VOTING IN THE 2014 PRIMARY ELECTION

Informed voters know...

WHERE TO VOTE
You must vote in your precinct of residence on Election Day (unless your area is participating in a countywide vote center trial). In Travis County, you may vote at any polling place.

Your precinct is listed on your registration card, or you may find out where to vote by calling 512-238-VOTE, or by going online with your county election division. If you report to the incorrect polling place, you will be redirected to the correct polling place, or offered a provisional ballot. You may vote by provisional ballot, but if it is determined that you are not registered in that precinct, your ballot will not be counted.

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

WHAT TO TAKE TO THE POLLS

VOTER REGISTRATION CARD

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

In order to vote in Texas, you will need to bring one (1) of the following documents to your polling place:

- Texas Driver’s License issued by Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Personal ID card issued by Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas concealed handgun license issued by Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- U.S. military ID card showing your photo
- U.S. Certificate of Citizenship or U.S. Certificate of Naturalization showing your photo
- U.S. passport book or card
- Election ID Certificate (EIC) issued by Department of Public Safety (DPS)

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

Barbara Hankins
Maxine Barkan, Nancy Bene, Mary Blackstock, Jeb Boyt, Joan Hilgers, Melissa Jones, Joann Lovelace, Janice May, Frances McIntyre, Margit and Arnold Orange, Judy and Ed Parken, Susan and William Reid, Kathy Rider and Dabney Roe.

The Austin American-Statesman has partnered with the League of Women Voters on this guide. Using content gathered from candidates by the League, the Statesman designed and published the guide. In addition to being carried in the Feb. 16, 2014, Statesman, several thousand copies will be distributed by the League at various locations, and both the League and the Statesman will provide the content on their websites, statesman.com and lwvaustin.org.
STATEWIDE RACES

U.S. SENATE

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

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

Gridlock: What measures should the Senate take to stop the gridlock that has crippled Congress?

Immigration: What specific changes, if any, would you propose to the current immigration policy? Please explain.

Elections: The recent Supreme Court decision in Shelby v. Holder struck down parts of the Voting Rights Act. What changes, if any, do you support to protect voting rights?

Environment: Scientists have now established an upper limit on carbon dioxide emissions and the President has announced a comprehensive carbon control plan. What do you see as the Senate’s role with regard to these standards as well as other environmental regulations?

Foreign Intervention: Under what circumstances should the U.S. intervene militarily in a foreign conflict?

Other Issues: What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

Ken Cope (R)

Gridlock: Gridlock can be good if it protects against foolish policies. We need leaders with integrity, common sense and practical experience who will fight with a sense of Texas urgency. We need to educate all Republicans on basic negotiation skills and rules of engagement. We need better inter-party interaction, without Republican capitulation before any disagreements occur.

Immigration: Complete border fence in 1 year; require proof of English reading/writing ability for citizenship; expedite citizenship for those serving two years in armed forces or as first responders, plus their spouses and children; others to end of the line but with provisional Sec Sec card for paying taxes and obtaining benefits; return 250,000 illegal convicts to their homelands.

Elections: The court ruled correctly; demographics have changed and using 1960s standards was no longer fair. I support voting rights, oppose racially-based gerrymandering, and favor the requirement of ID to vote to assure election integrity. I believe these issues should be state, not federal, issues in line with the 9th and 10th Amendments.

Environment: The credibility and reliability of the scientists remains a concern. The Senate has the obligation to fully vet the scientific data before allowing additional regulations that could cost jobs in our already anemic economy. I am an avid outdoorsman and want to preserve the environment, but we must use prudence and caution in this area.

Foreign Intervention: A) Where American citizens or soldiers are in danger. B) Where America’s allies are being threatened or attacked. C) Where potential weapons of mass destruction are threatened to be, or are being, used. America can’t be the world’s policeman. Regional skirmishes are not our business or responsibility unless they threaten the sovereignty of America or its allies.

Other Issues: Unchecked growth in the federal government and its intrusion into far too many aspects of our lives. The statist direction of this country poses a direct threat to us and our Constitution. As Senator, I would work tirelessly to reduce the size of government, eliminating some departments and restricting others, to assure Americans’ freedom and independence.

Education: MBA, Corporate Finance, Univ. of Dallas; BBA, Accounting, St. Mary’s Univ., San Antonio; Command & General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, KS; Adv. & Basic Procurement & Quartermaster Officer; Securities Lic. Series 6 & 63; TX Grp 1 Life Ins. Lic.


Christian, social & financial conservative, father & grandfather, a Patriot

Reid Reasor (R)

Gridlock: It depends on the desired end state and who is fighting. If the desired end state is socialism/communism/statism/globalism I will fight every measure and every attempt to remove the freedoms that we 700,000 warriors bought with our blood. D.C. has currently illegally taken the Bill of Rights. I stand for liberty, integrity and prosperity. I support all efforts for these.

Immigration: No actions should place an illegal immigrant above the position of a legal waiting to come here. Enforce existing laws, seal the border while allowing rancher access. For those who want to work, they can stay in felony probation that removes guns and rights to vote for the duration of the time for other legal immigrants to come here. Other criminality results in jail.

Elections: I do not support any effort that will continue to allow the wide spread voter fraud that has happened in the last two elections. Every person who votes should prove there are a citizen of the U.S. I will demand that every person influencing the future of America, is an American. Having other nationals voting in our elections is spitting on the graces of my fellow warriors.

Environment: I am a scientist, and the global warming and EPA policy is insanity. We have lost control of CO2 emissions and caused widespread world high pollution by the EPA policy. We have moved our industry overseas, causing inner city decay and 80 million jobless people. We borrow money from China to pay for the unemployment and welfare here. The EPA should help industry be clean.

Foreign Intervention: I will block any effort to use military force to achieve domestic political objectives. Americans should not interfere, subvert or intentionally remove a justly established form of government in another country. The United Nations will be the lead for economic, social, political and military actions against rogue states. The Was Powers act will be adhered to.

Other Issues:

Education: Two years PhD studies in education and social psychology, TSU. GCU Master of Technology, Computer animation, ASU Bachelors of Science, Astronautical Engineering, United States Air Force Academy Air Command and Staff College F-15C Phased Array IP

Continued on next page
**Steve Stockman (R)**

**Gridlock:** There is no “gridlock.” There is only “stopping Obama’s unpopular agenda.” Obama cannot advance his agenda because in 2010 voters elected a Congress to stop it. Congressman Stockman is the only candidate for US Senate serving in Congress who didn’t vote to fund Obamacare. Stockman also introduced bills to stop abortion and Obama gun control. Find more at Stockman2014.com.

**Immigration:** Congressman Stockman is the only candidate for U.S. Senate serving in Congress who did not introduce an amnesty bill and did not vote to kill the border fence. Stockman is the original author of the bill stopping illegals from using “anchor babies” to stay in the US. Those anti-Stockman ads are funded by $2 million from an amnesty promoter. Find more at Stockman2014.com.

**Elections:** The Supreme Court recognized the Voting Rights Act was written for another time and place and upheld the Constitution. Congressman Stockman is the only candidate for US Senate serving in Congress who voted 100% against federal interference in state issues and against automatically approving Obama’s dangerous appointees. Find more at Stockman2014.com.

**Environment:** Congressman Stockman is the only candidate for US Senate serving in Congress who has voted 100% against Cap and Trade. Congressman Stockman is the only candidate for US Senate serving in Congress who voted against automatically approving Obama appointees to agencies like the EPA. Congressman Stockman co-sponsored the REINS Act to strip the EPA of major rule-making power.

**Foreign Interventions:** Our military should be used only when there is a direct threat to national security. Congressman Stockman is the only candidate for US Senate serving in Congress who voted 100% against Obama’s spying on Americans. Congressman Stockman is the only candidate for US Senate serving in Congress who introduced a bill forcing a full Congressional investigation into Benghazi.

**Other Issues:** Texas’ US Senator should defund and repeal Obamacare and stop the upcoming amnesty and Obamacare bailout bills. Congressman Stockman is the only candidate for US Senate running in Congress who didn’t vote to fund Obamacare, didn’t vote for bailouts and didn’t vote for amnesty. Stockman is the only candidate with a 100% pro-gun voting record. Find more at Stockman2014.com.

**Education:** B.A., Accounting. University of Houston – Clear Lake


**Linda Vega (R)**

**Gridlock:** We need to concentrate on what is good for America rather than stalling nominations and legislation based on party affiliation. I will work with other Senators who have similar goals on issues important to all Americans. Issues such as immigration, education, entitlement reform, Afghanistan/Iraq, and healthcare, should be resolved by both parties.

**Immigration:** The Quota system is one of the main reasons why we have illegal immigration. Quotas cause the system to bottleneck, whereby visas cannot be issued to those who have applied for and are awaiting for years for their visas to become current. The quota system should be relaxed so that visas are awarded and the labor demands are market driven.

**Elections:** The Shelby v. Holder ruling concluded that it is unconstitutional, due to the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment, to treat one state or regions differently from others. Thus, it is imperative that Congress pass a new bill that treats all states equal, while protecting voting Rights. I will work on creating this bill.

**Environment:** Because of the geography of our nation, a “one size fits all” model is unworkable. Each state should have the autonomy to look for environmental regulations that will not affect their economy. The federal government, and the Senate, should only oversee that environmental laws are not violated, but they should control state regulations that produce a strong economy.

**Foreign Interventions:** The U.S should interfere in military conflicts, as a coalition with other major powers like the UK, Russia and France, for humanitarian reasons or to protect Americans abroad.

**Other Issues:** We need to seriously consider legislation that will reform entitlements, education, and the National Debt. We need to reform Medicare and Social Security to make it more solvent so those older than 55 can still receive benefits when they begin to draw on those benefits. We must have and educated labor force to pay for these benefits.

**Education:** I graduated from the University of Texas in Austin and the George Washington Law School in D.C., with a scholarship from both establishments. I am fluent in both English and Spanish.

**Experience:** I have previously worked for The Department of Labor, and currently own my own practice — The Vega Law Firm. My areas of practice concentrate in immigration, labor, and employment law. I practices nationally and international, as many of the issue (///)

**David M. Alameel (D)**

**Gridlock:** I will work with members of both parties to get things done. We must reform the influence of lobbyists and the corporate money. Reform the abuse of the filibuster, which allows a few Senators to block even routine appointments and legislation. Let’s make Washington work for America, not special interests.

**Immigration:** I support comprehensive immigration reform that is both humane and respectful of our laws. We must provide a responsible road map to citizenship for law abiding and hardworking people who have no criminal record and are only asking for a fair opportunity.

**Elections:** Congress needs to renew those vital provisions of the Act, as it has done in a bipartisan way several times in the past. Discrimination and suppression of people’s right to vote should not be allowed. I also support expanded early voting and convenient registration. Encourage citizens to vote; don’t exclude them.

**Environment:** All of us have a fundamental right to clean air and clean water. We can reduce emissions through a combination of “cap and trade” policies and effective rules. The federal government must fund R&D, set efficiency standards, use strong anti pollution policies, and support incentives to encourage private investment in alternate energy.

**Foreign Interventions:** The Iraq intervention was a tragic mistake that cost thousands of lives and trillions of dollars that could have been invested to help people here at home. With that in mind, the U.S. should intervene militarily in a foreign conflict only when our safety or vital national interests are truly threatened.

**Other Issues:** Stop subsidizing big banks and Wall Street: help the middle class. Expand our manufacturing sector to rebuild our economy. Strengthen Social Security.

**Raise the minimum wage. Require equal pay for equal work for women. Repeal unfair tax breaks for big corporations. Give every American child the opportunity for a quality education.**

**Education:** Doctorate of Dental Surgery, University of Texas.

**Experience:** I’m an Army veteran, and a proud husband and father. Starting from scratch, I built a successful $50 million a year business. I have been active in civic and charitable work and programs to improve education opportunities for young people.

**Michael “Fjet” Fjetland (D)**

**Gridlock:** We should encourage states to move to the California open primary system and/or adopt the Iowa system of using a nonpartisan citizen committee to do redistricting. It would help if we elected Senators that are willing to work across the aisle! However, our current system encourages the most extreme candidates which creates the current deadlock.

**Immigration:** We need immigration reform so that young “dreamers” who were brought here illegally as children can obtain legal status and citizenship. We also need to give illegals who pay a fine and don’t have a criminal record a path to legal residency. We shouldn’t educate foreigners and then refuse them residency so they take their skills and create jobs elsewhere instead of here.

**Elections:** Voter suppression is unAmerican and is happening. Voter ID laws and cutting early voting days are more attempts to undercut democracy. I would support a law to stop gerrymandering by states and require more states to get pre-clearance before enacting restrictive voting laws. We need to strengthen the Voting Rights Act to stop these abuses of the democratic process.

**Environment:** If we do not take action on climate change we are condemning future generations to hell-on-earth. We have passed 400 parts per million of CO2, something that hasn’t happened in millions of years. Our billions of emissions are breaking the climate cycle. We must impose carbon emissions limits so that we can reduce global warming.

**Foreign Interventions:** Only rarely should the U.S. engage in military conflict. I opposed the war in Iraq as it had nothing to do with 9/11. The Afghanistan Al Qaida war was poorly managed. In the future, the biggest threat will continue to be terrorist

Continued on next page
groups and possibly China as it expands its influence. War with Iran would be even more deadly to our troops then Iraq and should be avoided.

**Other Issues:** America has fallen from No. 1 in education to far down the list. We have a “skills gap” so that over 2 million high-tech jobs cannot be filled. We MUST invest in education to lead the world again. Our infrastructure is falling apart; we have invested trillions in building roads and bridges overseas but failed to do so here. Invest in JOBS and increase the minimum wage.

**Education:** Graduated Tascosa High School, Amarillo, TX BBA, Accounting, University of Texas at Austin JD with honors, Texas Tech University

**Experience:** Fortune 500 international negotiator (nearly 10 years) International Attorney for small USA business and individuals (over 50 countries), creating jobs HERE. TV Terrorism Analyst (1991 Gulf War, 9/11) CEO/Founder, Armor Glass International, Inc.

**Harry Kim (D)**

**Experience:** Lifetime serving the healthcare needs of my community.

**Gridlock:** Antagonism and obstructionism only adds more anger and objections. We must parry this partisanship by encouraging mutual participation and bipartisan promotions. To give does not demonstrate giving in. It does not indicate an inferior predicament but rather a superior position. If elected, I plan to reach out to all members of both houses to strive for the greater good.

**Immigration:** Immigration is an issue that touches us all. We are a nation of immigrants. A fact that should not escape us. The issue at hand is not whether we get there piecemeal or comprehensively, but that we get there.

**Elections:** By declaring Section 4(b) unconstitutional, it made Section 5 preclearance non-effective. This can be remedied with a new coverage formula. However, although supreme court has concluded 5/4, one must ponder, does Sec 4(b) really exceed Congress’s authority to implement Fourteenth & Fifteenth Amendments. Right to vote is and must be an unalienable right for all Americans.

**Environment:** Attempts to control carbon emissions is in everyone’s interest. After all, we humans have an unfalling insistence in wanting to breathe, not to mention the pervasive if not pernicious problem of Climate Change. Question of Carbon, eventually reconnects with renewable energy, the success of which depends on its economic viability.

**Foreign Intervention:** U.S. should always maintain the option of military intervention, but only as a last resort. We must assess the direct nature of threat to this country, as well as our obligation, whether it be alliance or humanitarian.

**Other Issues:** Equal and fair opportunity for all, regardless of Race, gender, background or orientation. Right to choose. More accommodating and adaptive educational system that addresses the needs of our students in the current global environment. If elected, I plan to introduce a bill to reform our educ. system in a comprehensive and progressive manner to better prepare our students.

**Education:** B.A. - Columbia University in the City of New York. M.D.- Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick/N.J.

**Kesha Rogers (D)**

**Gridlock:** My own Democratic Party must convict Obama on real impeachment charges, then vote up a bipartisan Glass-Steagall Act to crush Wall Street’s power over our economy, and use federal credit to fund strategic nationwide jobs programs in water infrastructure, nuclear power, space exploration, and similar high production areas. This will stop gridlock over partisan nonsense.

**Immigration:** Neither the Dream Act, nor building a wall, will fix the immigration issue, because it is driven by flaws built into “free trade” globalization. The USA must strategize with Mexico to cancel NAFTA, crush the Wall Street-sponsored drug cartels, and collaborate as mutually sovereign republics on shared economic solutions, e.g., water, energy, food, and future prosperity.

**Elections:** The inalienable right to vote is based only on being a citizen, not on social concepts like race, or any other biological/political orientation. Voting districts should be drawn according to the U.S. Constitution: simple population density, and not reflect any bias of demographics. Primaries must allow individuals to win by their policies, not force closed party loyalty.

**Environment:** The geological record of the biosphere disagrees with these scientists, and the President’s plan. Global climate is driven by a cosmic environment of no less than our entire solar system, including the reality of impacts from asteroids and comets, extreme space weather, and galactic shifts in radiation. I demand full funding for NASA, to expand our understanding of this.

**Foreign Intervention:** Diplomacy works. We should only intervene militarily if attacked. Obama’s Responsibility to Protect doctrine is anti-American, and would have provoked thermonuclear WWII with Russia if used in Syria. Bush and Obama’s “War on Terror” is perpetuating the terrorism funded by “allies” like Saudi Arabia. Stop using drones to go abroad in search of monsters to destroy.

**Other Issues:** I’m reviving the JFK-FDR tradition in Texas by rallying the farmers, industrialists, scientists & artists, to reassert the American tradition of progress, not seen for 50 years, since the leadership of a real President, John F. Kennedy. Nobody out there mistakes the fakery of Obama with the optimism JFK represented. Long term progress must supplant Wall St. profiteering.

