INSIDE THIS VOTERS GUIDE

U.S. President 3
U.S. Senator 3
U.S. House of Representatives 7
District 10 7
District 17 8
District 21 10
District 25 11
District 31 12
District 35 14
Railroad Commissioner 15
Texas Supreme Court 17
Court of Criminal Appeals 19
State Board of Education 21
3rd Court of Appeals 23
State Senators 24
District 21 24
District 24 24
State Representatives 24
District 20 24
District 46 24
District 47 24
District 48 25
District 49 26
District 50 26
District 51 26
District 52 26
District 136 26
Travis County races 26
Williamson County races 36

VOTING IN THE 2020 PRIMARY 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.

➤ Texas 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, days, and times vary for Early Voting (Feb 18–28). All polls open on Election Day will be open 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

When voting in person you may bring a printed Voters Guide into the voting booth! Use of electronic devices are prohibited.

What Is a Primary Election?

Primaries are state-level elections that take place prior to a general election (November 3, 2020). Texas utilizes an open primary system. At the primary (March 3, 2020), a voter may choose which party primary ballot (Republican or Democratic) to vote on. Minor parties do not hold primaries; their candidates for the general election are chosen in county and state conventions.

The voter must pledge that he or she will not vote in another party’s primary or convention that year. You may also vote in the primary runoff election (May 26, 2020), but it must be for the same party you chose to vote in for the primary. If you vote in one party’s primary, you do not have to vote for that same party or same candidates in the general election (November 3, 2020).

VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE/CARD

The precinct number of where you live

State Senate district

State House district

Justice of the Peace precinct/Constable precinct

Which city you may vote in

City Council district

School board member district

School district

State Board of Education district

AISD

AUSFP

1/1/2020

12/31/2021

447

© 2020 League of Women Voters Austin Area
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS VOTERS GUIDE

ABOUT THIS GUIDE
This Voters Guide is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas, the League of Women Voters Austin Area, and the League of Women Voters of Williamson County. 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 Voters 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.

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

HOW THE LEAGUE GATHERS CANDIDATE INFORMATION
To compile the Voters Guide information, the League of Women Voters Austin Area sends 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 of content. 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 their opponents. Those appearing without a photo failed to submit one. Candidates must submit answers by the deadline provided in order to be included in the printed version. Answers on VOTE411.org may be updated after the deadline.

YOU MAY BRING A PRINTED VOTERS GUIDE INTO THE VOTING BOOTH!
Mobile electronic devices are prohibited in the voting booth, but the law allows you to take a printed 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 Austin Area 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.

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!
The Voters Guide is made possible by the generous donations of members and supporters. We gratefully acknowledge major contributions from:


A special thanks for the in-kind contributions of personal donated services and reduced priced purchased items and services.

Williamson County announces the formation of a new local League: the League of Women Voters Wilco (LWV Wilco)
On September 3, 2019, LWV Texas President Grace Chimene approved the formation of a new League for an area of the greater Austin community that has experienced rapidly increasing population growth. The League’s history in Texas now spans one hundred years, and its first President was Williamson County resident Jesse Daniel Ames, therefore, the history of empowerment of voters and defending democracy has come full circle in Williamson County with formation of this new League. LWV Wilco encourages anyone wishing to support this newly established league to attend one of its monthly meetings held the 3rd Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Georgetown Library located at 402 W. 8th St., Georgetown, TX 78626. Visit our website at http://www.lwvwilco.com for additional information and resources.

© 2020 League of Women Voters Austin Area
REPUBLICAN PARTY

Roque “Rocky” De La Fuente Guerra (R)
Zoltan G. Istvan (R)
Matthew John Matern (R)
Bob Ely (R)

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Michael Bennet (D)
Joseph R. Biden (D)
Michael R. Bloomberg (D)
Cory Booker (D) (withdrawn)
Pete Buttigieg (D)
Julian Castro (D) (withdrawn)
John K. Delaney (D) (withdrawn)
Roque “Rocky” De La Fuente (D)
Tulsi Gabbard (D)
Amy Klobuchar (D)
Deval Patrick (D)
Bernie Sanders (D)
Tom Steyer (D)
Elizabeth Warren (D)
Robby Wells (D)
Marianne Williamson (D) (withdrawn)
Andrew Yang (D)

NATIONAL U.S. SENATOR

Q1. What are your recommendations to improve the immigration system?
Q2. What legislation would you support to address access to and cost of healthcare?
Q3. What are your recommendations to curb gun violence in our country?
Q4. What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of Congress, and what are your positions on these issues?

Virgil Bierschwale (R)

Background:
I’ve been studying the effects of Free Trade Agreements and the tidal wave of non-immigrant guest workers since it first happened to me in 2003 and I can show you why our homeless population is increasing and all of the holes in the employment/unemployment propaganda which will have an impact on your business or organization.

Education:
14 years Military Technical Schools Licensed Realtor

Website: http://bierschwaleforusenate.com/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/VirgilBierschwale-for-US-Senate-104055040948099/?modal=admin_todo_tour
Video: https://youtu.be/fXFdnbZPBDQ

A1. In 2018 we had 533,557 legal immigrants. During that same year we issued 9,028,026 non-immigrant visas to take the jobs that your family needs to provide for themselves. We need legal immigrants who come to America and make America better for everybody, not just themselves. Illegal immigration is illegal, and that is all that needs to be said about that.

A2. I believe health care will resolve itself if we take the “Profit” out of it and make it available to everybody.

A3. Hold people accountable for what they did. Try them by a jury, and if found guilty, carry out the sentence.

A4. We need jobs for our citizens so that they can provide for their families. The top 3 job groups if we compare 2018 against 2010 are nurses aides, food service, and truck driving. Can you build a better future for your family if those are the only jobs you can find?

John Anthony Castro (R)

Background: My current net worth is in the mid-$20 million range. I am an OPM Fellow at Harvard Business School, and I earned two law degrees: a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Taxation with Certification in International Tax from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington DC, and a Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.) from UNM School of Law. I know what needs to be fixed.

Education: OPM, Harvard Business School LL.M., Georgetown University Law Center J.D., UNM School of Law B.A., Texas A&M Int’l University

Website: http://www.JohnCastro.com
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/drjohnanthonycastro

A1. Our immigration system is critical to national strategy. Are we bringing in anybody who owns or possesses a firearm.

A2. Tackling health care requires a multifaceted approach. The short answer is an unlimited tax credit for student loan debt for MD degrees, a government-sponsored entity (GSE) health insurance company to keep private insurers accountable to the people, and mandatory use of generic brands after patent expiration of name brands. All of this will significantly drive down costs.

A3. Guns are not the problem. More than 90% of all school shootings can be traced back to anti-depressants. Do the research yourself. The solution is plain and simple: if you’re prescribed anti-depressants, you’re not permitted to be in the same home as someone who owns or possesses a firearm. This would have prevented 90% of school shootings in the past 20 years.

A4. Expanding public education to cover Pre-K to Ph.D. Achieving energy independence with the use of GSE manufacturers and construction companies to mass produce wind turbines, solar panels, and hydroelectric dams. A new Entrepreneur Tax Credit to fuel small business growth. Expansion and more strategic use of the R&D Tax Credit. Introduction of tax-free retirement post-65.
John Cornyn (R)  
No Response Received

Dwayne Stovall (R)  
**Background:** I’m a 54 yr old native Texan, husband, father, business owner, w/ a deep historical knowledge of the office of U.S. Senator. I’m in construction & the oilfield. I’ve traded construction equipment internationally since the 90s & have a solid grasp of monetary policy. I have firsthand experience of what that policy does to US Citizens as well as to other countries’ economies

**Education:** Attended Kilgore Jr. College and SWTSU  
**Website:** [http://www.DwayneStovall.com](http://www.DwayneStovall.com)  
**Facebook:** [https://www.facebook.com/txsensforstovall.com](https://www.facebook.com/txsensforstovall.com)

**Video:** [https://youtu.be/infaFGzu-Dk](https://youtu.be/infaFGzu-Dk)

**A1.** Build the wall in every location possible, allow the border patrol to stop and turn around illegal aliens, make employers of illegal aliens come to the table for their part in this problem, and remove any and all access to tax payer funded programs (healthcare / education / welfare of any kind).

**A2.** The Constitution of the United States offers the federal government no authority whatsoever to manage the healthcare industry, or any other industry for that matter. The only correct legislation would be to remove it from the issue altogether and allow the citizens of the individual States to manage this issue according to their will.

**A3.** The Constitution of the United States offers the federal government no authority whatsoever to be involved in the issue. As with healthcare, leave it to the citizens of the individual States to manage this issue according to their will. That is the only constitutional answer.

**A4.** The continued disregard for the constitutional limitations placed on the federal government, and the perpetual centralization of power in the hands of a few. We must - MUST - elect people who understand the authority offered them in Article III to divest power away from the federal back to the States. I understand that authority.

Mark Yancey (R)  
**Background:** Mark Yancey, a longtime Dallas resident, is a veteran of the financial services industry. He has helped build four successful investment management firms, which in turn, created hundreds of well-paying jobs. The four firms combined managed north of $100 billion in assets for institutions and sovereign wealth funds. Mark is currently the CEO of Attacca International.

**Education:** University of Oklahoma - Finance Harvard University  
**Website:** [http://voteformark.com](http://voteformark.com)  
**Facebook:** [https://facebook.com/vote markyancey](https://facebook.com/vote markyancey)


**A1.** - Build the wall - all 500 miles. - Stop the flow of illegal drugs and find the cartels operating in the U.S. - Support our Border Patrol and ICE agents. - Immediately deport illegal immigrants who have committed crimes.

**A2.** - I would abolish the affordable Health Care Act - ALL OF IT. I support private pay healthcare. The insurance companies have been gouging the American public since the inception of ACA on March 23, 2010. I would bring ALL health insurance providers before Congress and understand the disparity among high premiums and record insurance company profits.

**A3.** - Enforce current laws. Guns do not kill people. Mentally ill people kill people with guns. I will filibuster any Bills Democrats introduce that Republicans perceived as a threat to Second Amendment rights, including expanded background checks.

**A4.** 1). Fiscal responsibility and accountability. Congress’ spending behavior is out of control. 2). Term-Limits. Two terms and you’re out.

Chris Bell (D)  
**Background:** The only candidate in this race with experience in Congress and running statewide  
- Served 5 years on Houston City Council (1997–2001), chairing the Ethics Committee and Customer Service and Initiatives.  
- Served as US Congressman (TX-25) as a member of the Whip Team.  
- Earned the 2006 Democratic Nomination for Governor, coming the closest any Dem since Gov. Ann Richards

**Education:** B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin and a J.D. from South Texas College of Law  
**Website:** [http://electchrisbell.com](http://electchrisbell.com)  
**Facebook:** [https://facebook.com/ChrisBellForSenate](https://facebook.com/ChrisBellForSenate)

**Video:** [https://youtu.be/QEz96dOR4g](https://youtu.be/QEz96dOR4g)

**A1.** - Pass the DREAM Act and create a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and DREAMers. - End family separation and border detention facilities - Decriminalized unauthorized border crossings and migrations. - Reform CBP and ICE in order to best protect our borders while treating immigrants with dignity and integrity.

**A2.** - Create an automatic enrollment public option, otherwise known as access to Medicare for All. - Lower prescription drug prices by making generic drugs more accessible and mandating the government to negotiate directly with pharmaceutical manufacturers. - Protect access to women’s health providers. Texas is the number one state in maternal mortality. This must end.

**A3.** - I support universal background checks and red flag laws that 90% of Americans fully support. - I would close the Charleston and Gun Show Loopholes. - Would take a step further and support a ban on assault weapons and a mandatory buyback program that would allow citizens to give up their weapons of war, otherwise under civil penalties.

**A4.** - Reforming the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. We must make a more equitable tax system that requires the ultra-rich to pay their fair share. - Establish a $15 minimum wage indexed to inflation. - Rejoin the Paris Climate Accord and enact measures to fight Climate Change. - Invest in Education and make college debt dischargeable.

Michael Cooper (D)  
**No Response Received**

Amanda K. Edwards (D)  
**Background:** For the last four years I have represented 2.3 million Texans as a Houston City Council Mem-

**Education:** B.A. Emory University, 2004  
**J.D. Harvard University, 2007**  
**Website:** [http://www.amandafortexas.com](http://www.amandafortexas.com)  
**Facebook:** [https://www.facebook.com/amandafortexas](https://www.facebook.com/amandafortexas)

**Video:** [https://youtu.be/PNSyB86wpPM](https://youtu.be/PNSyB86wpPM)

**A1.** Comprehensive immigration reform is long overdue. We can have a secure border, treat people with dignity and respect, keep families together and reduce the years-long backlog of those waiting to lawfully enter. Enforcement should focus on serious criminal activity like drug and human trafficking, and the US should work to stabilize nations that are sources of immigration.

**A2.** Health care is a life or death issue for many. We should strengthen the ACA to cover more people. The federal government should offer an affordable public option and lower costs of premiums & prescription drugs. Texas should expand Medicaid, which would cover more than 1 million uninsured residents. Those who are satisfied with their current coverage should keep it.

**A3.** Universal background checks and nationwide “red flag” laws are crucial first steps. Limiting the availability of high capacity weapons and ammunition also should be considered. While mass shootings receive a great deal of attention, most gun deaths occur in less high profile ways, and a majority are suicides. A comprehensive approach must proceed with that in mind.

**A4.** Growing income and wealth inequality are huge concerns. With Texas being number 1 for rural hospital closures and number 1 for uninsured Americans, we must ensure that sustainable wage jobs with benefits are available in urban centers, suburbs and rural communities across America. We must also make available portable job training credits for those in manufacturing.
I have other big ideas about access and cost. It will be hard for manufacturers to begin putting firearms on-line as well, “air tight” laws. We want to support legislation to require background checks on gun purchases, and safety improvements, including a public option to make Medicare available for all who want it. By not lowering the cost of prescription drugs by allowing Medicare to negotiate prices with pharmaceutical companies, we will pass common-sense gun safety legislation to require background checks on every single gun sale, stop the sale of assault weapons, pass red flag laws and close the “boyfriend loophole” to block access to firearms for domestic abusers, and strengthen laws preventing gun trafficking. I am also calling for state and local officials to end open carry.

A4. I believe climate change is the greatest threat to my children’s future, and we need to address the climate crisis. I will also make it a priority to protect reproductive rights and pass comprehensive campaign finance, voting rights and ethics reforms.

Sema Hernandez (D)
Background: I’ve been a community advocate & organizer for over 12 years. I’m a fenceline community resident in a sacrifice zone, exposed daily to the hazards and risks posed by the fossil fuel industries. I am a co-founder of the Texas Poor People’s Campaign & co-founder of an environmental justice coalition working with local & statewide organizations to enforce regulations.

Education: Acute Medical Training and Certificate Program Dual Licensed Insurance Agent
Website: http://www.semafortexas.com
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SemaForTexas/
Video: https://youtu.be/bIYH86fPAgo
A1. We need to permanently end child separation, ensure asylum claims are properly processed, secure the border with effective procedures and technologies instead of robbing our military and seizing land from Texans to waste billions on an ineffective wall, and build a path to citizenship for undocumented residents that reflects our core values as Americans.

A2. Texas has the highest uninsured rate in the nation, and that’s unacceptable. We must protect the progress made by the Affordable Care Act while making much-needed improvements, including a public option to make Medicare available for all who want it. We should also lower the cost of prescription drugs by allowing Medicare to negotiate prices with pharmaceutical companies.

A3. We must pass common-sense gun safety legislation to require background checks on every single gun sale, stop the sale of assault weapons, pass red flag laws and close the “boyfriend loophole” to block access to firearms for domestic abusers, and strengthen laws preventing gun trafficking. I am also calling for state and local officials to end open carry.
Sema Hernandez (D) (continued)
the sale of assault weapons, end the manufacturing of ammunition for assault weapons, and protect the rights of gun owners, while offering voluntary buy-backs of weapons.

A4. Voting Rights: I will introduce legislation to create uniform requirements for voting, in order to ensure equal protection of voting rights under the laws. Indigenous Rights: Honor all treaties and tribal sovereignty. Criminal Justice Reform: I will vote to repeal the 1994 Crime Act and defund states which maintain sentencing mandates that were enacted in response to it.

D. R. Hunter (D)
No Response Received

Adrian Ocegueda (D)

Background: My professional background is both in local government and in private equity. The issues that we face today are exceedingly complex and an honest assessment of these issues suggests that collaboration beyond one person will be required. My candidacy places a premium on facts.

Cristina Tzintzun Ramirez (D)

Background: I have spent over a decade leading some of Texas’ most important labor and voting rights organizations. I have helped change laws at the local and state level for workers and have traveled across the state registering and mobilizing young voters in our state, empowering them to tackle the problems that we face. I will continue to advocate for everyday Texans in the Senate.

Education: BA in Liberal Arts & Latin American Studies, The University of Texas at Austin
Website: http://cristinafortexas.com
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/TzintzunCris/

Royce West (D)

Background: I have been a practicing attorney for more than 40 years and I’ve owned my own practice for 25 years. I know what it takes to own and operate a business. I have also served in the Texas Senate since 1993 which gives me an unmatched depth of knowledge about the legislative process.

Education: University of Texas at Arlington, BA, MA University of Houston, JD
Website: http://roycewest.com/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/RoyceWestTX/

A1. First, we have to dramatically increase the number of judges available to hear asylum cases. Second, we need to pass DACA and get the Dreamers back on solid ground. Third, we need comprehensive immigration reform to simplify the process and give everyone here without citizenship a path to it if they want it.

A2. I would support strengthening the ACA with a public option. I do not believe nationalizing insurance is the best path forward. We need competition on standard products so that people can decide for themselves. I am looking at a number of ways of removing politics from this to stop future Administrations from gutting the ACA.

A3. I am for restoring the ban on assault rifles and instituting a ban on magazines that hold more than 8 rounds. I support a national background check system that closes all loopholes, even individual sales.

A4. I believe criminal justice reform, a woman’s right to choose, equal pay for women, student debt relief, and employment non-discrimination will be key issues in the next session. I favor a multitude of criminal justice reforms, favor a woman’s right to choose, support equal pay for women, support a comprehensive student debt relief program, and will vote to pass ENDA.

JOIN THE LEAGUE—BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

Be part of a respected national, state, and local grassroots organization where individuals like you are actively engaged in creating positive change on all levels. Add your voice to more than 100,000 members and supporters across the country in Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy. Membership is open to everyone at least 16 years of age.

The Austin Area needs you as part of the solution, to help ensure our communities are strong, safe and vibrant places to live. Joining is easy online at LWVAustin.org/join-us.
**NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES**

**Q1. What do you recommend to improve the immigration system?**

**Q2. What legislation would you support to address access to and cost of healthcare?**

**Q3. What do you recommend to curb gun violence in our country?**

**Q4. What other issue is your highest legislative priority and what do you propose to address it?**

---

**DISTRICT 10**

**Michael McCaul (R)**

Unopposed

**Pritesh Gandhi (D)**

**Background:** Pritesh Gandhi is a dad, doctor, and advocate. He serves as Associate Chief Medical Officers of a community health center where he treats uninsured Central Texans.

**Education:** Economics and International Studies: Tufts University; MPH: Tufts University; MD: Tufts University.

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

**Facebook:** http://www.facebook.com/PriteshGandhiMD

**A1.** Last year I led Tornillo’s largest rally of health care workers at the detention facility on the border - we stood for children & fought for families. First, a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients & undocumented migrants (without felony records) should be established. Second, our guest worker program must be modernized to account for year-round employment. Third, we must play the long game & partner with Central & South American nations to build durable social & political institutions.

**A2.** I serve as Associate Chief Medical Officer of an E.Austin community health center where I treat uninsured Central Texans daily - this issue is personal to me. First, we cover the uninsured in a public plan. Second, we pass legislation (HR3) to negotiate on drug prices. Third, we offer Medicare as an option to those that can’t afford deductibles & copays. We must engage social determinants of health: a child with asthma living in a rental home with mold needs a “health in all policies” approach.

**A3.** After the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting I started a group, Doctors for Gun Safety, & organized statewide to focus on bipartisan solutions to gun violence. First, we pass universal background checks & closure of the gun show loophole. Second, extreme risk protection orders (red flag laws) need to be passed. Third, legislation should ban public ownership of weapons of war and high capacity magazines. Fourth, we end gun industry immunity. Last, we rebuild our frayed social & neighborhood fabric.

**A4.** Campaign finance reform. Money corrupts the political process & makes it virtually impossible to elect candidates that are focused on the good of the people & unencumbered by the influence of corporations & special interest groups. Our system is built to serve the wealthy & the bought, which fundamentally conflicts with both the spirit & the foundation of our democracy. We must implement caps on campaign spending to level the playing field & give marginalized communities a seat at the table.

**Shannon Hutcheson (D)**

**Background:** Guided by my progressive values, I have built a successful career as a small business owner, community activist, and advocate for women and families in Texas.

