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VOTING IN THE 2018 GENERAL ELECTION

Texas Voter ID Rules

VOTERS MAY USE ONE OF SEVEN (7) FORMS OF PHOTO ID, LISTED BELOW.

Note: IDs may be expired up to four years. For voters age 70 or older, no limit on expiration of ID. The ID address does not have to match the voter registration address.

➤ Texas driver license
➤ Texas Election Identification Certificate (EIC)
➤ Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS
➤ Texas license to carry a handgun issued by DPS
➤ US military identification card containing the person’s photograph
➤ US citizenship certificate containing the person’s photograph
➤ US passport (book or card)

Registered voters without photo ID, who cannot reasonably obtain one, may sign a Reasonable Impediment Declaration form and present the original or a copy of one of the following documents with the voter’s name and address to vote a regular (not provisional) ballot.

➤ Voter registration card
➤ Certified birth certificate
➤ Current utility bill
➤ Bank statement
➤ Government check
➤ Paycheck
➤ Any other government document such as an out of state driver license or expired Texas driver license.

Where to Vote

In both Travis and Williamson counties, you may vote at any polling place in your county during early voting and on election day. “Vote Here” signs mark locations. Locations are also available at the two county voter information websites:

Travis
www.VoteTravis.com

Williamson
www.wilco.org/elections

Locations vary for early voting and Election Day.

When voting in person you may bring this Voters Guide into the voting booth! Mobile devices are prohibited.

VOTES COUNTS

Every vote counts.

VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE/CARD

The Voter Registration Certificate/Card provides the district numbers for each race, or you may go to VOTE411.org, VoteTravis.com, or Wilco.org/elections to receive the list of all candidates you will consider. All citizens wishing to vote must be on the official list of registered voters in their county of residence and provide ID.

DONATE!

Support the Voters Guide production with a contribution to the League of Women Voters Austin Area, a nonpartisan nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. 1609 Shoal Creek Blvd., Suite 202, Austin, TX 78701 or make a secure donation online at LWVAustin.org.
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS VOTERS GUIDE

ABOUT THIS GUIDE
This Voters Guide is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund and the League of Women Voters Austin Area. We invite each and every candidate in competition for office to provide information. The names of unopposed candidates are also listed, but questionnaires were not sent to them.

Each candidate’s political affiliation throughout the Guide uses these abbreviations: (R) Republican Party, (D) Democrat Party, (L) Libertarian Party, (G) Green Party, (I) Independent.

This Guide and other educational League materials are funded by member and supporter donations. Donations may be made through the website at LWVAustin.org. Increased costs demand additional funds. As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, each donation is acknowledged, appreciated, and deductible to the extent allowed by law.

More information about the candidates and responses to additional questions can be reviewed by visiting VOTE411.org, a one-stop online resource for upcoming elections made possible by the League of Women Voters Education Fund. Simply enter your address to find your polling place, build your ballot with our online Voters Guide, compare candidates side by side, and much more.

HOW THE LEAGUE GATHERS CANDIDATE INFORMATION
To compile the Guide information, the ALL-VOLUNTEER League of Women Voters Austin Area, together with other Local Leagues and the League of Women Voters of Texas, send questions to all candidates in contested races. League members verify accurate contact information provided by the various election entities and Texas Secretary of State.

The League formulated all questions asked with some input from the public. Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification. Due to space restrictions, candidates are given strict word limits. The form into which they enter answers prohibits them from violating the limit. Candidates are also asked to avoid references to other candidates. Those appearing without a photo failed to submit one.

YOU MAY BRING THIS VOTERS GUIDE INTO THE VOTING BOOTH!
Mobile phones and tablets are prohibited in the voting booth, but the law allows you to take the Voters Guide with you. You can also use the interactive version online at VOTE411.org to print your choices to take with you.

ABOUT THE LEAGUE
The League of Women Voters is a grassroots, ALL-VOLUNTEER organization promoting informed and active participation of citizens in government. Since 1919, both LWVTX and LWV-AA have helped voters cast an informed vote when going to the polls. No League organization supports or opposes any political party or candidate. The Austin Area League serves Travis and Williamson Counties, with a growing membership in each.

As a nonpartisan organization, the League believes that all of us are stakeholders in making democracy work. We offer informative programs concerning important public policy issues, organize and offer voter registration efforts, engage in get-out-the-vote projects, work with local area schools and universities to promote civic participation, and conduct fair and open candidate forums.

LWV VISION STATEMENT
We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

LWV MISSION STATEMENT

...MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU!
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Q1. What specific reforms, if any, would you propose in health care policy to address the cost of and access to health care?

A1. We need to rewrite our immigration laws to reflect our interests, our values, and the reality on the ground in Texas. Recognizing we are a nation of laws that can maintain order at the border without dehumanizing anyone, we have to put a stop to family separation, ensure that every separated family is reunified, pass the DREAM Act, provide immigrants with a fair path to work and citizenship, and ensure that everyone who comes to this country can contribute to their full potential.

A2. No response

Ted Cruz (R)

Q2. What changes, if any, should Congress make in immigration policies?

A2. We need to rewrite our immigration laws to reflect our interests, our values, and the reality on the ground in Texas. Recognizing we are a nation of laws that can maintain order at the border without dehumanizing anyone, we have to put a stop to family separation, ensure that every separated family is reunified, pass the DREAM Act, provide immigrants with a fair path to work and citizenship, and ensure that everyone who comes to this country can contribute to their full potential.

A3. Texas should lead the way in preserving the 2nd Amendment while ensuring people can live without fear of gun violence in our churches, schools, concerts and communities. Let’s require background checks for all gun sales and close all loopholes; give federal help to school districts to improve campus safety; stop selling weapons of war that are designed to kill people as effectively and efficiently as possible; and support research on gun violence to better understand and address its root causes.

A4. Every child deserves access to a high-quality education. We must keep our tax dollars in our public school classrooms, ensure equity in funding, and empower teachers to teach to students—not to high-stakes standardized tests. Prioritizing education also means finally paying our teachers a higher salary, ending the Windfall Elimination Provision, and taking care of our retired teachers. Let’s make sure higher education is affordable too, including access to student loans and training programs.

Neal M. Dikeman (L)

Background:
I’m a 6th gen Texan with a young family, active in my church and community. I’ve founded 7 tech startups, held every executive job from CEO, CFO, to Board member. My degree is economics, my career has been international. I know energy, tech, finance, ag, & Texas. I’m not a politician or career government employee, but I know policy and I deliver

Website: http://www.nealdikeman.com

A1. Today doctors work for insurers; insurers for your boss; nobody works for you; so the system doesn’t work. We need a Million Payer system: health insurance not tied to your job with spiraling costs hidden by government intervention and a bad 1940s corporate tax deal. Where you buy insurance directly, usable anywhere not just in a private insurer network. Give you corporate tax deal, open up the networks, require good faith estimates. Address cost and choice, not restrict price and service.

A2. Congress has talked about fixing immigration my entire voting life—with no action from either side. This has to change. Our current system works for no one. Immigration is a strength of America. We need more legal immigration, so that our companies and jobs stay home, and America reaps the benefits of its melting pot and factories. We need clear pathways for immigrants to come to this country to work, whether they stay and earn citizenship or not, combined with enforcement of our laws.

A3. If I had a silver bullet solution, I’d lay it out. But no one does. This is not simple or fixable with federal action. Shall we pass new gun laws, erode our founding fathers’ most basic protection against government overreach, and pretend that fixes such a devastating cultural issue so we can feel like we acted? What will we do when another shooting happens anyway, and our “silver bullet” did not work? Let’s solve our crisis of community in our community, not from Washington.

A4. Congress can’t pass budgets, has run up debt levels not seen since WWII, borrows 20% of each $, ignores the warnings of its own accountants. It’s run up $21 Trillion in unfunded Medicare, Medicaid & Social Sec debts from underpricing and overpromising, endangering hardworking Americans. In human terms: $340K/American family, 2x the American mortgage. They plan to add $12T in new debts by the time my 5 year old gets to HS, out borrowing the entire GDP growth. We need basic fiscal management.

Ted Cruz (R)

No response

Ted Cruz (R)

Beto O’Rourke (D)

Background:
As a member of the City Council, I balanced a budget each year and ensured we were creating opportunity for everyone—fighting for public schools, good paying jobs and a community that treated everyone with respect. As a Congressman, I’ve worked with both parties to write legislation including laws that improve access to health care for veterans.

Website: http://betofortexas.com

A1. As the least insured state, we should stop to family separation, ensure that every separated family is reunified, pass the DREAM Act, provide immigrants with a fair path to work and citizenship, and ensure that everyone who comes to this country can contribute to their full potential.

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Website: http://www.nealdikeman.com

A1. Today doctors work for insurers; insurers for your boss; nobody works for you; so the system doesn’t work. We need a Million Payer system: health insurance not tied to your job with spiraling costs hidden by government intervention and a bad 1940s corporate tax deal. Where you buy insurance directly, usable anywhere not just in a private insurer network. Give you corporate tax deal, open up the networks, require good faith estimates. Address cost and choice, not restrict price and service.

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**DISTRICT 10**

**Mike Ryan (L) (continued)**

remove the guns from their house—that process is ripe for abuse—witness the “game” of “swatting.” Falsely calling the police to report a violent crime out of a revenge motive has occurred and innocent people have been killed. We used to have wings of hospitals devoted to mental care, but The ACLU sued and won freedoms for ill patients. Now we have a homeless problem. Constitutional Carry is the best proven way to prevent more violence.

**A3.** The federal government should set policies and get out of the way. The older system to health insurance prior to 1976 and HMOs worked well—third party payers must be eliminated. We should be able to buy health insurance much like car and home insurance—clear descriptions of covered items and costs. Cross state purchasing, etc. are great ideas, but the States should take the lead on managing these issues. I believe it is a Tenth Amendment issue. The federal government is too prone to crony lobbying and special interest groups working against patients’ interests.

**A4.** MONEY Portion of response removed; did not meet criteria. I propose a Presidential Line Item VETO to cut spending. Congress will add spending increases and we can hold the President accountable for cutting them out. This will end cronyism and special interest lobbying. Taxpayers do not stand a chance against lobbyists in DC. This is one of my key platform commitments. The R party will use budget control as an excuse to cut Social Security—I say no! I will cut every other budget first before touching SS!

**DISTRICT 17**

Bill Flores (R)

Background: U.S. Representative since 2011; Business-person with by 30+ years in the energy business; Texas Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Education: BBA Accounting (Cum Laude) —Texas A&M University; MBA—Houston Baptist University Website: http://BillFlores.com

**Mike Ryan (L) (continued)**

- **A1.** Secure our borders with an integrated system of barriers, personnel, sensors, airborne assets, and roads. Modify our legal immigration system to be a merit-based system. Develop a workable and efficient Temporary Worker Permit for seasonal labor needs. Develop a path for current Dreamer population to earn legal status/citizenship. Develop a path for current illegal population to acquire earned legal status through a probation/deferred adjudication process. Require use of E-Verify for all hiring by all employers. Increase the sanctions on employers who hire illegal immigrants.

- **A2.** Focus on the drivers of criminal activity—mental illness, drug activities, domestic violence, etc. Provide additional federal research funding for mental health research and treatment. Work with states to provide better treatment for mental illness. Ban Bump Stocks. Provide protocols and additional resources to states and local schools districts to harden our schools to prevent criminal from entering schools including metal detectors, more secure entrances, security training, and security personnel.

- **A3.** Create true, free-markets for healthcare and health insurance products. Require healthcare pricing transparency by providers. Enable expanded access to more generic prescriptions. Facilitate development of an interstate health insurance market. Allow consumer health insurance associations for greater buying power. Allow state-based high-risk pools to provide coverage for pre-existing conditions and high-utilization patients, e.g. Maine. Increase federal research investments to find prevention & cure treatments for the biggest drivers of healthcare costs—Alzheimer’s, heart disease, cancer, etc.

- **A4.** National Security; action items: Maintain a robust domestic diplomatic capability (State Department, USAID, etc.). Develop stronger alliances with current allies and potential allies. Provide greater manpower and funding resources for our military. Increase funding for defense research and development. Require our allies to increase their respective investments in the areas listed above. Countries with strong economic ties are not likely to engage in hostilities, so we should develop stronger trade alliances based upon free & fair trade principles including no tariffs, barriers, or subsidies.

**Rick Kennedy (D)**

**Background:** Rick Kennedy is a successful software engineer who has lived in Central Texas for more than a decade. He has raised his three children here.

**Education:** Bachelor of Science, Computer Science, The Pennsylvania State University, 1984.

**Website:** http://rickkennedyforcongress.com

- **A1.** Our current immigration laws reflect decades of shortsighted mismanagement and political gridlock. Given our aging workforce and historically low birth rates, we need immigration laws that address our economic needs, reflect our values, and keep our citizens safe. I support a path to citizenship for DACA recipients and undocumented immigrants who have no criminal record and have been in the US for 5+ years. I will work for immigration laws that allow for a mix of skills-based, familial, and compassionate immigration that varies with our ability to absorb them.

- **A2.** Saving American lives should not be an issue subjected to partisan bickering. I support repealing the Dickey Amendment and appropriating funds for gun violence research. As an engineer, I want to implement policy based on facts. I support better background checks (as do 90% of voters) and banning gun ownership for convicted domestic abusers. I also support the Second Amendment. My goal is to reduce gun violence with out infringing on Second Amendment rights of lawful gun owners.

- **A3.** I support universal healthcare. I believe access to healthcare is a right. Additionally, there is an economic imperative. Healthier kids make better students. Healthier adults are more productive employees. We must provide access to healthcare for all while simultaneously driving down costs. A universal healthcare program will have the responsibility to negotiate prices and incentivize participants to take advantage of wellness and disease prevention activities. Like public/private education, universal healthcare will not eliminate private insurance for those who choose it.

- **A4.** As a parent, I’m concerned about my children’s education. There has been much discussion about converting federal funding for schools to a voucher system to allow for more choice. For the majority, there is no choice as private schools in Texas serve just over 300,000 students while public schools serve more than 5 million. We must ensure that all children have access to an education that will position them for future success. Their success will allow TX17, Texas and our country to remain competitive in the 21st century global economy.

**Peter Churchman (L)**

**Background:** Peter is happily married to the mother of his 2 young children. Peter transitioned from owning a small business to a blue collar job in logistics.

**Education:** Peter went to Texas State University where he majored in Business.

**Website:** http://ChurchmanforTexas.com

- **A1.** We should make immigration another tool to grow the economy. The labor market should control the inflow and outflow of immigrants. With unemployment so low, we need more people to help further expand our economy. All people who do not pose a threat to America and will not be a drain on the treasury should be allowed to come here and participate in our economy. By ending the drug war and ending federally run welfare programs we will end the perverse incentives to come here, and we will be better off for it.

- **A2.** The government should stop actively disarming people. Almost all of the tragic mass shootings in our country happen in gun free zones. It is time to let the American people defend themselves in any way they see fit and at all times. We also need to focus as a community on helping those with mental issues instead of stigmatizing mental illness.

- **A3.** The first thing our government should do is end the FDA. The FDA has increased the cost of bringing a drug to market by a factor of 6 in the last quarter century, but we have little to show for it. The rate that new drugs are taken off the market is the same it has been for decades; the additional testing done by the FDA hasn’t changed that, but it has added to the costs of prescription medication making it unaffordable for many.
A1. The rule of law matters. Our security and our sovereignty matters. Right now, we have criminal illegal gangs like MS-13 operating in sanctuary cities across our nation while drug cartels have effective operational control over our southern border. We must secure and establish operational control on our border and protect against the cartels and gangs. In the process, we will protect the very immigrants that are harmed by open borders—currently subjected to the horrors of the sex trafficking trade and riding on top of train cars because we fail to do our job. As we ensure our communities are safe, we must secure our border and end the practice of sanctuary cities for the sake of our communities and national sovereignty.

A2. As a former federal prosecutor and the former First Assistant Attorney General of Texas, I can tell you that for public safety, we must secure our border and end the practice of sanctuary cities for the sake of our communities and national sovereignty.

A3. For affordable, high quality healthcare—I believe nothing is more important than making sure there are no barriers between you and your doctor and that we limit the bureaucratic burdens of paperwork, insurance administrators and the layers of regulations that currently are making healthcare to expensive and hard to get. To do this, we focus on 1) Direct Primary Care from your doctor, 2) Robust Health Savings Accounts—subsidized by you, your employer, and where appropriate, government; 3) Robust Health Sharing Ministries—where you defray costs among a community of trust; 4) Ownership

A4. The national debt. We cannot leave our children and grandchildren worse off than us. At nearly $22 trillion, the national debt is not just the biggest issue in public policy, but poses a direct threat to our prosperity and national security. We’ve got to return to our constitutional duties in Washington, ensure our men and women and uniform have a clear mission (backed by Congress), the tools they need, and the care when they return . . . and then give states domain over most other issues, reform Social Security/Medicare so that we honor our promises and ensure they are solvent, and then unify our

Joseph Kopser (D)

Background: 20-year Army veteran, founded a successful transportation tech company, taught at university level, husband and father of three daughters

Education: U.S. Military Academy at West Point (B.S. in Aerospace Engineering) Harvard Kennedy School of Government (M.P.A.)

Website: http://www.kopserforcongress.com

A1. Earlier this year, I visited the border to learn more about our current immigration crisis. I also sat down for a roundtable with experts from business, aid organizations, and more to hear their perspective. Our current crisis, which has been in play since long before it became national news, is due to inaction by Congress on both sides of the aisle. In the short term we need to stop ripping families apart, and in the long term we need comprehensive immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship, so we can add enough new Americans to the workforce to sustain the Texas Economic Miracle.

A2. I trained on weapons of war for 20 years; I know what they were designed to do. And I know these military-grade weapons have no place on our streets among civilians. There are simple solutions we can all agree on, like increased background checks and a No-Fly, No-Buy list. We also need to work to increase awareness about mental illness and remove the stigma around it, so that people in a mental health crisis can seek help before they become a danger to themselves and others. This will help the silent victims of gun violence—those who die by suicide.

A3. I’ve received universal health care since I was 18-years old, through the U.S. Army. It’s what enabled me to start my own business, knowing that my wife and daughters would be taken care of no matter what. I believe every American deserves that opportunity. I also know we’re already paying for universal health care where it’s most expensive—in the emergency room, where we aren’t turning people away. Increasing access to affordable, portable health care is both the morally right and the economically sensible thing to do.

A4. We need to get more Texans plugged into the 21st Century economy. I’ve seen this issue from every angle: as a parent with daughters in public school, an educator at the university level, and a businessman hiring a staff. It’s why my first priority, if elected, will be working across the aisle to pass a real 21st Century Jobs Act. TX-21 and our region have incredible potential for clean energy jobs, and ensuring our kids have access to education that will prepare them for those jobs is vital for our economic future.

Lee Santos (L)

Background: Auto repair shop owner and car dealer for over 20 years

Education: Bought and sold over a thousand cars from dealer auto auctions in the Denver area. Self employed

Website: http://hardcorelibertarian.com

A1. I believe in a Pay To Stay system for immigrants, similar to other countries which offer a Golden Visa to vetted immigrants which invest a specified amount of money to gain citizenship. This will be put directly towards our national debt. Those not eligible will be required to go through the existing citizenship process if they still wish to become citizens. Those without proper citizenship documentation will be denied entry.

A2. I support a ban on all bump stocks and raising the legal age to purchase firearms to 21 in Texas.

A3. The federal government should not be involved in our healthcare system at all. They have managed to make such a mess out of it already and they need to step out of the way and let private businesses handle this. Insurance companies have been price gouging for too long and have driven up the costs so completely out of proportion to what they should be and are passing those costs onto the consumers while simultaneously denying their coverage unnecessarily.

A4. Marijuana must be legalized immediately and any non violent marijuana offenders should be released and have all their charges dropped. Texas should be making it easier for people to have access to safe medicine such as marijuana instead of spending money unnecessarily to fight it. This would also bring a much needed boost to our economy by creating many new jobs in retail, and farming.
Julie Oliver (D) (continued)
for detaining and deporting only those individuals who pose a violent threat to public safety and that ensure that refugees who seek asylum in the U.S. have a fair chance to tell their stories; Protecting the DACA and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) programs; Expanding eligibility to new categories which includes creating a route to citizenship through employment.

A2. My commitments include: Requiring universal background checks and universal licensing requirements; Closing the ‘boyfriend loophole’ so that anyone who commits acts of domestic violence cannot purchase firearms (as well as preventing gun sales to people with prior violent-crime convictions); Stopping the new sale of weapons of war & high-capacity magazines to civilians; Giving federal help to school districts; Fully supporting federal research on gun violence; and Improving record sharing between law enforcement agencies.

A3. We have to safeguard protections for those living with pre-existing conditions, bring prescription drug prices down, and every Texan should be able to see a doctor whether they’re rich or poor, young or old, or have pre-existing conditions or not. I’ve worked in healthcare finance for 15 years. I know how the market works. The more people are covered, the lower everyone’s costs are. You already pay for everyone’s healthcare—you just do it in the most inefficient, expensive way. A guaranteed universal healthcare system is not only the right thing to do, it’s fiscally responsible.

A4. We have to get corporate money out of our elections and out of Congress. I haven’t taken a dime in PAC money, and my commitments include: filing or supporting bills that require any 501(c) entity spending on “any” political activity that mentions a federal candidate or that’s intended to influence an election to be disclosed; taxing the political activities of 501(c) entities that spend beyond a certain threshold on political activities; oppose any and all attempts to repeal the Johnson Amendment, which restricts 501(c)(3) tax-deductible organizations from engaging in political activity.

Desarae Lindsey (L)
Background:
I’ve worked in the mortgage industry in some capacity or another since 2006. I’ve been trying to transition into full time activism.
Education: Some college courses, did not finish.
Website: http://peaceandlovetexas.com
A1. I believe in a completely welcoming immigration policy. Many peaceful human beings wish to change their location in order to best serve their lifestyles and seek new work and life opportunities. The fact is, many innocent people have had needless blood spilled over the concept of borders as it exists. We should absolutely cherish and value those who wish to contribute to our communities and engage in a welcoming perspective for those who wish to be our neighbors.
A2. I would not pursue any form of gun control. I personally do not own a gun and am not a fan of them, however I do not see myself as someone who is fit to tell anyone else how to exercise their freedom.
A3. The government should have absolutely no involvement in healthcare. It’s largely because of government involvement that costs rise. If the industry was left entirely to free markets, the costs would dramatically reduce.
A4. I believe very strongly the death penalty should be abolished. It is barbaric and inhumane. The War on Drugs also serves as a “legal” form of the death penalty, often without the benefit of due process. The militarization of police also falls into this category. Unless we adopt a more “live and let live” mentality, we’ll continue to perpetuate the vicious cycle of violence against our fellow humans. That would be a deep tragedy.

District 31
John Carter (R)
No response

Mary Jennings “MJ” Hegar (D)
Background:
MJ Hegar is a combat veteran, advocate, and mother running for Congress in TX-31 as an independent voice who will get things done for Texas families.
Education: BA in Sociology and World Religions, The University of Texas at Austin; Executive MBA, The University of Texas at Austin
Website: http://mjfortexas.com
A1. We are a nation of immigrants, and our federal immigration policy must better reflect the values that this country was built upon. I support comprehensive immigration reform that prioritizes fiscally responsible and environmentally sound border security strategies, provides local businesses with an effective system to fill their labor needs, and calls for a fair pathway to citizenship. I also support the passage of the DREAM Act, and other bipartisan legislative solutions that create fair pathways to citizenship.
A2. As a combat veteran and gun owner, I know that the gun violence epidemic is the greatest threat to our Second Amendment rights. We must approach gun violence in our country as a public health concern and allow the CDC to research it as such. I support, as do around 90% of Americans, background checks for all gun purchases. As a survivor of gun-related domestic violence, I will work to increase protections for victims of domestic violence, and will support universal background checks and more stringent training requirements for certain weapons.
A3. As a Purple Heart recipient, and mother of two, I understand the importance of quality medical care and know first hand the struggles that so many families go through to afford it. Having worked for a local hospital network in Round Rock for five years, I understand how complex our healthcare systems are, and know it will take bipartisan efforts to accomplish real reform. I support efforts that would improve the ACA by encouraging insurers to participate in the marketplace and stabilizing the insurance market, and will fight to eliminating waste, incentivizing innovation, protect people with pre-A1. I served three tours in Afghanistan as an Air Force rescue pilot and understand what our military and their families go through in a way that most politicians in DC can’t. I also experienced difficulty entering the workforce after military service, and know the challenges that veterans face transitioning into civilian life. In Congress, I will support responsible national security policies, protect the paychecks of active duty military members during government shutdowns, and stop any effort to privatize the VA while streamlining services for veterans to get better care when they need it.

Jason Hope (L)
No response

District 35
David Smalling (R)
No response

Lloyd Doggett (D)
Background:
Education: BA Business, JD, University of Texas at Austin
Website: http://www.votedoggett.com/
A1. Instead of building walls, build bridges. Immigration reform & supporting our Dreamers will grow Texas economy—more small business startups & more student graduates. US House wrongly denied opportunity to vote on bipartisan comprehensive reform of our broken system approved years ago by Senate. Tearing families asunder, jailing children, is cruel & will not work. Need path to citizenship for those who play by rules, paying a fine, any back taxes, & criminal background check. America must remain a beacon of hope for refugees fleeing violence & oppression, while safeguarding American families.
A2. Replace short memorial moments of silence with genuine action to prevent repeated tragedies. Too dangerous to fly should mean too dangerous to buy guns, while assuring reasonable due process rights for those improperly listed as dangerous. Approving universal background checks, eliminating gun show/internet loopholes is not inconsistent with Second Amendment. Gun owners know the importance of keeping the safety on. Ban military-style assault weapons, designed solely to kill humans quickly. Continued
CLARK PATTERSON (L)

Background: I ran for Congress in 2012 and 2018.

Education: BA in Government, 1988, the University of Texas at Austin

Website: http://www.clarkpforcongress.com

Q1. What specific reforms, if any, would you propose in state health care policy to address the cost of and access to health care for all Texans?

A1. I ardently support comprehensive immigration reform based on greatly increasing legal levels of immigration. In a 2012 Gallup poll, roughly 150 million foreigners expressed a desire to immigrate to the US. With some procedural vetting, we should allow the vast majority to do so. Contrary to the current conventional wisdom, immigration is a win-win proposition. Immigrants benefit from moving to the US, but so do natives. Consequently, we should legalize the current 11.2 million undocumented workers and grant them a pathway to citizenship. We should also allow in many more political refugees.

A2. Libertarians emphatically oppose gun control and vigorously support the Second Amendment. Libertarians believe in maximizing freedom and believe in a presumption of innocence for all persons. Over the last 40 years, the murder rate and the number of people who have died from gun violence in the US has fallen dramatically. During this same period, the number of guns purchased in the US has risen sharply. The US should not attempt to protect rights by restricting rights.

A3. Libertarians believe that Obamacare should be phased out and replaced with a complete free market in health care. We should also phase out Medicare and Medicaid within one to two generations [25–50 years]. Unfortunately, too many Americans today believe that health care is a right. It is not. Removing all levels of government from health care would, in the long run, greatly reduce overall health care spending. In a complete free market in health care, Americans would pay almost all of their health care costs “out of pocket.” Insurance would likely only pay for health emergencies.

A4. The US federal government currently has a $21.4 trillion debt and unfunded liabilities of $210 trillion. In order to avoid economic catastrophe resulting from these debts, Congress must immediately begin making massive, across-the-board cuts in government spending and severely reducing the size and scope of the federal government. Two specific areas should be emphasized. First, the US should phase out the next 25–50 years, all entitlement programs, including Social Security, Medicare & Medicaid. And second, the US should immediately switch to a foreign policy of strict non-interventionism.
**STATE GOVERNOR**

Mark Jay Tippets (L) (continued)

programs. I support free market based healthcare systems and health insurance. I oppose a “single payer” concept and the federal legislation known as the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Obama Care).

**Q1.** What specific reforms, if any, would you propose in state health care policy to address the cost of and access to health care for all Texans?

**Q2.** What specific measures do you propose to meet the state’s growing infrastructure needs (i.e. water, energy, and transportation)?

**Q3.** What can be done to ensure the safety of our children in schools?

**Q4.** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas Legislature, and what is your position on these issues?

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**STATE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

**Q1.** What specific reforms, if any, would you propose in state health care policy to address the cost of and access to health care for all Texans?

**Q2.** What specific measures do you propose to meet the state’s growing infrastructure needs (i.e. water, energy, and transportation)?

**Q3.** What can be done to ensure the safety of our children in schools?

**Q4.** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas Legislature, and what is your position on these issues?

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**Dan Patrick (R)**

**Background:**

Please refer to www.danpatrick.org/meet-dan for my biographical information.

**Website:**

http://danpatrick.org/

**A1.** My stance on important issues facing Texas is detailed in my record as the Lt. Governor of Texas. Please refer to www.danpatrick.org, as well as my official website, www.ltgov.state.tx.us, for the most current information on my positions.

**A2.** My stance on important issues facing Texas is detailed in my record as the Lt. Governor of Texas. Please refer to www.danpatrick.org, as well as my official website, www.ltgov.state.tx.us, for the most current information on my positions.

**A3.** My stance on important issues facing Texas is detailed in my record as the Lt. Governor of Texas. Please refer to www.danpatrick.org, as well as my official website, www.ltgov.state.tx.us, for the most current information on my positions.

**A4.** My stance on important issues facing Texas is detailed in my record as the Lt. Governor of Texas. Please refer to www.danpatrick.org, as well as my official website, www.ltgov.state.tx.us, for the most current information on my positions.

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**Mike Collier (D)**

**Background:**

For many years I was a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers, leading teams of professionals performing financial audits and rigorous financial and operational analysis. I hold a BBA and an MBA from UT-Austin. Suzanne and I have been married 29 years and we have two sons who attended public schools (K-12) in Texas. Both graduated from UT-Austin.

**Website:**

http://CollierForTexas.com

**A1.** It’s time we expand Medicaid. It’s a good deal for Texas. We also need a Patient Financial Bill of Rights, including (1) absolute protection for Texans with pre-existing conditions, (2) protection against in-network vs. out-of-network surprise billings, (3) bills that are transparent and in plain English, and (4) mandatory disclosure if lower cost options (drugs and procedures) are available. And we must invest in women’s health, mental health, and children’s health, as we once did!

**A2.** We have a revenue problem in Texas that we must fix. Otherwise we cannot invest properly in infrastructure. In so doing, we cannot increase taxes on homeowners, because we are over-taxed already. As Lt. Governor I will take the first step in solving this problem by closing a well documented big-corporate property tax loophole (known as Equal and Uniform) which will recover $5 billion in missing revenues (per year). Other steps, if needed, will be the subject of my re-election campaign.

**A3.** I do not support arming teachers and “hardening targets.” The answer in my opinion is more counselors and trained psychologists who can develop relationships with students and react before, not after, a crisis develops. We also need a background check system that works, and red flag laws. Some physical security upgrades will no doubt be called for by local officials. The state should appropriate funds and enact legislation according to these principles.

**A4.** We must increase investment in public education (smaller class sizes, special education teachers, pre-K, better pay for teachers and support staff), reform the charter model to achieve the original objective (enhance public school effectiveness), and end further discussion of vouchers. We must restore healthcare benefits taken away from retired teachers, and fund teacher retirement plans (TRS-Care and defined benefit pensions). We must end gerrymandering and reform our criminal justice sys

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**Kerry Douglas McKennon (L)**

**Background:**

I have 20+ years of management experience. I am National Chair of Outright Libertarians, have had two terms on the LP’Texas executive board, and had two terms as the Platform Chair for LP’Texas. I am the Libertarian Party Hale County Chair.

**Website:**

http://mckennon4texas.com

**A1.** The most important thing the state could do for healthcare is to allow inter-state commerce of insurance. This would allow for true competition and drive down the costs. I’d also like, but do not have the authority, to drastically decrease the size of the FDA which creates corrupt structures reducing market competition.

**A2.** TXDoT must prioritize TX’s infrastructure results that are fixes rather than patches. Water is the life-blood of Texas’ agriculture, energy and tourist industry. We must work with those industries and districts to ensure water in perpetuity. Energy and water go hand in hand. Our current guidelines are decades old, causing us infrastructure damage, loss of water, potential loss of energy, and loss of life and property. TX needs regulation and technology more modern than the mid 20th century.

**A3.** We have a constitutionally mandated public-school system in Texas, which we must make safe while respecting individuals and their rights. We must empower local schools to determine their safety protocols as opposed to a blanket state-issued guideline. Some schools may allow teachers to carry arms for defense. Others may put in metal detectors. Many will find ways to have secure lockdown. There are free market options regarding public school safety, which I encourage schools to research.

**A4.** Police accountability through body cameras, require police to take out their own insurance for accidents, and demilitarize our officers. Repeal all laws which make a criminal of someone without a victim. A crime requires a victim. A perfect example of this is responsible cannabis use. For all such victimless cases I would expunge records of those currently or formerly incarcerated. Abolish the death penalty. It is better to incarcerate hundreds of criminals than execute a single innocent.
STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Q1. Which responsibilities of the Attorney General’s office are your highest priorities for the next 4 years, and how do you intend to accomplish them?
Q2. What are the most important consumer protection issues facing Texans?
Q3. What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

Ken Paxton (R)
No response

Justin Nelson (D)

Background: The Texas Attorney General should be a check on power, not a rubber stamp. I learned about the rule of law from Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor. I teach at University of Texas Law School, and am a “Texas Super Lawyer” for being one of the most effective lawyers in Texas. Texas deserves an Attorney General who will fight for ALL TEXANS.

