VOTING IN THE 2012 GENERAL ELECTION

In the General Election on Nov. 6, voters in Texas may vote for any candidate, regardless of whether they voted in a party primary or participated in a party convention. All candidates from all parties are on the same ballot.

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

These boxes indicate your ...

... state Senate district

... Congressional district

... state House district

... county commissioner precinct

... school district

... in which city you may vote

... justice of the peace precinct/constable precinct

... school board member district

When you go to vote, take your registration certificate with you. If you do not provide a voter registration certificate, you may vote by providing some other form of identification. You will be allowed to vote if your name appears on the rolls in your county of residence. The following are acceptable forms of identification for the November 6, 2012, election:

- Drivers license
- Personal identification card issued by the Dept. of Public Safety
- Government check, or other government document

AMERICAN STATESMAN

Another form of identification containing your photograph
- Birth certificate
- United States citizenship papers
- United States passport
- Official mail addressed to you from a governmental entity
- Pay check that shows your name and address
- Current utility bill
- Bank statement
- Government check, or other government document

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U.S. PRESIDENT

GROUND RULES

- All qualified presidential candidates were invited to provide biographical information and respond to six specific questions. Candidates were qualified if they met the following criteria: 1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for President; 2. The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes; and, 3. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act’s minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the FEC website by the date of publication.
- Responses were limited to a specific number of characters and were truncated thereafter.
- If a candidate did not respond by the date of publication, “Candidate has not responded” is printed.

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT

DUTIES: The President is the head of state of the United States of America and is the Chief Executive Officer and is the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are described in the Constitution and federal law. The President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices and federal judges, subject to Senate approval. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress.

How Elected: Every four years, political parties nominate candidates to run for President of the United States in a general election that is held on the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in November. The popular vote for President and Vice President within each state determines how the members of the Electoral College may vote. There are 538 members in the Electoral College, with 270 votes required to win the Presidency. See http://www.lvw.org/files/ElectingThePresident.pdf for more details.

TERM: Four years. Limit of two terms. Base Salary: $400,000 per year.

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

Question 1: Please identify your top three goals if elected.
Question 2: In this time of high unemployment, what are the most important things that should be done to improve our nation’s economy?
Question 3: How can the federal government, in collaboration with other levels of government, provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?
Question 4: Please explain why you do or do not support cutting Medicare and Social Security to address the federal deficit.
Question 5: Please explain why you do or do not support requiring timely and full disclosure of all political expenditures in federal campaigns.
Question 6: Please explain why you do or do not support the Environmental Protection Agencies’ efforts to enforce strong clean air and clean water standards in America.

Barack Obama (D)

Personal Statement: As a nation, our challenges can by met by rebuilding the middle class and our economy on a stronger foundation. I have laid out a set of concrete goals on manufacturing, energy, education, national security, and the deficit that will create jobs, expand opportunity, and create an economy build to last.

Answer 1: As a nation, our challenges can be met by rebuilding the middle class and our economy on a stronger foundation. I have laid out a set of concrete goals on manufacturing, energy, education, national security, and the deficit that will create jobs, expand opportunity, and create an economy build to last.

Mitt Romney (R)

Personal Statement: I am running for president because I believe in America and know that our best days are still ahead. I will make it my priority to create 12 million new jobs and get our economy going again.

Answer 1: The first priority of a Romney Administration will be to create 12 million new jobs and get our economy going again. We must get our fiscal house in order. President Obama has put our nation on an unsustainable course. As president, Mitt Romney will set the country on the path to a balanced budget. And he will ensure we have a military so strong that no adversary would want to test it.

Answer 2: Mitt Romney will get America back to work by reforming our tax code so businesses can hire more workers, developing our domestic energy resources to create new jobs here at home, reversing burdensome job-destroying regulations—including Obamacare, and ensuring Americans receive education and training for today’s jobs. His plan will also get spending under control to prevent a debt crisis.

Answer 3: Mitt Romney believes that this important goal begins with providing parents with increased choice and information. He has put forth a plan that would allow federal funding to follow low-income and special needs students to the school of their choice. This plan also would support high quality charter schools in scaling up and reward states that recruit and retain the best teachers.

Answer 4: Entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare are large parts of the federal budget. Mitt Romney’s plan to reform these programs will not only protect the benefits and services of current seniors and those nearing retirement, but will strengthen the programs so they are available for future generations.

Answer 5: Mitt Romney understands that money can be a corrupting influence in politics. But layers of regulations have not taken money out of politics; they have instead created a system of PACs that are not accountable to the candidates they support.

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He believes the best solution is swift and full disclosure of all donations to candidates. This allows the American people to hold politicians accountable.

Answer 6: Mitt Romney is proud of the environmental progress that we have made to improve our nation’s air and water quality and supports continued progress. However, while our air and water laws have served us well over the years, he recognizes that they are significantly out of date and in need of reform.

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Gary Johnson (L)
Personal Statement: After having built a successful business, I entered public service by asking the people of New Mexico to give me an opportunity to bring common sense leadership to the Office of Governor. I pledged to reduce taxes, reduce the size of state government. (///)

Answer 2: The Federal Budget must be brought under control to eliminate the massive deficits that are threatening the economy and our security. Removing the burden of deficits and debt will restore confidence and free up capital to permit the economy to grow. I advocate a consumption tax which would allow us to eliminate taxes on income, capital gains and businesses — creating millions of new jobs.

Answer 3: The Federal government cannot and should not try to provide public education. Decades of increasing federal interference in education has done little other than stifle innovation and competition in public education. Education should be left to the states, which will permit the types of innovation and education choices that will allow us to regain its competitive advantage in global education.

Answer 4: It is not possible to preserve health care programs for future generations, while bringing federal spending under control and not reducing Medicare. Not addressing Medicare and Medicaid spending will result in an insolvent system. Under a program of block grants, the states can fashion their own health care programs for those who need assistance, more effectively than the Federal government.

Answer 5: Full and immediate disclosure and transparency for campaign contributions and expenditures is the only effective way to give the American public confidence in the system and allow them to make their own decisions regarding the propriety of how one candidate or another finances his or her campaigns.

Answer 6: The Federal government’s most fundamental role is to protect citizens. To the extent that fulfilling that role requires enforcement actions by the EPA, that enforcement should be reasonable, but adequate to protect us from harm. The EPA, however, should not be in the business of managing the environment through regulations that force decisions that should be left to the marketplace, such as energy (///)

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Jill Stein (G)
Personal Statement: We can’t afford four more years of Wall Street bailouts and an economy for the superrich. We must guarantee every individual a job at a living wage, quality health care, tuition-free education, Social Security and a healthy climate and environment.

Answer 1: stand for a Green New Deal that will deliver 1) A recession-proof economy that provides a job at a living wage for every American willing and able to work, 2) An economy based on clean, renewable energy, 3) Replacement of the predatory Wall Street banks with a public interest banking system, and 4) A real democracy in which politicians are accountable to voters not big money donors.

Answer 2: My Green New Deal will create 25 million jobs through a nationally funded but locally controlled direct employment initiative. This will eliminate long term unemployment by letting workers simply go to the local employment office and get a job. It will deliver the most effective stimulus of all: millions of workers with paychecks.

Answer 3: I will end Washington’s attempts to promote high stakes testing, corporatization of public schools, and destructive union-busting schemes. I will repeal the misguided No Child and Race to the Top laws and refocus on creating schools that prepare students for lifetime learning: full funding, small class sizes, teachers that are well trained, respected, and compensated, and parental involvement.

Answer 4: Neither Medicare nor Social Security will be cut under the Green New Deal. I will guarantee health care for everyone under a Medicare for All reform that will save trillions by streamlining the massive, wasteful, health insurance bureaucracy and ending runaway medical inflation. I will make Social Security permanently solvent by lifting the income cap on the payroll taxes.

Answer 5: I support full disclosure of donor identities. But we must do more to eliminate the poisonous impact of big money on our democracy. We must amend our Constitution to prevent corporations from stealing our democratic rights by claiming the same rights as real people. We also need to end the buying of elections by providing clean money funding for candidates that agree to spending limits.

Answer 6: We cannot afford the health injuries, natural resource losses, and ecological disintegration that result from lax EPA enforcement. I will require EPA to address new threats to our air, land, water, and climate from hydrofracking, deepwater drilling and more. EPA must fully implement the ozone standards that were killed by the Obama Administration.

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UNITED STATES 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

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

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

Elections: The Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision has changed the role of money in politics. What changes, if any, do you support to regulation of campaign financing?

Health Care: What changes, if any, should be made to the health care system in the U.S.?

Gridlock: How will you avoid the gridlock that has crippled Congress?

Paul Sadler (D)
Immigration: Continue our efforts to strengthen and support border security. Policies must be streamlined to effectively allow use of the system to legally apply for citizenship. A temporary work visa program and reasonable pathway to citizenship should be created for those without a criminal record and willing to learn English. We should pass the DREAM Act for innocent young students.

Foreign Intervention: US interest in foreign conflict must be backed by a set of policies directed toward ensuring effective and legitimate intervention that is based on the sanctity of human rights while also respecting national sovereignty. Priority should be given to our national security, with a clear objective, sufficient force to achieve the objective, and a clear strategy to resolve.

Elections: Citizens United is the most devastating decision to campaign finance reform and the influence of special interests in elections. Knowing the source is critical; transparency, disclosure, and disclaimer requirements are necessary to protect against undue influence. Unlimited use of corporate/individual money through Super PACs jeopardizes voter rights to informed decisions.

Health Care: The Affordable Care Act, although not perfect, has important features that benefit us as consumers, patients and human beings. It contains measures to encourage and incentivize efficiencies within health care. To build upon this, we must continue to look for creative solutions to Medicare and Medicaid funding issues, improve access to quality care and further reduce costs.

Gridlock: I will bring my proven record of problem solving to the Senate, working toward practical solutions, understanding that the best ideas can come from any person. Texans deserve a leader with political courage and integrity - I have demonstrated commitment to that idea. Being a legislator isn’t about partisanship, it’s about developing solutions to better the lives of Texans.

Education: Bachelor in Business Administration and Management, Baylor

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University, 1977; J.D. from Baylor Law School, 1979.

Experience: Served in the TX House of Representatives from 1991 – 2003; Chairman of Public Education Committee, 1995-2003; appointed to the Legislative Budget Board, Executive Director of the Wind Coalition, 2008-2012.

John Jay Myers (L)

Immigration: We have made it impossible for peaceful people to immigrate to this country legally. I believe in border security that stops the violent, but not an iron curtain of federal quotas that blocks people who want to work, shop, or travel. We also need to end the other programs that unfairly target immigrants, such as the drug war: the welfare state, and the war on terror.

Foreign Intervention: Only when our own country is immediately threatened with attack, and only to the extent necessary to defeat that threat. Otherwise, honest trade and peace with all nations is the key to preserving our security. Our CIA and military interventions have only fueled terrorism and sponsored the worst of the worst such as Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden. War is a racket.