**Education:** BA, Austin College, with honors (1993); JD, University of Texas, with honors (1996)

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

**Facebook:** http://www.facebook.com/ShannonforTexas/

**A1.** We need more compassion, starting with electing more moms to Congress. We must protect the thousands of Dreamers who were brought to the US-the only country they have known-as children and who are valuable contributors to our communities. We also need bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform that includes securing our borders while also providing a path to citizenship to law-abiding taxpayers, and ensuring families are kept together and treated with dignity and fairness.

**A2.** Quality, affordable healthcare is a human right. But, Texas Republicans have been trying to cut off access by invalidating the ACA. This must stop. We can and we must deliver health care for every American, pre-existing condition or not. We also have to empower Medicare to negotiate prices with drug companies. Folks like my mom, a retired public school teacher, should not have to choose between paying for the medicine they need and paying the rent. And, we must end surprise medical bills.

**A3.** As a mom, a Texan, a lawyer, a gun owner, and the wife of an ex-U.S. Marine, I am committed to common sense gun safety reform, including stopping the sale of assault weapons and high capacity magazines, strengthening background checks, closing the gun show loophole, and keeping guns from felons and domestic abusers. After the tragedies in El Paso, Midland/Odessa, Sutherland Springs and Santa Fe, we must take swift action to protect our communities, all while respecting the U.S. Constitution.

**A4.** Education is personal for me. I grew up in a working-class family. Education was the path to a better life, but my husband and I graduated with six figures in debt. Recently, I represented an Army vet who was scammed by a for-profit college in the 1980s. The U.S. sued him for 15X the amount he borrowed. Texans should have the opportunity to get a quality education without financial ruin. And, we must adopt solutions for those who are defrauded, become disabled or work in underserved areas.

**Mike Siegel (D)**

**Background:** For 21 years I’ve served the people: first, as a public school teacher and teachers’ union organizer, and more recently as a civil rights lawyer and Austin city attorney.

**Education:** B.A., Comparative Literature, Brandeis University; Teachers’ Credential, Cal. State University-Hayward; J.D., Cornell Law School

**Website:** http://www.siegelfortexas.org

**Facebook:** http://www.facebook.com/siegelfortexas

**Video:** https://youtu.be/wH5JPcUl4YE

**A1.** Let’s start with the premise that every human being deserves respect and dignity, that families belong together, and that America will fulfill the values represented by the Statue of Liberty. We must end family separation and the Trump regime’s attacks on asylum seekers. We must establish a path to citizenship for undocumented residents. And we need a dramatic overhaul of our system, so we can fairly process migrants and meet the needs of our economy while respecting human rights.

**A2.** I support Medicare for All. Medicare for All will provide comprehensive healthcare that is free at the point of service with no co-pay or deductible. Everyone will be able to select their own doctor, specialist, and hospital without worrying about “in network.” In TX-10, rural hospitals are closing, tens of thousands lack care and thousands more are at risk of bankruptcy in the event of a medical crisis. Medicare for All will keep hospitals open and families solvent while saving countless lives.

**A3.** We need a two-pronged movement to curb gun violence. First, we must demand the passage of popular, common-sense gun reforms that will save lives, including universal background checks, “red flag” laws, and an end to the sale of assault rifles. And second, we must demand major campaign finance reform, to ensure that gun manufacturers acting through the NRA cannot buy our elected officials and overrule the will of the American people. I will never accept a dime from the NRA or corporate PACs.

**A4.** Climate change may be the biggest threat to human life, and represents an issue where TX-10 can be a national leader. Here, a coal plant and fracking are poisoning the drinking water for dozens of counties, and Houston is recovering from its fifth “500 year flood” in five years. I am fighting for a Green New Deal that create millions of jobs in a sustainable economy, end reliance on fossil fuels, provide a just transition for fossil fuel workers, and remedy the legacy of environmental pollution.
Ahmad Adnan (R)  
**Background:** Independent-Thinker, Centrist, Country Over Party | I am a moderate. I want Republicans, conservatives, independents, Democrats, and liberals to vote for me.  
**Education:** University: Texas State University Graduated in 2000, Summa Cum Laude Degree: B.B.A. - Management | High School: Round Rock High School Graduated in 1995  
**Website:** http://ahmadforoffice.com

---

Scott Bland (R)  
**Background:** I am born and raised in Waco, Texas, former special agent in the United States Secret Service, now own the family construction company in Waco.  
**Education:** Graduate of Midway High School in Waco, undergraduate degree from Baylor University.  
**Website:** http://blandfortexas.com  
**Facebook:** http://www.facebook.com/blandfortexas/

---

George W. Hindman (R)  
**Background:** George is a business owner, aerospace engineer and commercial pilot. He worked at NASA training astronauts and was the 2018 Republican nominee for Texas State Senate (D14).  
**Education:** George holds a M.S. degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and a B.S. degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Virginia.  
**Website:** http://www.VoteHindman.com  
**Facebook:** http://www.facebook.com/GeorgeWHindman/  
**Video:** https://youtu.be/XOfm1aQQVmQ

---

Todd Kent (R)  
**Background:** My background includes academic, consulting, and non-profit experience. I am a higher education leader and worked in political and business consulting, and youth ministry.  
**Education:** Ph.D. in Political Science, Texas A&M University; M.A. in Public Policy, Regent University; B.S. in Accounting, Utah State University  
**Website:** http://www.toddkent.com  
**Facebook:** http://www.facebook.com/toddkentforcongress

---

**DISTRICT 17**

**Ahmad Adnan (R)**

**Background:** Independent-Thinker, Centrist, Country Over Party | I am a moderate. I want Republicans, conservatives, independents, Democrats, and liberals to vote for me.

**Education:** University: Texas State University Graduated in 2000, Summa Cum Laude Degree: B.B.A. - Management | High School: Round Rock High School Graduated in 1995

**Website:** http://ahmadforoffice.com

---

**A1.** Secure the Border, Embrace Legal Immigration; Spend more money to have more border patrol agents and to use technology like drones, cameras, etc. to help prevent illegal immigration. I do NOT believe in building a wall. Spend more money to have more judges to help process legal immigration and legal asylum cases. If their cases are good and meet the required criteria, those people should be welcomed into our society so they can start to contribute, serve, and pay taxes. No child separation.

**A2.** Medicare If-You-Want-It Plan; I believe in the free market and capitalism. However, I know that some folks may not have access to health insurance (self-employed, geography). I want them to be able to enroll in Medicare. However, I do not believe in handouts; you can’t get Medicare for free; there’s gonna be a premium. You have to pay the premium for Medicare, but I want you to have the choice to enroll in Medicare if you can’t get good health care anywhere else (Medicare If-You-Want-It Plan).

**A3.** I would like to discuss education first. I want the starting pay for teachers to be $80,000 a year. Our education system is falling behind other countries. We will never have the best education system if we do not attract and retain the best, highest-quality teachers, and we can only get the best if we actually pay them what they are worth. And, this will also help change the culture. In other cultures and societies, education is valued, teachers are respected. In the U.S. they’re not.

**A4.** To address Economic Growth & Income Inequality, I want Infrastructure Spending, High-Value Research, and Population Growth. To fix our Dysfunctional Political System, I want to ban money in politics, because money in politics = corruption in politics, vote election day to Saturday, and ban gerrymandering. Please look at my website ahmadforoffice.com to see the greatest social security solution in the history of the program! Legalize, regulate, and tax cannabis to pay for the teacher raise.

---

**A2.** I support the Better Care Act the Senate passed in 2017 to replace the ACA, but I would like to work towards legislation that reforms the existing insurance system to allow for a much more free market environment to help bring costs down.

**A3.** We should support funding to provide mental health training for counselors in the public-school system. I believe this will be effective because if we can identify a child at risk for mental health issues at an early age then we can provide meaningful care that can alter their path before they become too far gone. Teachers and counselors should be trained to identify mental health issues and provide parents with that information to get help for their child.

**A4.** I want to see the border issue be treated as a national security issue and not an immigration problem. We have more people coming into this country illegally who mean to do us harm and this has to stop. My priority is to build a wall where we can, deploy the national guard to the border to augment the Border Patrol, and use drone, sensor, and seismic technology to stop the flow of people through the border. We used similar technology in the Secret Service and I know it will be effective.

**A3.** I am a supporter of the Second Amendment and am committed to preserving the right of individuals to purchase, possess and use firearms as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Gun control advocates consistently fail to recognize that it is people, not guns, who are responsible for illegal actions. Efforts should focus on societal issues that are the root cause of violence; tightening gun laws will only take guns away from law abiding citizens and not criminals who use firearms to commit crimes.

**A4.** Our nation is at a crossroads as to how we determine our fiscal priorities. As a fiscal conservative, I believe that we need to cut spending and restrain our federal government. The best way to pay off our debt and live within our means is to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and to grow the economy. Also, our country has veered away from the values that have provided the foundation of our culture and society. As your representative in DC, I will fight to protect our freedoms.

**Todd Kent (R)**

**Background:** My background includes academic, consulting, and non-profit experience. I am a higher education leader and worked in political and business consulting, and youth ministry.

**Education:** Ph.D. in Political Science, Texas A&M University; M.A. in Public Policy, Regent University; B.S. in Accounting, Utah State University

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

**Facebook:** http://www.facebook.com/toddkentforcongress

---

**A1.** Our immigration system is broken and three steps are needed to solve this crisis. We must secure the border by building a wall and employing better technology, reform our legal immigration visa policies and focus on dealing with the millions of illegal immigrants already in our country without granting amnesty. Border security and enforcing existing laws must be the starting points for addressing the current situation. While America has been a nation of immigrants, we are also a nation of laws.

**A2.** Congress should repeal the costly regulations of age-based community ratings, actuarial value mandates and essential health benefits. Congress should then enact meaningful reforms to allow individuals to purchase health insurance across state lines, expand Health Savings Accounts and make health care plans more flexible and portable to cover a wide range of personal situations. I also favor removing safe harbor protections under the Federal anti-kickback statute to promote better competition.
NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

FOR FAMILY HEALTH INSURANCE

The purchase power of workers' earnings has not kept up. One reason is the high cost of health care. Second, there will be future job losses from artificial intelligence and automation (robotics). Texas is very vulnerable. We will focus on reducing the costs of health care and retraining workers for new types of jobs.

Laurie Godfrey McReynolds (R)

Background: Laurie is from Texas and was raised in a conservative, Christian home. She has been residing and serving the Waco Community the past 35 years. She has 30 dedicated employees,

Education: Arlington Lamar High School 1979; Tarleton State University 2009; Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences; Texas Real Estate License since 2011

Website: http://lauriemcreynolds.com

A1. I support President Trump’s efforts in building the wall. I also believe in creating an easier path for citizenship for those who qualify.

A2. Unfortunately, there is no legislation with the type of framework that I would support in either chamber. I would like to find a solution so that more people have access to affordable medical treatment.

A3. I believe everyone should be able to own a gun for their protection. If someone poses a risk to themselves or others, they should not be allowed to have a gun.

A4. Education: I would like to see less government testing and allow teachers to teach.

Jeff Oppenheim (R)

No Response Received

Kristen Alamo Rowin (R)

No Response Received

David Saucedo (R)

Background: I’ve known poverty most of my life. I’ve made mistakes I’m not proud of. I’ve rebuilt and dedicated to enlightening and empowering our communities! I am a Servant Leader!

Education: Mentor, Ministry, and Church Leadership Six years experience in manufacturing Specialist in Safety and Health (SSH)(UTA) Authorized OSHA Outreach Trainer (UTA)

Website: http://www.saucedoforcongress.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/saucedoforcongress/

Video: https://youtu.be/6w0MDwATjrg

A1. Support President Trump’s administration by advocating for and voting in favor of all funding necessary for physical, technological, and patrol deterrents to illegal border crossings along the southern border.

Assure that contractual timeframes are practical in comparison to the private sector construction industry. Actively raise public awareness about immigrants currently here illegally, and the inhumanity associated with poor security of our borders. Fight Democrat/Media misinformation harder!

A2. I support efforts to return to direct to primary care in our state and in our nation. I believe we should work with experienced leaders like David Balat of the Texas Public Policy Foundation to advance the policies that best serve the citizens of Texas! https://www.texaspolciy.com/primary-care-enhancement-act

A3. Limiting violence to one source or one type prevents us from gaining a holistic perspective on the issue of violence. A gun is no more violent than a box truck in the hands of a person intent on harming the innocent.

The violence we see in our nation is directly connected to cultural influences and social norms. I like to consider myself a student of today’s culture and a builder of tomorrow’s. The video link above is our push back against the anti-law enforcement narrative.

A4. Reducing the size, complexity, and power of the federal government by raising public awareness and pressuring fellow lawmakers to support legislative advancements that push political power back to the states and the people. I will work diligently, prayerfully, and creatively to break political and social barriers as we show President Trump’s policies in action in CD-17. Promote the local control of education! Promote Made In America! Promote Wealth-fare rather than welfare! Represent CD17 Well!

Pete Sessions (R)

Background: Born and raised in Waco Eagle Scout Lifetime member, NRA Member, First United Methodist Church U.S. Congressman, 1996–2018 Chairman, National Republic Congressional Committee

Education: Graduate, Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas 1978

Website: http://petesessions.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/petesessions/

A1. Increase border security funding; Crack down on criminal illegal aliens in sanctuary cities;

Establish mandatory minimum sentencing for criminal illegal aliens; Protect communities from criminal illegal aliens; and require U.S. employers to use E-verify in hiring.

A2. Please see my bill from 2017 HR 1275 the World’s Greatest Healthcare Plan. [Portion of response removed; does not meet criteria.]

A3. I support funding for training and school safety programs, and also for providing resources and training to protect students and prevent violence on school campuses.

A4. Pete Sessions will strongly oppose the Socialist Democrats who want more control of our lives. I am a strong defender of our second amendment freedom, and will protect our gun rights. A faithful Christian, I will defend religious freedom. When in Congress, I led the campaign for Republicans to take over the House and remove Nancy Pelosi as Speaker, and want to work to restore the Republican majority in Congress once again. Finally, I have a proven record of supporting President Donald Trump.

Trent Sutton (R)

Background: Retired Marine Corps Master Sergeant with 21 years of active duty service. Completed five deployments supporting operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (summa cum laude) from Texas A&M. Master of International Affairs from the Bush School of Government and Public Service.

Website: http://www.suttonforcongress.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/SuttonForCgress/

A1. First, we must stop the flow of illegal immigration. Second, we must address those who are here already. A more robust merit-based guest-worker program is vital to ensuring American farming and manufacturing have the labor forces they need to operate. At the same time, e-Verify must be implemented nationwide to ensure employers are not hiring undocumented workers and to prevent visa overstays. This will allow us to maintain a thriving economy while accounting for all entrants.

A2. Socialized medicine is not the answer. Without competition, the quality of care suffers and prices skyrocket. Block granting Medicaid payments will allow states to determine their best course of action. Incentives for providers and pharmaceutical companies must be changed so free-market forces can reduce drug prices and healthcare costs while increasing their effectiveness. The “ever-greening” drug patent loopholes which allow manufactures to stifle and dominate competition must be closed.

A3. Gun violence is not a gun problem; it is a personal responsibility problem. We have strayed from the foundations of faith, family, and freedom which have made this country great since our founding. We must promote legislation that strengthens the family unit, protects religious freedom, and promotes educational and economic opportunities.

© 2020 League of Women Voters Austin Area
DISTRICT 17

Trent Sutton (R) (continued)

A4. Our $23,000,000,000,000 National Debt is one of the least discussed, yet greatest threats to our national security. Our current spending levels are unsustainable and must be reduced. The size and scope of the Federal Government have extended far beyond their Constitutionally mandated responsibilities. The elimination of unnecessary and burdensome government programs, regulations, and wasteful earmark spending must occur.

Renee Swann (R)
No Response Received

Elianor Vessali (R)
No Response Received

William Foster III (D)

Background: Education/ Business Owner
Education: Math/Physics/guidance/computer science/mid-management/Public Administration
Website: http://FosterforCongress.org

A1. first, we should abide by the 14th Amendment section 1 which states that all persons born in the United States are citizens of the United States. When this is violated at any point, the constitution has been violated and laws should be strengthened to uphold the constitutional rights of those being violated. Persons entering the country improperly should be held accountable and dealt with in a proper process. We should employ more border patrol and hold foreign governments financially responsible

A2. There should be legislation to provide building of more self-sustainable hospitals designed especially for those who cannot gain access to proper care in traditional care units We know not enough income and other reasons create these problems This concept also will create more jobs in the medical field

A line item tax on persons with great amounts of discretionary funds will pay into this designed piece of legislation. It includes payment for the destitute and it will lower the cost of medicine

A3. Technology and new laws to adopt restricted areas where weapons will be highly detected. Those who break these laws will be jailed. One must if traveling into the restricted area, alert the police that they are so doing. Technology will play a major role in this methodology.

I would recommend more education to be mandated for all gun owners. With a better, highly technical program in place and present laws strengthened we can curb gun violence by 65 to 75 percent.

A4. sustainable housing for low to middle-income persons. Better and more affordable housing provided for our elderly. Needed services should also be address when it comes to our elderly individuals. We should utilize programs that are already in place and improve on their execution.

David Jaramillo (D)

Education: Bachelor of Science Psychology, Minor in Criminal Justice at Tarleton State University.
Website: http://jaramilloforcongress.com/
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ DavidJaramilloforCongress/
Video: https://youtu.be/Z3UAMOf74b4

A1. We need to close for profit detention centers. We need to double the number of immigration judges to speed up the process for asylum applications. Asylum seekers should not be turned away at the border. Rather, they should be issued temporary visas until their case can be heard. We need to provide a faster pathway to citizenship by hiring more federal employees. All DACA recipients should be granted the citizenship they have long been owed.

A2. We need a system that allows everyone to see a doctor. People are waiting until it’s too late to seek medical care due to the high cost of healthcare. By covering everyone, we would drastically cut costs, thus improving the proliferation of healthcare. We need to implement Medicare for All in stages in order to have a safety net for the American people, thus making it harder to dismantle should political opponents attempt that in the future. We need a low cost standard across all avenues.

A3. We must stop the sale of assault-style weapons. We need background checks to keep weapons out of the hands of people who want to do harm. Furthermore, we should hire more security for schools to protect our children. This will keep schools safer and create jobs. People who are convicted of domestic violence charges should be permanently barred from obtaining weapons. All gun owners should be required to pass a licensure course similar to that administered to those who wish to concealed carry.

A4. We need V.A. healthcare and benefits reform. We need to hire more doctors at the V.A. in order to stay within a manageable doctor to patient ratio. We need to contract with doctors out of school for a seven-year contract that will allow for full student loan forgiveness. This will increase the doctors we have on hand at the V.A., as well as help new doctors gain experience in their field. Bringing more doctors into the V.A. will make it possible to open more clinics in rural areas.

Rick Kennedy (D)

Background: A software engineer for more than three decades, Rick Kennedy proudly claims a STEM background. His son attends Baylor and his two daughters go to Round Rock public schools.
Education: Rick graduated from Burlington (MA) High School in 1980. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from The Pennsylvania State University in 1984.
Website: http://www.RickKennedyforCongress.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/RickKennedyforCongress
Video: https://youtu.be/EC8RoakqRM

A1. We must stop political posturing and devise a broad revision of our immigration system that meets our economic needs, addresses security, and reflects our values.

Such a plan starts by treating asylum seekers with respect and processing claims in a timely manner. We also must secure our borders and ports of entry with technology and human resource-based solutions. Finally, we need a path to citizenship for undocumented residents who have lived here for 10+ years that focuses on security.

A2. I support the Medicare for America Act of 2019. It is the appropriate next step in health care because it achieves universal coverage, especially important in rural areas where the uninsured rate is high. It will not eliminate private insurance. It provides relief from the threat of medical bill-induced bankruptcy - the leading cause of personal bankruptcy in the US. At the same time, it addresses uncompensated care for hospitals. Lastly, it empowers Medicare to negotiate drug prices.

A3. Saving American lives should not be an issue subjected to partisan bickering. I am happy to see that Congress recently appropriated 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 without infringing on Second Amendment rights of lawful gun owners.

A4. Our current political environment is a symptom of the corrupting influence of money in our politics. I’ve rejected corporate PAC contributions to my campaign, and in Washington I’ll support H.R. 1 to overturn Citizens United and end corporate PAC contributions to federal candidates. I believe it is the best way to restore honor and leadership to Washington and the US Congress.

DISTRICT 21

Chip Roy (R)
Unopposed

Wendy R. Davis (D)

Website: http://www.wendydamisforcongress.com/
Facebook: www.facebook.com/wendydamistexas/
DISTRICT 21

Wendy R. Davis (D) (continued)

A1. Everyone agrees that we must keep our borders secure. But our approach to border security should not exclude common sense approaches to immigration policy. Congress needs to take up and pass comprehensive immigration reform so that people who are fleeing violence, who want to work hard and contribute to our economy and want to be part of the fabric of this state and this country, can come out of the shadows.

