benefits, because we need someone who will lead by ///.

3. We need to get government out of the way. Companies create jobs, not government. We should repeal the regulations that burden our businesses. At 39.2%, our combined corporate tax rate is the highest in the developed world, which encourages jobs to move overseas. We should lower the corporate tax rate while eliminating loopholes, and we should lower the income tax rate so that people can spend more of their own money, stimulating the economy.

4. We need to decrease federal spending. Since 2000, federal spending has increased from 18.2% of GDP to 25% of GDP. I do not support tax increases. I support making programs more efficient by eliminating bureaucracy and returning programs to the states. I also believe education is inherently a local issue and would fight to return education spending and control to the state and local level.

5. Yes. We need a much simpler and flatter tax code that lowers the tax burden and closes loopholes.

6. Obamacare recognized a real problem, but it was the wrong solution, its costs are enormous, and it needs to be repealed. Let’s get the federal government out of the insurance business and let states propose their own solutions. Part of the reason health insurance costs are high is because insurance is treated as pre-paid healthcare rather than insurance in case of an emergency. Insurance companies should also be allowed to compete across state lines.

Candace Duval (D)

1. I pursued a commercial art degree at Texas State San Marcos and later received an Associates Degree with Honors at Brazosport Jr. College in 1991. I own and operate a consulting company since 1991 providing technical marketing and administrative efficiency solutions for small companies and independent contractors. My campaign’s primary principle is “Yes Women Can” and

Continued on next page
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my strategy to win is centered on engaging, educating, and empowering women to take action and defend their liberties.

2. I will not make any pledge beyond the Oath of Office. I will continue to voice my support for legislation that aligns with my values and principles. However, I will not sign a broad-based pledge that will obligate me to vote on a particular issue without considering the full context and circumstances of the legislation. I have signed my support for the non-partisan group, No Labels, 12 ways to make Congress work.

3. America will create an economy of fairness, abundance, and opportunity for all when Congress overcomes partisanship and bickering to bring together the best ideas and approaches from all sides. We can strengthen our economy and increase employment access by supporting policies that encourage a “made in America” first approach; prioritizing technical and high tech education and training programs, and by rebuilding our vital national infrastructure (roads, bridges, mass transit, water, broadband, etc.).

4. We can create a prosperous economy that does not burden our children with debt if we take a balanced approach to solving our debt crises. I support entitlement reforms that reduce waste and fraud. I would not support cutting resources for vital programs for seniors, children, and our most vulnerable people without reforming the tax code that places unfair burden on working families while many top earners and corporations are not paying their fair share.

5. I strongly believe that our tax code system needs to be reformed so that it reflects our values of fairness and opportunity. Our tax system should not tax the working wages of a middle-class family higher than the income of billionaire investors like Warren Buffet. I would support reforms that reduce or eliminate unnecessary tax subsidies for wealthy corporations and individuals since we cannot afford them when we have an enormous deficit.

6. I support reforming, not overturning the healthcare reform legislation. I support the provisions of the legislation that allow young people to stay on their parent’s insurance, prevents insurance companies from charging women more than men, and removes companies rights to refuse coverage based on pre-existing conditions. I want to bring a spirit of civility and cooperation to Congress because I believe we can only improve our healthcare system by working together across party lines.

Daniel Boone (D)

1. I hold a doctorate in Psychology and am a trained mediator. The final eight years in my Air Force career were in the area of the evaluation of Systems, evaluation of government contracts, cost/performance analysis, budgeting and contractor performance. I briefed projects and programs to both Congress members and the pentagon. I know Washington from the perspective of a program manager point of view.

2. No. A pledge is your word that you will or will not do something in the future. A Representative must not commit to anything that his/her constituents may view differently or a change in circumstances that dictate a different approach to addressing issues.

3. First, remove loopholes that allow mega corporations to avoid paying fair share of taxes. Second, provide incentives for corporations to return manufacturing to the United States, third, support technical training for highly skilled jobs, forth, converting war related investments to jobs supporting US infrastructure.

4. Long term budget balance depends on cessation of involvement in foreign undeclared wars, closing unneeded military installations as a start. I do not support cuts to entitlements. Government programs must be cost effective in cost/benefits ratio and efficient. The Department of Education is an excellent example.

5. I do favor a progressive tax with definitive brackets and limited definitive exemptions based on basic necessities and income production requirements. Not even Solomon could untangle the tax code in seventy five words—certainly not.

6. I question the constitutionality of the requirement in the American Healthcare Act. I do support a single payer system with a tax basis like the FICA payroll tax. The tax rate would be tied to costs based determined by payout with a panel of physicians, cost analysts and citizens. Cost analysis would base be computerized real time data analysis.

U.S. REP., DISTRICT 25

Ernie Beltz Jr. (R)

1. Served in the U.S. Marine Corps, owned a small business and served as a program manager for the U.S. Department of Treasury and founded a non-profit to assist veterans in 2009. I know what needs to be done to reduce spending across government, will fight for a fair tax system and ultimately do what is right. It’s time for public service – not politics!

2. I will support small business, fight for a fair tax system and help get our economy back on track. I signed a pledge to support the repeal of the “death tax” and to support legislation to reduce regulatory burden on small business.

3. Small business is over-burdened by government regulations. We need to reduce the burden and simplify the tax system so small businesses can grow and jobs can be created.

4. We need to reduce spending across government and end overlapping programs to ensure our government is not spending too much. I’ve seen firsthand the wasteful ways of government – and it’s time that we stand up for what is right and hold our elected leaders accountable. It’s time for true public service!

5. Yes. I believe that we need a fair tax system in our country. We need to ensure that all Americans are paying their fair share. There are too many variations of taxes in our country and we have an extremely complex tax system. We need to overhaul our current system to make it transparent and easy to understand.

6. Yes. I believe that there is much to be done for healthcare, but a one-size-fits-all approach is not the way to go. As elected leaders we must work with experts in the healthcare community to develop legislation that is fiscally responsible while also allowing Americans to get the healthcare they deserve at competitive rates.

Bill Burch (R)

1. Thirty two years active within the Republican Party, I’ve written legislation, advocated for issues, and helped legislators get elected. I was appointed by the Texas Supreme Court to be a Public Director of the State Bar of Texas. I was the Alternate Advisor to the Taxation Section, Public and Administrative Law Section, and served on the Legislative, Finance, and Administration Committees.

2. To not increase taxes and reduce spending.

3. Open up drilling for oil. Reduce regulations and taxes on businesses.

4. Eliminate all departments that are unconstitutional. Forbid Executive Orders. Currently, after a law is passed, the bureaucrats from the Executive Branch write the regulations to go along with the law. It never goes back to the origination Committee to insure that it meets with the intent of the original bill. Eighty percent of the regulations do not meet the intent standard. I would require that the regulations be returned to the origination committee for approval.

5. Yes, we need to go to a consumption tax and eliminate the IRS.

6. Yes. The federal government needs to stay out of the health care business and remove many of the current regulations. This would have an immediate impact on the cost of health care.

Dianne Costa (R), James “Patriot” Dillon (R) No response received

Dave Garrison (R)

1. Dave Garrison is a Texas and international business leader, attorney, and educator with 38 years of executive business experience with top U.S. companies such as USAA Inc., Halliburton and Brown & Root. Dave has helped cut billions in spending and created thousands of jobs. Dave has been married for 42 years and has 4 children and 16 grandchildren and is extremely concerned about the ideological and fiscal direction of this country.

2. Yes, Dave supports numerous prolife, pro-family, and conservative causes such as right to life, gun rights, and he has signed the Cut, Cap, and Balance, and the repeal of the death tax.

3. Because of Dave’s vast business experience, he has authored the “Solutions to Restore American Prosperity,” which covers reforms to protect the promise to our seniors for Social Security and Medicare. Additionally, Dave’s plan balances the budget and decreases the federal deficit by 50% within 5 years, creating millions of jobs through a consolidated energy policy, spending cuts, and provision of a flat tax. All of these proposals can be found at garrisonforcongress.com.

4. Dave has 38 years of major business experience in financial services, oil and gas, international engineering and construction, and healthcare. He has authored a plan, “Solutions to Restore American Prosperity,” that balances the budget in 5 years through reforms of entitlements, a national healthcare market, consolidated energy policy, and tax reform. Dave’s plan contains a flat tax, cuts to corporate/business taxes, spending cuts, and elimination of unnecessary regulations while strengthening national defense.

5. Yes, the tax code needs a complete overhaul. Dave’s Solutions plan tax reforms are based on implementing a “fair/flat tax” or better known as a consumption tax. Dave’s plan proposes totally eliminating the current tax code and moves to a simplified tax system that can be completed on one 6X8 index card. The plan limits tax revenues to 18.5% of GDP in the first 3 years and 15% thereafter.

6. Dave supports: (1) Repeal of the Afffordable Healthcare and Patient Protection Act (Obamacare). (2) Remove barriers to citizens to the purchase of healthcare plans across state lines. (3) Provide high-risk pools for those hard to insure. (4) Provide a tax credit of $2,000 for an individual or $3,500 for a family. (5) Low-income people may enroll in a private plan by using. More proposals are found in Dave’s “Solutions to Restore American Prosperity” plan at garrisonforcongress.com.

Justin Hewlett (R)

1. Acouting degree from Texas A&M in 1981, business background starting and growing multiple companies and a background of public service first on the Cleburne School Board and currently as Mayor of Cleburne along with my desire to get this country back on a path to prosperity so that my grandchildren will have the same opportunities as I did.

2. NRA support for 2nd Amendment and Right to Life pledge to support legislation that protects the unborn. Both of these issues are very important to me and I want everyone to know that I strongly support both. I have also signed a pledge with Strong America Now to work to eliminate deficit spending and begin paying down the

Continued on next page
national debt without raising taxes.
3. Lower the tax rate for individuals and corporations or a complete overhaul of the tax code. Repeal Obamacare. Work to eliminate the federal mandates and regulations imposed on small business by federal agencies and bureaucracies that create an undue burden on those businesses.
4. Start with zero-based budgeting to eliminate all automatic increases in budget amounts. Cuts to entitlements starting with extending the age for eligibility to 70 for those who are currently 55 or younger. Use the Lean Six Sigma program proposed by Strong America Now to eliminate waste in government. Repeal Obamacare. Eliminate or reduce some federal agencies such as the Department of Education or Department of Energy.
5. Yes. I would support a flat tax where everyone pays a lower flat rate or a Fair Tax system but only if it would eliminate all income taxes.
6. I would work to get Obamacare overturned as soon as possible. My own small business has experienced a 32% and 38% increase in premiums over the last two years. We need to make sure that what ever we put in place, it covers our seniors. We also need to look for a solution to cover people who have pre-existing conditions. We do not need to do is provide healthcare for non U.S. citizens.

Charlie Holcomb (R)
1. I have proudly devoted over 50 years in public service as a City Attorney, County Court at Law Judge, County Attorney, District Attorney, Court of Appeals Justice, the last 10 years, a judge on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, the highest criminal appellate court in Texas. My wife and I are concerned for the future for our great-grandchildren. Elected and re-elected by citizens who were familiar with my background, reputation and record.
2. I have not signed, nor will I sign, any pledge affecting my vote if elected to Congress. The reason I would not do this is because of my judicial experience. The worst thing a judge could do is to go into a case with a closed mind before knowing all the facts, either supporting or against an issue; stifling any consensus and compromise which might be necessary to reach a just outcome.
3. I would propose to reduce the corporate tax to make us more competitive internationally and encourage foreign companies to relocate to the United States. To reduce unemployment: we might consider that if a business finds it needs to temporarily reduce its labor force, we could encourage instead a reduction of hours, retaining these employees, and payment be made to the company in lieu of unemployment payments until the business improves.
4. I would support a reduction in discretionary spending, eliminating earmarks, and reducing non-essential federal workforce. Revenue could be increased by eliminating some tax deductions and unnecessary entitlements such as farm subsidies, modifying Social Security by raising the age and increasing the limit on the payroll tax. I would support a structured tax increase, if necessary.
5. I would support an overhaul of the present Tax Code to eliminate all the special interests, benefits which have been inserted in the Code which most citizens are not even aware. I would also support a simplification of the present Tax Code so an ordinary person could understand and prepare his own tax return.
6. At this time the issue is before the Supreme Court and Congress will have to consider healthcare, taking into consideration the Court’s opinion. However, I support a plan which would provide healthcare to everyone who needs it. It is my understanding the presidents Eisenhower and Nixon favored some type of universal healthcare for America.
encourages prevention, controls costs, and improves quality and coverage.

**Michael Williams (R)**

1. As an attorney, I have represented small and large businesses. I served in the Reagan and Bush (41) administrations. I was elected to the Texas Railroad Commission. I have a proven record cutting the size of government; creating a fertile business environment; defending the constitution in the face of strong opposition; protecting private property rights; leading by example - rejected more than $250,000 in pay raises and resigned from office before running for another one.

2. The most important pledge a public servant can make is that to those he serves. I have pledged to the people of CD 25 and all of Texas I will take my conservative principles to Washington DC and fight the culture of big government and waste. This pledge has and will continue to effect every decision I make as an elected official. I have signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge and Cut Cap and Balance.

3. The federal government, through one endless over-reaching regulation after another, has thrown shackles on the free market system we hold so dear. High taxes and an unstable and unpredictable regulatory structure have tied the hands of small businesses across the nation, preventing them from creating jobs and hiring employees. I will work tirelessly to put America back on her path to prosperity. I will work to create a reliable, stable and predictable regulatory structure.

4. The national debt is racing toward $17 trillion. America needs bold spending and budgetary changes. Congress should return to the constitution, eliminate departments like Education, Energy and Commerce; defund Planned Parenthood and dramatically reduce the federal workforce; pass a balanced budget amendment; maintain our ability to protect America; and do so without raising taxes. We should freeze Medicaid and convert it to state block grants. Encouraging market competition and premium support would improve Medicare.

5. The U.S. has the highest corporate tax rate in the world – a rate that helps drive business investment overseas. For individuals, families, and corporations, Congress should move to a low, simple flat tax. The corporate, ideally, should be lower than the OECD average. U.S. businesses should be allowed to immediately deduct the cost of capital purchases. Individuals and families should be allowed continue mortgage and charitable deductions. (See question 3 above for additional recommendations.)

6. Health care reform should provide greater personal freedom with responsibility, access, affordability, and protection. I want Americans to be as healthy as possible, for as long as possible at the lowest available cost by equalizing federal tax and regulatory laws so that employer-provided health insurance and individually owned health insurance have the same treatment; enacting lawsuit abuse reform; permitting individuals and small businesses to create voluntary purchasing pools; and increasing Health Savings Account.

**Roger Williams (R)**

1. I am a small businessman, not a politician. I have owned my own small business for 38 years – meeting a payroll, balancing budgets, and creating jobs here in Texas. I am running because I believe our nation needs more leaders with small business experience who will make common sense changes to reduce spending, cut our federal debt, and limit the power of the federal government.

2. I have signed pledges to not raise taxes, repeal Obamacare, eliminate the death tax, and to protect the life of the unborn. Every vote I take will be guided by strong opposition to the Obama Economy. We can’t turn around our economy with big taxes, big spending and big government. I will fight for lower taxes, less spending, and a smaller federal government.

3. I will fight to not only reduce taxes but reform the tax code so that it is simpler and fairer. I will work tirelessly to overturn Obamacare which is a job-killer and will prevent new hiring. I believe we must reduce corporate tax rates so our businesses can be more competitive in a global economy. Finally, I will encourage the expansion of energy development to lower costs and create more job opportunities for families.

4. Any serious discussion about balancing the budget begins with entitlements. We simply cannot continue down this path of deficit spending and unfunded liabilities. I support common sense, conservative proposals to give people the option to invest part of their own Social Security money; and I support the efforts of House (R) to move Medicare toward a premium assistance model as defined in the “Pathway to Prosperity” Budget.

5. Ronald Reagan said paying income taxes is like getting mugged every day. It’s not just time to reform the tax code but to utterly scrap it. Our current tax code is too complex, has too many loopholes, and needs to be simplified. I believe we can create more economic opportunities and help families and small businesses keep more of what they earn by passing a Flat Tax.