Website: http://www.nelsonfortexas.com

A1. The Texas Attorney General should be a check on power. I will stand up for the rule of law. The Texas Attorney General should not be a rubber stamp for anyone—whether in Washington D.C. or Austin. Nobody is above the law. I will fight corruption, work to protect pre-existing conditions in health care coverage, fight for public education, advocate for resources to treat the opioid crisis, and crack down on fraud.
A2. The Texas Attorney General’s office should fight fraud, cybercrime, and corruption to make sure everyone has a level playing field. I will make sure that small businesses and individuals are not the victims of fraud and deception. This includes ending partisan lawsuits and focusing on non-partisan consumer fraud investigations and making sure Texas is the leader in responding to fraud after natural disasters.
A3. The Texas Attorney General has wide power to ensure justice. I will clean up the Attorney General’s office, ending the corruption, and addressing our most urgent problems—fighting the opioid crisis, protecting consumers from fraudulent and abusive businesses, reforming criminal justice, fixing the child support system, ending gerrymandering. I will make the office into one that fights for every single Texan.

Michael Ray Harris (L)
No response

STATE COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Q1. What measures would you take to address the financial viability of the State of Texas?
Q2. Which responsibilities of the Comptroller of Public Accounts office are your highest priorities, and how do you intend to accomplish them?
Q3. What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

Glenn Hegar (R)
No response

Joi Chevalier (D)

Background: As an innovative senior product strategist for successfully acquired startups to Fortune 100s, I’ve led diverse teams with products, programs, and internal businesses earning billions in revenue. Currently, I am a small business owner, focused on launching food companies into market, generating new food products, jobs, and entrepreneurs.

Website: http://www.joiifortexas.com

A1. Cutting costs is no substitute for creating revenue. The Comptroller’s office should work to increase revenue with regular agency audits to understand/fix lost revenues; support real school finance reform; close loopholes in commercial valuations; increase small business growth and expansion; update outdated consumption taxes; fully implement Internet taxes after the SCOTUS Wayfair decision; sunset old sector abatements; reduce Texas’ $50B debt to free Texas finances up to serve its citizens.
A2. The Comptroller’s office can tie dollars to real world outcomes. It must be neutral, fair, and accurate about legislation & program values; increase revenue while stewarding cost; encourage large & small business growth; be a proactive voice defending Texans’ daily lives with innovative and forward-thinking management of her wallet. This includes Special Reports on economic opportunities in expanding ACA/Medicaid or tackling school finance reform, so legislators make informed policy decisions.
A3. Healthcare: the Comptroller should provide special reports on costs to Texas in not implementing the ACA/Medicaid expansion. Texans carry the cost for uncompensated or underfunded care, no preventative care, or care pushed out to criminal justice and housing due to a broken ACA implementation and a failure by Republican leaders to have real data and prioritize this. We need to reclaim Texas’ dollars and use them here. It’s an outsized part of the budget and hampers prioritizing in other areas.

Ben Sanders (L)

Background: I’ve trained my entire life for this position. During my years at NASA & the US Army, I honed my skills in leadership, through fairness, integrity, and honor and will instill those values in the eighteen Field Offices across Texas. As Comptroller I won’t use scare tactics against my fellow Texans to control them. Together we can Win!

Website: http://www.vote4Sanders.com

A1. Your government’s principal function is to protect your freedom, your unalienable rights of Life, Liberty and Property, all crucial rights for building a free and prosperous society. My vision of government is one strictly confined to its constitutional role, a government that respects civil liberties, recognizes that the individual is more important than the State, exercises fiscal restraint and understands that government must pay its debts, believing in free markets.
A2. 1.) Creating a more fiscally transparent Texas Government through the use of technology. 2.) Form a better fiscal educational outreach system for Texans. To help educate and promote small business and consumers on taxes and business process for better job creation. 3.) To faithfully execute my oath of office and safeguarding that I and no one in my administration performs any action that violates the constitutions of the United States of America or the State of Texas.
A3. Four years ago I warned the Texas Pension system was insolvent and grossly understated, that it could not pay the money due its members. Now that warning has become a reality. As Texas Comptroller I have a plan to protect our State Pension Holders, and their families, ensuring their financial security by giving them the right to retire on their own terms and control their own futures.

STUDENT VOTERS
Students may use either their parents’ address or their college address for voter registration, whichever they consider to be their permanent address. Students cannot be registered in both places. Those who will be away from the address they choose on Election Day and during early voting may request ballots by mail. Student voters should also know that college or university student photo IDs are not accepted at the polls, and be aware of the general ID requirements.
Q1. What measures would you implement to restore and protect the coast, wetlands, and the built environment to minimize damage from major storms?

Q2. What are the most significant land-related issues facing Texas veterans and what can the General Land Office do to address those needs?

Q3. What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

George P. Bush (R)

Background:
I have run a conservative and efficient Land Office. I am saving taxpayer money while putting more money into the Public School Fund than ever before. The GLO has been a government office that works for the people during my first term.

Website: http://www.georgepfortexas.org

A1. The restoration of McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge in Jefferson County is one example of what we are trying to do on the coast. Restoration to this area provides critical protection to Port Arthur and the oil and gas infrastructure of the state. The GLO, along with its partners, has identified approximately 60 similar, high priority projects.

A2. The General Land Office offers several great veterans programs such as the home loan and health care assistance programs. I’m committed to continuously looking at all of these programs at the GLO and across this great state for ways to improve the lives of our military and each of their families. Any time a veteran needs help in getting an education, a job, or health care we should try and provide some form of assistance.

A3. Continuing Hurricane Harvey relief—The Texas coast was devastated by Harvey last fall and we need to continue to fight for those affected. Helping Veterans—Ensuring that veterans have access to crucial services is a top priority for my agency. Saving the Alamo—My objective is to ensure the Alamo tells the heroic story of the battle better than ever and for many years to come.

Miguel Suazo (D)

Background:
As a former US Senate staffer, I have worked on issues related to land use planning, education, veterans, environmental protection, and economic development. As an energy professional and attorney, I will provide direction on mineral leasing for supporting education, a key duty of the GLO, and also stewardship of our Texas lands.

Website: http://www.miguelsuazo.org

A1. The Land Commissioner must be proactive in protecting the coast from natural and man-made dangers. I will use nature to protect it and ourselves a central focus of my duties. For example, restoring oyster habitats, preventing brackish water invasion of fresh water habitats, combating invasive species, building berms and sand dunes, are all elements of a “coastal wall” that will limit flooding and must all be part of a comprehensive approach to coastal protection.

A2. Veterans can face formidable challenges returning to civilian life following their service to their country. I am concerned that the VLB is not offering sufficiently competitive loans to Texas veterans compared to many other programs through the Department of Veterans’ Affairs and other states. I also think that the extent of the GLO’s outsourcing to third parties the origination and servicing of these loans needs to be examined.

A3. The most critical issue facing the next Land Commissioner is that of leadership. The Land Commissioner must elevate the profile of the key issues Texas face through the GLO and educate the public about these issues, especially with respect to the Alamo. The current commissioner has failed to demonstrate the managerial ability to achieve success for Texas on a range of issues. Texas must elect a leader with a proven record of success and I believe I am that leader.

Matt Pina (L)

Background:
First, I was raised in Texas. For this position, it is of utter importance that this person is raised in the state as it monitors two major things. Our public lands, such as the Alamo, and our public school fund. I have my B.A. and M.A. in political science and currently sit on San Antonio’s Transportation Board.

Website: http://mattpina.com

A1. While many of our bays are surrounded by larger metro areas there is plenty of coastline that is not supported or kept to the same pristine condition. With the offshore drilling taking place off the shore I would like to see some of the revenue generated from that exploration go towards the maintenance of that space.

A2. The biggest gap faced by veterans is by those who are permanently disabled. In the state of Texas, little is done to ensure that they can live in adequate settings that afford them to live independent and normal lives. H.E.B. has on average provided 2 homes a year to Homes For Our Troops. An organization that builds homes for permanently disabled Veterans. While I applaud the effort made by these organizations, the General Land Office could coordinate in order to make these homes cheaper.

A3. The Alamo doesn’t belong under the Land Commissioner’s purview. As the current GLO commissioner isn’t a native Texan, I will quickly explain that the Alamo was saved from demolition by a group of women who were descended from the founders of this great state—the Daughters of the Texas Republic. These women fought tooth and nail to purchase and restore the Alamo for all Texans. It should be returned to the effective stewardship of The Daughters of the Texas Republic.
**STATE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE**

Sid Miller (R) *(continued)*

the globe. Continue our program of making Texas school lunches great again. We’ve already made great progress by repealing all the burdensome TDA mandates and rules on our Texas schools. Strengthen TDA’s consumer protection division and ensure that Texans are not ripped off by unscrupulous businesses or organized criminals using credit card skimmers and other tools to steal your identities.

Kim Olson (D)

**Background:**
I am a 4th generation farmer and beekeeper, 25 year veteran of the U.S.A.F., and lifelong public servant. My work as a school district administrator and nonprofit CEO, combined with my background in agriculture and military service, provide the skills and experience needed to succeed in the role of Texas Commissioner of Agriculture. 

**Website:** [http://votekimolson.org/](http://votekimolson.org/)

**A1.** My specific plans for marketing Texas ag products locally include infrastructure support, such as processing or distribution facilities; expanding local food purchasing among school and institutional foodservice, restaurants, and retailers; and updating the GO TEXAN program. Infrastructure and state-led marketing will also serve farmers in accessing national markets. I will support Texas farmers as a strong advocate, ensuring that their interests are represented in trade deals and negotiations.

**A2.** I will promote nutritious school lunches with training, education, and Farm to School, and will encourage participation in after-school and summer meal programs. My administration will promote local food access initiatives, such as workplace wellness, farmers’ markets, and retail incentive programs. And, we will address food safety standards by ensuring that our farmers meet the requirements while educating consumers on their role in handling and preparing safe, healthy foods.

**A3.** A top priority is the economic viability of Texas agriculture with marketing, infrastructure, and education initiatives. Also, we must return respectability and professionalism to the office, to ensure the credibility of TDA in the Texas legislature and among state, national, and international partners. Next priority—two words: broadband internet. We will pursue funding and partnerships to ensure high-speed internet access in rural areas for education, economic development, and healthcare.

**Richard Carpenter (L)**

No response

**Website:** [http://www.facebook.com/carpenterfortexas/](http://www.facebook.com/carpenterfortexas/)

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**STATE RAILROAD COMMISSIONER**

Q1. How do you plan to balance oil, gas, and mining interests with protection of natural resources and the environment?

Q2. How would you address the various safety issues concerning pipelines, and oil and gas production?

Q3. What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

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Christi Craddick (R)

**Background:**
Having served Texans for six years as your Railroad Commissioner, I am well-versed in the regulatory needs of the agency and the industry’s importance to our state. In my first term, I have brought more of our data online, overhauled our IT infrastructure, and found efficiencies in our processes, allowing us to do our job better and at less cost.

**Website:** [http://www.christicraddick.com](http://www.christicraddick.com)

**A1.** Fair and consistent regulation allows us to protect our natural resources while the industry safely produces Texas energy, grows our economy and creates jobs. During my time at the Railroad Commission, we have updated our rules to ensure we are effectively regulating energy production, and that companies continue to choose to do business in Texas.

**A2.** The Railroad Commission’s statutory duty is to prevent waste of the state’s natural resources, protect the correlative rights of mineral owners, and oversee the safe production of oil and gas. Enforcement of our rules, including permitting and reporting requirements and field inspections, provides the tools we need to successfully carry out our mission.

**A3.** During this time of enormous growth within the Texas energy industry, we must have thoughtful, balanced leadership at the Railroad Commission. I’ll continue to streamline our processes, maximizing the agency’s efficiency while maintaining our regulatory effectiveness. I’ll increase transparency, bringing more of our data online for public use. I’ll advocate for educational paths for a highly-trained, technically-skilled workforce.

Roman McAllen (D)

**Background:**
I am trained as an urban planner, architect and historic preservationist; at first glance regulating the oil and gas industry in TX doesn’t seem like a good fit. The fact is that 88% of Texans live in cities. Oil & gas directly impacts urban life. My diverse experience will allow me to be a leader in this important statewide position.

**Website:** [http://www.mcallenfortexas.com](http://www.mcallenfortexas.com)

**A1.** Right now I plan to balance the commission. The current commission is entirely beholden to the industry. It is an open secret that commissioners accept campaign contributions 24/7, 365 days a year, from the industry. I will balance the commission by listening to and believing scientists, surface rights owners & municipalities and supporting them. Current commissioners deny the science behind climate change. I do not and I will lead on the absolute need to move to 100% renewables.

**A2.** I would lobby to change the name of the commission to something that tells the public, & the commissioners themselves, what the commission is supposed to be doing. I would seek increased reporting requirements for wastewater injection wells. I will complete ride-alongs with employees in the field to see what is happening first hand on Texas land. I will hold public meetings all over Texas to hear from people what their concerns are. There are many professionals who have grave concerns.

**A3.** Assiduous enforcement of existing regulations on all matters is crucial. Added costs to accomplish this should be absorbed by the industry. The health, safety, and welfare of all Texans here now, and God willing in the future, depends on true leadership. *Sentence does not meet criteria. We must do better.*

Mike Wright (L)

**Background:**
I have a BS in Engineering from the United State Military Academy (West Point) and a MBA from Harvard Business School. This educational background gives me the analytical ability to study complex situations and make rational decisions. I also have ten years of oilfield equipment manufacturing experience.

**Website:** [http://mikewrightfortrc.com](http://mikewrightfortrc.com)

**A1.** If a rule or regulation is requested to be waived but has the intended purpose of protecting natural resources or the environment, the operator would need to submit a plan to monitor the activities and regulations be followed. I would also want the Railroad Commission or
STATE RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

Mike Wright (L) (continued)

the operators to conduct seismic studies when they conduct operations in areas with different geological formations than they have operated in the recent past or when they use higher pressures or greater volumes of water where no known seismic activity has occurred. There are many opinions about the effect of fracking operations and the disposal of water into wells. A3. Making sure there is a supply of water and finding an economical method for disposing of the water used in fracking and production are major issues. Desalination can provide the fresh water and possibly could be used to recycle brackish water that comes from fracking and production. Based on some tentative calculations, it appears that this can be done economically. The operators would pay for the work but be given some credit against the Oil & Gas severance tax/fee they currently pay.

STATE TEXAS SUPREME COURT

Q1. What changes, if any, are needed to provide better protection to the public regarding rules and standards for the legal profession?

Q2. What should the Supreme Court’s goals be in the newly formed Judicial Commission on Mental Health?

Q3. Which responsibility of a Texas Supreme Court justice is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?

JUSTICE, PLACE 2

Jimmy Blacklock (R)

No response
Website: http://www.jimmyblacklock.com

Steven Kirkland (D)

Background:
In 13 years as a Judge, I’ve presided over more than 750 jury trials and fought to make our court system more transparent, accountable and fair. As a community leader, I fought to expand affordable housing and end discrimination. As a lawyer, I sued polluters to protect our neighborhoods. These experiences help me to make my decisions more fair and just.
Website: http://judgestevenkirkland.com

A1. Justice demands the highest standards, but rules alone do not ensure quality representation. Recent studies reveal an alarming amount of mental health and substance abuse issues among attorneys. This crisis creates substandard service to clients and drives up costs for everyone. The Court should lead the profession in addressing these issues, not only through discipline but also through prevention. I have a long history of speaking and advocating for recovery from drug and alcohol addiction.

JUSTICE, PLACE 4

John Devine (R)

No response
Website: http://sandillfortexas.com

R.K. Sandill (D)

No response
Website: http://sandillfortexas.com

A2. This commission needs to identify and remove the legal barriers people face when seeking help for mental health issues. This includes expanding the use of problem-solving courts like veterans and homeless courts and drug and alcohol rehab courts. The commission needs to identify ways the legal system is detrimentally impacted by people in mental health crisis and seek solutions that humanely address the impacts. Finally, the commission must seek to educate the Justice system on these issues.

A3. Texans deserve justice, not politics, from their Court. Yet, the Court has increasingly issued opinions that can only be explained by extremist partisan politics. Texans deserve better. Because we elect our judges in partisan elections, it may not easy—but it’s an imperative. We must restore the Court to its constitutional role as the protector of individual liberty and equality before the law, and an independent voice of everyday Texans in government.

Jeff Brown (R)

Background:
I’ve been a judge for nearly 17 years, having served at all three levels of the Texas judiciary—six years as a district judge, six years on an intermediate court of appeals, and five years on the Supreme Court. I’m board-certified in civil trial law and have won three judge-of-the-year awards, including Texas appellate judge of the year.
Website: http://www.justicejeffbrown.com

A1. I serve as Supreme Court liaison to the Texas Board of Law Examiners and to the Grievance Oversight Committee. In the first role, I’m constantly working to make sure we admit to the legal profession only persons of high moral character. In the second role, I’m constantly working to guarantee that grievances clients file against their attorneys are thoroughly and fairly investigated. We must assure that attorneys handle their responsibilities to the public with competence and integrity.

A2. I co-chair the newly formed Judicial Commission on Mental Health. The purpose of the commission is to develop, implement, and coordinate policy initiatives designed to improve the courts’ interaction with—and the administration of justice for—children, adults, and families with mental-health needs. We will do that through legislative proposals and through the sharing of best practices so that judges have the resources they need to serve folks who come into their courts with mental-health needs.

A3. My highest priority as a Texas Supreme Court justice is to decide cases fairly, efficiently, and according to the law. It’s something I strive to do everyday. It requires hard work and a deep-seated devotion to the rule of law. I’m proud to say that I’ve built a record and a reputation as a fair, hard-working judge who never legislates from the bench. And I hope to continue in this important work as long as the people of Texas allow me to do so.

Kathy Cheng (D)

Background:
For seventeen plus years, I represented clients in complex commercial litigation, contested divorce cases and probate cases, tax matters, and real estate cases, which are potential types of cases that the Texas Supreme Court might hear.
Website: http://chengforjustice.com

A1. Our founding fathers created a system of check and balance whereby the judiciary shall be impartial. For almost a quarter of a century, the Texas Supreme Court has consisted of a panel of justices of one mindset as a result of straight ticket voting. In order for justice, fairness and equality to become a reality, the panel shall consist of justices of diverse background, experience and knowledge to be able to consider the applicable law from various perspectives and to apply it accordingly.

A2. The Texas Supreme Court shall oversee the Judicial Commission on Mental Health only administratively as it does with the State Bar of Texas and the Board of Law Examiners.

A3. Educating the general population on how the judicial branch affects all Texans. Ways of achieving such priority may include but not limited to conduct civic engagement events, generating a pamphlet detailing the roles of judges in the judiciary or be a frequent speaker for different events occurring throughout the state of Texas.
Q1. What recent technological developments provide opportunities to improve the state’s indigent defense system in civil and criminal cases?

Q2. What should the Court of Criminal Appeals’ goal be in the newly formed Judicial Commission on Mental Health?

Q3. Which responsibility of a Court of Criminal Appeals judge is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?

PRESIDING JUDGE
Sharon Keller (R)
No response
Website: http://www.judgesharonkeller.com

Maria T. (Terri) Jackson (D)

Background:
I have the experience, fairness and discernment needed on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. As a district court judge, I have presided over thousands of serious felony offenses, which range from low-level drug offenses to capital murder. I have presided over one hundred jury trials and I have a combined 15 years of judicial experience.

Website: http://www.judgemariatjackson.com

A1. One of the more recent advancements in Harris County has been the implementation of electronic filing. Electronic filing enables attorneys and other users to submit documents to multiple courts, utilize digital signatures, reduces court costs and creates a centralized location for documents. The reduction of court costs and access to critical documents is paramount to the indigent defense system as it saves money on the front end.

A2. The Judicial Commission on Mental Health was formed in February 2018. The goal is to develop, implement and coordinate policy initiatives to improve the courts’ dealings with individuals in the court system who are in crisis. In my opinion, the primary goal should be to create resolution for key issues that plague the judicial system, beginning with overcrowded dockets, lack of communication between judges, court staff, attorneys and mental health care providers, and funding issues.

A3. The Court needs judges that are sensible and can identify complex issues facing the court. My highest priority is to treat everyone fairly and be available when hot button cases, such as death penalty cases, come before the court, even if it is not within the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lastly, it is imperative to work closely with the Texas legislature, our Governor and other community stakeholders to address issues that need to be reformed in the criminal justice system.

William Bryan Strange III (L)
No response

JUDGE, PLACE 7
Barbara Parker Hervey (R)
No response

Ramona Franklin (D)

Background:
My experiences as a former Harris County Assistant District Attorney, defense attorney in private practice and currently a district court judge have all uniquely crafted me with an uncommon legal background. Serving in all of these capacities have afforded me the opportunity of experiencing the legal perspective from all vantage points.

Website: http://www.judgeramonafranklin.com

A1. The new e-filing system that is being implemented across the State of Texas is a new tool that has been very useful in streamlining court documents processing. As a Court of Criminal Appeals judge I will not infringe upon a person’s due process rights by enforcing unreasonable deadlines and causing a defendant to be executed because his attorney failed to timely submit an appeal before the court’s 5 o’clock p.m. court closing time which was done to Michael Richard.

A2. In my opinion, the Court of Criminal Appeals should be the leader for all criminal courts in the State of Texas for handling mental health cases. I concur with the opinion set out in Atkins v. Virginia (2002) 536 U.S. 304 that states, “More than any other single factor, mental defects have been respected as a reason for leniency in our criminal justice system.” I am concerned with the nature of our current Court of Criminal Appeals decisions regarding mental health issues.

A3. As a Court of Criminal Appeals jurist I will continue to carry out the mantra I employ every day as a State District Court judge, “Blindfold Justice . . . One Case At A Time.” I will concentrate my efforts in ensuring that indigent defendants are afforded all of the necessary tools to launch a successful appeal. I will work diligently to ensure that the results that occurred in the Ricky Kerr case will never happen again in the State of Texas.

JUDGE, PLACE 8
Michelle Slaughter (R)

Background:
Having served as a district judge for the past several years, I have presided over thousands of criminal cases ranging from state-jail felonies to capital murder cases. Moreover, I have a proven track record of efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and saving taxpayer dollars, all while ensuring that the interests of justice are served.

Website: http://JudgeMichelleSlaughter.com

A1. There is so much opportunity to improve access to justice with technology. One example is e-filing. With e-filing, courts are much more accessible to the indigent. Online forms and instructions can be developed to allow individuals to create their own court filings and legal documents if they want to represent themselves. In addition, through the use of video chatting apps (i.e. FaceTime), those without transportation can still appear and participate in court without fear of sanctions.

A2. The goal needs to be determining and implementing cost-effective ways to provide justice in criminal cases involving mentally-ill defendants. While punishment is certainly a goal of the criminal justice system, so is rehabilitation. The cycle of criminal activity can only be broken if a defendant can be rehabilitated. Rehabilitation is especially difficult with mentally-ill defendants because the criminal justice system lacks the proper resources. That deficiency must be rectified.

A3. Preserving and protecting an individual’s constitutional rights must be the highest priority in the CCA. As a constitutional conservative judge, my opinions will inform the public of the constitutional issues at hand and my decisions will strictly adhere to the U.S. and Texas Constitutions. Transparency is another priority. Therefore, even if I am in the minority on a decision, I will not be afraid to issue critical dissenting opinions that call attention to constitutional violations.

Mark Ash (L)

Background:
I have been a criminal defense for 25 years. I graduated from UT/El Paso in 1985 and South Texas College of Law in 1992.

Website: http://www.markashfortexas.com

A3. Responsibilities: Protect Civil Liberties. I will uphold the US and Texas Constitutions and improve the quality of life for all Texas by deciding individual cases in an impartial manner based on the law and the facts because everyone’s rights matter.

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.

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

See page 58 for more information about “Voting for Judges in Texas”
Q1. What recent technological developments provide opportunities to improve the state’s indigent defense system in civil and criminal cases?
Q2. Which responsibility of a Justice, Court of Appeals is your highest priority and why?

**JUSTICE, PLACE 2**

**Cindy Olson Bourland (R)**

**Background:**
I attended Southwestern University and The University of Texas School of Law. Prior to being appointed to the Court in 2015, I was in private practice for 20 years and had extensive experience handling various types of cases, some of which resulted in Texas Supreme Court opinions cited throughout Texas.

**Website:** http://www.justicecindybourland.com

**A1.** E-filing has made access to records easier for judges, lawyers, and parties. Our court reviews many appeals wherein the appellant is indigent and has a court-appointed attorney. Because our review of the case cannot begin until we receive the record from the proceedings below, e-transmission of documents means that we can turn to the case more quickly.

**A2.** Giving the cases on our docket a thorough, fair, and impartial review to make sure there were no errors of law in the proceedings below. It is also important to resolve cases as quickly as possible, without sacrificing thoroughness, so that the parties are not waiting for years on an outcome. I never lose sight of the fact that each case we handle (and we handle both civil and criminal appeals) directly impacts the life of someone who lives in our 24-county district, and often all Texans.

**Edward Smith (D)**

**Background:**
I’m a native Texan with a law practice that has spanned multiple jurisdictions. I have clerked with the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara and worked for both large and small personal injury firms representing injured workers and their families. My career has aimed at solving problems with pragmatic solutions.

**Website:** http://www.smithforjustice.com

**A1.** Online legal resources and forms provide an opportunity for low income residents to access tools which were once only available to lawyers. For example, through the Texas State Law Library, many legal guides and form books can now be checked out online. Texas should expand funding for these important resources. However, the state must continue to encourage pro bono representation and fully fund indigent criminal defense, as no online guide can be a complete substitute for access to an attorney.

**A2.** My highest priority is being an impartial justice with a pragmatic and progressive approach to the cases before the court. As someone who has spent much of my career representing injured workers and their families I will bring a diversity of thought to the court that the Texans living within this Court of Appeals district deserve. I will also work with the other justices to ensure the court’s role as a check and balance by giving each case I hear a fair review, and a just decision.

**JUSTICE, PLACE 3**

**Scott Field (R)**

**Background:**
I have served on the Third Court for the past six years and have disposed of over 800 cases under my signature. I have routinely ranked among the top 5 appellate court justices in Texas in terms of efficiency. In addition, the Third Court hears primarily complex civil cases, the types of cases I regularly handled in private practice.

**Website:** http://justicescottfield.com

**A1.** The Court now requires electronic filing, which entails a system that allows anyone at any location to access court documents and records for free. In addition, we have instituted a pro bono program that allows free representation on appeal for those who cannot afford to hire a lawyer.

**A2.** My highest priority as a Justice is to get the law right in every single case, without consideration of the equities, political pressures, or the status of the parties. I must be and have been an impartial arbiter, applying the law faithfully to the facts presented.

**Chari Kelly (D)**

**Background:**
I am a former U.S. Army paratrooper, JAG Officer, and currently am an Assistant District Attorney. I am board certified in criminal law, have served as both a defense attorney and prosecutor, and am a seasoned civil litigator. I am the MADD Prosecutor of the Year, and was selected as the preferred candidate in a non-partisan poll of attorneys.

**Website:** http://www.charikelly.com

**A1.** The implementation of electronic court filings in our judicial system has significantly helped the state’s indigent criminal defense and civil pro bono programs. Now, attorneys can file motions and appeals without the concern that the clerk’s office closes at 5pm. Lawyers can access dockets and serve documents electronically at any time. We need to continue to work to advance these technologies to ensure free access to court records and to increase transparency at all levels of our judiciary.

**A2.** My highest priority as a justice will be the fair and impartial consideration of cases without regard to color, creed, sexual orientation, or religion. I will use my diverse background as a prosecutor, former criminal defense attorney, and veteran to make sure the unique perspectives of each litigant is considered. I will handle every appeal fully, fairly, and timely based on the law and not political pressures. I will work to improve pro bono programs, as everyone should have access to justice.

**JUSTICE, PLACE 5**

**David Puryear (R)**

**Background:**
I am the senior justice on the Third Court and began serving on the court in January of 2001. During my tenure on the court, I have authored well over 2500 opinions. I led all Texas appellate court justices in total opinion production in 2015 and 2016, issuing some 220 opinions in 2016. I also served as a County Court at Law judge from 1991–1998.

**Website:** http://davidpuryear.com

**A1.** The Texas appellate courts have implemented electronic filing of all briefs and documents in all cases. This has resulted in easier, quicker and less costly filings of the documents necessary to process an appeal.

**A2.** My highest priority as a justice on the Court of Appeals is to issue prompt and concise opinions that conform to the rule of law, which includes strict adherence to the constitution, our state laws and case law precedent. There is a saying that “justice delayed is justice denied”. In an effort to deliver timely justice to all litigants, I led all 98 Texas appellate court justices in opinion production in 2011, 2015 and 2016.

**Thomas J. Baker (D)**

**Background:**
I was licensed in May 1984 to practice law in Texas. I served in Navy JAGC 1984–1991. I am a member of the State Bar College of Texas, exceeding continuing legal education standards I was Board-Certified in Family Law in 2010. I have practiced in Central Texas since 1994 as a trial lawyer principally in civil law and in appellate courts.

**Website:** http://thomasbakerforjustice.com

**A1.** The Texas Indigent Defense Commission working with the 24 Texas counties the court serves is key to advancing the state’s indigent defense system. Access to caselaw through the internet for all counsel providing indigent defense is critical to the quality of indigent legal defense. I will attend educational programs to learn and support indigent defense. I have supported pro bono service in private practice and will support advancing indigent defense.

**A2.** My highest priority is to ensure any opinion I write or in which I concur follows state and federal law and the evidence. Quality, not quantity, of a justice’s work is critical to the parties before the court and precedent for our trial courts. The court must provide timely justice. Justice delayed is justice denied. As a justice, I will treat counsel and parties with respect and dignity in my written opinions. I will be fair and impartial to all. I will recuse myself when I should.
STATE 3RD COURT OF APPEALS

Michael “Mike” Toth (R)

Background:
I have dedicated my life to public service. After college, I worked in the White House. After 9/11, I joined the Marines. After serving as an active duty Marine JAG, I worked as an attorney for two federal judges and in the Texas Attorney General’s Office. As an attorney for two federal judges and as an attorney, I have protected Texans, the rule of law and the Constitution.

Website: http://miketothforjustice.com

A1. Access to our judicial system for all Texans, including indigent defendants, needs to be user-friendly. Courts must provide clear guidance and easy-to-follow forms that all parties can complete and file. More communication between trial and appellate courts as to what attorneys are ably representing indigent defendants is crucial. It is also important for the legal profession to find ways to match pro bono appellate attorneys with indigent defendants to ensure effective representation.

A2. The highest responsibility of a Court of Appeals justice is ensuring that the Constitution and the law are interpreted correctly and in line with their original meaning. As a Marine, I took an oath to protect and defend the Constitution. As a judge, I will take a similar oath. Working diligently, and with God’s help, I will strive daily to fulfill my obligations to my fellow citizens and to the Constitution under that oath, as I have faithfully done as a Marine officer and attorney for Texas.

Gisela D. Triana (D)

Background:
For over 23 years, I have served as a Judge at every level of Texas Trial Courts, presiding over both civil and criminal matters. I have been a practicing lawyer in Texas for 30 years, ever since I graduated from the University of Texas School of Law. I am a former prosecutor and have trained attorneys and judges all across Texas.

Website: http://judgetriana.com

A1. Broaden access to DNA testing and broader access to review DNA test results. New technologies like Computer Assisted Real Time Transcription (CART), an initiative done in response to the Americans With Disabilities Act which allows people with hearing and sight disabilities to participate meaningfully in their own court cases.

A2. My first priority is the adherence to the Constitution, the rule of law and its principles. The dispensation of justice towards all parties should be done without regard to status or wealth. Popular opinion should not dictate or influence the administration of justice. A Judge must listen with an open mind and rule with an even hand. I will rely on my 23 years of judicial experience to achieve a fair and impartial result.

Kerry O’Brien (Write-in)

No response

JUDICIAL ORGANIZATION

The Texas court system is made up of a statewide network of trial courts and appellate courts. See http://www.txcourts.gov/media/1442353/court-structure-chart-sept-2018.pdf for a Texas court structure chart.

The state’s two highest courts, the Texas Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals, have both administrative and appellate responsibilities. The Supreme Court is the final court of appeals within Texas for both civil and juvenile cases. 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.

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.

STATE TEXAS SENATE

Q1. What legislation would you support to provide quality public education for all children?

Q2. What changes to Texas gun laws would you support or oppose?

Q3. What are your top three budget priorities for the 2019 Legislative session?

Q4. What other issue do you consider most important and how would you address it?

DISTRICT 5

Charles Schwertner (R)

Background:
Orthopedic surgeon and sixth-generation Texan with a heritage of farming and ranching in Texas. Lives in Georgetown with his wife and three sons.

Education: B.S. UT-Austin, M.D. UTMB-Galveston
Website: http://www.drschwertner.com

A1. We need to educate students as individuals and acknowledge that the same curriculum or educational environment won’t necessarily meet the needs of each individual student. Texas needs an ‘all-of-the-above’ approach to education, which is why I support public schools, private schools, charter schools, or homeschooling. In addition to a robust slate of post-secondary options (including trade and technical education) for those students who choose not to attend college. Fundamentally, I strongly believe that parents deserve to be at the center of any decisions made about their child’s education.

A2. As someone with a deep and abiding respect for the U.S. Constitution, I take the right to bear arms very seriously. As a member of the Texas Senate, I’ve consistently voted to protect the rights of responsible, law-abiding citizens to own a firearm for sport or personal protection. However, like many parents, I want to see practical and realistic measures taken to reduce gun violence and make our schools safer. That’s why next session I plan to work with my colleagues to increase access to mental health screenings and treatment options for all school children in Texas.