**Education:** I was born and raised in Texas, and have lived in Houston nearly all my life. In 2001, I graduated from Texas State University at San Marcos with a B.A. in Political Science and Speech Communications.

**Experience:** In 2010 and 2012, I won the Democratic nomination in the 22nd Congressional District on the program “Save NASA Impinch Obama”, without any organizational or financial backing from the party.

No response received by print deadline: Curt Cleaver (R), John Cornyn (R), Chris Mapp (R), Dwayne Stovall (R), Maxey Marie Scherr (D)

See VOTE411 for any later responses.
Continued from previous page

should honor three principles: 1) secure the border and increase interior enforcement; 2) put the interests of American workers first; and 3) give preference to immigrants who have played by the rules and waited their turn in line over those who are in our country illegally. Comprehensive immigration reform would violate all three of these principles.

There are no deadlines to secure the border. It forces unemployed Americans to compete with millions of illegal immigrants for scarce jobs. Legalizing millions of illegal immigrants gives them work permits and treats them better than those who have been waiting their turn in line.

**Environment:** The EPA has a worthy mission, but its policy making process is flawed, which often incites more harm on Americans and the environment. As Chair of the Science, Space and Technology Committee, I work to protect small business owners from frivolous regulations that cost jobs and stifle the economy. The EPA has drafted regulations giving the agency control over man-made and natural bodies of water in the U.S., including those on private property. To force the EPA to make public the secret data it uses to justify costly and unnecessary regulations, I issued the first subpoena by the Science panel in 21 years. The EPA should make public the data it relies upon when issuing regulations.

**Discourse:** I was the only Chairman to hold a bipartisan retreat at the beginning of this Congress. In the last Congress the Judiciary Committee enacted more bills than any other committee. I have co-sponsored legislation with Democrats, including the American Invents Act with Sen. Patrick Leahy, the Child Protection Act with Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, and I have spoken at the Citizens' Civility Symposium with Rep. Henry Cuellar.

**Michael J. Smith**

No response

**DISTRICT 25**

**Stuart Gourd (D)**

**Education:** One year at UT El Paso, BA from UT Austin, JD from UT School of Law

**Experience:** I worked for over 20 years as an unemployment hearing officer and supervisor for the Texas Workforce Commission. I was president of the JJ Seabrook Neighborhood Association, a board member of the Chestnut Senior Housing Board, a founding member of the East MLK Combined Planning Area Contact Team.

**Budget:** Congress should consistently pass long-term budgets that reflect the concerns of the people, and not just push out short-term budgetary measures in pieces as political wedges. A good example is the “People’s Budget.” We as a people need effective tax policy and economic policy that adequately funds our social services and does not starve the ability of the government to maintain our infrastructure. We need to implement policies that create jobs that pay an adequate, living wage in areas where there are great needs, such as clean energy, infrastructure repair, and health care. Our tax policy should protect the vulnerable and ask more from those who are at the top of the economic ladder.

**Immigration:** We certainly need comprehensive immigration reform. We have many immigrants who are making positive contributions to our society, such as paying into Social Security, and providing work that is essential to our communities. It is only fair that we offer people a hand up when they have invested in our communities in a positive fashion. Under many circumstances, those whose families have been torn apart deserve a chance to reunify when it would create a positive benefit. There should be pathways to citizenship for those who have worked hard for long periods of time or minors who are here through no fault of their own.

**Environment:** First of all, I think that we should try to reduce our dependence on coal plants and replace that energy demand with as much renewable energy as we can. There is a lot of potential for solar energy, wind energy, geothermal energy, and even energy from ocean waves. We can also replace some of the energy generation with energy generated from biomass, preferably used locally in a sustainable fashion. But in the meantime, we need to improve the efficiency of coal plants, reduce the output of toxic materials, and do everything we can to capture carbon emissions.

**Discourse:** The tone of discourse in Congress has obviously damaged our ability to pass productive measures. We need to all do more to reach out to people who disagree with us, build personal relationships with them, and constantly try to find common ground when we can. We need to be able to split the difference on fiscal matters in some cases. But we also need to have strong negotiating positions and call anyone out who is “moving the bar.” Change is sometimes incremental, and when we have chances to pass small measures that advance our interests, rather than that large, sweeping measures that might not be accepted by minds that differ, we must not hesitate to do so.

**Marco Montoya (D)**

**Education:** Ph.D. (Socio-demography); M.P.H. (Health Administration); M.A. (Ed Psychology); Diploma (3ID NCO Academy); Diploma (National Defense University) and Distinguished Graduate Diploma (US Naval War College).

**Experience:** I was a US Army Staff Sergeant, Reserve 1st Lieutenant, and US Public Health Service Lt Commander retiring as a Captain. I served as Assistant Commissioner for Health Affairs, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. In 1999 I was employed by Texas State University and currently self-employed.

**Budget:** Government works better and costs less per spent dollar by being effective, efficient, and targeting specific national goals. Legislated spending must be responsible, accessible, accountable, and transparent with oversight to improve laws, not political showmanship. Public Confidence demands Congress address private, public, individual and multi-county district needs in partnership with our business community. We must balance the budget and national debt with bipartisan approaches that maintain trust in Social Security and Medicare. A sustainable federal budget requires eliminating sequester-type actions that disrupt agency spending plans and reviewing the Tax Code itself.

**Immigration:** The Nation deserves comprehensive immigration reform inclusive of family reunification and a pathway to citizenship. Family reunification in a timely, humane manner should be the first step. Then, the pathway starts with background checks, an application fee and income tax payment for the previous year. The plan should be feasible, simple, and fair for the individuals involved while reflecting American Values. Due process must be balanced against National Security needs. Foreign aid should help reduce future immigration pressures. Immigration law should reflect 21st century economic needs eliminating annual country caps with visa system reform. The family unit should be the priority.

**Environment:** Reducing natural gas and coal plant CO2 emission is a reasonable goal with a 40% recapture. With 19 Texas coal-fired power plants, we must reduce particulate pollution. Texas has lowered air pollution, but more is needed to address continued health issues and reduce particulate pollution with multiple programs. Reducing smog producing hydrocarbons improves public health and avoids greenhouse effects. Effective air pollution reduction programs include new car mileage labeling and fuel-efficient vehicle tax credits. The Clean Cities program promoting alternative fuels and alternative transportation systems should be continued as should CAFE mileage goals and state emissions programs.

**Discourse:** Few of us are satisfied with Congress. We are frustrated and angry at the negative public discourse. Representative government of the people has been replaced by ideological demands with party loyalty above bipartisan actions. The “Taxpayer Protection Pledge” has achieved a higher value than the Oath of Office. I would start the change by having a direct visit with each of the other 35 Texas Representatives. I would take a district-based need list (e.g. industrial transformation or job creation), and invite each to pick a topic and co-write the goal, objectives, cost, funding source and timeline for a co-sponsored bill. Fact checking must also be a high priority for all elected officials.

**Roger Williams (R)**

Unopposed

**DISTRICT 27**

**Blake Farenthol (R)**

Unopposed

**Wesley Reed (D)**

Unopposed

**DISTRICT 31**

**John Carter (R)**

Unopposed

**Louie Minor (D)**

Unopposed

**DISTRICT 35**

**Lloyd Doggett (D)**

Unopposed

**Susan Narvaiz (R)**

Unopposed

**DISTRICT 10**

**Michael McCaul (R)**

Unopposed

**Tawana Walter-Cadien (D)**

Unopposed
STATEWIDE RACES

TEXAS SENATE

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

Water: Considering the predictions of statewide water shortages and the passage of the constitutional amendment creating the State Water Implementation Fund (Proposition 6 in the November 2013 election), what overview should the Legislature exercise pertaining to the newly appointed water committee to address future needs of competing water users?

Campaign finance: What kind of campaign financial disclosure do you support as a means to ensure an honest, fair, and transparent electoral and legislative system?

Human trafficking: Child abuse and human trafficking are known, widespread problems across the state. What state services need to be strengthened to provide a safety net for vulnerable children?

Schools: What are your legislative priorities for ensuring that all our children are well educated?

Health care: What are your legislative priorities for ensuring that all our children have adequate health care?

DISTRICT 5

Charles Schwertner (R)

Unopposed

Joel Shapiro (D)

Unopposed

DISTRICT 14

Kirk Watson (D)

Unopposed

DISTRICT 25

Daniel Boone (D)

Unopposed

Donna Campbell (R)

Education: B.S. Central State University; M.N. Texas Woman’s University; M.D. Texas Tech Health Science Center; General Surgical Internship, Methodist Hospital of Dallas; Residency in Ophthalmology, University of Texas Health Science Center Houston

Experience: Dr. Donna Campbell has served in the Texas Senate since 2012, when she defeated Jeff Wentworth. In 2013, she was appointed by Governor Perry to the Southern Regional Education Board Legislative Advisory Council. She also serves on the Transportation, Education, and Veterans Affairs Committees.

Water: With rapid population growth occurring in Texas, investing in water is important. Water infrastructure projects should be funded using a bottom-up approach that involves local stakeholders and addresses key regions of population growth as well as support for agriculture and rural areas. Funding should also take into account the project’s viability, the needs of the region, and when the project would be up and running. Conservation must also be a part of the mix. Now that Texas voters have approved Proposition 6, government transparency and accountability are key to adequately address our state’s water needs.

Campaign finance: I believe candidates for office should fully disclose campaign finances. However, I do not believe the powers of government should be used against the people to force political groups to reveal the identity of individual donors. This infringes on free speech protected by the Constitution. As your Senator, I will protect every Texan’s right to participate in the political process without being ostracized or intimidated for their beliefs. There is a reason we vote by secret ballot and it keeps our elections fair and honest.

Human trafficking: Human trafficking has been identified as one of the fastest growing crimes in our state and it is of great concern to me. Human trafficking is cruel, inhumane, and puts children’s lives at risk. I strongly support stricter penalties for those who engage in human trafficking as well as stronger law enforcement efforts so that agencies can share information regarding crimes linked to trafficking like child abuse and prostitution. This will help better identify traffickers and where they operate. We can also improve efforts to oversee foster care and streamline adoption to rescue children from these tragic circumstances.

Schools: As a member of the Senate Education Committee, I have made educating our children a top priority. Last session, we passed sweeping reforms to increase rigor and flexibility while making a high school diploma more valuable. I will continue to support positive reforms that increase choice and competition while increasing incentives for charitable clinics to operate in underserved areas.

Elisa Chan (R)

Education: Elisa attended the Beijing University of Technology, where she received her B.S. in Computer Software Engineering in 1987. She migrated to the U.S. in 1988 and earned her Master’s degree in computer science at the University of Texas at San Antonio in 1993. She proudly became a U.S. citizen in 1999.

Experience: Elisa and her husband Clifford co-founded Unintech Consulting Engineers, a civil engineering design and consulting firm. In 2009, Elisa was elected to represent the most conservative district on the San Antonio City Council. She won two repeated landslides before seeking the Senate District 25 seat.

Water: I believe that strong fiscal conservatives keep a tight reign on the budget to ensure we invest in the very crucial items impacting our future. The future of our lives and economy depends on having a strong, reliable water supply. The legislature has a duty to think forward and help ensure this reality. This means ensuring that appropriated funds are utilized to the best of their ability to address the critical financing of water projects across the state. In practice, if after the funds are developed and there is need for legislative reworking of statutes, then the legislature is responsible for working towards a greater solution. We are lucky to have great local officials working together.

Campaign finance: As a strong conservative, I believe that a transparent, open government functions best and, thankfully, Texas is one of the places that does this well; however, I believe we can always improve. When it comes to campaign finances, I believe we’ve got to be as transparent as we can be. In addition to the documents we already disclose, I believe it is important that voters also know about lawmakers’ travel expenses paid by a third party and gifts with estimated values in excess of $100 received.

Human trafficking: Child abuse is one of the most egregious crimes we see today, and human trafficking is a modern day slavery that must be stamped out. I am committed to providing the Attorney General’s Office all the resources and legislative flexibility necessary to put an end to child abuse. At the same time, with human trafficking, we need to truly secure our border, across which majority of the trafficking occurs. Securing the border is as much a safety and security issue as it is an immigration issue, and, as a conservative, I believe we must finally tackle this problem.

Schools: A: Conservatives are right on education. We need to increase local control so that schools and teachers can flexibly innovate and find the best ways to reach out to struggling children. We must also encourage greater parent participation in the education process. All of us have a duty to our children and I believe we must lead by example and put our students first in every decision we make.

Health care: Our top priority must be stopping Obamacare. This disastrous law is making the already broken health care situation even worse for families who have had their jobs cut, hours reduced, and have lost their health care coverage due to this disastrous legislation. We’ve got to stop Obamacare and find a free market solution that allows people to choose the coverage they need at an affordable rate. Additionally, it’s great that Texas did not expand Medicaid on the federal government’s dangerous terms, which would have left our state footing the bill for a broken system. If the federal government was truly concerned with helping our poor and sick through Medicaid, they would offer Texas block grant.

Mike Novak (R)

No Response
**STATEWIDE RACES**

### TEXAS HOUSE

**DISTRICT 136**

John H. Bucy III (D)  
Unopposed

Tony Dale (R)  
Unopposed

**DISTRICT 17**

Carolyn Banks (D)  
Unopposed

Tim Kleinschmidt (R)  
Unopposed

**DISTRICT 20**

Marsha Farney (R)  
Unopposed

Stephen M. Wyman (D)  
Unopposed

**DISTRICT 45**

Jason A. Isaac (R)  
Unopposed

**DISTRICT 46**

Dawnna Dukes (D)  
Unopposed

**DISTRICT 47**

Paul D. Workman (R)  
Unopposed

**DISTRICT 48**

Donna Howard (D)  
Unopposed

**DISTRICT 49**

Elliott Naishtat (D)  
Unopposed

**DISTRICT 50**

Celia Israel (D)  
Unopposed

Mike VanDeWalle (R)  
Unopposed

**DISTRICT 51**

Eddie Rodriguez (D)  
Unopposed

**DISTRICT 52**

Larry Gonzales (R)  
Unopposed

Chris Osborn (D)  
Unopposed

### QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

**Jobs:** What do you think are the most important factors in ensuring that Texas has a vibrant, well-educated workforce for the future?

**Health Care:** According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Texas has the nation’s highest percentage of uninsured residents. What, if anything, should the state do to enable more people to have access to adequate health care?

**Education:** What, if anything, needs to be done to improve the quality of education in Texas?

**Transportation:** What is the best way for Texas to meet its growing transportation needs?

**Environment:** What should be the governor’s role in balancing environmental concerns with competing interests?

**Other Issues:** What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

---

**Greg Abbott (R)**

**Jobs:** Texas must continue leading the nation in job creation. All students should graduate high school ready for a career or college, with strong backgrounds in STEM subjects, literacy skills and virtues like determination and honesty. Higher education must be more affordable and relevant. Community Colleges must equip students with marketable skills that meet workforce needs.

**Health Care:** Put patients and doctors in charge of healthcare decisions; not bureaucrats. Allow insurance sales across state lines; allow individuals, families and small businesses to pool risks; increase portability by tying insurance and tax credits to individuals, not employers; expand health savings accounts; use block grants for Medicaid. Have a high-risk pool for those in need.

**Education:** Texas must strive to be top-ranked in education. Greg Abbott will focus on excellence, trust and restoring real local control rather than imposing meaningless tests, regulations and mandates. Expanded public school choice, mentoring for teachers, leadership training for principals, and digital learning opportunities are critical to building a 21st Century education system.

**Transportation:** Greg Abbott advocates measures to ensure adequate funding for Texas transportation without new debt, taxes, or fees: State Highway Fund monies should not be used to pay for other agencies; money dedicated to roads should be spent on roads. Part of the motor vehicle tax should be spent on roads, in addition to any funds generated by a November 2014 ballot amendment.

**Environment:** This is not an either-or proposition: families can enjoy both economic growth and ecological preservation. While Texas leads the nation in job creation, Texas is also a leader in ozone reduction, cutting NOx emissions by 64% and sulfur dioxide by 32%. Texas leads the nation in both traditional energy production and alternative energy.

**Other Issues:** Keep Texas the national leader in job creation. Keep the Texas economy #1 in the nation by prioritizing roads, water, and schools, not by raising taxes but by setting real spending limits and controlling debt. Inspire a generation of children to graduate college-ready or career-ready by empowering parents, teachers and principals. Secure the border and keep Texans safe.


---

**Lisa Fritsch (R)**

**Jobs:** A strong family unit, a collaborative community, and a quality education ensures a vibrant workforce for the future. We need an educational system that targets the individual and collective needs of its students. Not all children learn the same. And, not all students share the goal of being on the University track. Education must also focus on vocational and technical skill (///)

**Health Care:** As a Texas resident and mother who bears the responsibility and burden of paying out of pocket for health insurance. We are not all lucky enough to be covered under the state insurance plans with the luxury of not worrying about this cost. I don’t believe in one size fits all, centralized solutions for health care. The recent roll-out problems of the “Affordable” Care Act (///)

**Education:** We must empower our teachers to teach and not instruct tests. Get back to basics of teaching math, history, science, and language arts. Critical thinking skills paired with core knowledge is also essential. Intelligence plus character to bolster a solid education in order to battle the moral and spiritual battles of the world. Parental involvement and choice keeps students (///)

**Transportation:** Demand on our transportation system is outpacing revenue/funding. We should examine dedicating all state motor fuels tax revenue to transportation and look at ways to increase TxDOT efficiency.