A2. Creating access to affordable healthcare, including prescription drugs, is my top priority. I believe that healthcare is a human right and that every Texan deserves access to affordable healthcare. We must expand Medicaid and create the ability for those not covered by private insurance or Medicaid to access Medicare or some other public option for care as was originally envisioned under the Affordable Care Act. A healthy Texas population leads to a healthier Texas economy.

A3. As a congressperson, I will do everything I can to create a safer climate for our communities and our children through the passage and enactment of common-sense gun safety laws. I respect the 2nd amendment and like the vast majority of Americans, including NRA members, I support red flag laws and universal background checks, which includes closing the boyfriend loophole, so that persons with a violent history or who demonstrate a threat of harm to themselves or others cannot own a firearm.

A4. As the grandmother of 1 and 3-year-old granddaughters, I am deeply concerned about my generation’s responsibility to assure that they inherit a planet capable of sustaining life. We must take seriously our country’s shared role within the global community to do our part to address climate change. That includes working to achieve a net-zero carbon emissions plan by 2050. Using incentives, Texas should continue to lead the way in the creation of clean energy and the jobs that serve that sector.

Jennie Lou Leeder (D)

No Response Received

DISTRICT 25

Keith Neuendorff (R)

Background: -Dedicated husband and father - Small town / family business roots - Texas A&M graduate - Software engineer for over 25 years - Committed to serving and improving our country

Education: Texas A&M University - BS in Electrical Engineering; Texas A&M University - MBA


A1. We need to enhance border security measures such as electronic monitoring and detection and a focus on ports of entry where the vast majority of illegal crossings and drug smuggling occurs. We also need a comprehensive immigration reform program that includes a meaningful guest worker program that allow certain labor groups (such as farm workers) to work in our country legally.

A2. We need to maintain the principle of no pre-existing conditions on private and public insurance programs. We should also allow for existing government programs to negotiate prices for drugs and services in a real open market to allow for lowering costs in those programs. Additionally, we need to explore changing the foundations of how we pay for healthcare (publicly and privately) to move away from a pay-for-service model and toward a pay-for-outcomes model that rewards better health results.

A3. I am a supporter of responsible gun ownership under the 2nd Amendment. I grew up hunting and understand the place of guns for sport and personal protection. To curb gun violence we should more strictly enforce the current laws on who should be able to purchase guns and enhance those laws by broadening the restrictions for mental illness, people on terror watch-lists, and closing loopholes in the law. We should also not be afraid to gather basic data on gun violence to inform decision making.

A4. Education is my highest priority because the quality of education we provide touches every aspect of private and public life. Even after putting aside moral and equality issues, a strong education system is still one of the most important investments that we can make as a country. Access to a quality education allows individuals to lead productive, independent lives, contribute their knowledge and skills to society, and helps us to maintain our leading positions in trade and defense.

Roger Williams (R)

No Response Received

Julie Oliver (D)

Background: Former teen Medicaid mom who put herself through college and law school; made a career in taxation and healthcare finance before running 100% PAC-free campaign for Congress.

Education: B.B.A, University of Texas at Arlington (Summa Cum Laude); J.D., University of Texas Austin

Website: http://twitter.com/JulieOliverTX Facebook: http://facebook.com/JulieForTexas

Video: https://youtu.be/FqZcpwknuo8

A1. We need to fundamentally reform our immigration system so that it reflects who we want to be — a country where our fellow human beings are treated with dignity & respect, regardless of immigration status. My commitments: Make Dreamers & TPS recipients citizens; Build a viable path to citizenship for undocumented people; Increase capacity in our asylum claims system; Reverse Trump’s Muslim ban; End family detention & prohibit CBP from contracting with private prison corps; Address root causes.

A2. Every single American should have high-quality healthcare, be able to see a doctor, and be able to afford prescriptions — no matter if they’re rich or poor, young or old, or have pre-existing conditions or not. I have 20 years of experience in healthcare finance and serve on the board of Central Health. Ensuring that we achieve universal single-payer health care in this country by expanding Medicare for all Americans is my top priority. Please read more at julieoliver.org/issues/healthcare.

A3. There are concrete solutions to the public health crisis of gun violence in America. My commitments: Universal background checks and universal licensing requirements at all points of purchase; Strong red flag laws & Extreme Risk Protection Orders to disarm abusers; Ensure that the FBI & DOJ prioritize white supremacist violence; Oppose concealed carry reciprocity; Ban the civilian sale of assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, & other weapons of war; End the corrupting influence of the NRA.

A4. We have to get corporations and big money out of Congress and our elections, once and for all. With healthcare, it’s my top priority, and it’s why I don’t take a single dime from any PAC. We could address all of our legislative priorities — gun violence, the climate crisis, mass incarceration, voting rights, repro health — by ending the corrupting influence of money in our politics. Please see platform - the most aggressive anti-corruption platform of any candidate in Texas: julieoliver.org

Heidi Sloan (D)

Background: After teaching children with disabilities in public school and farming alongside the formerly homeless, I turned to organizing and won huge campaigns alongside my community.

Education: I have a Philosophy degree from Baylor University, but it is the people I’ve organized alongside of who have taught me the most - people of all education levels & backgrounds.

Website: http://heidisloan.com Facebook: http://facebook.com/heidisloantx

Video: https://youtu.be/OmmKpiRdt_c

A1. We must rebuild the many pathways to citizenship & permanent residency that have been dismantled. We must abolish ICE and end police involvement with immigration, stop locking people in cages for crossing borders, win amnesty for undocumented people, and demand fair wages & safe working conditions for all workers including immigrants. But we must also fight the root causes of mass migration, including US trade & foreign policy destabilizing regions and corporate polluters damaging environments.

© 2020 League of Women Voters Austin Area

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS: VOTERS GUIDE—PRIMARY ELECTION 2020 11
NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 25

Heidi Sloan (D) (continued)

A2. I’ve been fighting for Medicare For All which will provide healthcare to every person rich or poor by ending the for-profit insurance industry and providing a just transition for insurance workers. This program will create complete coverage including vision, dental, mental health, & reproductive health and will eliminate copays, deductibles, & premiums. We will drive down costs in a single payer system bargaining as a single unit with the full collective buying power of the American people.

A3. Many politicians have made gun owners the enemy in the gun debate when the real enemies are the arms manufacturers who profit from bad gun policy and whose money blocks even the most basic gun reforms. The gun safety movement must build power across the working class to reach greater consensus so we can achieve universal background checks, a ban on assault weapon distribution, and a real economic and mental health safety net to end mass shootings & curb the 2/3 of gun deaths that are suicides.

A4. Climate change is the greatest threat facing humanity, but it’s also our generation’s greatest opportunity. With a Green New Deal, we can democratize our economy and create millions of good-paying, safe union jobs rebuilding America’s crumbling infrastructure, creating beautiful public housing & transit, and investing in small & sustainable agriculture. We will drive up wages with a federal jobs guarantee, transition from fossil fuels by 2030, and create a democratically-controlled energy grid.

DISTRICT 31

John Carter (R)
No Response Received

Abhiram Garapati (R)
No Response Received

Christopher Wall (R)
No Response Received

Mike Williams (R)

Background: 39 year fire service, 18 year Community College Adjunct Faculty, 25 year Scout volunteer, Parent - Grandparent

Education: Business degree. Several advanced professional certifications (listed on website)

Website: http://mikewilliams31ctx.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/mikewilliams31ctx

Video: https://youtu.be/imUmVlr1ATo

A1. Secure the Borders, enact legislation that will disincentives illegal immigration while encouraging merit-based immigration. Eliminate chain migration and visa lottery, enhance tracking and enforcement of visa overstays.

A2. Measures that bring free market forces to bear on health care cost and remove burdensome regulation that drive costs up. Pricing transparency is a large part of this effort along with enhancing customer choice.


A4. Civil Liberties protection: legislation requiring the DOJ to pursue as a top priority civil liberty/civil rights violations at all levels of government and violators in the private sector.

FISA reform that will reduce as significantly as possible the likelihood of any abuses that have recently occurred from happening again.

Parental Rights Act that secures the parents right to determine Constitutionally enumerated moral and ethical values for their children.

Michael Grimes (D)

Background: I have lived and practiced law in Round Rock, Texas since 1971. I am married to Sharon Grimes. We have 3 adult sons and 5 grandchildren.

Education: High School: Dallas, Bryan Adams 1964; College: Colgate University 1968; Law School: University of Texas 1971

Website: http://www.mikegrimesforcongress.com

A1. We need a more compassionate government! Every country needs borders and border security, but we are a nation of immigrants. We must never forget that. Congress must come together and provide more money and resources to deal with the immigration crises. These people are risking their lives and the lives of their families seeking shelter in a country that they believe will offer them safety and freedom. America should offer these folks shelter and a fair hearing, not prison.

A2. I support universal health care. No one in America should die because they can’t afford medical insurance. I believe the best pathway to universal health care is to repair, fix and improve the Affordable Care Act. We can control the cost of prescription medication, if we elect folks who will represent the American public rather than the Pharmaceutical Industry. Legislation controlling the pricing and sale of prescription medication can and will drastically reduce their cost.

A3. I would support laws that ban the sale of assault rifles, bump stocks and extended magazine clips. The sale of guns should require a universal background check of potential buyers, without exception. Local gun shows should not be exempted. Guns should be regulated and registered, just like a vehicle.

A4. State laws that result in voter suppression seem to be a growing problem on a national level. I will support federal legislation that makes it easier for voters to cast a ballot on election day. That would include increased access to mail in ballots, shorter registration periods and even election day registration. Additionally, I support the availability of extended voting periods, which precede the election date.

Eric Hanke (D)

Background: Everyday I work to help working-class Texans prepare for retirement. The concerns I hear in their stories are not being addressed by Congress. I’m running to be their voice.

Education: Southwestern University, 2001

Website: http://www.hankefortexas.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/HankeForTexas

Video: https://youtu.be/JdbUzdVe_7o

A1. Let’s start with a simple premise: no human is illegal. Our immigration system must uphold the values of our nation while also serving the interests of our economy and society. In Congress, I will work to pass the Dream Act, create a pathway for undocumented immigrants, and reform the current pathway for legal immigration that leaves families in limbo for decades and does not serve our current economic needs.

A2. In spite of living with a free market, the current system prevents us from having the freedom of choice and access. If people’s current insurance works for them, they should be allowed to keep it. For those who want an alternative, I believe that Medicare should be open to anyone who wants to participate - consumers and employers alike. I firmly believe that health care is a basic human right and that reliable, timely access to care should be guaranteed for all in our country.

A3. I believe in sensible gun legislation that would allow the CDC to study gun violence, establish red flag laws, expand background checks & close loopholes, reinstate the assault weapons ban, & a voluntary buy-back program. Our churches, schools, concerts, & other public settings are under constant threat of terror due to gun violence while Congress expresses little more than thoughts and prayers. I am a person of faith and I pray, but that is not enough to prevent the next mass shooting.

A4. I will work to ensure that climate change is treated as the emergency that scientists, economists, & national security

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 chose on Election Day and during early voting may request a ballot 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.
Eric Hanke (D) (continued)

experts say it is by making record investments in renewable energy & research/development for storage capacity, leveraging responsible regulatory options such as fuel-efficiency standards, and recommitting to the Paris Accords. This effort must include support to ensure the workforce and communities - supported by the fossil fuel economy aren’t left behind in the transition.

Donna Imam (D)

Background: NW Austin TX31 resident for almost 14 years. 18+ year career in tech and business. Former president of 4000+ member non-profit that provides free training and education.

Education: Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering, Purdue University; State of Indiana Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, Trine University, State of Indiana

Website: http://www.votefordonna.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/donnaimamtX/

Video: https://youtu.be/QQuR9htl6_o

A3. Handguns account for the majority of all gun violence. Majority of all gun-related deaths are suicides. Mandate universal background checks for all gun sales and close all loopholes. Require periodic mental health checks. Require registration and training for owners of all semi-automatic weapons. Registration will be enforceable at the point of sale of any firearm, ammo, or accessory. This will keep gun owners accountable, promote safety, and save lives.

A4. Education for All proposes debt-free education for trade school, college, or any higher education. It launches a program similar to the GI bill that reimburses graduates pursuing in-demand fields such as teaching, social-work, mental health, technology and family medicine. It also reimburses graduates that make a commitment to serve in rural or under-served communities. It puts an immediate halt to the student-loan crisis by giving people the ability to reduce or eliminate their student loans.

Dan Janjigian (D)

Background: Recently, I just completed my 15th year in healthcare working directly with families for protection and claims. I’ve also been a professional athlete, Olympian and actor.

Education: I have my bachelors degree in Business and Marketing from California Polytechnic, San Luis Obispo

Website: http://danjanforcongress.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/danjanforcongress/

Video: https://youtu.be/X5f-GbHuqdA

A1. There has to be a path to immigration that takes work, but is fair. For immigrants escaping genocide, or other atrocities, there should additionally be a faster path, that ensures our national security, but gives them the respect they deserve to have a better life, just as most our grandparents were afforded. Most immigrants looking to enter legally have proven to be coming to the US for the right reasons, and this idea of opportunity and the “American Dream,” is what we were founded upon.

A2. I believe in a single payer system, similar to Bernie Sanders idea of Medicare for all. My only change is that as we transition to a truly “one-payer” system, that I believe will one day be in force, people should be able to bridge that time by being allowed to maintain their current plans if they wish to do so. For the average citizen, this new system would allow them to have access to at least a basic level of health care, just as their kids have access to private schools.

A3. First, guns should be classified, and military style legal weapons need to require greater background checks, AND licensing in some cases (much like a drivers license). Additionally, any gun owner should accept 100% responsibility on the use of that gun, until that gun is sold. Gun sales should always require the same process privately as is legally required through a store. If a gun is not locked up properly or unlawfully used, the gun owner would be liable, causing great care in storage, etc.

A4. Climate Change is the biggest issue at stake in our world today. The US is still one of the leaders in CO2 emissions, and it’s our responsibility to make massive changes immediately. The irony is that making an effort to address these changes creates jobs, builds infrastructure, and will ultimately create new avenues for tax dollars that can be used to further encourage “green” initiatives. Change is not easy, but it’s coming, and if we don’t change now, the results will be catastrophic.

Christine Eady Mann (D)

Background: I’m a physician in Cedar Park, TX with 30 years in healthcare. I’m the daughter and granddaughter of veterans; a wife; mother; and was a small business owner for 11 years.

Education: I attended the University of Texas-Arlington for Microbiology. As a single mom, I attended the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine at the University of North Texas HSC.

Website: http://christine4congress.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/Christine4Congress

Video: https://youtu.be/79KIdgHNl1c

A1. We must begin any discussions of immigration by acknowledging the human beings involved. We must change the immigration system so we don’t create obstacles of oppression but efficient pathways to citizenship for all; passing the Dream and Promise Act for Dreamers, those under TPS/Deferred Enforced Departure; ending the dishonorable practice of deporting U.S. Armed Forces veterans & allowing all to return; ensuring the right to counsel for unaccompanied minors; and more.

A2. Access to healthcare is a human right. To ensure access & lower prescription drug costs, we must enact Universal Coverage as quickly as possible. I’ve advocated for this system since 2009, with a transitional approach that minimizes harm to the economy & workforce while rapidly bringing coverage to those most at risk. This would include lowering the Medicare eligibility age to 55; automatically enrolling all newborns; then lowering Medicare eligibility incrementally so all Americans are covered.

A3. As a gun owner, I support the Second Amendment and understand many Americans have a need and right to own firearms. But it is past time for us to act. We need universal background checks on all gun transfers, restoration of the assault weapons ban, close loopholes that allow non-spousal domestic abusers to obtain weapons and outlaw bump stocks; repeal the Dickey Amendment and restore full funding to the CDC for study of this public health crisis to enact additional measures to protect lives.

A4. Our criminal justice system is broken, and is home to the world’s largest prison population. My priority is to reform this system to provide all citizens equity and justice. That means ending our reliance on private, for-profit prisons; legalizing marijuana/ex-punging the records of those previously & currently incarcerated; investigating all fatal police shootings with transparency to ensure accountability, and diverting mental health emergencies to mental health first-responders, not police.

Tammy Young (D)

Background: Born and raised Texan, mother, grandmother, former public school teacher and advocate for children with special needs. Proud to
NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 31
Tammy Young (D) (continued)
serve on Round Rock City Council since 2017.
Education: Graduated with a degree in Special
Education from the University of New Mexico and will earn a Master’s in Law from the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law in May 2020.
Website: http://tammyyoungforcongress.com
Facebook: http://facebook.com/TammyYoungforCongress
A1. We need to get serious about comprehensive immigration reform to finally fix
our broken immigration system. We need
a pathway to citizenship for the millions of
undocumented immigrants who are paying
taxes, following the law, and contributing
to their communities. We need to seriously in-
crease the capacity of our asylum courts and
immigration judges so that we can process
applications quickly and humanely. We have
to end the separation of children from their
families at the border immediately.
A2. I’ve spent more of my life uninsured
than insured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
to affordable, quality health care. That’s my
bottom line. I think the best way to do it is
to provide a public option, a medicare plan
for the uninsured. Every American needs access
...
NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 35

Rafael Alcoser III (D) (continued)

was. We do not need to immediately label as “criminals” these immigrants that only seek a better future in our great nation.

A2. American healthcare is in shambles. I will work tirelessly to lower the cost of prescription drugs, and work to lower Healthcare cost, especially at publicly funded hospitals and emergency rooms. Universal Healthcare must be a part of the solution, and we must have congressional oversight on which insurance carriers can continue to operate off Federal Tax dollars, i.e. Medicare. I will also work towards tax incentives so that every employer can provide paid sick leave.

A3. Education is key to curbing gun violence. Just today, less than 5 miles from home, a young boy 7 yr. old accidentally shot and killed himself. A simple gun lock and or storing ammunition separately may have prevented this incident. Universal background checks and gun safety courses should be a requirement before anyone is allowed to purchase a weapon, whether from a retailer or the secondary market. The 2nd amendment grants the right to bare arms, not the right to bare arms ignorantly.

A4. Putting back the $1.6 Billion that was stolen from Social Security and protecting our small business owners. Americans worked for their Social Security, we need to make sure they will have it when they need it. As a small business owner, I feel it is crucial that every entrepreneur have the same shot at success on the local, national, and international market. We need to expand resources and equity to make it more accessible to every veteran, minority and woman owned small business.

Lloyd Doggett (D)


Education: BA Business, JD, University of Texas at Austin

Website: http://www.votedoggett.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/LloydDoggettTX/

Q1. What are your recommendations relating to regulation of pipelines?
Q2. How do you plan to balance oil, gas, and mining interests with protection of natural resources?
Q3. What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Railroad Commission?

Ryan Sitton (R)
No Response Received

James ‘Jim’ Wright (R)

Background: I own five businesses and am associated with 14 other businesses that deal with environmental and transport issues in a wide range of industries, including the oil and gas business. I have been involved in these businesses since 1986. I am also a rancher.

Education: Calallen High School in Corpus Christi

Website: http://www.wrightfortexas.com
Facebook: https://imwrightfortexas

A1. — Increased automated leak detection systems. — More pipelines developed as part of our state’s infrastructure to deliver our natural resources in a safer and more economically feasible method . . .

A2. Implementation of better rules and the way that waste byproducts are handled currently are crucial to balancing the public interests and the economic needs of our citizens. The Railroad Commission needs to be more involved in using the volume of resources that are available under today’s technology.

A3. — Implement and use proven technology for better communication with citizens and members of the oil and gas industry. — Stronger self-policing actions and reporting by Natural Resource producers. — Life cycle analysis and development to ensure that future generations are reliant on best environmental management practices by the Industry.

Robert R. “Beto” Alonzo (D)

Background:

As a former State Representative, I know the law, legislative and the budget process which funds the RRC and other state agencies. As an experienced litigator, I can rule on appeals regarding oil and gas, pipeline, utility and environmental issues before the RRC an. Originally from Crystal City, I know the oil and gas issues impacting both rural and urban communities.

Education: University of Texas at Austin Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Website: http://alonzo4txrr.commissioner.com/

A1. The Legislature should enact laws to ensure that regulation of pipelines is meaningful. An application for a permit should require comprehensive information regarding routes, economic, environmental and historical impact, and not based on a simple form. The exercise of Eminent Domain should be fair to all. Monitor compliance with rules and regulations by industry.

A2. Review and update provisions to allow development, reduction of waste while protecting the environment. Ensure that the public has notice of development and impactful changes in their area and opportunity to submit input on the proposals. Study cost effective methods to reduce flaring in

STATE RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

Q1. What are your recommendations relating to regulation of pipelines?
Q2. How do you plan to balance oil, gas, and mining interests with protection of natural resources?
Q3. What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Railroad Commission?

Q1. What are your recommendations relating to regulation of pipelines?
Q2. How do you plan to balance oil, gas, and mining interests with protection of natural resources?
Q3. What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Railroad Commission?

© 2020 League of Women Voters Austin Area
Robert Alonzo (D) (continued)

order to reduce waste and increase access to pipelines.