Elections: As long as government has power to grant economic favors, monied interests will find a way to game the system. Reducing the power of government is the first step to preventing corruption. A government that has no power to grant favors will not be bought. No amount of regulation will stop money from going to political cronies while government continues to dole out profits.

Health Care: Government programs designed to help people have had the opposite effect. Pumping money into this industry artificially inflates demand and increases prices. It’s time to phase out Medicare and Medicaid over the next 20 years before health resources become so scarce that they are affordable for no one. Malpractice issues should be handled by the courts and the people.

Gridlock: Congress is not crippled. The fat cats still have their way while the people are divided over the scraps from their table. The incumbent parties still collude against us while perpetuating the fiction that we have a choice between two polar opposites. Unlike greed, freedom is nonpartisan, and I will support other Senators whenever they take freedom positions on issues.

Education: Southwest Missouri State University

Experience: Libertarian National Committee, Vice-Chair of Libertarian Party of Dallas County, Liberty Activist

David B. Collins (G)

Immigration: Start by fixing the root of the problem, the dire poverty and economic instability of Mexico and Central America. If people can make a proper living in their home countries, they will not need to risk their lives migrating to the U.S. Assist sustainable agriculture and promote living wage green jobs both here and there. Also, provide immigrants a path to citizenship.

Foreign Intervention: None. U.S. intervention has a history of making things worse, whether immediately or long-term. We typically intervene because our business interests are threatened, which happens because these interests rip off host nations’ economies and destroy their ecosystems. The United Nations should be sufficiently funded to fulfill its purpose and prevent foreign conflicts.

Elections: The answer is easy, though the solution is difficult: Amend the Constitution, as proposed by moveon.org, to state that corporations are not people and money is not speech. Greens also favor public funding of campaigns, which works in many other nations. The current private system awards power to the highest bidders.

Health Care: Single payer national health care, already adopted in 24 other nations, produces measurably better health outcomes while spending far less in overhead. The Affordable Care Act makes some improvements, but an inadequate compromise that mostly benefits insurance companies by requiring people to purchase coverage. By international law, health care is a human right.

Gridlock: Too many current Congressmembers act on behalf of their corporate patrons, who spend millions to keep government from doing anything to help the common people but reap billions in benefits via subsidies and tax loopholes. Switch to public financing, get the corporations’ and the billionaires’ “dark money” out of the game.

Education: BA in Classics from Rice University, 1984; cum laude from Cypress Creek High School, 1980.

Experience: Green Party organizer and member since 1996; first time as a candidate; veteran of five Texas ballot-access petition drives.

Ted Cruz (R)

No response received

United States House of Representatives

U.S. REP., DISTRICT 10

Tawana W. Cadien (D)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.

A: I’ve earned a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Nursing as well as an Executive Master’s in Public Administration. I have worked as an RN Educator, Quality Assurance Director, Outreach Coordinator as well as precinct chair. Dedicated service to community and passion for people are my key qualifiers.

Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your voice on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?

A: I have not signed any pledge that will affect my voice on any issue. Presently I do not hold the position as District 10 representative, and have not been in a position to vote on any particular legislation. However, should I be elected as District 10 U.S. Representative, I do commit to reviewing all proposed legislation with fairness, integrity, and will base my decision solely on the issues while being mindful of the impact on constituents.

Q: Political spending by corporations, unions, non-profit advocacy groups, and individuals has increased dramatically in recent years. Do you support: no regulations or limits on corporate spending; disclosure of funding sources; limitations on donations/spending; and/or some other related regulations. Please explain.

A: The political environment and subsequent spending in many cases has far too long mirrored negative business practices and the citizens depending on genuine representation have been left doubtful. In order to gain trust and assure positive political practices, transparency in politics should be standard. Regulations, limitations, and disclosures will need to be in place. Citizens should be afforded confidence in choosing representations.

Q: What changes in current policies or new measures or programs would you propose to decrease unemployment?

A: It is imperative that all efforts to increase employment be analyzed including job skill training and educational investment in the youth of our society. There should be tax incentives for those companies in the U.S. that do not outsource jobs that can be readily performed within the U.S. Those companies participating in unnecessary outsourcing should be penalized.

Q: What measures would you propose or support in order to balance the federal budget (i.e., tax increases, cuts to entitlements and/or military funding, elimination of specific government programs, other measures)?

A: In order to balance the federal budget, and concise and careful analysis is necessary. The pros and cons of increases and eliminations will also need to be carefully reviewed for immediate, intermediate, and future impact.

Q: What do you believe is our greatest environmental challenge and how would you propose to address or resolve it?

A: Toxic air pollution is a great environmental challenge. In order to reduce and or eliminate subsequent compromise to the health of citizens, strict regulations on vehicle and plant emissions as well as increased oversight of consumer products are imperative.

Michael T. McCaul (R)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.


Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your voice on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?

A: I have pledged to oppose tax increases on individuals and businesses. Our debt just surpassed $16 trillion. We have a spending problem, not a revenue problem. With 43 months of unemployment above 8% we need jobs. Saddling small businesses, which create the majority of America’s jobs, with higher taxes will stifle growth. Raising taxes on individuals will do the same because 75% of small business owners file taxes as individuals.

Q: Political spending by corporations, unions, non-profit advocacy groups, and individuals has increased dramatically in recent years. Do you support: no regulations or limits on corporate spending; disclosure of funding sources; limitations on donations/spending; and/or some other related regulations. Please explain.

A: I oppose placing limits on free speech. I believe full disclosure should be the rule.

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**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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Sunlight and transparency is always the best disinfectant. 

Q: What changes in current policies or new measures or programs would you propose to decrease unemployment?  
A: Easing the tax burden on small businesses will give them financial flexibility to expand and hire more employees. Reform the tax code making it simpler, more pro-growth, and more competitive. Lower corporate tax rate, highest in the world at 35%, to 25% to stop driving American businesses overseas. Temporarily suspend capital gains taxes to encourage investment then cut the current rate. 

Q: What measures would you propose or support in order to balance the federal budget (i.e., tax increases, cuts to entitlements and/or military funding, elimination of specific government programs, other measures)?  
A: Repeal the Affordable Care Act; replace with less costly, less regressive, market-driven reforms. Reform entitlements, the biggest budget drivers, in order to save them from insolvency. Cap spending at 20% of GDP. Increase oversight: As Chairman of Homeland Security Oversight I have identified billions of dollars in waste within the Dept of Homeland Security due to inefficiencies in contracting and acquisitions practices and management failures. 

Q: What do you believe is our greatest environmental challenge and how would you propose to address or resolve it?  
A: Adequately protect our air, water and soil without imposing undue regulations on businesses, especially our energy sector, based on unproven scientific claims. I have supported an “all of the above” energy strategy that includes the pursuit of alternative fuels such as wind, solar and nuclear power, in balance with maximizing our rich natural resources using environmentally responsible methods of drilling for oil and natural gas. 

Richard Priest (L)  
No response received

U.S. REP., DISTRICT 17

Ben Easton (L)  
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.  
A: I have a B.A. in Philosophy from Washington & Lee University. I taught school for 17 years, in both government-run and private schools. As a freelance writer and blogger on free market politics, I focus on property rights. I have consistently condemned the Warfare-Welfare State since my teens. 

Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your voice on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?  
A: The few pledges that I’ve signed are fully consistent with my platform: to cut the outrageous and unconstitutional expansion of the federal government by at least 50%. If I were elected, I would go to Washington, D.C. to help stop the madness. Specifically, I would hope to aid in the dismantling of the hundreds of bureaus and agencies that have been created by soulless demagogues in order to buy votes and acquire power. 

Q: Political spending by corporations, unions, non-profit advocacy groups, and individuals has increased dramatically in recent years. Do you support: no regulations or limits on corporate spending; disclosure of funding sources; limitations on donations/ spending; and/or some other related regulations. Please explain.  
A: We should prohibit corporations, groups, and PACs from creating or contributing to any campaign activities. Only individual political donations should be allowed - full disclosure for every penny. We should prohibit incumbents from campaigning - for themselves or others. Their records in office ARE their campaigns! In my campaign, I lead by example. I refuse all donations and favors. I spend my own money ($10,000). I rely on YOUR good judgement. 

Q: What changes in current policies or new measures or programs would you propose to decrease unemployment?  
A: Decreasing unemployment is not within the power of a congressman. What is within the Constitutional role is to make sure that the body of our laws is bound by the Constitution, and to make sure that these do not infringe the rights of citizens to trade goods and services in a Free Market. By jettisoning the gigantic wad of regulations presently blocking American commerce, I would contribute to an explosion of employment opportunities. 

Q: What measures would you propose or support in order to balance the federal budget (i.e., tax increases, cuts to entitlements and/or military funding, elimination of specific government programs, other measures)?  
A: Too many Americans believe they are entitled to goods and services stolen from other Americans. Too many Americans think we benefit by being the World’s Policemen. My solution for this reliance on the Warfare/Welfare State is to trim the defense budget by bringing our troops home and to trim all the federally-subsidized welfare and social services budgets. We need to wean ourselves from the Nanny State. Simplifying the Tax Code would help too! 

Q: What do you believe is our greatest environmental challenge and how would you propose to address or resolve it?  
A: A repressive and unfair government is the greatest threat to freedom, prosperity, AND the health of the environment. By keeping the engine of the Free Market off balance and anemic - through illegitimate regulations, over-taxation, and absurd social policies, Uncle Sam is keeping us Americans too busy and exhausted to perform our proper stewardship duties. The most toxic pollution is a corrupt legislature and a spineless judiciary. 

Bill Flores (R)  
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.  
A: BBA--Texas A&M University, MBA--Houston Baptist University, Texas CPA. I have 30 years experience in the energy sector, 20 of which were in CFO, COO, & CEO positions. In these positions, I helped create hundreds of jobs; giving me first-hand experience regarding effective economic & energy policy. 

Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your voice on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?  
A: I have signed pledges to not raise taxes, to repeal Obamacare, to eliminate the death tax, and to protect the lives of the unborn. Our federal government does not have a revenue problem, it has a spending problem; this is why I will not support tax increases. I do support comprehensive pro-growth tax reform to grow federal revenues through increased economic activity. Protecting the sanctity of life is critically important to my constituents. 

Q: Political spending by corporations, unions, non-profit advocacy groups, and individuals has increased dramatically in recent years. Do you support: no regulations or limits on corporate spending; disclosure of funding sources; limitations on donations/spending; and/or some other related regulations. Please explain.  
A: The ability to contribute financially to political campaigns and advocacy groups is an extension of our freedom of speech. I do not support efforts to further regulate our freedom of speech by limiting contributions. I would sign a pledge that will affect your voice on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?  
A: I will not make any pledge beyond the Oath of Office. I will continue to voice my support for legislation that aligns with my experience in the energy sector. 

U.S. REP., DISTRICT 21

Candace Duval (D)  
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.  
A: I attended Texas State San Marcos & later received an Associate Degree at Brazos Jr. College in 1991 with Honors. I served as an intern for Comptroller Bob Bullock which led to a permanent position in the Tax Publications Department. In Austin, I run a consulting firm & hold 25 years of leadership. 

Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your voice on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?  
A: I will not make any pledge beyond the Oath of Office. I will continue to voice my support for legislation that aligns with my...
Global Climate change is an issue that I have supported many causes. However, I do not support the non-partisan group, No Labels, 12 Ways to Make Congress Work.

Q: Political spending by corporations, unions, non-profit advocacy groups, and individuals has increased dramatically in recent years. Do you support: no regulations or limits on corporate spending; disclosure of funding sources; limitations on donations/ spending; and/or some other related regulations. Please explain.
A: I will be re-forming our campaign finance system a top priority. I will support common sense reforms that improve disclosure and limit the influence of corporations including a Constitutional Amendment if necessary. The recent Supreme Court decision in Citizens United has unleashed a flood of undisclosed corporate money into campaigns, strengthening the influence of the wealthiest special interest while drowning out the voice of the People.
Q: What changes in current policies or new measures or programs would you propose to decrease unemployment?
A: We can strengthen our economy and increase employment by supporting policies that encourage a “made in America” first approach; prioritizing technical and high tech education, training programs, and by rebuilding our vital national infrastructure (roads, bridges, mass transit, water, broadband, etc.). If elected, I will seek bi-partisan approaches so that we may bring together the best ideas to build a strong and stable economy for a generation.
Q: What measures would you propose or support in order to balance the federal budget (i.e., tax increases, cuts to entitlements and/or military funding, elimination of specific government programs, other measures)?
A: We can create a prosperous economy that does not burden our children with debt if we take a balanced approach to solving our debt crises, I support reforms that reduce waste and fraud. I would not support cutting resources for vital programs for seniors, children, and our most vulnerable people without reforming the tax code that places unfair burden on working families while many top earners and corporations are not paying their fair share.
Q: What do you believe is our greatest environmental challenge and how would you propose to address or resolve it?
A: As a lifelong environmental activist, I have supported many causes. However, Global Climate change is an issue that requires attention now. Leaders must put science above politics and refer to the one of many scientific reports: 2009 U.S. Global Change Research Program. Environmental Science has created a multitude of jobs in the thriving wind and solar industry and with improved fuel standards that helped save the American car industry.

John-Henry Liberty (L)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I am an entrepreneur and software engineer. I build systems using logic that work together to creatively solve problems. I felt compelled to run for congress after a steady stream of bills and laws (i.e SOPA and NDAA) were proposed and enacted which threatened America’s rights. I have made a pledge to every member of my district that I will always operate with integrity and act in their interest as their representative. I have not signed any pledges from special interest groups, nor do I plan to do so.
Q: Political spending by corporations, unions, non-profit advocacy groups, and individuals has increased dramatically in recent years. Do you support: no regulations or limits on corporate spending; disclosure of funding sources; limitations on donations/ spending; and/or some other related regulations. Please explain.
A: Spending by non-person entities is growing at an alarming rate. At the very least disclosure is needed. Silently being able to buy an election is counter-productive to the ideals of equality, freedom and democracy. The easiest way to solve this problem is to cap the amount of campaign spending per election cycle.
Q: What changes in current policies or new measures or programs would you propose to decrease unemployment?
A: Small businesses are the true job creators of this country and right now there are far too many hoops to jump through in order to create those jobs. Abolishing the tax code and ending income and corporate taxes would help resolve the regulatory nightmare businesses owners face today and massively decrease unemployment.
Q: What measures would you propose or support in order to balance the federal budget (i.e., tax increases, cuts to entitlements and/or military funding, elimination of specific government programs, other measures)?
A: The first step to get our budget balanced and our debt under control is to end all wars, domestic and foreign. The war on drugs at home and the war on terror abroad. I plan to cut the DHS, DEA, TSA and massively reduce our military spending from an offense budget to a defensive one.
Q: What do you believe is our greatest environmental challenge and how would you propose to address or resolve it?
A: The greatest environmental challenge we face today is the race to a renewable, green energy source. The progress we have made so far as a species, is nothing but a mere footnote, compared to the leaps and bounds we will be able to achieve once we cross this major hurdle. I want Congress to come together to enact a solution without requiring subsidies from tax payers. I have a plan for this which will be available on my website.

Lamar Smith (R)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: After graduating from high school in San Antonio and then Yale University, I earned a law degree at SMU. I have served as a ranch manager, state representative and county commissioner. I now chair the House Judiciary Committee. I stay in touch with my constituents and work hard to keep their trust.
Q: What measures would you propose or support in order to balance the federal budget (i.e., tax increases, cuts to entitlements and/or military funding, elimination of specific government programs, other measures)?
A: This year I introduced a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution that passed in the House, though stalled in the Senate. I’ve also introduced legislation limiting federal spending increases to the combined annual percentage increases of population and inflation. This could balance the budget in several years – no small feat when the deficit and debt are in the trillions. I’ll continue working hard to make government live within its means.
Q: What do you believe is our greatest environmental challenge and how would you propose to address or resolve it?
A: We must balance conservation goals with economic development and private property rights. Science and technology advances are contributing to the environment’s protection. Good science impartially weighs policy costs and benefits, enabling better resources use — important when causes and effects of changing environmental conditions are inexact. We must restore scientific integrity to, and remove political agendas from, publicly-funded research.

U.S. REP, DISTRICT 25

Betsy Dewey (L)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I grew up in Houston, TX & graduated from Vanderbilt Univ, with degrees in English, Creative Writing, and French. I received my MA from UNC. In 1987, I won the Carnegie Hero Award. I have since been a business owner, a homeschool mom, a musician, an author, a Constitutionalist & a member of the DAR.
Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your voice on any issue? Why or why not?
A: I have made a pledge to oppose raising the marginal income tax rate for individuals and businesses and to oppose the reduction or elimination of deductions and credits unless matched dollar for dollar by reducing tax rates. The pledge does not involve broader tax reform or closing loopholes. But raising taxes puts a severe drag on the economy. Ultimately, it is the oath of office and allegiance to the Constitution that determine my votes.
Q: Political spending by corporations, unions, non-profit advocacy groups, and individuals has increased dramatically in recent years. Do you support: no regulations or limits on corporate spending; disclosure of funding sources; limitations on donations/ spending; and/or some other related regulations. Please explain.
A: Earlier I signed a pledge to oppose the environment’s protection. Good science impartially weighs policy costs and benefits, enabling better resources use — important when causes and effects of changing environmental conditions are inexact. We must restore scientific integrity to, and remove political agendas from, publicly-funded research.
a woman partner, I ran an aviation business.

**Elaine M. Henderson (D)**

**Q:** Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.

**A:** I’m from a farm family and worked at a city collector office and in banking, Fullerton Jr. College AA, U of Houston, BS in Ed. Taught 4th grade HISD. With a woman partner, I ran an aviation business for 8 years, Airport Operations Supervision, Hobby Airport, Houston, retired. Mother, grandmother.

**Q:** Have you signed a pledge that will affect your voice on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?

**A:** No pledges have been signed.

Legislators cannot know what problems they may face in two years and pledges should not ever be held above keeping the oath to protect and defend the constitution and the good of the nation.

**Q:** Political spending by corporations, unions, non-profit advocacy groups, and individuals has increased dramatically in recent years. Do you support: no regulations or limits on corporate spending; disclosure of funding sources; limitations on donations/spending; and/or some other related regulations. Please explain.

**A:** I would reduce taxes across the board in order to naturally stimulate the economy and employment.

**Q:** What measures would you propose or support in order to balance the federal budget (i.e., tax increases, cuts to entitlements and/or military funding, elimination of specific government programs, other measures)?

**A:** To be able to fund our soil.

**Q:** What changes in current policies or new measures or programs would you propose to decrease unemployment?

**A:** I believe the first part is we need to start with cutting taxes. We need to cut taxes for individuals and small businesses who create jobs and secondly we need to get rid of Obamacare which is the largest job destroyer our country has ever seen.

**Q:** What measures would you propose or support in order to balance the federal budget (i.e., tax increases, cuts to entitlements and/or military funding, elimination of specific government programs, other measures)?

**A:** I believe that every legal citizen should be involved in our political system. I don’t believe we gain anything by trying to restrict anyone’s voice, whether it’s individuals or corporations.

**Q:** What changes in current policies or new measures or programs would you propose to decrease unemployment?

**A:** I believe the first part is we need to start with cutting taxes. We need to cut taxes for individuals and small businesses who create jobs and secondly we need to get rid of Obamacare which is the largest job destroyer our country has ever seen.

**Q:** What measures would you propose or support in order to balance the federal budget (i.e., tax increases, cuts to entitlements and/or military funding, elimination of specific government programs, other measures)?

**A:** I believe that every legal citizen should be involved in our political system. I don’t believe we gain anything by trying to restrict anyone’s voice, whether it’s individuals or corporations.
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Continued from previous page

Q: What measures would you propose or support in order to balance the federal budget (i.e., tax increases, cuts to entitlements and/or military funding, elimination of specific government programs, other measures)?
A: I support passing a balanced budget amendment. I support line item veto to help cut the “fat” from proposed legislation. I support reforming and simplifying the tax code and reducing loopholes.

Q: What do you believe is our greatest environmental challenge and how would you propose to address or resolve it?
A: Clean Energy - we must fully capitalize on all energy sources. Otherwise, our global competitors will lead the charge, resulting in Americans losing billions in wages, lost jobs and further submission to foreign energy dictatorships. We must develop all sources of energy and provide earned incentives to encourage educational innovations.

Corrie Byrd (L)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: Graduated Valedictorian in High School. Graduated with a Bachelors in Business Management from Texas A&M. Travelled & have lived abroad, such as South Korea.

Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your voice on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: No response.

Q: Political spending by corporations, unions, non-profit advocacy groups, and individuals has increased dramatically in recent years. Do you support: no regulations or limits on corporate spending; disclosure of funding sources; limitations on donations/spending; and/or some other related regulations. Please explain.
A: I believe there should be a limit to the amount of corporate spending on candidates. We also need to limit spending by candidates.

Q: What changes in current policies or new measures or programs would you propose to decrease unemployment?
A: Decrease the budget for the military and government. Washington needs to get out of the way and create a better tax system and common sense regulation based on science, not political ideology. We need certainty in regulations and laws; speedy, fair courts to resolve disputes; good infrastructure and spending discipline to instill confidence in investors and to ensure prosperity for our children and grandchildren.

Q: What measures would you propose or support in order to balance the federal budget (i.e., tax increases, cuts to entitlements and/or military funding, elimination of specific government programs, other measures)?
A: First, I support a Balanced Budget Amendment. We must cut unnecessary and wasteful spending, reform entitlements while keeping our promises to seniors and veterans, and preserve our social safety net. Welfare must be reformed to encourage able bodied people to work and be drug-free. Policies that encourage private sector job growth will help balance the budget faster. All of government, including the military must be examined for savings.

Q: What do you believe is our greatest environmental challenge and how would you propose to address or resolve it?
A: Our greatest environmental challenge is the loss of manufacturing, refining and other industries to foreign countries that do not have the environmental protection standards we do. Pollution is a worldwide problem. Moving emission sources offshore does not solve the problem and costs jobs. We need common sense regulations and a less adversarial relationship between industry and government in order to make a difference in the environment.