Continued on next page
Continued from previous page

Environment: I don’t accept the premise of the question. I don’t accept that EPA overreach is necessarily good for the environment. I support our desire in Texas to be energy independent. I will continue to support our efforts in Texas to be energy independent and to guard our natural resources. Our rainy day fund depends on this as well as our ability to be the 8th largest economy. We (///)

Other Issues: I believe addressing the 18.8 percent of Texans living in poverty by providing a path towards entrepreneurialism and free market capitalism. I also believe we must get real about addressing immigration reform by securing our borders and having the freedom and power to document guest workers. Additionally we must address the Life issue in a way that invests in our young (///)

Education: BA, Japanese Language and Literature University of Texas at Austin, 1997


Secede Kilgore (R)

Jobs: The US empire hinders the Texas workforce by regulations and by stealing money from families that could use it for education. Therefore Texas needs to secede from the US empire to have a vibrant, well-educated workforce for the future.

Health Care: The US empire hinders Texas health care by regulations and by stealing money from families that could be used for health care. Therefore Texas needs to secede from the US empire to enable more people to have access to adequate health care.

Education: The US empire hinders Texas education by regulations and by stealing money from families that could use it for education. Therefore Texas needs to secede from the US empire to improve the quality of education in Texas.

Transportation: The US empire hinders Texas transportation by regulations and by stealing money from families that could use it for transportation. Therefore Texas needs to secede from the US empire to meet its growing transportation needs.

Environment: The governor should lead Texas toward secession. Then Texas can balance environmental concerns with competing interests without US interference.

Other Issues: The US empire oppresses Texas by murdering babies, excessive taxation, socialist healthcare, socialist security, socialist education, etc. Texas needs to address all these issues without US interference. SECED!

Education: Mostly the Bible.


Reynaldo “Ray” Madrigal (D)

Jobs: Education is the most important factor in ensuring that Texas has a vibrant well educated work force is that all students must graduate from high school so they can have a fair chance at going to college and Universities. The military is recommended because a person learns a trade and also earns college hours for when he/she leaves the military there are also many trades (///)

Health Care: The problem is low wages and that can be corrected by increasing the hourly wage plus have the cost of insurance set on a sliding scale according to a persons annual income and how many dependents in each household. This would insure more equality in how insurance premiums are determined and surely this would increase the number of insured people in Texas. The insurance co (///)

Education: Increase the teachers salary to be on par with the national level so that they don’t have to take a second job to make ends meet, they must be totally dedicated to their profession of teaching to improve the quality of education of all the children in Texas. The fact that many children are absent from school must not be tolerated when schools have truant officers. no, (///)

Transportation: Texas needs to change it’s ways of doing business and create 1.Road Transportation, 2. Air Transportation, 3. Rail Transportation and 4. Water transportation. Each department would be responsible to its board of directors and insure that they would meet the future requirements of the states growing transportation needs as the state continues to grow more than any state

Environment: The Governors role should always be the safety of all it’s citizens and insure that the environmental protection agency does it’s job. We Texans do not want to see another problem like the one in West, Texas. There needs to be a balance between our growing industry and the health of all it’s citizens. There has to be a happy medium for all Texans to prosper together. Safe.

Other Issues: Transparency in government so all citizens know that we have open government for all to feel safe in Texas. We must improve on our open records enforcements to insure that people get their requests as soon as possible. Texas needs to have better relations with Washington, D.C. and Mexico so we provide for better education for all of Texas children. We share 1400 mile bor (///)

Education: Graduate Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, Graduate Del Mar College, U.S. Army H.S., Corpus Christi Barber College, Leadership Corpus Christi Class V, Del Carnage, French language while stationed in Paris, and New York City School ofPhotogra. (///)

Experience: Military, Barbering, Photography, Promoting, Television Producer, Acting, Advertising, Boxing Promoter, Community Festivals, Bingos, Political, Fifty Years Business Experience, Boards and Commissions, American Legion Post 364 and Most Important- LI (///)

No response received by print deadline: Miriam Martinez (R), Wendy R. Davis (D).

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Four-year term. Must be at least 30 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Texas resident for the five years immediately preceding the election. Among duties as part of both the Executive and Legislative branches: assumes powers of Governor when Governor is absent or unable to serve; acts as President of the Senate; by statute, is a member of several Legislative branch boards and committees. The salary is that of a state senator when serving as President of the Senate and that of the Governor when serving as Governor.

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

Transportation: What is the best way for Texas to meet its growing transportation needs?

Education: What, if anything, needs to be done to improve the quality of education in Texas?

Human Trafficking: Human trafficking is widespread in Texas and its major cities are among some of the nation’s largest hubs. Do you support increased funding to combat human trafficking? Why or why not?

Two-thirds Rule: The rule that requires two-thirds of the Senators to agree to bring an issue to the floor is credited with encouraging Senators to work together and across party lines. The two-thirds rule typically operates during regular sessions and sometimes but not always during special sessions. Under what circumstances would you use or not use the two-thirds rule?

Function: What do you think is the most important function of the Lieutenant Governor during the legislative session?

Other Issues: What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

David Dewhurst (R)

Transportation: I will eliminate the last half of the diversion of Fund 6 dollars to DPS for highway safety. I will also reduce the destruction of new and current highways by overweight trucks that now represent, with TxDOT overhead, more than 70% of TxDOT’s annual budget. I oppose issuing new debt to build roads, raising tolls on roads and increasing taxes.

Education: A good education is the key to opportunity. I support increasing parental and local control of Texas public education, and directing more money into the classroom by prioritizing current state funding. I support strong accountability while reducing teaching to the test, and ensuring world class teachers by utilizing distance learning where appropriate.

Human Trafficking: Human trafficking can be largely eliminated by securing our southern border. As Lt. Governor I have helped lead over the last five years by appropriating almost $800 million to secure the border. Working with the DPS I have called on the legislature to fund closing our southern border to human trafficking, illegal immigration and drug smuggling.

Two-thirds Rule: The two-thirds rule is a Senators’ rule, meaning it’s up to the members of the Senate to make that decision. If the Democrats continue to use the two-thirds rule to block the will of the majority of Texans, instead of negotiating in the best interest of all Texans, I will recommend a 60 percent rule during regular sessions, if Senators agree.

Continued on next page
STATEWIDE RACES

Continued from previous page

**Function:** The most important function of the Lt. Governor is to lead the Senate in passing good, conservative legislation. The Lt. Governor also helps kill bad bills and tax increases, plus leads on the state budget by keeping spending under population growth and inflation. I have successfully balanced the last six budgets without increasing taxes.

**Other Issues:** I will continue to work to fight Obamacare. This past session I was successful in passing legislation that stopped the expansion of Medicare, which is Obamacare, and stopped our state of Texas from running the state Obamacare exchange.

**Education:** University of Arizona; Attended Georgetown University Law School
**Experience:** Current Texas Lieutenant Governor (2003 – Present); Former Texas Land Commissioner (1999-2003); Founder of Falcon Seaboard, an oil and gas and investments company

Dan Patrick (R)

**Transportation:** Our state’s transportation debt is at a historic level because we don’t make it a priority. Gas taxes are no longer a reliable means of funding transportation. That is why I support dedicating our vehicle sales tax revenue to roads. As Lt. Governor, I will reduce our transportation funding debt and move back to a pay-as-you-go system.

**Education:** I believe we must set standards high and give our students and teachers the flexibility to meet them. As Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, I led the effort to reduce our standardized testing, improve the career/tech options, increase school accountability and provide better options to families like charter schools. I will continue to fight Common Core and CSCOPE.

**Human Trafficking:** Yes, I have passed legislation to increase penalties on coyotes who transport illegal aliens into Texas. I voted against the 2013 budget because it had a reported reduction in funding for border security and fighting organized crime. I will make border security a funding priority and end the illicit activity that currently takes place along our border.

**Two-thirds Rule:** I would encourage the Texas Senate to replace the two-thirds rule with a three-fifths rule to match the United States Senate. As a freshman in 2007, I tried to change the two-thirds rule and cast the sole vote. Since then, I have raised support to alter ten senators for this policy change and have raised awareness of this rule that frustrates the will of the majority.

**Function:** The Lt Governor must represent the will of the people who elected him. The Lt Governor should keep the tax burden low and ensure that the Texas economy continues to grow. The Lt Governor must lead by example and respect all citizens and Senators and operate the Senate professionally. Lastly, he should work with leadership to put the best interest of Texas above politics.

**Other Issues:** My priorities as Lt. Governor will be to secure the border, pass school choice, pass spending limit reform, and reduce the tax burdens through property tax relief and franchise tax abolition.

**Education:** University of Maryland-Baltimore
**Experience:** I have been an entrepreneur my whole life. I started working as a TV sports anchor in Scranton, NJ and landed in Houston. I worked as a sports anchor for several years and got in the radio business where I have worked as a broadcaster for 30+ years.

Todd Staples (R)

**Transportation:** We must establish & prioritize within-budget funding for a long-term plan for transportation & water infrastructure needs, end transportation budget diversions, prioritize transportation projects based on public safety criteria, prohibit conversion of existing roads to toll roads and dedicate future growth of the motor vehicle sales tax to fund transportation projects.

**Education:** Funding schools must be student focused, support quality teachers & direct dollars to classrooms. We must reward success & establish a constitutionally sound, fiscally conservative & locally driven education system. Funding is over-reliant on property taxes & new funding methods should move away from property taxes. Any swap must not increase overall burden on taxpayers.

**Human Trafficking:** Human trafficking is a tragic epidemic. We must use every avenue to stop this travesty including within-budget prioritization for new funding. Evaluation of current laws & focusing on the most effective methods to combat trafficking will guide any funding decisions. Also, law enforcement must be strategic & pro-active to target & dismantle human trafficking organizations.

**Two-thirds Rule:** I support lowering the threshold or eliminating the two-thirds rule to ensure the passage of priority legislation.

Allowing a liberal minority to thwart significant legislation is not leadership. I will ensure leadership and results guide the Senate and not hide behind procedural hurdles.

**Function:** Providing leadership & getting results. The Lt. Gov. must set the tone, goals & expectations of the Senate. I will first determine how many committees can be eliminated in an effort to slow the growth of government through legislation. I will only appoint committee chairs who will stand by me in solving the state’s challenges with a conservative, free market approach.

**Other Issues:** Border security & immigration reform is paramount to the future success of Texas, and I have developed a 6-point plan which starts with border security and does NOT include amnesty. Real issues deserve results and leaders who can deliver them. I have outlined my Contract with Texans which clearly defines my priorities as Lt. Gov. To learn more, visit www.toddstaples.com.

**Education:** Graduated with Honors with a degree in Agriculture Economics from Texas A&M University
**Experience:** Business owner, real estate appraiser, broker & licensed property tax professional, rancher; Former member, Palestine city council (Mayor Pro-Temp); Former member, TX House of Representatives; Former member, TX Senate; TX Commissioner of Agriculture

Leticia Van de Putte (D)

Unopposed

| No response received by print deadline: Jerry Patterson (R) See VOTE411 for any later responses. |

**Texas Attorney General**

Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Texas resident for at least 12 months. Among duties: lawyer for the state; defends the laws and Constitution of the state; represents the state in litigation; approves public bond issues; enforces health, safety and consumer regulations; collects court-ordered child support; administers Crime Victims’ Compensation Fund. Current annual salary: $150,000

**Human Trafficking:** Human trafficking is widespread in Texas and its major cities are among some of the nation’s largest hubs. What is needed to combat human trafficking in Texas?

**State/Federal:** The Attorney General’s Office has been actively involved in questions of state and federal jurisdiction. What do you see as the role of the Attorney General in these issues?

**Responsibilities:** Which advisory and enforcement responsibilities of the Attorney General’s office will need the most attention and resources in the next four years, and how would you address them?

**Other Issues:** What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

Dan Branch (R)

**Human Trafficking:** The Attorney General must prosecute online predators, advocate for children of deadbeat parents and prevent human trafficking. Since 2003, the Legislature has invested $800+ million in border security and I have supported 15 anti-trafficking bills. As AG, I will call upon the U.S. to secure the border and reimburse Texas for law enforcement and correctional costs incurred.

**State/Federal:** The Attorney General is the last line of defense against federal overreach. Whether through the IRS, DOJ, NSA or EPA, in recent years the federal government has repeatedly encroached on individual liberties and the rights of states. The AG has a constitutional obligation to defend Texas from federal or state encroachment and defend the rights of all Texans.

**Responsibilities:** Democracy depends on free and fair elections. Free and fair elections demand that Texas enfranchise all lawful voters and ensure ballot integrity. To protect the sanctity of the vote, I coauthored the Texas Voter ID law and support its vigorous defense. As AG, I will fight for ballot integrity and create a Voter Fraud Task Force within the Office of Attorney General.

**Other Issues:** The federal government has repeatedly proven itself unwilling or unable to secure our international border. In the Legislature, I’ve raised penalties for gang crimes and enhanced border law enforcement. But we must do more. As AG, I will shift a significant amount resources toward securing our border and protecting...
Continued from previous page

our citizens from border-related crime.

**Education:** J.D., Southern Methodist University School of Law; Institute on Comparative Political & Economic Systems, Georgetown University; B.A., highest honors, B.S., highest honors, Oklahoma Christian University

**Experience:** Member, Texas House since ‘03; Chair, Higher Ed since ’09; Member, LBB since ’07; 30 yrs practicing attorney, 22 yrs preeminence ranking; Clerk, Chief Justice, TX Supreme Ct; Shareholder, Winstead PC; Founder, Langley & Branch; Associate, Baker Botts

Barry Smitherman (R)

Human Trafficking: Increased prosecution of border crime is needed. Border crime spreads through the rest of our state & human trafficking is a problem. I’ll create a border security task force to restore law and order to the border area. This task force of law enforcement professionals and assistant attorneys general, working with local district attorneys, will prosecute human traffickers.

State/Federal: Texas must stand up against federal government overreach. I am the only candidate with a record of fighting against federal government overreach. I am an attorney who worked in the private sector for 17 years before entering the public sector. I am a former Harris County Assistant District Attorney with a conservative record leading the Public Utility Commission and the Railroad Commission.

Sam Houston (D)

Unopposed

- No response received by print deadline: Ken Paxton (R)

Texas Comptroller

**Functions:**

- **Energy Revenue:** The Land Office currently sees the development of renewable energy on state lands as a sustainable source of earnings for the Permanent School Fund (PSF). Do you believe these renewable energy sources can sustain PSF revenues? Why or why not?
- **Coastal Lands:** Texas is among the five states receiving federal funding through the Restore Act passed by the Senate in 2011. How should this funding be used to improve the existing threats to Texas coastal lands?
- **Wetlands:** Much emphasis is being placed by ecologists and environmental groups on restoring and protecting the coastal wetlands to alleviate damage from major storms; however, developers and home owners want to build in these areas. How would you address the concerns of these divergent interest groups?

**Questions for Candidates**

**Energy Revenue:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike Collier (D)</td>
<td>Unopposed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No response received by print deadline: Glenn Hegar (R), Harvey Hilderbrand (R), Debra Medina (R), Raul Torres (R)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts**

Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Texas resident for at least 12 months. Among duties: collects taxes and fees owed the state; reports the state’s financial condition to the Legislature; audits the performance of Texas schools. Current annual salary: $150,000

Mike Collier (D)

Unopposed

- No response received by print deadline: Glenn Hegar (R), Harvey Hilderbrand (R), Debra Medina (R), Raul Torres (R)

**How to Donate to the League of Women Voters**

Donate to the LWV-Austin Education Fund to help Make Democracy Work throughout the Austin Area. Tax deductible contributions to the Education Fund support expanded distribution of the nonpartisan Voters Guide throughout the Austin Area and on our web site.

**Call us at:** (512) 451-6710
**Email us at:** lwvaustin@lwvaustin.org
**Go to our Web site:** www.lwvaustin.org

**Texas Commissioner General Land Office**

Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Texas resident for at least 12 months. Among duties: management of state lands and mineral-right properties totaling 20.3 million acres and providing revenues for the Permanent School Fund; repository of state land documents; responsible for the prevention of and response to oil spills that occur on “submerged” lands out to 10.3 miles in the Gulf of Mexico. The Commissioner serves as a chairman of seven state boards, including the School Land Board, the Veterans Land Board, and the Coastal Coordination Council. Current annual salary: $137,500

**Questions for Candidates**

**Energy Revenue:** Our duty is to maximize revenue from public lands. We will maximize revenue by using the right production method for the right land. In many cases this is oil and gas production. In other cases, it is solar, wind, or biomass production. I will ensure that we are leasing the land for the right purpose at the right time, in order to maximize revenue for Texans.

**Coastal Lands:** These funds should be used to understand and mitigate threats to our coast. As a first priority, funding should address any threats remaining from the oil spill. Second, threats from recurring hurricanes and coastal erosion should receive our attention. It is vital that all funds be used with full transparency and accountability.

**Wetlands:** It is very important that such decisions are made with full respect for the wishes of Texans. Texans understand that robust economic development creates opportunities to help implement reasonable ecological protections. But we must not elevate obscure ecological protections over vital economic development.

**Functions:** The vital work of this office is to manage public lands and generate revenue for education, deliver Texas veterans benefits, and preserve Texas history. We must also become more efficient and reduce waste and red-tape. Finally, government agencies always seek to expand their size and duties. We must restrain government to its authorized and constitutional role.

**Other Issues:** We must champion conservative solutions, refocus education funding on Texas children and streamline federal funding on Texas schools. We must restore the judicially mandated funding on Texas children and streamline our waste. We must support our military, veterans, and retired service members.

**Education:** Bachelor of Science, Political Science, University of Louisville; Certified Flight Instructor; Certified Consultant, SAP; Human Resources; Flight Instructor; Certified Consultant, SAP; Human Resources

**Experience:** 22+ years of experience as a business and technology consultant. Extensive project management experience leading large organizations both nationally and internationally. Six years as a full time evangelist, including four preaching trips to India.