A3. Monitor the relationship between drilling and seismicity and support innovation in drilling processes including the use of water in fracking. Encourage the use of alternative fuels. Review agency processes for award of contracts, compliance with HUB and diversity in hiring at all levels. Monitor practices in the field to increase worker safety.

Chrysta Castaneda (D)

Background: I am an engineer, oil and gas attorney, community organizer and mom, with over 30 years of experience working in and around the oil and gas industry. I know both the law and the business of oil and gas and will work tirelessly to get the Railroad Commission back on track in enforcing our environmental protections and safety regulations.


Website: http://chrystafortexas.com
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ChrystaForTexas/
Video: https://youtu.be/ikC1a_v3Gew

A1. The Commission oversees pipeline safety for intrastate pipelines and we need to update those regulations to meet today’s standards. Laying new pipelines creates challenges beyond the Commission’s powers, and addressing those challenges will require the Legislature to act. I’ll use my expertise to press for a framework that includes transparency and public input.

A2. We must enforce existing laws prohibiting flaring, the harmful practice of burning natural gas. It wastes our natural resources, causes harm to our environment and health concerns. I will use my expertise to deploy alternative technologies that will reduce the amount of flaring, convert it to usable electricity and clean up our air.

A3. We need to reduce harmful methane emissions. Methane escapes through leakage, aging equipment, and intentional venting, which is against the law. I will improve the detection and enforcement programs. We can use drones equipped with infrared cameras to detect leaks. Education can improve prevention and we will need to better enforce existing laws.

Kelly Stone (D)

Background: As an educator, I’ve implemented harm reduction strategies to improve health, taught capstone college courses regarding policies, laws, & regs affecting individuals & families at local, state, & fed levels. As an environmental activist, I’ve worked to clean up litter & pollution, encourage waste consciousness, change consumer behavior, & advocated for environmental policy.

Education: HS Diploma—Aldine Senior High School (8th in class); BS in Family and Consumer Sciences—Texas State University (formerly Southwest Texas State University) GPA=3.55; MA in Health Education/Health Promotion—The University of Texas at Austin GPA=4.0

Website: http://votekstone.com
Facebook: https://Facebook.com/votekstone
Video: https://youtu.be/I4V7o5x7mbA

A1. Kinder Morgan & Whitewater Midstream & all pipeline companies must conduct environmental impact studies first. Construction & Operation of these pipelines could impact health at Jacob’s Well, Cypress Creek, Blanco River, Barton Springs, San Marcos River and Pecos, Dimmit, Kenedy, Maverick, La Salle, Duval, Jim Wells, Nueces, Gillespie, Blanco, Hays & Caldwell counties.

A2. Balancing interests vs. protections? The RRC’s protection of oil & gas interests have far outweighed that of our natural resources. In order to find balance, I’d increase protections of natural resources by denying permits for flaring & committing to the initiatives of the GND, transitioning to healthy outcomes & full employment as we eliminate crude oil export by 2040.

A3. We must change the name of the Railroad Commission. Comprised of 3 statewide elected officials, the RRC has nothing to do with railroads & everything to do with oil, gas, & pipelines. Until it becomes more transparent to voters, the intentionally confusing name continues to allow the tyranny of Big Oil, regulating itself w/o regard for the climate crisis or our environment

Mark Watson (D)

Background: I have directly participated in drilling oil and gas wells in Texas. I have worked for Exxon, J. Ray McDermott, and the EPA. In the last twenty years I have watched the growing influence of the energy industry on the RRC. Texas has a proud history of protecting her natural resources. I will promote smart energy production to help hardworking men and women of Texas.

Education: JD, Tulane University BA, Tulane University
Website: http://Watsonforrailroadcommission.com

A1. Safety first. Pipelines account for 70% of oil transport in the US. I will ensure that companies regularly inspect and maintain their pipelines for integrity. We need to reduce harmful methane emissions. Methane escapes through leakage, aging equipment, and intentional venting, which is against the law. I will improve the detection and enforcement programs. We can use drones equipped with infrared cameras to detect leaks. Education can improve prevention and we will need to better enforce existing laws.

VOTING FOR JUDGES IN TEXAS

Although in some states judges are appointed, most judges in Texas are elected. 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. It is critical that our judges make fair decisions based upon open-minded and unbiased consideration of the facts and the law in each case. Judges must know the law and not be influenced by any external political and economic factors.

What should voters look for when electing judges?

According to the American Bar Association, principles to consider in selection of judges include:

➤ Judges should uphold the rule of law.
➤ Judges should be independent and impartial.
➤ Judges should possess the appropriate temperament and character.
➤ Judges should possess the appropriate capabilities and credentials.
➤ Judges and the judiciary should have the confidence of the public.
➤ The judicial system should be diverse and reflective of the society it serves.
➤ Judges should be constrained to perform their duties in a manner that justifies public faith and confidence in the court.

Unlike candidates for most political offices, judicial candidates cannot make promises about decisions they would make 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 https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1444966/court-structure-chart-october-2019.pdf for a chart of the Texas court structure.

Learn more https://www.txcourts.gov/about-texas-courts/.
STATE RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

Mark Watson (D)

pipelines to prevent environmental hazards. Care must be taken to protect property owners from abusive use of eminent domain. Pipelines are absolutely essential to the Texas Oil Economy. Adopt newest pipeline technology and materials.

A2. Protecting Texas energy resources and the environment is a primary objective of the RRC. The intelligent and safe production of energy resources overlaps with best practices in the oil patch. I will err on protecting the environment and the health of Texas energy resources. The RRC will ensure that smart energy practices take priority in the Texas Oil and Gas Industry.

A3. We need smart energy practices. Flaring is the practice of burning unused gas from oil wells causing air pollution in beautiful West Texas skies and elsewhere. Coal mining reclamation decisions by RRC allow mining companies to leave behind toxic material, destroying value and causing dangerous contamination. Today’s RRC favors big business over hardworking Texans.

STATE TEXAS SUPREME COURT

CHIEF JUSTICE

Q1. Texas is one of a few states that elects judges. What changes in the judicial selection process would you recommend, if any?

Q2. What changes, if any, are needed to provide better protection to the public regarding rules and standards for the legal profession?

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

Q4. What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Supreme Court?

Nathan Hecht (R)

Unopposed

Amy Clark Meachum (D)

Background: For almost a decade, I have presided over thousands of proceedings and trials in the types of cases for which the Texas Supreme Court has jurisdiction: civil, family and administrative appeals. I am a guest lecturer with the Texas Center for Legal Ethics, a member of the Administrative Law Council, and before taking the bench, practiced at two of the best firms in Texas.


Website: http://amymeachum.com
Facebook: https://facebook.com/JudgeAmyforChiefJustice/

A1. Texans want balance on the courts. Our founding fathers did not trust lawyers, judges or politicians. The only way to keep judges responsive is to make them accountable to the voters. Today, as Democrats start winning elections, Republicans are seeking to change the selection process to keep themselves in office. I believe Texans see this for what it is.

A2. The Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct are constantly undergoing changes, including some amendments earlier this year. The intent is to increase protections for the public. As Chief Justice, I will support efforts to protect the public from unscrupulous acts by members of the legal profession.

A3. The highest responsibility of the Supreme Court is to ensure fairness and balance in the interpretation and application of law. For far too many years, only Republicans, most appointed by Governor Abbott or Perry, sit on the Texas Supreme Court as this guardian. I will help bring balance to the Texas Supreme Court.

A4. I believe gerrymandering and public education may come before the Texas Supreme Court.

Please call one of these nonpartisan hotlines if you have any issues at your polling location:

ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINES

ENGLISH 866-OUR-VOTE 866-867-8683
SPANISH 888-VE-Y-VOTA 888-839-8682
ASIAN LANGUAGES 888-API-VOTE 888-274-8683
ARABIC 866-YALLA-US 866-925-5287

© 2020 League of Women Voters Austin Area
**STATE**  **TEXAS SUPREME COURT**

**JUSTICE**

**Q1.** Texas is one of a few states that elects judges. What changes in the judicial selection process would you recommend, if any?

**Q2.** What changes, if any, are needed to provide better protection to the public regarding rules and standards for the legal profession?

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

**Q4.** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Supreme Court?

---

**PLACE 6**

Jane Bland (R)
Unopposed

Kathy Cheng (D)

**Background:** For over nineteen years, I represented clients in complex commercial litigation matters, contested divorce and probate cases, tax matters and real estate cases, which are some of the potential types of cases that the Texas Supreme Court hears. I also served as adjudication officer for the City of Houston for the past six years.

**Education:** Juris Doctor from South Texas College of Law Houston (2000); Bachelor of Science-Biology from Louisiana State University-Shreveport (1995)

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

**Facebook:** [https://chengforjustice](https://chengforjustice)

**Larry Praeger (D)**

**Background:** I have been practicing law for more than 30 years. I have extensive trial experience and have argued before every civil court in the state. I am A-V rated by Martindale-Hubbell and Board Certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. I represented individuals and small business. I have served five years on the grievance committee of the State Bar.

**Education:** Simon’s Rock College, BA; South Texas College of Law Houston, J.D., May 1981

**Website:** [http://www.larrysc6.com](http://www.larrysc6.com)

**Facebook:** [https://www.facebook.com/larrysc6/](https://www.facebook.com/larrysc6/)

**A1.** The beauty of democracy is that citizens can vote for individuals who they believe reflect their values, which in the State of Texas includes the election of judges. If that choice turns out to be a bad choice, being able to vote elected officials out of office is a mechanism to hold said officials accountable. As such, I see no need for change at the present time.

**A2.** As time evolves, the means of disseminating the rules and standards for the legal profession shall also evolve. With the ease of digital accessibility, there should be more educational information available to the general public by digital means of the rules and standards governing said profession so that the general population are better informed as to their rights.

**A3.** Being an efficient, fair justice who upholds the law and educate our citizens of the significance of the judicial system are my top priorities. By understanding and practicing the true meaning of the phrase, “justice for all” so justice is truly afforded to all regardless of ethnicity, race, gender, faith, age, sexual orientation, etc., I am achieving those priorities.

**A4.** With the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision to refrain from hearing challenges of partisan gerrymandering, partisan gerrymandering cases will now go before the Texas Supreme Court, which is an example of how this Court impacts its citizens even though the citizens themselves may never go before this Court.

---

**PLACE 7**

Jeff Boyd (R)
Unopposed

Brandy Voss (D)

**Background:** I have practiced appellate law for seventeen years. I have been board certified in civil appellate law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization for ten years. I spent five years working as a staff attorney at the Texas Supreme Court and at the Thirteenth Court of Appeals. I estimate that I have participated in nearly 1,000 appellate proceedings during my career.

**Education:** Baylor University School of Law, J.D., magna cum laude, 2002; Texas A&M University, B.A., Anthropology 1999

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

**Facebook:** [https://www.facebook.com/BrandyVossforTexas/](https://www.facebook.com/BrandyVossforTexas/)

**A1.** I believe there is no perfect system for selecting judges. I support a thorough exploration of various methods and the benefits and drawbacks of each before any change to the judicial selection process is made. I do trust our voting public to make the correct choice if that remains as the Texas method for selecting judges.

**A2.** Juries are the voice of our communities in the courtroom, and the Constitutional right to a jury trial is the public’s last defense against governmental oppression. While I believe the ethical rules prohibit me from speaking publicly about specific proposed rule changes, I believe any rule changes must be geared toward protecting the right to a jury trial.

**A3.** In today’s toxic political environment, public confidence in all our civic institutions is falling. I will prioritize strengthening judicial independence—courts should be free from political attacks and intimidation. Also, our state’s highest court needs more debate, more diversity, and more dissent before overturning the decisions of juries performing their civic duty.

**A4.** The need to fund legal services to ensure our courts are accessible to all, especially the most vulnerable, has been advocated by both parties’ jurists and political leaders. This call to action requires a greater sense of urgency, or our courts risk being even further removed from the most vulnerable and undermining trust in the principle of justice for justice for all.

**Staci Williams (D)**

**Background:** I am in my second term as a trial court Judge in the 101st District Court. I have served as an arbitrator for DART, USPS, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, NASD/FINRA, and the Washington Metropolitan Airport Board. My experience includes in-house corporate counsel positions in multiple industries, as well as a trial attorney and administrative judge for the EEOC.

**Education:** The Hockaday School; Smith College, BA; Georgetown University Law Center, JD

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

**Facebook:** [https://www.facebook.com/JudgeStaci/](https://www.facebook.com/JudgeStaci/)
STATE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

JUDGE

Q1. How should the Court of Criminal Appeals address mental health issues of those who come before the Court?
Q2. What opportunities are there, if any, to improve the state’s indigent defense system in criminal cases?
Q3. Which responsibility of a Court of Criminal Appeals judge is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?
Q4. What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Court of Criminal Appeals?

PLACE 3

Gina Parker (R)

Background: Over 30 years handling felony, misdemeanor, & juvenile cases. Private practice since 1991. Also, served as City Attorney, Assistant CA, Assistant DA. As TDLR Commissioner & Chair, a quasi-judicial capacity, ruled on over 1000 administrative appeals.

Education: Baylor School of Law, 1986 BBA, Baylor University, 1983

Website: http://www.GinaforJudge.com
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/GinaParkerCampaign/
Video: https://youtu.be/VACHjYsPWzA

A1. The Judicial Committee on Mental Health assesses the resources available; recommends ways to improve communication between the courts, attorneys, clients, and mental health providers; provides training to judges; and continues to make recommendations for improvement of the current system. Unquestionably, these efforts should continue.

A2. The rule of law is undermined when defendants cannot afford counsel. The Fair Defense Act was established to administer appropriations and policies to help counties with indigent defense programs. Also, transparency and accountability at the local level will ensure fairness, eliminate conflicts of interest and cronyism. Pro bono work is a way to provide counsel.

A3. Above all other duties, judges should uphold the rule of law. Additionally, they should be independent and impartial, and they should demonstrate appropriate temperament by respecting all parties to a case and should have good character.

A4. Keep pace with the ever-changing challenges of technology in order to appropriately address DNA issues. Also, make sure the Michael Morton law is properly enforced, so the right persons are charged for criminal offenses.

Bert Richardson (R)

Background: 1) I have practiced criminal law full-time for over 31 years.
2) Former State and Federal prosecutor with substantial trial and appellate experience.
3) Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.
4) Judge for over 20 years and appointed by Gov. Bush.
5) Adjunct Law Professor 12+ years.
6) Distinguished 2015 Law Graduate StMU.

Education: BYU, B.S., August 1982 St. Mary’s University School of Law, J.D. 1987

Website: http://www.electjudgerichardson.com/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/JudgeBertRichardson/
Video: https://youtu.be/9sXRzRPDgs

A1. Early intervention is critical in cases dealing with mental health issues, as such, trial courts are in a better position to assist the immediate needs of citizens in those cases. The Court of Criminal Appeals and Texas Supreme Court are part of a joint commission that provide training to professionals assisting those with mental illnesses.

A2. The TCCA oversees funding to train those organizations that represent indigent defendants. That is a starting point. However, in order to improve the system, both counties and the State must commit to providing the financial resources necessary to staff offices in counties with lawyers that...
STATE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

PLACE 3

Bert Richardson (R) (continued)

have substantial experience in the criminal justice system. Putting defense lawyers on the same pay scale as prosecutors would encourage more to apply for those positions. Other opportunities from the legislature, such as passing procedural and discovery rules, as they accomplished in recent sessions would contribute to improving the system.

A3. The TCCA is the busiest appellate court in our country reviewing all death penalty cases, post conviction write (including claims of actual innocence) and appeals from 14 intermediate appellate courts across the State. The total number of cases is any given year is in the thousands. Timely disposing of these cases for all parties is my highest priority.

A4. Post conviction write (including actual innocence claims) constitute the largest number of cases the TCCA reviews. Given the changes in modern day science and technology that can be used in the courtroom, it is imperative that our court keep up with these changes and recognize those that can have both negative and positive impacts on cases before the TCCA.

William Pieratt Demond (D)

Background: One of three 2019 Texas Super Lawyers in constitutional law; established constitutional rights in Turner v. Driver, 848 F.3d 678 (5th Cir. 2017) (recording police) and Zadeh v. Robinson, 928 F.3d 457 (5th Cir. 2019) (pre-compliance review of subpoenas to doctors); filed 19-676 at the Supreme Court; pierced grand jury secrecy; & CLE instructor regarding constitutional law.

Education: B.A., Asian Studies, Furman University; J.D. (international law concentration) and M.A., Diplomacy and International Relations, Seton Hall University.

Website: http://williamdemond.com

Facebook: https://facebook.com/williamforjustice

A1. The Court should dispense with its unconstitutional “adaptive functioning analysis” in death penalty cases involving mental health issues, follow the medical community’s adaptive-functioning inquiry on adaptive deficits, and voluntarily honor U.S. Supreme Court jurisprudence concerning the death penalty (rather than being repeatedly reversed because it refuses to do so).

A2. Monitoring appointments to ensure caseloads do not render appointed counsel ineffective, establishing public defenders’ offices in counties that do not have them (thereby facilitating additional training to the indigent defense community), and providing reliable resources for investigators, scientific testing, and mental health evaluations.

A3. Protecting the People’s constitutional rights (especially in death penalty cases and for unrepresented inmates in habeas corpus proceedings); by retraining (or replacing) my staff, by prohibiting the closure of the courthouse to those seeking emergency relief, and by adjusting technological policies to facilitate communication when emergency relief is sought.

A4. Actual innocence standards, the Court’s 2010 elimination of factual sufficiency review (despite its existence under Texas law since 1837), death penalty jurisprudence, and ineffective assistance of counsel.

Elizabeth Davis Frizell (D)

Background: • Criminal District Court 7, Presiding Judge, Dallas County, Texas, Felony Court; • County Criminal Court 11, Presiding Judge, Dallas County, Texas, Family Violence Court; • City of Dallas, Associate Municipal Court Judge; • City of Princeton, Municipal Court Judge; • City of Lucas, Municipal Court Judge; • City of Balch Springs, Municipal Court Judge; • The Frizell Firm

Education: Prairie View A&M University, B.A. Thurgood Marshall School of Law. J.D.

Website: http://www.Frizell4Judge.com

Facebook: https://facebook.com/frizell4txjudge

A1. The Court of Criminal Appeals should ensure that trial courts examine mentally ill defendants for their capacity to know the difference between right and wrong as well as whether a mental illness affected their judgment and was properly asserted and applied for sentencing purposes.

A2. We should require internships similar to internships in the medical field where newly licensed attorneys work for government agencies, firms and solo practitioners doing trial work and appellate work for at least one year prior to becoming licensed. This will give non-profit and pro bono agencies more attorneys to handle an increased case load, while giving indigent defendants and civil respondents much needed legal representation.

A3. Death Penalty Cases. My priority is to ensure defendants sentenced to capital punishment, have cases reviewed regardless of the date the death penalty is scheduled to be implemented. Rather than implementing Stay of execution, the sentence should be commuted to life imprisonment until the appellate process is complete.

A4. Wrongful convictions. We should examine the case law premise that there are many trials which occur at the state court level that have errors, but frequently the errors are not considered to be reversible error. This prevents many defendants from receiving a fair trial.

Dan Wood (D)

No Response Received

PLACE 4

Kevin Patrick Yeary (R)

Unopposed

Tina Clinton (D)

Background: I am currently the presiding felony state district judge of the oldest Criminal District Court in the State of Texas, the Criminal District Court, located in Dallas County. I have been a misdemeanor county court judge, a municipal court judge, a criminal defense attorney and a prosecutor specializing in criminal cases in Texas. I have experience with over 400 trials.

Education: Juris Doctorate from SMU School of Law; Bachelors of Art in Philosophy from University of Texas at Austin

Facebook: https://facebook.com/JudgeTinaClinton

A1. The Court of Criminal Appeals is an appellate court so issues of mental health raised on appeal are the issues that may be addressed. The Court of Criminal Appeals also funds education programs and grants for judges, lawyers and prosecutors. I believe that expanding that funding for increased mental health education in law would make a vast difference.

A2. I believe there are two avenues of improvement. First, to review cases of ineffective assistance closely and with a critical eye. One consideration might be outright ineffective assistance for not doing one’s job. The other can possible be because attorneys are carrying too high of a caseload based on assignments. Both instances should be reviewed carefully. Second, the Court of Criminal Appeals funds education, programs and grants for judges, lawyers who work in indigent defense and prosecutors as well as court personnel. I think the administering of these grants, programs and education liberally and requesting more funding from the legislature so we can robustly tackle education throughout the system would improve the state’s criminal justice system on indigent defense.

A3. (1) Speak to the Legislature about their attempts at bail reform laws. (2) I believe the Court receives 5000 habeas writs plus per year. This work is tasked to staff attorneys. These cases raise issues of actual innocence, ineffective assistance, and other reviews. We should review the need to increase staff so each case may be given full consideration.

A4. One of the tasks of the Court is to help provide (1) grants for technical assistance projects to judges and court personnel, and (2) grants for innocence training programs. I believe these areas needs to be aggressively administered and expanded to help access to justice throughout the State. Many areas do not have funds for technical assistance or education otherwise.