Rose Meza Harrison (D)
No response received

U.S. REP., DISTRICT 31

John Carter (R)
No response received

Ethan Garofolo (L)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: B.S. in Computer Science and French. I am a small business owner, political outsider, and an informed and concerned regular citizen who is well-grounded in the founding philosophy of our country. I am not interested in becoming a career politician, and I have a low tolerance for nonsense.

Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your voice on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: I have not signed any pledges. I almost did not sign a pledge to support a balanced budget, but had a miscommunication with the organization that sent the pledge. I haven’t received any other pledges.

Q: Political spending by corporations, unions, non-profit advocacy groups, and individuals has increased dramatically in recent years. Do you support: no regulations or limits on corporate spending; disclosure of funding sources; limitations on donations/spending; and/or some other related regulations. Please explain.
A: I support reducing how involved the government is with our economy. If we did that, corporations, unions, non-profit advocacy groups, and individuals would find that their political spending wouldn’t (indeed couldn’t!) buy them very much and the problem would take care of itself. As long as the national government has a 3 trillion dollar budget, no RULE is going to keep dirty political money out of the system. We need to treat the root cause.

Q: What changes in current policies or new measures or programs would you propose to decrease unemployment?
A: I would work to stop the daily federal tinkering so that we could achieve some sort of stability. This would encourage entrepreneurs across the country to create jobs first for themselves and then hire other people as their businesses grow. Government tinkering is the source of the problem, and I don’t see how more of it will be the solution.

Q: What measures would you propose or support in order to balance the federal budget (i.e., tax increases, cuts to entitlements and/or military funding, elimination of specific government programs, other measures)?
A: All of the above. We don’t need a worldwide military empire, for example. I would phase out programs like Social Security and Medicare over time (folks currently dependent on them would not see the rug pulled out from underneath them). It disgusts me that our elderly are used as a political tool by career politicians. I want to end that sort of abuse.

Q: What do you believe is our greatest environmental challenge and how would you propose to address or resolve it?
A: We deal with the environment through regulations. “Regulation” is an old government word that means “opportunity to grant special favor to favored cronies.” For example, BP’s exposure to the Deepwater Horizon fiasco was artificially capped, removing the incentive to carry proper insurance or take appropriate safety measures. If that is our model, destruction of the environment will run rampant. Strong property rights and a strong court system.

Stephen M. Wyman (D)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: Bachelor in Telecommunications, Indiana Univ. 1979; Tech Certification in Telecommunications Electronics, GTE
Simon Alvarado (I)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: Disabled combat veteran, bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in Social Work from Our Lady of the Lake University. Professional experience with community based healthcare agencies, drug, alcohol and mental health programs. Veterans’ advocate for those challenged with VA disability claims process.

Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your voice on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: No pledges signed, because it would limit an ability to compromise at a later date.

Q: Political spending by corporations, unions, non-profit advocacy groups, and individuals has increased dramatically in recent years. Do you support: no regulations or limits on corporate spending; disclosure of funding sources; limitations on donations/ spending; and/or some other related regulations. Please explain.
A: I would support publicly funded campaigns with limited, fully disclosed, private contributions.

Q: What changes in current policies or new measures or programs would you propose to decrease unemployment?
A: I would support increased federal spending for common carrier infrastructure, public education and publicly funded research projects.

Q: What measures would you propose or support in order to balance the federal budget (i.e., tax increases, cuts to entitlements and/or military funding, elimination of specific government programs, other measures)?
A: The income tax code is thousands of pages long, and could be pushed down towards a simple, graduated set of rates, based on the amount of total taxable income; increased fuel taxes to support infrastructure investment; coordinating military spending with defense dept. requests. Federal social and health programs will need to be adapted to do; when it attempts this, it diminishes personal responsibility.

Sylvania Tech, 1980. 30 years planning, installing, operating and maintaining various telecommunications facilities; 30 years technical analysis, trouble shooting and problem solving.

Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your voice on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: In 1969 I took an oath to protect and serve this country against any threats foreign and domestic when I volunteered for the US Army. I stand committed to supporting and purposing legislation that would continue to preserve and protect the benefits earned and promised by our country to our veterans.

Q: Political spending by corporations, unions, non-profit advocacy groups, and individuals has increased dramatically in recent years. Do you support: no regulations or limits on corporate spending; disclosure of funding sources; limitations on donations/ spending; and/or some other related regulations. Please explain.
A: I support regulation and limits on political contributions as well as full disclosure of funding sources for the last 5 years prior to seeking office. I do not support any regulation that undermines the integrity of our election process. The money special interest groups inject in the election process impacts candidates’ equal access to the electorate. While the lack of big donors limits my access to the electorate, my vote is not for sale.

Q: What changes in current policies or new measures or programs would you propose to decrease unemployment?
A: I support any current employment programs that have proven effective in returning people back to work; programs that offer new skills, training or re-entry professional refresher courses. I support a system that monitors effectiveness of employment or back-to-work programs that would prevent governmental waste of tax payers’ money. These programs must be accountable for the outcomes of their efforts. Putting Americans back to work is a priority.

Q: What measures would you propose or support in order to balance the federal budget (i.e., tax increases, cuts to entitlements and/or military funding, elimination of specific government programs, other measures)?
A: I would not support any tax increases that burden Americans struggling to make ends meet. I would not purpose any cuts in entitlement programs, but would aggressively pursue those who abuse those systems by over-charging, or charging for services not rendered. I would not purpose cuts in military spending, unless programs are not serving national security interest. I support efforts to reduce government spending that leads to a balanced budget.

Q: What do you believe is our greatest environmental challenge and how would you propose to address or resolve it?
A: The greatest environmental challenge facing our world today is people, about 7 billion. Individual responsibility must become innate in order overcome disaster. This global unfolding tragedy requires full cooperation by all people across the world. The mentality of pre-WWII needs to be resurrected where everyone works toward one objective. Government cannot do what people need to do; when it attempts this, it diminishes personal responsibility.

**Lloyd Doggett (D)**

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: Preserving retirement security, strengthening education, promoting economic opportunity and serving veterans are my congressional priorities. Previously authored the Texas Sunset Act seeking greater state agency accountability and efficiency, and chaired the TX Supreme Court Judicial Ethics Task Force.

Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your voice on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: I've pledged to keep Social Security and Medicare strong, including affordable prescription drugs, and my efforts were recognized with an AARP award. As top Democrat on Human Resources Subcommittee, I pledge to resist further social safety net destruction. I support economic opportunity for all—with my work earning “Business Advocate of the Year” by Texas Association of Mexican-American Chambers of Commerce. Pledged to fight for tax fairness.

Q: Political spending by corporations, unions, non-profit advocacy groups, and individuals has increased dramatically in recent years. Do you support: no regulations or limits on corporate spending; disclosure of funding sources; limitations on donations/ spending; and/or some other related regulations. Please explain.
A: I support regulation and limits on political spending; and/or some other related regulations. Please explain.

Q: What changes in current policies or new measures or programs would you propose to decrease unemployment?
A: I support any current employment programs that have proven effective in returning people back to work; programs that offer new skills, training or re-entry professional refresher courses. I support a system that monitors effectiveness of employment or back-to-work programs that would prevent governmental waste of tax payers’ money. These programs must be accountable for the outcomes of their efforts. Putting Americans back to work is a priority.

Q: What measures would you propose or support in order to balance the federal budget (i.e., tax increases, cuts to entitlements and/or military funding, elimination of specific government programs, other measures)?
A: I've pledged to keep Social Security and Medicare strong, including affordable prescription drugs, and my efforts were recognized with an AARP award. As top Democrat on Human Resources Subcommittee, I pledge to resist further social safety net destruction. I support economic opportunity for all—with my work earning “Business Advocate of the Year” by Texas Association of Mexican-American Chambers of Commerce. Pledged to fight for tax fairness.

Q: What do you believe is our greatest environmental challenge and how would you propose to address or resolve it?
A: Encourage entrepreneurship, business incubators, non-profit advocacy groups, and expand “more education” tuition tax credit I authored.

Q: What measures would you propose or support in order to balance the federal budget (i.e., tax increases, cuts to entitlements and/or military funding, elimination of specific government programs, other measures)?
A: I voted for $1.2 trillion in cuts this decade, over $100 billion in 2013. Scrutinize every expenditure for efficiency, necessity. Enforce budget discipline “pay-as-you-go” rule to discourage public debt. Seek shared sacrifice by raising revenue from corporate tax dodgers and limiting Bush tax cuts for wealthiest. When multinational corporations don’t pay their share, families, small businesses bear the burden. I voted against all big bank bailouts.

Q: What do you believe is our greatest environmental challenge and how would you propose to address or resolve it?
A: Representatives work toward one objective. Government cannot do what people need to do; when it attempts this, it diminishes personal responsibility.

Ross Lynn Leone (L)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: B.S., L.S.U. 1968, Management and Marketing, 1 year of Graduate studies Retired, 25 years service with IRS, Albert Gallatin Award (The IRS should be abolished, and the Income Tax replaced with a 10% withholding or consumption tax. God only asks for 10%, why should the government take more?)

Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your voice on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: I have pledged to work for repeal of the...
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

Continued from previous page

Death (Estate) tax and to maintain Right-to-Work laws because I know the vast majority of my Constituents support those principles. I also pledge myself to always vote to support a traditional interpretation of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. I have also pledged to represent the views of my Constituents on all issues.

Q: Political spending by corporations, unions, non-profit advocacy groups, and individuals has increased dramatically in recent years. Do you support: no regulations or limits on corporate spending; disclosure of funding sources; limitations on donations/spending; and/or some other related regulations. Please explain.

A: I personally support no corporate spending on elections and limits on all campaign spending. I am running a zero cost campaign. Those “other” parties are wasting unbelievable millions to spread lies and deceptions at a time our country is broke.

Q: What changes in current policies or new measures or programs would you propose to decrease unemployment?

A: Provide leadership that encourages market stability. Vote to repeal harmful regulations that are choking the ability of the private sector to create jobs and get America back to work. Support a free market economy. I would support and encourage small business development by limiting the role of the federal government and release banks and credit union industries to make lending to businesses a priority. More jobs, more employed, lower unemployment.

Q: What changes in current policies or new measures or programs would you propose to increase energy viability, job creation, and free market opportunities. Reduce regulatory burden on private businesses that invest their money and take calculated risks to bring viable products to market that promote a healthy economy, creates job opportunities for our people and helps to utilize all energy sources and diversifies our energy portfolio. Encourage continued research into the sciences to improve conservation.

Susana Narváez (R)  

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.

A: Three term mayor of San Marcos, small business owner with leadership skills and common sense to balance budgets, meet payroll, solve problems, provide solutions and get results. 24 yrs. experience creating jobs. Community volunteer at church and Nonprofit Groups. Wife, Mom, Grand Mimi, Proud American.

Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your voice on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?