A3. As a physician, I believe we need to support and expand our state’s aging mental health system and ensure that all Texans have access to mental health care they need. We also need to do more to ensure that our teachers and public schools have the resources necessary to educate our children and prepare them for future success. Finally, we need to make a concerted effort to shore up the state pension systems for our retired teachers and state employees and ensure that these funds are actuarially sound and sustainable for future retirees.

Meg Walsh (D)

Background:
I am a respected and successful businesswoman and have a clear vision of what Texans need. I have a long history of volunteering for local groups.

Education: University of Massachusetts BS in Fashion Marketing with a Concentration in Business.
Website: http://megwalshfortexas.com

A4. Almost every day I hear from constituents across the district about the nightmare that our property tax system has become. People are literally being taxed out of their homes, which is why we desperately need to provide substantial property tax relief and reform as soon as possible. This next session, the legislature needs to step up, help Texas homeowners, and find real solutions for keeping property taxes low and under control.
Amy Lyons (L)
Background: Amy worked in the health insurance industry prior to becoming a stay-at-home mom to 4 children.
Education: Collin College Western Governors University
Website: http://www.amyfortexasenate.com
A1. Ending STAAR is my main objective for the upcoming legislative session. Each year, STAAR proves its inefficacy in assessing growth in Texas students. With a common sense plan that can both accurately assess growth through each school year, while doubling as a fast-track for special education services, I believe detailed portfolios can provide relief from both the taxpayor burden, as well as the incredible stress placed upon students and teachers. Rather than legislating our teachers and administrators into the ground, I believe our state needs to allow more freedom at the local level.
A2. I would support Constitutional Carry.
A3. 1. Stop Excessive Prison Spending. Texas spends more money on prisons than education for children. Releasing non-violent offenders and encouraging non-profit organizations that provide prison education allows them to contribute to the Texas economy, rather than burdening taxpayers. 2. Ending STAAR, which, according to multiple reports would save $90 million. 3. Eliminate corporate welfare and instead rid our state of excessively restrictive legislation in order to attract businesses organically.
A4. Decriminalizing cannabis is a highly important issue in the 86th legislative session, in which ending its prohibition would naturally free our prisons of many non-violent offenders. I will draft and/or support legislation to end the prohibition of cannabis and expunge the records of those who have been convicted previously. Erasing criminal records from these non-violent offenders will allow more people to obtain gainful employment, providing a positive impact on the Texas economy.

George W. Hindman (R)
Background: Professional Engineer, Inventor, Commercial Pilot and Flight Instructor, AIAA Associate Fellow, former NASA Engineer and City Council candidate.
Education: M.S. Aerospace Engineering, University of Texas at Austin; B.S. Aerospace Engineering, University of Virginia
Website: http://www.VoteHindman.com
A1. Funds for the education of Texas children should be focused on children and teachers and not on administrators and inefficient bureaucracies. The Texas Comptroller has projected a fiscal 2019 surplus of $2.67 billion. I support legislation that aids the educators of intellectually rigorous curriculums and allows for some of the $2.67 billion surplus to be used for education and to lower school property taxes.
A2. I support the Second Amendment and recognize the Texas tradition of gun ownership. I would not support any legislation that would infringe upon the right of law abiding Texans to keep and bear arms. There are existing laws that allow for keeping guns away from persons judged to be dangerous and I support access to mental health services.
A3. The Texas Comptroller has estimated that $110.17 billion in General Revenue related funds are available for general purpose spending for the 2018–19 biennium, resulting in a surplus of $2.67 billion. In general, funding for programs of record should be limited to increases in population and inflation. Furthermore, the state should not saddle local governments with providing new services without providing state funding to cover the costs. The projected 2019 Texas budget surplus should be primarily used for Robin Hood school funding reform.
A4. While campaigning, in has become apparent that protection of religious freedom is a concern of many Texas voters, especially those in minority communities. The need for this protection is evidenced by examples of religious discrimination against African American men. Both Atlanta Fire Chief Kelvin Cochran and Pasadena Public Health Director Dr. Eric Walsh lost their positions for discussing their personal Christian beliefs. I would sponsor legislation that prohibits state and local entities from retaliating against employees for expressing their religious beliefs on their own time.

Kirk Watson (D)
Background: Austin Mayor ‘97–’01; Senate ’07–Present Finance, HHS, Higher Ed, Nominations facilities/Capitol Complex Master Plan committees & Sunset Commission
Education: Texas public school graduate. B.A., Baylor University, magna cum laude. Law degree, Baylor University, cum laude, graduated first in class.
Website: http://www.kirkwatson.com
A1. My three highest priorities would be assuring universal pre-kindergarten, increasing teacher and staff salaries and actually fixing the broken school finance system. I will continue to advocate for diverting money that should go to public schools to private schools through vouchers.
A2. I support universal background checks, red flag protective orders or some other mechanism to ensure people cannot possess guns while they’re in crisis, mandatory reporting of lost or stolen guns and stronger enforcement tools to ensure our existing gun prohibitions are actually followed. I would also support a ban on bump stocks and assault weapons and a safe storage campaign.
A3. 1) Fixing the school finance system, including funding universal pre-k and increased teacher & staff salaries. 2) Properly addressing teacher & state employee pension funds, including addressing the crisis in retired teacher healthcare. 3) Certain health & human services funding, including funds to complete the Austin State Hospital Brain Health System Redesign work to improve brain healthcare in Central TX, involving the entire continuum of brain health; expanding Medicaid; assuring resources for HHSC to increase positive health outcomes for women, children and vulnerable populations.
A4. Last session, I led efforts to strengthen laws to prevent sexual assault & harassment & help survivors. I also led on improving government transparency & accountability by closing loopholes in the Public Information Act. I’ll continue working in these areas. Additionally, serious work needs to be done at HHSC to better provide health care to our vulnerable populations. And we need to improve our state contracting practices.

Micah M. Verlander (L)
No response
**STATE TEXAS SENATE**

**DISTRICT 25**

**Q1.** What would you do to provide and fund an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?

**Q2.** Identify three measures that you would support that reduce gun violence.

**Q3.** What are your top three budget priorities for the 2019 Legislative session?

**Q4.** After publication of the 2020 census, new congressional and state districts will be redrawn. What process do you support to ensure fair representation?

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**Donna Campbell (R)**

No response

**Steven Kling (D)**

**Experience:**
Since graduating from Texas A&M in 1995,
I’ve been in IT for over twenty two years with experience working internationally for both large and small firms. I currently oversee software development operations at Priccio Consulting, a small business that employees over 50 diverse and talented Texans. After 9/11 I put my IT career on hold to enlist.

**Website:** http://klingfortexas.org

**Facebook:** Facebook.com/KlingForTexas

**A1.** Constitutional Amendment requiring the State restore funding to 50% min. It is currently at 31%. Increase taxes on fossil fuels. Up the per-child rate to catch up to inflation and allow each ISD to apply for additional per-child increases based upon special needs and eco-dis

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**STATE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Q1.** What legislation would you support to provide quality public education for all children?

**Q2.** What changes to Texas gun laws would you support or oppose?

**Q3.** What are your top three budget priorities for the 2019 Legislative session?

**Q4.** What other issue do you consider most important and how would you address it?

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**DISTRICT 20**

**Terry M. Wilson (R)**

No response

**Stephen M. Wyman (D)**

**Background:** Marine Geophysical, Corporate Data Centers, Telemetry/Connectivity Design, Installation, Maintain and Customer Support. GISD Substitute Teacher.


**Website:** http://wymanusa.org

**A1.** Universal Pre-K; increased funding for all levels of public education; significantly reduced, or tax payer funded, post secondary tuition.

**A2.** Gun ownership should be regulated in a manner similar to vehicle ownership: Education (classroom and firing range), licensing, registration of guns owned, for-

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**DISTRICT 46**

**Gabriel Nila (R)**

**Background:** I am a Public School Teacher at an alternative education campus. I am also Executive Director of LULAC District XII and active in our community.

**Education:** UT-EI Paso: Bachelors in Multidisciplinary Studies Concordia: Masters in Education (graduation in December 2018)

**Website:** http://gabrielnila.com

**A1.** My top priority is to work to end the School to Prison pipeline. The goal is to reduce mandatory placements for non-violent offenses to an alternative education campus and provide behavioral and family support for our children. In addition, my goal is to submit legislation to help fix the funding of the education system so the State has a larger financial role.

**A2.** I want the federal government to fix the errors that have been identified through the NICS system. In addition, I would support local law enforcement agencies to assist with gun store owners to verify if people selling guns to those stores are the legal owners before the sale can be completed. I am looking at supporting legislation to help students with additional behavioral campus support if they are found be illegally possessing firearms.

**A3.** Making sure that we are properly funding education from the state level, TRS is properly funded, and work to correct the rising property taxes.

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**Sheryl Cole (D)**

**Background:**
I am an attorney and accountant by trade and have a long history of public service. I served on Austin City Council for 10 years and as Mayor Pro Tem.

**Education:** Doctor of Jurisprudence, University of Texas School of Law, 1991. Bachelor of Business Administration, University of Texas at Austin, 1986.

**Website:** http://www.sherylcole.com

**A1.** I will fight for every budget dollar possible for our public education system—we simply have not invested enough for our current population, let alone for growth for the future. I would also support legislation providing for all-day Pre-K and more accessible community colleges, technical, and vocational schools. Lastly, though very important to AISD, I am committed to examining and revising the recapture formula to put an end to the situation where our school
DISTRICT 46

Sheryl Cole (D) (continued)
district is sending half a billion dollars out across the state despite a majority of our students taking free or reduced lunch.

A2. I am committed to working towards common sense solutions to gun violence, like universal background checks, increased age requirements, cooling off periods, and investments in community policing to prevent the violence before it occurs. Our existing background checks must be reinforced, to reduce the odds that a tragedy like Sutherland Springs, where the gunman purchased firearms despite a violent criminal background. Gun violence affects people of every race, gender, creed, and socioeconomic class. I believe we can form a diverse coalition to take direct action to make Texas a safer place.

A3. Public Education, Healthcare, and Affordability. Regarding healthcare, I believe we should expand Medicaid, as those are federal dollars left on the table that would instantly help hundreds of thousands of Texans, but we also need to make our own investments into health and human services, community clinics, and mental healthcare. There is no single lever we can pull to make life more affordable, but I support public investments to reduce the cost of housing, transportation, and other major costs facing Texans in HD 46.

A4. I believe strongly in guaranteeing and protecting our fundamental human, civil, and voting rights. I strongly oppose efforts to pass legislation like the recent SB 6, or ‘bathroom bill,’ and other legislation that discriminates against the LGTBQ community. Likewise, I support the repeal of SB 4, the ‘show me your papers’ law, and other anti-immigrant measures. I would vote in favor of online voter registration, expanded ballot by mail access, and to overturn Voter ID laws. My office will always be an ally to the underserved and oppressed populations of Texas.

Kevin Ludlow (L)

Background:
Kevin Ludlow is a 21-year resident of the City of Austin. He is a small business owner, a community leader and a published author.

Education: Kevin has a degree in mathematics from the University of Texas at Austin. He holds a variety of software and engineering certificates.

Website: http://www.ludlow2016.com

A1. I have spent the better part of my adult life fighting for what I believe to be right. Rarely is this path the easiest, but it is one of passion and conviction. I believe in progressive values; I believe in the freedom of all people to live however they choose to provided they do not harm others. And most importantly, I do not believe that people’s lives should be obstructed in any way by government. I have specifically spent the past six years running for the Texas House of Representatives. I have routinely answered questions like this one honestly and thoughtfully. Now I ask: why?

A2. At the end of the day it simply does not matter. I hold a degree in mathematics from UT Austin and I can say that with absolute mathematical certainty, this does not matter. Mathematically, there is a 0% chance that this race can be determined by anything I say or do. I’ve garnered support in the past beyond my wildest expectations and I’ve done so by speaking honestly and directly to the public. But again, at the end of the day, this does not matter. These elections are pre-determined by the duopoly that owns this country—the Democrats and the Republicans. There is no other voice.

A3. In 2014 I ran for this seat. As a first-time candidate I managed to out-fundraise an opponent who had held the seat for nearly two decades. Despite mounds of evidence in the balance of a federal indictment against said opponent, I was absolutely destroyed in the polls. People did not show up to vote for my opponent, rather they pushed a single digital button that read “Straight Party Vote”. There is absolutely no chance whatsoever that any candidate from outside of the political duopoly can possibly play a role in the Texas legislature under our laws. Mathematically it is NOT possible.

A4. I could spend another year providing readers with concise methods for how I would personally fight for each and every one of these issues. But why? Until we wake to the reality of how the political machine works, of how media drives this duopoly of power, and of how the rules have been engineered to ensure no other voices are actually heard, why should I provide an opinion when those who share it have already been rendered silent by the legislature? Please raise your voice and demand that ALL candidates be allowed to debate. Demand that ALL candidates are heard. That is democracy.

DISTRICT 47

Paul D. Workman (R)

Background:
After serving 10 years in the U.S. Army Reserve, I founded a small, family business which grew to provide hundreds of jobs in Travis County.

Education: B.S. Building Construction, Texas A&M University, 1973

Website: http://www.workmanfortexas.com

A1. First, improving school safety and security is a top priority. I have pledged to fund safety improvements for school districts that decide to add security enhancements to their campuses. Additionally, I support ending the Robin Hood school funding system, which redistributes millions of our tax dollars to other districts outside of Travis County. I have voted to increase funding for public education by billions of dollars, and have secured millions of dollars for our local school districts.

A2. As state representative, I am pledged to uphold the U.S. Constitution, including the Bill of Rights. I do not support measures that infringe upon the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms. I do, however, support increased access to mental health services and exploring red flag laws that balance constitutional rights with the safety of our citizenry. All too often we find out after the fact that a perpetrator of gun violence has a history of mental illness but did not have access to the right kind of care.

A3. Education, transportation, and school safety. Last session, I voted for legislation to increase school funding by nearly $2 billion and begin the process of ending Robin Hood, which redistributes millions of our tax dollars to other schools around the state. I will continue to prioritize public education in the state budget. I am working to secure transportation funding to improve our congested Travis County roads and reduce commute times. I have worked to secure funding for SH 45 SW, the Y at Oak Hill, RM 620 and RM 2222. I will continue to work towards funding for our thoroughfares.

A4. I support property tax relief and voted to require local elections when cities or counties propose a tax increase over 4%. I will continue to work with our state’s leaders to keep taxes low, regulations reasonable, and our civil justice system fair so Texas can remain the strongest economic growth state in America. I will continue to work with LCRA to make sure our lakes maintain a reliable supply of water. I have fought to protect victims of sexual assault by passing laws to prosecute criminals who solicit minors online and teachers who have inappropriate relationships with students.

Vikki Goodwin (D)

Background:
I am broker/owner of Goodwin & Goodwin Real Estate. I have four children in college—all public-school graduates. I am an active community volunteer.


Website: http://www.VoteVikki.com

A1. I support legislation requiring the state to provide at least 50% of public school funding. Recently the TEA submitted a budget request that is $1 billion less than last biennium, with the gap being filled by property tax payers in ‘wealthy’ districts like ours in central Texas. Meanwhile, La Joya built a water park and golf course due to ‘recaptured’ funds. Funding formulas must be updated to provide equity, and overall funding should be increased, with rules that ensure spending on classrooms and teachers and not luxuries. Investing appropriately in education is essential to a vibrant future.

A2. I support a universal background check so guns purchased or traded online, at gun shows, or between two individuals still go through a check to ensure they aren’t inadvertently handed over to criminals, domestic abusers, or mentally unstable people. This would be similar to transferring title of cars. Many gun deaths occur as a result of suicide or accident, so I support measures to encourage safe storage of firearms or devices that allow only the owner to operate. I oppose
Born and raised in about the premises of a portion of the Rainy Day Fund, so we establishing an endowment-type fund for vulnerable populations; and 3) work on ing pre- and post-natal care and our most income level, particularly women need- to ensure people are able to receive the health care they need regardless of income level, particularly women needing pre- and post-natal care and our most vulnerable populations; and 3) work on establishing an endowment-type fund for a portion of the Rainy Day Fund, so we have a true investment, rather than $12B under a mattress.

A4. Health care is one of my highest priorities. Texas has the highest rate of uninsured people, and soaring medical bills are a leading cause of bankruptcy. Expanding Medicaid, as thirty-two other states have done, would bring our tax dollars back to the state allowing more people to have access to the health care they need. I would also restore funding to Planned Parenthood clinics for effective programs such as cancer screenings. Our goal must be to have healthcare provided to every man, woman and child in an efficient manner rather than having uninsured families show up in emergency rooms.

DISTRIC T 48

Donna Howard (D)

Unopposed

DISTRIC T 49

Kyle Austin (R)

Background: Born and raised in South Austin, Kyle has grown up philosophizing and being intrigued about the premises of all ideas.

Education: UTSA, ACC Website: http://kyleaustinforoffice.com/

A1. The only proper role for government is to retaliate against criminals that have infringed upon the rights of its citizens.

The government should not be the arbiter of how education is provided to the citizens of its nation. The most effective way to provide the best education is to allow the free market to provide that service. A2. I would support a complete update to property rights. I believe all individuals should have the freedom to produce, own, trade, and operate property of any kind so long as they don’t infringe upon the rights of others. Producing, owning, and trading guns don’t infringe upon the rights of anyone. Using a gun also doesn’t always infringe upon the rights of others. But, even if a gun is used in a crime that infringes upon the rights of others, the gun isn’t what should be illegal… It is the action which infringed upon the rights of the other individual that should be illegal.

A3. 1. Cut regulations to give individuals the freedom to produce, trade, and earn to the best of their ability. 2. Cut taxes to allow individuals the ability to maintain their natural rights to their own property and the fruits of their labor. 3. Cut government spending with a goal of moving towards a properly functioning government.

A4. Property rights. It is clear that Americans do not have property rights currently and I would like to make the necessary changes to implement property rights as they are individual rights of all humans. I would like to see a government that respects individual rights, which includes property rights, by making it legal to produce, own, earn, trade, and use all property so long as their actions don’t infringe upon the rights of others.

Gina Hinojosa (D)

Background: Current State Representative for House District 49, served as Austin ISD School Board President. Attorney for social justice organizations; community

Education: B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin, Plan II Honors/Government degree. Law degree from George Washington University Law School, Washington. Website: http://www.ginaraforaustin.com

A1. Raising the State share of the funding for public ed and increasing the base funding (basic allotment) for every student in the state so all students have the resources they need to meet their full potential. Also, amendments to the school accountability structure so that it is more fair. Currently, schools with greater challenges are being unfairly compared to dissimilar schools and penalized for educating children with greater needs. In addition, more resources are needed for wrap-around services and mental health counselors to fully realize the benefits of a “community schools” model.

A2. There are several laws the TX Legislature could pass that would protect us from further violence and wouldn’t infringe upon the rights of law abiding gun owners. These include universal background checks, directing DPS and DSHS to conduct public ed on safe gun storage and suicide prevention, require surrender of firearms by convicted domestic abusers, require reporting of stolen guns and create lethal violence protective orders to allow courts to temporarily prohibit people at high risk of harming themselves or others from firearm possession.

A3. 1. Equitably funding our public school system. 2. Fully funding women’s healthcare so any woman in Texas can receive the healthcare she decides is the best decision for her body. 3. Fully funding healthcare at an affordable rate for our most vulnerable populations—children, individuals with disabilities and the elderly.

A4. Full participation in our democracy is important to me and I plan on filing legislation next session requiring universities of a certain size to have a polling place on campus. Also, removing barriers for elected office so that more people can step up to lead. Currently, House members are not paid a salary which is a barrier for most Texans to serve. My bill would provide a salary for all future members of the TX House (not current legislators) pegged at that of the average teachers’ salary. This compensation would include tying a legislator’s retirement to the Teacher’s Retirement System.

DISTRIC T 50

Celia Israel (D)

Unopposed

DISTRIC T 51

Eddie Rodriguez (D)

Unopposed

DISTRIC T 52

Cynthia Flores (R)

Background: Wife and mother of two. Has lived in Round Rock for 20 years. Parishioner of St. William Catholic Church

Education: University of North Texas, BS Rehabilitation Studies Minors: Spanish, Communication Disorders

Website: http://www.cynthi flor es52.com

A1. I support increasing the state share of education funding, reducing our reliance on property taxes. I advocate for reducing standardized tests, knowing parents evaluate schools on a variety of measures. I would rather evaluate schools based on individual student progress. I also support investing new resources in reading, math, and all STEM subjects.

A2. I support Governor Abbott’s plan, which would make our schools safer, and invest new resources in mental health. I do believe in the fundamental right of law-abiding citizens to own firearms and protect themselves from harm.

A3. Education is my top budget priority—both public education and higher education—because a quality education opens the door to a lifetime of opportunity. I will also prioritize investments in health care, including mental health, and have 30 years of experience working in the health and human services fields. We must also prioritize criminal justice, including dedicating resources to stopping human trafficking of women and children.

A4. We have to protect the Texas business climate, that creates jobs and income for families, and that helps fund vital services without raising taxes. As a leader in the Round Rock Chamber, I know how vital it is that we invest in better roads and infrastructure, improve career and technology education and keep taxes low and regulations fair in order to maintain our competitive edge.

James Talarico (D)

Background: James is a Round Rock native and community leader. He taught middle school before lead-
A1. As a former public school teacher, I understand what goes into educating the next generation. I’ve put education front-and-center in this campaign and will do so in the Legislature. My first priority for education is to overhaul our unconstitutional school financing system top-to-bottom. I believe that we need to return to, at minimum, pre-2011 levels of funding for our schools. We need to incorporate more technology in our classroom, reduce our reliance on standardized testing, and ensure adequate funding to more than just core subjects, such as the arts, athletics, and extra-curriculars.

A2. I support common-sense gun safety measures. That means universal background checks, strengthening wait periods, and restricting weapons of war. Further, we need to prevent those with a history of violence from accessing firearms. This means prioritizing gun violence prevention. While laws banning domestic abusers from having weapons are codified, they are poorly enforced and don’t go nearly far enough. As an educator, I will work across the political aisle to protect our schools from this gun violence epidemic, while opposing any attempt to our arm our teachers.

A3. Fixing our school finance system is my top policy priority. Our state has underfunded public schools, leaving local taxpayers to pick up the tab. I will work to properly fund schools and relieve taxpayers. Secondly, families in Williamson County are being squeezed by healthcare costs. We need to expand affordable care, starting with Medicaid expansion, and defend access to women’s healthcare. Finally, Texas has wrestled control away from local city councils and governments to impose extreme agendas on Texans. We need a legislator who will defend local control, not impose a radical agenda.

A4. We need to address voter suppression and gerrymandering. Voter ID laws are the newest attempt in a long history of voter suppression efforts. I oppose any effort to make voting more difficult, including reducing early voting periods and limiting the approved forms of valid ID. I support making voting as accessible as possible, including online registration and making election day a holiday. In addition, electoral lines need to be drawn independently. The only way to do this is with a non-partisan commission, tasked with creating fair districts that no longer disenfranchise Texans.

A1. During my tenure in the House I’ve always voted to increase education funding to ensure our students and teachers are resourced to carry out their mission. I currently have one daughter in Leander ISD and my oldest daughter recently graduated from LISD. I am committed to ensuring that our students are prepared upon graduation for the workforce, for college or the military. In addition to funding I’ve passed bills to stop inappropriate student/teacher relationships. I intend to file legislation next session to strengthen child protection.

A2. Following recent school shootings I reviewed the Texas safe firearms storage law. I believe current law should be strengthened. Under current law a “child” is a person younger than 17 years old. This should be changed to 18. Currently if an owner does not secure a firearm and a minor gets access and causes death or serious bodily injury the gun owner is subject to a Class C misdemeanor. I would change that to a 3rd degree felony. This could potentially include an enhanced penalty if the firearm is brought to a school or if the access is the result of knowing or reckless conduct by a parent.


A4. I will file legislation to address the failure to report child abuse and to ensure that civil non-disclosure agreements cannot be used to hide a criminal act such as child molestation. *Portion of response removed; did not meet criteria.*

John H Bucy III (D)
Background: Small biz owner serving 200,000 public school students in athletic, academic, & arts competitions. Former chair WilCo Dem Party. Central Texas Native.
Education: Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts, major in History from Austin College
Website: [http://www. BucyForTexas.com](http://www.BucyForTexas.com)

A1. We must increase the state’s share of funding to at least 50 percent, which will improve the quality of our classrooms and help retain skilled education professionals. We also need to ensure our class sizes are reduced to pre-budget cut levels and that our classrooms are modern and fully supplied. In addition, we must move away from high stakes testing and focus on teaching and preparing our students to enter the workforce or continue their education. I will oppose voucher schemes.

Last, we must reform our school funding method so that it is not overly burdensome on local property tax payers.

A2. We need common sense gun control that respects the 2nd Amendment while keeping our communities safe. I support closing the gun show loophole and implementing red flag laws. I oppose open carry of handguns as well as the idea that we should have guns in schools, government buildings, hospitals, bars, or similar.

A3. My first priority is to increase public education funding to account for inflation and enrollment increases instead of passing those costs off to the local taxpayers. We also need to fund pre-K and special education instead of giving our school districts more unfunded mandates. My second priority would be to expand Medicaid, which would provide millions of Texans with health insurance, add billions of dollars back into the Texas economy, and lower all of our insurance premiums. My third priority would be to expand programs that address maternal mortality, mental health services, and childcare.

A4. Little progress is possible until we restore a culture of civility and a mindset that we need to work as partners, not antagonists. I want to be a leader in working across the aisle and bringing people to the table to seek innovative solutions to the problems we face. By working with our cities, counties, school boards, and other local jurisdictions to ensure core needs and services are being met for constituents, we can maximize our tax dollars and be more fiscally responsible.

Last, we must respect local control and not hamstring or circumvent our local communities in their decision-making.

Zach Parks (L)
Background: I grew up as a home-schooler in a Conservative family. My Father was an Army Officer and business manager.

We moved a lot, but I learned much too.


A1. I do not believe that education should be a function of the State. If our government can’t even launch a proper healthcare website why would we trust them with our children’s future? I would like to see the repeal of Article 7, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution so we can replace our public school system with a free-market for education. This would be both better for our children, since learning could be customized to each child, and it would actually be less expensive and easier for families to afford.

A2. Given that criminals will never be stopped by legislation, I believe that all gun regulations should be repealed and we should instead focus on simply enforcing our laws against violent crime.

A3. My only budget priority would be cutting government taxes and spending as often and in as many places as possible. As for three specific areas this could be done, 1.) Privatize education, which accounts for half of our State budget. 2.) Privatize Health and Human Services, the same way other countries gave privatized Social Security (Chile, for example). 3.) Legalize Marijuana and drastically cut the need for law enforcement spending. These three areas alone account for over 80% of our State’s budget.

A4. Texas independence, I would vote in favor of breaking away from the United States and becoming our own country.
LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

147TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Cliff Brown (D) Unopposed

299TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Karen Sage (D) Unopposed

331ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Chantal Melissa Eldridge (D) Unopposed

403RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Brenda P. Kennedy (D) Unopposed

CIVIL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

201ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Amy Clark Meachum (D) Unopposed

250TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Karin Crump (D) Unopposed

261ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Lora J. Livingston (D) Unopposed

419TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Catherine A. Mauzy (D) Unopposed

459TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Maya Guerra Gamble (D) Unopposed

COUNTY JUDGE

Sarah Eckhardt (D) Unopposed

JUDGE, COUNTY COURT AT LAW

NO. 1
Todd T. Wong (D) Unopposed

NO. 2
Eric Montgomery Shepperd (D) Unopposed

NO. 3
John Lipscombe (D) Unopposed

NO. 4
Mike Denton (D) Unopposed

NO. 5
Nancy Hohengarten (D) Unopposed

NO. 6
Brandy Mueller (D) Unopposed

NO. 7
Elisabeth Earle (D) Unopposed

DISTRICT CLERK

Velva L. Price (D) Unopposed

COUNTY CLERK

Q1. What do you consider to be the most important responsibility of a County Clerk?
Q2. How would you manage the elections process to ensure election security?
Q3. If elected, what do you hope to accomplish during your term of office?
Q4. What other issue do you consider most important and how would you address it?

 Dana DeBeauvoir (D) No response

 Erica Lockwood (L) No response

COUNTY TREASURER

Dolores Ortega Carter (D)
Unopposed

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

PRECINCT 2
Brigid Shea (D)
Unopposed

PRECINCT 4
Margaret J. Gomez (D)
Unopposed

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Q1. Explain why you would make a fair and impartial Justice of the Peace?
Q2. What are the resource needs of the office of Justice of the Peace?
Q3. How will you improve the services of the Justice of the Peace?

 PRECINCT 1
Yvonne Michelle Williams (D)
No response

Eric Guerra (L)

Background:
Chair of the Travis County Libertarian Party. Political Director for the Libertarian Party of Texas. Candidate for Travis County Sheriff in 2016.

Education: University of Texas B.A. Government

A1. I believe it is the duty of the Justice of the Peace to represent all people in their District. They need to have the courage to recognize and rectify an injustice brought before them. Just because something is a law, does not make it just. I have the courage to make that distinction when necessary and to rule accordingly. One does not need a law degree or to serve as a lawyer to understand what is just and to represent their District accordingly.
A2. As limited and efficient as possible. The Justice of the Peace is there to serve the people, not be a large tax burden with inflated costs due to inefficiency. Administrative costs should be streamlined and kept to a minimum. Taxpayers have no choice in their money being taken from them, but they have a right to see that the money is spent correctly and no more is taken from them than is necessary.
A3. I will streamline administrative duties and cut waste where ever it exists. I will not waste time tying up the court, and will ensure the Constables are aware of the level of discretion I expect of them. I will not waste tax payer money on hearings of victimless crimes.

 PRECINCT 2
Chris Soileau (R)
No response

LWV VISION STATEMENT
We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

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Randall Slagle (D)

**Background:**
Born and raised in Austin, Texas, I spent most of my life in Precinct 2. My wife and I raise our 5-year-old son in the same neighborhood I grew up in.

**Education:** South Texas College of Law, Juris Doctor, December 2005. The University of Texas at Austin, Bachelor of Business Administration, May 2003.

**Website:** http://randallslage.com

**A1.** JP 2 requires a judge who is well-trained in the law and will treat people fairly. In addition to serving as your JP over the past 4 years, I am a licensed attorney of 12 years, I served as a prosecutor for 8 years, and I am a member of the Texas Justice Court Training Center teaching faculty tasked with training the justice court judges across the state. These experiences have helped to create an environment in which all people are able to receive their fair day in court at JP 2. I am committed to ensuring that all members of the community are treated with dignity and have access to justice.

**A2.** JP 2 is the largest and most diverse justice court in Travis County. Due to the geographic size of the precinct, and our court having the greatest number of case filings, ensuring that the community has access to the court at all times is a top priority. We have hired a staff that is over 50% bilingual to meet the needs of our diverse community. We send all of our staff members to legal training to ensure that they are the most experienced and knowledgeable in handling all court duties. We also strive to make as many services available online as possible, saving time and resources.

**A3.** Over the past 4 years, JP 2 has become one of the most efficient justice courts in Texas. We created the first paper-on-demand court in Travis County, we streamlined all processes, and created a system in which civil lawsuits can be filed online. JP 2 recently became the first justice court in the country to offer online dispute resolution in which members of the community can resolve their cases outside of the courtroom, avoiding the burden of securing transportation and taking time off of work. We will continue expanding online dispute resolution with the goal of greater access to justice.

**Christopher David (L)**

**Background:**
Christopher David “Chris” started his professional career in Information Technology and picked up a law license along the way.

**Education:** South Texas College of Law, J.D.

**Website:** http://christopherdavidforjp.com

**A1.** With my past experience representing both civil and criminal defendants, I’ve seen both innocent and guilty, right and wrong. I’ve seen folks found at the wrong place or time brought into the judicial system unprepared and scared of what was happening around them. This experience has created an empathy and desire in me to make this process understandable for those brought into this system for both civil and criminal issues. It is lost on some judges that deciding an issue before the court for many is potentially life altering and the most pressing issue in this person’s life at that time.

**A2.** While I could speculate on the resource needs of the office, I need the experience of office to determine what is necessary. As with most issues, listening and learning are often more important than a brush but incorrect assumptive action.

**A3.** The 2nd Precinct JP Court has made a significant push to bring many services of the Court online during the past few years. This is an admirable endeavor and with my background in IT and IT security, I’ll look for ways to secure the IT system in place which hold sensitive public information that many must provide without choice. While focusing on securing our private information, I will continue to expand upon this endeavor of modernization to ease public interaction with my JP Court and keep costs low.

**Precinct 3**

**Martin Harry (R)**

**Background:**

**Sylvia Holmes (D)**

**Background:**
Associate Director, Legal Services for Students, The University of Texas at Austin—9 years Law Office of Sylvia Holmes—4 years

**Website:** http://martinharryforjustice.com

**A1.** My legal work is evidence of my commitment to the uniform application of the law without bias or prejudice. I am the only candidate who is dedicated to impartiality and nondiscrimination: I will not show favoritism toward lawyers and their clients over unrepresented parties. I am the only candidate abiding by a higher ethical standard by refusing money from lawyers who expect to practice in justice court and their law firms. Also, because the justice of the peace is a judicial office, political neutrality must be observed. I reject the use of this judicial office to promote personal politics.

**A2.** I believe in the concept of continuous improvement. Upon taking the oath of office, I will begin a review of office procedures and practices to evaluate their cost-effectiveness. I will have a fiduciary obligation to protect taxpayer dollars from waste, fraud and abuse. Many factors affect the needs of the office such as the caliber of employees, available technology and pending changes in the law. Additionally, much work of the justice of the peace is interdependent with other county officials and any changes may require their cooperation. Security is one particular area of concern.