Steven Miers (D)

Background: I am Board Certified in Criminal Law and Criminal Appellate Law. For 7 years I have been named a “Super Law-
STATE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

PLACE 4

Steven Miears (D) (continued)

yer” in criminal law by Texas Monthly. I have handled over 125 cases as lead counsel on appeal. I have represented persons at trial and on appeal in many death penalty cases. My website has a link to watch an oral argument I did, and opinions of my cases on appeal.

Education: I graduated Madison High School in Houston, Texas. I received a B.A. with honors from Austin College. I have a doctorate of jurisprudence from Texas Tech University School of Law.

Website: http://SteveMiearsForJudge.com
Facebook: https://SteveMiearsForJudge

A1. The Court must address how to define intellectual disability for purposes of the death penalty. It has failed to do this even though directed to by the Supreme Court. The Court fails to make sure that indigent inmates with mental illness are appointed lawyers at every stage of the writ of habeas corpus process. Many of these inmates have no access to attorneys.

A2. The Texas Indigent Defense Commission has no authority to sanction counties which have failed to implement or follow a proper indigent defense plan. While each county must have a plan, there is no enforcement authority to police these plans. The good ol’ boy system still encourages trial judges to not follow a wheel system for appointments of competent lawyers, especially in death penalty cases. The creation of statewide standards for the appointment of attorneys in felony cases would assure competent representation and development of competent criminal defense lawyers. A plan’s use of flat fees paid to appointed attorneys and investigators encourages and rewards ineffective assistance of counsel. The development everywhere of online portals for appointed lawyers to access the court’s file and DA discovery is needed. And ability to talk to inmates on webcams would assist communication.

A3. The highest priority of a CCA judge is to review cases where the death penalty has been given. This occurs on direct appeal from the trial and on writs of habeas corpus. I will not leave this duty to clerks. I will personally read every record. I will not “go along to get along” with other judges on the CCA who refuse to examine the death penalty under current laws.

A4. The most pressing issue for the CCA will be processing writs of habeas corpus filed by inmates. Last year the CCA handled over 3,500 writs. Each of these writs deserves personal attention from the Judge it is assigned to. These writs continue to bring to the attention of the CCA pervasive incompetence by appointed lawyers, prosecutorial misconduct, and bad forensic experts.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Q1. What would you recommend to better prepare students for their civic responsibilities?
Q2. What is your position on issues related to student testing?
Q3. What is your opinion about the Texas Supreme Court decision that Texas education funding is Constitutional but inadequate and inefficient?
Q4. What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the State Board of Education?

DISTRICT 5

Inga Cotton (R)

Background: When our family began looking at schools for our children, one of whom has a disability, we were apprehensive. I was able to find a public school nearby that worked for our children. During my research I heard from parents across the state who were not as lucky. I made the choice at that time to be a voice for parents and students, advocating for stronger Texas schools.

Education: B.A. in History from Trinity University (1996) and J.D. from The University of Texas School of Law (1999)

Website: http://ingacotton.com
Facebook: https://facebook.com/IngaforSchools

A1. Effective civics education requires both rigorous instruction in history and hands-on experiences about government in action. Students who gain a deep knowledge of United States history—both the failures and the triumphs—should develop a strong sense of patriotism and a love of liberty, freedom, and the rule of law.

A2. We need to reform standardized testing practices and support policies that promote greater competition and accountability in our schools. Schools should not teach to the test, and students should not fear the tests.

A3. In its 2016 decision, the Texas Supreme Court correctly gave deference to the legislature as the policy making branch of government. During the 2019 session, the legislators listened to voters and passed HB3, making changes to outdated funding formulas and appropriating $11.6 billion to public education.

A4. Adoption of curriculum standards is one of the most important duties of the State Board of Education. Providing students with knowledge-rich classrooms is a powerful way to close achievement gaps. As the parent of a child with special needs, I understand the importance of providing resources for students with disabilities so they can reach their full potential.

Robert Morrow (R)

Background: The Republican party has come of the cult of an authoritarian lunatic. I do not think GOP or Democrats should be supporting political criminals who had close associations with a mega child molester [Portion of response removed; does not meet criteria]. I oppose any politician who is a Russian or Zionist stooge & traitor to the USA. I am against criminals in both parties.


Website: http://www.facebook.com/Robert.Morrow.888

A1. Every Texas high school student should read Roger Stone’s book “The Man Who Killed Kennedy: The Case Against LBJ” as well as Daniel Hopsicker’s “Barry and the Boys” which is about the murder of CIA drug smuggler Barry Seal by GHW Bush and Oliver North. Also, I would make Nick Bryant’s book The Franklin Scandal mandatory reading for all high school seniors.

A2. Mandatory statewide testing should be eliminated. Let local school districts decide how they want to test student.

A3. It is a complete joke. The taxpayer is being screwed over yet again by judges acting like legislators. I am for ending Robin Hood and replacing it with nothing. Poor school districts can put up GoFundMe accounts.

A4. I think that high school students should be offered elective classes on the safe use of AR-15s. I think all high school senior girls should be offered spring semester elective classes on pole dancing and twerking. I say only girls for those classes because it would be too homo for the boys. They need to be playing sports and learning team work.

Lani Popp (R)

No Response Received

Rebecca Bell-Metereau (D)

Background: I taught as a Peace Corps volunteer in Chad, interpreter US Air Force grain flights, Assistant to Director of First Year Studies at Indiana University, training new
Nationally-normed tests, sparingly adminis -
trated to student learning. Responsible teachers
not only ineffective, but actually detrimen-
tive education as an investment rather than
from a mix of resources. We must
We must
ucation is a wise investment, but the legis-
abortion to overburdened local taxpayers.” Ab-

Testing should not serve as the sole measure
of student performance.

A3. The role of the legislature is to pass laws
that benefit its citizens, thus the responsi-
bility to adequately fund public schools be-
to the legislature. However, I disagree
with theTexas Supreme Court’s ruling that
the states portion of funding for education is
constitutional. The legislature’s $5.4 billion
cut in public school funding should have
been ruled as unconstitutional because it
was unreasonable.

A4. We must prepare all students with the
knowledge and skills to succeed in our com-
munities. Curriculum must be factual, objec-
tive, and supported with high quality instruc-
tional materials. Educators must be skilled
and trained to meet the needs of all students.
Oversight of the permanent school fund and
charter school applications is critical.

DISTRICT 10

Tom Maynard (R)

Unopposed

Marsha Burnett-Webster (D)

Background: I am a na-
tive Texan and a career ed-
ucator. I have worked as a
teacher and an adminis-
trator in middle schools,
high schools, and colleges
across the United States.
I have seen what happens when we give our
students the best we have to offer. And I
have seen what happens when we neglect
their educational needs. Our student de-
serve the best. Help me make that possible.

Education: Doctor of Education, California
Coast University; Master of Education, Prair-
ere View A&M University; Bachelor of Science
in Industrial Arts, Prairie View A&M

Website: http://www.webstertxsboe10 .com/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ Dr-Marsha-Burnett-Webster-for-Texas-
State-Board-of-Education-District-10-
111737920309467/
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

DISTRICT 10

Marsha Burnett-Webster (D) (cont.)

Dent learning process - a process that should take into account that not all students learn the same way. That is not how these biased tests are used today, however. Instead, they are largely being used to drive student graduation requirements, assess teacher abilities, and school performance.

A3. I wholeheartedly agree that public education funding is ‘inadequate and inefficient.’ The Texas Supreme Court did not and does not write or amend the Texas Constitution. Only the Texas Legislature can initiate that. If we want to fix our broken education funding problem and provide the best possible education for students, then we must elect candidates (irrespective of party) who will fix this problem - and not candidates who will make it worse.

A4. The SBOE must be involved in designing instructional materials (vocational programs), teacher retention and salary improvements (as well as healthcare for retired teachers), special needs programs, safe and healthy schools, review and adoption of textbooks, and establishment of regional education service centers. Each is predicated on adequate and efficient funding.

Stephen Wyman (D)

Background: Raised by Secondary School Teachers; Bachelors degree; Substitute Teacher; School Bus Driver...

Education: BA, Indiana University, 1979

Website: http://blueboomerhd.blogspot.com/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stephen.wyman.507

A1. Perhaps Civics could replace/supplement Social Studies.

STATE 3RD COURT OF APPEALS

CHIEF JUSTICE

Q1. Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

Q2. Access to Justice: What recent technological developments provide opportunities to improve the state’s indigent defense system in civil and criminal cases?

Q3. Mental Health: How should the Court of Appeals address mental health issues of those who come before the court?

Q4. Responsibility: Which responsibility of a Court of Appeals justice is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?

Q5. What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Court of Appeals?

Jeff Rose (R)

Unopposed

Darlene Byrne (D)

Education: University of Houston Law Center, magna cum laude

Website: http://www.darlenebyrne.com

Facebook: https://darlenebyrneforjudge

A1. I have served as a Travis County District Court judge for the past 19 years, and before that practiced civil litigation in governmental and private practice for 13 years. I have presided over or represented clients in thousands of matters involving the full spectrum of civil litigation. I have led a national judicial organization as its president and as a board member.

A2. In Travis County, we have a robust system automating the appointment of counsel for indigent civil litigants who qualify within 24 hours. Our system is automated, randomized and regularly reported to the Office of Court Administration to ensure transparency. Our payment of counsel system is also automated to assist with retention of appointed counsel on the list.

A3. For attorneys who come before the Court for whom concerns are identified, the Court would make a confidential referral to the Texas Lawyers Assistance Program (“TLAP”), which will follow up with the lawyer to determine appropriate services. For clients, the Appeals Court role is more limited and depends on the legal issues brought before it from the trial court.

A4. The highest priority of the Court is to dispense justice efficiently, consistent with the law, and cognizant of the human beings whose rights and lives are affected by the case. I will bring the same work ethic to this position that I have brought to bear for my 19 years on the trial court bench. I love this work and have learned that justice is urgent.

A5. I believe that I will bring a thirst for the law, a sense of urgency for justice and a work ethic to do the work for those who come before the Court. I push myself to serve both on and off the bench and I believe that the Third Court of Appeals justices can bring so much more to the people of 24 counties of Central Texas than ever before by having a heart for service.

Keith S. Hampton (D)

Education: B.A., University of Texas at Austin, 1984 J.D., St. Mary’s University School of Law, San Antonio, Texas, 1989 Board Certified in Criminal Appellate Law (conferred 2005) Board Certified in Criminal Law (conferred 1995) Clerk, Judge Sam Houston Clinton

Website: http://hampton2020.com

Video: https://youtu.be/ZYZ2er2O000

A1. With over 30 years’ experience, I have appeared before all courts of appeals, the state’s highest courts and the U.S. Supreme Court. My appellate practice has included winning life commutations for death row inmates from two governors and exonerations for wrongfully convicted innocent persons. I have twice won Lawyer of the Year and am listed in Best Lawyers in America.

A2. I was instrumental in the passage of the Fair Defense Act that created the Indigent Defense Commission. The Constitution guarantees that indigent persons receive the effective assistance of counsel. Today, case loads and adequate compensation can be tracked with precision, giving policymakers a better picture of indigent defense so that these rights can be vindicated.

A3. I served the National Alliance on Mental Illness (Texas) and the Task Force for the Rewrite of the Incompetency and Insanity Statutes. I have ensured incompetent persons be delivered from jail to the hospital promptly in hundreds of cases. Judges are best when they are most informed, up to date, and empathetic on the nature of mental illness whenever that issue arises.

A4. The rule of law is strengthened only when judges act with integrity and under the guiding principle that justice is an essential feature of a democratic civil society. My highest priority: ensure that the rule of law prevails and remains inextricably bound to the ideals of justice. To that end, I will write opinions that are thoughtful, honest, clear and fearless.

A5. The Senate, dominated by ideology, has already appointed so many federal judges to life appointments that there is little that can be done to moderate that ideology for at least a generation in federal courts. This reality leaves state courts as the bulwark against ideology itself. Independently minded state judges are thus crucial to our American system of justice.
Q1. What changes do you support, if any, to ensure fair and impartial redistricting?
Q2. What legislation would you support to address access to and cost of healthcare?
Q3. What do you recommend to curb gun violence in our state?
Q4. What other issue is your highest legislative priority and what do you propose to address it?

STATE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Q1. What changes do you support, if any, to ensure fair and impartial redistricting?
I believe our citizens should be able to participate in this process. I support full transparency in our redistricting process. Our Legislative leaders should allow citizens to comment on the process. Our Legislators have a duty to create fair maps that best represent all Texans.

A2. I would support full transparency in medical and prescription costs. I would support voluntary health coops that assist the uninsured in a truly affordable and healthcare system. I would also help in passing legislation in preventive health education in schools. Lastly, placing stipulations for tax payer funded medical research and technologies that do not allow for the over inflated prices to be passed on to insurance companies or patients.

A3. I do not believe that focusing on JUST gun violence is the solution, rather the greatest impact to curb violence in general is to focus on restoring the morals and values we once held. One such value was the respect and value of life. Schools no longer properly address disruptive behavior from students. Courts have failed to uphold the laws related to violent and habitual offenders. Until we, as a society address the root issue, violent and deadly behavior will continue regardless of the weapon.

A4. I want to focus on lowering our property tax burden. Texans on fixed incomes should not fear being taxed out of their home. Lowering property taxes will help renters in my district by reducing their year-over-year rent increases. Most importantly, we need to make sure our property tax money is adequately funding our schools, and preparing our students for the future. Under the current property tax system, Texans are being being taxed out of their homes and our school are failing. That is not Texan.

A3. I want to ensure that the legislature-the body elected by and accountable to the people-is responsible for drawing lines. Ceding this core political function (SCOTUS recently held that redistricting was "political", not judicial or administrative) to "independent commissions" reduces transparency and accountability. In states that have adopted an independent commission model for redistricting, studies show that politics remain, but simply becomes more difficult to do anything about.

A2. First and foremost, I will work with federal officials to expand health care choice and encourage a market-based, competitive, across-state-lines, transparent system. These measures have the greatest positive effect on access to and cost of healthcare. What's more, I'll ensure that the government cannot mandate specific medical procedures, fight for "right to try" legislation, and work to create a Texas Health Savings Account...

STATE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Q1. What changes do you support, if any, to ensure fair and impartial redistricting?
A1. I would support full transparency in medical and prescription costs. I would support voluntary health coops that assist the uninsured in a truly affordable and healthcare system. I would also help in passing legislation in preventive health education in schools. Lastly, placing stipulations for tax payer funded medical research and technologies that do not allow for the over inflated prices to be passed on to insurance companies or patients.

A2. I do not believe that focusing on JUST gun violence is the solution, rather the greatest impact to curb violence in general is to focus on restoring the morals and values we once held. One such value was the respect and value of life. Schools no longer properly address disruptive behavior from students. Courts have failed to uphold the laws related to violent and habitual offenders. Until we, as a society address the root issue, violent and deadly behavior will continue regardless of the weapon.

A3. I want to focus on lowering our property tax burden. Texans on fixed incomes should not fear being taxed out of their home. Lowering property taxes will help renters in my district by reducing their year-over-year rent increases. Most importantly, we need to make sure our property tax money is adequately funding our schools, and preparing our students for the future. Under the current property tax system, Texans are being being taxed out of their homes and our school are failing. That is not Texan.

A4. My highest legislative priority would be to stop the indoctrination and degradation in the public schools and return to academics. I would prohibit graphic sex education and gender confusion and pornography in the schools and create enforcement provisions in the law that hold school districts accountable to parents and the law.
STATE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 47

Aaron Reitz (R) (continued)

option. And I’ll oppose the expansion of Medicaid in Texas.
A3. At the heart of American gun violence are broken families. We need to fix that more than anything. Beyond that, first, I want to empower law-abiding citizens to arm themselves. Second, I want to strengthen the school marshal program. Third, I’d like to enable school officials who are willing and able to arm themselves to do so, but only after they go through rigorous training and it can be ensured that they will not disrupt the day-to-day teaching environment or endanger students.
A4. A theme of my campaign is reining in big cities that are taking Texas down the path LA and SP took California down years ago. Most of my policies fall under this theme: I want to strengthen property tax caps, introduce real property tax relief, enact a statewide ban on Austin-style homeless ordinances, require audits on local spending, end taxpayer-funded lobbying, ensure cities can’t interfere in private employer-employee contracts, and hold cities accountable when they flout state laws.

Jenny Roan Forgey (R)

Background: Former small business owner, native of Austin, Texas. Worked on Capitol Hill, worked on redistricting in 2001, worked in political consulting in Texas during the 2001 cycle.
Education: J.D., Baylor Law School; B.S.F.S., Georgetown University
Website: http://www.jennyroanforgey.com
Facebook: http://facebook.com/jennyroanforgey

A1. There is no such thing as “fair and impartial redistricting”, which mostly explains why we’ve had Gerrymandering under both Democrats and Republicans.
A2. Healthcare is NOT a “right”, and federal meddling is problematic. I support terminating certain federal mandates, opposing taxpayer subsidized healthcare benefits for illegal aliens, and prohibiting more government bureaucratic power as Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) proposed. I support removing regulatory barriers at the FDA to streamline generic drug approval processes, and insurance competition across state lines. Choice, competition and price disclosure are required, and complex.
A3. Texas needs “constitutional carry” and easier access to firearms training for law abiding Texans. Mexico imposes gun control, resulting in countless millions of law abiding citizens being terrorized by well armed criminal cartels and corrupt police, and innumerable unsolved gun murders. “Gun free zones” should be eliminated where possible, and government school districts which demand unarmed schools must offer choices to those who disagree. Blaming guns for the evil of murder is foolish.
A4. Vehicle traffic congestion in western traffic country is not just inconvenient - it is now dangerous in terms of accidents, fatalities, grossly inadequate emergency response time and lack of evacuation routes; for HD-47 I’m proposing a new freeway connection from SH-45 at Lakeline Mall to SH-45 in southwest Travis. The $100s of millions required should come from existing CapMetro taxes, and I will promote a voter referendum to dedicate 50% of existing CapMetro taxes to congestion relief.
Vikki Goodwin (D)

Unopposed

DISTRICT 48

Bill Stieber (R)

Unopposed
Donna Howard (D)

Unopposed

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/TexansForZimmerman

Don Zimmerman (R)

Background: Fifth generation Texan from San Antonio; Former Austin Councilmember and MUD Pres. Over 30 years in professional software work, and instrument rated pilot. Husband and father.
Education: Texas A&M, B.S. and M.S. in Mechanical Engineering; Texas Tech University UTSA; Highlands High School in southeast S.A.
Website: http://texansForZimmerman.com

A1. A fair and impartial redistricting process is vital to a functioning, healthy democracy that is by the people, for the people. For that reason, I believe redistricting needs to stay in the hands of elected officials. While it is tempting to believe that an “independent” commission could do a better job, all folks will bring their bias to the table, whether they are appointed or elected. By leaving it in the hands of those elected by the voters, we maintain accountability to the voters.
A2. I have personal experience with the very real struggles we experience when healthcare costs are unclear, full of surprises, and seemingly arbitrary. As the mom of two children and the wife of a husband with chronic conditions, healthcare is a top priority for me. I strongly believe we need to restore the primacy of the doctor-patient relationship, that true competition (which must include price transparency) will achieve that goal, and that we also need to maintain a functioning safety net.
A3. Education and public-private programs that address the root of the violence. I grew up in a time when Texans brought their guns to high school in their pick-ups before the weekend hunt. Guns are not the problem. Misconceptions about guns are part of the problem. We need to train people on safety, and we also need to address what leads people to resort to violence. It’s past time for non-polarizing, data-driven conversations about what leads people to shoot others and what we can do about it.
A4. Transportation tops my list because it matters most to my constituents. We need to make sure roads can be built quickly and efficiently by streamlining the contracting process and shortening the environment review period. Public-private partnerships are key. Administrative law is also an important priority for me because of how it can hinder businesses. Finally, I want to take a hard look at our property tax system to ensure that taxes are fair, transparent, and as low as possible.

Jenai Aragona-Hales (R)

Background: Jenai grew up in Jacksonville, North Carolina and has lived in Texas for 32 years. She has owned several businesses in Texas and is now a Realtor in Austin, Texas.
Education: Bachelor of Science in Biology
Website: http://aragonafortexas.com

A1. We need to work to keep communities of interest together and draw districts as compact as possible ensure that communities get to vote for the candidate of their choice.
A2. At the state level, we can start by focusing on decreasing medicaid fraud and continue to push for price transparency from hospitals and insurers. I will also support additional prescriptive authority agreements in rural areas to increase the scope of practice for certain health care providers, giving them incentive to expand. Furthermore, I support increased accessibility within healthcare by utilizing practices such as telemedicine.
A3. The statistics on gun violence have shown that it has not increased in the state of Texas for years. I believe that changing gun laws to adjust the accessibility to purchase firearms does not focus on the issue at hand and will not decrease gun violence over time. What we can do to help curb gun violence is incorporate red flag laws that would allow the local government or family members to order the temporary removal of a firearm from someone who poses a threat to themselves or others.
A4. Homelessness in Austin is one of the main issues I will be focusing on within my platform. I believe this is, first and foremost, a mental health crisis. I’d like to create a system that builds partnerships with mental health care providers to promote more integrated care teams that respond to homeless calls, incorporate a state version of the Job Training Partnership Act, and support partnering with organizations like Mobile Loaves and Fishes to engage the homeless as working citizens.