6. Absolutely. Obamacare is simply an effort to take government control of one-sixth of America’s economy – we cannot allow it to stand. Expanding coverage and allowing greater healthcare access could be better achieved by allowing insurance to be purchased across state lines, passing national medical malpractice reform, expanding health savings accounts, and making premiums tax deductible.

**Elaine M. Henderson (D)** Unopposed

**U.S. REP., DISTRICT 27**

**Blake Farenthold (R)**

1. As a 4th generation Texan with a strong background in the energy industry, agriculture, and a technology small business owner, I understand the needs of our district. My work in Congress is to stop the attacks from Washington on Texas businesses, the economy and our way of life. I have voted to increase drilling for our resources, repealing obamacare, and increasing personal freedom and liberty.

2. My votes are for Texans not for pledges. My personal commitment is to simplify and lower taxes, cut wasteful spending, repeal obamacare, repeal stifling, job- killing regulations, and to build infrastructure. I want to grow the economy and create security for hardworking taxpayers.

3. Stop job killing regulations which hinder our ability to fully utilize our energy resources such as the Eagle Ford Shale, create a simpler and lower tax system, get the Keystone pipeline approved creating thousands of jobs, stop the job-killing takeover of healthcare, and get our budget and spending under control.

4. Washington spending is out of control. I support the Balanced Budget Amendment and voted for budgets and legislation that cut spending. But that’s not enough. We have to target specific programs that are wasteful and duplicative. That’s why I authored legislation to cut the free cell phone program costing tens of millions of dollars. We don’t grow the economy by raising taxes but by growing the economy and reining in spending.

5. The tax code must be simpler, fairer and flatter. We have the most uncompetitive tax rates on employers in the world and our tax law is too complex and full of lobbyist loopholes.

6. Yes. The Affordable Care and Patient Protection Act is a job killer that robs $500 million from Medicare for seniors and contains an unconstitutional individual mandate. It creates an unelected 15 member board of bureaucrats to ration care. We should repeal and replace with legislation that increases accessibility to healthcare, protects Medicare for our seniors and returns health care decisions to doctors and their patients.

**John Grunwald (R), Don Al Middlebrook (R)** No response received.

**Trey Roberts (R)**

1. I have degrees in government, business, international relations, law, and international law. I have consulted to the federal government on international trade issues, including the Texas shrimp industry, worked in international security, created and run successful small businesses, advised my legal clients on how to do the same, and taught college. I am running in order to stop the economic devastation caused by the current administration and Congress, and the disregard for the U.S. Constitution.

2. I pledged to repeal the death tax, which discouages savings, punishes hard work and thrift, and amounts to a double tax after a lifetime of other federal taxes are taken into consideration. I feel this particular tax is unfair and bad policy, since it discourages investment, which is necessary to improve the economic climate. I have taken this pledge to show my seriousness about improving the economy, and reducing the power of the federal government.

3. I propose reducing taxes, spending, and excessive federal regulation. Reducing personal taxes returns money to consumers to spend in the free market as they see fit. Such spending promotes economic growth. Reducing business taxes and regulations gives owners more money to make new hires, improve facilities, and expand operations. Reducing spending allows this strategy to be sustainable in the long run and increases investor confidence that our government will remain solvent.

4. Tax hikes result in lower revenues by strangling business and households. I support increasing tax revenues by cutting taxes and simplifying the tax code. Entitlement reforms can be made without putting the benefits owed to our seniors and veterans at risk. Giving states greater control over entitlement programs would result in increased efficiency, transparency, and accountability, leading to large savings over time. The federal government has multiple duplicate programs, which can be cut or streamlined.

5. Yes, the tax code needs overhaul. The current tax system is difficult for most filers to understand, apparently including many members of Congress and the current Secretary of the Treasury, who owe tens of thousands in back taxes upon taking office. We should reduce the number of tax brackets, lower tax rates, and simplify the system of credits and deductions. Also, we should reduce corporate taxes, to make American firms more competitive internationally.

6. Yes, I would vote to overturn Obamacare. It is a usurpation of power and represents the first step on the road to total federal control of our private economic decisions. I propose fostering competition among insurance carriers, promoting health savings plans, and overhauling Medicare and Medicaid to reduce costs by preventing fraud, waste and abuse. I would ease the tax and regulatory burden on health care providers, so those savings can be passed to consumers.

**Continued on next page**
Ronnie C. McDonald (D)

1. B.A. Degree in Political Science from Texas A&M University. I worked for John Sharp in the State Comptroller’s office for five years on the revenue side of state government. Bastrop County Judge and Chief Financial Officer since November 1998. As county judge I have first hand knowledge of dealing with federally unfunded mandates and still balancing budgets. In 2011 I was placed in a leadership role in dealing with the fires that devastated the county.

2. No, I have not signed any pledges to support any particular legislation or vote. The one pledge I will offer is to the citizens of Texas CD 27 to represent them in Washington D.C.

3. We need to encourage our corporate execs to stop exporting our jobs and manufacturing base to foreign countries. How can we possibly remain a superpower and provide jobs to our own people if we are shipping off every other job. America has to remain a producer, not a consumer. Our transformation into a service economy does not bode well for a future power position or generation.

4. You can’t spend more than you take in. We have to be sensible in our approach and look at the budget holistically. Politics never balanced a budget; common sense is what does that. Revenue has to increase simultaneously. Revenue can be increased by keeping our jobs at home and by making sure that all our citizens are contributing to the economy. There are many who are not, for whatever reason.

5. The tax code is too complicated. I believe the sensible thing to do is to eliminate the loop holes and make sure that similar people and corporations, in similar situations, pay similar amounts. There should not be a difference in tax amounts charged based on the sophistication of your tax attorney and CPA. The question is why are our corporations and people putting their money in offshore accounts.

6. It hasn’t gone into affect, so I can’t say if it’s good or bad. I support the right to access affordable healthcare. We must also be sensitive of the financial realities. We need to be able to make changes that benefit health care recipients and do not bankrupt taxpayers or small businesses. I witnessed my parents struggle with medical problems in late in life and so I will always be sensitive to healthcare issues.

Rose Meza Harrison (D)

1. As a mother, professional attorney, businesswoman, and (D)ic organizer I see and understand the struggles of hardworking Americans. I cannot stand by and allow attacks on women, seniors and the middle class. I have the experience, ideas, and determination to be the representative for District 27 and will protect the American Dream.

2. Pledges that force lawmakers to vote a particular way before considering the specific provisions, costs, or consequences of legislation are dangerous. These vows drive partisanship and paralyze law-makers’ ability to represent the interests of their constituents. The only pledge I will make is to support the Constitution and the American people.

3. Our nation balanced a budget; common sense is what does that. Revenue has to increase simultaneously. Revenue can be increased by keeping our jobs at home and by making sure that all our citizens are contributing to the economy. There are many who are not, for whatever reason.

4. You can’t spend more than you take in. We have to be sensible in our approach and look at the budget holistically. Politics never balanced a budget; common sense is what does that. Revenue has to increase simultaneously. Revenue can be increased by keeping our jobs at home and by making sure that all our citizens are contributing to the economy. There are many who are not, for whatever reason.

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Jerry J. Trevino (D)

1. As the son of schoolteachers who taught me to value hard work, education and faith, my qualifications combine education in law and business administration with practical experience as a twenty-year attorney, small business owner and employer. The reason I offer to follow deserve the same opportunities. I’m running now because the gridlock paralyzing Congress threatens my children’s futures. I’m determined to take the values that work for Texas to Washington and get the job done.

2. I haven’t signed any pledges. I represent the will of my constituency. The ink on the redistricting lines on our 27th District is barely dry. No candidate yet knows the views of voters in this district. And today’s challenging times require remarkable flexibility. Legislators who signed “no new taxes” pledges yesterday are abandoning that promise today as Congress struggles to balance the budget. I keep my promises, not break them.

3. My initial economic proposals have four job-related components. I support investment in our infrastructure and in innovative technology that enhances our resources, both of which will generate business and jobs. I favor priority job placement for our Veterans. And I support federal programs that broaden employment opportunities to prepare our children for promising futures in the workplace. But as I travel the district, I look forward to hearing voters’ ideas.

4. Like us, our Nation has a budget. When our businesses and families can’t pay the bills, we cut spending, and we find ways to bring in more money. Our government first should eliminate waste and duplication everywhere, including entitlement programs. I support equitable taxation of all income brackets, with the upper 1% shouldering its fair share. Again, I look forward to hearing new ideas about balancing the budget from the voters in our district.

5. The tax code shouldn’t be completely thrown out, but it does need revision to fairly tax the top income bracket and to provide incentives for businesses that create domestic jobs and to encourage rebuilding our infrastructure. Our tax policies must combat practices that are illegal here and should not be sheltered by U.S. businesses abroad. Again, as the campaign progresses, I will be seeking input on tax issues from the voters in our new district.

6. No. Too many households in Texas live one healthcare crisis away from bankruptcy, in large part because job loss often means loss of insurance. The plan enacted by Congress is the best proposal so far to address the problem. If the U.S. Supreme Court overturns the legislation, any alternative created by this next Congress also must include affordable and accessible healthcare for all Texans as a means of providing economic security.

Murphy Alade Junaid (D)

No response received.

John Carter (R)

No response received.

Eric Klingemann (R)

1. As a West Point graduate and Veteran I believe Fort Hood, the largest military base, should be represented by someone with military experience and an honor to serve. Also, as a successful business owner, with a Masters’ degree in business, I bring needed leadership experience when our nation is facing a financial crisis. Most importantly, as a father of two young children I am very motivated to reform and improve the direction of our country.

2. I believe accountability is very important. As part of a “citizen nominated process” that encouraged me to represent Williamson and Bell Counties I provided my commitment on 100 current issues. In addition, I have signed a specific pledged to serve only two terms and vote for any legislation supporting term limits. My goals are to drive legislation to stop out of control spending, secure our borders and advocate for a FAIR Tax.

3. The Federal Government is too entrenched in free market enterprise. In order to strengthen our economy and increase employment access, the Federal Government needs to reduce the huge budget deficits and get rid of the TARP did not serve our nation; it only drove us further into debt. Where government serves a role is spurring the economy either through infrastructure improvements or creating free market opportunity, similar to the TVA and CCC after the great depression.

4. Reduce all federal budgets by 2% per year, starting today. Next, refuse to raise the debt ceiling. Our Federal government needs to be forced to prioritize expenditures, just as businesses and families do. A number of federal agencies inhibit businesses and those programs need to be eliminated at the federal level and empowered to the states locally. Get out of the way, let the economy (tax base) grow. Spend less, earn more, sounds radical right?

5. Raise your hand if you believe the IRS is the best we can do? The FAIR Tax has been published, reviewed, vetted, and published again. No deductions. No exemptions. Take home all of your paycheck. Never file a tax return again. Get rid of the IRS and see your tax rate on every receipt. There is support for this nationally, I will drive this to a vote.

6. The federal healthcare legislation should be repealed immediately. Personal responsibility is the answer, along with allowing customers to choose from the free market. I advocate retaining Medicare and Medicaid for those who truly need it; however, government does not have a responsibility in the ‘private' healthcare market. As a business owner, I have offered health insurance to my employees. Some choose it, some do not. It is their choice, not a government mandate!

Stephen W. Wyman (D)

No opposition.

Maria Luisa Alvarado (D)

1. Since the age 18, and over 21 years that followed, the U.S. military qualified me to serve, lead, and fulfill my responsibilities to my country. My life experience and professional research experience allows me to assess problems in order to develop fair and equitable solutions. I am inspired to run for Congress to support the American Dream through accessible and affordable education for all who will pursue it as a means to keep America strong.

2. No signed pledges.

3. I propose to strengthen the American economy by
Minutes, I have discussed my legislative efforts to reduce multilateral corporate tax abuse. We should end those tax expenditures, which cannot be justified, and prevent poorly designed tax cuts that grow debt instead of jobs. Citizens for Tax Justice 100% rating for my tax reform work.

6. No. Though should have been stronger, legislation expands access, stops worst insurer abuses. While more cost containment needed, much better than the current inability of many individuals, small businesses to access coverage. If Supreme Court limits law, seek more, not less reform. I have worked consistently to strengthen Medicare, rejecting Republican voucher plan that shifts more cost, risk to seniors. My relevant work honored by National Association Community Health, National AARP Legislative Achievement Award.

Sylvia Romo (D)

1. I have served as Bexar County Tax Assessor-Collector since 1996. Prior to that, I served two terms in the Texas Legislature, where I authored and passed a constitutional amendment to help women and minority-owned businesses. I hold a BBA from the University of Texas at San Antonio and have operated a successful CPA practice with offices in San Antonio and Chicago.

2. At this time, I have not signed any pledges, nor have I been asked to sign any pledges. Nevertheless, I have publicly and in printed materials voiced my commitment to fighting against cuts to Social Security and Medicare. I have also voiced my support for a woman’s right to choose and LGBT equality. I am unwilling to compromise on any of these issues.

3. Strengthening our economy requires a multifaceted approach. We must rebuild the tax structure of the 1990s that gave our country the greatest period of prosperity in modern history, and eliminate tax advantages given to companies that outsource jobs overseas. Problems related to Medicare can be handled without any benefit cuts by expanding the number of professionals participating in the program and reducing fraud. Finally, rebuilding our infrastructure is critical to future economic growth.

4. While we do desperately need to revamp and rebalance the tax code, the reality is that our budgetary problems are related more to economic growth than any other factor. Until we get the economy growing strongly and broadly, we have no hope of bringing the budget into balance. One needs look no further than Europe to see that we cannot cut our way to balance. Economic growth must be the first priority.

5. Yes. The tax code needs to be rebalanced to stop discriminating against earned income versus unearned income. Further, the corporate tax structure needs to be revamped to cut corporate welfare and giveaways that have given corporations preferential treatment. Currently, corporations pay the lowest rate they’ve paid in 60 years as a percentage of GDP. That has to change to account for the benefits they enjoy from being in the US.

6. No. I believe the ACA is a good foundation from which to build a cohesive healthcare system that provides better benefits they enjoy from being in the US. Medicare over the next ten years to seventy two. Require proof of citizenship for Medicare and Medicaid. Assure that infrastructure is critical to future economic growth.

I recommend a federal tax limited to the cost of our local economy. Maintain Consumer Financial Protection Board. Currently serve on Texas Credit Union Commission.

2. Pledge to restore state’s rights as stipulated under the Tenth Amendment. Pledge to pass balanced budget amendment; make social security and Medicare viable for future generations; secure the USA border, and, start over with fairer tax code that is revenue neutral. The USA faces a spending problem. Pledge to cut spending at all agencies and reduce size of the federal government.

3. Sponsor legislation to create retraining programs for the unemployed. Reduce length of time eligible for unemployment compensation from ninety nine weeks to nine months. Make drug testing mandatory for every recipient of any federal benefit and tighten enrolment standards. Combine all federal agencies making small business loans into a single agency and provide adequate funding to support small business growth.

4. Bring civil service compensation in line with private sector compensation. Abolish the ineffective Departments of Energy and Education, the NLRB, and the EPA. Support legislation to abolish Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Begin repaying the special debt instruments owed to the Social Security Trust Fund and increase the eligibility age for Social Security to seventy two over the next five years.

5. Toss out the current tax code or eliminate all complex tax avoidance deductions and loop holes. Support flat rate income tax without deductions, tax credits, or the avoidance mechanisms currently employed.

6. Abolish Obamacare or remove all funding for it. Re-certify those receiving SSI and increase eligibility age for Medicare over the next ten years to seventy two. Require proof of citizenship for Medicare and Medicaid. Ensure that seniors have adequate health care in the future. Prosecute fraudulent claims.