**A3.** The historical role of a justice of the peace has been as a ‘keeper of the peace.’ My campaign, in part, strives to educate voters about what is a justice of the peace and to raise awareness of matters within the jurisdiction of the office such as animal protection. I will continue these efforts. The objective is to prevent breaches of the peace wherever possible as opposed to remedying them after the fact. Further, the subject of ethics has been a centerpiece of my campaign. We must raise the standard by demanding fidelity to the rule of law and higher ethics regardless of party affiliation.

**Precinct 4**

**Raúl Arturo González (D)**

Unopposed

**Precinct 5**

**Nick Chu**

Unopposed
**LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY**

**COUNTY JUDGE**

**Q1.** What are the transportation issues in your county and how do you plan to address them?

**Q2.** What are the health and human services issues in your county and how would you address them?

**Q3.** Because counties do not have zoning authority, how do you plan to address growth issues in the unincorporated areas of your county?

**Q4.** What do you consider to be the most important responsibility of a County Judge?

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**Bill Gravell (R)**

**Background:** Judge Bill Gravell is a community leader and lifelong resident of Williamson County. Named "Texas Judge of the Year in 2017.

**Education:** Round Rock High School (Class of 1982) B.S. University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

**Website:** http://www.billforjudge.com

**A1.** The Williamson County Commissioners Court has developed a 50-year plan for addressing the transportation needs of our community. Our next County Judge needs to have the vision and foresight to stay on top of the growing transportation needs of this community and ensure that it’s residents have the ability to move freely throughout Williamson County and the Central Texas region.

**A2.** Even before my time public office, I've believed that protecting vulnerable children is perhaps the single most important responsibility of our elected officials. That’s why I’m proud to have worked with state and local leaders to increase resources for Child Protective Services (CPS) and make sure that all Texas children are protected from abuse and neglect.

**A3.** Our next County Judge needs to be able to manage the considerable growth we’ve experienced here in Central Texas, while still ensuring that the rights of homeowners and property owners are respected. That means being judicious with taxpayer funds, standing on the side of property owners when it comes to the use of eminent domain, and doing everything possible to keep taxes low and under control.

**A4.** As our next Williamson County Judge, my main priorities will be keeping our community safe, enforcing our laws so Williamson County doesn’t become a sanctuary for illegal immigration, keeping property taxes as low as possible, safeguarding children from abuse and neglect, and making sure that our veterans have the resources and respect they deserve.

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**Blane Conklin (D)**

**Background:** Coordinate benefits and insurance for 125,000 employees across the state in a $1.3 billion plan. Commissioner, RR Historic Preservation Commission

**Education:** PhD, University of Chicago

**Website:** http://www.blaneconklin.com

**A1.** The biggest challenge facing Williamson County is our dramatic growth, and how to be intelligent in preparing for it. Our mobility and transportation needs are regional challenges, and we must work more closely with our regional partners to come up with ways to deal with those needs. Our set of solutions should not be limited to just roads and bridges, but light rail and other mass transit solutions should be considered. County government does not cause growth and development, but it is responsible for preparing for that growth by making sure we have the infrastructure in place to handle it.

**A2.** We are experiencing a growing mental and behavioral health crisis. One of the unsung heroes of this effort is the Mobile Outreach Team. The MOT responds to calls for people experiencing a mental or behavioral health crisis. Their work not only saves lives, it makes economic sense by keeping someone out of jail or the ER, which often costs the county. Another major issue is access to health care in the eastern part of the county. WilCo needs to work closely with and provide support to the network of public, private, and non-profit organizations working to address this problem.

**A3.** I am for smart development that respects property rights, provides opportunities for all, and preserves the unique beauty and character of our county. Counties have extensive permitting and regulating authority. I would like to see WilCo use this authority to direct development away from areas that are prone to flooding, or that have significant agricultural value, for example. The county must ensure that water resources, emergency services, and transportation infrastructure is in place, and that developers help share in the burden of the cost for those improvements.

**A4.** The County Judge’s most important responsibility is to fairly represent all citizens with accountability, transparency, and honesty. The issues that face Williamson County are not partisan issues. They are about the quality of life we want for our children and grandchildren. Williamson County needs an executive who can who can reach across political and cultural divides, build consensus, and make the tough decisions for the people of this county. I bring the background, education, experience, and temperament to represent all the citizens of Williamson County in a fair and reasonable way.

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**William (Bill) Kelberlau (I)**

**Background:** Mfg Eng Fin Trng Consultant Chair Dir Pres CAPT USN Bdgt SB Strg Plan Church Ldr, missionary Rotary ESD Comm/Treas Farm 6th gen Tex Patents Trusted

**Education:** BS PAU-Chem-Math m EE MS SMU:Eng Mgt LAW, computer science NCIS sp agnt, Attache Senior Cmd Mgt AOCs A1 OOD UCMJ EW NUC Wep crypto TS-SCI CNWDI SIOP

**Website:** http://facebook.com/billkelberlau

**A1.** The current transportation plan started with a TXDOT CAMPO Road Plan adopted by Comm Court in 1999. A comprehensive analysis needs to be done for WilCo to determine after 20 years are we pursuing the right path for WilCo citizens? What corrections if any are needed? WilCo taxpayers are suffering under a massive debtload, highest Per Capita in TX. A parallel analysis needs to create an affordability strategy/plan. Put an end to citizens selling because of the tax burden. WilCo citizens for many years have experienced compounding tax increases that is dwarfing their increases in income.

**A2.** WilCo has been passing piecemeal orders & programs that are not in sync with a WilCo citizen strategic plan. WilCo needs to adopt a mission statement that is focused on citizens, veterans, doctor-patient optimization and engaging community resources allowing affordable and efficient delivery. My father in law was a doctor, I am a scientist by education, I was a customer service manager that solved issues at the national level and I understand the team that needs to be formed to generate a comprehensive WilCo solution engaging doctor, city, county, and State Representatives.

**A3.** The over simplification of the zoning question is not in sync with today’s operating reality. Home rule cities ETJ authority with building codes, fire codes, ordinances and more. There are MUDs, SUDs, ESDs housing authorities and other jurisdictions with taxing and ordinance authority. Add in TCEQ and other Texas Agencies. Who owns the unincorporated areas and yes what about the citizens? Not to mention property ownership and Constitutional rights. My proven experience managing national operations in both military and industry will benefit this challenging environment and decision making.

**A4.** Citizens health, safety, Liberty and Posterity. Not just physical but fiscal and mental. Daily challenges come and go but what about a major event? What would WilCo do if the Texas GRID went down for a couple of weeks? Imagine just two weeks without electricity statewide. As a former ESD Commissioner, a current INFRAGARD member working with Texas Public Policy Foundation I have had this discussion with many legislators. This and other issues, we have to acknowledge the elephants in the room and deal with them. No more kicking the can down the road. Citizens fiscal health is priority one.

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**DISTRICT JUDGES**

**277TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**Stacey Mathews (R)**

Unopposed

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**368TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**Rick Kennon (R)**

Unopposed
**LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY**

**JUDGE, COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW**

**Q1.** Explain why you would make a fair and impartial judge.

**Q2.** Explain how this office is important to your constituents and what your plans are for improvement.

**Q3.** How would you handle a situation where an attorney appearing before your court is inadequately representing her/his client?

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**NO. 1**

**Brandy Hallford (R)**

**Background:** I am honored to serve as judge of this court. I have 21 years of experience as a former prosecutor, Criminal Div. Chief and in private legal practice.

**Education:** I obtained a Bachelor of Liberal Arts in 1992 from The University of Texas at Austin, and a Juris Doctor in 1996 from St. Mary’s School of Law.

**Website:** [http://www.brandyforjudge.com](http://www.brandyforjudge.com)

**A1.** Prior to serving as judge, I was a litigating attorney throughout my 21 year legal career. I gained experience on both sides of a case which gives me a well-rounded perspective on the law and the needs of people. I have been a prosecutor and defense attorney, represented individuals in family law matters and represented the State, parents and children in Child Protective Services’ cases. I know the importance of people having their voices heard, the law being followed, treating people with respect and having a level playing field for all who find themselves in the judicial system.

**A2.** Williamson County citizens have a vested interest in our children. As the judge of this court, I handle criminal, family and a substantial portion of the Child Protective Services’ cases. I have extensive experience in each of these areas. I dedicated my legal career to representing abused and neglected children and am well-versed by having represented the State and parents. Children are vulnerable, and they need a judge who understands how rulings impact their future. I am dedicated to developing an assistance program for children aging out of the Child Protective Services’ system of care.

**A3.** The role of a judge is to be an impartial decision-maker in the pursuit of justice. If an individual has a court-appointed attorney who is inadequately representing a client, I would substitute another attorney on the case. Alternatively, if the trial produced an unjust result based on the deficiencies of the trial attorney, upon request, I would appoint a skillful appellate attorney to review the case to determine if there was a basis for ineffective assistance of trial counsel. The attorney could then file the necessary pleadings to obtain a new trial and vacate the judgment/conviction.

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**Don Morehart (D)**

**Background:** Fighting for Justice for 30 years.

**Education:** Juris Doctorate, 1987, Texas Tech University School of Law. B.A. 1985, Texas Wesleyan University.

**Website:** [http://DonMorehartForJudge.com](http://DonMorehartForJudge.com)

**A1.** I have professional and personal experience in all aspects of the work of the County Court at Law. I have fought to protect children in Family Court cases. I have battled against prosecutorial and judicial misconduct and, for this, I have been maliciously persecuted by prosecutors and judges. I know the emotional and financial turmoil of frivolous and malicious litigation. As a crime victim, I have seen how the system neglects victim’s rights. These professional and personal experiences give me a unique perspective, and insight into each side of every case in this Court.

**A2.** Regular folks are more likely to find themselves with real problems in this court then any other. Presently, it takes too long for litigants to have their day in court, because the Court is not focused on its mission of resolving disputes. Too much time is wasted. Justice delayed is Justice denied. I will redirect the focus of the court to the most serious cases and repeat offenders. I will insist that cases be resolved in a timely manner. I will schedule cases so that litigants are not waiting for hours on end and then sent away without being heard.

**A3.** The Judge must understand that, sometimes, the lawyers may know things about their case that they don’t want the Court to know. The Judge must balance the Court’s obligation to determine the true facts with the prohibition against providing legal advice to litigants. The Judge must conduct the Court’s business in accordance with the Rules of Judicial Conduct. When a party is clearly being neglected by an attorney, the Court should direct remedial action in the case and report the offending attorney to the State Bar of Texas if professional misconduct is suspected.

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**COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

**Q1.** What are the transportation issues in your county and how do you plan to address them?

**Q2.** What are the health and human services issues in your county and how would you address them?

**Q3.** Because counties do not have zoning authority, how do you plan to address growth issues in the unincorporated areas of your county?

**Q4.** What do you consider to be the most important responsibility of a County Commissioner?

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**PRECINCT 2**

**Cynthia Long (R)**

**Background:** Native Texan, wife, mother, transportation leader. Former small business owner, city council & planning commission. Church & community volunteer.

**Education:** BBA, Business Analysis-Texas A&M University. Numerous continuing education classes in county government, leadership, management, and transportation.

**Website:** [http://www.cynthialong.com](http://www.cynthialong.com)

**A1.** Williamson County voters have told us to stay ahead of the congestion by overwhelmingly voting yes for multiple transportation bonds. In response, I have led the charge to design a county transportation plan that addresses the explosive growth in Williamson County and we are delivering on that plan. We have built almost 300 lane miles of new roads and made improvements to 221 more. As a leader on CAMPO, I have brought millions of State and Federal transportation dollars to the County, keeping Wilco taxpayers from having to foot the whole bill for the improvements.

**A2.** Partnership is key to addressing these issues. Government can’t and shouldn’t do it all. We are blessed with a vibrant non-profit and faith community that the county and other governmental entities partner with to address many of the health and human service needs. The collaborative approach has proven to be effective as we tackle the challenges. Needs are being met for domestic violence and other assault victims, foster children, veterans, abused seniors, individuals with mental health needs, among others. We have made great strides while acknowledging there is still more to do.

**A3.** As a strong supporter of private property rights, I believe that government must respect those rights as government chooses how and what it regulates. The legislature has given counties some authority regarding how subdivisions are...
Kasey Redus (D)

Background: Moved to Cedar Park 7 years ago when I bought a preschool. Before that I taught special education in residential treatment centers.

Education: Graduated from university of Colorado w BA in Spanish literature Got teaching certificate through Huston-Tillotson.

Website: http://www.kaseyredusforwilco.com

A1. Williamson County needs to plan ahead of its own growth and work well with our partners throughout the region. All modes of transportation must be considered, not just more roads, because we are quickly getting to the point, especially in Precinct 2, that we are no longer going to have the room to double our pavement with the doubling of our population. We need to appoint new representatives for our transportation boards who will show up to the meetings and work with other counties to stay ahead of traffic problems.

A2. Mental Health is the number one health issue in our county and we need to address this head on. We have an award-winning department that handles mental health situations—the Mobile Outreach Team (MOT). They are especially adept at crisis situations. This department has recently been stripped of their overnight staff and I plan to bring the night shift back and help this team get the resources they need. The school districts rely heavily on these trained professionals, and we need to have the ability to help every student, especially in the current times.

A3. Any plan for growth in unincorporated areas of our county must begin with a coordinated partnership with the area’s city and school district governing bodies. Many elements must be considered including: Is there enough water to go around for all those new rooftops and businesses? Will there be a safe place to locate a school away from cars that travel at high speeds on certain roads? Is there enough infrastructure built—roads, water lines, etc.—to handle the influx of growth? 1st Responders must also be a part of the conversation. More growth means more pressure on our emergency services

A4. Overseeing the county budget is the most important responsibility of the County Commissioner. In order to distribute our tax dollars as efficiently and responsibly as possible in a non-biased manner, the County Commissioner should be able to listen attentively to county employees’ needs, analyze data presented, and understand county operations. Paramount to this, is creating and maintaining a trusting relationship with all residents and county departments.

PRECINCT 4

Russ Boles (R)

Background: Husband, Father, Small Businessman that been working for the community for more than 45 years to make it a great place. YMCA, Relay For Life, …

Education: Product of RRISD (Round Rock High School) / BBA Southwest Texas State (Texas State) / JD St. Mary’s School of Law

Website: http://voterrussboles.com

A1. As Williamson County continues to grow, greater strains are placed on existing roads. This affects not only basic citizen mobility but core services including first responders and ISD school bus routes. I want to meet and address those issues by having our roads keep pace with growth, including focusing and improving key bottleneck intersections such as Red Bud Lane & Gattis School Road (Round Rock), FM 1660 & Limmer Loop (Hutto) and Hwy 79 & CR 110. A2. As our population lives longer, the number of citizens in need of mental health care will continue to increase. Often people who do not receive the help they need end up on the streets or in county jail facilities. Having been a court appointed mental health advocate, I know there is real opportunity to have mental health professionals (outreach teams) meet people in need at their homes and timely give them the help they need, keeping them in their homes.

A3. As the unincorporated areas in Williamson County grow I will focus on core county services, making sure existing roads are maintained, EMS and fire stations are properly staffed and that law enforcement has the tools and training they need to keep us safe. I am committed to requiring developers follow the county and state construction codes to ensure quality developments.

A4. The County Commissioner needs to listen and respond to the citizens’ needs. To have a clear understanding of the direction the County is headed and address the needs of growth before they become problems. To keep our community and families safe. To work as a team with the cities and schools districts to maximize the tax payer’s dollar. To love Williamson County and its amazing people, recognizing it for the great place it is.

Carlos Salinas (D)

Background: 2005–14 Round Rock City Council, Mayor Pro Tem; Corporate leadership and management experience; broad community contribution including school issues

Education: Western Michigan University BBA Accounting Major/Business Management Minor; Insurance Industry Professional Designations

Website: http://www.salinas4wilco.com

A1. The mobility of a population soon to be twice its current size will require a collaborative solution. East/West/North/South corridors/arterials are necessary proactive measures but these have to be planned in a way that recognizes the significant differences that exist from one end of the county to the other. The intersection of towns/cities and agricultural interests demand a county wide strategic plan that coalesces the housing and economic growth of cities and towns with the preservation of natural resources and agricultural economies. I will advocate for a county wide strategic vision.

A2. Although Williamson County has been recognized as the second healthiest place to live in Texas we do have issues in need of attention. WILCO Wellness Alliance working in conjunction with Williamson County and Cities Health District list Mental Health, Access to Health Care, Resource Awareness, Active Living and Chronic Disease as the top county health issues. I have developed a strong interest in their work and will be a strong advocate for their community engagement work particularly as they address these top health issues and the impact on our aging population.

A3. I will advocate for consideration of a county wide comprehensive strategic plan that could offer a shared vision of our future. At least one Texas county is exploring this approach and it’s an exercise meriting some consideration for Williamson County. The fast pace of unincorporated area growth and its future impact on unincorporated areas requires we consider how we could better manage our shared future. Recognizing a county’s lack of land use control, this plan could explore probable discussion and planning opportunities in incorporated areas and how these may impact unincorporated areas.

A4. Ensuring county matters are viewed with a Families First Politics Aside approach is the most important responsibility I’d embrace. East Williamson County residents view a disconnection with elected leadership as a growing concern particularly as growth overcomes this area. They feel a disconnection with decisions that impact daily lives. Political polarization and tribalism exacerbate this concern and heighten the need for elected leadership to work harder to demonstrate decisions are driven not by political agendas but by the needs of resident families. I’ll work hard to demonstrate that.
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Q1. Explain why you would make a fair and impartial Justice of the Peace?
Q2. What are the resource needs of the office of Justice of the Peace?
Q3. How will you improve the services of the Justice of the Peace?

PRECINCT 1

Dain Johnson (R)
Education: Round Rock High, Round Rock, 1990 Concordia University, Austin, 1994 & 1995
Website: http://dainjohnson.com
A1. I have found three aspects helpful to maintain a fair and impartial setting in the courtroom. First, a judge should maintain a neutral mindset. Although both parties are passionate about their positions; their passions are not the overriding factors in the facts of the case. Secondly, a judge must allow both sides to tell their side of the story. By allowing both parties to tell their side a judge minimizes the ‘I was denied my day in court.’ The final aspect for the judge is to refrain from imposing any preconceived set solution. Let the parties make their argument, apply law, and decide.
A2. The primary resource need for the JP Court is a great staff. Customer service starts with having court clerks who can answer questions and help people through the court process.
A3. The last question is how you will improve services. I contend that one of the cheapest and easiest ways for a judge to improve services is to utilize technology to help both the court and the parties communicate and conduct business. On the civil side, technology allows parties to access the court 24/7. While on the criminal side, technology allows parties to pay tickets, pay warrants, access forms, and sign up for defensive driving remotely. Parties being able to access the court is paramount to improving overall services to the parties.

KT Musselman (D)
Education: B.A. Government, minor in Geography, The University of Texas at Austin
Website: http://www.KTforJp.com
A1. For many people a justice court may be the only interaction they have with the legal system. It shouldn’t inherently be a negative or traumatic experience. Instead we should support pro se litigants—folks who are representing themselves—in understanding the law and how to protect themselves. I intend to run the court in a manner that makes justice more accessible to our most vulnerable populations. Simultaneously, I want to work with local community groups and stakeholders to break the school to prison pipeline.
A2. The biggest drag on the office of Justice of the Peace is the cost to perform inquests. Instead of having a full-time medical examiner or collaborating with neighboring jurisdictions to share the costs, we spend nearly a quarter of the budget on autopsies. This is not an efficient use of tax dollars. In addition, I would like to make better use of the court software we have by using it to implement online dispute resolution, digitalization, and paperless functions.
A3. We need to ensure that our courts are accessible, equitable, and innovative. I want to increase access to courts by using online dispute resolution, digitalization, and paperless functions. In addition, we can implement tech upgrades such as docket monitors and self-service kiosks. I also believe that we need to adopt trauma-informed practices and work to break the school to prison pipeline as well as ensure indigent fees are waived when allowed by law. Last, as Justice of the Peace I am committed to being proactive in tackling challenges and having a visible presence within our community.

PRECINCT 2

Edna Staudt (R)
Background: Native of Austin, Texas, married with 6 children and 12 grandchildren. Justice of the Peace for 23 years. Community Involvement/prior Business owner
Education: Texas State University—500 certified hrs Civil & Criminal law /prior licensed Real Estate & Mortgage Broker/ Business Owner/Graduate Business College
Website: http://www.ednastaudt.com
A1. I am a fair and impartial Justice because I believe all people are created equal by God. God’s commandment is to love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love others, as we do ourselves. I love the Lord and I love others. Therefore, I treat everyone with the same respect dignity, patience, and kindness. I choose to make decisions based solely on the facts and circumstances of a situation.
A2. The Commissioner’s Court allocates funds for personnel, training, equipment, facility, and supplies, however, resources are provided by the community. Resources are needed to address juvenile bullying, depression, drug addiction, alcohol abuse, and financial crisis. Resources are needed for community service opportunities, alcohol classes, alternative education, anger management, and drug rehabilitation facilities. Civic organizations, businesses, non-profits, school administrations, and individual citizens provide these resources. I have also created programs to address issues.
A3. To improve services I will utilize the latest technology. Additional programs will be added that address current issues. I will continue to require professional, & trained staff, be accessible, transparent, and diligent in the administration of Justice.

Evelyn McLean (R)
Background: 26 year career in law enforcement. Retired as a Police Captain from Georgetown Police Department in 2018. 16 years as a licensed real estate agent.
Education: BAAS—Midwestern State
LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 3

Evelyn McLean (R) (continued)

University, Graduate of the Leadership Command College at Sam Houston State University, Graduate of the FBI National Academy

Website: http://www.evelynforjudge.com

A1. Law enforcement is not about choosing sides. It’s knowing and fairly applying the law. It is a people job, getting to know them, how they react and being compassionate when it is called for.

With 26 years of law enforcement experience I have a grasp of what came before, when someone walks into my courtroom and I have an understanding of why they are there. My previous experience will aid in giving me an unique understanding which in turn will make me more fair & compassionate.

A2. The current Justice of the Peace has a phenomenal staff who delivers excellent customer service. However, I don’t think you should ever stop striving to better that customer service. With personnel being one of our greatest resources, I will invest in continuing education and training for staff members to ensure the highest level of customer service. Another resource need would be funding for programs that advance automation. An example is a self-service kiosk at the front door with an information app so that people can be directed quickly & accurately to the services they need.

A3. The citizens of Williamson County are receiving a new, modern and state-of-the-art building for JP3 and other county offices, which will be an exciting improvement in itself. I plan to expand on the current social media outreach by providing on-going updates, news, facts, etc. to the citizens of Precinct 3. In addition, I will create a volunteer program to assist in providing even greater customer service without financially impacting the county.

Katherine Kerr Kubatzky (D)

Background: I am a small business owner of a consulting company that serves nonprofits. I moved from journalism into the nonprofit sector

Education: Bachelor of Journalism, University of Missouri

Website: http://www.voteforkatherine.com

A1. With broad experience as a reporter covering police & criminal and civil courts, manager of two statewide social service agencies that deal with vulnerable populations likely to come in contact with the justice system, and as a CASA volunteer, I bring a holistic perspective to the court. A person coming before a court doesn’t care what party a judge belongs to, but whether a judge will be fair & not favor the prosecution over the defense. I will listen to the facts & apply the law in a fair & impartial manner without regard to race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion or socioeconomic status.

A2. Staffing & technology to ensure that the court runs efficiently and transparently.

A3. I will make the court more accessible to people by extending hours to include night & weekend hours. I will end debtors prison which means NOT jail- ing people accused of nonviolent offenses because they cannot afford to pay fines & fees, which will save taxpayers money. I will partner with organizations to address the root causes that land people in court & use alternative sentences that include effective diversionary programs, such as veterans and drug and alcohol courts, thereby connecting people to the resources they need to be productive citizens & save taxpayer dollars.

PRECINCT 4

Judy Schier Hobbs (R)

Background: Lifelong resident of Williamson County, Married, 2 children, 7 grandchildren, active in church and community, named Judge of the Year & other awards

Education: In addition to traditional education, I have over 1700 hrs of education specific to the Justice Court. I have taught for judges & clerks.

Website: http://hackenbergforjp4.org

A1. I want to look beyond the charge or case that brings a person into my court.
LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

COUNTY CLERK

Q1. What do you consider to be the most important responsibility of a County Clerk?
Q2. How would you manage the elections process to ensure election security?
Q3. If elected, what do you hope to accomplish during your term of office?
Q4. What other issue do you consider most important and how would you address it?

Nancy E. Rister (R)

Background:
County Clerk for 20 years with as many years of experience creating & managing 4 budgets which total over $3 million dollars. I manage a staff of 43.

Education: Bachelors of Business Administration from the University of Texas at the Permian Basin with a major in Accountancy and Information Systems.

Website: http://nancyrister.org

A1. My responsibility according to law is to be the custodian of the majority of records of the county excluding felony cases. I keep the public records of the county, preserving them and having them available to the public for future generations so they will have the history of our county through the deed records, birth, death and marriage records, Commissioners Court records, civil cases over $500–$100,000, probate cases, A&B misdemeanor cases, alcohol wet/dry boundaries and permitted establishments, cattle brands, trustee notices and foreclosures on homes in default and various other records.

A2. The County Clerk of Williamson County is not in charge of the elections process. We have had an Elections Administrator since the 1990s who handles all aspects of the elections process.

A3. I will continue to strive to bring the best customer service available while using technology to become as efficient as possible while preserving the older records on paper and the newer electronic records. There is a delicate balance between customer service and keeping only the number of staff needed to provide that service. I will continue to serve the citizens of the county as we transition to mandated criminal e-filing in the criminal courts and become paperless. We have already accomplished e-filing with civil and probate cases when e-filing was mandated by the Supreme Court in 2014.

A4. Continued county growth means increased volume of all transactions and balancing that with more employees to keep up the current service level while keeping salaries at a sustainable level that are within the budgets that I manage. Keeping this data secure and preserved are also top ongoing objectives and challenges in an ever changing electronic world. Maintaining that balance of customer service levels and keeping budgets low to keep from contributing to any increases in taxes is always a high priority.

Jessica Tiedt (D)

Background:
Jessica is an analytical person with technical expertise in Consumer and Enterprise fields. She is happily married and has a very vocal cat.

Education: Some College, Mostly trained on the job by Apple and MobileIron

Website: http://jessicaforwilco.com

A1. The most important responsibility of a County Clerk is being proactive in her duties and accessible to all of the residents in her county. In 2018, this should include proactively notifying people of transactions against their properties—even if they have not signed up for notification, a robust web portal where residents can see their data and save information that they find through the portal in one place, and office hours and online filing to make accessible services to people who can not come into the office during normal work hours. The Clerk has a duty to everyone in her county.

A2. The County Clerk in Williamson County does not directly handle the elections; she does, however, have a seat on the Elections Commission, and I would encourage the elections director to adopt the system that Travis County has adopted for the 2020 elections, as it is well thought-out and secure. I will also encourage the director to reciprocate the Volunteer Deputy Registrar credentials from Travis County and other neighboring counties so that registrars can more easily register voters at regional community events.

A3. If elected, I would work to address accessibility in the office by expanding the office hours, work with public libraries to make services available in a wider area, and create a web portal that is secure and functional for users to look up information and save or export their data. I hope that I would be able to establish these services as well as creating a central knowledge base accompanying the web portal with help topics addressing filing, as well as information related to changes that come to the office every legislative session. I would also be a proactive voice for my community.

A4. Student voter registration! Getting our young adults started early in their civic duties and responsibilities starts with their right to vote. The State currently requires high schools to register their seniors, but the schools are not well supported in this effort, nor is there any proactive coordination or enforcement of these requirements. I will work to get Williamson County more involved with this process. I will also fight for online voter registration, same-day voter registration, and combining elections that happen in the same 45-day period to save taxpayer dollars.

DISTRrcL CLERk

Lisa David (R)

Unopposed

COUNTY TREASURER

Q1. How will you provide effective oversight of county funds and investments?
Q2. What do you consider to be the most important responsibility of the County Treasurer?
Q3. What are the most pressing problems facing this office and how will you address them?

Scott Heselmeyer (R)

Background:
Williamson County Treasurer for the past 18 months. Real estate and banking attorney in Williamson County for 14 years. Community bank board member.

Education: Juris Doctor—Georgetown University Law Center (Licensed Attorney); B.S. in Agribusiness—Texas A&M; Graduate of Thrall High School

Website: http://www.scott4wilco.com

A1. We are doing that now, and with great success. Effective oversight is a daily (many times hourly) task. Our office constantly monitors all transactions that flow through the county’s bank accounts. We ensure that all transactions are properly approved and are on constant watch for any potential fraudulent activity. On the investment side, we have made significant changes in the way we address financial forecasting, which have helped us more than double the rate of return on county assets. Our current projects include improving security and efficiency in our cash handling methods.

A2. The County Treasurer serves as the county’s banker and chief investment officer. My top priority is to ensure that the county’s income is handled and deposited safely, effectively monitored, and then invested in a manner that is both prudent and financially beneficial. In the past 18 months, every dollar of taxpayer money has been accounted for in an efficient manner, and we have more than doubled the rate of return on the county’s assets. Our investment efforts will produce over $8 million in income this fiscal year, which helps to reduce the burdens of growth on our taxpayers.

A3. It’s no secret that Williamson County is one of the fastest growing counties in the nation. This growth naturally results in a corresponding growth in the volume of work that flows into the Treasurer’s office. Meanwhile, technology is ever-changing. The office must be forward-thinking in ensuring that we have the technology and personnel in place to confront this growth. We have greatly improved the county’s ability to efficiently accept electronic payments, and we continue to work on these innovations. We also constantly seek to im-
LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

COUNTY TREASURER

Scott Heselmeyer (R) (continued) prove safety and efficiency in our daily procedures.

Omar Kadir (D)

Background: It’s time to put an accountant in an accounting role. My entire professional career has been in accounting. Skills + expertise + knowledge = Treasurer

Education: Proud alum of the Columbia College Cougars and the Parkway Central High Colts !! B.S.—Business Administration—Columbia College—2007 PCHS—2000

Website: http://www.omarforwilco.com

A1. Effective oversight requires effective relationships. A Treasurer works with our banking and finance partners, and along with other financial services professionals, accountants are cut from the same cloth. Our working relationships are not only effective, but efficient, because we all speak the same language. Professional financial services is a trade skill, and is learned over time. Bringing real world experience, establishing open lines of communication, and creating an environment of collaboration is what’s necessary for a County Treasurer to be effective.

#votedownballot

A2. Asking questions. The same attitude necessary for personal financial well-being should be translated to government finances. The financially successful have something very important in common, which is diligence, and the effort to envision long-term financial security requires constant curiosity. Auditing taught me how to ask the right questions, to the right people, at the right time and to ALWAYS trust but verify. I’ve experienced situations where the question is vastly more important than the answer, usually because nobody thought to even ask it.

#votedownballot

A3. There’s no community. I belonged to the majority of people that didn’t know the Treasurer was an elected position. I learned quickly that our local government does not necessarily reflect all of it’s constituents. Bridge building with the community matters because it shows that you are truly available to the public. I believe a Treasurer should be an advocate for financial literacy and want to share my knowledge with my community. School and senior center visits, reaching out to communities of color, online forums are only a few of the solutions I want implement. #votedownballot

LOCAL CITY OF AUSTIN

MAYOR

Q1. What policies do you support to make Austin a more affordable place to live for all residents?

Q2. Explain what important aspects of the land development code revision you support.

Q3. What is your top environmental concern and how would you address it?

Q4. What is your vision for the future of Austin, and how would you achieve it?

Steve Adler

Background: 10 years as civil rights attorney and 30 practicing eminent domain law. 8+ years in State Senate as chief of staff. 20 years on boards of non-profits

Education: First in family to graduate from college. BA, Princeton ’78. AB, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and Int’l Affairs, 74-78. JD, Univ. of Texas ’82

Website: http://www.adlerforaustin.com

A1. We need to bring down costs, esp. housing, and help people earn more. I support big investments in housing and mobility, including mass transit. Passed 2016 mobility bond and now pushing for large affordable housing bond. Led on 10% homestead exemption with goal of 20%. Increased senior and disabled exemption every year. Increased funding 540% in affordable housing trust fund. Enacted first regional workforce plan, taking 10k people from poverty. Passed paid sick leave and reworked incentives to target small and local businesses instead of big corps from outside Austin. Still much to do.

A2. More housing, especially affordable housing, in commercial centers and along transit corridors. Better water quality and flood mitigation infrastructure and environmental controls. Increased flexibility and calibration in density bonus programs to provide more affordable housing in more places. Simplify code to make more predictable, easier to understand, and less cost burdened. Enact Austin Bargain with additional, flexible housing options on corridors while preserving interiors of neighborhoods. Allow more optional tools for neighborhoods to adopt and respect neighborhood planning process.

A3. Climate change is top concern. Need to act swiftly and decisively, and we have. Signed Paris Accords and committed city to action. Purchased largest and most cost-effective solar contracts getting city to 50% renewable by 2020. Actual steps by 2022 to shut down coal plant and working to electrify city fleets. Need code changes for more cost efficient distributed water supply and energy generation. Continue pushing to maximum renewable goal and get to 100% by 2030 with tech advances. Do this while lowering electric rates, keeping utility affordable and owned by the residents of Austin.

A4. Austin is a warm and welcoming city, magical and special. Must fight state and national politics to keep it that way. We can’t lose what makes Austin special, so need to handle growth in a proactive way. Can’t bury our heads in the sand. We tried that and it didn’t work. Need to make sure we don’t lose artists and musicians, our communities and our people. That means taking bold action like biggest mobility and affordability bonds in history of city, as we have done. That means worker, environmental, and women’s health protections, and progressive policies that benefit all, not just the few.