A: Yes. Repeal Death Tax as I do not believe we should be taxed twice on dollars previously taxed. Yes. To repeal the Affordable Healthcare Act. The HHS mandate infringes on religious freedom. This Act sets policies that take away our rights to make purchasing decisions that impact our daily lives and our pocketbook. It mandates what we must buy and taxes us whether we want it or not. It has a very negative impact on business and stops job creation.

Q: Political spending by corporations, unions, non-profit advocacy groups, and individuals has increased dramatically in recent years. Do you support: no regulations or limits on corporate spending; disclosure of funding sources; limitations on donations/spending; and/or some other related regulations. Please explain.

A: I support full disclosure of funding sources.

Q: What changes in current policies or new measures or programs would you propose to decrease unemployment?

A: Provide leadership that encourages market stability. Vote to repeal harmful regulations that are choking the ability of private sector to create jobs and get America back to work. Support a free market economy. I would support and encourage small business development by limiting the role of the federal government and release banks and credit union industries to make lending to businesses a priority. More jobs, more employed, lower unemployment.

Q: What changes in current policies or new measures or programs would you propose to increase energy viability, job creation, and free market opportunities. Reduce regulatory burden on private businesses that invest their money and take calculated risks to bring viable products to market that promote a healthy economy, creates job opportunities for our people and helps to utilize all energy sources and diversifies our energy portfolio. Encourage continued research into the sciences to improve conservation.

Meghan Owen (G)  

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.

A: I’m an activist, where better to act than congress? Beyond a standard High School education, I apprenticed 6 years in a trade becoming a full tradeswoman. I spend much of my free time studying various topics. Sadly, I never had both the time and money to go to school. Loans always looked like a trap.

Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your voice on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?

A: I’ve not signed any pledges yet. None have grabbed my attention as good things. I stand on my word, no pledges I’ve seen will stop a person from doing harmful things to this country. I’d rather be unhindered and free to do the right thing, I don’t need a pledge to do that.

Q: Political spending by corporations, unions, non-profit advocacy groups, and individuals has increased dramatically in recent years. Do you support: no regulations or limits on corporate spending; disclosure of funding sources; limitations on donations/spending; and/or some other related regulations. Please explain.

A: I do not support NO limits on corporate spending. They already have more than enough influence on congress through lobbying. The idea that money is free speech is in effectively telling the poor and middle class “your voice doesn’t count”. All money spent on an election should be disclosed, We should all be able to see who’s spending what on getting people into office.

Q: What changes in current policies or new measures or programs would you propose to decrease unemployment?

A: The Green New Deal for one, please look it up as there isn’t the room to describe it here. Secondly tax codes, much like those post world war two, and through our greatest growth, spurred big business to reinvest its hoard of capital into innovation, growth, and positively competitive wages for its growing labor force.

Q: What measures would you propose or support in order to balance the federal budget (i.e., tax increases, cuts to entitlements and/or military funding, elimination of specific government programs, other measures)?

A: We need to reformat many of our bureaucracies to be more efficient. Billions are wasted each year while negatively effecting the lives of citizens due to archaic and redundant practices. Tax fairly, There is no reason those that make 40% plus of our nation’s wealth should get away with paying 15% or less in income tax.

Q: What do you believe is our greatest environmental challenge and how would you propose to address or resolve it?

A: Moving from fossil fuels to renewable resources. Oil and coal are going to run out. Fracking is devastating to the environment while producing few jobs. Solar, wind, hydro-electric? Those are where the money and the future lay. There are so many ways to reduce or end our dependence on big oil and the Middle East. Sometimes we need to look at more than bottom line profit margins.

Texas Supreme Court

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

Questions for Candidates

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

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

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

Justice, Place 2

Don Willett (R)  

Impartiality: Former United States Chief Justice Roger Traynor was on target: “there is no unobjectionable way to decide who shall judge or to judge those who do.” I’ve endured firsthand the drawbacks to our imperfect system – most acutely the unequally and relentless fundraising – though I confess I haven’t devised the perfect replacement. Former Chief Justice Tom Phillips appointed ///

Public Protection: Texas lawyers in 2011 rejected an overhaul of the Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct – the culmination

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of a process that started in 2003. While some reforms are open to debate, others – like forbidding sex with clients – seem like no-brainers. Everyone doubtless shares the same goal: smart changes that better protect lawyers and clients. The Court must chart a path.

Access to Justice: The Supreme Court plays an integral role, spurring lawyers, banks, the Legislature, the Attorney General, and other civic-minded Texans to help overwhelmed legal-aid providers. In 2011, Texas lawyers contributed almost $900,000 to Access to Justice with their bar dues, funding life-changing legal services – defending against wrongful foreclosures, securing FEMA payments.

Experience: I’ve served on the Supreme Court since 2005. Texas “then-living” former chief justices cheered, saying, “Willett brings to the court one of the most varied and wide-ranging legal backgrounds in recent memory.” Before judging, I advised everyday Texans.

RS Roberto Koelsch (L)
No response received

JOUSTICE, PLACE 6

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: The Texas Supreme Court is committed to improving access to justice for all Texans. I am responsible for overseeing the Court’s efforts and have worked hard to obtain crucial financial support from the Legislature and Congress, and to encourage legal aid providers. Access to justice is not a partisan issue. At stake is nothing less than the integrity of the rule of law.

Education: J.D., SMU Law School cum laude; B.A., Yale University (Honors in Philosophy)
Experience: Justice, Texas Supreme Court (elected 1988, re-elected 1994, 2000, 2006); Justice, Fifth Court of Appeals, Dallas (1986-1988); Judge, 95th District Court, Dallas (1981-1986); attorney, Locke firm (1976-1981); Lieutenant, USNR, JAG Corps

Rules should be amended to cover sexual harassment. I represented women who were sexually harassed by lawyers. One was stalked, and propositioned. She filed a grievance but nothing was done by the State Bar despite at least 5 prior other serious sexual complaints against this attorney. Lawyers who take sexual advantage of clients should be disciplined.

Access to Justice: I was director of the Family Law Project, providing indigent and low income Texans (who could not get help from Legal Aid) with trial attorneys in contested divorce & child custody battles for nominal or extremely reduced fees. I personally handled several of the trials and hearings. The Court should begin implementing the 2012 Solutions Task Force Recommendations.

Education: Baylor Law School, Top Graduate May 1984 Juris Doctor; Baylor University Summa Cum Laude 1982 B.A.; Winston Churchill High School, San Antonio 1978 Top 5%
Experience: Board Certified in Civil Trial Law; Texas Supreme Court Briefing Attorney & wrote opinions 85, Recognized Nationally for Jury Verdict. Handled Employment, Rape, Deceptive Trade, Securities, Family Law, Worker’s Comp, PI, Toxic Tort, Wills

Mark Ash (L)
Impartiality: Judges may raise funds for political campaigns and should not be prohibited from doing so. However, the actual need to raise funds for judicial campaigns is questionable. I am not seeking any campaign contributions and therefore, I hope that by not seeking any campaign funds that my impartiality would not be questioned.

Public Protection: No substantive changes in the disciplinary rules are needed to provide better protections to the general public. People who need legal services should be encouraged to seek a second opinion. The public should be provided with information about alternative avenues other than attorney services when seeking services pertaining to a legal or a financial matter.

Access to Justice: I have actively represented individuals as an attorney. By representing individuals, I do my part to improve access to the courts. Use of alternative dispute resolution programs should be encouraged and streamlined. The Texas Supreme Court could make user-friendly forms available online with instruction manuals for public use in the District and County trial courts.

Education: Graduate of South Texas College of Law, 1992
Experience: Criminal and civil defense lawyer for over 19 years. I have actively represented individuals in many civil and criminal matters.

Jim Chisholm (G)
No response received

Questions for Candidates

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

Criminal Justice: The Texas criminal justice system has undergone a number of reforms in indigent criminal defense. How is the system working now and what improvements are still needed?

Oblications: What are the most important obligations of a Court of Criminal Appeals Judge and why?

Presiding Judge

Keith Hampton (D)
Impartiality: Keith has and will continue to strictly comply with the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act. While this court does not decide financial matters like civil courts, Keith will recuse himself under any circumstance where impartiality becomes an issue due to campaign contributions. He will not participate in any case in which my impartiality might reasonably be questionable.

Criminal Justice: Keith was very involved in most of the DNA testing procedure, innocence clinics, life without parole, assistance for mentally disabled, and the Fair Defense Act reforms. The criminal justice system has improved, but lawmakers should do more to support rehabilitative approaches (like drug and veteran courts) which have shown to be more cost effective.

Obligations: The two fundamental duties of the court are to uphold the constitution and see that justice is fair and equal for all Texans. The first is an oversight function.

Continued on next page
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ensuring equal, impartial treatment. The second – reaching a truly just outcome – is often harder, but is vital to the integrity of our system.

Education: Keith Hampton graduated from The University of Texas 1984 and graduated from St. Mary’s School of Law 1989. Attended the Institute on World Legal Problems, Innsbruck, Austria. He is Board Certified in Criminal Law.

Experience: Keith has defended the Texas Constitution for the last 20 years. Keith has been appointed by Gov. George Bush and Justice John Cornyn to judicial commissions. He was voted as the “Best Qualified” candidate in 2012 by attorneys and judges across Texas

Sharon Keller (R)
No response received

Lance Stott (L)
No response received

JUDGE, PLACE 7

Mark W. Bennett (L)
Impartiality: The influence of money is not a serious issue in the criminal courts. A greater problem is some candidates’ innate biases in favor of the government and against the people, against the U.S. Constitution, against the Texas Constitution, and against freedom.

Criminal Justice: Texas courts at all levels are too lax in their judgments of the effectiveness of lawyers. As a result, the standards for effective representation are shockingly low, and indigent defense counsel (as well as hired counsel) too often apathetically “phone it in.” Texas courts need to be more willing to raise the bar by calling ineffective lawyers ineffective.

Obligations: A Court of Criminal Appeals judge’s most important obligation is fidelity to the letter and the spirit of the U.S. and Texas Constitutions. Result must follow reason, not vice versa. Far too often the Court of Criminal Appeals applies reason in the service of some desired result, to the detriment of reason and of constitutions, and ultimately to the detriment of liberty.

Education: BA Religious Studies, Rice University, 1992; JD, University of Houston Law Center, 1995.

Experience: Seventeen years as a solo and small-firm lawyer defending the U.S. Constitution, the Texas Constitution, and freedom across Texas and nationwide.

Barbara Parker Hervey (R)
No response received

JUDGE, PLACE 8

Elsa Alcala (R)
Impartiality: I honor my oath to impartially and fairly follow the law. I have not taken any contributions from any party in any case.

Criminal Justice: The criminal justice system continues to improve as light is shed on it. Improvements in various aspects is still needed. I, however, must refrain from specifically commenting on aspects of the law that might come before me in the future in order to maintain my impartiality.

Obligations: A Court of Criminal Appeals judge must apply the law as it is written. A judge must be impartial and even-handed so that everyone is treated the same.

Education: Bachelor of Arts from Texas A&M University and Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas School of Law.