Lloyd Doggett (D)

1. Stand up for working families, for social justice, economic opportunity. Not afraid to fight Rick Perry. With budget and Ways and Means Committee seniority, I have worked to preserve retirement security, strengthen education from pre-K to post-gra. As Texas State Senator, I authored Texas Commission on Human Rights creation to prohibit discrimination. As Justice, I chaired the Texas Supreme Court. As Judicial Ethics Task Force and received Texas Freedom of Information Foundation award. Support disclosure Act to prevent foreign-controlled corporations from dumping money in our elections and expose lobbyist electioneering. Keep Social Security and Medicare strong, including affordable prescription drugs. As top Democrat, Human Resources Subcommittee, pledge to resist further social safety net destruction. Support economic opportunity for all—previously named Business Advocate of the Year by Texas Association of Mexican-American Chambers of Commerce. Frequently Austin Chronicle readers Best Elected Official.

2. Support the Disclose Act to prevent foreign-controlled corporations from dumping money in our elections and expose lobbyist electioneering. Keep Social Security and Medicare strong, including affordable prescription drugs. As top Democrat, Human Resources Subcommittee, pledge to resist further social safety net destruction. Support economic opportunity for all—previously named Business Advocate of the Year by Texas Association of Mexican-American Chambers of Commerce. Frequently Austin Chronicle readers Best Elected Official.


4. Scrutinize every expenditure for efficiency, necessity. Enforce budget discipline “pay-as-you-go” rule to discourage public debt. Families shouldn’t have to pay dime more to balance budget when some multinationals dodge their fair share. Raise revenue both by stopping these corporate tax dodges and by limiting Bush tax cuts for those at top. I voted against all bank bailouts.

5. Yes. I have led fight against tax loopholes that favor Wall Street and multiple special interests at the expense of small business and individual taxpayers. On 60
As President Obama continues to work on America’s anemic economic growth and chronic unemployment, we need businesspeople with common sense to serve. I will work to secure our southern border. I will work to make our schools work again. Strengthening vocational, technical and industrial for those who are not necessarily college bound will improve our schools. I will protect the lives of the unborn and the elderly. I will serve two terms, if elected, and return home to live under the laws I pass or free from those I help repeal. These are my pledges.

1. First thing’s first: end budget gimmicks that shift dedicated funds from highways. Second, I will work to get a better share of federal highway dollars returned to Texas. By defeating Obama and sending more conservatives to Washington, who like Texas, we will help not only Central Texas, but ALL of Texas.

2. Ground water is a property right that has to be respected in a free market environment. It is short sighted to not capture rain water. Since there are few remaining lake sites, I will propose that we study remediation of lake sites. Thus, I will propose that we study remediation of lake sites. Since there are few remaining lake sites, I will propose that we study remediation of lake sites. Since there are few remaining lake sites, I will propose that we study remediation of lake sites.

3. In light of the multiple lawsuits regarding school finance at the state level and national healthcare at the federal level it is difficult to know today what the state will be faced with in terms of mandates. If the President’s national healthcare plan stands there will be a massive unfunded mandate in the state that will squeeze every aspect of the state budget, I’ll work with my Member of Congress to try and remedy those ///

Paul B. Matthews (R)

1. I am a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), and I hold an MBA (Finance) from the University of Texas. I am the Finance Director for the Travis County Sheriff’s Office, where I oversee a $136 million budget. For too long, we have elected “fiscal conservatives” who were not fiscally conservative. To address the state’s budget issues, we must elect leaders (not politicians) with a high level of financial acumen to correct the wrongs of the past.

2. I signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge. Given America's anemic economic growth and chronic unemployment above 8%, now is not the time to be raising the tax burden on the citizens of Texas. I support property rights and the ability of all Texans to develop the talents bestowed upon them by their creator. Unfortunately, too many laws exist that restrict Texans from freely engaging in commerce. We must return to a society based upon liberty’s principles.

3. We need to take politics out of decisions made at TxDOT and replace TxDOT leadership with real engineers. Many of our highway bottlenecks (particularly around Austin) could be fixed if funding were directed at solving existing problems instead of spending money on new public works projects few people will use. We should also lower tolls on Highway 130 to incentivize truck traffic to move from I-35 during morning and evening rush hours.

4. Having sustainable and sufficient water resources is critical if Texas is to continue to experience the growth it has seen over the past 10-20 years. Water conservation is a key to this equation, but it is not the only answer. I would support the private development of renewable wind energy facilities to desalinate water for use along the Texas coast as well as the construction of new reservoirs primarily east of the I-35 corridor.

5. Because so many of our children are attending college and graduating with $25,000 or more in student loan debt, I support the creation of a Texas work-study University (similar to Missouri’s College of the Ozarks) where students could earn an undergraduate degree without burdensome student loans. To ensure adequate healthcare availability for the poor, we must adopt market-oriented reforms to encourage physicians to continue to provide care (and not drop out of) programs ///

Matt Stillwell (D) Unopposed

STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 5

Ben Bius (R)

1. As a lifelong conservative, sixth-generation Texan, graduate of Sam Houston State University (’79 BBA Finance) and businessman, I have been active in politics all my life. I founded successful businesses and the Home and Land Owners Association of Texas. HALO was successful in advocating for a $2.8 billion property tax cut and in protecting private property rights across Texas. I believe we need businesses with common sense to serve.

2. I will work to secure our southern border. I will work to make our schools work again. Strengthening vocational, technical and industrial for those who are not necessarily college bound will improve our schools. I will protect the lives of the unborn and the elderly. I will serve two terms, if elected, and return home to live under the laws I pass or free from those I help repeal. These are my pledges.

3. First thing’s first: end budget gimmicks that shift dedicated funds from highways. Second, I will work to get a better share of federal highway dollars returned to Texas. By defeating Obama and sending more conservatives to Washington, who like Texas, we will help not only Central Texas, but ALL of Texas.

4. Ground water is a property right that has to be respected in a free market environment. It is short sighted to not capture rain water. Since there are few remaining lake sites, I will propose that we study remediation of sedimentation to restore and enhance our existing lakes storage capacity over the long haul.

5. Secure our border, make our schools work again and teach children to value work will lessen dependence on “state services”. Drug testing to receive un-employment benefits will make Texans healthier, more employable and cut down on the cost of criminal justice, health care and dependency. I believe Texas will have recovered economically by early next year but we have a lot of sins of the past to deal with now.

Charles Schwertner (R)

1. I currently serve as the State Representative for Williamson and Milam counties (District 20) in the Texas Legislature. I am a family man, a practicing physician, and a small business owner with six generations of family roots in Senate District 5. My campaign has received the support of over 410 local elected officials and community leaders, as well as the endorsement of Texas Medical Association, the National Rifle Association (NRA), and Texas Association of Business.

2. First and foremost, I pledge to represent the best interests of the citizen taxpayers of State Senate District 5. I have also pledged to oppose any and all efforts to increase taxes.

Continued on next page
STATE RACES

Continued from previous page

3. We need to explore new options for improving our transportation infrastructure without raising taxes or imposing new tolls on existing public roads. I hope to see continued improvements and efficiencies applied to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), an end to funding diversions, and an increased utilization of public-private partnerships to fund future transportation projects. However, I do NOT support tolling existing free roads or raising taxes to fund transportation.

4. The Legislature should continue its development of an equitable and sustainable Statewide Water Plan and work with regional water districts and local water providers to ensure that all Texas citizens have access to the water they need. Securing our state’s water resources is one of my top priorities.

5. Improving our state’s public education is critical to the long-term economic viability of Texas. Looking forward, it’s important that lawmakers continue to pass a balanced state budget — without raising taxes — which places a high priority on a quality public education for our children, as well as quality care for our elderly and disabled.

STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 14

Guy Fielder (R), Kirk Watson (D) Unopposed

STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 21

Grant Rostig (R), Judith Zaffirini (D) Unopposed

STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 24

Troy Fraser (R) Unopposed

STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 25

Jeff Wentworth (R)

1. B.A. Texas A&M University; J.D. Texas Tech University School of Law; 3 years, assistant to Republican US Congressman from Texas; 5 ½ years, Bexar County Commissioner; one year, university system regent; 4 ½ years, State Representative; 19 years, State Senator. Self-employed attorney and Realtor. Motivated to a life of public service by a desire to serve the people of Texas.

2. I have not signed such a pledge; never have, never will. I report and am accountable only to my bosses, the Texans who live in Senate District 25.

3. Fund 6 is where income from the state motor fuels tax goes, and it should be dedicated only to the design, construction and maintenance of public highways. Some of that fund is diverted, however, to other purposes, like paying the Department of Public Safety. We need to stop these diversions and also index the tax to inflation, since it now pays less than half what it did when passed in 1991.

4. By getting the various water agencies to work together rather than fighting each other, I successfully mediated the $1.2 billion lawsuit between the San Antonio Water System and the Lower Colorado River Authority where they had spent $2 ½ million in legal fees but not found one new drop of water. That lawsuit is now settled and they are working together to find new sources of water for our region.

5. The health of Texans is primarily their responsibility, not the government’s although the government can encourage healthy lifestyles and fund research aimed at improving lives. Public education is the most important responsibility of state government, and we need to fix the current “margins tax” as well as allow video lottery terminals at already-licensed racetracks in Texas in order to increase revenue without raising taxes.

Elizabeth Ames Jones (R)

1. Born, raised in District 25, was elected in 2000 to the Texas House. As first woman elected to leadership in the House Republican Caucus, I was on the Appropriations Committee; cut state spending to close a $10 billion shortfall without raising taxes; worked to pass lawsuit reform to protect doctors from frivolous lawsuits. I served as Chairman of Texas’ energy oversight agency, ensuring responsible drilling for oil and natural gas, including the Eagle Ford Shale.

2. No pledge will affect my independence or my passion to represent this District. I have strongly supported pledges to oppose the massive healthcare bill, often referred to as Obamacare, because government-run healthcare would increase — not decrease — the cost of healthcare. I’ve signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge, the National Taxpayers Union pledge, and the No “Climate Tax” Pledge that states our goal is to ensure Texas energy jobs are protected from irresponsible regulation.

3. Traffic congestion is worse and trending the wrong way. During the last legislative session, the state diverted $1.1 billion from the State Highway Fund and used taxpayer money to pay for non-transportation programs. We must end that practice and ensure fees and funding are going where taxpayers intend. And then going forward we must hold accountable local transit authorities and tie taxpayer funding to projects that actually relieve traffic congestion — now and years into future.

4. Management of our diverse water resources is the key. I have been successful in complex underground resource management. As Chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission, which is the worldwide poster child for resource management, I have dealt with some of the industrial water demands of our state, and am cognizant of the successful management that can protect private property ownership of groundwater and address shortages.

5. Reworking the school finance system is a must, and the property tax collection mechanism, upon which school funding so mightily depends, must be reformed to ensure transparency and consistency in the appraisal process. Priorities are keeping good teachers, addressing dropout and graduation rates, and protecting teacher’s retirement.

Donna Campbell (R) No response received

John Courage (D) Unopposed

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

QUESTIONS FOR RAILROAD COMMISSIONER AND COMMISSION:

Background: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position? (50 words)

Energy: How would you balance the use of existing energy sources with the development of alternate energy sources in Texas? (75 words)

Urban Drilling: What are the main health and safety issues related to oil and gas drilling and transmission in urban areas, and how would you address them? (75 words)

Other Issues: Aside from the issues above, what are the two most serious issues the Railroad Commission will face during the next term, and how would you address them? (75 words)

Six-year term (on a three-person commission). Must be at least 25 years old, a citizen of the United States, a resident and registered voter of Texas. Among duties: regulation of the oil and natural gas industry, including drilling production and environmental protection; natural gas utilities; natural gas and hazardous liquids pipeline safety; surface mining of coal, uranium, and iron ore gravel, including land reclamation; transportation and storage of liquefied petroleum gas, compressed natural gas, and liquefied natural gas; encourages the use of clean-burning propane and researches new technologies for its use. Current annual salary: $115,200 - $137,500

Becky Berger (R), Beryl Burgess (R), Roland Sledge (R) No reply received

Warren Chisum (R)

Background: I have served 22 years in the Texas House of Representatives and have a proven conservative record. My real life experiences as an independent oil and gas producer for over 30 years give me keen insight into the proper role of the Railroad commission.

Energy: I believe the private sector should be free to seek alternative forms of energy while we also work to keep the price of existing energy affordable for the consuming public. Research is extremely important which is why a comprehensive energy plan for Texas, developed in concert with the Legislature, is an important element of strengthening our state.

Urban Drilling: Despite a premature, unfounded declaration by the EPA, there is little evidence that hydraulic fracturing activities negatively impact the environment when the operators abide by the regulations established by the Texas Railroad Commission. Although there may be occasional bad actors in the system, most operators in Texas abide by the standards set forth by the Railroad Commission, thus preserve and protect both the natural resources and quality human life around drill states.

Other Issues: Two serious issues the Railroad Commission will face will be EPA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service intrusion into the regulatory authority of the Railroad Commission and the implementation of Texas Sunset Commission recommendations.

It is vital that our next Railroad Commissioners have the experience and tenacity to fight federal interference into our state’s regulatory authority.

Joe Cotten (R)

Background: I was born in Texas, have grown up in Texas. A graduate of Texas Tech in Lubbock. I have first-hand acquaintance with the existing energy sources and their financial concerns and engineering considerations. I am interested in seeing that we become the leader in the push for energy-freedom.

Energy: Alternate energy sources in Texas are excellent endeavors. They’re not here, however. They’re going to take 10 to 20 years to develop in the meantime. The existing energy sources must be developed to their fullest extent. We should focus on Texas’ Natural Gas.

Urban Drilling: I believe that our Railroad Commission should vigorously support the pipeline from Canada. If our energy companies follow the existing health and safety rules and regulations, I see no problem with urban areas. If we do not develop a healthy energy program regulated meaningfully, urban areas will be seriously prejudiced and put out of business.

Other Issues: Number one: The Commission needs to streamline practices and procedures. Red tape should be abandoned. Number two: Violations of rules and regulations and those imposed by the federal government that make sense should be evenly enforced and prosecuted. The Commission should authorize a program of drill, drill, drill: off shore and on shore.

Continued on next page
RAILROAD COMMISSION, TEXAS JUDICIAL RACES

VOTING FOR JUDGES IN TEXAS

Although in some states judges are appointed, most judges in Texas are elected. Voting decisions in judicial races are among the most important that a Texas voter makes.

Why are judicial elections important?
Judges make decisions about fundamental issues that affect all of us — family life, education, health care, housing, employment, finances, discrimination, civil rights, public safety, and government actions.

Those decisions can have long-lasting impact on individuals, groups, and the public as a whole. It is critical that our judges make fair decisions based upon open-minded and unbiased consideration of the facts and the law in each case.

Judges must know the law and not be influenced by any external political and economic factors.

What should voters look for when electing judges?
According to the American Bar Association, principles to consider in selection of judges include:
■ Judges should uphold the rule of law.
■ Judges should be independent and impartial.
■ Judges should possess the appropriate temperament and character.
■ Judges should possess the appropriate capabilities and credentials.

Judges and the judiciary should have the confidence of the public.
■ The judicial system should be diverse and reflective of the society it serves.
■ Judges should be constrained to perform their duties in a manner that justifies public faith and confidence in the court.

Unlike candidates for most political offices, judicial candidates cannot make promises about decisions they would make on certain issues or types of cases that come up in their court.

However, they can tell voters what improvements they would make to their court, what their qualifications are (education, experience, and personal traits) and which individuals and organizations support or endorse their campaigns.

TEXAS COURT SYSTEM
The Texas court system is made up of a statewide network of trial courts and appellate courts.

In trial courts, judges and/or juries evaluate the facts and the law and make a decision in a civil or criminal legal dispute. When decisions in most trial courts are appealed, they are sent to an appellate court where judges consider what happened at the trial court, evaluate legal arguments, and then decide if a mistake was made.

See http://www.courts.state.tx.us/pubs/court-overview.pdf for a chart of the Texas court structure.

The state’s two highest courts, the Texas Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals, have both administrative and appellate responsibilities.

Through their administrative powers they manage the entire system of justice in both civil (including juvenile) and criminal cases.