Travis Duncan

No response

Laura Morrison


Education: I hold a master’s degree in mathematics and a graduate certificate in public health, community preparedness and disaster response.

Website: http://LauraForMayor.com

A1. Take immediate action to retain existing affordable housing and stem displacement of residents. Commit to an equitable plan to ensure affordable housing in every Austin zip code. Promote complete communities throughout Austin so all residents have access to schools, groceries, transit and other basic services. Simplify and strengthen the city’s affordable housing density bonus program. Seek legislative changes to fix root causes of unaffordability, notably our broken school finance system, and legalize common affordability tools such as linkage fees, rent stabilization and inclusionary zoning.

A2. In general, I support an effort to accommodate growth with appropriate development and to strengthen city affordability programs, although CodeNext failed to achieve these goals. I support a revision to increase density in compatible ways, to strengthen community benefit requirements for projects with added entitlements and to extend the affordable housing density bonus program to commercial properties. I also strongly support measures to strengthen watershed protections and flood mitigation, an increasingly critical safety issue in light of climate change and Austin’s continued growth.
Alexander Stenger
Background: I am a pedicab driver and former substitute teacher in AISD with an extensive background interacting with the public.
Education: B.A Psychology; SUNY Binghamton
Website: http://strengerformayor.com

A1. While our housing supply needs to grow in order to meet the demand for housing, this growth should in no way, shape, or form be subsidized by the city. All incoming developers need to pay their share of property taxes as well as the necessary utility fees to the city of Austin. Affordable units should be between 30–50% of MFI and council need to build the stated amount of affordable units if they do density bonuses. Furthermore, the density bonus fee in lieu needs to be raised from $2 to $4/sq. foot if developers want to bypass implementing the appropriate number of affordable housing unit.

A2. We need a comprehensive land code that the people have a direct say in. The majority of those who planned our land code were connected to the Real Estate industry and we need to restructure our planning commission. Our next land code needs to be written by our various neighborhood councils as a means of generating direct community involvement in the trajectory for a more affordable Austin.

A3. 60% of our waterways are found to be contaminated with fecal matter and deemed unsafe to swim. This disturbing fact is caused largely by the influx of dog owners who let their pets dump near our lakes, creeks, and other bodies of water without bothering to clean up after them. When I get elected I plan on increasing police presence near our bodies of water in order to enforce the $500 fine in place for owners who refuse to clean up after their pets. A portion from these fines will go towards helping our homeless find transitional housing.

A4. I envision a more affordable Austin where we utilize all of our transportation options in a practical and effective manner. All incoming developers and multi-national companies will pay their fair share of taxes to the city as well as offer direct community benefits. We need to expand our bus system and provide efficient Metro Rapid service to ALL areas of Austin, as well as the surrounding areas. Dockless scooters need to be at every bus stop here in Austin and Electric Cabs should be stationed in all key areas of Austin to enable people to get to their required destinations.

CITY COUNCIL

Q1. What policies do you support to make Austin a more affordable place to live for all residents?
Q2. Explain what important aspects of the land development code revision you support
Q3. What is your top environmental concern and how would you address it?
Q4. What are the most critical issues in your district and how will you address them?

DISTRICT 1

Mitrarah Elizabeth Avini
Background: I was born and raised in east Austin and am product of east and central Austin schools, including Trinity Pre-school, Lee Elementary, and Kealing.
Education: Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy and Political Science, Yale University; Master of Science, Comparative Policy and Government, Oxford University
Website: http://avinifor austin.com

A1. The original, unamended Texas Constitution banned taxpayer financing of for-profit private development. Due to relatively recent amendments, half a billion dollars of public money has subsidized private development in Austin in the last 10–15 years. This abusive misuse of public money has created an afford-
Mitrah Elizabeth Avini (continued)

ability problem in East Austin, "Imagine Austin," Austin's Comprehensive growth plan, needs to be reevaluated and the appraisal process for property tax purposes needs to be reformed.

A2. I do not support any aspects of the land development code (CodeNEXT) in the context in which it’s been introduced. Rezoning neighborhoods for commercial development adversely impacts neighborhood character and contributes to unaffordability and displacement. Many neighborhoods are in need of revitalization rather than commercial development. CodeNEXT conflates one with the other.

A3. Austin is subject to flooding and drought. Thus water conservation and impervious cover are my top environmental concerns. Existing watersheds protections are insufficient and need to be strengthened. The process of introducing environmental resources into the City’s official database is illogical; currently Austin depends on developers to tell the City about its environmental resources, such as springs. Austin’s database of environmental resources should be based on scientific studies, not developer notification.

A4. Unmonitored development is a critical issue in district one and throughout the City of Austin. The approvals process for future development needs to be preceded by environmental impact studies. Another critical issue is the loss of district one’s African American population. In one single decade, there was a 14.5% decrease. The solution is to revise the City’s Comprehensive Plan and address unfair home appraisals.

Lewis Conway, Jr.

Background:
Lewis Conway, Jr. is the first formerly incarcerated person to run for office in Texas. He is a husband, father, and organizer.

Education: Associates Degree—Western Texas College
Website: http://www.conwayforatx.com

A1. Let’s create an Austin that works for working people. I propose that we insti- tute a community land trust program that would create truly affordable housing. I propose that we create a health care pilot program that would guarantee health coverage to citizens of District 1, modeled after a successful ten-year program, Healthy San Francisco. I propose that we institute a Municipal Jobs Guarantee, creating living wage jobs for people unable to find work in the job market. Finally, we must expand and improve our public transportation in order to reduce the need to maintain a personal vehicle.

A2. CodeNext is not the answer to our problems. I believe that we must make changes in order to have affordability, environmental justice, and to create a city that works for everyone. I believe that we should invest in public housing options to increase our housing stock and reduce our homeless population. I believe that we should rethink our zoning to allow for more diverse properties, creating sustainable neighborhoods. Finally, I believe that we should lead in participatory democracy by allowing the people to determine their own zoning laws by putting these issues on the ballot.

A3. Climate change and environmental destruction is a threat to our communities in Austin. While the people at the top create the worst impacts on our climate, the people at the bottom reap the consequences. We can lead by being one of the greenest communities in the country and create a truly equitable environmental plan. We must transition to 100% renewable energy by 2035. That means investing in community-owned solar farms, improving energy efficiency, reducing our carbon footprint, and reducing our dependence on personal vehicles. Let’s be a leader in this challenge, not a follower.

A4. Lack of healthcare and healthcare facilities are a major issue for East Austin. Our DistriCare plan, a pilot universal healthcare program for East Austin residents, will eliminate this long standing inequity. Secondly, property taxes have driven and are driving folks out of their neighborhoods, communities and homes. We will address this issue by advocating to keep our taxes in our schools and our city. Finally, we must work to not only reduce crime, but reverse the conditions that create it. We must end cash bail, treat arrests as a last resort, and support treatment over incarceration.

Vincent Harding

Background:
Vincent is a first-generation college graduate, public servant, and the former Chair of Austin’s Board of Adjustment & Travis County Democratic Party.

Education: University of Texas School of Law (Juris Doctorate) University of Houston (Major: Political Science; Minor: Global Business)
Website: http://www.VinceHarding.com

A1. Austin can address affordability in at least a few main ways: income, housing, and infrastructure. City bonds and the budget can provide ‘affordable’ and low-income housing plus amending our code to provide less expensive housing options. Job education programs at low to no cost combined with low to no cost childcare can help people receive the required training to obtain higher paying jobs. Transportation and utility costs are aspects of affordability and we should seek to improve mass transit and lower utility costs. I will keep advocating for school finance changes to lower property taxes.

A2. The next code should provide greater density on corridors, missing middle housing behind it, and protect the neighborhoods to prevent further displacement. Austin should tailor the fee in lieu code to provide less expensive housing code to provide less expensive housing options. Job education programs at low to no cost combined with low to no cost childcare can help people receive the required training to obtain higher paying jobs. Transportation and utility costs are aspects of affordability and we should seek to improve mass transit and lower utility costs. I will keep advocating for school finance changes to lower property taxes.

Natasha Harper-Madison

Background:
I’m a native Austinite, wife, mom and thriving cancer survivor. A passionate, resourceful problem solver with special interests in community advocacy.

Education: I studied Communications, Business Administration and Journalism at Arizona State University West.
Website: http://www.natashafor district1.com

A1. Passing the Affordable Housing Bond is a good start. We can also drive housing costs lower by increasing the number of available homes in Austin. We need a new, simplified land development code that legalizes the construction of more affordable housing types like fourplexes and townhomes in all parts of our city and streamlines the permitting process. We need practical public transit options. Affordable housing isn’t affordable if transportation costs are too high. Additionally, wages haven’t kept pace with cost of living increases. I support Austin maintaining a livable minimum wage.

A2. I want to work with old and new neighbors to preserve what makes Austin unique while ensuring our city has a future that’s affordable and accessible. We need a new, simplified land development code that facilitates the creation of walkable neighborhoods, efficient transit and neighborhood amenities like small grocery stores, childcare facilities, and green
CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 1

Natasha Harper-Madison (cont.)

spaces. A code that legalizes the development of gentle density by-right, and eliminates minimum lot size restrictions and unnecessary minimum parking requirements that create impervious cover and high costs for small businesses and housing.

A3. We must confront the reality of climate change. As a city, land-use is arguably the most pervasive force driving the degradation of our ecosystems. Factors like emissions and increased exposure to flood hazards are permitted by our city’s current land use and transportation patterns which are fundamentally unsustainable. Electric cars and other technological solutions can help, but we can achieve a much greater reduction in carbon emissions by updating our land development code to minimize sprawl and to create a more compact, connected city with walkable, transit-accessible communities.

A4. Affordability, equity, and economic mobility are the most critical issues facing D1. I will find creative approaches to affordable housing while deploying tools to encourage considerate development. I will address the criminalization of poverty by reducing or eliminating fines and fees related to minor offenses, combat predatory lending, and advocate for fair systems that address intergenerational poverty, access to healthcare, quality education, and civic engagement. I will ensure Austin invests in families through food access, reliable, affordable child care, and transportation.

Misael D. Ramos

Write-in

Background: Community Outreach (Foreclosure Prevention)—5/2014 to 3/2015 Business Analyst—11/2015 to 9/2018

Education: Bachelor of Science in Psychology

Website: http://misaelramosfordistrict1.com

A1. Preserving the identities of our neighborhoods and keeping them affordable is my number one goal. As council member for District 1, my goal is to have our neighborhoods adopt design standards and for some, push for Historical Preservation designations. These initiatives will help keep neighborhoods affordable by ensuring new builds within a community aren’t over inflating home values. Neighborhoods deemed historically also see tax breaks for 7–10 years. I’ll also push for regulation on new condo regimes so that for every 3 units built, 1 is created for low-income families.

A2. I do agree with adding more density to the outskirts of Austin but the problem I had with the revision was that only East Austin was being zoned as “high density”. There are parts of the district we can add density to but we have to ensure we’re not over densifying our urban core and displacing people that have been there for generations.

A3. In East Austin we’ve been seeing our fair share of flooding especially in areas like Little Walnut Creek. I would like to conduct more watershed studies to figure out a better way to create anti-flood measures in areas susceptible to flash floods.

A4. The most critical issues we’re facing are preserving the identities of our neighborhoods and keeping them affordable. The preservation measures I spoke on in the affordability question will help us achieve our goal of keeping the rich history of East Austin intact. I’m also an advocate for most measures in the People’s Plan and would like to adopt some them such as “The right to stay and return”. East Austin schools also need a fair shot and I plan to work with AISD so we can receive more funding for classroom upgrades, after school programs, and the addition of academies.

Mariana Salazar

Background: Mother, immigrant & public servant with 15 years of experience in affordable housing, community development, community organizing & ending homelessness

Education: B.A. in Economics with Management from Ohio Wesleyan University (Summa Cum Laude) and Master in Public Affairs from Princeton University

Website: http://www.mariana-salazar.com

A1. As a working mother raising two children in East Austin, I know how tough it can be for a family to make a living in our city. As a city council member, I will collaborate with the Austin community to address the affordability crisis by: promoting more affordable housing options for renters and homeowners, and preventing further economic displacement, promoting affordable child care & creating universal Pre-K, expanding public transit, sidewalks, bike lanes, and other mobility infrastructure, and promoting access to higher paying jobs with benefits through workforce development.

A2. As an immigrant, I want a see an inclusive city that works for everyone and makes room for families like mine. I also value affordability, creating a more compact and connected city, and growing our city in an environmentally sustainable way. I support facilitating the construction of more housing units in a compact way by removing barriers like minimum lot size & parking requirements, upzoning along Imagine Austin/transit corridors and improving efficiency of the permitting processes. The code revisions should be coupled with comprehensive policies to address affordability and displacement.

A3. Carbon emissions cause catastrophic & extreme weather events, and in Austin, we see the effects of climate change in flash floods, droughts & rising heat. To reduce carbon emissions we should: build better public transit to reduce reliance on single occupancy vehicles, use more electric vehicles in the city fleet & electric buses by CAPMETRO, reduce sprawl and develop in a compact manner & reuse, recycle and compost to reduce our carbon footprint. We should also build resilience to droughts by diversifying our water supply and reduce impervious covers to fight the impacts of flooding.

A4. I will address the affordability crisis, by increasing affordable housing, preventing further economic displacement, increasing affordable childcare options, and expanding transit and mobility infrastructure. To address lack of economic opportunity, I will work to improve workforce development to provide access to higher paying jobs with benefits. To address lack of inclusion, I will work to develop better access to healthcare and healthy food options, mobile integrated healthcare, high-quality parks and recreation programming, and inclusion in Austin City Hall’s decision-making.

Reedy Macque Spigner III

No response

DISTRICT 3

Susana Almanza

Background: Susana Almanza is Director of PODER, grassroots environmental social justice organization, a longtime community organizer, educator, & grandmother.

Education: Over 50 years of working and advocating for social justice. A proven leader, recognized locally and nationally.

Website: http://votesusana.com

A1. Implement the Peoples Plan which addresses low-income housing, environment & equity. Support preserving & expanding low-income & moderate housing through rehabilitation, new construction, tax exemptions, community Land Trust and expanded opportunities for home ownership & rental. Support preserving public housing, creating cooperative housing & the construction of energy efficient housing on public land by non-profit groups. Create programs that encourage developers and owners to offer long (perhaps five-to-seven year) leases to tenants at all income levels who commit to staying in a property.

A2. Proposition J gives residents a choice to approve or disapprove any plan like CodeNEXT at the ballot. Refocus on the most important aspects of the land code: prioritize the needs of current residents & discourage their displacement; preservation and construction of truly affordable and low-income housing, streamline & update technology of city’s inefficient permitting process, and return to the community planning districts. Fix the problems with existing neighborhood & small area plans. The adoption & implementation of the Peoples Plan will address housing, watershed protection & equity.

A3. Implementation of Peoples Plan on housing, environment & equity; Recommendations of COA Flood Mitigation Task Force; Austin Community Climate Plan reduction in emission; Reducing CO2 emissions; Water Forward Plan; Climate Protection Plan; Protection of tree canopy; Transportation improvements. Incorporate neighborhood groups
I think we should see implemented into eas as rural to high density/urban while ing transects and form codes to refresh network engineer and ing to protect Austinites I've been a public ser - claim, Remain & Rebuild our City. I support Austin’s S.M.A.R.T. hous - ing and density bonus ordinances but be - come of tenets, expand & deepen Density Bo - nus Programs, reevaluated Fee-in-Lieu schedules, streamline code & permitting process, and add missing middle hous - ing. Yet, the most effective tool is a re - write of our Land Use Code, ushering in the more units.

A2. I want to see code that allows for building diverse missing middle housing stock, decreased parking space require - ments, respect of established neighbor - hood plans, better compatibility require - ments, reevaluating average lot size & permissible amount of units, streamlined standards & rules for ADUs, more robust density bonus programs, preserving affordable housing stock, protected rights to notice and appeal of developments, and simplified build codes & permitting. Ultimately, this is all underpinned by a process that has greater buy in from ALL folks in Austin, unlike CodeNEXT.

A3. Climate Change is our number one challenge. It effects the severity of droughts, the maintenance of our water supply, increased severe flooding events, damage to the urban canopy, increased potential of wild fires, implications of higher average temperatures. These can be addressed by keeping the goal of Austin Energy using 100% renewable energy, create mass transit to lower car emissions, pass stronger water conservation measures, invest in fire resources & the urban canopy, & address the problems of increased flooding. Climate Change en - dangers the success and quality of life in Austin

A4. The negative costs of Austin’s growth, rising rents, tax bills, home valu - ations, increased displacement, and ques - tions of retaining neighborhood char - acter are most pressing. Needed is a strategy of smart growth allowing for in - creased diverse housing to help lower rents & providing more options, effective transit solutions, the mechanisms that help long time residents stay in their homes & maintain character of neighborhoods. A rewrite of Land Use code has an out sized effect on how these problems are addressed now and can control for negative consequences in the future.

Amit Motwani

Background: Former software startup executive who has spent his last 15 years in direct hu - man service delivery and mgmt for Aus - tin’s most vulnerable families.

Education: Amit attended UT’s under - grad Business Honors program for 2 years from 1995 before financial hardship guided him to a successful tech startup career.

Website: http://amitdistrict3.com

A1. I support the entire bond package on the ballot, specifically, props A & E. 2. Increase deeply affordable and afford - able housing supply-develop immedi - ately (or ASAP) on publicly available land for affordable housing. 3. Dramati- cally increase human service invest - ments: health care, transportation, high quality child care, food insecurity, pre - ventive health screenings, social ser - vice needs, low cost/low-interest loans. 4. Strong focus on policy that increases access to public high quality child care

A2. I support the dissolution of the CodeNext process for exactly the reasons our mayor identified and am keen on par - ticipating in a revised process that will be guided by the city manager after a hope - fully through post-mortem. I’d like to see the land development code expedi - tiously (though not rushed) re-formed to create additional frameworks for density (e.g. ADU’s, multifamily) where appro - priate and sanctioned by local residents, businesses, and neighborhood stake - holders with the goal of simplifying per - mitting and substituting plain language for equivocal interpretations by code enforcement.

A3. Carbon emissions and greenhouse gases continue to rise at an alarming rate, and the negative effects of climate change disproportionately affect our most vul - nerable. 17 of the 18 hottest years on re - cord have occurred since 2001 includ - ing that last hour hottest years ever. As a council member/board member of Aus - tin Energy, I’ll push to add “teeth” or milestones and project plan to Austin’s commitment to 100% renewable energy by 2030. I’ll also push for policy avenues to include aggressive incentives for resi - dents’ adoption of electric vehicles, coupled with cont’d improvements on mass transit

A4. Relief, Access, and Opportunity-me - dian income is skewed downward in my district as compared to the City at large, and affordability relief needs to come

Jessica Cohen

Background: I’ve been a public ser - vant for 24 years, work - ing to protect Austinites and veterans as a senior network engineer and an EMT.

Website: http://www.cohenforatx.com

A1. I support Austin’s S.M.A.R.T. hous - ing and density bonus ordinances but be - lieve they need to be expanded and built on further. Due to all the surrounding cities, Austin has very little room to grow outward. That leaves the options of build - ing up or building more housing on less space. I support a stronger carrot over the stick approach by reducing or waiv - ing permit and impact fees for developers who meet strict guidelines for affordable and green housing.

A2. The most important type of change I think we should see implemented into our land development code is introducing transects and form codes to refresh the hundred year old euclidean zoning Austin currently uses. Defining ar - eas as rural to high density/urban while also ensuring people do not have to drive to get to the places that they often use, would greatly impact the way in which new developments are designed and im - plemented. This would promote the cre - ation of dense mixed use areas with parks while still allowing for more traditional residential areas away from the core of each transect.

A3. There are several environmental concerns for Austin that I think should be addressed immediately. 1. The COA should purchase and shut down the coal using Sam Seymour Power Plant. 2. The COA should focus on all the additional drivers on the road due to increased population/ride shares and work to limit their CO2 output. 3. The COA should consider water cooled solar power banks on Lady Bird Lake or Lake Travis. These could be easily implemented without being obstructive. 4. City Council should pass a resolution to move away from buying our green energy credit to producing it ourselves.

A4. The most critical issues in Dis - trict 3 are gentrification, soaring prop - erty taxes/rent, displacement, homeless - ness, and crime. All of these things are related to each other. I support develop - ing and implementing a strong Anti-Dis - placement Policy agenda. I believe that the Council needs to work harder with the AISD board to circumvent the state “Robin Hood” recapture law and return those property taxes to it’s constituents. I support a larger budget for transitional housing and social workers in order to reduce homelessness. I also believe we need more officers involved in community policing.

Justin Jacobson

Background: I started with LGBTQ activism in highschool through college. Then worked on campaigns for politicians Celia Is - rael, Wendy Davis, Ber - nie Sanders.

Education: I proudly attended grades K-12 in Leander ISD. I have a B.A. in Political Science from Texas State University.

Website: http://www.justin4austin.com

A1. I want to preserve current affordable housing, identify city owned properties prime for affordable housing, commit to strategic land banking for future needs, establish more Community Land Trusts, create historic & homestead preserva - tion districts, expand home repair and weatherization efforts, strengthen rights
Amit Motwani (continued)  

immediately, from easing costs of both rental and purchase housing (preserving existing/increasing affordable housing stock) to mitigating cost burdens of healthcare, food, utilities, transportation, and child care. My previous response on affordability addresses ways to address those issues. For mid-income households, permitting and survey cost relief and fast-tracks must be coupled with property tax relief measures. Relief, Access, Opportunity!  

Sabino “Pio” Renteria  

Background:  
Native Austinite and long-time activist who retired from IBM after 34 years. In 2014 he was elected to represent District 3 on the Austin City Council  
Education: University of Texas, Austin Community College, and Austin High.  
Website: http://www.d3forpio.com  

A1. Affordability is a concern for many and we need to enact a comprehensive but common sense strategy to address the challenges. Looking at the housing data, in order to address affordable housing we must address: (i) housing supply, (ii) land prices, (iii) cost of construction and permitting, (iv) property taxes, and (v) housing funding. Ultimately, one of the main reasons for our high taxes is the broken public school funding formula. I'm the only candidate in the race who has testified at the state legislature on the impact the funding formula is having on affordability and on our facilities.  
A2. The next land development code revision must reflect the vision of Imagine Austin. I support 1) providing clarity on land use regulations for everyone, 2) allowing for housing density in transit corridors, 3) increasing housing diversity options for our city’s housing stock, 4) allowing for development of smaller lots (while maintaining appropriate water quality & stormwater protections), and 5) implementing green stormwater infrastructure.  
A3. My top environmental concerns are water quality, conservation, and stormwater protection. I want to work to address redevelopment in high impervious cover sites to incentivize green stormwater infrastructure. As the city continues to grow, we need to enact the recommendations presented by the Integrated Water Resource Planning Community Task force and in the Water Forward plan. Lastly, the city needs to partner with other entities like AISD to mitigate stormwater through green and traditional stormwater infrastructure projects.  
A4. The critical issues affecting District 8 are 1) affordability 2) improving traffic 3) addressing public safety & 4) reviewing where resources are spent. As the only candidate who has lived in SW Austin for over a decade, it’s time for the district to receive its fair share of resources from City Hall. We have 1 city pool, 1 library, the 2nd highest percentage of poor or failing sidewalks, and not enough fire stations which places our area at great risk. Our district has different needs than downtown Austin's and we need a strong voice at City Hall to advocate for our SW families and seniors.
Paige Ellis

Background: I work for an environmental firm that ensures compliance with the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act on housing and transportation projects.

Education: University of Texas at San Antonio, Bachelor’s in Sociology.

Website: http://PaigeForAustin.org

A1. We need to protect the homestead exemption for homeowners, and increase dense housing and affordable housing inventory for renters. I will prioritize financial support for affordable housing projects that are 1) accessible by transit or could be accessible in the near future; 2) in close proximity to employment, job training, or education; 3) near Healthcare facilities or community services; and/or 4) identified in the Imagine Austin Growth Concept Master plan. I support the Affordable Housing Bond.

A2. As we work to update the 1984 land development code, we need to allow for density along transit corridors and more missing middle housing in transition zones. We can also utilize HUD grants and Community Development Block Grants to help offset the cost of building the housing supply we need.

A3. Proper watershed and stormwater protection measures. Because we are always protecting ourselves from (and preparing ourselves for) the threat of drought and subsequent flooding, we need to pass Prop D for flood mitigation, open space, and water quality protection. I also aim to promote healthy watershed protection measures and address non-compliance with stormwater pollution prevention plans (SWP3). When contractors fall out of compliance with SWP3 protocols, this should be immediately addressed by the project owner.

A4. Southwest Austin cares about affordability and city services. Among other things we need a code compliance substation in the district. We also need to end corporate tax giveaways such as the soccer stadium deal. If the residents pay our fair share, the corporations need to do so, too. Finally, our region is home to many people experiencing homelessness because they camp on the greenbelt at night and spend their days on traffic medians—but city funds to address this issue are limited to downtown. We pay for these services, we should have access to them in Southwest Austin.

Bobby Levin

Background: I’ve been actively involved in City policy since 2005, having served as a policy advisor to MPT Kathie Tovo, CM Laura Morrison and CM Jennifer Kim.

Education: I have a Doctorate of Jurisprudence (JD) from The University of Texas School of Law and a BA in Economics and Urban Studies from UT as well.

Website: http://bobbyforaustin.com

A1. At a time when residents’ property taxes and rents are increasing exponentially, it’s more important than ever to mitigate rising costs of living for homeowners and renters. I support (i) reducing the City’s reliance on flat-rate fees, such as those on utility bills that disproportionately impact lower-income families; (ii) cutting unnecessary expenses, such as Council’s recent increases in their own budgets; (iii) establishing longer-term budget planning and building up reserves to avoid future tax increases; and (iv) raising the homestead exemption for seniors and persons with disabilities.

A2. I was an outspoken critic of CodeNEXT (the land development code revision) as a process. We spent 6 years and $8.5+ million on the process; both numbers are indications of problems that perpetuated throughout. However, there is much we can salvage and move forward with, such as amendments that will help us (i) manage our growth better by directing it to town centers and along designated transit corridors; (ii) address our serious flooding risks by requiring redevelopments to mitigate stormwater runoff; and (iii) reduce wildfire risks by adopting the recommendations of the Firewise Alliance.

A3. We need to adopt an aggressive 100-yr water plan (Water Forward) with an implementation timetable and goals/metrics that recognize the urgency of climate change and the need to become a more water-efficient, drought-resilient city. As an environmental attorney, I have been tracking the preparation of this plan and am eager to get moving on code amendments that will require developers to install green stormwater infrastructure and other on-site reuse options. This will help us avoid future water costs by using local water sources already available to us, instead of importing water at a premium.

A4. What I hear most from residents as concerns are affordability (discussed above), traffic and public safety. To address traffic, we need to better coordinate land use planning with infrastructure planning to direct growth to areas with infrastructure in place to support it and move forward with context-sensitive solutions at the Y in Oak Hill and for S Mopac to relieve congestion. On public safety, I’ve been advocating for a new fire station to serve Travis Country (an area with poor response times), and I’ll support a police contract that will help us recruit, train and retain our officers.

Frank Ward

No response

DISTRICT 9

Isiah Jones

No response

Linda O’Neal

Background: I was born in Vietnam, grew up in Austin, went to college at Texas State, started my own business, but then realized that teaching was my passion.

Education: Texas State University

Website: http://lindaonealdistrict9.com

A1. We must protect renters from steep unexpected rent increases and encourage developers to build affordable housing with more oversight. 1,450 units of affordable housing will be built over the next decade, that number needs to be around 60,000 to meet demand. Revisit Lease-to-Purchase plans. Cleveland has the largest lease-to-purchase network and most participants have transitioned into homeownership. Cleveland uses Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, buys cheap rental properties, and then offers these homes for rent at an affordable price. At the end of 15-years, renters earn equity for their home.

A2. We need to make room for our new residents, but we need to regulate growth so that the health of our citizens and the environment is protected. That means we regulate demolitions, minimizing lead dust, that means we renovate older apartment units rather than tearing them down. There were plenty of people who were not urbanists or preservationists, who wanted to learn more about CodeNext, but when they did their research, the information out there was clear as mud. The city needs to engage with those in the middle as much as they engaged with the “urbanists” and “preservationists”.

A3. Flooding due to extreme weather is a costly problem. We need to invest in storm drains, but more importantly, we need to rethink how we pave low-traffic roads. Impervious cover, cutting down trees and foliage, are major contributors to our flood problem. We need to use permeable cover, such as pavers, concrete, and asphalt, in low-traffic areas. The impervious cover also contributes to the heat index. We can lower the impact of high temperatures and flooding with green roofs. We also need to regulate demolitions to limit lead dust in our air and water. Water filters in every school fountain.

A4. Affordability and homelessness are the main issues in District 9. Housing First w/ services worked in Utah and is working in Austin with the Loaves to Fishes’ program. The cost of doing nothing is staggering b/c of the hospital-jail-shelter pipeline. A hospital stay is $4,700, an emergency visit is $1,400, an ambulance ride is $876. It is more expensive to do nothing than it is to do something. Loaves to Fishes’ program proves that giving people a chance to regain their dignity through shelter, works. Housing First works with financial education, therapy, mental services, and drug rehab.

Danielle Skidmore

Background: I’m a special-needs parent, transportation engineer and transgender woman who’s spent 24 years solving public infrastructure puzzles across Texas.
Danielle Skidmore (continued)

Education: Bachelor of Science (BS) in Civil and Environmental Engineering from University of Wisconsin-Madison.
Website: http://danielleforall.com

A1. Major employment centers (UT, Capitol) are more accessible to those who live in central Austin but many families have been pushed out due to cost of living. Providing better public transportation options to bring workers to their jobs-with childcare options on-site or nearby to avoid additional stops-will improve affordability, if purchasing a car is no longer the only viable option. I also support the Affordable Housing bond and partnering with local nonprofits to build more multi-family housing in district for renters, and to help homeowners better afford property taxes by allowing ADUs.

A2. For us to improve affordability and reduce congestion in Austin, we need to make more room for people throughout the city including D9-remembering that we’re not just talking about transplants from California or wherever, but new children being born here all the time. We just have to make sure that making that space comes with a real and tangible commitment to community benefits, affordable housing, and minimizing displacement of current residents in our communities. For this to occur, the process must be inclusive and all voices must be heard. We must proactively reach out to all communities.

A3. Increased flooding has been a prevalent issue in Austin, resulting from climate change. From a policy standpoint, we need to reduce the number of vulnerable properties impacted by flooding, using programs such as buyouts where appropriate. The other piece of the flooding solution is to continue to support compact and connected cities, and to reduce sprawl. The redevelopment of existing impervious cover is better than expanding it; we must allow development to go up instead of out, which will help reduce car trips (thus greenhouse emissions) while preserving more green-space in the process.

A4. Besides the urgent need for transit locally, in the onslaught of attacks at the state and federal level, we must stick up for our beliefs and defend Austin values. From leaving the Paris Climate Accord to pre-empting our paid sick leave ordinance, to challenging sanctuary cities and rolling back marriage equality, we must fight back and think beyond D9’s borders to defend our residents. From expanding newborn screening in Texas to fighting the bathroom bill, I’ve always shown up for fellow Austinites and will continue to. It’s time for leadership; it’s time for all voices to be represented.

Katharine “Kathie” Tovo

Background: Austin City Council (since 2011); Planning Commission; Families & Children Task Force; city and AISD task forces; former university educator.

Education: Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin M.A., University of Texas at Austin B.A. with Honors, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Website: http://www.kathieforaustin.com

A1. Through recapture, Austinites now pay more in property taxes to the state than to the city. The state also makes it difficult to access sales data, leading to undervalued commercial properties that shift the tax burden to residential properties. I have led on challenging the appraisal district’s undervaluation of commercial properties and have advocated for ‘tax swap’ policies designed to defray school district costs and thus lower Austin residents’ tax burden. I have also championed efforts to create and preserve affordable housing, including supporting the 2018 housing bond.

A2. CodeNEXT fell short by not reflecting community feedback or many aspects of our Council-adopted neighborhood plans. Any future efforts must be community-driven and should protect existing residents while managing growth. Going forward, I would like to expand our affordable housing bonus program and require more onsite units, increase green infrastructure requirements, strengthen flood mitigation standards, expand where transportation impact analyses apply and require them to consider pedestrian improvements, and strengthen requirements that developers build new sidewalks.

A3. Climate change is real, causing extreme weather and threatening our water supply. Portion of response removed; did not meet criteria. I have led or helped lead on efforts to: develop ambitious renewable energy goals, nearly triple our solar portfolio, require new buildings be ‘solar ready,’ develop a 100-year plan for meeting our water needs, support President Obama’s ‘Clean Power Plan,’ and more. I look forward to continuing this work.

A4. Homelessness: I have led on increasing city funding for individuals experiencing homelessness; enhancing services, including redesigning the ARCH emergency shelter; helping develop and pass the ‘Action Plan for Ending Homelessness;’ advocating for public restrooms; supporting the Homeless Outreach Street Team; chairing the membership council of the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition; moving forward an innovative “Pay for Success” social finance model; and opening the Sobering Center (which will serve a broad range of Austinites, including those experiencing homelessness).

BOND ELECTION

BACKGROUND
Austin City Council convened the 2018 Bond Election Advisory Task Force to research and recommend public works funding needs throughout the City. The Task Force submitted its final report in May and the Council approved seven bond packages (Propositions A through G) to appear on the ballot.