Don Zimmerman (R)

Background: Fifth generation Texan from San Antonio; Former Austin Councilmember and MUD Pres. Over 30 years in professional software work, and instrument rated pilot. Husband and father.
Education: Texas A&M, B.S. and M.S. in Mechanical Engineering; Texas Tech University UTSA; Highlands High School in southeast S.A.
Website: http://texansForZimmerman.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/TexansForZimmerman

A1. There is no such thing as “fair and impartial redistricting”, which mostly explains why we’ve had Gerrymandering under both Democrats and Republicans.
A2. Healthcare is NOT a “right”, and federal meddling is problematic. I support terminating certain federal mandates, opposing taxpayer subsidized healthcare benefits for illegal aliens, and prohibiting more government bureaucratic power as Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) proposed. I support removing regulatory barriers at the FDA to streamline generic drug approval processes, and insurance competition across state lines. Choice, competition and price disclosure are required, and complex.
A3. Texas needs “constitutional carry” and easier access to firearms training for law abiding Texans. Mexico imposes gun control, resulting in countless millions of law abiding citizens being terrorized by well armed criminal cartels and corrupt police, and innumerable unsolved gun murders. “Gun free zones” should be eliminated where possible, and government school districts which demand unarmed schools must offer choices to those who disagree. Blaming guns for the evil of murder is foolish.
A4. Vehicle traffic congestion in western traffic country is not just inconvenient - it is now dangerous in terms of accidents, fatalities, grossly inadequate emergency response time and lack of evacuation routes; for HD-47 I’m proposing a new freeway connection from SH-45 at Lakeline Mall to SH-45 in southwest Travis. The $100s of millions required should come from existing CapMetro taxes, and I will promote a voter referendum to dedicate 50% of existing CapMetro taxes to congestion relief.
Vikki Goodwin (D)

Unopposed

DISTRICT 48

Bill Stieber (R)

Unopposed
Donna Howard (D)

Unopposed

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/TexansForZimmerman

Don Zimmerman (R)

Background: Fifth generation Texan from San Antonio; Former Austin Councilmember and MUD Pres. Over 30 years in professional software work, and instrument rated pilot. Husband and father.
Education: Texas A&M, B.S. and M.S. in Mechanical Engineering; Texas Tech University UTSA; Highlands High School in southeast S.A.
Website: http://texansForZimmerman.com

A1. A fair and impartial redistricting process is vital to a functioning, healthy democracy that is by the people, for the people. For that reason, I believe redistricting needs to stay in the hands of elected officials. While it is tempting to believe that an “independent” commission could do a better job, all folks will bring their bias to the table, whether they are appointed or elected. By leaving it in the hands of those elected by the voters, we maintain accountability to the voters.
A2. I have personal experience with the very real struggles we experience when healthcare costs are unclear, full of surprises, and seemingly arbitrary. As the mom of two children and the wife of a husband with chronic conditions, healthcare is a top priority for me. I strongly believe we need to restore the primacy of the doctor-patient relationship, that true competition (which must include price transparency) will achieve that goal, and that we also need to maintain a functioning safety net.
A3. Education and public-private programs that address the root of the violence. I grew up in a time when Texans brought their guns to high school in their pick-ups before the weekend hunt. Guns are not the problem. Misconceptions about guns are part of the problem. We need to train people on safety, and we also need to address what leads people to resort to violence. It’s past time for non-polarizing, data-driven conversations about what leads people to shoot others and what we can do about it.
A4. Transportation tops my list because it matters most to my constituents. We need to make sure roads can be built quickly and efficiently by streamlining the contracting process and shortening the environment review period. Public-private partnerships are key. Administrative law is also an important priority for me because of how it can hinder businesses. Finally, I want to take a hard look at our property tax system to ensure that taxes are fair, transparent, and as low as possible.

Jenai Aragona-Hales (R)

Background: Jenai grew up in Jacksonville, North Carolina and has lived in Texas for 32 years. She has owned several businesses in Texas and is now a Realtor in Austin, Texas.
Education: Bachelor of Science in Biology
Website: http://aragonafortexas.com

A1. We need to work to keep communities of interest together and draw districts as compact as possible ensure that communities get to vote for the candidate of their choice.
A2. At the state level, we can start by focusing on decreasing medicaid fraud and continue to push for price transparency from hospitals and insurers. I will also support additional prescriptive authority agreements in rural areas to increase the scope of practice for certain health care providers, giving them incentive to expand. Furthermore, I support increased accessibility within healthcare by utilizing practices such as telemedicine.
A3. The statistics on gun violence have shown that it has not increased in the state of Texas for years. I believe that changing gun laws to adjust the accessibility to purchase firearms does not focus on the issue at hand and will not decrease gun violence over time. What we can do to help curb gun violence is incorporate red flag laws that would allow the local government or family members to order the temporary removal of a firearm from someone who poses a threat to themselves or others.
A4. Homelessness in Austin is one of the main issues I will be focusing on within my platform. I believe this is, first and foremost, a mental health crisis. I’d like to create a system that builds partnerships with mental health care providers to promote more integrated care teams that respond to homeless calls, incorporate a state version of the Job Training Partnership Act, and support partnering with organizations like Mobile Loaves and Fishes to engage the homeless as working citizens.
**STATE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**DISTRICT 49 (continued)**

**Charles Allan Meyer (R)**

**Background:** Military Service and Information Technology

*A1.* Begin now by utilizing Esri Redistricting: Software for Redistricting Process thereby facilitating complete transparency for online citizen involvement and media participation.

*A2.* Health insurance rates should be set through free-market forces.

*A3.* An armed citizenry is a defended nation.

*A4.* I have three interrelated highest-priority priorities. First, focus on our homeless brothers and sisters who are up and down our streets and in our neighborhoods. Second, focus on our refugee brothers and sisters who are up and down our borders and in our wildernesses. Third, focus on our human trafficked brothers and sisters all around us. Solutions and prevention are a community effort.

**Gina Hinojosa (D)**

Unopposed

**DISTRICT 50**

**Larry Delarose (R)**

Unopposed

**DISTRICT 51**

**Robert Reynolds (R)**

Unopposed

**Eddie Rodriguez (D)**

**Background:** State Rep. Eddie Rodriguez, a first-generation college graduate from McAllen, has represented District 51 in the Texas House of Representatives since 2003.

**Education:** B.A., University of Texas at Austin - 1995 J.D., UT Austin School of Law - 2008

**Website:** http://EddieforTexas.com

**Facebook:** http://facebook.com/eddiefortexas

*A1.* I believe that our electoral system must empower voters to choose their elected officials, not the other way around. I support efforts to replace Texas’s current system with an independent, bipartisan redistricting commission such as would have been accomplished by State Rep. Donna Howard’s HB 369 (86-R) if it were passed and voters approved the enabling constitutional amendment (HJR 32).

*A2.* 1) Expanding Medicaid; 2) Doing more to retain doctors who earned their education in Texas and recruit them to serve in communities across the state after they’ve finished their degrees; 3) Cost of living adjustment for retired teachers; 4) Allowing highly trained nurse practitioners to provide certain common forms of care; 5) Expanding access to telemedicine services; 6) Shoring up regulation of freestanding emergency rooms and the insurance industry to protect consumers; 7) Undoing TRAP laws

*A3.* 1) Ensuring that local/county law enforcement agencies/courts have the resources they need to accurately report information that is required to be incorporated into NICs; 2) Requiring gun owners to report the loss or theft of any firearms they own; 3) Making it easier for gun owners who are no longer allowed to possess them to surrender them to the authorities; 4) Passing a “red flag law”; 5) Universal background checks; 6) Assault weapons/high-capacity magazine ban; 7) Safe storage education campaign

*A4.* Affordability: I passed the Homestead Preservation Act in 2003 and I intend on updating the statute in the 87th Legislative Session to restore Austin’s ability to use the powerful tools the HPA provides to local governments for helping people stay in their homes, preserving existing affordable housing and investing in increasing the stock of affordable housing. I am also committed to fighting against source of income discrimination and providing Texans with equitable property tax relief.

**Joshua Sanchez (D)**

No Response Received

**DISTRICT 52**

**Lucio Valdez (R)**

Unopposed

**James Talarico (D)**

Unopposed

**DISTRICT 136**

**Mike Guevara (R)**

Unopposed

**John Bucy (D)**

Unopposed

**LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY**

**CIVIL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES**

**Q1.** What would be your greatest strengths as a judge?

**Q2.** Explain how this office is important to your constituents and provide details of your plans for improvement.

**Q3.** How would you ensure that all individuals who enter your court receive equal opportunities for justice?

**53RD CIVIL DISTRICT**

**Maria Cantú Hексel (D)**

**Background:** Civil litigation attorney who gives back to the community through service. Wife and mom of two young daughter, who both attend local AISD public schools.

**Education:** Doctor of Jurisprudence from Texas Tech University School of Law (1995); Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies from Our Lady of the Lake University (1992)

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

**Facebook:** http://www.facebook.com/MariaforJudge/

*A1.* I’m the only candidate with real trial experience, giving me a first-hand knowledge on how rules are applied, and the balance between defending your client while respecting the rights of the other side. I’m proud my support comes from both sides of the bar, including the former president of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association, alongside senior partners in major defense firms. Trial experience is the foundation to judicial demeanor, the trust that the legal process will treat all sides fairly.

*A2.* Civil courts matter, from fighting for systemic change, to protecting children, to businesses, big and small, in contract disputes. But to overcome obstacles of both time and money that prevent many from seeking justice, we need engaged judges who are informed, accessible and establish clear pre-trial processes. Discovery motions should be ruled on quickly, continuances should be a rarity, and systems and staff should focus on ensuring our courts are accessible, welcoming and efficient.

*A3.* Equal access to justice requires a cultural and systemic change. I will continue to advocate for legal aid, support non-profits that promote pro-bono work, and promote technology that lower costs and increases access. I’ve long volunteered with the His-
Maria Cantú Haxsel (D) (continued)

panic Bar Association to mentor young students of color seeking a career in the law, because a greater diversity of lawyers is necessary to advocate for those who face economic and cultural obstacles to our justice system.

Kennon Wooten (D)

Background: I am a fifth-generation Texan, first-generation lawyer, and longtime Austinite. My daughter attends Travis Heights Elementary School, where my husband works as a school nurse.

Education: I have a B.A. in Psychology, with highest honors, and a Business Foundations Program certificate, from UT Austin. I also have a J.D. from the UT School of Law.

Website: http://www.kennonwooten.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/kennonwootenforjudge

Video: https://youtu.be/wHEXfzxUBns

A1. First, I have an in-depth knowledge of governing procedures, stemming from my service as the Rules Attorney for the Texas Supreme Court, my involvement with rule-drafting committees, and my publications of books and articles about discovery procedures. Second, I have experience handling litigation and appeals covering a broad range of subject matters, which is helpful for the bench at hand. Third, I have a strong work ethic. Fourth, I am patient and committed to fostering a culture of kindness.

A2. Civil judges make rulings with tremendous impacts on peoples’ lives and livelihoods. For example, their rulings can terminate parental rights, dissolve marriages, dissolve business relationships, and require the payment of large (and sometimes crippling) sums of money. Judges do not represent anyone when presiding over legal disputes; they serve everyone, and they’re ethically bound to do so impartially. If elected, I will handle all cases with care and be fair to all parties in my court.

A3. As a lawyer, I have strived to increase access to justice by doing pro bono work and by serving on the Board of Directors for the Texas Legal Services Center and on the Texas Commission to Expand Civil Legal Services. As a judge, I would strive to ensure equal opportunities for justice by (1) giving all people a fair shake, regardless of whether they are represented by counsel; (2) informing people of low- and pro-bono options; and (3) directing people to self-representation tools, like forms.

98TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Rhonda Hurley (D)

Unopposed

126TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Aurora Martinez Jones (D)

Unopposed

200TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Maggie Ellis (D)


Education: AAS Spanish, Austin Community College; BS Education, University of Texas at Austin; JD, Baylor Law School

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

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/maggieforjudge/?modal=admin_todo_tour

A1. I overcame a childhood marked by transience, homelessness, and educational deprivation to become the only one of my eight siblings to graduate from college. I understand adversity and have incredible compassion and empathy. As an attorney and judge who has worked to improve the lives of hundreds of children and families in the courtroom and in the community, and as the only woman in TX nationally certified in child welfare and specialized in juvenile law, I also bring experience and expertise.

A2. One-family, one-judge is considered a national best practice for cases involving children and families. Although this bench currently hears a variety of civil cases, according to the TX OCA, the majority of cases involve children and families. My hope is to create an efficient, dedicated family court that follows national best practices with judges who are specialized, passionate and focused exclusively on families. It is important because judges make decisions that can affect children for life.

A3. One of the reasons I decided to run was to bring my personal and professional understanding of issues surrounding poverty to the bench. With about 15% of the Travis County population living below the federal poverty line and 25% representing themselves in family cases, access to justice is critical. I have been recognized and awarded for my work helping our most vulnerable populations have access to and be successful in the court system, and I would continue to do so as a district judge.

Jessica Mangrum (D)

Background: I grew up in the small town of West, Texas. My dad practiced law helping people in a variety of cases. My mom worked as a secretary and later became a teacher.

Education: I graduated from West High School in my hometown. I have a BA in government from UT and a law degree from UT School of Law. I’m a member of the Texas Bar College.

Website: http://www.jessicamangrum.com

Facebook: http://facebook.com/jessica4judge

A1. My greatest strengths as a trial judge would be my 17 years of very active trial practice in Travis County and others across the state; my willingness to be patient, a good listener, and respectful to all who come into court regardless of background; and my intention to see that information and assistance is readily available to all those who cannot afford to hire an attorney.

A2. The 200th District Court is very important because it is a court of “of general jurisdiction” under the Texas Constitution, hearing almost all types of cases that are important to citizens. I have plans to implement procedures to expedite cases when possible, direct pro se litigants to available resources in the community, and make the Court open for hearings without unnecessary procedural requirements. I will work hard to ensure that my decisions are handed down in a timely manner.

A3. Everyone who comes into the 200th District Court will have equal consideration, regardless of whether they have an attorney, and I will ensure that litigants without attorneys are aware of the pro bono and reduced fee resources available to them. A person’s constitutional rights exist, whether or not they have an attorney, and rights should be recognized and enforced by this and all courts.

345TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Jan Soifer (D)

Unopposed

353RD CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Madeleine Connor (D)

No Response Received

Tim Sulak (D)

Background: District Judge 9 yrs, practicing lawyer 32 yrs prior. Past President Austin Bar Association, past Chair Texas Bar Foundation, Professionalism Award-Texas Ctr for Legal Ethics


Website: http://timsulak.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ReelectJudge.Tim.Sulak/

Video: https://youtu.be/0TXrwwtz0kU

A1. I have deep roots in this community and experience inside and outside the courtroom. I’ve been a judge for 9 years and am the Local Administrative Judge. I’ve received more ratings of “Excellent” for the last 6 years than any other judge in Travis County by Austin Bar Ass’n members in all categories: Hard Work, Impartiality, Correct Application of the Law, Temperament, and Overall. I am Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law and attended con-
LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

353RD CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Tim Sulak (D) (continued)

continuing education for judges annually since 2011.
A2. Who we elect as District Court Judge matters and has community-wide effects. District courts hear all manner of disputes. Because Austin is the capital, the district courts of Travis County have jurisdiction over cases involving the state government. All litigants are entitled to due process through a dedicated, knowledgeable, fair and impartial judge. I will work to preserve access to, and understanding of, the rule of law through educational outreach and assistance to underserved populations.
A3. Everyone deserves equal access to justice. I attempt to determine each party's understanding of courtroom procedures, making sure everyone's voice is heard by allowing a full presentation of disputed positions. I endeavor to maintain civility through adherence to standards of decency and respect for alternative viewpoints. I encourage lawyer participation in volunteer programs for underserved populations, and I advocate for increased resources for the judicial branch to better serve the public.

167TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Dayna Blazey (D)

Background: 30+ yrs fighting for justice. Felony prosecutor investigating abuse of our children, protecting survivors of sexual assaults & violent crimes, & leading diversion programs.
Education: B.A. Government, The University of Texas at Austin; J.D. South Texas College of Law
Website: http://www.DaynaForJudge.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/DaynaForJudge
A1. Over my 30 plus year career practicing law exclusively in courts like the 167th, I’ve built a reputation as a fair and honest attorney who is open and accessible. I believe that each person who comes before the court should be considered as an individual and that it’s important to listen to each side of a case without prejudgment. I also have a proven track record of working with advocates, community groups, and nonprofits to improve our criminal justice system in ways that work for real people.
A2. Felony criminal cases, like those heard in the 167th, are serious matters for the victims and their families, for defendants, and for our entire community. We must ensure that individual rights are protected while keeping our community safe. I will expand evidence-based best practices to divert low-level, non-violent offenders to treatment or social and mental health services instead of jail, improve indigent defense, and personally review personal bonds that have been denied.
A3. The right to a fair trial is a pillar of our justice system. We must reduce the disparity between people who cannot afford a lawyer and those who can afford to retain an attorney. We can improve indigent defense with a fully-funded public defenders office as well as increased access to investigators and expert witnesses (allocated by judges). In addition, I would follow best practices around witness examination such as allowing children to be accompanied by a therapy dog when testifying.
A4. As Director over Diversion Programs I have worked to make these programs more accessible and affordable in order to get low-level, non-violent defendants treatment and services instead of putting them in jail. This includes proactively reaching out to eligible defendants as well as waiving court costs and program fees. As judge, I would like to continue this work as well as create a mental health docket to address recidivism among affected persons by providing more access to services.

David Wahlberg (D)

Background: Elected 2012; Private Practice - State & Fed Jury Trials & Appeals (Crim Def) ’76–’12; Board Certified/Crim Law (’88); Austinite since 1959; US Army ’71–’73
Education: JD, UT Law ’76; BA TLU ’70
Website: http://judgewahlberg.com
Facebook: http://facebook.com/wahlbergforjudge/
A1. Experience, empathy, thoughtfulness, progressive outlook, and efficiency.
A2. Criminal District Courts handle felony offenses from minor drug charges through capital murder. It’s important to our community that our courts faithfully follow the constitution and laws to ensure that every individual is heard. Outcomes should reflect our community values while protecting our safety. I handle approximately 1,000 cases per year and have approximately 1,200 individuals on probation. I will continue to seek local treatment for drug offenses and family violence offenses.
A3. I am committed to providing every defendant with effective representation and the tools necessary for their defense. I regularly monitor attorneys’ performance and take appropriate corrective action where necessary. I support both our CAPDS and new Public Defender’s Office and will work with them to provide legal education and mentoring.
A4. I favor community-based treatment and supervision rather than incarceration because the evidence demonstrates that it is more effective in reducing recidivism and is more cost-efficient. I continue to work with individual defendants to assist in their re-integration into the community through my supervision of our SAFPF Re-Entry Court, which is designed to assist individuals with substance abuse issues who are returning from a treatment program in the penitentiary.

390TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Albert Amado (D)

Background: I first called Austin home in the 1960’s. I have experience in criminal and civil law, and a strong passion for criminal justice reform. I am bilingual, bicultural, and gay.
Education: My BBA and LLM graduate law degree, with focuses on international law, Latin American studies, and conflict resolution, are from UT Austin and my JD is from Emory University.
Website: http://www.amadoforjudge.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/amadoforjudge
A1. Compassion, empathy and understanding for victims and defendants. The goal should be to restore lives, and my diverse experience in criminal defense, dispute resolution, combating transnational crime, and cross-cultural communication qualifies me to do that. I lived over 5 years in Latin America working on treatment programs and justice reform. In Ecuador, I helped to develop the first drug diversion program and revamp sexual assault and domestic violence investigation practices.
A2. The criminal justice system touches us all, but it doesn’t treat everyone fairly. It’s stacked against people of color and those with the least money. Outdated models of punishment and incarceration only perpetuate cycles of crime and broken lives. But we
LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

390TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Albert Amado (D) (continued)
can fix these problems and restore hope and dignity to people and our system. I’ll end money bail, push for more social services for victims and offenders alike, and strengthen programs that prevent and address the root causes of crime.

A3. Listening and understanding are key tools. My cultural and professional diversity give me the skill and perspective to apply them and be impartial. Failure to effectively track statistics and outcomes contributes to unequal justice. We must identify and solve these gaps to create the justice system that best serves our community. Bold ideas, like sanctions against officers and prosecutors with a history of disciplinary issues or Brady sanctions against officers and prosecutors will help ensure equal opportunities for justice.