The Supreme Court is the final court of appeals within Texas for both civil and juvenile cases. The Court adopts rules related to civil trial practice, evidence, and appellate procedure.

This court has one Chief Justice and eight other Justices and requires the agreement of five members for a decision on a case.

The Court of Criminal Appeals hears criminal cases that are appealed from one of the 14 Courts of Appeals and death penalty cases that by law go straight to the Court of Criminal Appeals. It adopts evidence and appellate rules for criminal cases and judicial education regulations for Texas judges. This court has one Presiding Judge and eight other Judges.

All members of each court are elected for six-year terms, with three elected every two years. Any vacancies are filled by gubernatorial appointment until the next general election, when the voters fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. Each term of either court begins and ends with the calendar year.

RAILROAD COMMISSION, TEXAS JUDICIAL RACES

Christi Craddick (R)
Background: I was born in the Permian Basin and have worked with all parts of the energy industry. I am a lifelong conservative, a small business owner, an attorney specializing in oil and gas, water, tax, and environmental issues, and I serve as president of a grassroots advocacy firm.

Energy: Here in Texas we are extremely fortunate to have large energy reserves and resources — natural gas, oil, coal, wind, solar, and uranium. These precious resources point to a bright future for our state and the nation. Maintaining a competitive advantage in a global economy requires the vision, discipline and willingness to execute an “all of the above” strategy that begins with proven production of oil and gas right here in Texas, creating jobs and prosperity.

Urban Drilling: Texans are conservationists and want to protect our air, water, land, the health and safety and private property rights of our citizens in all areas of the state. Today’s technology allows producers to drill for the energy Texas desperately needs in the safest and most environmentally conscious methods. As commissioner, I would continue to balance our state’s need for energy while protecting our natural resources and the safety and property rights of our citizens.

Other Issues: I am deeply concerned about the intrusion of the federal government into our oil and gas industry. I will work every day against federal overreach by working with state agencies, our congressional delegation and other states. I also believe strongly in the importance of education and outreach to the public about the industry and functions of the Commission through town hall meetings, an improved website and the introduction of an energy curriculum in our schools.

Dale Henry (D) Unopposed

Barry Smitherman (R)
Background: I am the Chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission. With seventeen years private sector business experience and nine years of public-sector experience serving as a prosecutor and Chairman of the Public Utility Commission, I am uniquely qualified. I earned degrees from Texas A&M, UT Law School, and Harvard University.

Energy: Texas has an abundance of oil, natural gas, coal, wind, and sun. Renewable energy has a role to play, but the taxpayers should not subsidize that role. To secure energy independence, we must increase oil and gas production in Texas and throughout America. New drilling techniques allow us to extract oil and gas from areas once thought depleted. Private enterprises are free to explore alternative energy sources using private dollars — not taxpayer subsidies.

Urban Drilling: As Chairman of the Railroad Commission, I am focused on punishing those companies that jeopardize our health and safety by violating the rules that are already on the books. Texas doesn’t need more regulations; instead, we must make sure everyone is complying with our existing laws. The Railroad Commission will continue to work with the TCEQ, the state’s primary air and water regulator, to help ensure environmental integrity.

Other Issues: Obama and his Administration’s appointees at the EPA and other agencies are trying to stop Texas from recovering our God-given oil, natural gas, and coal. Working together with my friend (and campaign supporter) Attorney General Greg Abbott, we have sued to stop the Obama administration’s illegal actions that would hurt Texans. The second issue is effectively enforcing existing laws and providing a stable and predictable regulatory environment so companies can create jobs in Texas.

Elizabeth Murray-Kolb (R)
Background: As an elected County Attorney, eleven year criminal prosecutor, wife, mother, taxpayer and consumer, I believe that I am uniquely qualified to represent the interests of the people of Texas as a member of the Railroad Commission. It’s time to have Commissioners who will represent consumers rather than special interests.

Energy: When we face all-time high gasoline prices, it is critical that we continue to seek better ways to utilize our state’s immense energy resources including wind, solar, clean coal technologies, bio-fuel, etc. We must also make efficient use of traditional energy resources, making their production more abundant and cost efficient by utilizing modern practices like fracturing in a way that does not jeopardize water safety and preserves natural resources for future generations of Texans.

Urban Drilling: Protecting the public’s safety from drilling operations whether in rural or more densely populated urban areas should remain the top priority of the Texas Railroad Commission. Nothing should be important. We will undoubtedly continue to identify even more of state’s immense natural resources closer and closer to population centers, as we do, the Commission must be vigilant in enacting regulations that protect the health and well-being of Texans as we seek greater energy independence.

Other Issues: The most serious issue facing the Texas Railroad Commission are the conflicts of interests that are created when elected Railroad Commissioners, and those seeking the office, accept campaign contributions from the same oil and gas industry they are charged with regulating. The people of Texas deserve better. That is why I have refused to accept any campaign contribution from individuals or political action committees affiliated with the oil and gas industry.

Al Lee (R), Greg Parker (R) No reply received

I am a member of the Railroad Commission. It’s time to have Commissioners who will represent consumers rather than special interests.

Energy: When we face all-time high gasoline prices, it is critical that we continue to seek better ways to utilize our state’s immense energy resources including wind, solar, clean coal technologies, bio-fuel, etc. We must also make efficient use of traditional energy resources, making their production more abundant and cost efficient by utilizing modern practices like fracturing in a way that does not jeopardize water safety and preserves natural resources for future generations of Texans.

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TEXAS JUDICIAL RACES

JUSTICE - TEXAS SUPREME COURT

Six-year term. Must be at least 35 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Texas resident. Must have been a practicing lawyer for at least 10 years or a lawyer and a judge of a court of record for at least 10 years. Serves as a member of the court of final appellate jurisdiction in civil matters in the state, has the power to issue writs of mandamus, and preside over proceedings for removal of judges; regulates and licenses lawyers; manages the Basic Civil Legal Services Program for the poor. Annual authorized salary: $152,500 (Chief Justice), $150,000 (Justice)

QUESTIONS FOR TEXAS SUPREME COURT CANDIDATES:

Background: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position? (50 words)

Impartiality: How do you maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns? (75 words)

Public Protection: The Texas Supreme Court oversees and controls rules and standards for the legal profession. What changes to the attorney disciplinary rules are needed to provide better protection to the public? (75 words)

Access to Justice: How have you worked toward improving access to justice for all Texans and what role should the Texas Supreme Court play in ensuring access to justice? (75 words)

PLACE 2

Steve Smith (R)

Background: Served as a Supreme Court justice for two years, and wrote 16 published opinions. My conservative judicial philosophy is another important qualification. My prior litigation experience includes litigating the Hopwood v. Texas case that eliminated unconstitutional racial preferences at Texas universities. I graduated from U.T. Law School with honors.

Impartiality: I believe that state judges should continue to be elected. The core task of the judiciary is to efficiently and fairly resolve cases by applying Texas law to the facts. Direct elections make the state judiciary accountable to Texas voters, allowing citizens to remove judges who are inefficient, unfair, or who legislate from the bench. However, because of the inherent conflict of interest that arises, campaign contributions from attorneys to judges should be strictly limited.

Public Protection: The current attorney disciplinary rules generally work as intended: protecting clients from unethical lawyers and lawyers from frivolous claims. As a Supreme Court justice, I will work with both the Texas Legislature and the State Bar of Texas to improve the current rules. However, Texas voters should understand that the biggest problem facing the state judiciary is judicial lawmaking (i.e. judges legislating from the bench), not the attorney disciplinary system.

Access to Justice: As a Supreme Court justice, I will encourage attorneys to continue to provide pro bono (free) legal work to Texans who cannot pay. However, as stated above, the biggest problem facing the state judiciary is judicial lawmaking (i.e. judges legislating from the bench). I believe that judges should interpret the law, not make new law. My judicial philosophy mirrors that of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Scalia: textualism and rejection of the liberal “living condition” theory.

PLACE 4

John Devine (R), David Medina (R)

No reply received

Scott Field (R)

Background: My conservative judicial philosophy, extensive appellate experience, and respect for the rule of law and Constitution qualify me. I am...

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experienced in appellate, complex civil, criminal, and family law in all levels of our state and federal court systems, including the Texas Supreme Court, Fifth Circuit, and U.S. Supreme Court.

Impartiality: I will maintain impartiality on the court by following my conservative judicial philosophy and respect for the rule of law, as well as by practicing simple virtue. I appreciate the support donors have given my campaign. I will treat the donors the same as all parties arguing before me on the court, because the role of a judge is to apply the law fairly and equally according to the facts without bias or personal agenda.

Accomplishment: I am proud to have raised three children and to have maintained a strong marriage while owning and operating a business, my law firm. Doing so has built a great deal of perspective on the practical effects of the law on our daily lives. My family has kept me grounded and centered. As a result, I will serve humbly and within the proper role for a judge – a neutral arbiter who calls “balls and strikes.”

Unopposed candidates

J. Andrew Hathcock (D), Justice, 3rd Court Of Appeals, Place 2
Jeff Bose (R), Justice, 3rd Court Of Appeals, Place 2
Diane Henson (D), Justice, 3rd Court Of Appeals, Place 3
Karen L. Watkins (D), Justice, 3rd Court Of Appeals, Place 5
David Puryear (R), Justice, 3rd Court Of Appeals, Place 5
Bryan Case, Jr. (D), Justice, 3rd Court Of Appeals, Place 6
Bob Pemberton (R), Justice, 3rd Court Of Appeals, Place 6

BASTROP COUNTY DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

QUESTIONS FOR 21ST, 35TH, 423RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT CANDIDATES:

Education (25 word limit)
Experience (50 word limit)
1. Do you believe changes in the current election process are needed to improve or maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns? (75 words or less)
2. How would you handle a situation where an attorney appearing before your court is inadequately representing his/her client? (75 words or less)
3. What tools are available to you to reduce the rates of incarceration and recidivism? How will you use them? (75 words or less)

21ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Sam Z. Damon (D) unopposed

Derek R. Van Gilder (R)

Education: University of Texas-Juris Doctor: 81; University of Houston MBA 76; University of Texas BS Civil Engineering
Experience: My 30+ years of experience in a general law practice handling a broad spectrum of cases coupled with my engineering and business experience, has given me a well rounded background that is not limited to any one area of law which is essential for a court of general jurisdiction. 74; US Mil. Acad. West Point 1969-1971
1. Yes, I believe an appointment process (with Bar Association vetting of appointee, with a non-partisan retention election after every four years would potentially improve the caliber of the Judiciary. Part affiliation can

subject a candidate or sitting judge to the whims of the electorate in any give election year. This would allow the Judicial office holder to be above partisan elections in a fair, balanced and impartial process.
2. I have practiced law for 30+ years having appeared and tried all types of cases from JP Courts to State and Federal District Courts, in both criminal and a wide variety of civil cases. I have also been a mediator and an arbitrator. I have argued before the 1st, 3rd, and 14th Courts of Appeals handling family law, civil, personal injury, criminal, probate, CPS, business, and construction law cases.
3. I advocate establishing a Drug Court similar to what is being done in other cities and Sates. With the high crime rate attributed to the use of illegal drugs, drug courts have shown to be very effective with success rates in the 80% rage at a cost of savings to the taxpayers of over $30,000.00, per individual. I plan on using probation, deferred prosecution and adjudication in the most effective and cost efficient manner.

Carson Campbell Jr. (R) No response received

Chris M. “Matt” Dillon (R)

Education: BBA in accounting, Baylor University – 1994; MBA, Texas State University – 1996; JD, St. Mary’s University School of Law – 1999
Experience: I served as a briefing attorney for the Seventh Court of Appeals at Amarillo my first year out of law school and for the last 11 years have been a sole practitioner focused on trial and appellate cases in the 21ST district and all over the State of Texas.
1. I like that Texas citizens get to choose their judges through an election process and I would not ever want that power taken away from the electorate. However, for many citizens the line between the role of “judge” and that of “politician” has become blurred. The extent to which judges are able to interpret and apply the law impartially depends upon their ability to remain free from undue political pressure. Judges should not be politicians.
2. The right to the effective assistance of counsel is firmly rooted in our state and federal Constitutions. If an attorney’s performance is so deficient so as to prejudice the outcome of a case, then as judge I would have to follow the law and grant a new trial. Just because I may disagree with an attorney’s strategy would not give rise to objectively deficient performance that would require any action be taken.
3. I have learned that if you give someone enough rope, they will do one of two things with it, that is either pull themselves up out of the hole they have fallen into or hang themselves with it. Some crimes absolutely deserve incarceration (all violent offenses and burglaries) while others are more suited for a second chance through probation or those services offered through TDCJ such as boot camp or substance abuse treatment facilities.

Caldwell, Comal, Hays County District Court Judge

QUESTIONS FOR 22ND, 421ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT CANDIDATES

1. Please describe what combination of education, motivation and/or experience qualifies you for this office. (100 word limit)
2. What tools are available to you to reduce the rates of incarceration and recidivism? How will you use them? (100 word limit)
3. How would you handle a situation where an attorney appearing before your court is inadequately representing his/her client? (100 word limit)

22ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Bruce Boyer (R)
1. B.A. University of Nebraska, 1973; J.D./Masters of Public Administration, S.M.U., 1977. I have been an attorney, businessman, and volunteer in Central Texas for the past 35 years. I served as a prosecutor for over 20 years, prosecuting on the Municipal, County, and District Court levels. I have handled family and civil law cases and am a former Mayor of New Braunfels. A judge should be able to listen, be fair, and be able to resolve conflicts in a manner consistent with the law. I have a proven record of performing to this standard.
2. In alcohol and substance abuse cases, monitoring and treatment programs are available. Programs such as the ignition interlock systems for driving and the day treatment centers through the probation department can be valuable alternatives to incarceration. Many offenses are the result of substance abuse, more intense treatment programs should be considered. These include programs available through the District Resource Center, Community Corrective Facilities, and cognitive treatments at the Central Texas Treatment Center in Granger or the Rehabilitation Center in Uvalde. For the assault and violent cases there are programs available which address anger management and personal responsibility.
3. A judge is not in position to unilaterally intervene where an attorney has been hired by the client to represent the client. However, if a party wishes to make a change, that request may be considered as long as the change will not prejudice the proceeding or the other parties’ rights. In a criminal case where the defendant is requests a change of court appointed counsel, the court should consider it so long as the proceeding will not be prejudiced. The court can remove the attorney from the appointment list for future cases.

Ronnie Dickens (R)
1. Bachelor Degree from SWTGU and Juris Doctor Degree from South Texas College of Law. I interned in the 22nd Court in college and I have practiced in this district since 1982. I am the only candidate who has tried jury trials in all areas of District Court Law, for 30 years. In my General Private Practice, I have personally handled all case responsibility. I know a many citizens in Hays, Comal and Caldwell counties and their values and goals–mine are the same. I am personable and approachable to all, and I love helping people their solve legal problems.
2. I worked with probation while interning and have studied alternative measures to incarceration, all along. Toughey enforced probation, with extra requirements, can be more effective than jail. I would rather require a felony DWI offender walk the square, as a condition of probation, as an example to those who might not take this path. We

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now have drug courts, as an alternative to incarceration. The most effective tool is to rule seriously and consistently, to let those law breakers know what the consequences will be, as a deterrent. Serious crimes must be dealt with in a very punitive manner.

1. I would never allow improper representation to occur. I would hold counsel to the same standard that I have always worked under. I worked with the same effort and enthusiasm on a court-appointed case as I did on one that paid a good fee. In our system of justice, nothing less will be tolerated. As the only candidate who has handled jury trial matters in Criminal Defense, Family Law and Civil Damages cases, I have seen every situation. In these life and death matters, should an Attorney not do the job, I would quickly and effectively remedy the problem.

David S. Glickler (R)

1. Over eighty percent of the work of a District Court is in criminal cases, based on actual trial numbers and dockets. I am Board Certified in Criminal Law, and have been a courtroom prosecutor for over seventeen years. I have worked for the Attorney General’s Criminal Prosecutions Division and have served Texans all over the State for over eleven years. I would now like to serve my local community. I am approached by community and political and civic leaders in Hays County about my experience making me the best candidate for this office. Lived here for over ten years.