Experience: Assistant District Attorney at Harris County District Attorneys Office for 9 years; District Court Judge in Harris County for 3 1/2 years; Appellate Court Justice at First Court of Appeals for 9 years; Judge on Court of Criminal Appeals for 1 year.

William Bryan Strange III (L)
Impartiality: I believe the public expects a judge to have no part of deciding a matter if lawyers or parties have made contributions to the election of that judge. Thus, I have elected to accept contributions from anyone and I will not seek a second term.

Criminal Justice: Indigents will continue to be at an unfair advantage so long as the legal system is strained with heavy case loads. We should reform the drug laws with an emphasis on rehabilitation and diversion of violators into social service programs.

Obligations: A judge should decide cases rapidly and in strict accord with precedent and existing laws (including the Texas Constitution). A judge must not impose personal values or prejudices and must assure that defense counsel for the accused is afforded maximum latitude to represent a client.

Education: SMU; Juris Doctor from George Washington University and Science Masters from MIT.

Experience: I have over 33 years experience as an attorney and business manager. This includes a wide range of corporate and business matters that involve complex analysis of law and facts. As a U.S. Navy officer I served in the Vietnam War.

Jeff Rose (R)
Impartiality: I take seriously my oath to uphold the law and constitution – cases must be decided on the law, regardless of politics or the people involved. Judges must strictly follow that oath, as our imperfect system requires us to fundraise and campaign for office – and supporters must realize that they are helping to keep our experience on the Court but will not receive any favor.

Accomplishment: I am proud of the legal accomplishments that led my peers in the State Bar poll to select me “most qualified” to serve on your court. I’ve earned partnership in one of Texas’ oldest law firms, Board Certification in Civil Trial Law, service under Greg Abbott as Texas’ Deputy First Assistant Attorney General, and service as a State District and Appellate Judge.

Education: Undergraduate – Baylor University, BBA in Finance and Business Management; Law Degree – Vanderbilt University.

Experience: Board Certified, Civil Trial Law; Former Partner, Strasburger & Price law firm; Deputy First Assistant Attorney General, Office of Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott; State District Judge, Travis County; Justice, Texas Third Court of Appeals

J. Andrew Hathcock (D)
Impartiality: Impartiality is absolutely necessary to being a good judge. Unless Texans decide to adopt public financing of judicial campaigns, elected judges and judicial candidates have no choice but to solicit campaign contributions. I am in strict compliance with the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act, which limits the amount of contributions from individuals and law firms.

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

Diane Henson (D)
Impartiality: By following the Canons of Judicial Conduct, I also comply with the voluntary limits of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act. That Act provides strict limits on the amount lawyers and law firms may contribute and on the total amount of money that may be spent. These limits mean that no one firm or lawyer can make such large contributions as to expect favored status.

Accomplishment: During my career as a litigator, I worked on several cases dealing with children and their right to participate in scholastic and extracurricular activities. The Title IX cases I filed have literally opened the door for thousands of girls to play sports and compete for equitable scholarship dollars. Similarly, the cases I brought for disabled students are landmark cases.

Education: J.D. with Honors, Drake University Law School; B.S. with distinction (Economics), Iowa State University

Experience: Justice on 3rd Court of Appeals – 6 years (on 2,000 three-judge panels, author of 700 plus opinions) Private Practice – 24 years (1st female litigation partner at Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody) Federal Prosecutor, U.S. Dept. of Justice

THIRD COURT OF APPEALS

Justice, Place 2

Scott Field (R)
Impartiality: I will maintain impartiality by following my conservative judicial philosophy and respect for the rule of law, and by practicing simple virtue. I appreciate the support donors have given my campaign. I will treat the donors the same as all parties arguing before me on the court, because the role of a judge is to apply the law fairly and equally according to the facts.

Accomplishment: I am proud to have raised three children and to have maintained a strong marriage while owning and operating a business, my law firm. This has given me a great deal of perspective on the practical effects of the law on our lives, and has kept me grounded and centered. I will serve humbly within the proper role for a judge – a neutral arbiter who calls “balls and strikes.”
JUSTICE, PLACE 5

David Puryear (R)

*Impartiality:* I maintain impartiality by consistently applying our laws, as they are written, to the facts before me, without regard to the party, the issue, or the lawyer before me. All judges should be firmly committed to this delivery of unbiased justice. Throughout my 20 years as a judge, I have demonstrated my unshakable commitment to the delivery of fair and impartial justice.

*Accomplishment:* I was fortunate to start my legal career as a prosecutor. As a result, I appeared before many judges on a daily basis for 7 years. This experience, I believe, made me a much more knowledgeable and well rounded trial court judge. My 8 years of service as a trial court judge provided me with the knowledge and experience necessary to serve as a justice on the Court of Appeals.

*Experience:* I am the senior member of the Third Court, having served on the Court since 2001. During that time, I have authored more than 1800 opinions, covering both civil and criminal cases. I also served as a trial court judge in Travis County from ‘91-’98.

Karen L. Watkins (D)

*Impartiality:* Well, Texas law strictly limits judicial campaign contributions. Each justice must decide each appeal based on its own facts and the applicable law, not on the justice’s feelings for anyone involved in the case. For six years, I made decisions as a member of an administrative court based only on the facts of each case and the applicable law, and know I can continue to.

*Accomplishment:* In 2001, the Texas Supreme Court appointed me to serve on an administrative court that decides lawyer ethics complaints. In my six years of service, including one as chair, I saw lawyers’ work from clients’ perspectives. Clients have a right to expect lawyers to do work promptly, explain things clearly, and charge a fair fee. Justices should do the same.

*Education:* JD, Baylor University School of Law (1990); BA, General Business, Baylor University (1984) | Experience: Briefing Attorney, Third Court of Appeals (1990-91); Associate, McGinnis, Loehrside & Kilgore, LLP (1991-1996); Partner, McGinnis, Loehrside & Kilgore, LLP (1997-present); Board of Disciplinary Appeals, Member 2001-07; Chair, 2006-07.

JUSTICE, PLACE 6

Bob Pemberton (R)

*Impartiality:* America’s greatness rests upon the Rule of Law, which requires that I faithfully and impartially apply our Constitution and laws without fear or favor. That cause is much greater than me or my self-interest. My longstanding commitment and adherence to these principles is reflected in the broad, bipartisan support detailed on my website, www.bobpemberton.com.

*Accomplishment:* My dedication and ability to serve you well is reflected in my 9-year record of hard work and productivity—averaging 100+ majority opinions annually and leading all Texas appellate judges twice—while tackling the most complex, challenging caseload of any Texas court of appeals and the even more critical (and often more challenging) job of a husband and father.

*Education:* Harvard Law School (JD, with honors, Law Review, 1992); Baylor University (BBA, with highest honors, graduated top of class, 1989); Temple High School (1985).


Bryan Case (D)

*Impartiality:* I have never run for public office before nor have I ever sought political office in any way. I believe that an experienced and independent judiciary is vital to the survival of our democracy. These characteristics are the focal point of my candidacy. I have been highly respected throughout my career for my integrity, fairness and pursuit of justice in all my duties.

*Accomplishment:* Handling the worst sorts of criminal cases for 26 years, I am most proud of the DNA reviews I have handled since 2000: the reinvestigation of the 1988 Pizza Hut murder and the 1983 Barton Creek rapist cases. In 2000-01 handled the exoneration hearings of the three men mistakenly convicted. In 2003 I obtained a conviction and life sentence for the Pizza Hut killer.

*Education:* 1979 B.A. Magna Cum Laude Economics University of Texas at Austin, 1983 J.D. University of Texas School of Law

*Experience:* Bar License 1983, Assistant DA 26 years, Chief Prosecutor Child Abuse Division, Criminal Court, Major Narcotics Prosecutor, 1st Community Prosecutor, Board Cert. Criminal Law, Admitted to Bar of US Supreme Court 2003, Criminal Defense Lawyer 2 yr

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

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

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

**Energy:** How would you balance the use of existing energy sources with the development of alternate energy sources in Texas?

**Urban Drilling:** What are the main health and safety issues related to oil and gas drilling and transmission in urban areas, including fracking, and how would you address them?

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

SIX-YEAR TERM

Christi Craddick (R)

*Energy:* In Texas, we are extremely fortunate to have large energy reserves and resources. The solution to American energy security begins in Texas and the example we set with pro-growth energy policies. This requires the vision, discipline and willingness to execute an “all of the above” strategy that begins with proven production of oil and gas.

**Urban Drilling:** The safety of the general public and quality of life in urban production areas is of the utmost importance. I believe we need to increase the number of pipeline safety inspectors in the field. The Commission must provide good facts and information and be fair and balanced when handling public concerns.

**Other Issues:** I believe the most important issue facing the Texas oil and gas industry is unnecessary and punitive federal regulations. I will work to ensure the industry is healthy, prosperous and continues to be a job creator. The biggest challenge facing the Railroad Commission is the need to educate the public about the industry and the job of the Railroad Commission.

Education: I am a Plan II graduate, earning my B.A. and J.D. at the University of Texas at Austin.

Experience: Born and raised in the Permian Basin, I have worked with and represented most participants of the energy industry, from mineral and surface owners, oil and gas producers and pipeline companies. I am a small business owner and lifelong conservative.

Chris Kennedy (G)

*Energy:* While continuing safe and current operations in Texas energy use I would like to explore and implement the most effective, safest, and beneficial alternative energy sources available. I will look to filter the good from bad with scientific data, corporate involvement, and public opinion. Texas is one of the largest producers of energy and I look to keep it that way.

**Urban Drilling:** I would address all health and safety issues as they should be addressed by the commission, very strictly! No amount of money or convenience is ever worth putting peoples, animals, or Texas lands health and safety at risk. Fracking is one method that jeopardizes Texas drinking water. Water is our most precious resource and we should treat it as one. Don’t mess with Texas

**Other Issues:** The most important issues are alternative energy and the 2013 Sunset review of the Railroad Commission. To continue to exist the commission needs to quickly intensify safety regulation and implementation of clean, sustainable, alternative energy production. While invoking public opinion I will focus on these and many other issues when elected commissioner.

Dale Henry (D)

No response received

Vivekananda (Vik) Wall (L)

No response received

UNEXPIRED TERM

Barry Smitherman (R)

*Energy:* Texas has an abundance of oil, natural gas, coal, wind, and sun. Renewable energy has a role to play, but that role should not be subsidized with taxpayer money. To secure energy independence, we must increase oil & gas production in Texas and throughout America. This will provide better jobs for Texans, greater national security for our country.

**Urban Drilling:** As Chairman of the Railroad Commission, I will enforce the law against those who jeopardize our health and safety by violating the rules that are already on the books. Texas doesn’t need more
RAILROAD COMMISSIONER, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Continued from previous page

regulations; instead, we must make sure everyone is complying with our existing laws. The RRC will continue to work with TCEQ, to help ensure environmental integrity.

**Other Issues:** The most serious issue is keeping Obama out of Texas. Obama appointees at EPA and other agencies are trying to stop Texas from recovering our God-given oil, natural gas, and coal. The second issue is effectively enforcing existing laws and providing a stable regulatory environment so companies can create jobs in Texas.