Together, the seven propositions total $925 million and would be funded by general obligation bonds, which are repaid by property taxes. If all seven propositions pass, the City anticipates raising the property tax rate by 2 cents per $100 of valuation during the lifecycle of these bonds beginning in 2019 (the 2018 property tax rate will not be affected). A homeowner whose home is valued at $300k would expect to pay about $60 more in property taxes per year, for an estimated 6 years.

PROPOSITION A: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Ballot Language
The issuance of $250,000,000 in tax supported general obligation bonds and notes for planning, constructing, renovating, improving, and equipping affordable housing facilities for low income and moderate income persons and families, and acquiring land and interests in land and property necessary to do so, funding loans and grants for affordable housing, and funding affordable housing programs, as may be permitted by law, and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.

Explanation
If approved, the City Manager will expend $250 million to buy, construct, re-

pair, and improve affordable housing facilities in Austin.

Projects may include: $100 million to the Austin Housing Finance Corporation to purchase land to be developed for future affordable housing construction; $94 million to fund the Rental Housing Development Assistance program which expands the supply of rental housing for low-income households and helps fund permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness; $28 million to fund Austin’s “Go Repair!” program which helps to repair and maintain existing affordable housing; and $28 million to the Acquisition & Development Homeownership Program to help low- and moderate-income homeowners buy and maintain their homes.

PROPOSITION B: LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL ARTS FACILITIES

Ballot Language
The issuance of $128,000,000 in tax supported general obligation bonds and notes for planning, acquiring, constructing, renovating, improving, and equipping community and cultural facilities, libraries, museums, and creative arts facilities, and acquiring land and interests in land and property necessary to do so; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.

Explanation
If approved, the City Manager will expend $128 million to fund projects and/or programs in libraries, museums, community and cultural facilities. Funding for cultural centers is based upon esti-
BOND ELECTION
PROPOSITION B (continued)

estimated needs to complete a master plan or to address identified restoration or renovation needs.

Projects may include: $56.5 million for improvements to the Mexican American Cultural Center, Asian American Resource Center, Carver Museum and Cultural Center, and Mexic-Arte Museum; $34.5 million for various branch library renovations as well as an initial conversion of Faulk Central Library into an Austin History Center annex; $25 million to replace the current Dougherty Arts building; and $12 million for acquisition of creative spaces supporting the performing and fine arts.

PROPOSITION C: PARKS AND RECREATION

Ballot Language
The issuance of $149,000,000 in tax supported general obligation bonds and notes for planning, acquiring, constructing, renovating, improving and equipping public parks, recreation centers, natural areas, and other related facilities, including, without limitation, playfields, hike and bike trails, sports courts, and swimming pools, and acquiring land and interests in land and property necessary to do so; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.

Explanation
If approved, the City Manager will expend $149 million to fund several parks-related projects throughout Austin.

Projects may include: $40 million for a new Colony Park Pool and major renovations or replacements of aging existing City pools; $45 million to buy land to be used for parks and greenbelts including acreage in Oak Hill for a metropolitan destination park, and infill parks in park-deficient areas of Austin; $25 million for development of and improvement to existing parkland (like Roy G. Guerrero Park and John Trevino Jr. Park), greenbelts, and downtown squares; $21.5 million for building renovations at existing Parks and Recreation facilities, including safety and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessibility improvements, maintenance/replacement of heating and air conditioning, as well as possible roof, door, and window replacement; $17.5 million in infrastructure improvements including building, upgrading, and/or repairing playscapes, trails, parking lots and roadways, athletic fields and facilities, and City cemeteries.

PROPOSITION D: FLOOD MITIGATION, OPEN SPACE AND WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

Ballot Language
The issuance of $184,000,000 in tax supported general obligation bonds and notes for flood mitigation, open space and water quality and quantity for planning, designing, acquiring, constructing, and installing improvements and facilities for flood control, erosion control, water quality, water quantity, and stormwater drainage, and acquiring land, open spaces, and interests in land and property necessary to do so; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.

Explanation
If approved, the City Manager will expend $184 million to fund projects related to flood mitigation, open space, and water quality and quantity protection.

Projects may include: $112 million for flood risk reduction, stabilization of eroded creek and stream banks, storm drain upgrades, low water crossing improvements, and buyouts in flood prone areas; and $72 million for the purchase of open space land and easements needed to protect water resources and improve flood mitigation. Stormwater drainage bond was last funded in 2006. The projects will impact all 10 City Council Districts.

PROPOSITION E: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Ballot Language
The issuance of $16,000,000 in tax supported general obligation bonds and notes for planning, constructing, reconstructing, improving, and equipping a neighborhood public health and human services facility in the Dove Springs area; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.

Explanation
If approved, the City Manager will expend $16 million to construct a multi-purpose neighborhood facility in Dove Springs. This project was proposed by Austin Public Health (APH). The facility would be co-located with the Dove Springs Recreation Center at 5801 Ainez Dr, on City-owned land. It would provide public health services, as a complement to the primary care service provided by the nearby CommUnityCare Health Center. The facility proposes to include a neighborhood services center; Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Food and Nutrition Service office; immunization clinic; childcare center; and event space for nonprofit partner agencies.

PROPOSITION F: PUBLIC SAFETY

Ballot Language
The issuance of $38,000,000 in tax supported general obligation bonds and notes for planning, renovating, improving, and equipping existing public safety facilities, specifically fire and emergency medical services stations, buildings, and other related facilities; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.

Explanation
If approved, the City Manager will expend $38 million to fund the renovation of existing fire stations and emergency medical services (EMS) facilities.

Projects may include: $13 million in renovations at existing fire stations, including driveway repairs and deferred maintenance such as upgrading lighting, modernizing alert systems, improving energy efficiency and plumbing, and removing asbestos and contaminants; and $25 million in upgrades at existing EMS facilities, including building renovations or expansions to better provide services and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

PROPOSITION G: TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Ballot Language
The issuance of $160,000,000 in tax supported general obligation bonds and notes for planning, constructing, reconstructing, and improving roads, streets, intersections, sidewalks, bridges, urban trails and related utility and drainage infrastructure for the streets and streets; improving traffic signal synchronization and control systems; acquiring and installing traffic signals; and acquiring land and interests in land and property necessary to do so; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.

Explanation
If approved, the City Manager will expend $160 million to fund a variety of transportation projects throughout Austin. This year’s bond projects do not overlap with projects planned in the 2016 bond. The 2016 bond primarily focused on improving major transit corridors, while the 2018 bond projects focus on repairing, replacing, or upgrading existing transportation infrastructure components throughout the City.

Projects may include: $66.5 million for repairing existing streets, including associated sidewalks, curb ramps, and drainage; $50 million to replace the Redbud Trail Bridge over Lady Bird Lake; $20 million to fix or replace existing sidewalks and to make them Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant; $15 million for safety improvements at intersections to reduce accidents; $4.5 million for technology improvements including: upgrades to traffic signals, controllers, and firmware, expansion of communications systems, and new signal installations; $3 million toward enhancing the connectivity of the City’s urban trails; $1 million to fund the Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP), which allows citizens to partner with the City to propose small- to medium-scale projects on City-owned property, the purpose of which is to improve the places in which citizens live, work, and play.

RUNOFF ELECTION

If a runoff election becomes necessary, it will be on December 11, 2018, with early voting December 3–7. To participate, citizens must be registered voters by November 12, 2018. Voting locations will be announced prior to the early voting period. It is highly likely there will be local runoff elections, such as for the City of Austin City Council positions.
LOCAL CITY OF AUSTIN

CHARTER ELECTION

PROPOSITION H: PLANNING COMMISSION

Ballot Language
Shall the City Charter be amended to provide that the term of service and process for removal of the Planning Commission members be determined by ordinance?

Explanation
The City’s Planning Commission purpose is to make and amend a master development plan, recommend approval or disapproval of proposed zoning changes, control land subdivision within neighborhood planning areas and submit an annual list of recommended capital improvements. Planning Commissioners are all volunteers and are appointed by City Council.

The Charter Review Commission recommends amending the City Charter to bring clarity to the process for appointing and removing Planning Commissioners. If approved, Article X, Section 2 of the Charter will be changed to “The members of [a Planning Commission] shall be appointed by the council for a term of up to two years. The timing of appointments, as well as a process for removing commissioners prior to expiration of a term, shall be established by ordinance.”

PROPOSITION I: NON-SUBSTANTIVE CORRECTIONS TO CHARTER

Ballot Language
Shall the City Charter be amended to make non-substantive corrections to the City’s land development code?

Explanation
The Charter Review Commission recommends that the Austin City Charter be corrected for minor wording, capitalization, and grammatical errors, etc.

SPECIAL ELECTION

PROPOSITION J: LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE

Ballot Language
Shall a City ordinance be adopted to require both a waiting period and subsequent voter approval period, a total of up to three years, before future comprehensive revisions of the City’s land development code become effective?

Explanation
If approved, the process for substantially amending the land development code will look like this: Step (1) Any proposal for comprehensive land development code changes must first be adopted by council members. Step (2) The adopted changes would not be implemented during a waiting period which ends after one City Council election cycle has passed. Step (3) After that, the public will vote on the proposed code changes in their entirety at the next municipal election.

This process could take up to three years. If, during the waiting period, Council amends or rejects the adopted code changes, this process begins again. This process only applies to major rewrites of the land development code. Minor adjustments to the land development code would not be put to a public vote.

This proposition came from a petition initiated by multiple citizens groups and political action committees. It deals with changes to the land development code (the rules for what can be built and where it can be built in the City). This is not a vote on CodeNext or any other specific land development code changes at this time. Instead, this proposition asks voters to decide whether or not to put all future land development code rewrites to a public vote.

PROPOSITION K: CITIZEN-INITIATED ORDINANCE REGARDING AN EFFICIENCY STUDY

Ballot Language
Without using the existing internal City Auditor or existing independent external auditor, shall the City Code be amended to require an efficiency study of the City’s operational and fiscal performance performed by a third-party audit consultant, at an estimated cost of $1 million–$5 million?

Explanation
If approved, the City will fund an independent efficiency study of the city’s operational and fiscal performance conducted by a qualified third-party auditor. The results of the study would include a list of operations and budget recommendations presented to City Council. The City estimates this process to cost between $1 and $5 million. This proposition came from a petition initiated by Citizens for an Accountable Austin, a political action committee.

LOCAL CITY OF JONESTOWN

CITY COUNCIL ALDERMAN

Q1. What strategies will you use to ensure open communication between City Hall and residents?
Q2. What are your top environmental and land development concerns and how do you plan to address them?
Q3. What is your vision for transportation infrastructure in your community and how will you advance it?
Q4. What other critical issue will you address and how?

PLACE 3

Joe Aaron

Background:
I am a resident of S. Jonestown Hills for 18 years. 5 years on the Board of Directors for North Shore Fire & Rescue and 12 years on City Council.

Education: Graduate of Pennsylvania State University, Electrical Engineering Technology
A1. Communications between Jonestown City Hall and its residents is a challenge. The North Shore Log (now cancelled) was a great newspaper to keep Jonestown residents informed. With a population of about 2,000, there are Facebook pages focused on the city,
the city website and an electronic bulletin board on Hwy 1431. Ours Police Department regularly post safety notices on Nextdoor. I have encouraged my neighbors and residents to monitor the city website and attend City Council meetings when possible. Jonestown City meeting agendas and meeting minutes are posted to keep residents informed.

**A2.** All of Jonestown residents and businesses are on individual septic sewer systems (except for a portion of one subdivision). There are a number of home sites available for new homes. The city will see more new subdivision proposals. Jonestown is probably the only city in Austin area that does not have sewer service to support Hwy 1431 businesses. As a result only 4 new businesses have opened in recent years. My goal is to provide a sewer line to the business community with no burden to residents. The city has a agreement with Leander for service connections. The challenge is funding.

**A3.** Highway 1431 is a feeder through Jonestown for the Austin Metro area. Traffic volume has grown significantly in recent years and will continue to get worse. The city has challenged TXDOT to resolve safety on the highway by widening the road with a continuous turn lane through residential and business areas. Currently, there are few turn lanes for access to residential neighborhoods. I have been active in efforts to maintain and improve city streets. As part of the Public Works Committee, we implemented a continuous road maintenance and upgrade plan based on dedicated budget funding.

**A4.** The city is proud of our Parks, and our Library. During my time on City Council, we have focused on developing formal plans for improvements to our infrastructure, parks, boating access, sidewalks, and our Library. The City has actively worked to win grants for improvements to these areas. Council has improved our reserves, and is financially sound. My goal is to continue using City Council members to assist city staff through a Committee Process, which I initiated, for key areas such as Public Safety, Development, Parks, Public Works, Library and Technology.

**Rod Schaffner**

No response

**PLACE 4**

**Dave Nelsen**

Unopposed

**PLACE 5**

**Linda Bush**

**Background:** Aerial Photographer  
**Education:** BS Kent State University, Ohio; Education English HS and Elementary, with Recreation minor.

**Website:** http://www.facebook.com/linda.bush.jonestown

**A1.** As your Jonestown Council representative, I would take advantage of email to keep everyone informed, continue to volunteer at the Jonestown library, and use posts on the library bulletin board; continue to pick up bread for the Community Center, using word of mouth; keep you all up on upcoming meetings and issues we deal with in council thru my facebook website, or call as some folks would request.

**A2.** I will be involved with the city building codes and strategies by assisting with simplifying of the building codes, doing away with redundant rules. I will be mindful about avoiding changes to our community that will result in unnecessary costs for homeowners. I will also assist the Parks and Recreation Board in developing activities, as well as the upkeep and maintenance of our beautiful parks.

**A3.** I will work with the Council and TXDOT to make 1431 safer. Adding the half turn lane (protected left turns); helping qualify for adding stop lights at a couple of our dangerous spots. With each improvement, I would advocate for limited costs to the homeowners and taxpayers.

**A4.** Quality of life for the citizens of Jonestown. Working with the volunteer programs in Jonestown to provide more accessible information about services to our citizens. Getting fire hydrants throughout Jonestown for additional fire protection. Reaching out to the families with younger kids at home to keep them up-to-date about our valuable library programs. Keeping Jonestown residents in the know about current projects in the town. Working with seniors who would like to remain in Jonestown by developing a program to increase senior citizen living spaces.

**Eric Davis**

**Background:**  
**Over 30 years of experience in real estate and economic development in both the private and public sector.**

**Education:** Bachelor of Applied Arts & Sciences, Stephen F. Austin State University

**A1.** We have a system in place where issues are discussed in depth in commitments that are open to the public. I serve on the Development and Public Safety committees. These committee meetings allow a resident to hear the detailed discussions behind a specific issue in which they may have interest.

**A2.** Jonestown is in the direct path of the rapid growth headed towards north-west Travis County. The question is not whether we want to grow or not. We are growing and will continue to grow. Our goal is to control that growth in a quality and sustainable manner. I was appointed unanimously to the Council this year into an unexpired open seat. I was chosen by the Council because of my service on our Future Land Use Planning Committee. Our new land use plan ensures that open spaces, view corridors, parks and dark skies remain a priority.

**A3.** Jonestown is located on a busy and often dangerous State Highway 1431. The current Council has worked to encourage TXDOT to add safety measures to this highway including a new stop light this year at Park Street and future widening efforts with more turn lanes. Our new street maintenance plan works to make sure our city streets have regular maintenance with new pavement and/or sealant on a scheduled routine.

**A4.** This year, the Council doubled the homestead exemption to 20% which gives residents a tax reduction. Our current Council is a cohesive body dedicated to keeping taxes low while providing quality city services such as police protection, a library, nice parks, and well-maintained streets. In our upcoming budget we were able to keep the tax rate the same while providing our police with a much needed raise and funding all the necessary services to keep Jonestown a great small town.

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**LOCAL CITY OF LAGO VISTA**

**CITY COUNCIL**

**Q1.** What strategies will you use to ensure open communication between City Hall and residents?  
**Q2.** What are your top environmental and land development concerns and how do you plan to address them?  
**Q3.** What is your vision for transportation infrastructure in your community and how will you advance it?  
**Q4.** What other critical issue will you address and how?

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**PLACE 2**

**Don Barthlow**

No response

**Kevin Sullivan**

**Background:**  
I spent 25 years in the software professional services industry. Now I am semi-retired but do work part time in real estate and serve on the council.

**Education:** BBA in Finance from The University of Texas at Austin and an MBA from Southern Methodist University (1991)

**A1.** I will continue to publicize my contact information with every method at my disposal so that citizens know how to reach me when they have questions, con-
Kevin Sullivan (continued)
cerns, or are just looking for a little information. In the two and a half years I’ve served on council, I’ve personally responded to every citizen that has reached out to me to try to address whatever needs they might have.

A2. My top concerns in this area revolve around the pace of growth in Lago Vista and how the city handles the growth effectively. As we move through our budgeting process, I take a strong look at the development services budget as well as that for streets and other essential services to make sure that we are well prepared to handle the influx of residents. Additionally, I work with city staff to proactively look at land use maps and plans for parks and buffers to make sure that Lago Vista retains its charm, appeal, and beauty.

A3. Lago Vista’s transportation infrastructure consists of our road and traffic control infrastructure as well as the CapMetro service offered in our community. I’ve worked closely with the city manager to push the limits of service we receive from CapMetro and how it can be improved. In addition, I’ve arranged for CapMetro personnel to visit to discuss their service. With our roads, my main goal as Council Place 2 has been to focus on essential services/infrastructure, including roads. I’ve focused our budget discussions around how to optimize our scarce tax dollars to improve our road system.

A4. A continuing issue in our city is the local golf courses and how they burden the city finances. In my first term, I crafted a strategy of closing one course with the intent of selling it to a private party and focusing our efforts on improving the conditions of our other course. The strategy included providing additional funds to improve our remaining course and it has flourished accordingly. The recent sale of our second course successfully completes the other part of my strategy. My goal in a second term will be ensure we complete the strategy and continue to ease the financial burden.

Timothy J. Collins
Background: Financial Services Manager in Texas for a national Insurance company. Operations and management.

Education: American College Chartered Financial Consultant Chartered Life Underwriter Certified Financial Planner (R) Board of Standards. Inactive status.

Website: http://timcollins.lagovista@gmail.com

A1. All agendas and minutes of meetings are published on the city website. Past sessions are also on the city web site. Council and committee hearing time and places are published on the web site. Council meetings can be viewed on line when the council is in session. In addition we use a local printed paper to publish meeting times, places and topics.

A2. Excess effluent water is disposed of by watering two golf courses and a forested area inside the city limits. We have existing plans for working with developers for best usage of the land for buildings, water runoff and collection, reserving land for parks and playgrounds.

A3. There is very little use of public transportation in our town. Our main public transportation is a small bus used to transport people to and from larger metropolitan areas. First, we do not have a population large enough to support this transportation. Secondly, we are a little too far out from larger cities. We spend a vary large out of proportion amount of money for what little use there is of the present program. We could better use the money on other projects.

A4. We will concentrate on bringing additional business operations into the city. New home construction and renovation of existing homes is the largest factor in bringing new population to our city. Business will open in towns where there is enough population to make operations feasible.

Selima Harbison
Background: I have been teaching various forms of fitness and dance in our community. I also run two local small business Green Goddess and LV Farmers Market.

Education: I attended RRISD and then went on to study Psychology and Sociology at the University of Texas Austin Website: http://fb.me/VOTESelimaHarbisonLVCityCouncilPlace4

A1. I already spend a great deal of my time in face to face conversations with residents about concerns. I will continue to do this, but on a larger scale. I will have brunch meetings at local restaurants inviting people of various backgrounds and ages. In addition, my house has an open door policy and we have coffee meet ups there on Wednesdays. Also, I will continue my work with the Young Families Advisory committee as well as reaching out to the leaders of local special interest groups. Lastly, I think my online presence in the community makes people feel comfortable enough to reach out.

A2. One of my top land development concerns is the rate of growth. Keeping builders accountable and held to the highest of regulations to prevent the mass influx of improperly built houses. Also, teaching the community many of the permaculture techniques I use on our organic farm that can be carried over to everyday life to limit environmental impact. Another goal is to entice eco friendly and sustainable businesses to the area with small business incen-

A3. Our infrastructure is in desperate shape. Although, I think the current councils plan to fix roads is working, it is at an arduous pace. Therefore, I want to propose an idea where house builders who purchase a certain percentage of land on dilapidated streets should have to incur the cost of street repairs. In addition, I think there should be a cap on home builders per year and once that number is met they should have to give a percentage of each house sale to the city for road repairs for all the semi and construction trucks they are bringing into the area that are stressing our streets.

Darnell Powell
No response

Frank Robbins
Background: Married. 10 years active Army. Viet Nam vet. Airborne Ranger. 33 years as planner and assist. city manager (ACM) in fast growing cities. Past Lago Vis Education: BA Texas A&M 1968 MS Community and Regional Planning, University of Texas, Austin. 1980

A1. Attend on-going town halls. Use social media, Attend local volunteer organization meetings. Attend POA and LVISD board meetings. Attend LVISD sporting events. Attend numerous Lago Vista party events. Improve city board, commission, and committee vetting/public hearing processes by encouraging them to reach a community consensus before presentation to the city council.
In the canyons, limit new subdivisions to two units per acre, and use natural drainage systems to carry runoff rather than structural means. Loss of large native trees. Solution: Strict enforcement of tree preservation laws.
A.3 Leave CapMetro. Use the savings to improve existing deteriorated streets. No tax increase bonds to improve poor streets. Consideration of street impact fees to pay for new streets and widening of existing streets, such as Lohman Ford. Plan for a landscaped median in Lohman Ford when it is widened. Adopt access management standards to lessen congestion. Very long term, work with CAMPO, TxDOT, and Travis County to determine sites for a bridge over Lake Travis linking 1431 and 620.
A.4 Implement the Master Plan by incorporating it into a strategic planning program that is related to the city council capital improvement and budget process. P&Z should compile a list of “to do” from the Master Plan and report to the city council about what has been done and not done. The report would include how near term not-done items might be done. The result would be city council direction about short and long term goals and measurable objectives and multi-year funding ideas.
Keep Lago Vista beautiful by considering (the organization) Keep Lago Vista Beautiful’s recommendations.

**LOCAL CITY OF LAGO VISTA**

**CITY COUNCIL, PLACE 6**

Frank Robbins (continued)

A.2 Decrease in natural beauty, increased water pollution of Lake Travis, and increased chances of flooding by development of existing and new lots in Lago Vista’s many scenic canyons, many of which have springs. Solutions: Strict ordinance enforcement, consideration of drainage fees to pay for purchase of environmentally sensitive lots that are deep

**LOCAL CITY OF LAKEWAY**

**COUNCILMEMBER SPECIAL ELECTION**

(Vote for none, one, or two)

Q1. What strategies will you use to ensure open communication between City Hall and residents?
Q2. What are your top environmental and land development concerns and how do you plan to address them?
Q3. What is your vision for transportation infrastructure in your community and how will you advance it?
Q4. What other critical issue will you address and how?

Glenda Foreman Engert
No response

Betty W. Haley
**Background:**
As a retired professional educator and school counselor, I bring my experience in goal setting, conflict resolution, and organization to the City. De

**Education:** BA Degree in government, history, and English MA Degree in psychology

**Website:** http://facebook.com/bettyforlakeway

A1. Citizens are encouraged to share their suggestions and criticisms in civil discourse through direct contact or through email. I encourage interaction with the people of Lakeway so that their concerns and goals are expressed. Re-searching the issues will allow me to understand the topic and address it. If citizens wish open discussions, public town hall assemblies can be arranged.
A2. Lakeway is a unique community. The City Council must address growth, while maintaining the undeveloped green spaces that remain. Many of these spaces are privately owned, which means compromises are in our future. It is important that the City use its influence to guide moderate density in future development.
A3. As every Lakeway resident knows, traffic is a constant concern. The City must spearhead the building of new roads which enable us to avoid Highway 620 and support the plans of the Texas Department of Transportation to improve that highway.
A4. Taxes. In order to utilize out tax dollars effectively, careful attention must be paid to budget development. Conservative budgeting is the hallmark of efficient city management.

Laurie Higginbotham
**Education:** B.A., University of Texas at Austin, 1995 J.D., University of Texas at Austin, 1999

**Website:** http://www.LaurieforLakeway.com

A1. Lakeway is fortunate to have older, dedicated volunteers as well as younger, energized families. Both of these demographics offer different strengths and viewpoints. It is important to me that all groups feel valued, included, and welcome at City Hall. Open communication and feedback are always key to making the best decisions. As a lawyer, I am comfortable hearing more than one side to a story and finding a solution. The City should use all available tools to communicate, like the Public Engagement Committee, town halls, the electronic newsletter, social media, email, and electronic surveys.
A2. The City Center is one of the last opportunities to impact Lakeway for the long term. Most residents have 3 related concerns for new development: density, traffic and water use. I am for low-density development that will not change the fundamental character of Lakeway. The City should negotiate for dedicated parkland and new roads to reduce traffic on 620. Living with deer requires balancing safety concerns with humane solutions. We should talk to wildlife experts and learn from other cities. We all value nature and our policies should be grounded in scientific evidence and open communication.
A3. Traffic is a concern for everyone, but the City cannot solve this problem single-handedly. What the City can do is keep things from getting worse by minimizing density in new developments. The City can reduce existing in-town traffic on 620 by creating new alternative roads, such as a road from Lohman’s Crossing to the Oaks. We should work with Travis County and TxDOT on long-range plans to avoid 620 turning into an elevated road in the future, which would create a noisy eyesore through the middle of town. Parking also needs to be considered when we plan the City Center and future events.
A4. City Council has been missing the voice of younger families, even as the median age of Lakeway has dropped significantly. I have children currently in LTISD schools, at Lakeway Elementary, Hudson Bend Middle School and Lake Travis High School, and all play LTYA sports. This perspective of young families needs to be included on City Council. I also want to help heal the divisiveness in our community. Through my many years of serving on City Boards and commissions, I have respect for those who came before me, but I am also open to new ideas and voices. I can help bridge the divide.

Louis Mastrangelo
**Background:** 25 years successfully leading large teams and projects. 3 election cycles advocating for citizens at city council, commission, and committee meetings.
**Education:** University of Phoenix; University of San Diego, Marshall School of Business (GM1 & GM2)
**Website:** http://www.LouisForLakeway.com

A1. Not every citizen has the need or desire to interact with their city leaders but when they do, their civic leaders need to
LOCAL CITY OF LAKEWAY

COUNCILMEMBER SPECIAL ELECTION

Louis Mastrangelo (continued)
be available and responsive. Email alone does not cut it with today’s working people with busy schedules. I will dedicate several hours per week using modern applications to allow all citizens to book real time on my calendar, one to one or in groups. I will continue to use social media to make citizens aware of the important issues and get their feedback. I will have monthly live and virtual roundtables to allow citizens to ask tough questions and get straight answers.

A2. Development should always be in harmony with the city’s comprehensive plan. Until the new one is developed, the existing one should stand. While the city cannot and should not discourage development, it does have the ability to limit what can be built by multiple devices including those in the code of ordinances. Recently, developers have often piloted the city’s growth and that is unacceptable. Environmental studies are not required for initial approval. Traffic studies are paid by the developer. On City Council, I will help the city take a leadership role in planning future development.

A3. The way we can control traffic is to lower the utilization of it through our part of the RR 620 corridor. We need a road that will connect Main St. and Birrell St. to Lohman’s Spur. That will allow multitudes of Lakeway citizens to avoid RR 620 altogether for business or shopping. We must build it ourselves at a worthwhile cost and not allow developers to use it as a bargaining chip. Regarding the development of RR 620 itself, the decisions today will affect how it’s built over the next several years. I will work diligently with TxDOT to ensure Lakeway receives the best options possible.

A4. We need to revisit our code of ordinances for residences and businesses. It’s hard to start a business in Lakeway. With so many retail vacancies, we need to focus on supporting the businesses that are already here paying taxes and maybe struggling instead of approving more retail and office space development. If it does not affect the health and safety of our citizens, we can consider lighter restrictions. We need to work with commerce organizations to support the promotion of local business. We can also revisit our residential codes to ensure that they make sense in our current environment.

Wendi Severance

Background:
22 years maintaining a livable Lakeway through building relationships within the community and consistently being positively vocal on local issues.

Education: CSUC BA Sociology. ‘Highly Qualified’ to teach certificates in general and special education. Educated in Real Estate and Insurance.

Website: http://www.WendiForLakeway.com

A1. My strategy is proving myself accessible. Utilizing social media, email, phone, text for quick responses. I am self-employed with a flexible schedule along with effective time management skills. I want you to have a council person you can trust. My expectations of others are ones I have for myself. I would want my council member to listen, care, and work hard for my community with an open mind by actively engaging within the community, listening and representing what truly matters to Lakeway.

A2. My top concern is keeping Lakeway a Livable Lakeway. I am a proponent for responsible, conservative development stemming from Lakeway’s rapid growth, that benefits our taxpayers and small business while weighing our resources, safety, topography, and serenity. I will engage with folks that may be confused or feeling pressure with the current septic vs. sewer options for parts of Lakeway. Environmentally our wildlife needs to be considered. I will engage with our Wildlife Committee and City Council the feasibility of a local wild life center, open to the public as an educational resource.

A3. Having survived a 70 mph head on collision on Hwy 71, my immediate concern is safety and what can be done locally. I plan on working with the current infrastructure and laws in place to make the 620 corridor safer for our residents, seniors and students. I will propose that Lakeway becomes known as a ‘Hand’s Free Community’ with a zero tolerance approach. Inattentive drivers wreak havoc. I will engage in discussions with Police Chief Radford and City Council for increase police presence on 620 corridor for infractions, illegal left turns, etc. resulting in less stressful driving.

A4. Being raised in a small town, I understand the sense of community. Lakeway’s rapid growth proposes a critical concern regarding this feeling. However, it also allows for a necessary and unique opportunity to bridge the gap. For 12 of my 22 years in Lakeway we were a four-generation family. I have plans for refreshing, community engaged programs for relationship building. I plan on working with LTISD, connecting student service hours, interest and skillset in our governmental process for a community that is vested in each other.

LOCAL CITY OF MANOR

CITY COUNCIL

Q1. What strategies will you use to ensure open communication between City Hall and residents?

Q2. What are your top environmental and land development concerns and how do you plan to address them?

Q3. What is your vision for transportation infrastructure in your community and how will you advance it?

Q4. What other critical issue will you address and how?

PLACE 2

Maria D. Amezcua

Background: Current incumbent. Currently serving budget committee and PID committee

Education: Currently enrolled in Arizona State University pursuing a degree in business administration. A.S in computer network engineering

A1. I frequently ask for input, and will continue to do so. I am always looking for innovative ways to reach out to the community. I love to attend meetings, meet and greet and anywhere where the community gathers. I am also in many neighborhood Facebook pages, interacting and observing, to what the residents want and need.

A2. Our city is growing very quickly. We are looking into our wastewater treatment plant, that needs to be built as soon as possible. This will help better serve our community and will alleviate many water issues. We also need to be more vigilant as to what our neighboring ETJ/County neighbors get approved so we don’t end up with nuisance neighbors. This can be achieved by having more communication with our county counterparts.

A3. Infrastructure is a big concern in our city. We are growing and we need to ensure there is infrastructure there before we continue to build. We are currently negotiating for better roads, wider sidewalks, trails, commuter hubs. All this is in motion to help alleviate some of the current issues. We also must continue to have open dialogue with txdot to ensure that we are getting what we need.

A4. We are looking to increase our police force and help ensure they have all that they need. We are currently receiving grants and plan to continue requesting any grants that can help keep our citizens safe.

Jacob Hammersmith

Background: US Army Veteran, Entrepreneur, Cybersecurity Specialist, Planning and Zoning Commissioner

Education: B.S. in Information Technology, M.S. in Information Assurance
One of the most important duties as a government official is to ensure children have safe places to play and attend school. As a council member I would continue listening to the concerns of residents and work with city officials and board commissioners to come to a fair outcome for all parties.

Many residents have voiced concern over the current road and traffic conditions in our growing city. As a council member I would push to expand light rail with multi-lane expansions on 290 and Gregg Lane. Re-evaluating speed limits, especially on poorly improved or low-lit roads. Adjusting the timing on stop lights for increased traffic areas due to newly developed and expanded communities. Official turning lanes where high traffic and high-speed is common, especially on poorly improved and low-lit roads. Also, increasing the number of street lights, particularly FM 973 and improvement of bad roads.

Increasing economic development equally across all industries for total well-being improvement by way of greater utilization of City produced resources. Ensuring business diversity equally relative to the growing population for a welcoming and representative culture. Establishing multi-purpose family entertainment and activity centers given the increased number of families by supporting entrepreneurship and small business ownership. Exceeding healthcare, mental health, and educational standards by actively measuring child and adult development.

Christopher Harvey

Background:
Christopher Harvey has lived and worked in Manor for over 10 years. He values God, Family/Friends, Building Community, Sports, Movies, and Good Food.


A1. I will continue to use and enhance the current usage of social media. We have an awesome newspaper and school district with which I believe we should continue to increase collaboration. Communication should always be two-way and in the languages to reach all of our residents. I am having regular Town Halls meetings to get an understanding of the community needs and wants. Some people can’t make the city council meetings because of church of youth activities, but they will come to meetings in their community or a local business.

A2. My top concerns are making sure we continue to develop green areas, prevent water supply contamination, and work to continue to increase the quality of our water supply. Until then, I hope to find rebates to encourage the use of water softeners for our residents. I’d love to hear from our farmers on how we can support them and even learn from them. I am interested in working with with Bluebonnet Electric to help our residents understand how to conserve energy and use the awesome tools provided on their website, as well as explore any renewable energy options.