David Watts (R)

Unopposed

- No response received by print deadline: George P. Bush (R)
STATEWIDE RACES

TEXAS COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Texas resident for at least 12 months. Among duties: regulates fuel pumps and weights and measures devices; regulates pesticide use and application; certifies organically produced products; facilitates trade and market development of agricultural commodities. Current annual salary: $137,500

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

Environment: What is your opinion of federal regulations of water and the environment? What would you do to balance the use of existing resources with environmental concerns?

Water: Agricultural use of water must be considered along with industrial and municipal use. How would you encourage further conservation of water in agricultural use?

Functions: What do you consider the most important functions of this position?

Other Issues: What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

J. Allen Carnes (R)

Environment: Federal government has problems with issues specific to particular locales when it attempts to use a one-size fits all approach. We see instances of this concerning water issues and endangered species. It’s in agriculture’s best interest to protect natural resources and as Ag Commissioner I will work to ensure the future existence of our industry it’s resources and assets.

Water: We in agriculture are, by nature, conservative and forced by economics to remain so. As caretakers of the land, we seek ways to conserve water, soil and other resources. Knowing water is a finite resource, most agriculture producers have implemented strategies for the conservation and efficient use of water. We must encourage and support continued research and education.

Functions: Ensure a strong foundation for Texas Agriculture capable of providing safe, affordable and abundant food, fiber and shelter. Be an advocate for maintenance of strong infrastructure, such as water projects and roads. Support producers’ efforts to make a profit; allowing them to stay in business and nurture and care for their land and livestock in a sustainable manner.

Other Issues: Providing opportunities and support to younger Texans to contribute to growth and sustenance of Texas Agriculture. Immigration - A workable guest worker system is necessary to sustain Texas Ag to help it meet the demands of a growing Texas. This must include a system to not only track entrance into Texas, but an exit system to deal with those who overstay their visa.

Education: Undergraduate degree (B.B.A.) Finance, University of Texas Austin, McCombs School of Business

Experience: Owner/Mgr - Winter Garden Produce-Uvalde, which grows and ships produce nationwide. Own 3500+ acres of farmland. Maintain majority interest in cotton gin. Agricultural policymaking working on issues in Washington and with current Commissioner Staples

Joe Cotten (R)

Environment: Federal regulators seem to overreach most of the time. Texan’s want some type of balance between concerns for the environment and use of natural resources. Most Texan’s also want some assurance that the environment, and particularly Water quality (A Lot of Clean Water) is not harmed in anyway and fight for Clean Air (see below).

Water: As Agriculture Commissioner, I will support research to decrease water loss by evapotranspiration and to develop plants that use less water and still give acceptable yields. Regulations by water districts obviously come into play and will be an increasingly important part of managing the underground water resources in the next several years.

Functions: As the AG Commissioner, I (Joe Cotten) Will Be your Strong Advocate for Production Agriculture, Alot of Clean Water and fight for Clean Air (Dallas Morning News, section 1B, 10/24/2013 - Doctor’s Pollution Plea Fails). Ensuring that Texan’s know what it means to Texas and in Supporting Sustainable Agricultural Production and Alot of Clean Water and Fight for Clean Air.

Other Issues: Marketing is very important part of that too, as is Ensuring we have Adequate Water for Agricultural Production and Cities. The regulatory roles of TDA are also a very important part of what the department does, as are the inspection and licensing programs, the nutrition assistance programs. Thru Hardwork, Knowledge and a Good Attitude it is Time To Pick Cotten Again.

Education: Texas Tech 1973 Business(Major)/AG(Minor) What my education has taught me is By Preserving Our Texas Values of God, Country, Family, The American Flag, Our Independence and being Pro Constitution Will Make the Differences.

Experience: My Experience in the family Farming, Ranching, Cotten’s Barbecue in Robstown and over three decades of Financials, has shown me that Hardwork, Knowledge and a Good Attitude will help you be successful in life.

Sid Miller (R)

Environment: We have too much federal intrusion and not enough local control. Texans should be in control of our water supply, not Washington, D.C. Having spent my entire life working in Texas agriculture, I understand the delicate balance between protecting our environment while letting the land produce a profit for our hardworking farm and ranch families.

Water: I will make sure that municipal, industrial, and agricultural users all have a seat at the table with an emphasis on conservation and improving efficiency through good stewardship. I will encourage updating outdated mechanisms in water irrigation and improve irrigation techniques and technology. Protecting Texas’ precious water resources will be my top priority.

Functions: Protecting and preserving our Texas heritage and our unique quality of life while promoting Texas agriculture products around the nation and the world. Fighting undue federal intrusion into our lives of lives and defending our constitutional freedoms, especially the 2nd Amendment. Protecting private property rights and preserving our state’s precious water resources,

Other Issues: The Texas Agriculture Commissioner has the responsibility of protecting the integrity, quality, and safety of our food supply for all Texas families. The Texas Department of Agriculture has the important task of overseeing the quality of Texas children’s school lunch programs. If elected, I will ensure the quality of the nutritional content and safety of our food sources.

Education: AA - Cisco Junior College - Graduated with Honors Vocational Agriculture, B.S. - Tarleton State University - Graduated with Honors

Experience: As a fourth generation Texas farmer and rancher I raise crops, cattle, horses, and nursery stock. I’m a former vocational agriculture teacher and I also served twelve years in the Texas House and was Chairman of the Livestock & Agriculture Committee.

Eric Opiela (R)

Environment: Agriculture and the environment are not mutually exclusive—when we protect agriculture the environment benefits. When the federal government attempts to interfere with landowners’ Constitutional property rights and our ability to develop sustainable water resources, I believe that the Texas Department of Agriculture should fight back against federal overreach.

Water: Texas farmers and ranchers are conservationists by necessity—they already have implemented variable flow rate and drip irrigation, and have cleared thousands of acres of invasive salt cedar to provide just a few examples. The Texas Department of Agriculture must continue to assist farmers and ranchers in water conservation, but also protect their water rights.

Functions: This Department is charged with protecting Texas agriculture and rural Texas, and in order to do so our next Agriculture Commissioner must lead on our state’s most important issue– development of more water resources and effective water management. As the only candidate with significant experience in protecting water rights, I will work every day on this issue.

Other Issues: No response received.

Education: I have earned a Juris Doctorate and Bachelor of Arts with Honors from the University of Texas at Austin and was valedictorian of a class of thirty six at Karnes City High School, Karnes City, Texas.

Experience: I own and operate my family’s 2,300 acre ranching operation in a small rural community in South Texas. I’ve been a leader in agriculture, participating in and later lecturing for the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Program. I’ve spent over a (///)

Hugh Asa Fitzsimmons III (D)

Environment: My feeling is that in most cases federal regulations need to be followed as they pertain to water and the environment. I would require that producers use natural resources responsibly. We only have one environment and we need to do everything possible to protect it. The determining factor is how will our agricultural production decisions affect the next generation.

Water: Drip irrigation. Growing crops that are less water intensive. Raising grass fed livestock and utilizing rotational grazing. Rainwater harvesting. Establishing aquifer

Continued on next page
Contributions come from the drilling regulations, when many campaign impartiality in enforcement of drilling alternative. What types of rules are needed before fracking was developed as a drilling technology. Current annual salary: $137,500

New technologies for its use. Current annual salary: $137,500

Transportation and storage of liquefied drilling production and environmental registered voter. Among duties: regulation of the oil and natural gas industry, including drilling production and environmental protection; natural gas utilities; natural gas and hazardous liquids pipeline safety; surface mining of coal, uranium, and iron ore gravel, including land reclamation; transportation and storage of liquefied petroleum gas, compressed natural gas, and liquefied natural gas; encourages the use of clean-burning propane and researches new technologies for its use. Current annual salary: $137,500

Organic and sustainably raised livestock and crops that then become part of the diet of our citizens. Obesity and the diabetes epidemic are also at the top of my list. More Texas grown fruit, nuts, produce, and grass fed meats for school children.

Education: B A in History Trinity University
MA in History UTSA
Experience: Taught History and World Geography. Taught at Good Samaritan Center in San Antonio Taught American History at San Antonio College Established Thunderheart Bison and Native Nectar guajillo honeyDirector Wintergarden Water Conservation District

Richard “Kinky” Friedman (D)

Environment: Texas needs to take a hard look at its own water policies. Texas is the only western arid state that still relies on rule of capture in deciding water rights. This has put our water reserves at risk and has created a logjam in our courts over rights. The rule of capture needs amendment or replacement. Sew together existing water boards, put them under one roof.

Water: Scrap the prohibition on hemp production. Hemp uses half the water of cotton, produces two and a half times the fiber of cotton, and it needs no pesticides – cotton uses 25% of the world’s TOTAL pesticides. We must multiply our water harvesting capabilities by ten. It’s our only sustainable option. We must continue the development of desalination plants, as in El Paso.

Functions: The Commissioner represents all ranchers and farmers, big and small. Agribusiness is a basic need of ALL people, so he also must represent consumers. He must manage finite resources carefully, always with an eye on the preservation of the environment. He must interact with other agencies on forward thinking policies and relevant current issues.

Other Issues: The most important issue facing the Commissioner Of Agriculture is the balance between water use and environmentally responsible practices vs the realization of energy self-sufficiency and the continued success of agribusiness. Without responsible management, there could be many dangers ahead. Bold ideas are needed for all criteria to be met. Legalize hemp – good start.

Education: Plan II Degree from UT Austin
Experience: Co-operated family ranch for 50 years Developed agriculture techniques for people of Borneo with the Peace Corps Toured the world, written many books 1st Independent Gov candidate in Texas history to collect enough signatures to be on the ballot

No response received by print deadline: Tommy Merritt (R), Jim Hogan (D)

See VOTE411 for any later responses.

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

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

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

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

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

Texas Railroad Commissioner

Becky Berger (R)

Commission Structure: The RRC received $15M to improve the IT & computer infrastructure & website. The company that built the healthcare website was retained to build the RRC system. I’ll be watching carefully at every checkpoint to be sure our tax dollars are used effectively and use the existing contract to replace them if they don’t perform as needed. Increased due diligence is needed.

Fracking: Fracking has been used since 1947 in TX. New rules do exist for all aspects of hydraulic fracturing which isn’t a drilling alternative but an enhanced recovery mechanism. All wells are drilled whereas fracturing is used to increase well productivity. The RRC requires disclosure of all chemicals & pressure levels used. Enforcement by reports, inspection & penalties works.

Impartiality: People are capable of impartiality. That is one of the reasons I’m running, to bring more fairness to the RRC administrative court for mineral owners & companies. The enforcement inspections are done by inspectors and the commissioners aren’t in a position to ignore those reports. Every case should be determined on its merits only. I’ll be fair in all actions.

Other Issues: I’ll work with the legislature to get the RRC back on a ten year Sunset review. Establish good relationships with Senators & House Reps. using my experience to guide the commission to function in a businesslike manner with accountability that Texans deserve. I plan to stop overreach of federal agencies using science & public townhalls to fight flawed arguments that hurt TX.

Education: BS in Geology, minors in Engineering & Economics from the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK and summer school at Colorado School of Mines in Golden, CO.

Experience: 30+ years in the petroleum and mining industry, uses this agency regularly–firsthand knowledge of agency operations, job experience from roustabout, mudlogger, wellsite/ development geologist, VP of Exploration, evaluating acquisitions & expert witness

Malachi Boyuls (R)

Commission Structure: The biggest challenge facing the Commissioner is the ability to increase efficiencies and retain qualified staff. The Commission currently faces a backlog in certain permits and completion logs, which slows the industry’s ability to produce the energy Texas and the nation desperately need. The Commission is currently upgrading its technological capabilities.

Fracking: We have been fracturing safely in Texas for decades. Texans know best how to utilize the technology to ensure our water is safe and the environment is protected. Current regulations are satisfactory, but we should always review them for improvement. A major concern is the fluids used in hydraulic fracturing, but new rules require the disclosure of chemicals in the fluids.

Impartiality: Texas ethics laws require strict reporting of campaign contributions that are transparent and readily available to the public. Rules and laws must be enforced blind from any outside sources, because Texas and our nation need and require a thriving energy industry without jeopardizing clean air and water.

Other Issues: I believe another major issue facing the Railroad Commission and Texas is the federal government’s persistent attempt to over-regulate and control our energy resources. My experience as a regulatory attorney with a track record of fighting and winning against the federal government will be critical to ensure they do not get their hands on Texas’ energy and jobs.

Education: B.A. Religion, University of Mary Hardin Baylor; J.D., New York University School of Law

Experience: Founded St. Augustine Partners, Oil & Gas Business; Attorney- Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher (Dallas); Gober Hilgers, PLLC (Dallas); Clerk, Judge David Godbey–US District Court; Clerk, Judge Harris Hartz – 10th Circuit Court; Intern with now-Justice Samuel Alito

Wayne Christian (R)

Commission Structure: The RRC has a duty to both promote public safety and

Continued on next page
Continued from previous page

ensure our energy sector has the freedom
to thrive. Overregulating will discourage
production in Texas, while underregulating
has the potential to put the lives of citizens
danger. We must maintain a balance. The
steps taken this last Session to modernize
the software should be continued to
increase efficiency.

Fracking: I do not plan on being over-
zealous with increasing rules and regulations
on a sector that creates hundreds of
thousands of private sector jobs in Texas.
As commissioner, if there are legitimate
concerns that need addressing, I will do so
on a case-by-case basis.

Impartiality: One thing that makes me
different in this race is I am the only person
that is not in the industry the RRC regulates.
This means I have the ability to be much
more impartial in my decision making as
I am not regulating myself. I have proven
through 15 years of service that I stick to
my convictions and am beholden only to the
people of Texas.

Other Issues: Federal overreach is a big
issue. If we are not consistent with our rule
making and enforcement, it could open us
to increased regulations from the EPA if
we are ever challenged in court. In the RRC I
would be diligent in ensuring that the rules
on the books are necessary and enforced if
so. We must also increase transparency and
efficiency across the board.

Education: BBA in General Business
Stephen F. Austin University

Steve Brown (D)

Commission Structure: I’ll work to
ensure that the agency is
adequately funded and
has trained staff capable of meeting
the demands of our surging energy industry.
However, the culture there must change
and become more sensitive, responsive to
the general public. I will work to establish
an Office of Public Advocacy that will serve
as a watchdog for citizens with grievances
before the RRC.

Fracking: In order to better regulate
fracking we need to improve our data,
transparency and commitment to punish
the bad actors in the system. I think that
there is a balance that can be struck
between protecting our environment and
citizens while also continuing to produce
natural gas at historic levels. We need a
Commission interested in finding that
balance.

Impartiality: Transparency is extremely
important when it comes to how and when
a regulatory body should receive campaign
contributions. Commissioners should not be
able to receive donations from companies
who have pending business before the
Railroad Commission. There should also be
blackout periods where no donations can be
received.

Other Issues: There’s so much more
to talk about with regards to reforming
the RRC. However, workforce training and
engaging more small and disadvantaged
businesses in the industry are also
important. Regarding workforce training,
we can partner with educators and industry
leaders to help at-risk youth develop skills
needed in the oil field that may lead them
to the middle class.

Education: North Carolina A&T State
University B.A. Political Science Minor

Experience: My career spans well over 15
years of legislative, political, and advocacy
experience. I began my career at The White
House as an intern for President Bill Clinton.
I have since worked at the state, local and
federal levels of government.

Dale Henry (D)

Commission Structure: (A) Extensive training of all
field and staff employees in basic well drilling and
completions. The training to include boots-on-the-ground in the field.
(B) Laboratory testing of all cement used (mixed cement) behind the conductor,
surface, and production steel casing. The casing height and continuity made
available on “all” casing strings after the job is
completed.

Fracking: This first correction is HYDRAULIC FRACTURING and not
“fracking.” Hydraulics is the KEY word and the media has led the public to total
misinterpretation of the process. The second correction and/or RULE is that
proper cementing must be proven by the operator for all casing strings before a well is
hydraulically FRACTURED.

Impartiality: In my campaign – “I will not be bought nor will I buy a position.”
Consequently, I do not become a servant of the drilling industry’s “desires.” The 20(+)
million citizens of Texas will receive equal consideration. No “special” attention will be
given to “special” requests (resulting from campaign contributions) to any one person
and/or group.

Other Issues: Closer contact with the 16
River Authorities (contamination of water),
the TEQ’s, and the committees in the oil/
gas sector of the Senate and House. For
example – the RRC should have a technically
competent staff member at all sixteen River
authority planning meetings.

Education: B.S. Petroleum Engineering –
1954 University of Texas

Experience: 58 years in oil/gas/energy/water resources in Texas, continental USA
and Persian Gulf and North Africa countries.
Oil well/gas well casing cementing and
hydraulic fracturing.

No response received by print
deadline: Ryan Sitton (R)
See VOTE411 for any later responses.

STATEWIDE RACES

Texas Supreme

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

Access to Justice: The traditional
funding source for legal aid for the poor and
for indigent defense has been shrinking
because of low interest rates. How can Texas
improve access to justice in civil cases? Do
you support the use of pre-approved forms
by people appearing without a lawyer (pro
se) in family-related cases?

Electronic Filing: New rules are going
into effect to require Texas attorneys to
file all legal pleadings in Texas civil cases
electronically rather than in paper copy with
the clerk. Has mandatory electronic filing
improved the legal system? Why or why not?

Legal System: What interaction with the
legal system makes you most proud to be a
lawyer? Why?