A4. Currently, an individual’s wealth largely determines the justice that will be served. For those with the least money, entry into the criminal justice system places them at risk of job loss, family separation, pretrial detention due to inability to pay bail, or agreeing to a plea deal even when they are not guilty. Ending money bail, strong diversification and treatment programs, robust indigent defense, and comprehensive social services lead to lower incarceration and break the cycle of recidivism.

Julie Kocurek (D)


Education: Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from St. Mary’s School of Law and a Bachelor of Art in Economics from the University of Texas

Website: http://www.judgejuliekocurek .com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/VoteforJudgeJulie/

A1. I hope to continue implementing progressive criminal justice reform programs and standing up for the rule of law. Four years ago, I was attacked by a defendant at my home. After only a couple of months, I returned to the bench to ensure that defendant and victims would have their day in court. Even though I was attacked, I believe every person deserves equal access to justice, treatment over incarceration for non-violent crimes, and compassion.

A2. The criminal justice system is important to the fabric of our community because it affects the lives of so many people and offers the chance for a second chance. We are working to improve our bond system so non-violent offenders are promptly released on personal bond. I supported the creation of the Public Defender Program and increased funding for individuals who cannot afford legal services on their own. I believe indigent defense deserves additional funding to ensure a level playing field.

A3. If someone enters into a plea agreement in my court, I confirm the person fully understands the ramifications of the plea. I work extremely hard to treat every single person who enters my court equally. Through the years, I have worked to improve the court’s indigent legal services because I believe every person, whether they have retained or court appointed counsel, should receive quality legal advice and defense.

A4. We must prioritize treatment over incarceration. I preside over cases where people who are ready to make a change in their life, but do not have the necessary personal infrastructure or familial support. As Judge, I will continue to advocate for additional resources to be prioritized for treatment options, counseling, and medical help because people affected by drug addiction or mental health crises do not belong in jail.

427TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Tamara Needles (D)

Unopposed

460TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Geoffrey Puryear (R)

Unopposed

Selena Alvarenga (D)

Background: I’ve defended the indigent and at-risk juveniles for 23 yrs. I’ll bring my experience and my perspective as a gay immigrant to run a fair court and promote safety and justice.

Education: Worked my way through community college, earned a BBA from Our Lady of the Lake and a JD from St. Mary’s in San Antonio. I also obtained my citizenship while in law school.

Website: http://www.selenaforjudge .com
Facebook: http://facebook.com/selenaforjudge

Video: https://youtu.be/1fGAZcqISR0

A1. Experience, Knowledge, and Empathy. I’ve been a trial attorney my whole career. I have hands-on experience with what works and what doesn’t in our criminal justice system. I will examine each case individually to help set victims and offenders on a path to rehabilitation and restoration, instead of being trapped in a system that doesn’t work for them. My goal is to work with both the defense and the prosecution to find the best outcome for the individuals involved and the community as a whole.

A2. What happens in the courtroom affects all of us, whether you or someone you know has been in the criminal justice system or the victim of a crime, or if you’re a taxpayer. I believe our community wants our courts to reflect our values - that means responding to threats to community safety, while taking a long-term approach to solving the cycles of abuse, violence, and poverty. Mass incarceration has proven wasteful and cruel, and together, we will change the system for the better.

A3. Every individual who sets foot in the courtroom deserves to be listened to and understood, not judged based on race, wealth, or identity - that is how I will run my courtroom. I also believe that Judges should start playing a role as advocates for measures that improve equity and accessibility in our local justice system, like indigent defense, diversion, bail reform, and victim support. Without a level playing field, no Judge can truly be impartial and guarantee equal opportunities for justice.

A4. End the school to prison pipeline, don’t use jail/prison as makeshift clinics and shelters, and don’t detain people just because they can’t afford bail. Incarceration is for those who pose a safety threat - it does not heal the damage done by crime. The fact is a majority of offenders are eventually released. If they don’t have a chance to reenter society productively, many will go on to reoffend. Prioritize real solutions to these challenges, and incarceration and recidivism rates will go down.

Amy Meredith (D)

Background: Fought for progressive causes for 20 years in the courtroom and in our community; I am a community leader and will bring my extensive courtroom experience to the bench.

Education: Bachelor’s Social Work, Southwest Texas State University, J.D University of Denver College of Law

Website: http://amymeredithforjudge .com
Facebook: http://facebook.com/amymeredithforjudge

A1. I have worked in all aspects of our criminal justice system, as a victim counselor, a staff attorney, a defense attorney and as a prosecutor. I will bring my extensive trial experience, and my social work background to focus on victims, to hold law enforcement to community expectations, to prioritize violent offenses and to deliver justice as swiftly as possible to defendants and our community.

A2. This court presides over capital murders to low level drug cases. I will focus on justice by instituting efficiencies to the court docket and prioritizing violent offenders. I have been a chief prosecutor in this exact type of court for almost 8 years and will bring that experience to this bench.

A3. I will ensure that an equal opportu-
COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Q1. Explain how this office is important to your constituents and provide details of your plans for improvement.

Q2. What strategies will you use to ensure open communication between the county government and residents?

Q3. What are your top environmental and land development concerns and how do you plan to address them?

Q4. How will you address future transportation needs in the county?

PRECINCT 1

Solomon Arcoven (R)
Unopposed

Jeff Travillion (D)
Unopposed

PRECINCT 3

Becky Bray (R)
Unopposed

Valinda Bolton (D)

Background: Two term Texas state representative - HD47, nationally recognized advocate for prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault, rape crisis counselor and lifelong Democrat

Education: I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Baylor and Master of Science in Human Development and Family Studies from Texas Tech

Website: http://www.votevalinda.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ValindaBoltonforTravisCC3

A1. The wide range of services the county provides are essential to health and wellness. The next commissioner will face a difficult budget w/ the tax revenue caps imposed by the legislature. I will work to make sure we continue to provide all of our essential services, protect vulnerable citizens and county workers’ pay and working conditions. We must do more with less, reform our criminal justice system, conserve land and water, and fix our utterly dysfunctional transportation system.

A2. When I was in the legislature I put a premium on constituent services, which I felt was as important as any part of my legislative agenda. I will bring that same commitment to my role as County Commissioner. I will keep an open door policy to make sure that I am accessible at all times. I believe that having input from stakeholders who would be affected by commissioner’s court decisions is a good way to keep constituents happy and is also the best way to make those decisions correctly.

A3. The pressures of growth threaten long term water security and exacerbate dangers from flood, fire and drought - inevitable considering our climate crisis. While pursuing affordability we must conserve entire watersheds & increase public lands. The County is insufficiently prepared for disaster - isolated developments are not capable of being evacuated safely. To increase our capacity for land use planning I would support Travis County pursuing county land use authority in our legislative agenda.

A4. Travis County roadways are operating beyond their capacity causing gridlock, human misery and death. We must act decisively to decrease traffic congestion by alleviating choke points and by reducing total vehicles using our roads. We must participate in regional transit planning and invest heavily in shuttles, park and ride, and a multi-modal trail system for Travis County (a transportation system other metro counties in Texas have.) We can leverage toll funds to invest in trails and transit.

A4. My social work background gives me a unique perspective on the need for resources for a permanent transition out of the criminal justice system. Those experiencing addictions, homelessness or a mental health crisis need programs to strengthen their chances of not returning. Not only will I continue to emphasize diversion programs, I will partner with others to facilitate new programs and to provide additional resources, like the local unions to promote job placement or apprenticeships.

Ann Howard (D)

Background: I served as Executive Director of the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO), an alliance of over 50 governmental and non-profit groups dedicated to homelessness.

Education: I entered the University of Texas in 1981, where I earned a Bachelor of Arts, a Master’s of Public Affairs degree, and Juris Doctorate from the Texas Law School.

Website: http://www.annforcommissioner.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/AnnforCommissioner/

Video: https://youtu.be/jbNWOT21CAE

A1. I decided to run because Travis County deserves a leader who is an innovator and a collaborator. The 3.5% revenue cap imposed on counties by the state, unfortunately, doesn’t lower taxes in a meaningful way. Instead, it reduces the quality of essential services voters depend on and blocks our ability to manage growth effectively. I will work to ensure our priorities are not compromised. My top priorities for Precinct 3: transportation and safety, climate change, and criminal justice reform.

A2. Effective two-way constituent communication will be critical to my office. To provide proactive opportunities for constituents to engage, I will use multiple strategies, including constituent management soft-

A3. As Commissioner, I will protect our open spaces and water resources. The Colorado River is the sole source of water for many. I will take a leadership role in state water-supply planning efforts. Travis County has a history of flooding - and the frequency is increasing, thanks to climate change. Travis County must adequately engage in flood mitigation planning. Great work has been done through the use of conserva-

A4. We must play a leadership role at regional planning entities to leverage our strengths at the state and federal levels. Too many of our roads continue to be dangerous, and it takes too long to get to places we need to go. Roads will play a vital part in protecting our communities as people move into the Wildland-Urban Interface, placing more homes at risk of wildfire than ever before. We need to make sure that in the event of an emergency, we can move people out of neighborhoods to safety.

Shiloh Newman (D)

Background: Proud to have been raised in Austin. Small business owner since 1995. Loving husband and father. President of LTYA. Numerous nonprofits. Love my city. Hate the traffic.

Education: Bachelor of Business Administration Texas State University

Website: http://VoteForShiloh.com

Facebook: http://@VoteForShiloh
Shiloh Newman (D) (continued)

Action disaster after another. We need to address the problem of workers getting to work. I have spent a lot of time learning how to work within a budget to create my solution. This tool will have great value to the residents of Travis county as we spend hard earned tax dollars to improve roads and public transportation. 

A2. I believe in having an open line of communication between local government and residents. This is extremely important but currently neglected. Town hall meetings are a thing of the past. I believe we should bring them back these meetings on quarterly schedule and stop blasting our political rants on facebook which seems to create a lot of hate. We should learn to speak to on another face to face with respect as our parents did.

A3. I am an outdoors person and spend most of my days working or playing outside. I am passionate about keeping the world clean and safe for my kid’s children. We can’t stop the growth of Austin nor should we. A city is like a person. You are green and growing or ripe and rotten. We need to grow responsibly but keep taxes in line or we will all be looking for somewhere else to live as good people will be forced out of the Austin area. Affordable housing is at crisis level in western Travis county.

A4. Blow up all the roads and highways and start over. Kidding, sort of. Could there be a bigger problem facing Travis county right now? I don’t have the answer to this issue yet. It is one that will consume me night and day should I represent the voters in office. I can tell you that I will not allow billions of dollars be wasted on another Capitol Metro plan which seems to be a skipping record for the last 25 years. Strategic planning and proper scrutiny is needed when dealing with mass transit.

Sheri Soltes (D)

Background: I am running to make our roads safe, guard our green spaces and support first responders. I have 24 years of federal, state and municipal legislative advocacy experience.

Education: University of Texas School of Law, JD with Honors, 1984 University of Texas at Austin, BA Plan II Honors Program with High Honors, 1981 Spanish, American Sign Language

Website: http://sherifortexas.com/
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/SheriForTexas/
Video: https://youtu.be/YYYnOlKMFUE

A1. The county builds half the roads and bridges, manages the jail, courts, and elections. In Pct 3, people want safe roads, clean water and green spaces, first responders equipped to save life & property. I base this on the 3500 homes that I canvassed personally. In office, I’ll be 20% of the vote on all county-wide issues. Food justice, fair elections, criminal justice reform and sustainable energy all are compelling issues. Tools: forensic budget audit, prioritizing safety and inclusiveness.

A2. I will have a staff member dedicated as community liaison, office hours dedicated to meeting with and responding to constituents and monthly town halls. I will also post weekly videos explaining what the county is doing and upcoming issues.

A3. Hamilton Pool Preserve - I testified at Commissioners Court 12/17/19 against the plat exceptions for an RV development that threatens the preserve and the safety of area residents. I will continue to work with “Save Hamilton Pool Preserve” and others to protect the Preserve. Requiring developers to be responsible for infrastructure, e.g. roads, lighting, green spaces. Enforcing restrictions on development. Converting county vehicles to electric, installing solar panels on county buildings.

A4. Continue to work with the A&M Texas Transportation Institute (https://tti.tamu.edu/) on all facets of transportation. I will prioritize budgeting for increased law enforcement to enforce speed limits and address reckless driving, esp by commercial vehicles. I will continue to coordinate with the City of Austin to repair roads deemed “unsatisfactory”, e.g. Old Bee Caves Rd, Travis Cook Rd. Supporting protected left turns, center turn lanes, reduced speed limit.
**LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY**

**COURT AT LAW NO. 4**

Tanisa Jeffers (D) (continued)

in providing justice as both a practicing Attorney and an Associate Judge. I believe in second chances and I believe that given the right set of rehabilitative circumstances, the most down and out, can overcome their past and become a contributing member of society. In an opportunity court together we have the opportunity to resolve any underlying issues they may have.

A2. In my experience as a Magistrate Judge, a large majority of misdemeanor cases filed in Travis County involve assault family violence cases. County Court 4 needs a judge who will 1) seek to rehabilitate offenders who suffer from drug addiction and mental health issues; who will 2) implement a diversionary court for first-time offenders, siblings, roommates, parent-child cases, those with a mental illness, and cases involving drugs and alcohol.

A3. I believe in compassion, collaboration and community. I would provide much-needed perspective as the only African American judicial candidate in this race who has handled both family and criminal cases for twenty years. Though, the African American population is only 7% in Travis County, African Americans are disproportionately represented as they account for 33% of the misdemeanor cases filed in Travis County, yet there are no African American criminal misdemeanor judges at the county level.

Dimple Malhotra (D)

Background: I have worked in the field of family violence for 20 years as an advocate, staff attorney at a shelter, and chief prosecutor of the family violence unit at the DA’s office.

Education: In 1994, I graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in Sociology and Government. In 1997, I graduated from the University of Texas School of Law.

Website: http://www.judgedimple.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/Judge-Dimple-Malhotra-County-Court-at-Law-4-107098254062936/?modal=admin_todo_tour

Video: https://youtu.be/HU2_1WD4oAs

A1. County Court 4 is a domestic violence court. I understand the complexities of these cases and the dynamics involved. I have the tools necessary to identify cases in which the risk of lethality is high, thereby enabling me to make accurate determinations about bond amounts and bond conditions. My trial experience has given me extensive knowledge of statutes and laws directly relevant to DV issues. Most importantly, I understand that DV is an epidemic that affects every member of our community.

A2. Approximately 4,000 misdemeanor family violence cases are filed in County Court at Law 4 every year. It is important that the docket move efficiently but not at the expense of justice. I have already implemented changes in this court to reduce the backlog of cases. I have started the process of transferring all non-intimate partner cases out of this court to other county trial courts. I have also added additional jury dockets so that more cases are able to be tried in a timely manner.

A3. I believe a judge is the front line of justice. Everyone impacted by domestic violence, including the accused, deserves a judge who has been in the trenches, who understands the complexity of these cases, who embraces that justice can take many forms, and who can balance passion with the necessary impartiality demanded by fairness. As a judge, it is imperative that I evaluate each case independently and fairly, and that cases are heard without unnecessary delay.

**COURT AT LAW NO. 8**

Carlos Berrera (D)

Unopposed

**COURT AT LAW NO. 9**

Kim Williams (D)

Unopposed

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Q1. Explain how this office is important to your constituents and provide details of your plans for improvement.

Q2. How will you manage your office in a way that will promote fairness and efficiency?

Q3. How can you improve the relationship between your office and law enforcement, victims, and other stakeholders?

Martin Harry (R)

Unopposed

José Garza (D)

Background: I started my career as a Public Defender, served in the Obama Administration, and currently serve as the Executive Director of the Workers Defense Project.

Education: JD from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., 2005; Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Texas at Austin, 2001.

Website: http://www.joseforda.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/Joseforda/

Video: https://youtu.be/TJkrvmRE2Nk

A1. The job of the District Attorney is to keep our community safe and protect our most vulnerable. In Travis Co., our most vulnerable include survivors of sexual assault, people struggling with substance abuse, and working people who are only sitting in our jail because they can’t afford to pay bail. When I am elected DA, we will build a system that lifts up working people and people of color, where substance abuse is treated like the public health crisis that it is, and where women are believed.

A2. As District Attorney, my office will prioritize transparency. Providing clear, consistent, and reliable data will enable our office to work with the Travis Co. community and ensure that our criminal justice system works for everyone. Right now, our system weighs most heavily against working class people and people of color. It doesn’t have to be that way. Providing clear, consistent, and reliable data to the public will promote a criminal justice system that is fair and efficient.

A3. Right here in Travis Co., our criminal justice system is broken. It weighs most heavily against working class people and people of color and for too long, it has ignored the needs of crime survivors. That has eroded the relationship between law enforcement, victims, and other stakeholders. When I am elected DA, we will improve these relationships by using our resources to investigate and prosecute powerful actors who have harmed the public and by prioritizing the needs of crime survivors.

Erin Martinson (D)

Education: University of Incarnate Word, Bachelor of Arts, 1996; University of Texas, School of Law, Juris Doctor, 1999.

Website: http://erinforda.com/

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/erinforda/

A1. The DA’s office prosecutes felonies, juveniles and civil cases filed by the Child Protective Services. When elected, I commit to creating victim-centered sexual assault, family violence and child abuse divisions and dedicating the resources necessary to prosecuting these cases. I commit to being accountable to and transparent with my community and I will seek transformative solutions to cases that address the root cause of the problems we see in our courts.
LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

Erin Martinson (D) (continued)
of criminal behavior rather than contribute to mass incarceration. A2. I will value diversity in hiring and promoting to ensure that my staff better represent the communities and individuals interfacing with the justice system. I commit to maintaining a community-centered office and seek more humane ways of addressing crime. Understanding that the majority of individuals in the justice system have experienced trauma, I believe we need to address this trauma and provide tools and resources in order to help individuals heal and break free from the system. A3. By setting a tone that values kindness, dignity and respect for everyone who interfaces with the office, I will set an example for others to follow. In Travis county, I have been a leader in our long-standing community collaborations aimed at improving our response to crime. As a result, I have built relationships and trust across disciplines and, when elected, I will continue to work alongside these partners to ensure that everyone in our community is safe and feels valued.

Margaret Moore (D)
Background: Former Travis Co. Juvenile Public Defender; Asst. D.A.; elected County Attorney; County Commissioner Pct. 3; Asst. Attorney General for State of Texas
Education: BBA UT Austin 1970 major in Accounting; JD UT School of Law 1972
Website: http://margaretforda.com

Mike Denton (D)
Background: U.S Army Officer (1973–1979); Associate Attorney Austin, TX (1984–1986); Assistant County Attorney, Travis County, TX (1986–1998); Judge, County Court-at-Law #4 (1999–2019)
Education: Graduate of United States Military Academy, West Point, NY. (Class of 1973) Graduate of the University of Texas at Austin School of Law, Austin, TX. (Class of 1984)
Website: http://www.votemikedenton.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/MikeDentonforCountyAttorney/
A1. Aggressively enforcing Travis County laws and ensuring that our community is defended from corporate polluters, meddling by a Republican Governor or Legislature and ensuring freedom and equality for all under the law.

A2. 1) Closer coordination and cooperation being the law enforcement and civilian leadership of the office. 2) Rerexamination and possible changes to procedures the office follows as it respects to criminal and civil cases. 3) Greater communication from the office to the community to ensure those we serve are aware of what we are doing and why and to allow them an opportunity to speak directly to myself and everyone else who works in the office.

Laurie Eiserloh (D)
Background: 1st Chair Trial Lawyer, hundreds of cases; restored AIDS funding in TX; sued Greg Abbott over SB4; wrote laws against hate crimes; won same-sex benefits for City employees.
Education: J.D., UT School of Law, 1990; Board Certified by TX Board Legal Specialization in Personal Injury Trial, and Labor & Employment Law; B.A. with Highest Honors, UT Austin, 1986
Website: http://electlaurie.com
Facebook: http://electlaurie.com
Video: https://youtu.be/rTP1gKpXUYc

A1. The County Attorney supervises 230 lawyers & staff on thousands of cases; advises Travis County elected officials regarding duties; obtains protective orders for domestic violence victims; & obtains involuntary commitments for the mentally ill. I’m a Progressive Democrat, & I’ll use my experience as an attorney & reformer to protect workers; stop the backlog of domestic violence cases in Family Court; sue big corporations causing climate change; & reform the criminal justice system.
A2. Travis County has made progress using Diversion Courts to give people a 2nd chance & has reduced the use of cash bail. But there’s more to do: establish a Mental Health Diversion Center; stop the backlog of domestic violence cases in Family Court; expand diversion & specialty courts; reject cases with police bias at the outset; have representation for defendants 24-7; make expunction available to all who qualify; separate bond review from plea agreements; continue to reform cash bail; and more.