**Education:** Please visit www.smithermantx.com for biographical information.

**Jaime O. Perez (L)**

**Energy:** There is no question Texas must continue an aggressive program of identifying and exploiting traditional energy resources such as oil and coal. Alternate energy resources are in the emerging state so private sector energy companies should be encouraged to assist the development of alternate energy resources as part of their medium term investment strategy.

**Urban Drilling:** Ensuring adherence to safety policies, remediation and protection of population centers must continue to be the central focus of the Commission.

**Other Issues:** 1. The ongoing challenge will continue to be the balance of drilling vs. environmental impact. 2. Due diligence is the task of the Commission and I will seek the best science on the important issues when making policy choices and recommendations.

**Education:** 1. Brandeis University - Bachelor’s Degree 2. UC Berkeley – Master’s Degree; 3. JFK Harvard University - Certificate Community Building; 4. UT Austin – Graduate Studies

**Experience:** 1. Policy Analyst For 2 City Representatives - City of El Paso; 2. Chief of Staff - County of El Paso; 3. Teacher - El Paso Community College

**Josh Wendel (G)**

No response received

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

**QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES**

**Curriculum:** What criteria should be used in developing and approving curriculum standards for courses?

**Funding:** What changes, if any, would you make to current investment policies for the Permanent School Fund and to distributions to fund public schools? Please explain.

**Charter Schools:** What changes, if any, would you support to ensure sufficient oversight of charter schools?

**Other Issues:** What are the two most serious public education issues facing the State Board of Education during the next term, and how would you address them?

**DISTRICT 5**

**Ken Mercer (R)**

**Curriculum:** Standards must remain online for all Texans to review. Example: some “academic experts” tried to revise and rewrite American History to their anti-American, anti-military, and anti-free enterprise, far-left ideology. Thanks to online standards, hundreds of parents emailed and protested against those outrageous experts. The result - a true and accurate American History.

**Funding:** New laws to protect this children’s fund from future attempts of the Legislature to “raid” that endowment. The Founders of Texas wisely created this fund to provide free instructional materials for all students. In 2011, there was an attempt by certain elected officials to raid billions of dollars from the children. Such a raid is a bad precedent and poor public policy.

**Charter Schools:** First, revisit the “cap” on charter schools set by the legislature. Demand is huge - currently over 20,000 students waiting for a seat. Second, I asked the Commissioner of Education to help Texas build the best Charter School system in America. I want new rules to tighten the award process and procedures, and strengthen the audit and evaluation of existing Charter Boards.

**Other Issues:** The nationalization of education. 1979: President Carter announced we had the greatest system of education in the world. Then he created the Department of Education to “streamline” the process. 2012: Three decades later - our scores and rankings plummeted. That DOE is pushing a national curriculum, standards, test and diploma. Federal intrusion is the most serious issue.

**Education:** M.B.A. - Management and Finance (St. Mary’s University), B.B.A. - Business Data Systems (UT San Antonio), B.A. - UT Austin (Biology), A.S. San Antonio College, P.M.P. – Professional Project Manager.

**Experience:** SBOE Chair: School Initiatives (2011-present), Former Vice-Chair: Committee on Curriculum, Former Vice-Chair: School Planning and Initiatives, Former Chair: Teacher of the Year Committee, and Former State House Member: Committee on Higher Education.

**Rebecca Bell-Metereau (D)**

**Curriculum:** Clear, data-driven criteria should govern curriculum standards, selection of experts, and review committees. We need geographical and cultural diversity and a transparent, consistent process for public input that allows for effective participation. Board members should cooperate with legislators and TEA to establish goals, common ground, transparency, and accountability.

**Funding:** We need ethical management of the permanent school fund, to insure funds go to public education. We must examine requirements for charter schools, home schools, and alternative teacher certification, using data, not emotion, to determine success. Vouchers tend to siphon support away from public schools and benefit wealthier families.

**Other Issues:** What are the two most serious public education issues facing the State Board of Education during the next term, and how would you address them?

**Charter Schools:** The system for evaluation charter school needs to be consistent and comparable to evaluation for public schools, accounting for differences in income, requirements, and percentages of types of student population. Truly effective charter school innovations may offer models for best practices in public schools as well, if they are studied and blind tested for true efficacy.

**Other Issues:** We must escape from excessive emphasis on high-stakes testing and then develop multiple measures for student success in a broader curriculum—including accurate science and social studies, sex education, technical, art, and physical education—not a narrower curriculum. We need to trust good teachers, high standards, student success, and policies of no bullying in school.

**Education:** BA, MA, PhD in English, Indiana University

**Experience:** Taught as Peace Corps, Fulbright Scholar, and at University of Nebraska, Professor at Texas State University 1981-present, worked with public schools, Texas State president on student dropout rates, Planning & Zoning, Blue Ribbon Bonds, San Marcos Tx

Mark Loewe (L)

**Curriculum:** Criteria should include accuracy and importance of scientific and historical facts, promotion of students’ abilities to gain knowledge and skills, successfully predict consequences of actions, and assess and communicate harms and benefits, and promotion of honesty, good citizenship, free enterprise, reason, science, useful arts, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

**Funding:** I discovered errors of roughly $752 Million in values of two international investment funds listed in the Texas Permanent School Fund Schedule of Investments Held as of August 31, 2009 (Unaudited). The SBOE’s failure to notice these enormous errors suggests dereliction of its duty to oversee PSF investments. I would lead the SBOE to carefully oversee PSF investments.

**Charter Schools:** Sufficient oversight requires vouchers to empower millions of parents to reject mediocre schools and choose safe schools that better serve their children’s individual needs, abilities, and interests. When choosing schools (government, voucher, and other), parents may compare results of government achievement tests given at all schools that receive public education funds.

**Other Issues:** Texas pays excessively high prices for mathematics and science textbooks. I wrote House Bill 2959 (2009) and would lead the SBOE to acquire low cost textbooks for children to keep permanently.

I devised progressive vouchers to attract billions of additional private dollars per year into Texas K-12 education and to maximize public education funds available for any child.

**Education:** Ph. D. Physics, University of Texas at Austin, B. S. Physics and B. S. Chemistry, Magna Cum Laude, University of California at Irvine, Fulbright Kommission support for physics research in West Germany, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Pi Sigma, Phi Kappa Phi.

**Experience:** I coauthored a quantum mechanics textbook, taught physics at UT and Texas State, discovered incorrect scores issued on TAKS math and science tests, helped to develop a tiny on-wheel pump to maintain proper tire pressure, and do microelectronics R&D.

Irene Meyer Scharf (G)

No response received
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, STATE SENATE

DISTRICT 10
Tom Maynard (R)
Curriculum: Curriculum should be factual, accurate, free of political and social agendas and designed to prepare students for success in post-secondary education and careers and to be effective, responsible American citizens. It should be a continuum of coherent, age and grade appropriate steps resulting in preparedness for careers, post-secondary education and citizenship.
Funding: The State Board of Education is the chief fiduciary for the Permanent School Fund, but the staff members who manage it are subordinates of the Commissioner of Education. We should create separate lines of governance between the board and fund management. I also believe there should be more public transparency in disclosing management fees and return on investment.
Charter Schools: Open-enrollment charter schools should demonstrate improved performance amongst similar demographic groups in a community. This measure would not necessarily apply to charter schools serving special populations in child care organizations. All charter schools must meet audit standards for accounting practices and appropriate use of public funds.
Other Issues: We must re-vitalize the workforce development piece of public education. Many students graduate with few or no marketable skills. We should facilitate industry partnerships and work to reduce unnecessary barriers in the certification process. We must set high standards, but restore local control and reduce unfunded mandates that contribute little to educating children.
Education: Bachelor of Science, Animal Production, Texas Tech University Texas Teacher Certification, Agricultural Education Texas
Experience: Classroom Teacher, Career & Technical Education–Agricultural Science-13 years; School Board Trustee–6 years; Public School Parent–5 children; Executive Director, nation’s largest state career & technical student organization-12 years; Business owner

Judy Jennings (D)
No response received

STATE SENATE

SENATOR, DISTRICT 5
Jeffrey Fox (L)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: Education: MS (Southwestern Assemblies of God University, Waxahachie, TX); BA (Southeastern College of the Assemblies of God, Lakeland, FL), Post-Bacc for teaching certification, University of Mary Hardin Baylor). No previous experience in politics.
Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: I have signed a pledge not to increase the size and scope of government. Government is too large, requiring more and more money, and more invasive into our private lives. Government of that kind needs to be abolished. It is not the role of business to provide these benefits and services. This should be relegated to private sector that competes for business. I will only support legislation that reduces spending and size of government.
Q: Texas hospitals have seen uncompensated expenditures soar over the past few years. Not coincidentally, Texas also has the largest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the U.S., which is a factor in today’s insurance rates. Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made available by the Affordable Care Act? Please explain. What other programs (if any) would you support or develop to keep our Texas hospitals fiscally sound and to reduce the percentage of uninsured Texans?
A: I oppose federal mandated health care. It is not the function of government to provide this. Privatization is the only means of reducing costs and increasing accessibility. I oppose expanding Medicaid; there is already too much of a burden on tax-payers to support this measure. As far as a great majority of Texans not having insurance; many can simply afford to pay for services as they are given. Again, privatize insurance.
Q: Since 2006, state educational funding has been reduced and student enrollment has increased. What measures would you propose to restore adequate funding to Texas schools?
A: Schools are built and funded by taxpayers of communities that have voted to increase taxes build or expand their schools. If local schools need more funding, put it on a bond for vote. If the citizens reject it, then the democratic process has spoken for that year. Schools were originally the pride of communities, and in much of our history, did not need funding from the state.
Q: What programs or solutions, if any, do you believe are needed in order to address the current and future water needs of the State?
A: Desalinization of salt water needs to become a reality. We need to learn from other societies that do this and improve the systems for use here. Water restrictions should be based on usage, not on everyone. Industry, recreation, and other large-use entities need to have greater responsibility in recycling their water and pay higher rates for it.

Charles Schwertner (R)
No response received

SENATOR, DISTRICT 14
Ryan M. Dixon (L)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: Politicians are supposed to be representatives of ‘The People’, but when we look to elected officials it’s all lawyers or businessmen. How is this representative? I guess if you go by the status quo, I’m not a lawyer so I’m not qualified. I’m just a native Austinite who wants to improve things here.
Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: I was contacted by Open The Taps, a grassroots organization of Texas craft beer consumers asking if I would support the removal of prohibition era laws which impede on their abilities to grow, thrive and create more jobs. I was happy to sign that and I will be happy to sign anything else which aims to remove government imposed barriers to economic growth and job creation.
Q: Texas hospitals have seen uncompensated expenditures soar over the past few years. Not coincidentally, Texas also has the largest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the U.S., which is a factor in today’s insurance rates. Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made available by the Affordable Care Act? Please explain. What other programs (if any) would you support or develop to keep our Texas hospitals fiscally sound and to reduce the percentage of uninsured Texans?
A: Nobel Prize Laureate in Economic Sciences, Mr. Milton Friedman wrote a book entitled ‘Free To Choose’. In it, he discussed what he called the 4 ways to spend money. If we approach this issue with this praxeological understanding we can get to the root of the problem. If not, we can further perpetuate the situation even further at the expense of every Texan.
Q: Since 2006, state educational funding has been reduced and student enrollment has increased. What measures would you propose to restore adequate funding to Texas schools?
A: We ask about funding of schools, but fail to ask why we are funding them. Clearly the notion is so that we may have a more educated citizenry, so perhaps the question should focus more on the root of our intentions of educating the populace rather than adopting the false axiom that public schools are the only means by which to achieve the goal. Until we begin to think outside the box, we will be condemned to the conditions within it.
Q: What programs or solutions, if any, do you believe are needed in order to address the current and future water needs of the State?
A: Water issues are one of great complexity where many possibly options arise. To solve them however I feel that there must be less focus on political party advancement and more focus on the issue itself. There must also be a willingness to examine proposed solutions across the board. Economist, historian and political theorist Murray N. Rothbard offers some very unique and viable ideas which are not only practical but morally ethical as well.