Chief Justice

Nathan Hecht (R)

Impartiality: Texans want to elect their judges,
and campaigning is expensive, but from my
first race for the Texas Supreme Court, I
helped pioneer contribution limits that
have since become law. I have tried to raise
broad support from many people and avoid
any appearance of impropriety. I am always
mindful of my solemn oath to faithfully
execute the duties of my office.

Public Protection: Attorney ethics rules
should be revised to prohibit unreasonable
fees, better protect client confidentiality,
prohibit improper intimate relationships
with clients, ensure lawyer loyalty, and
provide for fair but strict discipline of
violators. The Texas Supreme Court has
supported rules revisions to provide high
ethical standards for lawyers and protect the
public.

Access to Justice: I serve on the Texas
Access to Justice Commission and oversee
the Supreme Court’s efforts to obtain
crucial financial support and to encourage
legal aid providers in Texas and other states.
Forms in simple family-law cases can help
people without lawyers. Access to justice is
not a partisan issue. At stake is nothing less
that the integrity of the rule of law.

Electronic Filing: The Supreme Court’s
new rules facilitate filing papers in the
courthouse with the push of a button from
anywhere with Internet access. Eventually,
the public will be able to see court filings
with the same ease. The Court already
webcasts proceedings on its website. All this
makes the legal system more efficient, less
expensive, and more transparent.

Legal System: The Supreme Court is
committed to ensuring that all Texans,
including the poor, the elderly, women
subject to abuse, and veterans, have access
to the justice system. And the Court is

Questions for Candidates

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

Public Protection: The Texas Supreme

Court
Robert Talton (R)

Impartiality: The Texas Legislature has limited the amount of money and the times it can be given to most judges. We need to elect judges who are not afraid to do the right thing regardless of the cost to their office. I had that reputation when I served in the Texas House.

Public Protection: The rules and standards in place are adequate. There is a need to constantly monitor those rules and standards on a regular basis. One area that may be examined is when there is a complaint against a judge by the State Bar or the Ethics Commission that that complaint is swiftly remedied.

Access to Justice: The best way to improve access to justice is protect the contingent fee contract and trial by jury. Today over 74% of jury cases that reach the Supreme Court are over turned. Many of these are plaintiff cases where the injured party cannot afford an attorney. I do not support the use of pre-approved forms.

Electronic Filing: I am not sure this will help. This has created another layer of services which will raise the cost of filing lawsuits. I believe mandatory electronic filing will stop people from representing themselves, thereby limiting peoples access to the courts.

Legal System: No response received.

Education: BBA, U of H, 1971 JD South Texas College of Law

Experience: I have been practicing law for 37 years in various fields from criminal law, traffic tickets, probate, civil, municipal and government. I served 16 years in the Texas Legislature as a State Representative. I know what legislative intent means.

William Moody (D)

Unopposed

Jeff Brown (R)

Impartiality: In my 12 years as a judge, I have recused myself whenever I worry that the perception of my ability to be fair has come into question. I’m proud to have consistently received high marks in bar polls for my fairness and impartiality, and I would never do anything to injure my hard won reputation for integrity.

Public Protection: By promulgating the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and overseeing the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, the Supreme Court works hard to ensure that lawyers represent their clients effectively and ethically. The Court takes these responsibilities very seriously, and I will endeavor to help maintain the high standards the Court has set for lawyer conduct.

Access to Justice: One of the Supreme Court’s top priorities is making sure all Texans have effective access to the courts. The Court has obtained extra funding from both the Legislature and members of the bar for that purpose, and will continue to work to improve access. In that vein, the Court has already approved pro se forms for family cases, and I support that decision by the Court.

Electronic Filing: I believe that mandatory electronic filing has improved the legal system. It makes the courts more efficient and less expensive to operate. As a trial judge, as a judge on the court of appeals, and as a justice on the Supreme Court, I have worked extensively with electronic briefs and electronic records and have been impressed with the enhanced efficiency they provide.

Legal System: When I was an appellate judge, I volunteered weekly to preside over the Harris County STAR (Success Through Addiction Recovery) Drug Court. STAR takes non-violent, drug-addicted felons and, through intensive treatment and accountability to the courts, works to free them from addiction and return them to society as productive citizens. I was proud to be part of STAR.

Education: I have a BA in English from the University of Texas and a law degree, with high honors, from the University of Houston. I’m also board-certified in civil trial law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Experience: I have over 12 years of judicial experience—6 years as a trial judge, 6 years as a court-of-appeals judge, and 3 months as a Supreme Court justice. I have won 3 judge-of-the-year awards. Before taking the bench, I practiced at Baker Botts in Houston.

Lawrence Edward Meyers (D)

Unopposed

Jeff Boyd (R)

Impartiality: I commit to all persons, including potential campaign donors, that I will be impartial when I decide cases. I have fulfilled that commitment for the fifteen years I’ve served as an appellate justice by constantly, consciously excluding any consideration of who the parties and lawyers are when I consider cases. I will always fulfill my commitment to be impartial.

Public Protection: The State Bar Act provides that proposed changes to such rules must be voted on by Texas lawyers. A several-year review of the rules culminated in 2011 when the Court proposed changes in various areas, including conflicts of interest, safekeeping client property, attorney-client communications and attorney-client relationships. Lawyers voted against the proposed changes.

Access to Justice: The Supreme Court created the Access to Justice Commission to help plan and fund legal aid to indigents. The State Bar has funded numerous such programs; the Texas Bar Foundation provides grants for legal aid, and the Legislature provides funds for legal aid. The use of forms in some family-related cases is a valid way to help low-income persons with legal needs.

Electronic Filing: Yes, it has, and will even more in the future. Electronic filing allows 24-hour filing and access to court files; increases court efficiency and transparency; reduces costs for storing and managing records; gives judges, lawyers, government agencies and the public improved access to court files; and reduces costs when transferring files between courts.

Legal System: I am most proud because lawyers help those who cannot help themselves. For example, lawyers, per year, contribute money (over $1 million) and hundreds of thousands of hours of free legal services to indigent clients, plus lawyers immediately respond on a pro bono (free) basis to help victims of disasters such as hurricanes and fires.

Education: B.A., Texas Tech University; J.D. with honors, Texas Tech University School of Law.


Sharon McCally (R)

Impartiality: It is surely an imperfect system. Maintaining my impartiality is easy; my vote is not for sale. Maintaining public confidence in impartiality is a tougher question. Strict public reporting is part of the answer. A judge must also demonstrate impartiality in the decisionmaking process. Impartiality is like character; it is the absence of it that is most often subtle.

Public Protection: Billing practices should be reviewed.

Access to Justice: Texas has already looked to other sources. Organizations, such as TexasLawHelp.org and the Texas Access to Justice Foundation, use bar funds, law firm fellowships and cy pres awards to raise money for indigent legal aid. I do not support the use of pre-approved forms. Even the forms disclaim their use as “legal advice” or a substitute for “competent counsel!”

Electronic Filing: Mandatory electronic filing is convenient for many, efficient for most. For these advances, electronic filing is an improvement. But, because mandatory electronic filing has also (a) shifted the costs of printing to the courts and taxpayers, or (b) compromised private information, and (c) created a monopoly for the private vendor of outsourced electronic processing, it (/)//

Legal System: As a former trial judge and current appellate judge, I have had the privilege of being the ultimate “spectator” of lawyers in court. I am proud of our bar and its outreach and service to the community.

Education: Certified, Executive Secretarial School, Dallas, Texas, B.A. in English from S.M.U., Dallas, Texas and J.D., South Texas College of Law, Houston, Texas

Six-year term. Must be at least 35 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Texas resident. Must have been a practicing lawyer for at least 10 years or a lawyer and a judge of a court of record for at least 10 years. Serves as a member of the court of final appellate jurisdiction in criminal matters, including death penalty cases, in the state; has the power to issue writs of habeas corpus for felons; administers publicly funded judicial and lawyer education. Annual authorized salary: $152,500 (Presiding Judge), $150,000 (Judge)

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

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

Access to Justice: The traditional funding source for legal aid for the poor and for indigent defense has been shrinking because of low interest rates. How can Texas improve access to justice in criminal cases?

Obligations: What are the most important obligations of a Court of Criminal Appeals judge and why?

Legal System: What interaction with the legal system makes you most proud to be a lawyer? Why?

JUDGE, PLACE 3

Bert Richardson (R)

Impartiality: I believe as long as lawyers have the opportunity to present their cases and have the judge rule fairly, consistently and intelligently on the matters presented to the court, that contributions will not impact a judge’s impartiality. Additionally, most of my contributions are from individuals who never appear before the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

Access to Justice: I have presided in 40 counties in the last 5 years. When counties have funding available for a Public Defender’s Office that works best, in conjunction with judges appointing qualified lawyers from a list approved by the courts when the PD is conflicted. I have participated in 2 significant pro bono projects in my career and also believe local lawyers should do that.

Obligations: First, to write opinions that lawyers easily understand that clearly follow the constitution and legislative intent of statutes. To show up for work and work hard, issuing opinions in a timely manner. As an elected judge in Bexar County I was consistently ranked at the top of local Bar Polls for knowledge of the law, work ethic and judicial demeanor.

Legal System: My opportunity to work and/or preside over a case and see that justice is served by requiring each side to adhere to the evidentiary and ethical rules, so that the right verdict is obtained and the case does not have to be retried. As a prosecutor and judge I have had cases where defendants were rightfully and wrongfully charged. I have never had a trial verdict reversed.

Education: J.D., St. Mary’s University School of Law JD, B.S., Brigham Young University, High School – Judson, Converse, Texas, Board Certified in Criminal Law, Fluent in Spanish

Experience: I am a 25 year lawyer that has served as a State and Federal prosecutor. I currently preside throughout the State as a Senior Judge. I have tried and presided over hundreds of trials, including capital murders and written over 50 appellate briefs.

Barbara Walther (R)

Impartiality: I have voluntarily agreed to comply with the Judicial Campaign Funding Limits Statute. It is essential to our judicial system that the parties receive fair and impartial trials. The US Supreme Court in an opinion required that if a judge accepts substantial donations from an attorney, then that judge should recuse himself from hearing a case with that attorney. I agree.

Access to Justice: IOLTA accounts provide funding for legal aid to individuals involved civil cases. Indigent defense funds come primarily from county budgets with a small grant to the counties from the State through the Indigent Defense Commission. I am concerned with the need to ensure that the attorneys appointed by the judges to represent defendants are effective legal representatives.

Obligations: Review of a death penalty case is the most solemn responsibility entrusted to this court. Death is different. Policies and procedures must be adopted by the Court to not just give fullity to a case, but also to create an atmosphere in the criminal justice system that settles for nothing less than justice for the victim and the accused.

Legal System: I am proud of the attorneys that choose to defend individuals that are charged with having committed a crime. It is never popular to represent people that have been accused of breaking the law, but if these individual’s rights are not protected then none of our rights are protected.

Education: Juris Doctor Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law 1977 Bachelor of Arts University of Texas at Austin 1974 Associates of Arts Stephens College, Columbia Mo. 1972

Experience: District Judge 51st Judicial District 1993–present Title IV-D Family Law Master/Associate Judge 1987–1993 Practiced to license law 11/11/77–present Past Chair of Judicial Section State Bar of Texas Past Chair of Texas Center for Judiciary

John Granberg (D)

Unopposed

JUDGE, PLACE 4

Jani Jo Wood (R)

Impartiality: My contributors expect nothing from me except fair consideration of their cases. They also believe in diverse backgrounds and experiences for members of the Court. Funds raised for a race such as this pale in comparison to funds raised in the Texas Supreme Court races. Fund raising influencing judicial decisions is really not a problem at the Court of Criminal Appeals.

Access to Justice: Interest payments (or IOLTA) only fund civil cases. Indigent criminal defense is largely funded through criminal court costs. Access to counsel is improving in Texas dramatically with the Texas Indigent Defense Commission and the training grants provided by the Court of Criminal Appeals.

Obligations: The Court needs to fairly consider each case. I am troubled by the Court’s internal procedure where writs of habeas corpus are assigned to only one judge who can unilaterally dismiss with the eight other judges never seeing the case. Our Constitution saw fit to have nine judges and all nine need to review each case.

Legal System: I protected the Texas Telephone Harassment law in the Court of Criminal Appeals and in the US Supreme Court. – Scott v. Texas. I won the right for lawyers to demand that judges reveal their reasons for their rulings on motions to exclude evidence in criminal cases, improving review on appeal. - Cullen v. State. I helped overturn a wrongful conviction.


Experience: Licensed attorney for 22 years. Former briefing attorney at the Court of Criminal Appeals – 1991 - 1992 Former civil litigator/criminal defense attorney 18 year appellate prosecutor Commissioner for Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Kevin Patrick Yeary (R)

Impartiality: Most of my funds have been raised from family and friends who are not lawyers. Those lawyers who have contributed to my campaign are either very small contributors or they are not likely to practice in front of the Court of Criminal Appeals. I would accept money from other lawyers, but the contributions would not affect my firm commitment to do justice in all cases.

Access to Justice: The Courts can do a better job of determining who is actually indigent and in need of appointed help. This would result in savings that would permit more reasonable fees to be paid on behalf of those who truly need assistance. More reasonable appointed fees would attract better qualified attorneys to help the poor.

Obligations: 1. Always Pursue Justice – our courts must ensure that criminal cases are resolved correctly according to the law as written by the Legislature. 2. Ensure Fairness in the Courts – defendants, victims, and the State should all be treated fairly in every case. 3. Be Dependable – our courts must be efficient, respected, and good stewards of the law.

Legal System: I protected the Texas Telephone Harassment law in the Court of Criminal Appeals and in the US Supreme Court. – Scott v. Texas. I won the right for lawyers to demand that judges reveal their reasons for their rulings on motions to exclude evidence in criminal cases, improving review on appeal. - Cullen v. State. I helped overturn a wrongful conviction.


Experience: Licensed attorney for 22 years. Former briefing attorney at the Court of Criminal Appeals – 1991 - 1992 Former civil litigator/criminal defense attorney 18 year appellate prosecutor Commissioner for Texas Board of Legal Specialization

No response received by print deadline: Richard Dean Davis (R) See VOTE411 for any later responses.
STATEWIDE RACES

Continued from previous page

JUDGE, PLACE 9

Bud Kirkendall (R)

Impartiality: Without contributions, there would be very little money available to run campaigns. CCA races are underfunded but interested parties help candidates get their message out. No judge should accept a contribution from anyone who is in an amount that would affect their judgement. Any candidate who accepts money from lawyers should be supported by both sides of the bar.

Access to Justice: The CCA manages state grants which are used to educate defense lawyers, prosecutors and judges. We must insure we are getting “bang for the buck” with excellent education for a reasonable cost. We must monitor closely the quality of all attorneys, appointed or retained, to insure defendants are properly and lawfully represented.

Obligations: A judge should be open-minded and not prejudge cases. A judge should construe statutes strictly and not allow his or her political opinions to influence those interpretations. A judge should be courteous and respectful to colleagues, lawyers and litigants. The CCA is the busiest appellate court in the nation, and a judge must handle his cases efficiently and timely.

Legal System: I became a prosecutor because I wanted to help victims of crime, and I found that very satisfying. While considering victims, a judge must also consider the effect of rulings on the system as a whole. I am proud as a judge when both sides believe their case was fairly judged according to the law. I want Texans to be proud of their criminal justice system.

Education: B.A., Iowa State University, 1974; J.D., University of Texas School of Law, 1977

Experience: District Judge, 2005-present; District Attorney, 1984-2004; Briefing Attorney, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, 1974-1975; formerly awarded: Jon Ben Sheppard Political Courage Award; Prosecutor of the Year; President, TDCAA; exemplary teaching awards

David Newell (R)

Impartiality: My experience writing and teaching about the Court has taught me that adherence to the rule of law fosters and projects impartiality. The number of donors that might later appear before me and the amounts given are so low that recusal in those circumstances would not impact the Court.

Access to Justice: Harris County has increased representation of the indigent through its Public Defender’s Office. For counties that can’t afford such an office, devoting a portion of asset forfeiture funds to indigent defense could provide additional revenue. Private organizations such as Fort Bend Lawyers Care, which my wife and I have volunteered with, can also provide assistance.

Obligations: To fairly, impartially, and consistently interpret the law as written. Serving as a small group worship leader has shown me the need for humility in all aspects of my life. My extensive work on the editorial board for The Texas Prosecutor demonstrates my commitment to consistent application of the law for a more transparent, predictable, and fair criminal justice system.

Legal System: I recently filed an appellate brief in a juvenile appeal conceding error and asking for an acquittal. As an appellate prosecutor, my job is to seek justice rather than to blindly secure convictions. Having the opportunity and authority to correct errors in order to prevent injustice is one of the reasons I have devoted my career to criminal appeals.

Education: B.A. - English with concentration in creative writing, magna cum laude - University of Houston, 1993. J.D. - University of Texas School of Law, 1997

Experience: I have over sixteen years of experience handling criminal appeals including death penalty appeals. I have written several articles and lectured extensively across the state on the CCA. I am Board Certified in Criminal Law and Criminal Appellate Law

COURT OF APPEALS

Six-year term. Must be at least 35 years old, a U.S. citizen, a Texas resident and a district resident. Must have been a practicing lawyer or a lawyer and a judge of a court of record for a total of 10 years or more. Each Court of Appeals has intermediate appellate jurisdiction in both civil and criminal cases appealed from district or county courts in its district. Current annual salary: $140,000 (Chief Justice), $137,500 (Justice)

CHIEF JUSTICE, 3RD COURT OF APPEALS

Jeff Rose (R)
Diane Henson (D)

Unopposed

DISTRICT JUDGE

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

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

Recidivism: What tools are available to you to reduce the rates of incarceration and recidivism? How will you use them?