2. Working with the probation department to utilize existing programs, or create new ones, that help identify the actual cause of criminal offenders’ problems. If someone has an addiction, or a financial situation, that is causing them to make poor choices, give them access to tools to improve their personal situations so that they can stay out of jail and eventually Court. Help create diversionary programs that offer first- and non-violent offenders chances to address their situations without incurring permanent consequences like convicted felon status. Use shock probation in borderline cases to try to decrease incarceration rates.

3. The 6th Amendment guarantees the assistance of counsel only in criminal cases. For a hired attorney, there are contractual and ethical relationships between the attorney and the client. The Court must tread lightly in these areas. In civil matters, opposing counsel would have ethical obligations also. That attorney should be reminded of these ethical obligations, which are monitored by the State Bar. In criminal cases, defendants can be advised of their right to effective assistance of counsel, and the Court can always ask another attorney to offer consultation for the benefit of the accused. It should always be watched.

David L. Nigh (R)

1. I am the most experienced and best qualified candidate. My conservative education in business at Texas A&M, and legal education, and 29-year career in civil and criminal litigation exhibit these superior qualifications. I have trimmed my whole career to work in the courtroom. Since 1992, I have lived in New Braunfels, and represented clients in Caldwell, Hays, Comal, Travis, Guadalupe, Kendall, Bexar, and Bandera counties. These cases included family law, divorce, child custody, adoption, juvenile law, CPS cases, criminal defense, estate matters, and real estate matters. I am motivated to preserve and protect our central Texas families.

2. Texas tools include prison, SAFPF, CRTC, Community Restitution Centers, Gary Job Corp, and day programs from county jail. About 85% of crimes committed here are directly related to substance abuse. Some repeat, dangerous offenders must go to prison to protect society. Along with violent criminals, drunken drivers, and drug dealers must be punished severely. Other young or first-time offenders may be returned to the “right path” by utilizing the above programs, administered through our probation departments, before they repeat their crimes. I will use these tools, and principles, to provide incentives to those defendants who desire rehabilitation.

3. In short, it is the duty of the Court to ensure that each Defendant is provided “effective assistance of counsel” as required by the U.S. Supreme Court. Generally attorneys are well prepared, and are ethically bound to only accept matters they are competent to handle. From my 29 year career in Texas Courtrooms, I will be uniquely qualified to observe and detect any attorney providing inadequate representation. I would then meet with the attorney (and opposing counsel) to determine if the attorney admitted a problem. The State Bar has programs to assist attorneys with substance abuse issues.

421ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Todd Blometh (R) Unopposed

TRAVERS COUNTY DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

QUESTIONS FOR 126TH, 200TH, 345TH, 353RD, 390TH, 427TH, 53RD, 98TH JUDICIAL DISTRICTS CANDIDATES

1. What tools are available to you to reduce the rates of incarceration and recidivism? How will you use them? (75 words or less)

2. How would you handle a situation where an attorney appearing before your court is inadequately representing his client? (75 words or less)

3. What experience or accomplishments qualify you to serve as district court judge? Please explain. (75 words or less)

53RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Scott Jenkins, (D) unopposed

98TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Rhonda Hurley, (D) unopposed

126TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Darlene Byrne (D) Unopposed

167TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Efrain De La Fuente (D)


1. Mental illness and drug addiction are critical issues we face, and we cannot afford to continue incarcerating mentally ill or drug-addicted offenders. I will utilize evidence-based practices to ensure offenders receive appropriate treatment. I will work to expand pretrial diversion programs, and our Veterans Court is an excellent tool for helping those who have served our country. We should offer incentives for those on probation when they complete educational or treatment programs.

2. Adequate representation of the accused is paramount to our criminal justice system. I would speak to that attorney privately to assess the situation and to determine if additional assistance from another attorney is necessary. If so, I would appoint a more experienced attorney to assist in representation. After that, if need be, I would consider removing the attorney from the case (if appointed) and consider recommending that attorney be removed from the appointment list.

3. I grew up as a migrant farm worker, and I saw many injustices during that time. My father prevailed in federal court against a company that was violating our rights as migrant farm workers, and I learned that everyone has a voice in our court system. I am balanced, having been a prosecutor and criminal defense attorney. I have tried an array of cases from burglary to murder and have managed two criminal felony courts.

David Wahlberg (D)

Education: Board Certified (1989); University of Texas, J.D. (1976); Texas Lutheran University, B.A. in Psychology/English (1970); McCallum H.S., Austin (1966); College of State Bar

Experience: Practiced in Austin since 1976; practiced both civil and criminal law, later focusing on criminal defense. Board certified specialist in criminal law since 1988. Several thousand criminal cases, including several hundred Court appointed. Successful Federal and State trial experience from minor misdemeanors to serious felonies in courts throughout Texas.

1. This requires dealing with three causes: lack of education/employment, substance abuse, and mental health issues. In addition to utilizing existing programs, I will implement use of positive reinforcement to address lack of education or employment. I will be directly involved with those who can benefit from personal attention. I will seek to involve families and communities in assisting those who need training and employment. I will support the establishment of a mental health court.

2. Insuring effective assistance of counsel requires knowledge, experience and attentiveness. I will be very attentive to effectiveness issues and will take prompt action to assure all defendants receive effective representation. Depending on the circumstances, I will take the following actions where appropriate: intervention, counseling, additional education, removal from appointment list, appointment of co-counsel, continuance, termination of representation, mistrial, and new trial.

3. 35 years of experience in criminal and civil cases involving many different judges and lawyers, coupled with 23 years of board certification in criminal law, have given me the judgment, knowledge and perspective to reach fair and independent conclusions. Throughout my career, I have utilized innovative approaches to reach improved outcomes for both the victim and perpetrator, such as proposing victim-offender mediation, and I will continue such innovation as Judge.

200TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Gisela D. Triana (D) unopposed

345TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Stephen Yelenosky (D) Unopposed
I have practiced family law for 22 years: helping clients figure out how to raise their children together while living apart. I have been appointed to fully investigate high-conflict divorce cases and make intelligent, well-reasoned recommendations regarding child custody. I am an experienced family///

4. While this court does have general jurisdiction, the court does not currently hear criminal cases. I believe one of the best tools available to us in Williamson County is the Central Texas Treatment Center. Additionally, I would like to encourage more facilities that use horses for healing such as the Ride on Center for Kids.

Williamson County

Questions for 26th, 395th, 425th Judicial Districts Candidates

Education: (25 word limit) Experience: (50 word limit)
1. Do you believe changes in the current election process are needed to improve or maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns? (75 words or less)
2. How would you handle a situation where an attorney appearing before your court is inadequately representing his/her client? (75 words or less)
3. What experience or accomplishments qualify you to serve as district court judge? Please explain. (75 words or less)
4. What tools are available to you to reduce the rates of incarceration and recidivism? How will you use them? (75 words or less)

State Board of Education

Four-year term. Must be at least 26 years old, a citizen of the United States, a resident of Texas for at least 12 months, and a registered Texas voter. Composed of 15 members elected from roughly equally populous districts, the Board adopts rules and establishes policies that govern a wide range of educational programs and services provided by Texas public schools. Among duties: establishes goals for the public school system; adopts and promotes four-year plans for meeting those goals; and oversees investment of the Permanent School Fund. Annual authorized salary: none

Questions for State Board of Education Candidates

Background: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position? (50 words)
Curriculum: What criteria should be used in developing and approving curriculum standards for courses? (75 words)
Funding: What changes, if any, would you make to current investment policies for the Permanent School Fund and to distributions to fund public schools? Please explain. (75 words)
Other Issues: What are the two most serious public education issues facing the State Board of Education during the next term, and how would you address them? (75 words)

District 5

Ken Mercer (R), Steve Salyer (R) No reply received

Rebecca Bell-Metereau (D)

District 10

Jeff Fleece (R) No reply received

Other issues:

Funding: No reply received

Tom Maynard (R)

Background: Parent of five children in public education, 13 years as a classroom teacher, six years as a school board trustee and 12 years as a statewide decision-maker as Texas FFA Executive Director. I have working relationships with public, private and charter schools and with leaders of industry and higher education.

Curriculum: Curriculum should be factual, accurate, free of political and social agendas and designed to prepare students for success in post-secondary education, careers and as effective, responsible American citizens. Our curriculum should be a continuum of coherent, age and grade appropriate steps with an ultimate outcome of preparedness for careers, post-secondary education and citizenship. It should be rigorous and relevant.

Funding: PSF policies in the Texas Administrative Code provide clear guidelines for creating balance between providing for student needs today and reinvesting to grow the endowment to meet the needs of a growing student population, but I believe we need to strengthen consanguinity and conflict of interest language as it relates to the board’s dealings. I believe there needs to be more proactive transparency in disclosing management fees and returning on investment to the public.

Other Issues: Our Schools are now driven by dollars and test scores. To facilitate testing, we have created a curriculum that is a mile wide and an inch deep. We must return to balance and common sense in how we evaluate schools and allow teachers the freedom to teach. We must return to local control, allow community schools to make decisions that work for their students and resist attempts to federalize our curriculum, assessment and appraisal systems.

Rebecca Osborne (R)

Background: I am a classroom teacher and understand children are different and have different needs. I have 16 years teaching experience, 10 years administrative experience, and hold numerous certifications K-12. I have taught high achieving students as well as those at-risk. My Ph.D. is in Educational Administration.

Curriculum: All stakeholders need to have a voice at the development phase. The final product should reflect accurate content and ensure a strong foundation in reading, writing and math. We must recognize that students vary in their abilities and establish curriculum so all children are challenged to achieve to their highest potential.

Funding: As your representative on the SBOE, I will safeguard the PSF. Our investment policies need to feature proven management that maintains a broad diversity of investments that avoid unnecessary risk. It is important that Texas find a workable solution to fund our public schools. This funding must be separate and apart from the PSF. The PSF is designated for instructional materials for our children and should not be spent to solve our school funding problems.

Other Issues: We must have an accountability system that is reasonable for all students and we must ensure that students are graduating from high school either college or career ready. A “one-size-fits-all” education simply does not work if all children are to achieve to their highest potential. Vocational and technical programs are important options for many children. I will work to establish an educational system that works for all children.

Judy Jennings (D)
As a registered voter in Texas, you have the right to:

- A ballot with written instructions on how to cast a ballot.
- Ask the polling place official for instructions on how to cast a ballot (but not suggestions on how to vote).
- Cast your vote in secret and free from intimidation.
- Receive up to two more ballots if you make a mistake while marking the ballot.
- Bring an interpreter to assist you as you qualify to vote if you do not understand the English language.
- Help to cast your ballot if you cannot write, see the ballot, or understand the language in which it is written.
- Report a possible voting rights abuse to the Secretary of State (1.800.252.8683) or to your local election official.
- Cast a provisional ballot if your name does not appear on the list of registered voters or you do not have proper identification.
- Vote once at any early voting location during the early voting period within the territory conducting the election.
- File an administrative complaint with the Secretary of State concerning violations of federal and state voting procedures.
and more likelihood for problems to emerge. I propose a pro-active approach and I have the experience to foresee this future especially as it relates to juveniles. Encourage substance abuse programs and education, youth mentorship programs and community service opportunities. Early truancy intervention and liaison between youth, schools and community.

CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 4

Sal Abreo (R)

Education: I have a BS in Criminal Justice from UT El Paso, a Master Peace Officer certification through TCLEOSE and a DPS Special Texas Ranger Commission.

Experience: Retired from DPS with over 28 years of service. I served in the Highway Patrol, Narcotics, and the Texas Rangers. I received some of the finest law enforcement training in throughout my career.

1. Serve civil papers of all types, enforce truancy laws, bailiff for JP 4, general traffic enforcement and assist other law enforcement agencies in the County. I have the ability to work well with all people, perform duties fairly and consistently. And, I have a willingness to work any hours needed to get the job done.

2. The emerging problem for Bastrop County is first overcoming the devastating loss due to the wildfires. The county faces a substantial loss of revenue; I would work diligently to create an office that is self-sufficient through enforcement of the primary Constable duties, service of civil papers, truancy and general traffic enforcement. Since I am bi-lingual I will be able to better serve Precinct 4’s large Hispanic population.

Paul Birran (R)

Education: I obtained my Peace Officer license in 2008. I graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice in 2009.

Experience: I worked for the Bastrop County Constable Precinct 4 office for four years. I have completed Civil Process training. I have worked also as a dispatcher, a patrol deputy, in warrants and evidence, and on crime scenes. I also have been a supervisor, in other job positions.

1. The most important responsibilities are being accessible to the public and thoroughness in job duties. It also includes the traditional job duties of being a law enforcement officer such as warrant arrest or traffic violations. These responsibilities along with acting as court bailiff, serving court ordered documents, handling truancy cases, and being responsible for properties seized or money collected through which includes financial responsibility of maintaining an accurate record keeping and accounts.

2. One main issue is that the service of court order documents is not an 8am to 5pm job. Many persons work those same hours so within the Constable’s Office there must be due diligence of job responsibility and I see working flexible hours as the result. Furthermore, the human nature of such an interaction must be addressed, but with a level of understanding and firmness in job responsibilities the interaction will be an achieved success.

Ron Lundrigan (R)


Experience: Sworn in 1979 as a Peace Officer. Honorably retired and returned to school, receiving a Chiropractic degree. 2009 sworn as a reserve police officer with Elgin Police Department. Experienced as a bailiff for the current Precinct 4. JP court, and am a active TX Licensed Civil Process Server.

1. A Constable is responsible for budgeting, performing and serving all the courts criminal and civil writs and orders in a timely, efficient and professional manner. This includes law enforcement and serving warrants as required. A Constable serves as bailiff for the Justice of the Peace and is responsible for the court security and safety of everyone while court is in session. He’s responsible for maintaining a respectful and law abiding position as a community servant.

2. The main problem that will arise is the one of un-served warrants and loss of revenue for Precinct 4. I have a system already designed and ready to put into effect that will deal with this problem by serving and collecting these fees in a professional, organized and timely manner. Collection of these fees will add to the Bastrop County General Fund and lessen the tax burden on its citizens.

Michael R. Knight (R)

Experience: 1991 Graduate of Elgin High School; Attended Austin Community College (General Studies); 1993 Texas License Pease Officer; 1994 Texas License Jailer

Education: I have 14 years in law enforcement and corrections, of those 14 years I have spent 7 years with the Bastrop County Sheriffs Department. I have also served as a deputy for Travis County Precinct 4 Constables office where I worked civil process.

1. To act as the Bailiff for the Justice of the Peace Court within his/her Precinct. To serve, process and execute judgments

2. As the number of judgments and process increases manpower will become critical. Develop a plan based on documentation to present during the budget process to Commissioner’s Court for additional resources.

Commissioner, Precinct 3

John Klaus (D), Fred Ensinger (R) No response received.
BASTROP COUNTY RACES

Continued from previous page

Michael Flowers (D)

Education: University of Houston, BA; Major: Psychology; Minor: African American Studies; University of Phoenix, MBA

Experience: I’m currently a member of the Board of Directors at Easter Seals Central Texas, and the Vice Chair of the Planning Network and Advisory Committee for Austin Travis County Integral Care. I also served on the Redistricting Advisory Committee for Elgin ISD.

1. Smart growth demands that Counties devise policies and strategies that can effectively manage development, so that it is beneficial to the whole community. The County must develop a framework to evaluate the long term impacts of major developments. It starts with open discussions among groups that have seemingly competing interests regarding land-use and community development. I will facilitate the free flow of information that is essential to finding the common ground that unites us.

2. Increasing the efficiency of local government through consolidation or dissolution of the services they provide can be used to put already scarce resources where they are needed most. City residents live under three layers of government, city, county and state, while residents in unincorporated areas live under state and county government. Greater cooperation between governmental agencies can lead to greater efficiencies in road maintenance, emergency services. As commissioner, I will continually look for efficiencies.