Delia Garza (D)
Background: I am the first Latina elected to the Austin City Council. I’m a mom, a former Austin firefighter, a former Assistant Attorney General, and an occasional runner.
Education: I’m the proud product of K-12 public schools. I received my undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University and my J.D. from Gonzaga University School of Law.
Website: http://votedeliagarza.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/deliazarzaustin/
A1. The County Attorney has several important functions. First, she is charged with the prosecution of misdemeanor-level offenses, with a focus on positive outcomes, rehabilitation, protecting victims, and equitable compassionate practices. Other important functions include protecting our natural resources by requiring compliance with environmental regulations, and advising and empowering Travis County elected officials to fight state overreach and to more fully address our affordability challenges.
A2. We must address racial disparities in
LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Delia Garza (D) (continued)

our system with reform efforts that include declining to charge marijuana offenses and offenses that are usually a byproduct of poverty like food theft. Archaic and failed policies throughout the system have distracted us from what is really a public and mental health crisis. I commit to better collaboration with mental health organizations and the Sobering Center. We need bold leadership willing to fight state overreach like voter suppression tactics.

Dominic Selvera (D)

Background: I’m a criminal defense attorney. Most of my docket involves representing indigent clients who can’t afford to hire private counsel. I’m licensed in state and federal court.

Education: Bachelor of Arts, Management, May 2002, Concordia University Austin; Juris Doctor, May 2016, St. Mary’s University School of Law

Website: http://www.dominicselvera.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/dominicselvera2020/

A1. The most important function of the Travis County Attorney’s Office is to set policy for the prosecution of misdemeanor offenses. Misdemeanor offenses make up the majority of criminal charges filed in Travis County. Our misdemeanor policy affects victims of crime, defendants, family members, and our community. It’s important that the policies of the County Attorney’s Office reflect the values of our progressive community. It’s my priority to focus on programs that make Travis County safer.

SHERIFF

Q1. Explain how this office is important to your constituents and provide details of your plans for improvement.

Q2. How would you improve community trust in your office?

Q3. Describe how your office would improve interactions with people suffering a mental health crisis.

Raul Vargas (R)

Unopposed

Liz Donegan (D)

Background: Army Veteran, Travis County Sheriff Office Corrections Officer, Senior Sergeant Austin Police Department (RET), Intl’ subject matter expert on violence against women.

Education: BS Social Psychology, Park University (magna cum laude) West Point / UT Leadership Academy Master Peace Officer and Trainer

Website: http://lizforsheriff.com

Facebook: http://Lizforsheriff

A1. As a long-time law enforcement officer and nationally recognized expert in the area of sexual violence, I bring the knowledge and expertise required to successfully execute on our most important initiatives. I will bring best practices to key areas of the Travis County Sheriff’s Office, including response to and investigations of sexual assault, ongoing challenges with the women’s jail and incarceration, alternative programs for those afflicted with mental health issues or addiction.

A2. We must begin by reaching out to marginalized communities and having conversations of substance. Implementing practice and policy that focuses on community collaboration and de-escalation techniques. Looking at the judicial system with eyes toward progressive approaches that are trauma informed and heavily focused on diversion programs that will end the door of generational incarceration. Education, communication, and collaboration are keys to success in changing the culture within TCSO.

A3. I will introduce an evidence-based, progressive approach to help end the revolving door of incarceration for those afflicted with mental illness and addiction. We will work with community leaders and implement effective programs that address the root causes, such as trauma, and provide a path out of repeat incarcerations to a productive and fulfilling life. Through my leadership, and new policy and practice we will ensure that every community member is treated with dignity and respect.

A2. We will end the unjust cash bail system, 2) full decriminalization of marijuana cases less than 4 oz, and 3) fix the backlog of domestic violence cases that are funneled into County Court 4. Our new policy will recommend the presumption of release for misdemeanor cases with conditions added when appropriate. We will dismiss all marijuana cases and decline to prosecute future cases. We will advocate to move domestic violence cases to all county courts and offer a restorative justice option.

Sally Hernandez (D)


Education: B.S. Criminal Justice from St. Edward’s University. Master Peace Officer Certification.

Website: http://www.vote4sally.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/Vote4Sally

A1. I’ll continue to reform the criminal justice system, establish strong partnerships within the community, and ensure deputies and corrections officers are trained and equipped to serve the needs of Travis County. I have nearly 40 years of law enforcement experience and am the only candidate in this race who has led three law enforcement agencies. I’ve been a chief executive since 2005, balanced county agency budgets, and have a proven record of leadership and earning trust.

A2. I’ll build trust with the community by continuing and expanding upon the initiatives we implemented over the last three years that are achieving great results. These include, but are not limited to Building Bridges Town Hall meetings, crime initiatives that respond to citizen reports and statistical trends, a robust community outreach team, involvement in our schools and alliances with organizations to decriminalize mental illness and connect families to resources.

A3. We’re already making a positive impact in this arena. We’ve partnered with several local organizations including NAMI of Central Texas and Integral Care. Our deputies and corrections officers are receiving specialized training designed to help them de-escalate a mental health crisis and divert the patient to care rather than jail. We also offer classes to the families of inmates with mental illness that teach them how to get help in a crisis and avoid situations that can lead to arrest.

John Loughran (D)

No Response Received

DONATE!

Support the Voters Guide production with a contribution to the League of Women Voters Austin Area, a nonpartisan nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. 3908 Avenue B, Austin, TX 78751 or make a secure donation online at LWVAustin.org.
LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

COUNTY CONSTABLE

Q1. Explain how this office is important to your constituents and provide details of your plans for improvement.
Q2. How would you improve community trust in your office?
Q3. How can your office improve the efficiency of the court system?

PRECINCT 1

Michael Carter (D)

Background: Retired police officer. Retired Code Compliance Officer. Texas Army National Guard. 12 years. Past Community Resources officer. Member of the E.S.D. board. Volunteer various.

Education: Master police officer certificate. Graduate Old Anderson High School. Attended various Colleges with over 100 hours of college credits. Over 3000 hours of police training.

Facebook: http://michaelcartercampaign@yahoo.com

A1. This office has built the trust of the community. Officers of this unity have been and will have a support for the community as provided by its leader. The elected constable must have support from all of its officers who will get better training of community, values, responsibilities, vision, self awareness of community needs and keeping all citizens safe. As a leader i must understand the importance of being seen as a person who cares about the citizens, by doing the right thing.

A2. Trust must always be obtained by honesty and integrity. Truthfully communication will build greater good for the community. Regarding the office, law enforcement is critical to our community but it can be a partnership. We need to be in the community more. I’d like to see a youth leadership program with the schools so students who may be interested in the field learn about law enforcement. More information to community organizations and churches about our services and invite community leaders.

A3. Improvement can only be achieved with some changes in the law as it deals with communication from the different court systems, municipal, county and Justice of the Peace. There needs to be a study into the Truancy court systems, to find out the root causes as to why kids are not in school.

Tonya Nixon (D)

Background: Native (44 yrs old) of Austin, TX. Mother of one son. 15 years law enforcement exp. TJCTC Education Comm., Member ILEETA Assc., Eastern Travis County Colony Park Advisory Comm

Education: Austin Community College, Virginia College, and Colorado Tech. Extensive training Advanced Tcole Cert and Civil Process Proficiency Certification

Website: http://tonyaforconstable.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/tonyaforconstable/

A1. In addition to our primary function of executing civil process, we provide protection, enforce laws, and participate in community outreach services. We are licensed peace officers and we must exercise due diligence while being courteous and mindful at all times. I plan to revisit policies to ensure the constable’s office is providing the best service possible. I will lead the effort to create a Crisis Intervention Team and ensure all deputies have their Mental Health Certification.

A2. The only way to effectively serve your community is by having a direct connection without an official request or directive. Have presence. I want to bring peace of mind to those frightened by police through community education, awareness, and involvement. By being transparent, increasing patrols in residential areas, and working alongside citizens in activities with housing developments and neighborhood associations, we can achieve a safer and more-informed community while building trust.

A3. Constables are the chief process servers for the Justice of Peace Court. Having a healthy relationship with the Judge and staff helps the office operate efficiently. I plan to continue to maintain a strong working relationship with the court as we work to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline and provide the citizens of Travis County the best customer service.

Sam Holt (D)

No Response Received

Janie Serna (D)

Background: I want to earn your support in my race to become the next Constable of Precinct 1. I’m a life-long Democrat and long-time resident of Precinct 1. I’m a career public servant.

Education: Associates Degree, Criminal Justice; Associates Degree, Corrections

Website: http://www.votejanie.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/votejaniepct1

A1. Since Constable’s offices are not “call driven,” there is a genuine opportunity to develop police-community partnerships, a foundation for communities that are safer and [ultimately] more caring places to live. We will focus on issues important to the community, including investing in our children. Estimates show that children are 1/3 of our population; they are 100% of our future. I will create a Constable’s Veterans Advisory Board, providing a bridge for veterans needing assistance.

A2. The community expects that all law enforcement officers: 1. be knowledgeable in their job, 2. exercise compassion in the performance of their duties - treating every person they encounter with the respect and dignity that they deserve, 3. use common sense when working. I will ensure that these expectations are met. We, as a department, will ACT - accountability, collaboration, and transparency - in a way that the community does not doubt us. [Portion of response removed; does not meet criteria.]

A3. The first step to fixing a problem is identifying the problem, so, to fix any problems, elect me. Once elected, I will meet with the existing team, find out our equipment needs - are the computers old and slow, for example. Team engagement is key. I will meet with the JP, find out if there is a delay in delivering papers and/or a failure to properly research locations resulting in invalid attempts. I need to evaluate processes, determine whether processes are duplicated or can be streamlined.

PRECINCT 2

Adan Ballesteros (D)

Background: I am a Certified Master Peace Officer with 41 years of Law Enforcement experience. 21 of those years in the Constables Office, 12 of those years as Constable of Precinct 2

Education: Attended Del Mar College - Corpus Christi and UT - Austin. Graduated from Texas DPS Law Enforcement Academy. Many Various Certifications including LEMIT Leadership Course

Website: http://adanballesteros.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/TCConstablePct2/

A1. My office provides a necessary service in that our mandated duty is to serve civil process and we serve it with compassion and respect to all parties affected. My plan for improvement is to continue to provide increased training to my Deputies to ensure they are knowledgeable to new or revised procedures. With the population exploding exponentially in Travis County, I am also planning to allocate more resources towards our Civil Department to keep up with the increasing amount of civil process.

A2. Outreach is very important to me and I believe that is the main building block towards achieving the trust of the community. We participate in many community events in our precinct, providing visible safety and security for our citizens. I have also instituted an outreach program that provides benefits to our youth, elderly, homeless, and military veterans. I am also planning to bring back my Constable’s Board of Citizens that will bring together members of the community to discuss issues.

A3. We have improved our efficiency by moving towards being mostly paperless in our office. We have also introduced a new
LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

PRECIINCT 2

Adan Ballesteros (D) (continued)
entry program called CivilServe that allows our staff the ability to enter a civil paper and assign it to a Deputy in seconds. CivilServe also provides real-time updates that is accessible to anyone wanting to know the status of civil process on a particular case. We are working towards the goal of completing the entire process of entering, serving, and filing in 48 hours.

Deke Pierce (D)
Background: I am offering over 30 years of solid military, correctional and law enforcement experience; of which just over 22 years have been as a dedicated and proactive law enforcement.

Education: 2019 Graduate FBI/LEEDA Trilogy 2005 Graduate with Honors - Associate of Applied Science Degree in Business Administration. 1992 Graduate of the East Texas Police Academy
Website: http://www.votedeke.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/votedeke/

A1. I am here before asking for your support and vote for Travis County Pct. 2 Constable. The constable’s office does not write laws, nor does it interrupt laws. The constable is elected to a constitutionally created office for a four-year term within each justice precinct. The constable is an authorized peace officer and is the chief process server of the precinct. Plans for improvement consist of treating the people and employees with the dignity and respect they deserve.

A2. Public trust is extremely important, you must trust your law enforcement to do their job and do the right thing. With nearly three decades in law enforcement, I can say that I have always been very proud of my career choice. Law enforcement is a profession few can understand if they are not actually a part of it. It is a career I chose because I wanted a job that I enjoyed and one that I felt would make a difference. To do the right thing all of the time not just when people are watching.

A3. By being a good steward of taxpayer dollars and working with the courts to better serve each of their offices will only enhance the performance of the court systems and will better serve the people of Travis County. It’s about building relationships and working collaboratively with others for the good of the people.

LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

26TH DISTRICT
Donna King (R) Unopposed
Brian McConnel (D) Unopposed

395TH DISTRICT
Ryan Larson (R) Unopposed
Lucio Del Toro (D) Unopposed

425TH DISTRICT
Betsy F. Lambeth (R) Unopposed

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

26TH DISTRICT
Shawn Dick (R) Unopposed

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Dee Hobbs (R) Unopposed
Stan O. Springerly (D) Unopposed

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

PRECIINCT 1
Nikki Gonzales (R) Unopposed
Terry Cook (D) Unopposed

PRECIINCT 3
Valerie Covey (R) Unopposed
Sharon Cummings (D) Unopposed

SHERIFF
Robert Chody (R) Unopposed
Mike Gleason (D) Unopposed

SAVE TIME—USE OUR INTERACTIVE VOTERS GUIDE . . .

At VOTE411.org, find your personal ballot and Voters Guide information for the candidates. Don’t see a question that meets your burning need? Candidate campaign websites on VOTE411.org make it easy to delve deeper too. Make your decisions, then print them out to take with you to the polling place. Remember, no mobile devices are allowed in the voting booth, but printed Voters Guide info is.
Jeff Anderson (R)
Unopposed

Mickey Chance (D)
Unopposed

**PRECIJT 1**
Vinnie Cherrone (R)

**PRECIJT 2**
Jeff Anderson (R)

**Renee Harrell (R)**

**Gregory Papst (D)**

**BACKGROUND**: As a resident in the Williamson/Travis County area for 49 years, I have served as a deputy constable for over 25 years.

**EDUCATION**: Graduate of Round Rock High School in 1981 and subsequent graduate of the police academy in 1989.

**FACEBOOK**: http://Papst2020

**A1.** Having lived and served this community since 1969 along with my 25 years of experience with the service of civil process, warrant service, juvenile law and apprehension and community policing, I believe in taking my many years of knowledge and working with you, the community, to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the public. The best way is to get into our community.

**VOTING BY MAIL**

Any registered voter may vote by mail for the March 3, 2020 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 **February 21, 2020.** NOTE: If you submit an Application for a Ballot by Mail by fax or email, it must also be submitted by mail and received in our office within four business days of your electronic submission.

3. Once received, the mail ballot MUST be completed and received back by the appropriate early voting clerk no later than Election Day, March 3, 2020, or postmarked on March 3 and received by March 4, or by March 9 if mailed outside the US.
NEW VOTING SYSTEM

There is a new voting system in place for Travis County and Williamson County elections. Both counties are now using an ExpressVote Ballot Marking Device (BMD), which uses touch-screen technology but produces a paper-based ballot for tabulation. It’s modern, secure, and allows you to verify your selections before casting your vote.

For more information, please visit:
http://traviscountyclerk.org/eclerk/Content.do?code=meet-your-new-voting-system
or
www.wilco.org/wilcovotes

VOTE

At check-in you will receive a blank ballot. Insert this ballot into any ExpressVote BMD. Follow instructions on the screen for making your selections. Poll workers will be available if you need assistance.

REVIEW

When prompted, print your ballot. Carefully review all the selections printed on the card to be sure it accurately reflects your choices.

SCAN

You MUST then scan your ballot into the DS200 to cast your vote. Do NOT leave the polling location with your ballot.

LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

PRECINCT 2

Gregory Papst (D) (continued)

Community and continue to work together as a team, with an open mind.

A2. Our team will be a positive contribution to Williamson County by maintaining an open mind and transparent communication. We will provide mental health training for all officers to include de-escalation training to keep all parties involved safe. Our officers will be proactive while in your neighborhoods serving civil process always watching and willing to help a community member, working traffic in school zones or stopping to talk to a parent or homeowner about their concerns.

A3. Our mission is to provide a professional and knowledgeable Constable’s office. We will ensure proficiency for our deputies in the service of civil process, state laws and community contact and policing. We vow to provide exceptional service through the use of new technology to receive, serve and return all civil process. This will ensure efficient use of tax payer dollars.

Robert Tijerina (D)
No Response Received

PRECINCT 3

Kevin Stofle (R)
Unopposed

PRECINCT 4

Paul Leal (R)
Unopposed

Hoby Smith (D)

**Background:** Retired peace officer with 30 years experience.

**Website:** http://hobyforconstable.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/HobyforConstablePct4

A1. The constable’s office performs duties related to civil law and process which are constitutional requirements set out in the Texas Constitution. Constable’s and deputies commissioned under the office are certified peace officers and licensed by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and derive their authority from the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

A2. Hoby believes in a “WE” mindset when it comes to public service. Elected officials are in office to serve the community they are elected to represent. Hoby believes communication and collaboration is the key to solving problems. Hoby will be accessible to those he is elected to serve and will provide an ear to listen and collaborate with the community to solve problems and will communicate effectively with all constituents.

A3. The constable’s office can improve the court system by providing effective and efficient service of civil process. When defendants, witnesses, and plaintiffs are in court for their proceedings it is more likely to be settled and the case disposed making room for new cases to move forward on the docket.

Perry Travis (D)
No Response Received

COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

Larry Gaddes (R)
Unopposed
CENSUS AND REDISTRICTING

THE 2020 CENSUS IMPACTS REDISTRICTING IN TEXAS!

What is the Census, and how does it impact you?
➤ The Census is a count of all persons living in the U.S. It is conducted every 10 years by the federal government, and it is mandated by the Constitution.
➤ Resources for the Community: We track changes in our population in order to know where to send resources and federal services. Census data is used to distribute over $800 billion in federal funds annually. States use this money to pay for services and programs that are absolutely vital to the community, such as healthcare, highway funding, and education. Each person counted in your community means additional federal dollars in your community.
➤ Basis for Representation: These population changes also have an affect on our democracy. The Census count is used to determine how many seats each state gets in Congress and how district lines are drawn at every level of government.
➤ Community Development: Census data impacts planning and development in your community. It guides decisions on where to build businesses, subdivisions, schools, and roads. It is used by healthcare officials to plan resources and appropriate care for the surrounding population.

When will the Census be conducted?
Starts: March 2020
Ends: July 2020

How can people complete the Census questionnaire?
➤ Online
➤ Over the phone
➤ The paper form
➤ Or, by responding to a Census worker at your home

What the Census will send you in the mail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On or between</th>
<th>You’ll receive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 12–20</td>
<td>An invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census. (Some households will also receive paper questionnaires.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16–24</td>
<td>A reminder letter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you haven’t responded yet:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 26–April 3</td>
<td>A reminder postcard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 8–16</td>
<td>A reminder letter and paper questionnaire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 20–27</td>
<td>A final reminder postcard before the Census follows up in person.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Are Census Responses Confidential? Yes.
➤ All Census data are protected by federal law to be kept confidential for 72 years.
➤ The Census Bureau cannot share data with any other federal agency.
➤ All Census Bureau employees swear to a lifetime oath to protect respondent information and will be fined $250,000 and/or face up to 5 years imprisonment for wrongful disclosure.

“IT IS YOUR RIGHT TO BE COUNTED! FILLING OUT THE FORM IS FAST, EASY, AND SECURE.”
—GRACE CHIMENE, PRESIDENT, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

For more information about the 2020 Census: 

REDISTRICTING—NEW DISTRICT MAPS TO BE DRAWN AFTER 2020 CENSUS

Once we know how many people live in Texas, the state legislature will start the redistricting process and redraw the boundaries of the state legislative and congressional districts so that they are equal in population. These election maps will be used for the next decade.

Because of partisan gerrymandering, the way the district boundaries are drawn determine the power of your vote. The boundaries determine how you are represented, which other communities are included in your district, and ultimately, who will be elected to represent you. Those elected officials then go on to make important decisions that impact you and your family on a daily basis, such as the quality of the air you breathe, the quality of your child’s school, and how much you pay in taxes.

What Can You Do to Influence the New District Maps?
The Legislature has already begun the process for the 2021 redrawing of state and federal legislative districts. In the fall of 2019, the Texas House Redistricting Committee started holding Public Input Hearings for the 2021 redistricting. The Texas Senate Redistricting Committee will begin holding hearings in March of 2020. (Schedules can be found below.) Public comments at the committee hearings will be used to assist the Legislature when it draws district boundaries.

Public Input Hearings Schedule
You are invited to attend a local public hearing to let your state legislators know your concerns, where your community is located and encourage them to conduct a transparent process. You can find guidance for how to testify on the League webpage, see below.

If you are unable to attend a hearing and would still like to provide testimony, you may email or call legislators on the Redistricting Committee. A list of committee member information can be found here: http://bit.ly/2KrYk0N

The League of Women Voters of Texas, working with Fair Maps Texas, is providing training in advance of many of the hearings.

More Information:
The League of Women Voters of Texas: https://my.lwv.org/texas/advocacy-issues/redistrictingcensus
Fair Maps Texas: https://www.fairmapstexas.org/
The Texas Legislative Council: https://redistricting.capitol.texas.gov
Texas Legislature’s website: https://capitol.texas.gov

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 everyone at least 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.

Become a Sustaining Household for $150 or Sustaining Individual for $100.

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