147TH DISTRICT JUDGE (TRAVIS)

Cliff Brown (D)
Unopposed

201ST DISTRICT JUDGE (TRAVIS)

Amy Clark Meachum (D)
Unopposed

207TH DISTRICT JUDGE (HAYS, CALDWELL)

Jack Robison (R)
Unopposed

250TH DISTRICT JUDGE (TRAVIS)

Karin Crump (D)
Unopposed

261ST DISTRICT JUDGE (TRAVIS)

Lora Livingston (D)
Unopposed

274TH DISTRICT JUDGE (HAYS)

Gary L. Steel (R)
Unopposed

277TH DISTRICT JUDGE (WILLIAMSON)

Ryan Larson (R)

Education: Southwestern University School of Law; Juris Doctor (SBA Commissioner of Academic Affairs); University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), B.A., Political Science (NCAA Track & Cross Country All-State Athlete; Numerous Student Athlete Awards; Member of Athletes in Action)

Experience: Ryan Larson is an Assistant Attorney General serving Greg Abbott. He has been successful at every level of Texas courts, from trial courts to the Texas Supreme Court. He was selected as a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation - one of the the highest honors that can be bestowed upon a Texas attorney.

Representation: I will treat each situation on a case by case basis. If there is a way to correct the attorney’s representation I would attempt to do so, as that attorney is the most familiar with the case and doing otherwise might unnecessarily delay a resolution of the case. However, if I thought the attorney’s representation could not be corrected, I would set a hearing for substitution of the attorney. This course of action is necessary in a criminal context because ineffective assistance of counsel violates a criminal defendant’s constitutional right. It can also form the basis of a later appeal which further clogs the courts and wastes taxpayer dollars.

Recidivism: Studies indicate much recidivism can be attributed to nonviolent drug offenders. There has been extensive research supporting more rehabilitative-focused programs for drug offenders, as opposed to incarceration, implemented in partnership with the courts. As such, I would consider creating a drug treatment

Continued on next page
STATEWIDE RACES

Continued from previous page

court that consists of a court-supervised treatment program that provides intensive judicial supervision of offenders. Such a system would use positive and negative incentives to encourage offenders to comply with the program. Furthermore, offenders in the program would be held accountable for their actions.

Stacey Mathews (R)

Education: University of Northern Colorado, B.A. in English with Honors as well as a Teaching Certificate with an emphasis in Special Education; Juris Doctorate Law Degree from University of Houston Law School

Experience: Former Teacher, Former Assistant District Attorney and Court Chief with experience trying all types of cases including murders, robberies, sexual assaults, assault family violence, intoxication offenses, and drug offenses, Presiding Judge of the 27th District Court, Board Certified in Criminal Law

Representation: The Texas Fair Defense Act requires that all indigent defendants be represented by qualified counsel in any criminal case. As a sitting judge, I appoint attorneys to represent criminal defendants on a regular basis. Having been a prosecutor and trial attorney, I am able to easily recognize when, in very rare instances, a defendant is not being adequately represented. Should that occur in my Court, I will immediately assign a different attorney to the defendant’s case to insure his or her rights are protected.

Recidivism: As a Judge, I deal with the issues of incarceration and recidivism daily. As a former teacher, I understand the need for rehabilitation, but also understand that that need must be balanced with preventing recidivism. In Williamson County, our Probation Department works tirelessly to give defendants a second chance at avoiding incarceration through programs and treatment centers aimed at combatting recidivism. However, it is up to each individual to take advantage of that chance. If they fail, then they must be incarcerated to protect our community. Keeping our community is safe is my utmost priority and I am proud to be endorsed by virtually all of the local law enforcement associations.

299TH DISTRICT JUDGE (TRAVIS)

Karen Sage (D)

Unopposed

331ST DISTRICT JUDGE (TRAVIS)

David Crain (D)

Unopposed

368TH DISTRICT JUDGE (WILLIAMSON)

Rick J. Kennon (R)

Education: B.S. Education - Baylor University 1981 J.D. Texas Tech University School of Law 1984

Experience: Twenty-nine years of trial experience. Former prosecutor, Former Assistant General Attorney General trying cases across Texas. 8 years as a criminal defense attorney. 16 years as a civil trial attorney including personal injury, insurance defense, contract disputes, and family law.

Representation: There will always be cases where one attorney on a case is more experienced than the other and will have the upper hand regarding the trial of a case. However, a judge cannot try to influence the outcome of a case by interfering with the trial in that a judge must be fair and impartial to all. If an attorney is violating any ethical rules, then as an attorney and a judge, there is an obligation to notify the state bar of those violations so that the proper authorities can determine what disciplinary action should be taken. I can suggest that the attorney find an experienced attorney as a mentor to gain valuable insight into the practice of law and help with future client representation.

Recidivism: Many offenders, other than on very serious crimes, generally have an opportunity to be placed on probation rather than being incarcerated. Sometimes deferred adjudication probation is used so that the accused can avoid a conviction on his/her record. A judge has the ability to set the terms of probation which generally will include any counseling needed (i.e. alcohol, drugs, etc.) If a person completes the counseling, this will often allow that person to lead a productive life and avoid committing future crimes. In addition, specialty courts are becoming more and more common such as DWI, Drug, and Veterans’ Courts, to allow a person charged with a crime the ability to get the help needed.

Donna King (R)

Education: I received a B.A. from Angelo State University in 1992 and a J.D. from Texas Tech University School of Law 1995. Over my eighteen year career I have participated in continuing legal education and served as a guest instructor and trainer with central Texas law enforcement.

Experience: I have served as a prosecutor in Williamson and Travis Counties, an advocate for children in the CPS system, a municipal court judge and jail magistrate.

Representation: It is important to keep in mind that all attorneys are not created equal, and the canons of ethics do not require that the attorney be an expert in a given field, but rather that they be competent. However, in a criminal case, the consequences of inadequate representation can be life altering. In this situation, I would refer a lawyer experiencing difficulty to a mentoring program and if necessary, appoint a second attorney to assist in the representation of the client. In the case of a court appointed lawyer, the lawyer could be removed and new counsel appointed.

Recidivism: As a prosecutor, child advocate, defense attorney, magistrate and municipal court Judge, I have experienced first-hand the inner connections of our criminal justice system, juvenile system, and child welfare system. It’s important to recognize that we can do a better job collaborating to find solutions to divert individuals away from the criminal justice system while protecting our community. There are many new programs that offer supervision, accountability and rehabilitation to offenders supervised on probation. Lastly, I would consider alternative sentencing programs such as drug and alcohol diversion and community service where appropriate, the costs of which would be paid by offender.

403RD DISTRICT JUDGE (TRAVIS)

Brenda P. Kennedy (D)

Unopposed

419TH DISTRICT JUDGE (TRAVIS)

Orlinda Naranjo (D)

Unopposed

428TH DISTRICT JUDGE (HAYS)

Bill Henry (R)

Unopposed

VOTING IN PRIMARIES

When you vote in a political party’s primary, you become affiliated with that party for the next two years. At the time you vote, your voting certificate may be stamped with the name of the party in whose primary you vote. You may vote in only one party’s primary. If there is a runoff, you may vote only in the same party’s runoff election.

Why is it important to vote in the Primary Election? Voting in the Primary Election allows you to select the candidates who will be on the ballot in November. It also allows you to participate in the precinct, county or senatorial district, and state conventions of a particular party.

Only the Democratic and Republican parties hold primary elections; other parties, including the Libertarian and Green parties nominate their candidates at their precinct, county, and state conventions.

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

Who can register? To register to vote, you must be:
• a citizen of the United States
• at least 18 years old on Election Day
• a resident of the county (at least one year if registering for the first time)

Where do I register? You can register in person at the voter registration office in your county, or fill out an application that can be mailed or returned in person to the voter registrar in your county of residence. Application forms are available at many libraries, government offices and high schools. The application is available at www.VoteTexas.gov.
COUNTY RACES

BASTROP COUNTY

COUNTY JUDGE

Ty McDonald (D) 
Paul Pape (R) 
Unopposed

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

Michael Flowers (D) 
Gary “Bubba” Snowden (R) 
Unopposed

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

Clara Beckett (R) 
Unopposed

COUNTY JUDGE, COURT OF LAW

Benton Eskew (D) 
Unopposed

COUNTY SURVEYOR

Michael Olson (R) 
Unopposed

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 1

Debbie Moore (D) 
Unopposed

Donna Van Gilder (R)

Education: Texas State University–San Marcos BAAS, Legal Studies, 2010–14 (expected graduation); Austin Community College Associate’s degree, Paralegal 2002–04; Texas College of Justice Court Judges Distinguished Judge (2012) [60+ hrs of CE] Scholar Judge (2013) [80+ hrs of CE]


Q: What should be the minimum qualifications for the position of Justice of the Peace?

A: The candidate should have the requisite knowledge of a court system and the laws pertaining to the Justice Courts in both civil and criminal matters. Further, the ideal candidate should have some form of formal legal education and experience as a paralegal or attorney. If a candidate has worked in the court system for a significant period of time and is able to handle and understand the day-to-day operations of the court, then that candidate may be appropriate in a small county JP office. Finally, the candidate should have the demeanor and ability to listen to all sides of an issue and render a just and impartial verdict following the law that is fair to all participants given the evidence.

Q: What are the funding needs of the office of Justice of the Peace?

A: With traffic and misdemeanor class ‘C’ tickets, evictions, and other civil matters filed in JP Court, the court needs clerks to handle filings and required state reporting. It is important to have the ability to properly train and educate clerks just as judges are educated each year. Funding is required for this education and training. Funding is also needed for interpreters as required by law. Funding is also needed for normal daily office operations. Because The Justice of the Peace in Bastrop County has to be on call to attend death inquests (since the county does not have a coroner), there is a need for a car allowance for insurance and gas. Finally, funding is required for salaries.

Q: What are the improvements that can be made to the office of Justice of the Peace?

A: Service of process is done by the constable in most cases. The constable needs to correctly serve the papers on the proper party in a timely manner. This is especially important in eviction cases and when service is done in compliance with the military service act. Proper service needs to be insured so that a default judgment is not rendered incorrectly. A person must know that a suit has been filed against them to be able to defend themselves. The system breaks down with delays occurring, resulting in unnecessary expense to all concerned if not properly served. This can be a waste of everyone’s time, including the court, its staff, and litigants. JP’s are the final check on service.

No response received by print deadline: Cindy Allen (R)

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 2

Raymah M. Davis (R) 
Unopposed

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 3

Katherine K. Hanna (D) 
Unopposed

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 4

Larry Dunne (R)

Education: University of Houston degrees

Experience: Presiding Municipal Court Judge – 24 years, Bastrop County Justice of the Peace – 16 years Incumbent

Q: What should be the minimum qualifications for the position of Justice of the Peace?

A: A commitment to fairness and justice is the most important personal quality that any judge should possess. This quality is more important than my academic qualifications (University of Houston degrees), my judicial experience (24 years as a judge), or my judicial education (1200+ hours). These qualifications are merely additional assets that I rely on to arrive at fair and just decisions for all parties.

Q: What are the funding needs of the office of Justice of the Peace?

A: Judicial and clerical training and education for Judge and staff, staff salaries and benefits, travel expenses, technology, telephone/fax, office supplies and equipment.

Q: What are the improvements that can be made to the office of Justice of the Peace?

A: Process service must be prompt and efficient. The court and the constable or private process server must have accurate and continuing communications so that hearings and trials may be held without unnecessary delay. Timeliness, accuracy, and prompt return of service must be a priority for the court and the process server in order for the court to operate effectively.

No response received by print deadline: Bill Egan (R)

DISTRICT CLERK

Sarah Loucks (R)

Education: Graduate of St. Edwards University, Graduate of Kussad Institute of Court Reporting, Annual District Clerks Continuing Education, Texas Certified Court Reporting Continuing Education, Annual College Workshops for District Clerks, Seminars and Regional District Clerks meetings.

Experience: Current Bastrop County District Clerk, Supervisor of 16 employees, 20 + yrs experience in Court Procedures, Extensive experience in both Civil and Criminal District Courts, Taught Courtroom Procedures and Court Reporting 3 yrs, Texas Certified Court Reporter 15 + yrs, Proven leadership.

Q: What recommendations would you make to improve public access to district court records while maintaining necessary security?

A: We have a Public website for use to search records as well as a computer at the counter for easy public access. I am working with the IT Department setting up a system to enable the Public access to new filings images as well as the summary of Events and Pleadings while maintaining security of private information. Our new Pleadings and Documents do not show private information. We also have a system with secure records that goes back to 1997. I take pride in being a “secure” keeper of the records. When the public calls our office, they reach a person and not a recording. When they come in to look at records, we monitor the private information in those records.

Q: What is the most pressing problems facing this office, and how do you propose to handle these issues?

A: I prefer to call them “priorities.” Keeping the office up-to-date to handle Bastrop County’s growth is a priority. I am working toward implementing mandated E-filing with a deadline of July, 2015. I will have kiosks for those who need help with the transition to paperless. Preservation of 1800s historical records has become a priority. I have begun scanning, indexing and cross-referencing to provide computer access to the public in order for originals to go in climate-controlled storage. For the office to operate more efficiently, we have been cross-training, which enables us to work as a team. I look forward to the future, and continuing to serve the citizens of Bastrop County.

Continued on next page

Continued on next page
Continued from previous page

A: Currently there is a management vacuum in the District Clerk’s Office. I will bring a very high level of management to the District Clerk’s office that is not there today. My management style will include coaching the entire staff of the District Clerk’s office into a team. I will institute positive communication processes with attorneys, court staff, and all others who use the services of the office. I plan on cross training members of the staff so that the office runs smoothly all the time. The District Clerk’s Office has three main sections, the civil section, the criminal section, and the tax section. I will ensure that all three sections will be managed to their highest level.

Q: What improvements would you propose to improve public access to district court records while maintaining necessary security?
A: Currently court docket records are public and online, however, case filing detail is not available because of concern of releasing prohibited identification information such as social security numbers, driver’s license numbers and birthdates. This is inconvenient and costly to the public and attorneys. The cost per page of obtaining records is high, especially in cases with many pages. I will work within my department budget to find solutions to maintaining security of sensitive personal identification information while making public records available and affordable online. I will also start the process of making available old District Court records prior to 1997 available online.

Q: What recommendations would you make to encourage citizens and employers to be more responsive to jury duty service?
A: I will make sure citizens feel like they are not wasting their time when selected for a jury. Often cases settle and jurors don’t receive timely notice. Educating prospective jurors will be a high priority. Making available an online interactive communication system available to jurors will also increase participation and allow easy communication with jurors who are exempt or are requesting accommodations. Using a third party management system like Jury(TM) could allow more efficient jury selection. As an elected official I plan on making public speaking engagements to inform community groups about jury service in Bastrop County and why our court system needs diverse participation.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Bryan Goertz (R)
Unopposed

COUNTY TREASURER

Laurie Ingram (R)
Unopposed

COUNTY CLERK

Rose Pretch (D)
Unopposed

Caldwell County

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Richard Banks (D)

Education: B.A. University of Texas at Arlington J.D. University of Houston

Experience: Assistant District Attorney - Dallas, Travis, and Caldwell Counties; Assistant United States Attorney, Houston; Executive Administrator, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals; Board Certified in Criminal Law (1976-1996); Criminal Defense Attorney, Lockhart City Councilman (two terms)

Q: What supervision of prosecutors will you provide to avoid overzealous prosecutions and prosecutorial misconduct?
A: I am very hands on and will personally direct the conduct of my assistants. Having been a criminal defense attorney as well as a prosecutor, I appreciate the value of those on both sides of the docket and realize that the duty of a prosecutor is to seek justice, not just convictions. I will teach my assistants that handling a case honorably and in accord with Brady v. Maryland is the most important thing, not winning at all costs. I am ashamed of the conduct of the prosecutors in Williamson County in the Morton Case. Dallas County in the 1970’s was just as bad if not worse. Ethics is a priority with me.

Q: Are there measures or programs that you propose or support to reduce crime in our community (for example, family violence, juvenile crimes)?
A: Aggressive prosecution of violent and repeat offenders best deters those criminals. Robbers, random rapists, and almost all murderers belong in the penitentiary. Marijuana smokers do not. Deferred prosecution agreements are much more appropriate for them. The war on drugs has been lost. I am much more interested in treatment than jail cells for drug abusers. Victims of family violence often plead for mercy for their abusers out of economic and emotional need. Some of these offenders will have to go to the penitentiary. Some can be given deferred adjudication and counseling with the admonition that they will not be given a second chance should they reoffend.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

Fred Buchholtz (R)

Unopposed

No response received by print deadline: Chuck Cutshall (D), Edward “Eddie” Moses (D)

Susan K. Stewart (D)

Education: BA, Liberal Studies, California State University, Bakersfield. K-14 Multiple Subject Teaching Credential

Experience: Since 2010, I’ve attended Commissioner Court meetings, and worked with commissioners on important issues. I’ve spoken about these issues at public meetings. In addition, I serve in leadership positions in civic and community organizations, and volunteer with youth and education programs.

Q: There has been some concern about property tax reduction to large commercial properties. What changes should be made to assure individual taxpayers that the system is equitable?
A: Tax incentives are often used to bring growth to a county, which can take the form of lower tax rates or tax deferral. The prevailing thought is this new growth will bring more tax dollars later, and the county must pay this upfront cost to bring in new business. It’s a delicate balance. The new development can bring tax dollars later, but current taxpayers shouldn’t have to take up the slack in the meantime. Each situation must be weighed individually, not a blanket county policy.