3. Road Management- 100 Percent Paved Roads; Continuous Communication- Using Existing Technology to Keep You Informed; Innovative Student Involvement- Building for the Future

Liston Crim (D)


Experience: Two term Elgin council member, Fire marshal, Fire Chief, Bastrop County Emergency management coordinator. Austin Fire Department 24 years, Commissioner ESD, Chairman Public Safety Board.

1. Texas Counties generally lack the authority to regulate development, with the exception of subdivisions. I would encourage the Bastrop County commissioner’s court to include commercial, industrial and residential districts within their comprehensive land use plan. Encourage through initiatives, compliance with the plan. Otherwise promote close working relationships and consistency among other commissions to encourage orderly growth.

2. I have worked with our city and county governments to address some of these issues. One example is the consolidation of emergency dispatching services. We currently have three separate dispatching points within the county. I feel that a centralized dispatching center is warranted in order to be more efficient and cost effective. Any opportunity to consolidate services should be pursued regardless of the politics involved.

3. Our county has a unique challenge due to the devastating fire we experienced last September. We must rebuild, restore and replant while suffering the loss of a significant portion of our tax base. Making sure we have adequate emergency services. We currently have only 4–5 ambulances covering 888 square miles of territory serving nearly 80,000 citizens. County law enforcement is also understaffed in certain areas of consolidation of resources and services. I would also pursue Public-Private partnerships utilizing the opportunities now available through the 2011 legislation, which enables counties to enter into beneficial public-private partnerships.

As commissioner, I want citizens to know that the county is there to help them with their problems, especially with our County Road System. What can we do better to entice good, clean growth to our community? We need to let developers and corporations know we want to help you become part of Bastrop County. I call it, “Putting our best foot forward!” We always need to be looking at our Bastrop County budget.

Keith Joessel (D)

Education: US Army Field Artillery School, Basic and Advanced Training; Austin Community College; University of Texas at Austin, Degree in Geography

Experience: Keith is a third term councilman and currently serves as Elgin Mayor Pro Tem. He has been appointed by the Commissioners Court and Council to serve on key advisory boards focused on transportation, economic development, and resource planning.

1. The County’s land use authority is quite limited. I would encourage the County to work with cities where they have zoning power and use the platting process to ensure a safe road system. I would also seek public input on developments that are seeking incentives from Bastrop County.

2. Bastrop County is experiencing significant growth, putting strains on budgets and service levels. We must work together to meet these challenges by improving interlocal agreements, specifically how we fund ambulance service. I also think it is critical we preserve Elgin’s 911 operations.

3. I will continue to work for safety improvements to our transportation system, increase levels of ambulance service, and advocate for better protection of our water resources.

Gary “Bubba” Snowden (R)

Education: I attended Sam Houston State University and Texas State University. I got my “real” education at the Big “O” at 413 Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas.

Experience: For over 40 years, I owned and operated, along with my brothers, Oscar Snowden’s TV and Appliance, working 6 days a week–10 hour days. We employed 40 employees and had three retail locations/two service centers. I own rental property and I raise cattle at my home in Elgin.

1. Texas counties have only the authority expressly granted by the Constitution or State Statutes. Counties have no authority to regulate groundwater issues; have no zoning authority; can only regulate: land division using Texas Local Government Code; and septic tanks using Texas Health and Safety Code. Until our Legislature grants counties more authority, counties do not have the authority that is necessary to balance competing interests. I would work for these changes.

2. Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to your County residents? (75 words or less)

Emergency dispatch and 911 addressing have both already been consolidated. Cities have more authority than the County in regulation of land development. I would pursue a cooperative effort by Bastrop County, cities and the Emergency Services District to identify potential areas of consolidation of resources and services. I would also pursue Public-Private partnerships utilizing the opportunities now available through the 2011 legislation, which enables counties to enter into beneficial public-private partnerships.

As commissioner, I want citizens to know that the county is there to help them with their problems, especially with our County Road System. What can we do better to entice good, clean growth to our community? We need to let developers and corporations know we want to help you become part of Bastrop County. I call it, “Putting our best foot forward!” We always need to be looking at our Bastrop County budget.

Ron Jay (R)

Education: High School grad, Three years Amarillo College, one year Pasadena Playhouse of Theater Arts

Experience: Forty five years Painting Contractor. Seven years Army reserve board membr, Elgin Chamber of Commerce, Noon Lyons Club, Elgin Rotary Club

1. There are many developers, that will build mutly homes that in the end cost tax payers more taxes. Contracts need to be in place to ensure that the builder pays for improvements rather than the burden be put on taxpayer. Large business should get a tax break for no longer than three years, depending what has been offered to them in other cities and counties.

2. It in not an overlapping situation, but I would like for the state representatives to give water ground control to the counties of Texas, because the counties know more what is happening with the water shortage than the state does.

3. Loss of tax base, due to the Bastrop fires. Repair county roads that our children are riding in school buses that are not safe. Bring state government in to talk about the future of our water resources, and to give incentives for everyone to capture water.

Chris Cannon (R) No response received.

COUNTY SHERIFF

QUESTIONS FOR BASTROP COUNTY SHERIFF CANDIDATES

Education (25 word limit) Experience (50 word limit)

1. What measures/programs do you propose to reduce crime in our community? (75 words or less) How does the Sheriff’s office work with ICE and what improvements or changes, if any, will you make? (75 words or less)

Roger Mathis (R) No response received.

Terry Pickering (R)

Education: Some College Hours, Leadership and Command College, LEMIT, FBI National Academy, Quantico, VA, DEA Drug Unit Commanders Academy, Quantico, VA, National Sheriff’s Institute, Longmont, CO.

Experience: Bastrop County Sheriff since 2009. Travis County Sheriff’s Office from June 1980 to December 2008. Began as patrol deputy and rose through ranks to Law Enforcement Bureau Commander. Assignments included; narcotics/organized crime, victim services, mounted patrol, SWAT, criminal investigations, joint terrorism task force liaison, and emergency operations.

1. Enhance technology to facilitate intelligence based policing where specific types of crimes or crime areas are identified and targeted by law enforcement. Increase information which is available and accessible by the community thereby improve or develop community partnerships which will lead to the identification and apprehension of offenders. Continue to foster partnerships with various local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. Increase various education programs for staff and the community with an emphasis on youth.

2. The Sheriff’s Office has worked directly with ICE on two previous occasions which involved the investigation of human smugglers and the subsequent apprehension of offenders. Citizenship is queried on anyone incarcerated at which time ICE may or may not place a detainer on the individual. I do not anticipate any changes in this process at this time.
BASTROP, CALDWELL COUNTY RACES

COUNTY JUDGE

QUESTIONS FOR BASTROP COUNTY JUDGE CANDIDATES
Education: (25 word limit)
Experience: (50 word limit)
1. How would you use the County’s existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests? (75 words or less)
2. Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to your County residents? Please explain. (75 words or less)
3. What three issues do you hope to address, if elected? (75 words or less)

Ed Rivers (D)
Education: Graduated from Elgin High School in 1972; Graduated from Texas A&M University in 1976 with a B.A. in Agricultural Economics
Experience: Co-owned and operated Elgin Air Conditioning and Plumbing Company from 1979 through 1989. From 1989 through the present, President and Manager of Bastrop Abstract Company, a Bastrop County land title company.
1. Recognize that the County has only those powers specifically enumerated by statute. Yet such powers as approval of subdivision plats, authority to collect and abate taxes, and authority over roads and drainage, give the County a front seat opportunity to harmonize public opinion, developmental pressures, and the County’s best interest for now and the future. An informed and engaged Commissioner’s Court will have standing to promote good opportunities and secure real progress.
2. Efficiency in the administration of County offices and among the precincts is an imperative. Consolidation of any duplicated efforts would promote that goal. The County’s services do not tend to overlap with other governmental entities except in respect to cooperative agreements and subsidies, the best of which should be encouraged.
3. Three of the issues that I hope to address are: (1) the continued effort to fairly and expeditiously pursue the recovery of our people, parks and forest from the Labor Day fires; (2) preserving the quality of life and promoting the public welfare in a dynamic County facing change, growth and recovery, and (3) the complexities of regional transportation and its impact on our County.

Joe S. Ternus (D)
Education: I graduated from Sinton High School (San Patricio County) and Texas A & M with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
Experience: I have served over 40 years as a Professional Engineer for local governmental agencies and private engineering firms; I was also Bastrop County first County Engineer for two years. My experiences and service to the public enabled me to develop effective administrative, management, technical and budgeting skills.
1. I will provide leadership in planning for our future. By using “Opportunity Bastrop County”, the County’s approved Strategic Plan, as my guide, and authority granted to counties, our rural character including ranch and farm lands can be protected. Bastrop County can establish rules for subdivisions, floodplain protection, health, roadway planning and other areas of safety. I support the creation of optional “Conservation Subdivision” regulations that would protect our unique environment while supporting quality growth.
2. There are many entities in the county with specific authorities which I will respect. The County has, and I will continue to work with these entities to coordinate business/job recruitment, creation and retention; different educational opportunities; roads and highway development; and emergency management services.
3. The three most pressing issues facing our county include planning for the future, restoration of the Wildfire Areas and budgeting to promote a strong economy. As one of the 1600 families who lost everything in the wildfires, I understand the need to restore people’s lives quickly. I will address these and other issues by working closely with members of the Commissioners Court. I believe that Bastrop County can, and will, have a “Better Tomorrow”.

Paul Pape (R) Unopposed

CALDWELL COUNTY

CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 1

QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY CONSTABLE CANDIDATES
1. Please describe what combination of education, motivation and/or experience qualifies you for this office. (100-word limit)
2. What do you think are the most important responsibilities of the county constable’s office? (100-word limit)
3. What emerging problems do you foresee in the Constable’s office, and how will you address them? (100-word limit)

Richard Polfus (R), Victor “Smitty” Terrell (D) Unopposed

CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 2

Richard Callihan (D), Tim Adams (R) Unopposed

CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 3

Margarito Zapata Jr. (D) Unopposed

CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 4

Art Villarreal (D), Paul Cowan (D) No response received.

COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES
Education: (25 word limit)
Experience: (50 word limit)
1. How would you use the County’s existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests? (75 words or less)
2. Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to your County residents? Please explain. (75 words or less)
3. What three issues do you hope to address, if elected? (75 words or less)

Kent Riddle (R)
Education: Lockhart High School, Sam Houston State Univ; graduate - Ag/Business, Real Estate Broker - Austin Institute; Real Estate, Dale Brown & Associates
Auctioneering School, Real Estate.
Experience: Real Estate Agent/Broker for 10 plus years, Board of Directors YMCA - 10 plus years, Caldwell County Rancher and land owner.
1. I would try to develop a non-partisan, across the board attitude for common sense rule enforcement.
2. I would need a fair assessment of each agency along with the manpower available, before I could make an informed decision.
3. The three issues that I would address would be priority for basic services: safety, roads, drainage; the best use of our technology, and economic development—get an assessment of county needs instead of wants, sets priorities on needs and not on individual preferences.

Todd Smith (R)
Education: Texas A&M University–B.S. Animal Science 1994
Experience: Owner and founder of local agribusiness Texas Quail Farms, LP. (Employs 30); Past board member- Caldwell County Farm Bureau.
1. Private property rights are extremely important to me and the government should not unduly interfere with these rights. Reasonable local regulations are necessary but they should be done with the purpose of protecting property rights. Example: septic systems should be designed and installed according to code. This helps protect neighboring property owners and water sources.
2. Local governments need to be efficiently run so that the taxpayers’ money is used effectively and properly. Overlapping services are not efficient and they need to be consolidated or changed.
3. 1. Road Maintenance; 2. Economic Development; 3. Community Growth

Richard Mendez (R) No response received.

Kathy Sellers (R)
1. I would, using Caldwell County talent, rewrite the egregious Development Ordinance to make it pertinent to the needs and desires of our county residents. We do not want a cut/paste document based only on the surrounding larger, more populace counties. This would ensure development that is in concurrence with our residents’ lifestyle and expectations while maintaining a controlled growth within the county.
2. The 2011-2012 budget includes new positions: County Administrator $76,600.00, Human Resource Manager $70,000.00, plus cost of two clerks, and other new positions. County Judge and four commissioners are the County Administrators; our small county does not need and cannot afford these high new salaries. I will work to do away with these unnecessary positions.
3. Ensure a living wage for Caldwell County Sheriff’s Office personnel. Listen to all my constituents taking their concerns/suggestions into account. Read all court

Continued on next page
In 2008 I was hired as the City Sheriff of Hays County and subsequently served as a Jail Administrator, providing me with experience in criminal justice administration. I am a retired TABC and have over 5000 hours of law enforcement training at various institutions of higher education and law enforcement agencies. My main motivation is for the safety and well-being of the citizens of Precinct 1 and their families.

With continued deterioration of the Texas/Mexico border, I see a handful of emerging problems. Primary among the problems is the lack of training or poor training, creating a negative impact on the image of and the integrity of the day to day operations of the Constables office. I will use the vast experience, training, and networks I acquired as a seasoned law enforcement officer to provide cutting edge solutions for the poor or lack of training and under my leadership I will ensure an open door policy with integrity, accountability, and transparency at its core.

Will Conley (R)
1. For eight years, it has been my honor to serve my neighbors as county commissioner. In my time in office, I have worked hard to put Hays County on its strongest financial footing in history by tripling county savings to more than $30 million and achieving one of the highest credit ratings possible for a county government. I also spearheaded the first major road improvement project in more than 50 years on time, on budget, and without raising taxes. As a small business owner, husband, father, and community leader, I want to continue providing our families with trustworthy conservative leadership.
2. As a business owner, I work hard to make our county government run more like a business. That is why I recently oversaw the implementation of a state-of-the-art located command center for Hays County emergency communications that brings together all area law enforcement and fire departments. This will eliminate the duplication of services, and save lives. I bring this approach to all of my work as county commissioner, which is why the conservative policies that I have advanced over the past eight years led to the third highest rate of job growth in the nation.
3. I am so proud of the work that conservative leaders have accomplished in our community over the past eight years. We put conservative principles into action by tripling our county savings, improving our credit rating, and making historic improvements to our roads and infrastructure. I also authored some of the largest tax cuts in county history and never voted to raise tax rates. As a result, we are solving local problems with local solutions. If you keep me on the job, I will continue to meet our growing needs with fiscal discipline while standing up for taxpayers. (Learn more: www.CommissionerConley.com)

Sam Brannon (R)
1. Received my BBA in Finance from UT-Austin, and spent 17 years in corporate financial services and the supply chain environment in that the locale may dictate other priorities aside and apart from only one discipline.
industry. I began following Commissioners Court in 2010, and became very concerned about what I saw going on. County debt has risen more than 800% since 2005, and Hays County is now one of the most indebted counties in Texas — THE worst in Debt-to-Assessed Value, and 6th worst in Debt-per-Capita. This will do great harm to the families and businesses in Hays County if we don’t stop the trend. I’m committed to doing so. (94)

2. Perhaps. The 9-1-1 system consolidation is gathering momentum, and is probably a real good idea but it won’t be cheap. We’ll have to figure out how to pay for it, and with the current spending habits I’m very concerned about taking on even more debt. Parks or others may be worth looking at, too, but most of these are 2nd- or 3rd-tier concerns. Higher priorities lie in achieving real transparency in how the Commissioners Court operates, and in curbing the spending and debt. If we don’t fix those, other things won’t matter much. (93)

3. Fiscal Responsibility, Transparency and Local Decision-Making, and they’re all intertwined. If we do a better job of doing business in the public eye, that will make most of the problems go away. For instance, this is the description of a recent agenda item: “Possible action to approve a resolution establishing the County’s intention to reimburse itself for the prior expenditure of funds from the proceeds of tax-exempt obligations to be issued by the County for authorized purposes.” How many words does it take to hide $4.5 million in debt? When I take office this will be fixed. (98)

**HAYS COUNTY SHERIFF**

**QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY SHERIFF CANDIDATES**

1. Please describe what combination of education, motivation and/or experience qualifies you for this office. (100-word limit)
2. What measures/programs do you propose to reduce crime in our community? (100-word limit)
3. How does the Sheriff’s office work with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and what improvements or changes, if any, will you make? (100-word limit)

Gary Cutler (R)

1. Hold B.S. in Criminal Justice. 38 years continuous progressive jail, patrol, investigative, administrative and leadership positions (Detective, Sgt. Lt., Captain & Elected Sheriff). 31 years have been served at Hays, Travis & Williamson Counties. Currently, I manage 314 employees and maintain a 362 bed jail with a $21M budget; the largest Sheriff in Hays County.