A3. My vision is to ensure transportation infrastructure supports our school district & community needs now, & in the future. We need to review high collision areas & cross reference those areas against construction zones & high traffic areas for commuting residents, school employees, students, & school buses. We need to explore carpool lanes, metro rail, more metro routes, & roadway expansions an urgent issue. I will work with the Texas Department of Transportation & Public Safety, Travis County, Manor PD, & business/housing developers to ensure we construct roadways for our future growth.

A4. Increase social services for families (21% of residents in poverty); Offer job training programs for youth and adults (80% residents w/High School Diploma); Build capacity for Travis County summer employment opportunities for youth; Offer yearlong enrichment and training programming for students in partnership with School District and Community Partners; Explore Long Range Strategic Planning for City of Manor—transportation infrastructure transformation to reduce average resident work commute (33.2 minutes to work). Data from US Census—2012–2016

PLACE 4

Gil Burrell

Education: BS TEXAS A & I university

A1. - no response -

A2. I will strive to improve the infrastructure of Olf Manor and expand the cemetery area.

A3. Only text dot has the answers. They have made manor another oak hill with a dump off toll road

A4. - no response -

Dr. Larry Wallace Jr.

Background:
A multi-industry experienced US Army Retired Veteran currently serving as Commissioner (Place 4) on the City of Manor’s Planning & Zoning Commission.

Education: Ph.D in Business Administration, MBA in Management, MA in Human Relations, AA in General Studies, 3 Small Business & Entrepreneurship Certifications.

Website: http://wallace-brothers.com/larry-wallace-jr

A1. Expanding areas of access and dialogue by increasing the number of council member engagements outside of City Hall meetings (e.g., Manor ISD, HOA, and other community events & association gatherings; posting on official manor social media platforms like Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter; and creating a question & answer section in Manor newsletter). Additionally, greater publicizing council member social media pages and email address for more personalized interaction, and having City Council and Planning & Zoning Commission meetings recorded and posted in addition to the minutes and agenda.

A2. Sustaining a decent mixture of agricultural (e.g., crop & livestock farming, breeding, etc.) and new age housing with the use of poor agricultural locations for housing first; to include, consistent yet contemporary landscaping. Regulating the use of chemical fertilizers, fuel, and raw materials to increase resident safety measures. Ensuring the City of Manor expands with municipal services as the focal point. Also, establishing and enhancing drainage routes to reduce farming damage and traffic rerouting. By identifying key stakeholders and their interests, effective messaging is established.

A3. Increasing road construction to reduce traffic congestion by way of evidence-based data collection to persuade key stakeholders. For example, creating multi-lane expansions on 290 and Gregg Lane. Re-evaluating speed limits, especially on poorly improved or low-lit roads. Adjusting the timing on stop lights for increased traffic areas due to newly developed and expanded communities. Official turning lanes where high traffic and high-speed is common, especially on poorly improved and low-lit roads. Also, increasing the number of street lights, particularly FM 973 and improvement of bad roads.

A4. Increasing economic development equally across all industries for total well-being improvement by way of greater utilization of City produced resources. Ensuring business diversity equally relative to the growing population for a welcoming and representative culture. Establishing multi-purpose family entertainment and activity centers given the increased number of families by supporting entrepreneurship and small business ownership. Exceeding healthcare, mental health, and educational standards by actively measuring child and adult development centers to local, state, and national standards.

PLACE 6

Valerie Dye

No response

Todd Shaner

No response
**LOCAL CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE**

**BOND ELECTION**

**PROPOSITION A**

**Ballot Language**
The issuance of $21,100,000 tax bonds for street improvements to Colorado Sand Drive, Kelly Lane, Old Austin Hutto Road, and East Pflugerville Parkway.

**Explanation**
This $21 million bond proposal would cover construction projects to build, widen, expand, and/or improve several roadways in Pflugerville. The proposed street projects include Kelly Lane between W. Falcon Point Drive to Moor-lynch Avenue, Colorado Sand Drive between Copper Mine Drive and Lone Star Ranch Boulevard, Old Austin Hutto Road between Pecan Street to FM 685, and Pflugerville Parkway east of Weiss Lane. Plans for improvement to each roadway include building or expanding curbs and gutters, sidewalks, storm sewers and adding street lights, among others.

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**LOCAL CITY OF ROUND ROCK**

**SPECIAL ELECTION**

**PROPOSITION A**

**Ballot Language**
The Legal Sale of All Alcoholic Beverages Including Mixed Beverages.

**Explanation**
This proposition would allow all parts of the city to sell mixed beverages. Currently, there are some areas in the city where businesses can’t sell mixed drinks. These are areas where the city annexed the land and kept the original alcohol status. Restaurants in these areas are currently being required to use a membership system to sell liquor.

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**LOCAL CITY OF SUNSET VALLEY**

**MAYOR**

**Q1.** What strategies will you use to ensure open communication between City Hall and residents?

**Q2.** What are your top environmental and land development concerns and how do you plan to address them?

**Q3.** What is your vision for transportation infrastructure in your community and how will you advance it?

**Q4.** What other critical issue will you address and how?

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Rose Cardona

No response

Ketan Kharod

**Background:**
Current Mayor Pro Tem; experience as a lawyer and through nonprofit boards. Have lived in SV since 2008, with all 3 children attending SV Elementary.

**Education:**
J.D., University of Texas School of Law; M.P.P., Georgetown Public Policy Institute; B.A, Georgetown University

**A1.** Good communication requires transparency and a willingness to recognize what modes of communication are most effective. Along with encouraging greater in-person participation at council meetings and on committees, I plan to improve our website and increase social media use to amplify of city events and news (e.g., the new SVPD FB page, Nextdoor, etc.). Also, I will continue my current practice of being responsive to all residents who contact me by email, phone, or in person, and working with staff and residents, even as a facilitator, to improve any specific communication gaps which may exist.

**A2.** Our city is committed to protecting water quality, our green spaces, and maintaining our city’s character through reasonable development restrictions (e.g., impervious cover, light pollution, etc.) while respecting private property rights. I will work with the council to continue this commitment. Two areas I would like to improve: (1) trail maintenance; (2) tweaking our rebate programs to reflect changing technology and to maximize their intended goals (e.g., targeted rebates to encourage water conservation and reallocating funds from rebates that may be outdated as currently designed).

**A3.** While SV does not have the traditional transportation infrastructure issues that Austin has, there are small improvements we can consider without great expense. These include: (1) working with Austin on common transportation issues (e.g., Jones Road corridor improvements to make it more bike- and pedestrian-friendly, future improvements on Brodie); (2) neighborhood-specific solutions to parking concerns, ideally through greater awareness or informal mediation before any regulation, and (3) working with SVPD and Public Works to identify and improve traffic flow ‘hot spots’ during peak times.

**A4.** Though the public facilities project is currently on budget and funded in a fiscally responsible manner, the process has shown the importance of mutual trust among elected officials, staff, and residents. I believe I have the personal and professional track record, as a listener and collaborator, to guide that process in the future, whether we are discussing the city’s long-term financial health, or specific projects, such as use of the Uplands property (e.g., a proposed joint venture with the Austin Fire Department, along with a long-awaited potential arts and community-friendly venue).

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LOCAL CITY OF SUNSET VALLEY

CITY COUNCIL (Vote for none, one or two)

Q1. What strategies will you use to ensure open communication between City Hall and residents?

Q2. What are your top environmental and land development concerns and how do you plan to address them?

Q3. What is your vision for transportation infrastructure in your community and how will you advance it?

Q4. What other critical issue will you address and how?

Phil Ellett

Background: I grew up in Wales and attended College in London, I came to the U.S. in 1977. I am married to a wonderful lady Sue and we have a son Dylan

Education: HNC Electronics and Electrical Engineering West London University

A1. Sunset Valley is a community that truly encourages and is responsive to citizen concerns which is one of the reasons I enjoy living here so much. I plan to continue working to further that sense of open communication by listening to residents, working with other council members to problem solve our issues and create comprehensive solutions. Our talented and responsive staff continues to improve our website, newsletters and email communications. We also use surveys and input from committees and any member of the community is always welcome to email or visit council and committee meetings.

A2. My top environmental concerns center around water quality and flooding issues which have consumed many past council meetings. Our city has a deep love of the environment and our rural past which grounds us and must be integrated into our new more urban future. Redevelopment of our commercial areas is an important area to explore. I have served on the Public Works committee for many years as well as Community and Economic Development and over a decade attending most city council meetings. I am very current on these issues and well prepared to go to work if I am so fortunate as to be elected.

A3. Having served for a number of years on both Finance and Public Works committees, I understand that a vision of transportation infrastructure must be cost effective, well thought out and innovative. Our road bases are often challenged by clay and flooding issues. Our shopping area is successful and good traffic flow helps ensure its continued good fortune. I am a supporter of our pay as you go philosophy and having dedicated funds for our infrastructure replacement. There are many idiosyncratic challenges to each of our public works projects and I enjoy being familiar with them.

Education: Bachelor of Liberal Studies, St Edward’s University

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A4. Our City Facilities Project is currently consuming a large part of our public energy and discussion. As we wrap up that major project which is the largest our city has ever undertaken, I believe it will be useful to have an experienced member on council to ensure we effectively make good decisions about both that project and the replenishment of the General Fund reserve. I believe I have the background necessary to do that which is why I am running and hope I will have your vote to allow me to serve.

Joe Koizen


Education: Master’s degree from Air Force Institute of Technology—Dayton, OH, 1996 Bachelor’s degree from Univ of Scranton—1987

Website: http://www.facebook.com/jkoizen

A1. As elected officials we must ensure that we’re good stewards of the public trust. This includes ensuring there’s integrity and accountability in all that we do. Having served in the United States Air Force for over twenty years, I’m familiar with the importance of transparency in the public sector, particularly from it’s elected officials. If elected, I promise to uphold these core values and ensure they remain in the forefront of all that we do. I intend to be accessible as a public servant both in my official capacity & as a private citizen. I invite you to reach me at: Facebook.com/jkoizen

A2. Sunset Valley is somewhat unique in Austin in that it is surrounded by nature preserves and undeveloped woodlands. It is critically important for officials to remain mindful to preserve a balance between a healthy tax base and future development. We must work to preserve the unique blend of rural home and farm sites with a robust and vibrant commercial and retail corridor. Additionally, we must maintain and protect our city’s access and our rights to the aquifer for our potable water needs. In particular, I plan on bringing my 20+ years of public and private sector experience to the table

A3. Given Sunset Valley’s size and proximity to Austin, we’re likely to find ourselves contributing to the area’s master plan rather than developing our own. However, we should continue to use our resources to protect citizen’s safety first, especially on Brodie Lane. As traffic increases, so do safety concerns. Sunset Valley should give serious consideration to Austin’s request for locating a new fire station within city limits. This could have the affect of reducing response times and reduce the need to expend future public dollars contracting with Austin for this service.

A4. Sunset Valley is fortunate to have a vibrant retail and commercial corridor that runs right through the middle of our city. This thoroughfare not only offers citizens and neighbors excellent access to high-quality and affordable shopping, dining and services, but it also provides a much needed (and appreciated) tax revenue. City officials should work to understand on-line shopping trends and do it’s best to protect the “bricks and mortar” space so critical to the city’s financial health. Finally, the city needs a plan to deal with extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) requests/complaints.

Karen L. Medicus


Education: Certification as a Dialogue Education Fellow; Mediator; Appreciative Inquiry and MBTI Practitioner; and former CFRE.

A1. Provide meaningful information and effective public processes to build awareness and support planning and decision making. I believe face-to-face conversations and sharing of ideas will provide pathways for unifying our community. I will always be available to residents and staff to hear their thoughts and ideas.

A2. We need to be prudent in issuing variances and provide adequate monitoring of mitigation factors over time. Enforcement of our current code should be done. If changes are needed to the code, those changes should be made to protect our quality of life.

A3. We do not have public transportation within our city limits. Ensuring we have adequate budget to maintain our roadways on a scheduled timeline is important.

A4. Development of a specific plan for city owned property to benefit the community.
**LOCAL AUSTIN ISD**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Q1.** What school safety measures are your highest priority?

**A1.** As a past member of the Facilities and Bond Planning Advisory Committee, I helped define the criteria by which we measure safety and security within the Facility Master Plan. Reducing the number of portables throughout the district as well as creating secure vestibules at all of our schools is of the highest priority. I will continue to work diligently for continued implementation of the Facility Master Plan. Additionally, I look forward to developing cooperative relationships with mental health groups to continue addressing this area of student development as it directly relates to safety.

**Q2.** What can the Board of Trustees do to encourage teachers to stay in the system?

**A2.** As a teacher myself, I believe we need to make sure that our employees feel heard and valued. It is important to provide meaningful opportunities for teacher input into curriculum and interventions. It is also the job of the district to make sure teachers have the knowledge and resources necessary to address the individual needs of their students. And of course, I would love nothing more than to increase teacher pay if the budget can support it.

**Q3.** What actions will you support to stabilize the district’s financial status?

**A3.** This is certainly not an easy question with one simple answer. After several years of budget cuts, it is getting harder with one simple answer. After several years of budget cuts, it is getting harder and harder to find places to save money. I will want to consider the ripple effects of what seem like obvious cuts and it will be important to keep our reserves to maintain our good bond ratings. My goal will be to make these difficult decisions and maintain the high quality and variety of academic programming currently available.

**Q4.** How do you define educational equity?

**A4.** I define educational equity as each school having all the resources it needs to provide the same high quality education for all students across the district regardless of race, socio-economic status, learning challenge, or any other defining characteristic.

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**DISTRICT 1**

**LaTisha Anderson**

**Background:** Austin native, Volunteer for The African American Resource Advisory Commission for the City of Austin, Boundary advisory committee AISD Education: Austin ISD Schools Southern Careers Institute

**Website:** [http://www.facebook.com/LaTisha-Anderson-for-District-1](http://www.facebook.com/LaTisha-Anderson-for-District-1)

**Trustee—AISD—**

**A1.** Proper security check for all employees before hiring; Develop/update crisis plan and preparedness training; Creating a safe, supportive school climate

**A2.** Continuing to boost staff morale and also making educators feel respected, and show that their work is valued by raises, one time bonus etc

**A3.** Eliminating wasteful spending; Switching from heavy paper use to going paperless; cuts to vendors who don’t have a proven record of student success since excepting contract

**A4.** Opportunity/Access, Fairness, measure of achievement, Fairness

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**Ted Gordon**

**Background:** I am Vice Provost for Diversity and Associate professor of African and African Diaspora and Anthropology at UT

**Education:** B.A.: Sociology/Anthropology; Swarthmore M.A.: Marine Sciences, Univ. of Miami M.A. Social Anthropology, Stanford Ph.D: Social Anthropology: Stanford

**A1.** I think the district has sufficient infrastructure and resources, including our School Resource Officers to keep our students and staff safe. A higher priority for me would be to make sure counselors and teachers have sufficient resources to monitor student emotional needs and have a good grasp emotional and mental health issues that could spiral out of control and create safety issues.

**A2.** The first and foremost thing the Board of Trustees can do is to make sure salaries are competitive, particularly compared to the high cost of living in Austin. A good way to supplement wages and benefits would be to provide housing allowance and subsidies, such as dedicated teacher housing in former AISD facilities.

**A3.** AISD must push Texas to improve its disastrously low level of school funding and eliminate ‘recapture’ policies. AISD must reprioritize its operations place classroom instruction as its top priority, eliminating low priority items. AISD must transform its administrative structure reducing central administration, administrative employees and salaries, and redeploying such employees to the schools. In the short term this would mean making tough decisions such as immediately freezing administrative hiring outside of the schools and holding off on the expansion of the new central office.

**A4.** Education is a fundamental human right. Every person has the right to receive a high-quality education that allows that person to develop their intellective capacities to the maximum of their abilities and desires. Educational equity is the fulfillment of this right by a society regardless of traditional impediments and exclusionary processes based on race/ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, religion, mental or physical ability, age, or geographic location.

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**DISTRICT 4**

**Kristin Ashy**

**Background:** As a parent, a mother, and an educator, I have served on FABPAC for 3 years working for all children of AISD and have been a PTA President twice.

**Education:** I received my BS in Early Childhood and Family Relationships from the University of Texas at Austin.

**Website:** [http://www.KristinAshyforAISD.com](http://www.KristinAshyforAISD.com)

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**Zachary Price**

**Background:** Zachary has experience working directly with students in 5 AISD schools. He founded The Language Campaign, which tutors ESL students in local schools.

**Education:** Zachary is a proud graduate of Anderson High School in District 4. He’s currently a junior government and honors student at the University of Texas.
The district has its best days ahead. Successful school districts support their teachers, listen to their employees, create opportunities for professional development, and provide competitive salaries and benefits. Educators should be recognized for their accomplishments and supported through their challenges. Classroom teachers need resources and personnel to advance academic success from grade to grade and to facilitate their students’ social and emotional learning.

A2. Successful school districts support their teachers, listen to their employees, create opportunities for professional development, and provide competitive salaries and benefits. Educators should be recognized for their accomplishments and supported through their challenges. Classroom teachers need resources and personnel to advance academic success from grade to grade and to facilitate their students’ social and emotional learning.

A3. Austin ISD needs partnerships with the City of Austin, Travis County, City Council, the Mayor’s Office, CapMetro, and Central Health to explore method of finance swaps, which preserve existing services and reduce our recapture bill. We should investigate all possible sources for sustainable income for the District, including land lease agreements for our properties, advertising, direct partnerships with philanthropic organizations, and tie-ins with major community events such as South by South West, the Austin City Limits Festival, and the Circuit of the Americas.

A4. Equity is providing students of different heights the right-sized box to “look over a fence.” Educational equity is achieved when all students have the academic resources and supports they need to pursue their hopes, dreams, and desires. What these students decide to do with their “views” are up to them, but we should give all students the “boxes” they need to see in the first place.
Q1. What school safety measures are your highest priority?
Q2. How will you effectively manage the daily operation of the school district?
Q3. What other critical issue will you address and how?

Desireé Ybarra

Background:
Desiree was born and raised in Austin, has worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs for over 15 years and has a child attending school in DVISD

Education:
Desiree graduated high school from the Austin Independent School District, attended Austin Community College and Texas State University in San Marcos.

A1. I am concerned with all areas of safety for our children, administrators, and staff to include safety in the classroom and transportation safety. Safety for all children regardless of their mode of transportation (walking, driving, school bus etc.) to and from school should be a priority, therefore we should review, examine, and recommend changes if necessary in school crossings, street lighting and bus stop locations..

A2. In my daily management of school district operations, I intend to listen to the citizens, students, and staff for their concerns. I will engage and caucus with the other Board Members, and work hard to acquire a thorough understanding of every issue brought before the Board and through critical analysis will make the best decisions for all those concerned. I intend to listen and be a voice for the people who elect me.

A3. I want to ensure that educational resources are being considered first before committing to other non-essential resources. I want every child to enjoy student life with the right balance of learning and participation in extra-curricular activities.

Matthew Worthington

Background:
Former Special Education Teacher & District Technology Administrator. Current Non-profit Professional.


Website: http://mattfordelvalle.com

A1. I think the district should take a holistic approach to student safety that addresses both what’s impacting students internally and externally. This means we think about student safety in a number of ways. It means that: 1) our schools have adequate building security staff and that protocols for school safety (fire drills, active shooter drills, etc.) are ironed out and communicated effectively. 2) our school cultures promote diversity and inclusion, 3) promoting health and wellness by making wrap-around services accessible, and 4) our disciplinary procedures result in better student outcomes.

A2. Ensuring that our buildings are effectively managed is critical for ensuring student success. In my experience, that translates to ensuring that the staff and faculty who work with students have the resources and human capital necessary to lead their students to success. It also means ensuring that our school leaders are empowered to lead their campuses. That said, I want to enhance the ways for every stakeholder to communicate those needs to the board, which includes not only educators and school leaders, but students and families as well.

A3. A major focus of mine revolves around ensuring we have adequate tools in place to measure growth and progress. This is different from standardized tests, which only communicate whether or not a student has reached a specific level. When I talk about measuring growth and progress, I mean that whenever a student falls behind, our schools should be able to identify how far that students is from being on grade-level in addition to knowing the specific steps that student needs to take to get back on track.

LOCAL LAGO VISTA ISD

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Q1. What school safety measures are your highest priority?
Q2. How will you effectively manage the daily operation of the school district?
Q3. What other critical issue will you address and how?

PLACE 6

David Scott
Unopposed

PLACE 7

Brandy Cumberland

Background:
10 yrs in Payment Security/quality, former 12th grade IB English teacher and community banking branch manager. Previous PTO Secretary/VP in HISD.

Education: University of Houston, B.A. Public Relations/Advertising, 2001; CISSP; Texas Educator Certificate, ELA Grades 8–12 (inactive)

Website: http://votecumby.com

A1. School safety must be balanced with maintaining a welcoming learning environment for our kids and teachers/paraprofessionals. We should continue to implement reasonable physical security measures and promote school-community collaborations that build trust, encourage students and adults to “see something, say something” and leave families feeling informed and in-the-loop. LVISD’s safety plans should facilitate effective threat assessment, preparedness, and response while promoting a positive climate.

A2. As a trustee, my focus will be on supporting outcomes that are most beneficial to our students and teachers/paraprofessionals. I respect the role of the superintendent, who is tasked with managing daily affairs, and intend to foster positive working relationships between the board of trustees and the superintendent to support regular and open communication and provide regular feedback and assessment.

A3. My family moved to LVISD because we were excited about the district, and my experience has been that the superintendent and teachers/paraprofessionals do an excellent job in providing our students a quality education. I view the composition of the board of trustees strategically; members should overall reflect the students and I bring representation to parents and teachers whose students succeed via individualized education plans (IEPs) or 504 plans. The most critical responsibility for a trustee is to be accessible to the community, and I will be available via multiple forms of communication.

Laura Spiers

Background:
I am a working wife to David Spiers and mother to Nate, 16 and Mary, 12. We have been in the school district for 12 years.

Education: B.B.A in M.I.S from University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX

Website: http://www.linkedin.com/in/lauraspiers


A2. I will work collaboratively with the school board and superintendent ant in advising and resolving current issues.

A3. No response
LOCAL LEANDER ISD

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Q1. What school safety measures are your highest priority?
Q2. How will you effectively manage the daily operation of the school district?
Q3. What other critical issue will you address and how?

PLACE 1

Trish Bode

Background: Elected to the Leander ISD Board of Trustees in 2015 & spent my professional career assessing legislation & policy. Currently serves as a Board Officer
Education: B.A. & M.A. Texas State University in Communication Studies

Website: http://Trishforlisd.com

A1. Implementing secure and controlled entries at all schools, maximizing the use of School Resource Officers, adding counselors to serve student academic and emotional needs, hiring an experienced Director of Security, and partnering with our families and students to make sure our District communicates well. The District should also continue to implement the recommendations of the extensive security audit recently conducted.

A2. We need to efficiently expand student programs for academic and extracurricular needs, while reviewing existing offerings to make sure they are still relevant. Teachers are the core of education, so I want to focus on recruiting and retaining our excellent teachers. As part of that, we must listen to their input and seek opportunities to improve their working environment and benefits. To build on these areas, I will continue my focus on fiscal responsibility and community engagement.

A3. Critical challenges for our district include growth in enrollment & community, growth in educational aspects, & reduction of the state’s contribution to funding. My professional experience & my role as a Trustee for over three years provides both insight & the skills necessary to address these challenges such as experienced advocacy. We must keep the priorities on academics & our students’ bright futures, while supporting teachers, exercising fiscal responsibility, & engaging with the community which includes students, teachers, parents, local officials, state leaders, & the business community.

Melissa Glaze

Background: I am a Texas native and moved to Austin area to attend law school. I’m an attorney for the State of Texas, a former preschool teacher, and a mom.
Education: I attended Duke University and graduated with a B.A. in religion and a second major in biology. I then attended The University of Texas School of Law.

Website: http://www.facebook.com/Melissaforlisd/LISD

A1. The tragic school shootings that our nation has faced have led to adoption of policies aimed at improving security and to renovations to make our schools safer. It is important that we continue to improve and examine school security with regards to school shootings. At the same time, we must stay focused on the less newsworthy threats our students face, such as domestic violence, abusive relationships, bullying, substance abuse, and suicide. By working hard and collaborating with students, parents, teachers, and the community, we can help protect our students from many safety concerns.

A2. My job at a large organization involves the work of many departments, all with different specialties, working together to achieve the end goals of the agency. I have learned that the best way to succeed in any complex endeavor is to support communication and collaboration, to encourage innovation, and to provide training that allows each team to achieve excellence. This reflects how I will effective manage the district’s daily operations—by working to foster communication, collaboration, innovation, and excellence, and by trusting our team to succeed.

A3. I will work hard to ensure that we support every student in overcoming obstacles to success. Improving special education is necessary. Supporting students who are vulnerable to bullying for any reason is crucial. Assisting students from military families must be an important focus for our community. Improving the health of our students through fact-based, thoroughly researched wellness programs is crucial. These goals will all require ongoing conversations, excellent training, and streamlined access to resources. Finally, we must work hard to balance grant awards across the district.

Bryan L. Patton

Background: My background in business, technology, and education gives me a unique set of skills to meet the many critical issues of a high growth district.
Education: Doctorate in Educational Leadership & Masters of Business Administration from Stephen F. Austin State University

Website: http://bpforleander.com

A1. Mental health issues deserve the highest priority as they are the root cause of so many safety concerns for both students and staff alike. There are a multitude of aspects to address including identification, intervention, and response to these issues. In terms of experience with safety planning I served for two years on the team that performed the disaster response exercise at the University I worked for. This experience helped me gain valuable insight into the how experienced law enforcement approach safety planning.

A2. On a daily basis I am responsible for managing and facilitating the delivery of over one hundred applications to the over five million school children with the Texas public educational system. I believe that one of my greatest assets is my ability to digest and interpret the information which is presented and formulate a precise, accurate, and thoughtful response.

A3. LISD is a rapidly growing district and therefore faces debt challenges that many districts never will. In order to prevent overcrowding the board must take a fiscally responsible approach to anticipating the population growth and community needs.

PLACE 2

Gloria Gonzales-Dholakia

Background: Former executive director of the LISD education foundation, former college professor, school/district/community volunteer, and member of several PTAs.

Gary Hampton

Background: In the military, I developed strong connections with my platoon who were from all over the nation. I learned that there is strength in diversity.
Sharyn Lacombe

**Background:**
Mrs. LaCombe has worked in both public and private sector as a planning project manager for transportation projects. She has two boys in middle school

**Education:** M.S. in Geography/Urban & Region Planning from Marshall University

**Website:** [http://www.facebook.com/LeanderISDBoardCandidate/](http://www.facebook.com/LeanderISDBoardCandidate/)

**A1.** The number one reason I am running for this position is because school safety from violence is my number one priority. As a planner, I have experience reviewing design plans and public facilities for safety. I’ve applied principles that increase the natural surveillance, limit access, and identify safe places during emergencies. I also have experience working with law enforcement and first responders to make sure that collaboration that takes place when planning or retrofitting facilities to help prevent incidents and create plans for emergency responders.

**A2.** The effective management of the school district comes from policy decisions that make strong financial sense. The allocation of resources needs to follow the priorities set by the District and the Board, with input from the parents, students, and teachers of LISD. As a Board member, I will require that our district act is fiscally conservative and aligning the budget with the district’s goals and objectives so that we can continue to achieve the academic excellence that LISD is known for. I will vote for policies that help reduce our debt and improve our bond ratings.

**A3.** Another priority is making sure that schools are safe for our children from being bullied and the stresses that come with the pressures of academic performance. Technology, higher education standards, and social media have all added stress to our children’s lives. We need to help our children learn how to cope in a world where technology surrounds us and we need to teach our children tools to use this technology to their benefit, not their detriment. LISD’s mobile program has had a great roll-out. Now we need to establish better protocols and consistency to help our children master these tools.

**Education:** Eastern Kentucky University
- U.S. Army Chemical School
- U.S. Army Quartermaster School

**Website:** [http://fischer4lisd.com](http://fischer4lisd.com)

**A1.** The ultimate goal is to stop members of our LISD family from being injured. Because we have limited tools in the beginning, we must fully utilize School Resource Officers, restrict uncontrolled access, and explore non-lethal means of slowing or stopping an attack. I do not believe teachers should be armed. We need to help our students become invested in the success of their peers, to help discourage bullying, and help to end the isolation that seems to be so often at the root of our national crisis.

**A2.** I believe that there is no stronger management style than letting very smart people do very smart things. As the LISD Place 6 board member I will seek out the smartest, most skilled people, and work to get out of their way. Good governance does not mean micromanagement; good governance means enabling everyone to succeed in their role using every practical means available.

**A3.** Students who have special needs have been neglected for too long. I want to help pave the way to make sure that there is equality for students who need extra assistance so that they can be as successful as they are capable. The LISD board of trustees should use their role in governance to ensure that every reasonable effort is made to help all of our students thrive.

**Aaron Johnson**

**Background:**
Heather and I have 4 children, one each in college, HS, MS and ES. First elected to the LISD board in 2011, I currently serve as board president.

**Education:**
- BA, Economics, Brigham Young University
- JD, University of Georgia School of Law

**Website:** [http://www.aaron4lisd.com](http://www.aaron4lisd.com)

**A1.** I’ve supported a wide range of student and employee safety measures in LISD. These include physical security, like the enhanced entrances to our campuses and improved controls over access to our campuses. I’ve also supported improvements to digital security including content filters for district devices and networks, as well as for student and employee records and data. Additionally, I’ve been a voice for student mental health and counseling services, with a goal of improving student outcomes and better serving students. I do not support efforts to arm teachers in LISD.

**A2.** For the most part, daily operation of the school district is left to the professionals hired by the Superintendent and managed by the administration staff. However, as a school board member, it is important to collaborate with the Superintendent on key initiatives and to give voice to the vision for education that comes from our community. Some other important actions of our board include the recent reduction in tax rate for our community, the effective management of our construction program, debt and improved credit rating, as well as our focus on student growth and achievement.

**A3.** While our district is performing at a high level, there is room for growth. And we have an opportunity to ensure that high performance is occurring across each and every campus, without exception. We also have an opportunity to further innovate our curriculum, by more fully incorporating technology into the curriculum itself. As the district continues to grow, there are also opportunities to provide increased choice to our community for educational programs. It is critically important that these programs are aligned with input from our community to ensure they serve the greatest needs.

**Elexis Grimes**

**Background:**
In 2017, Elexis completed the Financial Leadership LISD program and served on the Leander ISD 2017 Bond Advisory Steering Committee.

**Education:** Elexis graduated from New Mexico State University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Management.

**Website:** [http://elexisgrimes.com](http://elexisgrimes.com)

**A1.** As part of the LISD Bond Advisory Committee, safety was one of our highest priorities. We were able to fully fund the secure entries in all schools; a great first step in security on every campus. If elected I will work to ensure all mid-
Matidly (Sam) V. Samaripa Jr.

**Education:**
- National Honor Society, Manor High School BA, Management from UT Austin

**Website:** [http://samsamaripa.com](http://samsamaripa.com)

**A1.** Safety of the students and of the teachers and staff. The response time for the SRO and police officers is of great importance. An electronic notification system must be present at each campus so response time is kept to a minimum. Each MISD campus is equipped with a RAPTOR system but this needs to be expanded nationwide. All students and staff must carry their IDs, visible at all times. Students should be allowed to form safety clubs to discuss improvements in security and to report all incidents. Cameras to be installed to make sure all areas visible. Metal detectors if needed.

**A2.** A school board trustee can monitor the daily operation of the school district but is not able to make policy or procedural changes as one trustee. The power of the school board comes from the seven members and no one member can act on their own. The daily operation of the school district is in the hands of the superintendent and he/she is responsible for all matters on a daily basis. This being said, I am currently retired and am able to devote my time and energy to the betterment of the district and the improvement of the students’ education.

**A3.** Of immediate importance is the district’s overall rating of 69. This is unacceptable. Manor ISD has new state-of-the-art buildings, but a building does not necessarily make for the best education. Teachers are the answer and retaining the best teachers each year is paramount. Communication with the teachers and complete support of these teachers are needed. Some of the other immediate issues are the district’s rapid rate of growth, the budget, the low graduation rate, high drop-out rate, the high use of substitute teachers and the high student-to-teacher ratio. These are just a few.

**Donnie Mahan**

**Background:**
- Lifetime of leadership and service to my country, my family, and my community.

**Education:**
- BS in Economics and BS in International Politics from the United States Military Academy (West Point)

**A1.** It is imperative that the kids feel safe at school if we want to foster a positive learning environment. I don’t think we can compromise on any safety measures (online threats, school bullying, school access, safety on busses, etc.). Safety, in and of itself, is a high priority/necessity to meet the objectives of teaching our children.

**A2.** The board is a governance body, not an operational entity. The best way to ensure effective daily operations of the district is to ensure that we have the right superintendent in place, set effective policies, and measure success.

**A3.** If elected, my focus is going to be on supporting the teachers. If we can ensure they have all the tools and resources needed to be successful, the LISD goals of maximizing the academic growth for each student, preparing each student for college and career success, inspiring the whole child, and engaging each student in relevant learning will be accomplished in a manner that will exceed our expectations. I plan to make every decision through this lens.
Ana Cortez

Background: School Board Trustee MASBA
Board of Directors
Owner of a Healthcare Consulting Company
Migrant Farm Worker
Education: Honor Graduate in La Joya, TX
attended Indiana University of South Bend elite Honors Program

A1. There are a number of variables to consider in school safety. I want to make sure we address every single one of the different variables. Starting with having a proper Safety and security action plan and communicating that well with teachers, students, parents, and community members. We have already addressed and approved special screens for window and open areas, added and upgraded cameras in all our school facilities, and have a separate Safety and Security Committee in place. All areas of safety and security are a high priority to keep our students, teachers, staff, and parents safe.