Q: What is your vision for improving transportation options (for example, roads, public transportation, rail) to keep up with the expected increase in population?
A: The people of Caldwell County are concerned about their existing roads. Transportation decisions for Caldwell County need to be made by Caldwell County, not unelected, outside agencies. Recent transportation plans are not based on the current needs. Rather these plans are based on what urban planners think is important. Funds associated with those plans have very limited rules for use. Before Caldwell County considers new forms of transportation, a county-driven growth plan needs to be in place. On the basis of that plan, a county-driven transportation plan can be developed to meet the current and future needs of Caldwell County residents.

COUNTY JUDGE

No response received by print deadline: James “Jimmy” Bertram (D), Paul Gomez (D), Fermin T. Islas (D)

No response received by print deadline: James “Jimmy” Bertram (D), Paul Gomez (D), Fermin T. Islas (D)
Continued from previous page

with a promise that the increased tax revenues from the growth will maintain and replace deteriorating systems. Far too often the increased revenue is used to fund new county projects. A special account from the increased revenue can be created to set aside the funds for the maintenance, repair, and improvement of important county infrastructure.

Q: The Community Care Collaborative (CCC) is Travis County’s new integrated delivery system for the health care for the underserved, uninsured population. How can the County assure the success of this program?

A: Caldwell County has no similar program.

No response received by print deadline: Chuck Cutsall (D), Edward “Eddie” Moses (D), O.J. Wade (D)

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

Joe Roland (D) Unopposed
Darrel Scott (R) Unopposed

JUDGE, COURT OF LAW

Edward L. Jarrett (D) Unopposed

COUNTY TREASURER

Lori Rangel (D) Unopposed

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 1

Aurora “Rhoda” Chavira (D) Unopposed
Matt Kiely (R) Unopposed

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 2

Homer Horne (D) Unopposed
Patricia E. Oringerhoff (R) Unopposed

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 3

Ben E. Brady (R) Unopposed

MaryAlice Llanas (D) Unopposed

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 4

Raymond D. DeLeon (D) Unopposed
David LaPoint (R) Unopposed

DISTRICT CLERK

Tina Morgan (D) Unopposed

COUNTY CLERK

Carol Holcomb (D) Unopposed

Compliance Director for Hays County Court. Collections of court cost, fines, fees and restitution. Experience working with Probation, Judges, Victim Services & DA offices, 4 yrs. TYC

Q: What should be the minimum qualifications for the position of Justice of the Peace?

A: Experience in Court room activity, knowledge of the required reporting to “Office of Court Administration” Experience in collections of Court cost fines & fees as well as Budget experience. Availability - Door is always open. Work with other Departments as well as Law Enforcement

Q: What should be the minimum qualifications for the position of Justice of the Peace?

A: Experience in Court room activity, knowledge of the required reporting to “Office of Court Administration” Experience in collections of Court cost fines & fees as well as Budget experience. Availability - Door is always open. Work with other Departments as well as Law Enforcement

Q: What are the funding needs of the office of Justice of the Peace?

A: The Justice of the Peace is the People’s Court and should be accessible to everyone regardless of their previous exposure to the judicial system. Therefore, funding is necessary for adequate office staff to assist people in filing, setting the petition on the docket and having the case heard before the court.

Q: What issues need to be addressed regarding process serving?

A: The only issue I have been made aware of is that process service has been delayed in the Court. The Judge must sign the documents timely to ensure timely service. Once the Court sends the documents to the Constable, the process has been effective in Precinct 1. Unfortunately, much of the inner workings of the JP Court are only known to the sitting Judge. Training for Justice of the Peace can only be accessed once elected and not before. Any issues regarding process serving would only be known by the Justice of the Peace office, the Constables and the citizens being served.

Judy Ann Seim (R)

Education: High School-Universal Management - Credit Collection Law- NACM Bond Lien - Several additional classes given by National Seminar.

Experience: 15 yrs Accounts Receivable, Small Claims, recovery of hot checks additional civil experience.

Continued on next page
Continued from previous page

COUNTY RACES

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 2

Beth Smith (D)
Unopposed

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 3

Andrew Cable (R)
Unopposed

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 4

Terry Kyle (R)
Unopposed

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 5

Scott J. Cary (D)
Unopposed

COUNTY CLERK

Liz Q. Gonzalez (R)
Unopposed

Gina Islas-Mendoza (D)
Unopposed

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Wesley “Wes” Mau (R)


Q: What supervision of prosecutors will you provide to avoid overzealous prosecutions and prosecutorial misconduct?
A: Prosecutors must always be conscious of the fact that they are responsible for protecting the rights of all citizens, both crime victims and the accused. Prosecutorial misconduct can result in reversal on appeal, requiring expensive retrials. Overzealous prosecution results in unnecessary trials, delays in case resolution, and is counterproductive to rehabilitative efforts. As DA, I will not tolerate such unethical and wasteful conduct. My assistants will understand that, while defendants presenting the greatest risk to the community should be aggressively prosecuted, it is also our duty to protect accused citizens from unjust prosecutions and abuses within the justice system.

Q: Are there measures or programs that you propose or support to reduce crime in our community (for example, family violence, juvenile crimes)?
A: While aggressive prosecution of crime is a deterrent, reducing crime also requires policies and programs that work to get at the root causes of criminal behavior. I support programs that attempt to determine those causes and deal with them directly, such as our new veteran’s court, which attempts to divert offenders from our adversarial system into a cooperative program designed to return offenders to society as law abiding citizens. The District Attorney’s office should also work with and support community organizations whose missions address those root causes, such as homelessness, joblessness, family violence, mental illness, and drug addiction.

Lynn Peach (R)

Education: B.S. in Criminology and Corrections, Sam Houston State University J.D., South Texas College of Law

Q: What supervision of prosecutors will you provide to avoid overzealous prosecutions and prosecutorial misconduct?
A: It is my intent to be as involved as possible in the prosecution of cases. I will establish a hierarchy of chief prosecutors to provide extra training, guidance and oversight. I do not believe misconduct can occur with effective leadership in place. Additionally, I will require semi-monthly staffings in which every prosecutor will discuss what is happening in the cases that they are prosecuting. There is no excuse for the wrongful convictions that have been in the news recently and it is abhorrent that individuals lose years of their lives because of misconduct of prosecutors. It absolutely will not be tolerated if I am elected District Attorney.

Q: Are there measures or programs that you propose or support to reduce crime in our community (for example, family violence, juvenile crimes)?
A: I am a strong advocate of programs such as the newly created veteran’s court which will address the special needs of those who have served the country and help reduce recidivism within that population. I would like to see the inception of a mental health court to deal with individuals who suffer from mental illness. In addition to this, there needs to be a case by case evaluation of those who are repeat offenders and appropriate punishment assessed for those who consistently choose to violate the law.

COUNTY SURVEYOR

Kelly Kilber (R)
Unopposed

COUNTY TREASURER

Michele Tuttle (R)
Unopposed

DISTRICT CLERK

Beverly Crumley (R)
Unopposed

TRAVIS COUNTY

COUNTY JUDGE

Andy Brown (D)

Education: Grew up and attended public schools in Austin, graduated from McCallum High School; JD, University of Texas; BA, Political Science, Colorado College; United States Agency for International Development Public Health intern in Honduras; Law Clerk for US federal Judge; Intern for Judge in Argentina.
Experience: 20 years of leadership experience bringing people together to stand up for progressive ideals. Chair of Travis County Democratic Party from 2008-2013. Worked for former Speaker of the House Pete Laney. Served on 2010 Austin Mobility Bond Advisory Committee. Worked for Congressman Lloyd Doggett.

Q: There has been some concern about property tax reduction to large commercial properties. What changes should be made to assure individual taxpayers that the system is equitable?
A: The problem is not property tax reduction, but rather property tax appraisals for large commercial properties. Since 2000, homeowners have been paying an increasingly larger share of the property tax bill. It is very difficult to obtain correct appraisals of large commercial properties, which is not a new problem. Every entity must pay their fair share. I would look to add more resources to the appraisal district so that we could obtain proper appraisals of large commercial properties. I would also advocate for sales price disclosure at the Legislature for property sales that amount to more than $10 or $15 million. I will also work to increase the homestead exemption for seniors to $100,000.

Q: What is your vision for improving transportation options (for example, roads, public transportation, rail) to keep up with the expected increase in population?
A: We are already behind growth when it comes to transportation infrastructure. I do not believe that we can ever build enough roads to satisfy automobile demand, especially with the sensitive environment in western Travis County. We must look to multi-modal solutions and encourage alternate forms of transportation. My top priority would be completing the Lone Star Rail system, which would run from Georgetown to South San Antonio. It could take thousands of cars a day off of I-35, but it will take real leadership to get the project moving. I will push for light rail and commuter rail that makes sense and moves people from where they live to where they work and back. More trails and bike ways.

Q: How would you address the growing problem of maintenance and replacement of county infrastructure?
A: One of the county’s greatest responsibilities is maintaining roads, buildings, and parks. I believe that Travis

Continued on next page

AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN / LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS 21
Continued from previous page

County’s facilities should reflect the values of our community, and that means making sure that everything we do is as sustainable and environmentally responsible as possible. There is a distinct need for a new family law facility, and that would be a top priority. We must be aware of the growing lack of affordability, so any major expenditures that the county makes should be sensitive to the hardship that many working families are feeling right now. I do believe that the county should make investments in renewable energy, and so rooftop solar is an opportunity I would pursue.

Q: The Community Care Collaborative (CCC) is Travis County’s new integrated delivery system for the health care for the underserved, uninsured population. How can the County assure the success of this program?
A: I am proud to have worked extensively to pass Prop 1, which expands healthcare here. It is critically important that we maintain a safety net for the most vulnerable individuals and families in Travis County. We must take full advantage of federal programs for funding, and without Prop 1, we may not have been able to do that. I will use the Commissioners Court appointments on the Central Health board to maintain oversight and to ensure that Central Health and the CCC are doing their best to provide top-notch, cost-effective, preventative, integrated care. The Commissioners Court has oversight of the Central Health Board, and I will use that oversight as necessary to ensure goals are met.

Sarah Eckhardt (D)

Education: University of Texas at Austin School of Law, J.D. (1998); The University of Texas at Austin, LBJ School of Public Affairs (Master of Public Affairs, 1995–1998); New York University (Bachelor of Fine Arts, 1982–1986)
Experience: Travis County Commissioners Court, Representative for Precinct 2 (2007–2013); Travis County Attorney’s Office, Prosecutor (1997–2005); Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Lawyer (2006); University of Texas Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, Adjunct Professor, CAMPO Vice-Chair
Q: There has been some concern about property tax reduction to large commercial properties. What changes should be made to assure individual taxpayers that the system is equitable?
A: As of the FY 13 budget, Travis County foregoes approximately $12M a year in tax breaks to corporations. That number does not include more than $20M for Formula 1 roads. I have reduced taxes for senior citizens and the disabled, right-sized the exemption for historic properties; and overhauled our tax exemption policy. I resisted tax giveaways to corporations that didn’t want to pay their fair share. I will maintain a level playing field, providing special tax treatment only if public benefits outweigh the public cost (e.g., companies providing good jobs in economically disadvantaged areas). I will continue increasing the Over 65 tax exemption and index it so it does not lose value.

Mike McNamara (R)

Unopposed

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

Garry Brown (D)

Education: B.A in English from University of Texas San Antonio
Experience: Chief of Staff for Travis County Commissioner Karen Huber, Asst Dir of the Travis County Democratic Party, Regional Field Organizer for the Human Rights Campaign, Congressional Aide for US Rep. Lloyd Doggett, former preschool teacher for 12 years, worked on numerous political campaigns:
Q: The Community Care Collaborative (CCC) is Travis County’s new integrated delivery system for the health care for the underserved, uninsured population. How can the County assure the success of this program?
A: Travis County can assure the success of the CCC by continuing to appoint active, knowledgeable, effective Central Health Board members. We must have a CCC with the courage and ingenuity to overcome barriers to providing full spectrum reproductive health care. We must have a CCC building the capacity to treat mental illness as a public health issue rather than a public safety issue. And, because the CCC represents a public/private partnership of a scale never experienced before by this community, we must have transparency and genuine community engagement.

Richard Jung (D)

Education: BA in Philosophy from Vanderbilt University, JD from the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America
Experience: Asst. Dir. in the DC Mayor’s Office, CEO – VIAS International, LLC,
Managing Partner - Jung Ko, PLLC, Board Chair for the Asian American Resource Center Non-Profit, Member Austin Travis County EMS Advisory Board, Member Austin Sustainable Development Committee, Member 2012 CoA Charter Revision Comm.: Q: There has been some concern about property tax reduction to large by cities like Seattle to obtain virtually free financing of infrastructure projects. Use of such programs could reduce the use of bonds and help control property tax rates while ensuring our county’s infrastructure needs are timely met. 

A: The Community Care Collaborative (CCC) is Travis County’s new integrated delivery system for the health care for the underserved, uninsured population. How can the County assure the success of this program?

A: The County must assure the success of this program by finding even more innovative delivery methods of appropriate services and continue the push to move health services out of the hospitals and emergency rooms. The ATCEMS community paramedic pilot program is a good example of this type of innovation. We must also assure that these services reach all segments of our community, including refugee and recently arrived immigrant populations who may have language access issues. We must also find more competent and caring partners to expand the service delivery network to every part of our County and we must find more effective ways to deliver mental health services outside of our jails.

Q: What is your vision for improving transportation options (for example, roads, public transportation, rail) to keep up with the expected increase in population?

A: My vision for improving transportation options for Travis County and our region is to provide a multi-modal transportation system that will provide the residents of our county with a full range of choices on how they get to and from their destinations. This includes roads, rail, buses, bike paths and walking paths. Travis County faces the very real prospect of another one million people moving into the County over the next 20 years. As County Commissioner, I will roll up my sleeves and work to build consensus with leaders of other counties and cities in our region (CAMPO) to get these improvements started now so that in 20 years we will not have to face the same problems we face today.

Q: How would you address the growing problem of maintenance and replacement of county infrastructure?

A: I am a strong believer in timely maintenance and replacement of county infrastructure such as roads, parks, courthouses and jails as examples. We must responsibly maintain and replace infrastructure to avoid creating even more expensive problems in the future. We need good long-term planning and budgeting. But we also need to think outside the box and look at new ideas. As an immigration attorney, I know of federal programs used

Raymond Frank (R) Unopposed

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

Margaret J. Gomez (D)


Email: margaret.gomez@austin.rr.com

Q: There has been some concern about property tax reduction to large commercial properties. What changes should be made to assure individual taxpayers that the system is equitable?

A: There are several checks and balances in the property tax system. The Property Tax Code is passed by the Legislature and sets standards under which the independent appraisal districts conduct commercial and residential appraisals. The law allows all property owners to appeal their appraisal to the Appraisal Review Board, independent from the Appraisal Districts. Property owners have the right to file suit in district court if they feel the appraisal does not reflect the value of their property. The State Comptroller audits appraisal districts to make sure that property owners are being treated fairly and equitably because of school funding formulas.

Q: What is your vision for improving transportation options (for example, roads, public transportation, rail) to keep up with the expected increase in population?

A: I have been appointed by the Commissioners Court to the group working on IH 35 improvements. In 1995 when I served on CAMPO, it was already estimated that IH35 needed to be 14 lanes wide in order to handle the traffic at that time. Today it has gotten worse and SH 130 which was intended to be the alternative to IH35 has not been realized. We are the most congested section of IH35 in the country. We need to bite the bullet to handle the traffic being generated by the local growth in population before we get further behind. In terms of public transportation, much investment has been made by the City of Austin to provide assigned lanes for buses so they can move faster.

Q: How would you address the growing problem of maintenance and replacement of county infrastructure?

A: The CCC, which has recently partnered with County mental health services is an important new mechanism to provide health care to the poor. The County can help this program succeed by assuring that it is well managed and fiscally responsible. Tru this program, we need to increase mental health care services so we won’t have to continue to transport care patients 600 miles RT to a facility in Vernon, TX because we don’t have enough beds. We also need to make sure the pharmacy at the Del Valle Correctional facility can purchase medicine at the preferred rate. Currently they pay as much as 45% more because they’re not included in the health district. I am working with officials to fix these issues.

Continued on next page
and promotion of health. I look forward to
from a focus of treating illness to preventing
met. Travis County has a very close working
making more money available to Travis
matched by the Federal Government,
Central Health with funds that can be
this collaborate successful by providing
underserved, uninsured individuals in Travis
the health care for about 50,000 of the
County and Central Health that will manage
adequately fund roads in Precinct 4.

Continued from previous page
replacement of county infrastructure?
A: County government builds and
maintains roads and bridges in the
unincorporated area in Travis County. In
western Travis County soils are stable. In
eastern Travis County, the soils have more
clay that expands and shrinks, causing newly
fixed roads to break down more often. By
working with engineers from Central Texas
Regional Mobility Authority, TxDOT, and
the private sector, I have learned of new
approaches that have been pursued such
digging out several feet of clay and filling
in with concrete, a process that is more
expensive but lasts longer. We must plan
accordingly to avoid redoing roads which are
not inexpensive to begin with. I have voted
to address the needs of mobility in the rest
of Travis County and the time has come to
adequately fund roads in Precinct 4.

Q: The Community Care Collaborative
(CCC) is Travis County’s new integrated
delivery system for the health care for the
underserved, uninsured population. How
can the County assure the success of this
program?
A: The Community Care Collaborative
(CCC) is a partnership between Travis
County and Central Health that will manage
the health care for about 50,000 of the
underserved, uninsured individuals in Travis
County. Travis County assists in making
this collaborate successful by providing
Central Health with funds that can be
matched by the Federal Government, making
more money available to Travis
County so that poor people’s needs can be
met. Travis County has a very close working
relationship with Central Health as we shift
from a focus of treating illness to preventing
illness, management of chronic diseases and
promotion of health. I look forward to
continuing to work with Central Health.