Discontinuing inmate outsourcing has already saved taxpayers over $.5M in 2011. To date the 2012 budget is $.273M leaner than 2011. Still the Jail, Kitchen and Academy have passed all local and state inspections with the highest pass ratings. To date the budget remains balanced.

2. Upon taking office there were 19 employee vacancies. I filled these positions and maintain hiring lists. Being fully staffed reduces dispatch, patrol and investigative response times, provides better services, visibility, directed patrol and traffic enforcement response that constitute over 30% of Deputies’ activity. Area growth is the catalyst.

The installation of internet SPOTCRIME helps our multitude of Neighborhood Watch programs communicate better with Deputies and neighbors. Citizens’ watchfulness and the ability to communicate directly is a real deterrent to crime and hazards. A Crime Analyst employee works closely to monitor trends and provides information for all bureaus.

3. Texas Sheriffs are expected to cooperate with all local, state and federal enforcement agencies equally and without bias. As the chief law enforcement officer of Hays County it is my sworn duty as Sheriff to enforce all laws and maintain a safe and humane jail. I will continue to stay true to my oath and to the constitution of this state and the United States and uphold all of the laws I am expected to enforce.

I enjoy a good relationship with all enforcement agencies, to include ICE. I will leave legislation to legislators.

Tommy Ratliff (R)

1. Graduated from Del Rio High School in 1971, attended and graduated from now Texas State University with a BS degree in 1975. Completed the Department of Public Safety Law Enforcement Academy in Austin in 1976 and spent 12 years in the Texas Highway Patrol. In 19871 tested, interviewed, and promoted to the Texas Rangers and in 1997 opened the first Texas Ranger office in Hays County. I retired from the Texas Rangers as a Sgt. in 2008 and was appointed to the position of Sheriff in December of 2008 and held this position until I left office in November on 2010 with 35 years of Law enforcement experience.

2. I will reinstate the Hays County Drug Interdiction Team that I put into place in 2009 and eventually extend those duties to include a burglary detail as I had in place when I left office in 2010. This team was disbanded by the current Sheriff shortly after taking office. Hays County is the only county in the central Texas area on the I-35 corridor that does not have a drug interdiction team.

3. As in the past, I will always work closely with law enforcement agencies to arrest and detain all criminal who violate the laws of the State of Texas.

Danny Thomas (D)

Education: Constable Thomas is a graduate of LC Anderson High School. He continued his education at Austin Community College where he received his Associates Degree in Criminal Justice.

Experience: Constable Thomas retired from Austin Police Department after 21 years of service. After retirement he went on to serve 6 years with Austin City Council Place Six and was honored by being appointed Mayor Pro-Tem.

1. Efficiency, education, and outreach and service will continue to be the major focus of the daily operations. However, Constable Thomas will continue to strive to ensure that Pct. One remains a valuable asset to the community it serves. As, such he plans to continue to make efforts to utilize available resources to further enhance the capabilities of the office.

2. Austin is a very progressive city and it is important that Precinct One keep up with its growth. Precinct One will do this by hiring FTE’s, utilizing technology and continue training to better serve the constituents. We would also like to continue our efforts in combating our dropout rate through proactive measures. Currently deputies are in schools teaching the GREAT program and mentoring against gang violence, bullying, and drug and alcohol awareness prevention.

**TRAVIS COUNTY**

**CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 1**

**QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY CONSTABLE CANDIDATES**

1. What do you think are the most important responsibilities of the County Constable’s office?
2. What emerging problems do you foresee in the Constables office and how will you address them?

Danny Thomas (D)

Education: Constable Thomas is a graduate of LC Anderson High School. He continued his education at Austin Community College where he received his Associates Degree in Criminal Justice.

Experience: Constable Thomas retired from Austin Police Department after 21 years of service. After retirement he went on to serve 6 years with Austin City Council Place Six and was honored by being appointed Mayor Pro-Tem.

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Carl Lee Cannon, Jr. (D)

No response received.

### CONSTATE, PRECINCT 2

**Adan Ballesteros (D)**

Education: (25 word limit) Attended Del Mar Jr. College in Corpus Christi, University of Texas Austin.

Experience: (50 word limit) 32 years of Law Enforcement Experience (14 with the Constable’s Office), Certified Master Texas Peace Officer, Two time (CTJCPA) Constable of the Year, Civil Process Proficiency Certification, Police Firearms and TASER Instructor, Graduate of the Constable’s Leadership College, Three time Presidential Community Service Award Winner, Rotary Club Paul Harris Fellowship

1. Civil Process and Service to the court are the primary responsibilities of the Constable’s Office. I also believe that service to the community and fiscal accountability are a responsibility of the Constable. I believe all Constable’s have an obligation to serve the community that elected them. I enjoy performing community service and the fulfillment that comes from it. Being an elected official gives me access and opportunities to further my community service goals.

2. The Constable’s office is a lesser known elected position. This sometimes allows inexperienced and unqualified people to enter office allowing State Legislators to file abolition Bills to dissolve the Constable’s Office. I believe Constable’s don’t do enough in the community. I have created many programs in the community and I see community service as an open-ended challenge. I want the Constables office to be known for the positive impact they have on people’s lives.

**Michael Cargill (D)**


Experience: 12 years, United States Army, 5 years, Network Operations Manager, IP Communications. 7 years, Texas concealed handgun instructor, 5 years, owner and operator, World Class Carriers, 1 year, owner, Central Texas Gun Works

1. To execute and return all process, warrants and precepts directed to them, and to attend each justice court held in the precinct. Ultimately, I understand that it is my duty to enforce the law, not to interpret it. To maintain a preservation of life standard for use of force. Deputies should only use deadly force as an act of last resort, and therefore it should only be used when reasonable alternatives fail.

2. I foresee financial instability in the precinct 2 Constable’s office. If elected, I will make sure that the aforementioned job responsibilities are efficiently executed, as to save not only taxpayer money, but local jobs. I will achieve this goal by focusing my deputies’ attention towards precinct 2, and away from warrant enforcement in other counties and/or precincts. I want to bring safety, security and integrity back to the Constable’s office.

**Paul Labuda (D)**

Education: Certified Peace Officer, Certified Crime Prevention Specialist, TCLEOSE Instructor, TASER Instructor, 20-hour Civil Process course. BA, Plan II Liberal Arts Honors, UT-Austin.

Experience: I’m a police officer in Florence, Texas. I have served civil process and warrants, responded to emergencies
calls, patrolled Florence, and enforced traffic laws. I volunteer my time with the Travis County Underage Drinking Prevention Program, and volunteer security services at county and statewide Democratic events.

1. The most important responsibilities include serving civil process and warrants as officers of the court. I will direct deputies' focus toward crime prevention activities and strengthening neighborhoods through community policing, minimizing redundant law enforcement activity. I will seek grants to resume truancy enforcement.

2. A pervasive lack of cooperation with other agencies in the area is of concern. I will work with the JP and with other law enforcement agencies whose jurisdictions overlap with the precinct to coordinate operations. Additionally, the continuing growth of Northern Travis County, combined with budget constraints, necessitates more efficient operations. I will review existing policies and procedures, working to streamline functions and activities where practical.

Al Herrera (R)
Education: Advanced Peace Officer's License, Criminal Process Proficiency Certification, Mental Health Certification, Certified Police Field Training Officer
Experience: I have 16 years of experience in the Constable's office and have worked for 5 different Constables in Travis and Williamson Counties. I have a broad range of experience including Civil and Warrant process, as well as working with juveniles and school truancy. My life and work experience has given me the skills and knowledge to confidently and professionally serve as Constable.

1. The fundamental purpose of this office is serving the needs of the Justice Court which includes providing bailiff services and executing court orders. It is important to partake with other law enforcement agencies and the local community by providing neighborhood patrols and assistance in providing for the needs of public schools in Precinct 2.

2. I foresee integrity and budgetary concerns for this office due to the ongoing conflict between the Justice Court and the current administration. By restoring integrity and focusing on collection of the revenue the Justice Court generates, this office will not only sustain itself but will grow by providing more jobs and opportunities to serve our community. I will also work to reestablish a positive and collaborative working relationship with the Justice Court.

Richard McCain (D)
Education: Graduate of Texas Constable's Leadership College at Sam Houston State University in 2007. Certified as a Mental Health Officer and as a Peace Officer Instructor.
Experience: Eight years as elected Travis County Constable Pct. 3. Sixteen years as a Texas Peace Officer in Travis County. Advanced Texas Peace Officer License with certification in Civil Process Proficiency. Past President of South Austin Civic Club and Past President of Scenic Brook West Neighborhood Association.

1. Service of all Civil Process and execution of all Warrant from all courts as directed from them. A Constable shall provide one bailiff to attend each Justice of the Peace Court in their precinct. To enforce local, state, and Federal law as required by statute and provide assistance to the constituents of Travis County.

2. Pct. 3 is the fastest growing area in Travis County. The challenge is to provide needed law enforcement services in a timely and cost efficient manner. All levels of government need to plan for this rapid growth and the need for additional services.

If re-elected as Constable, I will continue to provide effective law enforcement with a well-trained and diverse workforce that treats all members of our community with dignity and respect.

Sally Hernandez (D)
Education: Bachelor degree in Criminal Justices from St. Edward's University. Master Peace Officer and Instructor Certification from Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education
Experience: I have 30 years of law enforcement experience. I am the Chief of Investigators for the Travis County DA. I have served as president of Capital Area Law Enforcement Executive Association for the past two years. All of the Travis County public safety associations have endorsed my candidacy.

1. The primary function of the constable's office is serving civil process, executing court orders, serving warrants and ensuring that Travis County citizens receive due process. The constable should also provide effective community law enforcement by collaborating efforts with the other law enforcement agencies and neighborhoods through not only patrols but neighborhood watch programs. Another very important responsibility is to provide the highest quality of customer service by highly trained personnel.

2. Because of the economy, constable offices throughout our state are forced to be more effective and efficient than ever. That is why it is critical that the Constable's office coordinate its efforts with other law enforcement agencies throughout Travis County so we are using tax dollars wisely. I have the experience working with the leaders of multiple law enforcement agencies to make sure that the Constable Pct 3 office collaborates with other agencies effectively.

Mike Varela (R), J. Miller (R)

Ernest Pedraza (D)
Education: Criminal Justice Degree AAS, Austin Police West Point Leadership Academy; Innovation 88 Leadership School, FBI National Academy, Master Peace Officer Certification, Austin Command College
Experience: I have worked for 7 years with the El Paso Police Department and 27 years with the Austin Police Department. I have worked as a patrol officer, Detective in Homicide, Sergeant in Organized Crime, Lieutenant over Property Crimes and Commander in the Northeast, East Austin, and South Austin.

1. The most important responsibilities of the County Constable office are to serve and enforce court process issued from both the Civil and Criminal Courts in a diligent and efficient manner. The County Constable office supports the Justice of the Peace. In addition the County Constable's office is responsible for suppressing crime.

2. Some emerging problems are illegal dumping, traffic issues as a result of Formula One, managing resources effectively and improve community outreach. To effectively manage resources I will establish a fully trained and qualified reserve unit at no cost to taxpayers to address issues of illegal dumping and Formula One traffic. Utilize social media to improve community outreach and increase deputy presence in the community and schools.

Maria Canchola (D)
Education: University of Texas and ACC 75 college credits, graduated Southwest Texas Law Enforcement Academy, 10/1977 Master Peace Officer Certification 10/2003
Experience: Worked in a Constable's Office for 23½ years, 11½ years as Precinct 4 Constable. Worked for Precinct 5 Constables. John Milloy & Bruce Elfant serving every type of civil process papers, senior lead deputy in the juvenile warrant unit, and warrant officer in family violence and child support.

1. Constables serve as the due process and enforcement arm of our courts and are funded for that purpose. We must ensure that our papers are served promptly, with prejudice toward none.

My priority as your constable is not to throw anyone in jail but to keep them from going there, that is why I initiated mentor groups for students and parents and was instrumental in creating a Veterans Court to help our incarcerated vets.

2. We must certainly work efficiently and diligently to bring in the county revenue and fees due to the county in these difficult budget times. We also need to make effective administrative decisions to spend our budget monies wisely concentrating on early prevention at the front end on community issues, providing early intervention.

Questions for County Commissioner Candidates
Education: (25 word limit)
Experience: (50 word limit)

1. How would you use the County’s existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests? (75 words or less)

2. Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to your County residents? Please explain. (75 words or less)

3. What three issues do you hope to address, if elected? (75 words or less)

Continued on next page
Richard Franklin, III  (D)

**Education:** Attended Ohio State University and the Community College of the Air Force. Certified Texas Licenses- Group 1, Series 66, and Series 7, & Air Craft Dispatch

**Experience:** Founder and President of Youth Unlimited, a group motivational mentoring program for youth. Del Valle School Board Member. Ten year veteran of Air Force as a Military Training Instructor and as an Air Traffic Controller. Former owner of the Wing Zone Restaurant. Past President, Black Austin Democrats.

1. I would bring all interested parties and stakeholders to the table and have an open and honest conversation. I believe when all parties are involved and take ownership everyone feels like they’re winners. One of the problems with development is the lack of real input from those that are most affected. I will change that approach and make decisions about development more inclusive.

2. Without an opportunity to investigate these services from the inside out (financially speaking) and with all those involved, it would be unwise to make a decision about services or their efficiencies. I believe the commissioners should be great deal more discerning in their decision making with respect to all services.

3. The overall quality of life has to be addressed. It is impossible to pinpoint only three issues with the myriad of challenges facing Eastern Travis County, to name a few: poor quality and high water cost, lack of transportation planning and environmental protections, improper land use and development, inadequate public safety, lack of health and human services and an over-burdened juvenile justice system.

Victor A. Gonzales (D)

**Education:** I am a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin. Post Graduate studies, Texas State University in Public Administration.

**Experience:** I have 39 years professional and business experience. I am currently Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Pflugerville, serving in my sixth year. Chair of LCRA Austin County, Regional Council, Board member of CAMPO transportation policy board, Regional Director on Texas Municipal League and President of the Pflugerville Education Foundation.

1. The issue of compatible land use continues. Until counties are given reasonable land use authority outside of junkyards, sexually oriented businesses and solid waste, commissioners pretty much have their hands tied. The balance will come through comprehensive planning with regional partners and involved stakeholders. Quality of life is a must.

2. The foremost area of overlap is in the area of Fire Services and Emergency Medical Services. While these services are coordinated with strategic ESD’s, City of Austin, and Travis County, a collaborative effort must be made to bring efficiency and delivery of quality services to residents. Through collaborative means; staffing, equipment, and training can be incorporated while not raising the tax dollar to pay for services.

3. 1. Collaboration and regional planning for Fire and EMS Services. Incorporating best practices and leveraging funding to improve the response times in remote areas.

2. Addressing Water Resource planning into the next 50 years for those areas that either have high water rates, substandard infrastructure and access to water. 3. Road safety in those critical areas of the county where incidents of traffic fatalities are the highest and alleviating traffic grid lock in suburban neighborhoods

Arthur Sampson (D)

**Education:** Graduated Travis County Sheriff’s Academy, Attended Austin Community College-Continuing Education. NICET Certification in Highway Construction, Texas A&M University Engineering Extension Class Certifications.

**Experience:** Project Coordinator, Inspector, Reviewer combines over 30 years. Managing employees, budget items, inspection of projects totaling over $250,000,000.00. Liaison for the downtown Austin, Project Coordinator/Inspector infrastructure on City Hall & Plaza. Project Coordinator/Inspector of 21 major railroad crossing in central Austin. Texas Peace Officer for over 12 years.