A2. You will need to have a proper policy and procedure set in place to be able to govern and understand the proper board governance role. The role of a good school board trustee is not to manage the daily operations of the school district, it is to have proper policy and systems in place to oversee that the Superintendent manages the daily operations of the school district. Accountability and transparency are very important in implementing these policies.

A3. I have been active in advocacy for fair public education funding, for fair and proper Teacher Retirement and Healthcare, for the need to address gun violence in our schools and support Ethnic studies in our curriculum. I have and will continue to go to our legislators to testify, advocate and give factual data on our districts and encourage other districts to do the same so we can have a stronger voice for public education.

Johnny R. Velasco

Unopposed

PLACE 4

Johnny R. Velasco

Unopposed

PLACE 5, SPECIAL ELECTION

Lakesha Small

Background: Community member of Manor, TX
passionate and dedicated to support the Manor ISD.

Education: Bachelor of Science—Electronics Engineering Technology
Website: http://www.lakeshasmall.com

A1. School Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness are imperative to ensure a secure environment for all students, staff and visitors. I am dedicated to leading Safety Connections by working together with the schools and engaging the community partners to focus on emergency planning, efforts to build/establish positive relationships of trust and respect among students and staff.

A2. As a Board Trustee Member of the Manor Independent School District I will effectively manage the daily operations to align with the district’s five year strategic plan that was adopted in June of 2017 as well as identify opportunities for areas of improvement. Over the last 16 years I have gained a wealth of knowledge in both tactical and strategic planning of daily operations as an Engineering Manager overseeing high intensity and complex issues. The district’s core values address Respect, Student Success, Integrity, Responsibility, Accountability and Support.

A3. Our district has already begun making steps in the right direction to rebuild trust by increasing transparency however we need to continue to renew focus on student success, open communication and strengthening professional learning. As a Board Trustee Member I am committed to understanding the root cause, creating a plan of action and driving to completion to reflect our student achievement, school progress and ability to close performance gaps.

Temeika Thomas

Background: I’ve been an educator for over 15 years. I have and Masters in Educational Leadership. I’ve held multiple leadership roles in academia.

Education: University of Texas Applied Learning and Development Lamar University Master of Education (Administration) Texas Educator Certificate since 2008

A1. The highest safety priority in schools is strategic planning to evaluate student’s safety on campus. First through mental health screenings for each student. Secondly, through strong anti-bullying procedures at every grade level. Finally, security drills at each campus to determine most vulnerable areas on campus. When tragedies happen on a campus that’s when plans are re-evaluated. I’m proposing we do it now. Let’s not just focus on metal detectors and how many entrances we have on campus, but let’s also turn our energy to the holistic needs of school safety.

A2. I have a flexible schedule that allows me to take the time needed to advocate for every student. From my past experiences in education and running a company I have the skill sets needed to manage the daily operation of the school district. I’m also dedicated to continuing my on education through personal development, being mentored, and finding solution that best serve on students. The daily operation of the school district is a high priority for me. Our students deserve someone who’s experience plus dedication allows them to create positive change on their behalf on a daily basis.

Sonia Wallace

Background: Leader of Youth Activities at Central Baptist Church—Manor, former band booster vice president Manor High School Band 2 yr, former secretary 1yr

Education: AAS Electric Engineering ITT Tech Austin 4 yr Electricians Apprentice NJATC local $20 Austin

A1. All schools being a drug free zone. Making sure that all students are attending classes and making the most of classroom time. Making sure that all disciplinary actions are handled swiftly and properly. Making sure that there is adequate staffing on each campus. Also proper counseling available to students in need. Also that tutoring is made readily available for all students including athletes and then members and theater kids that have odd schedules outside of schedule tutoring times.

A2. Keep in close contact with the school superintendent and assistant superintendent as a school board member is not supposed to have any hands on activity with the day-to-day running of the school district we are to be in contact with the superintendent and let him or her do their job.

A3. That there be equity within the district for staff, student, and administrators alike. Also Community engagement.
**LOCAL PFLUGERVILLE ISD**

**BOND ELECTION**

**PROPOSITION A**

**Ballot Language**

The issuance of $332,000,000 bonds for school buildings, schools sites, school buses, and the levying of the tax in payment thereof.

**Explanation**

This $332 million bond proposal would cover projects throughout Pflugerville ISD. $163 million would go toward purchasing land, building two new elementary schools and one new middle school, as well as adding classroom space to Delco Primary School and Dessau Elementary School. Other projects may include: $85 million for updates to aging facilities (including HVAC, roofing, plumbing, and electrical repairs and accessibility improvements); $8 million for increased interior and exterior school security and safety features; $24 million for computer and technology upgrades; $18 million for fine arts facility updates; $14 million for new school buses with air conditioning and safety features; $5 million for career and technical education; and $8 million for athletic facilities. If the Bond passes, the bond debt will be paid by the existing tax rate. No tax rate increase is expected for Pflugerville ISD property owners.

**PROPOSITION B**

**Ballot Language**

Approving the ad valorem tax rate of $1.52 per $100 valuation in the pflugerville independent school district for the current year, a rate that is $0.02 higher per $100 valuation than the school district rollback tax rate, for the purpose of maintenance and operations, (including a maintenance and operations component of the ad valorem tax rate equal to $1.06 per $100 valuation, a rate that is $0.02 higher than the current maintenance and operations tax rate).

**LOCAL ROUND ROCK ISD**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEE**

**Q1.** What school safety measures are your highest priority?  
**Q2.** How will you effectively manage the daily operation of the school district?  
**Q3.** What other critical issue will you address and how?  

**PLACE 3**

Amber Feller  

**Background:**  
Former Teacher & Administrator Parent of 3 RRISD students Extensive History of Volunteer Service Daughter of Air Force Veteran & Public School Teacher  

**Education:** Master of Education—Univ. of North Texas Bachelor of Science (Sociology), Minor (Math)—Texas A&M Univ. Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)  

**A1.** The school safety measures that are my highest priority are portables and school resource officers (SRO’s). RRISD has 16% of their classrooms in portable buildings. The security of these temporary buildings must be increased by adding external cameras at the entrances and panic buttons inside the classrooms. Ultimately, I will work to reduce the number of portables in the district. Second, I work to develop a reliable system for SRO’s in our schools. For the 2017–2018 school year, there were over 600 instances of a secondary school not having an SRO on their campus.  

**A2.** The successful daily operation of the district needs to begin and end with improving instruction in the classroom. As a Trustee, I will make certain we employ a critical thinking superintendent who engages teachers and inspires innovation in principals. It also requires Trustees to build systems to monitor student improvement that will hold staff accountable to results. I will also closely monitor the budgets to ensure fiscal responsibility and alignment with community expectations. Finally, I will have a physical presence in ALL the schools and advocate for the children as needs arise.  

**A3.** I am very passionate about academic achievement. Despite having received an A rating from the State of Texas, there are still gaps in our system, specifically graduation rates for economically disadvantaged students. I would propose an arrangement in which these students, and their parents, during in- and out-of-school time activities, forge partnership with school personnel and community-based agencies. These relationships have been successful in other districts and have boosted graduation rates to, in some schools, 95%. A high school diploma prepares one for college, careers and life.  

**Danielle Weston**  

**Background:**  
My husband and I have 5 children, all products of public schools. I have built a reputation on solving problems either can’t or won’t solve.  

**Education:** Bachelor of Arts, University of Kansas Master of Arts, Webster University  

**Website:** http://www.facebook.com/electdanielleweston  

**A1.** Nothing is more important to this mom of 5 than the safety of children. I closely follow the Federal Commission on School Safety which was established in March on 2018, on the heels of the Parkland, FL tragedy. On their website, I watched the entire two hour meeting (May 17, 2018) which included experts on and survivors of mass shootings. Significant themes and lessons emerged in that poignant meeting that school districts can and should learn from and apply. I insist that all of our leaders are on top of the commission’s findings. Leveraging quality research benefits our students.  

**A2.** Elected trustees perform a dual role of representing needs of students and representing concerns of voters & taxpayers. I’ve been a parent, voter and taxpayer for a long time. Daily operations of our school district are the responsibility of our superintendent. Thus, perhaps the most important thing trustees do is oversee and evaluate the superintendent. Trustees are charged with creating a budget that provides the superintendent with the resources to meet the needs of students while respecting taxpayer dollars. Diversity of thought among trustees yields results that benefit our community.  

**A3.** Two years ago in our last trustee election, 3 seats were on the ballot. Two of those seats had unopposed candidates. The third was a 2-man race. Now in 2018 we have 4 seats on the ballot with ELEVEN candidates and every seat is contested. Why the drastic change? A lack of trust. New energy and leadership are needed on the RRISD school board. I will ensure that our district lives up to the reputation that attracted my family here 8 years ago. More transparency and accountability are needed. Students and voters deserve a credible board that will solve problems and lead. I’m here to serve.
Stuart Litwin

Education: Earned a degree in Management Information Systems from The College of Business at Prairie View A&M University.
Website: http://edwardlhanna.com

A1. I believe that we must remain diligent with ensuring that we are protecting the safety and well-being of our students and staff. We must continue to identify and repair weaknesses in our response and evacuation processes. The access points of our schools, especially portable, are of the highest priority. I also believe that we must try prevent potential dangerous situations by focusing on the mental and sociological health of our students. When we take a holistic approach, we exponentially increase our probability of success.

A2. As a trustee, I, along with my fellow trustees, am responsible for hiring and evaluating of our superintendent, who is charged with the day-to-day operations of the district. Along with that, my role as a trustee entails having a system of governance which includes oversight, policy, performance, budget, and infrastructure, among other things.

A3. As the district continues to grow and our current schools deal with capacity issues, the trustees will have to make major decisions to address our expanding student population. The community and district will have to work together and formulate a strategy that will undoubtedly include new schools to relieve overcrowding and meet the needs of new students in the district.

Stuart Litwin

Background:

Education: I have a B.S in Chemical Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
Website: http://www.stuartlitwin.com

A1. Based on the study done by the U.S. Secret Service together with the U.S. Dept of Education under the George W. Bush administration, the best way to prevent school shootings is to have campuses where students feel they can easily approach their teachers and counselors with their concerns. So, my highest priority for school safety is to make the campuses nurturing environments and to engage students. It is better to prevent a school shooting before it happens than to stop the carnage once it begins.

A2. The Superintendent manages the daily operation of the school district. The Board of Trustees oversees the Superintendent. The best way to effectively manage the school district is to make sure the Board holds the Superintendent and their staff accountable. If elected, I will focus on ensuring the Board gets data from multiple sources and reviews all data presented, then makes decisions based on the data together with community input.

A3. Equity, both racial and economic, is the other critical issue that I will address. The District is under watch by the Texas Education Agency for racial disparities in discretionary discipline referrals. African-American and Hispanic students are each significantly over-represented in discretionary discipline referrals. As a first step, diversity training is needed across the district for all administrators and teachers. For the economic equity issue, Title I schools need to be upgraded so all students have opportunities to succeed regardless of their family economic status.

David G. Schmidt


Education: AA Liberal Arts Mt. San Antonio College BA Vocational Education 1998 CSUSB MA Education 2002 CSUSB
Website: http://dgsrrisd.com

A1. We must protect students, teachers, staff, and visitors from all safety and security risks, not just active shooter incidents. I advocate for an independent evaluation of every school in our district, to identify vulnerabilities and then implement a comprehensive plan to address all threats. I’m against forming an ISD police force and, to ensure the best possible protection, favor renegotiation with city and county law enforcement agencies. We can’t match their infrastructure or level of service without diverting funds needed for education.

A2. Trustees provide oversight of the district’s administration, set district-wide policies, approve or reject district budgets and financials, and hire, manage, and evaluate the superintendent’s performance. The superintendent manages day-to-day operations. As a parent, observer and active participant and leader in district committees, I’ve seen significant problems with transparency and accountability when it comes to overseeing district administration. Correcting those problems is one of the top reasons I decided to run for office.

A3. The district budget is the most critical issue right now. The district and current board committed to spending programs that are simply not sustainable over time and continued to add net new positions. They did this knowing revenue was declining every year, especially given Chapter 41 recapture payments (‘Robin Hood’). While the hope is that the Texas legislature will change its public funding scheme, hope is not a budget strategy. As Trustee, I will be the taxpayers’ voice as we tackle the budget problems.

Cory Renee Vessa

Background: Policy Analyst for Texas Senate Health and Human Services Committee; Analyst for Texas Workforce Commission; Researcher for City of San Antonio

Education: Bachelor’s of Political Science from Trinity University, Master’s of Public Affairs from the LBJ School at UT Austin
Website: http://www.vessa4rrisd.com

A1. Having a trained Student Resource Officer (SRO) serving onsite at every middle and high school campus is my highest priority. Last year, local law enforcement providers left some schools with little to no coverage. My son attends Grisham Middle School whose SRO position remained vacant from November onward. Williamson County Sherriff’s Department was unable to provide someone to fill it. Other district schools also lacked coverage. We must first work with our many law enforcement providers to solve this problem. If they cannot improve coverage, we must look for alternative solutions.

A2. Keeping our tax dollars within RRISD is crucial, and I will fight the state legislature to make this change. Taxes keep rising, but we aren’t allowed to retain that increased revenue. The state capped the amount of money we keep at this tax rate without adjusting for inflation, teacher raises or new state mandates. The state is taking upwards of $3 million this year and $55 million next year. Thus, we have a $25–30 million deficit next year based on current spending. I will mobilize our community to fight to keep our tax dollars here in RRISD. If we can’t pay our bills, all else is moot.

A3. More transparency is desperately needed, and information must be easier for the public to find. Currently, board meetings aren’t adequately publicized, minutes aren’t available, and presentations to the board aren’t easily accessible. This deficit of communication has eroded trust, evidenced by the 2017 failed bond. I vow to change that. I am committed to transparency, as I have explained my opinions on most major topics. I am constantly educating my neighbors via social media. I will continue to reach out to residents, instead of expecting them to reach in.

Place 5

Suzi David

Background: A 22-year resident of Round Rock, and a proud parent of two that graduated from RRISD schools.

Education: Studying for a Bachelors of Arts in Business Administration with Southern New Hampshire University
Website: http://www.suzidavid.com

A1. As a Trustee, School Safety is very important to ensure we are taking care of our students, teachers, and staff. We are responsible for their safety while they are at school, school functions, games, and other school events. I believe all safety issues are important and should be the top priority.

A2. As a Trustee, it is our position as a collective body corporate to: Set the vision and goals for the district; Adopt policies that give the district direction to set
When teachers are spending their own money to prepare their classrooms, additional classroom cuts are unacceptable. I will look for revenue outside of traditional funding. I will work with other board members to identify funding priorities and request frequent, transparent budget updates.

A3. I want to work to restore trust between the community and the Board. We need to bring the community back into the discussions about the direction of the district and increase transparency. Ignoring vocal concerns during both the 2017 bond process and the 2018 police force vote left the community feeling like they have no voice. A 49% approval rating of the current board means there is work to do. I will strive to be approachable, engaged, and responsive to the concerns of taxpayers and parents, as well as a champion for the accomplishments of all RRISD teachers and students.

Ching Choy
Background: I am a software engineer and have been in the industry for ten plus years.
Education: Class of ’98 at Borah High School in Boise Idaho. Computer Engineering degree from University of Idaho Website: http://www.chingchoy.com/
A1. The highest priority for safety would be the portables. It’s out in the open, very susceptible to dangerous events—man made or natural. I will advocating immediately reducing portables. Eventually, portal will only serve their purpose as temporary classrooms, or storage.
A2. We must increase funding to the schools. It really bothers me to know that teachers has to buy school supplies for their students. This is not the kind of education environment I have received and no district should be doing this to the teachers. I will work with voters and state legislators to fix Chapter 41: our tax funding must stay in RRISD
A3. After gone through the Citizen Bond Committee (CBC), my experience is horrible: no plan, hard to get information, very skewed community representation. I would like to fix this. CBC should be planed out with each meetings, dates and agenda and goals. The CBC should obtain representatives from all learning communities. The final report is the voice of the citizen and pass the tests of the communities. The board should accept the CBC recommendations after all questions and issues are resolved: respecting the hard work of the CBC will keep it running well for the long term.

Steven E. Math
Background: A native of New York City, I moved to Texas in 1991 and have resided in Austin for 9 years. I am married & a father of two HS students at Westwood HS
Education: MIT, Bachelor of Science, Mathematics University of Taxes at Dallas, Masters Degree in Management
A1. I believe that parents, children and teachers need to rest assured that our schools are safe. That includes limited points of entry, wherever possible, video surveillance of entry and common areas, security officers on campus, and a sensible plan to reduce the number of portable class rooms. Additionally, in our current environment, students and teachers need to be trained on what to do in the unfortunate instance of a school emergency. There is no silver bullet, but a combination of preventative measures, awareness, and preparedness will go a long way.
A2. I believe that the daily operation of the school district is best left to the Superintendent and his/her staff. Those are the individuals that are trained in their fields and best equipped to handle day-to-day operations. The Board functions in an oversight capacity: and serves as a check and balance on general policies. However, one of the most important roles of the School Board is to hire (and possibly, fire) the Superintendent to ensure that the district, kids, teachers, other school employees and our community are properly served.
A3. An important issue to me is fiscal responsibility and accountability. As a trustee, I am accountable for approving the school district’s budget. I want to make sure that the dollars are spent in the most prudent and cost-effective manner possible. State funding for RRISD is drying up due to Chapter 41 recapture (also known as Robin Hood). RRISD is returning an increasing amount of revenue to the state, and must therefore be wise as to how we spend the money that we are allowed to keep. As a trustee, I will raise my hand and vote “No” if I believe that YOUR money is not being spent wisely.
College District?
The current program that ACC has with allocated for skilled nursing positions.

achievement and job skills gaps in the have great recommendations to close organizations such as Capital Idea each Progress Towards Excellence Report, the Austin Chamber of Commerce’s 2016 Economic Development Report, workforce development. CAPCOG’s (2007–2014), Iraq War Tem and City Council Cedar Park Mayor Pro P L aC e 7

Ballot Language
The issuance of $508,435,000 of School Building Bonds for acquiring, constructing, renovating, improving and equipping school buildings, including an aquatic facility and acquiring technology replacements, upgrades and improvements, for the purchase of necessary sites for school buildings and for the purchase of new school buses; and the levying of a tax sufficient, without limit as to rate or amount, to pay the principal of and interest on the Bonds and to pay the costs of any credit agreements executed or authorized in anticipation of, in relation to or in connection with the Bonds.

Explanation
This $508.4 million bond proposal would cover projects throughout Round Rock ISD. Projects may include: $275.4 million for construction of a new elementary and a new high school as well as the expansion, renovation, and reconstruction of several schools. It would also include construction of and improvement to athletic facilities; funds to buy new buses; $29.8 million for district-wide updates to school safety and security including replacing and installing fire and safety alarms, updating communications systems, installing surveillance cameras, implementing the identification badge system for students and staff, upgrading the visitor management system and more; $76 million for instructional technology improvements like replacing audio/visual systems, refreshing outdated computers and devices, and upgrading the school’s network connection systems; $127.2 million for “Capital Renewal” including replacing plumbing, roofing, flooring and more in several campuses, installing playground equipment and shade covers, and resurfacing tracks. If the Bond passes, the bond debt will be paid by the existing tax rate. No tax rate increase is expected for Round Rock ISD property owners.

LOCAL AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Q1. What is your role as a Trustee in meeting the region’s need for a skilled and educated workforce?
Q2. What will you do to help students enroll and succeed in the Austin Community College District?
Q3. What are the most critical issues facing ACC today and how will you address them?

PLACE 7

Mitch Fuller

Background:
Cedar Park Mayor Pro Tem and City Council (2007–2014), Iraq War Veteran, Board of Leander Chamber of Commerce, KLRU Community Advisory Board
Education: Completed Doctoral Coursework in Political Science, Univ of Missouri-KC MPA, University of Oklahoma BA in Political Science, SW OK St. Univ
Website: http://www.MitchFullerforACC

A1. ACC must ensure it is synchronized with the needs of the region in terms of workforce development. CAPCOG’s 2018 Economic Development Report, the Austin Chamber of Commerce’s 2016 Progress Towards Excellence Report, the City of Austin’s Workforce Plan and organizations such as Capital Idea each have great recommendations to close achievement and job skills gaps in the ACC region. More resources should be allocated for skilled nursing positions. The current program that ACC has with Texas A&M (engineering) has fallen far short of projected students (180) and has only about 50 in the program.

A2. The cost of higher education, including textbooks, is a barrier to success for students. ACC should continue to focus on two textbook programs: Open Education Resource (OER) and Instant Access. ACC recently initiated a pilot child care program at one campus, which is a good start towards helping adults with children get access to academic and workforce programs. ACC should work more closely with business and non-profit partners. Capital Idea’s mission to “lift working adults out of poverty and into living wage careers through education” is a salient example of academic and workforce success.

A3. 1. Improve the management and administration of ACC through the creation of a realistic Strategic Plan and ensure ACC employees are compensated adequately. The trend toward creating new VP positions at ACC when enrollment is declining is bad policy. 2. Increase enrollment and workforce initiatives. It is not necessary to build new campuses to increase enrollment. ACC can take the college to the community and teach credit and workforce classes anywhere.

Barbara P. Mink

Background:
40 years community college leadership and advising experience to 45 colleges; 18 years on ACC Board; 35 years global business consulting experience
Education: Doctorate in Education, MA (Teaching), BS (Math) from Duke University; post doctoral studies UT-Austin; Mediation Training, UT School of Law
Website: http://www.drbarbaramink.com

A1. Active engagement of Central Texas employers is essential. I will: appoint key business leaders to ACC Regional Advisory Committees and monitor the work of Regional Advisory, Campus Engagement and Program Advisory Committees to ensure degrees and certificates are relevant; hold forums with area profit and nonprofit organizations to understand and meet their workforce needs; promote additional corporate partnerships for customized on-site training; review emerging Central Texas workforce reports to guide ACC’s strategic direction and ensure ACC programs and certificates mirror that strategy.

A2. To facilitate student enrollment I will expand ACC’s Early College High School program and ensure application and financial aid processes are simplified. I will ensure every enrolled student has a counselor and academic advisor who regularly meet with them; promote more Open Source (free) course materials so students do not have to purchase costly texts; expand funding for Online-tutoring, Tutoring and Learning Labs; and support campus ‘One Stop Shops’ to help students resolve issues such as child care, transportation, housing and food insecurity that might otherwise impact their success.

A3. Issue 1. Low degree completion rates. I will ensure each student has a clear degree or certificate completion plan upon enrolling at ACC, and those plans are monitored by the student’s assigned academic counselor. Issue 2. Flat enrollment. I will expand offerings of on-site custom training for area businesses; and increase the number of short-term certificates directly related to degrees thus enabling students to move forward without losing momentum. Issue 3. Financing. I will explore alternative financing options so ACC keeps tuition affordable without heavily relying on property taxes.

PLACE 8

Stephanie Gharakhanian

Background: First-generation American. Attorney at non-profit org Workers Defense Project for last 5 yrs representing workers and advocating for civil rights.
**Local Austin Community College**

**Board of Trustees, Place 8**

**Stephanie Gharakhanian (continued)**

**Education:** J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law, Public Interest Law Scholar. B.S. from University of Notre Dame.

**Website:** [http://www.StephanieForACC.com](http://www.stephanieforacc.com)

**A1.** We must ensure that ACC serves as a reliable, affordable gateway to good jobs in Central Texas. As Trustee, I will make sure ACC maintains strong partnerships with regional employers and workforce experts so that its degree and training programs keep pace with our growing economy and workforce needs. I will also focus on improving ACC student success rates by lowering the cost of community college, expanding affordable child care options, and providing students with the wrap-around counseling and support they need to finish their courses, find a good job, and succeed in the workforce.

**A2.** As Trustee, I will advocate to provide students with the support and academic advising they need to enroll at ACC, apply for financial aid, identify an area of study, and overcome barriers like transportation and the cost of textbooks. Despite some progress, ACC’s course completion rate remains below the statewide average. That low completion rate is not fair to the students who took out loans to pay for college, and it isn’t fair to taxpayers. I will champion proven initiatives that improve retention and graduation rates, like lowering tuition and expanding access to affordable child care.

**A3.** The most critical issues facing ACC today are low course completion rates and drastic cuts in state funding to higher education. The cuts have resulted in higher tuition and priced many of students out of college. As Trustee, I will advocate for expanded scholarships for low-income students, push the state to increase higher education funding, and work to remove barriers to student success. I aim to lower tuition, expand access to affordable childcare, and strengthen ACC’s advising and services to directly address the challenges that students face inside and outside the classroom.

**Douglas Gibbins**

**Background:** Chair, ACC Highland Campus Advisory Committee, 2016–Present. ACC Highland Campus Advisory Committee, appointed by past Chair of Board of Trustees ‘12

**Education:** The University of Texas at Austin MBA MS Engineering BS Electrical Engineering Former ACC student

**Website:** [http://www.DouglasGibbins.com](http://www.douglassgibbins.com)

**A1.** — Set tuition at low or no cost for First-Time-In-College students and graduates of high schools in the ACC taxing district. — Expand business and industry partnerships to match ACC’s professional training & education programs as well as academic focus areas to meet the skills necessary for our neighbors to qualify for not just good jobs but to excel in their careers and professions. — Expand Dual Credit and Early College High School programs.

**A2.** — It is paramount that barriers to education at ACC be lowered or eliminated: tuition and books as well as socio-economic barriers experienced by first generation college students and historically underrepresented groups. — The ACC District serves 30 ISD’s in 6 counties but residents in only 6 ISD’s and the City of Austin pay the substantially lower In District tuition rate and can vote in ACC elections. I will work to encourage the other 24 ISD’s to vote to fully join ACC District. — Expand the Student Success Initiatives, Career Pathways program, and academic counseling.

**A3.** — Not raising the tax rate so as to maintain the good will and broad support of the community. — Better allocate resources and improve management practices of the expanding number of campuses, currently 11 with provisions for more. — Reduce reliance on part time faculty, improve their health care benefits, and provide more promotions to full time faculty positions — Increase enrollment, student persistence, transfer rates to four year colleges, and graduation rates.

**Sarah Mills**

**Background:** I am the former Board of Directors Chair for the Austin Tenants Council and a former Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

**Education:** Bachelor of Liberal Arts for Austin College and Masters Degree

**Website:** [http://sarahmillsforacc.com](http://sarahmillsforacc.com)

**A1.** As an ACC Board Trustee my role is to help set the long-term vision for the College, oversee the President of ACC, and adopt a fiscally sound budget. My background as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, businesswoman, former board chair of the Austin Tenants Council and as an advocate will shape my view that ACC can help many more residents train for the jobs of today and in the future. It is my responsibility to recognize that the ACC student crosses generations from those still in high school to those retired getting retrained to start a second career.

**A2.** Trustees adopt budgets and the develop a vision for the College moving forward. ACC has improved its student success rates, but it still has significant work to ensure that half of those who enter ACC can get the skills and training they need to get a career with a living wage. One way is to increase the number of high schools that are part of the early college high schools. Currently ACC has this program in three ISD’s within district and should look at other in-district high schools to expand this successful program.

**A3.** 1. Improve student success: A big challenge facing our ACC student community is how to earn a living wage to support yourself and your family yet train for the jobs and industries that are moving into Central Texas. With 80% of ACC students attending part-time, the Board must figure this balance out to ensure that the students can thrive in their coursework. 2. Financial Aid: ACC understands that working adults face more challenges than just paying for tuition. The Board must address their other needs to include for example child care that impact them financially.

**Place 9**

**Julie Ann Nitsch**

No response

**Lora H. Weber**

**Background:** Executive in state government, with 9 years at TX Higher Education Bd. Small business owner. Past chair, Round Rock Chamber.

**Education:** B.A. English and Political Science from Stephen F. Austin State University. Also attended ACC.

**Website:** [http://LoraWeber4ACC.com](http://loraweber4acc.com)

**A1.** We must sharply focus on preparing students for existing and future jobs. In our region, workers in fields such as health care, technology, and the skilled trades will be in high demand. At the Round Rock Chamber, we formed a partnership with ACC and Round Rock ISD to address an increasing demand for skilled workers in HVAC and plumbing. As trustee, I will support innovative measures such as these to make sure education and training align with workforce needs. I will also ensure students have the support they need to complete their programs of study.

**A2.** First, I will use my experience to advocate for students at the policy level. I have worked on state laws to improve financial aid, transfer, and cost of attendance, so I understand issues that affect students the most. Next I will support innovations at the campus level that help students with academics, such as the ACCelerator that moves them through required math with greater speed and success. And I will support initiatives that address practical needs, such as childcare and healthcare. We need all these efforts and more to make sure students can enroll and succeed at ACC.

**A3.** At least two more issues in addition to those covered above. One is funding, We must make sure ACC’s budget supports our mission of student success. I have the budget experience to ask the hard questions about where the money goes and to make the best use of resources. Another critical issue is expanding boundaries. Much of the ACC district now lies in other counties. I bring representation from another county and experience in regional issues to make sure ACC stays accessible to students everywhere.

[Vote411.org](http://vote411.org)
Although in some states judges are appointed, most judges in Texas are elected. Voting judges include:

According to the American Bar Association, principles to consider in selection of judges should be:

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 when certain issues or types of cases come up in their court. Questions posed to judges, therefore, focus on improvements they would make to their court, the need for impartiality and how they would increase access to justice.

How is the Texas court system organized?
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.txcourts.gov/media/1442353/court-structure-chart-sept-2018.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. The Supreme Court is the final court of appeals within Texas for both civil and juvenile cases. 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.

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.

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.

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.

Voting by Mail
Any registered voter may vote by mail for the November 6, 2018 election if they meet at least one of the following eligibility requirements:

➤ Are 65 years of age or older; or are sick or disabled (eligible for mail ballots for an entire calendar year, all others must apply before each election)
➤ Expect to be absent from the county during the entire early voting period including Election Day, AND provide an out-of-county address where the ballot can be mailed, AND include dates they can receive mail at the out-of-county address*
➤ Confined in jail, but otherwise eligible to vote

*Voters who are absent from the county because they are active duty military or because they reside overseas should complete a Federal Post Card Application. Information and forms are available from the counties or state office.

The procedure:

1. Request the application from the county, which is available for download from the county elections or secretary of state websites, or by calling or emailing the appropriate office. The application is known as an ABBM (application for a ballot by mail).
2. IMPORTANT—The application MUST be completed and received by the early voting clerk in Travis or Williamson County Elections Division office by OCTOBER 26, 2018.
3. Once received, the mail ballots MUST be completed and received back by the appropriate early voting clerk no later than Election Day, November 6, 2018.

When Do You Need to Update Your Registration?

The registration will remain in effect until you move or change your name. Otherwise, a new certificate will be sent to you every two years without further application on your part. If you move, it is important to update your registration because unlike your other mail, your voter registration certificate cannot be forwarded to your new address. If it gets returned due to an incorrect address, your voter registration goes into a suspense status. If a suspense list voter shows up to the poll, they can fill out a statement of residence and will be permitted to vote. If a suspense list voter fails to vote in two general elections for state and county officers, on November 30th the voter registrar is required by State law to remove the voter’s registration from the voter roll. If you move within the same county or change your name, you must notify the county voter registration in writing or complete a new registration card indicating a change of address as the reason. If you move to another county you must re-register by completing a new registration form.

LOCAL ACC/PFLUGERVILLE ISD

DISTRICT ANNEXATION ELECTION

PROPOSITION A

Ballot Language
Approving the annexation by the Austin Community College District of the following territory: the territory in Pflugerville Independent School District that is not currently included in the boundaries of the Austin Community College District, and authorizing the imposition of an ad valorem tax for junior college purposes, which is currently set at a rate of $0.1048, per $100 valuation of taxable property.

Explanation
This proposition asks voters in parts of Pflugerville ISD to join the Austin Community College District. Some parts of Pflugerville are already within the ACC district. If approved, residents will be able to attend ACC at a lower cost but homeowners will also see an increase in property taxes. Homeowners would pay a total of $0.1048 per $100 valuation in property taxes to ACC. Homeowners would be eligible for a $5,000 homestead exemption and senior homeowners and homeowners with disabilities can receive an additional exemption of $160,000. Pflugerville residents would also be eligible to run for and vote in ACC Board of Trustees elections. If approved, ACC plans to build a new campus in the Pflugerville area.
Show your love of voting!

$25

Shirt profits help the League of Women Voters Austin Area produce and distribute the free nonpartisan Voters Guide for the community.

Buy Yours Today!
LWVAAustin.org/Voting-Gear

Founded by suffragists in 1919, The League of Women Voters of the Austin Area is a nonpartisan, all-volunteer, political organization striving to Make Democracy Work.

Join Us
Membership is open to men and women 16 years or older. Annual dues are $60 per person, $90 for two people in the same household, and only $5 for high school and college students.

For more information, please visit https://lwvaustin.org/join-us/

Volunteer
Our exciting group is on the front lines of voter engagement. LWV-AA volunteer deputy registrars (VDRs) and others promote voter registration and work on getting people to the polls. We conduct candidate forums. We develop voter education campaigns and materials. Most importantly, we produce the Voters Guide for Travis and Williamson counties.

Donate to the League
Because we are an all-volunteer organization, your support goes a long way in helping us to

- Register eligible voters
- Produce a nonpartisan Voters Guide every election season
- Host informative Candidate Forums and promote voter education
- Fund programs like First Vote! offering high school students voter registration and civic education
- Advocate at the local level to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy

LWV-AA is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations to LWV-AA are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

For more information, please visit https://lwvaustin.org/donate/

YOUR VOTE MATTERS