No response received by print deadline:
Darla Wegner (D)

COUNTY JUDGE,
COUNT COURT OF LAW NO. 1

Todd Wong (D)
Unopposed

COUNTY JUDGE,
COUNT COURT OF LAW NO. 2

Eric Montgomery Shepperd (D)
Unopposed

DISTRICT CLERK

Velva L. Price (D)
Unopposed

COUNTY CLERK

Dana DeBeauvoir (D)
Unopposed

COUNTY JUDGE, COURT OF LAW NO. 3

Paul Evans (D)

Education: B.A. in Latin, University of Texas
at Austin, 1995. J.D., University of Texas
at Austin, 2002.

Experience: Private solo criminal defense
practitioner since 2005. Associate at Lusk
and Evans, 2003 to 2005.

Q: Do you believe changes in the
current election process are needed to
improve or maintain impartiality, given
the need to raise funds for political
campaigns?
A: Better voter education and better
turnout would be the superior methods for
maintaining impartiality, not changes to the
electoral process itself.

Q: How would you handle a situation
where an attorney appearing before your
court is inadequately representing his or
her client?
A: If elected, I would have a duty to
ensure that defendants receive effective
assistance of counsel as guaranteed by the
Federal and State constitutions. I would urge
counsel to take remedial measures or else
seek to withdraw from the representation.
If necessary and appropriate, I would report
the matter to the State Bar of Texas.

Q: How would you handle a situation
where an attorney appearing before your
court is one of your top ten campaign
contributors?
A: I have not solicited or accepted any
contributions from lawyers who would be
appearing in my court. Nor do I intend to do
so.

John Lipscombe (D)

Education: U.T. Austin (BA); St. Mary’s
University Law School
Experience: Almost 30 Years Criminal
Law Judge (3 yrs); Prosecutor (20 years);
Appellate Attorney with Texas Court of
Criminal Appeals (4 ½years); Law Clerk (2
years)

Q: Do you believe changes in the current
election process are needed to improve or
maintain impartiality, given the need to
raise funds for political campaigns?
A: I believe the current process of judicial
selection should be maintained so that
every Texan has a say in who is selected
for the bench. A judicial appointment
system tends to disenfranchise the citizen
by taking away his/her ability to initially
select judges retention elections only make
the gap between public officeholder and
public citizen wider. However, I wholly favor
a system where judicial campaigns are
publically funded. Such a system creates a
more even playing field for all candidates in
a race, eliminate the issue of partiality, and
could help create a higher level of respect for
the judicial system as a whole.

Q: How would you handle a situation
where an attorney appearing before your
court is inadequately representing his or
her client?
A: It has happened. I have an ethical
obligation to see that justice is done in
every case before me. It is an awesome
responsibility and I take it very seriously. To
that end, I will ask questions about the facts
of the case, about the Defendant, what
discovery has been requested and provided
by the State. I may ask the attorney to meet
me in chambers so we may privately discuss
what the defendant has done or not done
in the case. We may come to an agreement
to assign another attorney in an appointed
case or if the attorney is retained, agree that
he/she will consult with a more experienced
attorney about the case. My primary
obligation is always to ensure justice is done.

Q: How would you handle a situation
where an attorney appearing before your
court is one of your top ten campaign
contributors?
A: I treat all attorneys in the same manner.
I have never had any attorney ask me for
special consideration based on a campaign
contribution, and if I ever do I have an ethical
obligation to report his conduct to the State
Bar and the prosecuting attorney’s office
for investigation. If I have any type of soecial
relationship with a particular attorney,
contributor or not, of a personal or business
nature, I have a duty to disclose that
relationship to both the Defense and the
State. If there is a conflict, and justice cannot
be fairly served with me as the presiding
judge, I will recuse myself from hearing the
case.

COUNTY JUDGE,
COUNT COURT OF LAW NO. 4

Mike Denton (D)
Unopposed

COUNTY JUDGE,
COUNT COURT OF LAW NO. 5

Nancy Hohengarten (D)
Unopposed

COUNTY JUDGE,
COUNT COURT OF LAW NO. 6

Brandy Mueller (D)
Unopposed

COUNTY JUDGE,
COUNT COURT OF LAW NO. 7

Elisabeth Earle (D)
Unopposed

COUNTY TREASURER

Ramey Ko (D)

Education: Yale
University, BA; History;
University of Chicago Law
School, JD with Honors

Experience: Partner,
Jung Ko, PLLC (2012–Present); Associate
Judge, Austin Municipal Court (2010–
2013); Lecturer, University of Texas at
Austin (2011–Present); Attorney, Texas
Advocacy Project (2009–2010); Attorney,
Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Inc. (2006–
2008)

Q: How do the duties and
responsibilities of the County Treasurer
position differ from those of the County
Auditor?
A: As envisioned by the Texas
Constitution, the County Treasurer serves
as the chief custodian of county finances,
elected by and accountable to the
people; the Treasurer is also charged with
handling monies as the Commissioners
Court directs. The County Auditor is an
independent office that provides oversight
of county finances and is not subject
to control by the Commissioners. This
relationship is designed to separate powers
and ensure integrity through checks
and balances. In practice, this system of
checks and balances has weakened as the
Commissioners Court found it necessary to
transfer more of the responsibilities of the
Treasurer to the Auditor. It’s time to restore
that balance.

Q: What are the most pressing
problems facing this office, and how do
you propose to handle these issues?
A: The most pressing problem facing
this office is its invisibility and lack of

Continued on next page
COUNTY RACES

Continued from previous page

relevance to the everyday lives of Travis County residents. While we seem to have enjoyed unparalleled growth and prosperity recently, more and more families are being squeezed by stagnant wages, inequitable property tax burdens, and rising cost of living. In the face of such challenges to the very character of our community, we need a Treasurer’s office committed to restoring integrity, accountability, and transparency to county finances. I pledge to open county finances to the people, restore faith in the office, and take a visible, proactive role in the fiscal health of our entire community.

Dolores Ortega Carter (D)

Education: B.A. Texas A&M University; M.A. Texas A&M University; Certified County Treasurer; Certified Investment Officer; Certified to meet requirements of the Public Funds Investment Act.

Experience: Travis County Treasurer 1987 - present. Attended and participated in certified continuing education and numerous seminars on the fundamentals of investing, cash management, arbitrage, financial ethics and government accounting; Serve on Bail Bond Board and Investment Committee.

Q: How do the duties and responsibilities of the County Treasurer position differ from those of the County Auditor?
A: The County Treasurer is the chief custodian of county finances, receives all monies belonging to the county, keeps and accounts for all monies, acts as the chief liaison between the county and all depository banks, and disburses all monies as directed by the Commissioners’ Court. The Auditor maintains the integrity of financial administration of county government. The Auditor’s primary duty is to oversee financial record-keeping of the county to insure that expenditures comply with the budget as set by the Commissioners’ Court. Both the Treasurer and the Auditor work together to provide strict checks and balances that preserve the safety of the taxpayers’ money.

Q: What are the most pressing problems facing this office, and how do you propose to handle these issues?
A: In this world of ever changing technology, the Treasury must reflect this sophistication in the implementation of new and upgraded cash management systems and financial management as well. Maintaining the integrity of the taxpayers’ monies is of utmost importance and providing advanced security for on-line transactions is an on-going concern given the increase use of the internet. Each day brings enhanced levels of security to eliminate any chance of fraud. Daily monitoring and continued enhancements to these program will always be a challenging and pressing issue in the County Treasurer’s office.

COUNTY JUDGE

Michael H. Custer (D)
Unopposed

Dan A. Gattis (R)
Unopposed

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

Eddie B. Hurst Jr. (D)
Unopposed

No response received by print deadline: Cynthia Long (R), Michael Sorenson (R)

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

Rick Guzman (R)

Education: B.A. History & Philosophy, 1979, Rice University; JD, 1988, University of Houston Law Center

Experience: I am a native Texas who has lived in Williamson County since 1989, Army veteran who served in Germany, attorney in private practice, author, husband of 31 years, and father of three children. I have served on a number of Boards, including the Writers League of Texas and my homeowner’s association.

Q: There has been some concern about property tax reduction to large commercial properties. What changes should be made to assure individual taxpayers that the system is equitable?
A: As a conservative Republican, I want taxes to be low. I encourage growth. But, it is not fair that a Fortune-500 company received tax reduction relief in 2014 when homeowners did not. Williamson County could have lowered taxes and maintained the same level of services but chose not to. This increased the county property taxes of the average homeowner. As a fiscal conservative, I would require tax reductions to benefit the County’s taxpayers. I want real, measurable benefits. Taxpayers should not pay for social engineering or favoritism. We should constantly review our laws to ensure that the tax system is fair and that inequities do not occur.

Q: What is your vision for improving transportation options (for example, roads, public transportation, rail) to keep up with the expected increase in population?
A: Williamson County is a rapidly growing county. New roads and improvements to existing roads are a constant need. Other transportation options, such as public transportation, toll roads, and rail, have their place in the mix, but can be extremely expensive. Because it takes so long to complete major road projects, the County needs to look at ways to speed up the road building project process so that badly needed traffic projects can be completed quickly and for less money.

Q: How would you address the growing problem of maintenance and replacement of county infrastructure?
A: With the build out of its infrastructure, Williamson County’s maintenance and replacement costs will increase. Proper maintenance will ensure that infrastructure lasts as long as possible. The last thing the County needs is spending taxpayer money to build roads that will have to be replaced early because they were not maintained properly. As Commissioner I will ensure that maintenance programs are budgeted, put in place and followed.

Q: The Community Care Collaborative (CCC) is Travis County’s new integrated delivery system for the health care for the underserved, uninsured population.
A: As Commissioner I would like to make sure this program is funded properly and that those under-served get the health care they need.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 5

Raul Arturo Gonzalez (D)
Unopposed

No response received by print deadline: Herb Evans (D), James Braxton Forrest (D)

PROBATE JUDGE

Guy Herman (D)
Unopposed

COUNTY Constable, PRECINCT 3

Jeff Eckert (R)

Education: Graduate of Georgetown High School. Holds a certificate in Criminal Justice Education from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville and is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s National Academy.

How can the County assure the success of this program?
A: Williamson County does not have the CCC. Williamson County has several programs in place to provide these services. As a general rule, I favor private solutions to health care delivery and would encourage such approaches. Health care is in such a state of flux that it is impossible to predict the long term success of any program at this time.

No response received by print deadline: Ron Morrison (R)

Williamson County is a rapidly growing county. New roads and improvements to existing roads are a constant need. Other transportation options, such as public transportation, toll roads, and rail, have their place in the mix, but can be extremely expensive. Because it takes so long to complete major road projects, the County needs to look at ways to speed up the road building project process so that badly needed traffic projects can be completed quickly and for less money.

Q: The Community Care Collaborative (CCC) is Travis County’s new integrated delivery system for the health care for the underserved, uninsured population.
A: As Commissioner I would like to make sure this program is funded properly and that those under-served get the health care they need.

continued on next page
General Greg Abbott. Office and later as a Captain with the Law Unit of the Williamson County Sheriff’s Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Has received his Master Peace Officer Certification.
Continued from previous page

May 2003 through Jan 2014, two years as Mayor Pro Tem. More than 30 years of work experience, with 10 years in banking, 15 years of management, extensive financial experience. Responsible for multi-million dollar budgets for the last 15 years in private and public sectors.

Q: How do the duties and responsibilities of the County Treasurer position differ from those of the County Auditor?
A: The County Treasurer serves as the banker and investment officer for the county, receiving all monies from all sources collected within the county. The Treasurer maintains records of all deposits and withdrawals, reconciles all bank statements, and is charged with safekeeping of all county funds. The Treasurer, as advisor to the county investment committee, recommends investment and administrative policies and strategies to that committee that are in compliance with the Texas Public Funds Investment Act. The County Auditor is the policeman of all county financial records, ensuring laws governing county finances are followed and comply with the budget set by the County Commissioner’s Court.

Q: What are the most pressing problems facing this office, and how do you propose to handle these issues?
A: The most pressing problem facing the Treasurer’s office is the significant impact of the population growth we are experiencing in Williamson County now and in the foreseeable future. The growth increases the workload on the Treasurer’s office as more county funds must be handled on a daily basis. I will address this issue by implementing all available technologies that will improve the efficiency of the Treasurer’s office. This will also have a positive effect on the efficiency of the offices that interact with the Treasurer’s office. As a fiscal conservative, I will always look for ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government to facilitate cost savings to the taxpayer.

Jeri Jones (R)
Education: Bachelor of Arts, Miami University (Ohio)
Experience: 20 Years Marine Corps Officer (Lt Colonel); Executive Director Williamson County Children’s Advocacy Center; Management, Solectron (Manufacturing), 26 years Government/Non Profit Finance, part time Financial Secretary, First Presbyterian Church, Georgetown.

Q: How do the duties and responsibilities of the County Treasurer position differ from those of the County Auditor?
A: Both Offices work closely together but are quite different. The County Treasurer is the “Banker” for the County, specializing in two areas: Cash Management and Investments. All funds received by County offices, except those received by the Tax Assessor, are couriered to the Treasurer’s Office daily for reconciliation and further transport to the Depository. Additionally, the Treasurer sits on the Investment Committee and helps to ensure that invested funds are properly invested (Safety, Liquidity, Yield) and are available when needed for County projects. The Auditor, among other things, is responsible for Accounts Payable, Payroll, and overseeing the adherence to rules and regulations.

Q: What are the most pressing problems facing this office, and how do you propose to handle these issues?
A: The departure of the current Treasurer... Our current Treasurer leaves this office after 20 years, in a rapidly growing County. My reason for getting into this race is to help ensure that this office, which has been run efficiently over the years, does not lose ground in its productivity and accuracy. Once I have stabilized operations, I believe that an assessment of the various activities within the office will yield opportunities for further improvement and efficiencies. My strength is not only my leadership, but my ability to seek and find the most efficient practices, stepping outside the box and working with other Treasurer offices to share in their “best practices” where applicable.

Ralph Pruyn (R)
Education: I have an MBA in Financial Planning as well as a Master of Management Degree in Operations. My Bachelor Degree is in Business Management
Experience: I have more than 6 years experience as a Company Treasurer. 3 Years experience as US Treasury Examiner. And I have been a successful Business Owner. I was an F-16 Tech Rep and a Program Specialist during my 20 years at Lockheed Martin in Fort Worth. And I served 4 years in the USAF.

Q: How do the duties and responsibilities of the County Treasurer position differ from those of the County Auditor?
A: The easiest way to visualize the differences is to picture the Treasurer as taking in the revenues for Williamson County. Making sure they all get properly deposited and credited to one of more than three dozen accounts. The Treasurer is also the County’s Investment Officer, managing and investing the funds in accordance with the Investment Policy approved by the Commissioner’s Court. The County Auditor has the accounts payable and payroll activities and does most all the county disbursements. The two offices jointly sign the checks and provide the County’s checks and balances as part of their financial management.

Q: What are the most pressing problems facing this office, and how do you propose to handle these issues?
A: I don’t see any pressing problems. I will continue to insure compliance with all laws and policies regarding public funds. I will continue to promote the use of technology to increase efficiency in the handling and control of funds. In addition, I will look for improved returns on funds held for long and short term investment.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 1

Dain Johnson (R) Unopposed

Nick Lealos (D) Unopposed

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 2

Edna Staudt (R) Unopposed

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 3

Robert Lloyd (R)
Education: Graduate Univ. of Houston Police Academy, Two Associate Degrees from ACC, Bachelor Degree Texas State Univ. and will graduate May, Master Degree Angelo State Univ. 3300 hours training in topics related to the law and graduate from the Law Enforcement Management Institute Sam Houston State University
Experience: 27 years in field of criminal justice and law. Master Peace Officer. Extensive experience with most aspects of criminal Law, traffic code, court procedures, & traffic codes. Several years in supervision and operations. Court experience including Round Rock Municipal Court liaison from 2006 to 2012.

Q: What should be the minimum qualifications for the position of Justice of the Peace?
A: Qualifications must include ingrained character traits such as Integrity, Service committed, Experience, Judicial temperament and Professional competence. Intensive education, experience combined with a solid background in the field of law along with sound knowledge of the law. The ability to deal calmly and professionally with every person and temperament that always remains fair and equal to everyone. The person must have the ability to maintain the balance of justice. They must be both fiercely independent and courageous as to not shy away from making unpopular decisions.

Q: What are the funding needs of the office of Justice of the Peace?
A: The funding needs of the office of the Justice of the Peace have for the past few years have been met. The programs and staffing have remain steady but future budget expenditures with a need to an increase in personnel and important new technologies must keep pace with current workload demands. The burden to our citizens must always demand our thinking outside the box. The first is to see where cost savings can be made in house and a hard line look at achieving greater results with less. Future funding needs begin by get a handle on funds you already have, make a plan of needs based on current and future demands and then make budget requests that are realistic, fair and reasonable.

Q: What issues need to be addressed regarding process serving?
A: Process serving the primary duties of the Constable for that specific precinct. Justice of the Peace should be addressing any clerical issues that may arise regarding process serving. The Justice of the Peace is an office that works very close with many departments and a variety of other agencies. It is vital that he or she maintain an open door policy and provide assistance wherever and whenever it’s needed. The JP must address process insure all writs, civil and criminal paperwork be completely legal and filed in a timely manner with as much information as available. Another issue to address is to keep updated records and information that process servers would have reasonable access.

No response received by print deadline: Bill Gravell (R)

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 4

Judy Schier Hobbs (R) Unopposed