1. Counties have limited authority to regulate development within the county. To name a few, the Counties have limited authority over construction in floodplains, building/fire codes, and development around airports. Counties can regulate sale of alcoholic beverages, sexually oriented businesses, landfills, homeless shelters and correctional facilities. As County Commissioner for Precinct One, I will use all legal authority and resources to enforce County’s regulations to ensure all requirements are met by County and State laws.

2. Overlapping services do exist between the County and City. Examples, Fire Department Emergency Services need to consistently provide services to all residents in the County. It should be the same as EMS (Emergency Medical Services). Public and Assisted Affordable Housing should be consolidated to benefit all citizens that are in need of housing assistance for efficiently provided services. As County Commissioner I will be responsive, respectful and resourceful to those needs.

3. Fiscal Responsibility- Eliminate wasteful spending by identifying duplication of services within the county. Transportation- Service plan for repair and upkeep of county roads. Working with Railroad Operator to improve railroad crossings on county roads. Working with local Transit Authorities to have public transportation within the county. Public Safety- Improve response time of Sheriff, Fire and EMS in Travis County, Improve relations between the office’s of County Commissioner Precinct One, Sheriff Department, Constables with citizens.

Ron Davis (D)

**Education:** Attended Austin public schools, BA, Political Science, History minor, Huston-Tillotson College, Master of Public Administration, Southwest Texas State University, SWTUS Distinguished Alumni Award

**Experience:** County Commissioner since November 1998, Former small business owner, Former COBOL programmer, Veterans Administration, Founder and former chair of I-35 Austin Strategy Team. Led successful efforts closing a polluting gasoline tank farm and keeping Austin, Community College in East Austin.

1. County regulatory authority is weaker than municipal authority, yet I successfully use existing authority to protect homeowners. Items I sponsored include: a solid waste ordinance that prevented a dump near Westview —it is now a solar—energy farm; a requirement to notify homeowners of nearby proposed commercial uses; a change in state law allowing counties to purchase conservation easements. I also support strengthening county powers to the same level as those of cities.

2. There are probably already more agreements between the county, the municipalities and various districts than most people are aware of. The clearest examples are in the areas of social services, healthcare, emergency services, and use of the jail. We already share some road construction costs; I would like this to be more routine. The number one area I would like to see more cooperation between independent county and city departments is affordable housing.

3. If re-elected I will continue to emphasize transportation, economic development and increased land-use authority. As commissioner, I have shepherded through dozens of road projects with an emphasis on east-west connectivity with State Highway 130. Successful economic development initiatives in my precinct include expansion of Samsung, a new civil aviation airport and two solar—energy electric—generating facilities. I will continue to push for increased land—use authority at the Texas Legislature.

**COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3**

Gerald Daugherty (R)

**Education:** I graduated from the University of Texas in 1975 with a B. S. degree in Physical Education.

**Experience:** I have been an Austin businessman for more than 28 years. I have owned several successful businesses including a sporting goods store, and the Pleasant Valley Sportsplex. I am currently an owner in Jack Allen’s Kitchen, a popular restaurant located in Oak Hill.

1. I respect individual property rights but will go toe-to-toe with anyone unwilling to adopt reasonable measures like buffers, setbacks and a recalibration of the “right of capture” rule. I believe counties should have the capability to adequately address concerns of affected communities and would use my ability to rally all stakeholders, as I did in my previous tenure on the court, to develop reasonable, enforceable safeguards that fit within the framework of Texas heritage.

2. An excellent example of governments working together is the Emergency Medical Service that is shared by Travis County and the City of Austin. It’s not easy to get governments to share turf, but there are efficiencies to be realized by consolidating services such police and fire protection, and health and human services. Metropolitan government is an idea whose time has come and I would push the legislature to enact laws in support of it.

3. I will again be the conscience of the Court when it comes to taxes and spending, not allowing spending to drive the tax rate. I will focus my energies on identifying and funding an adequate road system to address the continuing growth in Travis County. I will work to develop reasonable and equitable solutions to meet the growing demands on our drinking water supply and the impact on the economy of our lakes.

Ira Yates (R)

**Education:** Zilker Elementary Austin, Principia Middle School St. Louis Mo., Travis & Crockett High Schools Austin, University of Texas Mechanical Engineering Austin, Local Austin Business School

**Experience:** Business: Circle Cranking and Development, investment management Community Service: Board Austin Travis County Humane Society, Austin Environmental Board, Barton Springs Aquifer Task Force, Dripping Springs Regional Water Planning Task Force, Barton Springs Salamander Recovery Committee, Republicans For Environmental Protection, City of Austin 2035 Comprehensive Planning Task Force

1. Public infrastructure financed with County Funds should be spent based on sound conservation development practices. The existing limited county authority means that maximum enforcement of existing rules relating to subdivision approvals based on water supply, drainage, transportation and a number of environmental controls should be paramount. The County should seek limited local initiative authority to achieve compatibility zoning; density limits based on water supply and existing transportation

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TRAVERS COUNTY RACES

Continued from previous page

infrastructure and new development impact fees.
1. A perfect example of overlapping and conflicting policy is spending $4,100,000 on a current CTRMA sponsored local funding project for “preparation of Environmental Impact Statement, Traffic and Revenue Studies, Final Engineering” for a 6 lane highway that Travis County has now been asked to join with Hays County to build as a county funded 2 or 3 lane road. See page 8 of CAMPO FY 2011-2014 TIP and Hays County Press Release 9/27/11.
2. I will address maintenance of all County improvements and programs in the most economical manner possible. I will nurture continued economic vitality in Travis County by transitioning from an urban population expansion economy to a sustainable intellectual growth based economy. I will tell the citizens of Travis County we have exceeded our water supply and should prepare to pay a much higher price in the near future if we are going to accommodate the population growth.

Jim Strickland (R) No response received.

Editor’s note: This version of the Voters Guide includes corrected information for Precinct 1 candidate Victor Gonzales and Precinct 3 candidate Albert Gonzales.

Albert Gonzales (D)
Education: San Jacinto High School, State of Texas Governor’s School of Management, Workforce Management - Progressive Insurance, Employment Services - University of North Texas
Experience: State of Texas Housing Information Supervisor for County and City governments. Liaison and attended all four regional County Judges & Commissioner Conferences. Experienced in workshops for government and non-profit entities. Community/Political activist in transportation, water, school district, neighborhood and city/country issues. Human Resources Professional Recruiter 17 years
1. The balance has been tilted toward special interest more so than the general taxpaying public. As Commissioner I will strongly advocate for the citizen’s voices and their needs and wants. I will be a Pro-Citizen Commissioner advocating equality in the playing field favoring taxpayer’s interest over special interest agendas and profits. It very important we manage eco-friendly community regulatory developments to protect the interest of the people and our resources.
2. There’s always room for improvements. All county/city services need to be evaluated for consolidations for efficiency and cost effectiveness. Most departments provide geographical boundary services in most fields for example police, fire, health and taxing naming a few. educating the parties involved will be the most difficult challenge because of their jurisdiction protectionism. Millions can be saved through full or partial consolidation of departments by utilizing technology and their desire to accepting change.
3. Transportation: The Y at Oakhill been discussed for 20 years to no avail to the Oakhill community. Working with Austin in a very due diligent manner to fund and start ground work toward a Parkway solution. Revisiting the Brodie and SW 45 issues.
Budget: Sell the newly acquired county downtown $21 million lot and reevaluate the future $300 million County building and proposing Highland Mall property instead. Development/Water: Work toward controlled manageable eco-friendly developments.

Karen Huber (D)
Education: B.A. Government/History and minor in Education (teacher certified), University of Texas, Austin; M.A. International Business, University of North Texas, Denton.
1. With limited land-use authority, counties must creatively guide growth in quality, sustainable ways. An example is the recent voluntary conservation easement program that leverages taxpayer money with landowners’ interests to preserve environmentally sensitive land -- benefiting water quality and avoiding negative impacts from potential development. Since development currently costs taxpayers more in terms of future costs associated with transportation and services, this targeted program is a win/win for competing interests.
2. Efficiency efforts should be made where they make the biggest difference. In order to work better with other governmental entities, the county must have good means to manage information and communications – both internally and externally. With my leadership, the county is currently launching a long overdue Information Technology assessment that will make great strides towards future efficiencies and cost-savings – especially for assessing and implementing consolidation of overlapping services.
3. Water: The new LCRA Water Management Plan must be implemented ASAP. The State Water Plan is time sensitive and must move forward without delay. Transportation: A good mix of mobility options must be developed and implemented to serve our population that is projected to double in the next 50 years. Wildfire and Emergency Services: Continued education, awareness and coordination for better prevention, preparedness and response to emergencies and disasters.

COUNTY ATTORNEY
David Escamilla (D) Unopposed.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

QUESTIONS FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANDIDATES
Education: (25 word limit)
Experience: (50 word limit)
1. What experience and accomplishments qualify you to serve as District Attorney? (75 words or less)
2. Are there measures or programs that you propose or support to reduce crime in our community (family violence, juvenile crimes, etc.)? (75 words or less)

Charlie Baird (D)
Education: BBA, University of Texas at Austin, JD, South Texas College of Law, Master of Laws in Judicial Process, University of Virginia School of Law
Experience: I have worked in the Criminal Justice System since 1980. In 1990, I won election to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Since leaving the Court, I have served as a Visiting Justice on the 13th and 14th Court of Appeals and as a visiting professor at Texas Tech School of Law, Loyola.///
1. I have worked in the criminal justice system my entire adult life. I have served on both criminal and appeals court benches. I am passionate believer in equal justice for all citizens, regardless of race or economic advantage. I have knowledge of the criminal justice system from more than just the perspective of a career prosecutor and can identify areas where we need to improve.
2. We must reform the Felony Diversion Program to ensure more eligible non-violent offenders are participating to free up more resources to focus on violent and property crime. I’ll institute a 24 hour/7-day-a-week screening system to ensure (a) cases are prosecuted more effectively so violent offenders aren’t released for lack of evidence or failure to follow procedure; (b) cases with no evidence for prosecution do not result in arrests and clog up the DA’s workload.

JUDGE, COURT AT LAW #8
Carlos Barrera (D) Unopposed

COUNTY SHERIFF

QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY SHERIFF CANDIDATES
Education: (25 word limit)
Experience: (50 word limit)
1. What measures/programs do you propose to reduce crime in our community? (75 words or less)
2. How does the Sheriff’s office work with ICE and what improvements or changes, if any, will you make? (75 words or less)

Greg Hamilton (D)
Education: Bachelor in Criminal Justice, Southwest Texas State University, 1982. Graduate of Governor’s Executive Development Program, University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs
Experience: Travis County Sheriff (2005-present), Presently 2nd Vice President of FBI-Law Enforcement Executive Development Association, National Trainer for Department of Justice, President of the National Liquor Law Enforcement Association (2000), Chief of Law

Continued on next page
TRAVIS COUNTY, WILLIAMSON COUNTY RACES

Continued from previous page

Enforcement for Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission 1994–2004
1. The Travis County Sheriff’s Office (TCSO) must continue our efforts to build a cohesive, socially-aware community where crime cannot flourish. Our TCSO has created neighborhood watch programs, citizen patrols, and social events such as the TCSO Extravaganza where Law Enforcement, business and community leaders come together and get to know each other in a fun, safe environment. These programs and events are designed to engage the community in our efforts to prevent crime.
2. TCSO has worked with other law enforcement agencies for many years. Currently under the federally-mandated program of Secured Communities, TCSO complies with federal law in its cooperation with ICE. TCSO works with ICE to enforce laws against human trafficking/smuggling, identity theft, black market merchandising, and gun smuggling. We also work with ICE to assist victims of crimes in obtaining a U-visa to become legal residents.

John Sisson (D)
Education: Associate Criminal Justice Degree – Austin Community College; Graduate Austin Police Academy; Over 4000 hours training Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education
Experience: An Austin Police Officer for 30.5 years; 43 commendations including: Distinguishing Service Cross with Valor; Patrol officer 10 years; SWAT Team 2 years; Major Narcotics 3 years; Detective 2.5 years; Patrol Sergeant 8 years; Lieutenant 5 years; Deputy Constable Travis County: (Oct 2009–present); Masters Peace officer’s License; Special Investigator’s License
1. A fair implementation of the ICE SCOMM detention program will reduce unreimbursed foreign nationals detention at TCSO. A unified command structure and savings from eliminating unnecessary detentions will put more officers on patrol. Creating a member citizens advisory committee will provide me with direct feedback about emerging community issues. Not hiding from constituents I will work educating all residents on crime trends and prevention. I will expand outreach programs to all segments of society.
2. The Statesman and Chronicle found that the people we hold for ICE deportation are mostly noncriminals, more than anywhere else. The Sheriff allows ICE to hold someone the entire time a criminal case is pending costing taxpayers unreasonably. ICE requests are not mandatory. (8 CFR 287, ICE correspondence) ICE can and should decide during the first 48 hours of detention, not the last. I will honor ICE requests for those who threaten the public safety.

Raymond Frank (R) Unopposed

TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR CANDIDATES
Education (25 word limit)
Experience (50 word limit)
1. What measures will you take to maximize the tax collection rate? (75 words or less)
2. The County Tax Assessor-Collector is responsible for collecting property and vehicle taxes and serves as the county’s voter registrar. What experience and accomplishments qualify you to perform these various duties? (75 words or less)

Bruce Elfant (D)
Education: BS, Communications, University of Texas

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY Constable CANDIDATES
Education: (25 word limit)
Experience: (50 word limit)
1. What do you think are the most important responsibilities of the County Constable’s office?
2. What emerging problems do you foresee in the Constable’s office and how will you address them?

Vik Vad (R) Unopposed
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Early voting: Oct. 22-Nov. 2

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TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR CANDIDATES

Education (25 word limit)
Experience (50 word limit)
1. What measures will you take to maximize the tax collection rate? (75 words or less)
2. What experiences and accomplishments qualify you to perform these various duties?

Deborah Hunt (R) No response received.

Ralph Pryun (R)

Education: Ralph has Masters Degrees in Financial Planning and Operations Management, from the University of Dallas. His licenses include securities and real estate, including tax training.

Experience: Ralph has been a small business owner and has 20 years corporate experience at Lockheed Martin. His government experience includes the USAF and the IRS. Ralph has experience in both business and homeowner property tax appeals. His hobbies are flying and camping as a Boy Scout leader.

1. The fairness, and benefits, of a tax are why people voluntarily pay. With Williamson County’s rate 20% higher than Travis, our taxes will have to come down to be viewed as fair. I will immediately propose a tax reduction similar to Travis County’s. I will continue to propose lower taxes by seeking out and implementing other counties best practices so Williamson County becomes more efficient, affordable, and fair, thereby raising collection the rate.

2. As a business owner with city leases, county taxes and government contracts, I have the unique private sector experience needed in government. Taxpayers want transparency and a voice on spending and taxing. I intend to provide that voice through a petition and polling page, on the county’s web site, that will allow citizen input on the issues, including solutions. Through this page, voters will be able to represent themselves.

FOR MORE ELECTION INFORMATION

Texas Secretary of State
Phone: (800) 252-VOTE (8683) Online: votetexas.gov

Bastrop County
Office: 803 Pine Street, Room 105, Bastrop
Phone: (512) 581-7160
Online: www.co.bastrop.tx.us/site/content/electionsadmin

Caldwell County
Office: Scott Annex, 1403 Blackjack Street, Lockhart
Phone: (512) 787-0984

Hays County
Office: 712 South Stagecoach Trail Ste 1045, San Marcos
Phone: (512) 393-7310
Online: www.co.hays.tx.us/index.php/government/elections-and-voting/

Travis County
Office: 5501 Airport Blvd, Austin TX 78751
Phone: 512-238-VOTE (24-hour automated response), 512-854-4996
www.co.travis.tx.us/county_clerk/election

Williamson County
Office: 301 SE Inner Loop Ste 104, Georgetown
Phone: (512) 943-1630
Online: www.wilco.org/elections