Kirk Watson (D)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I’ve held this office since 2006 and was Mayor of Austin from 1997–2001. I’ve also chaired the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, Environmental Defense’s Texas Advisory Board, and, under Gov. Ann Richards, the Texas Air Control Board (now part of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality).
Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: I have not. I believe pledges to support or oppose certain kinds of legislation under any circumstances – no matter the costs – do nothing to address the priorities and challenges that Texans expect leaders to confront. These are complex issues that demand hard work and negotiation among officials who are as diverse as Texas. Pledge gimmicks pretend that simple answers are up to resolving these hard questions. In my experience, work is better.

Continued on next page
Joseph Morse (L)

No response received

Grant Rostig (R)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: Studied computers, accounting and earned a Chiropractic degree in college. Worked as a programmer, project manager, and ran several of my own small businesses in computer consulting, Chiropractic, manufacturing and retailing. I also study health, agriculture, law, and economics.

Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: No, but I pledge to you, the voter, to work to lower unnecessary regulation, lower taxes, eliminate slush funds, eliminate corporate welfare and fraud first, increase liberty, increase school choice and home schooling, and increase transparency and accountability of officials in all aspects of government including TXDOT. The people must oversee and control government, or the elites will, as they already have. My number one priority is jobs.

Q: Texas hospitals have seen uncompensated expenditures soar over the past few years. Not coincidentally, Texas also has the largest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the U.S., which is a factor in today’s insurance rates. Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made available by the Affordable Care Act? Please explain. What other programs (if any) would you support or develop to keep our Texas hospitals fiscally sound and to reduce the percentage of uninsured Texans?
A: The education cuts from 2011 show that agendas at the Capitol were out of sync with Texans’ priorities. The state’s 10-figure Rainy Day Fund and recent robust revenue collections make the cuts even more appalling. Texans need honesty and transparency about the challenges facing schools. Funding options such as tapping reserves, closing loopholes, or fixing the broken Margins Tax must be considered so the state can restore resources schools need.

Q: What programs or solutions, if any, do you believe are needed in order to address the current and future water needs of the State?
A: Texas’ population is projected to double in the next 50 years or so, but our basic amount of water will remain about where it is now. Texas has an official water plan showing our water needs over a half-century and ideas for meeting those needs. But that plan requires steady funding. Ideas such as bottled water fees and utility surcharges should be considered. But the first priority should be promoting, incentivizing and optimizing conservation.

Senator, District 21

Joseph Morse (L)

No response received

Senator, District 24

Troy Fraser (R)

Unopposed

Senator, District 25

Donna Campbell (R)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: Born on a naval base, I’m an emergency room physician who has spent a lifetime serving others through medicine and Christian ministry. I’m a longtime Texas resident, NRA member, and proud mother of four daughters. I have my masters degree in nursing and received my M.D. from Texas Tech University.

Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: I have signed pledges to protect the rights of the unborn, earning the endorsement of Texas Right to Life and Texas Alliance for Life. I’m the only candidate to sign both the Americans for Prosperity Pledge and the Governor’s Budget Compact against raising taxes. I also signed the Texas Citizen Patriot Pledge, which honors free market principles, limited government, personal responsibility, respect for the Constitution, and a virtuous America.

Q: Texas hospitals have seen uncompensated expenditures soar over the past few years. Not coincidentally, Texas also has the largest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the U.S., which is a factor in today’s insurance rates. Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made available by the Affordable Care Act? Please explain. What other programs (if any) would you support or develop to keep our Texas hospitals fiscally sound and to reduce the percentage of uninsured Texans?
A: I support Medicaid expansion because Texas leads the nation in the percentage of uninsured. We must help more Texans gain access to health care. This will save our families and our state hundreds of millions of dollars in medical costs.

Q: Since 2006, state educational funding has been reduced and student enrollment has increased. What measures would you propose to restore adequate funding to Texas schools?
A: Schools need to first master the universal basics of reading, writing and science, not condom use or political spin. We need creative new approaches such as self paced internet or video learning along with an available teacher. Promote excellence via competition through school choice and vouchers where parents get cash to educate their children in compatible schools. Allow home schooled children to participate in some public school activities.

Q: What programs or solutions, if any, do you believe are needed in order to address the current and future water needs of the State?
A: Clarification & simplification of Texas law is needed to help local water projects. We must resist federal interference under the 10th amendment. Surface water, well water and ground water desalination will all be needed to support local families and jobs. Private property rights must be preserved to assure justice and optimal utilization of this vital resource. I personally conserve water by xeriscaping so I can grow my own food and chickens.

Judith Zaffirini (D)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I am the second-longest serving senator, Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee, and a member of the Legislative Budget Board and Finance committees. I have cast 47,584 consecutive votes and passed 725 bills, and I hold B.S., M.A., and PhD degrees from from The University of Texas at Austin.

Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: I do not sign pledges. Instead, I review individual pieces of legislation with the people of Senate District 21 and the State of Texas in mind.

Q: Texas hospitals have seen uncompensated expenditures soar over the past few years. Not coincidentally, Texas also has the largest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the U.S., which is a factor in today’s insurance rates. Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made available by the Affordable Care Act? Please explain. What other programs (if any) would you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made available by the Affordable Care Act? Please explain. What other programs (if any) would you support or develop to keep our Texas hospitals fiscally sound and to reduce the percentage of uninsured Texans?
A: We are already suffering the effects of a recordbreaking drought. I am a member of the Texas Water Smart Coalition and am active in resource development. I support the full funding of the 2012 State Water Plan.

Senator, District 24

Troy Fraser (R)

Unopposed

Senator, District 25

Donna Campbell (R)

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A: I have signed pledges to protect the rights of the unborn, earning the endorsement of Texas Right to Life and Texas Alliance for Life. I’m the only candidate to sign both the Americans for Prosperity Pledge and the Governor’s Budget Compact against raising taxes. I also signed the Texas Citizen Patriot Pledge, which honors free market principles, limited government, personal responsibility, respect for the Constitution, and a virtuous America.

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A: I support Medicaid expansion because Texas leads the nation in the percentage of uninsured. We must help more Texans gain access to health care. This will save our families and our state hundreds of millions of dollars in medical costs.

Q: Since 2006, state educational funding has been reduced and student enrollment has increased. What measures would you propose to restore adequate funding to Texas schools?
A: Schools need to first master the universal basics of reading, writing and science, not condom use or political spin. We need creative new approaches such as self paced internet or video learning along with an available teacher. Promote excellence via competition through school choice and vouchers where parents get cash to educate their children in compatible schools. Allow home schooled children to participate in some public school activities.

Q: What programs or solutions, if any, do you believe are needed in order to address the current and future water needs of the State?
A: Clarification & simplification of Texas law is needed to help local water projects. We must resist federal interference under the 10th amendment. Surface water, well water and ground water desalination will all be needed to support local families and jobs. Private property rights must be preserved to assure justice and optimal utilization of this vital resource. I personally conserve water by xeriscaping so I can grow my own food and chickens.

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Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: I do not sign pledges. Instead, I review individual pieces of legislation with the people of Senate District 21 and the State of Texas in mind.

Q: Texas hospitals have seen uncompensated expenditures soar over the past few years. Not coincidentally, Texas also has the largest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the U.S., which is a factor in today’s insurance rates. Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made available by the Affordable Care Act? Please explain. What other programs (if any) would you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made available by the Affordable Care Act? Please explain. What other programs (if any) would you support or develop to keep our Texas hospitals fiscally sound and to reduce the percentage of uninsured Texans?
A: We are already suffering the effects of a recordbreaking drought. I am a member of the Texas Water Smart Coalition and am active in resource development. I support the full funding of the 2012 State Water Plan.
sound and to reduce the percentage of uninsured Texans?  
A: ObamaCare is a disaster. Medicaid expansion will bust the budget and lead to lower quality of care for patients. As a physician, I strongly oppose this. The best way to improve health care is by making it more affordable through choice and competition. Allow more insurance companies with more diverse plans, including HSAs, to compete for our business rather than force government mandates that limit choice, restrict doctors, and penalize consumers.

Q: Since 2006, state educational funding has been reduced and student enrollment has increased. What measures would you propose to restore adequate funding to Texas schools?  
A: Bureaucracy has been a burden on our schools, with administrators now practically outnumbering teachers. Meanwhile, Texas students are struggling to perform. It’s time to slash the bureaucracy and drive more dollars to the classroom, rewarding good teachers. School choice should also play a fundamental role in our education system. No child should be forced to attend a school that isn’t up to community standards.

Q: What programs or solutions, if any, do you believe are needed in order to address the current and future water needs of the State?  
A: Water is our most precious resource and demands protection. We need a comprehensive state water plan that addresses population growth while preserving local interests. Rainwater capture and conservation should be encouraged, although I’m opposed to mandates except in drought conditions. It’s also imperative that we insulate Texas communities from the overreach of federal regulations that too often halt development or cripple farms and ranches.

John Courage (D)  
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.  
A: Teacher, Texan, Air Force veteran. BA degree, American Studies and teacher certification, UTSA; MA, Education, Walden University; 20 years teaching experience; served on boards of the Alamo Community College District, San Antonio Teachers' Council, and San Antonio Literacy Commission; member, NEA.

Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?  
A: My only pledge is expressed in the oath of office required by the Texas Constitution. I will never sign a pledge that would affect my vote on any issue. Such pledges lock an elected official into a static, unconditional position on policies. Changing conditions often call for policy changes. Political leaders need to have the flexibility of responding to change.

Q: Texas hospitals have seen uncompensated expenditures soar over the past few years. Not coincidentally, Texas also has the largest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the U.S., which is a factor in today’s insurance rates. Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made available by the Affordable Care Act? Please explain. What other programs (if any) would you support or develop to keep our Texas hospitals fiscally sound and to reduce the percentage of uninsured Texans?  
A: I support the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act. The expansion of the Medicaid program would provide health insurance for low-income citizens who currently have no coverage. The federal government will fully fund the expanded program through 2017 and pay 90% of the cost thereafter. I will work to restore federal funding of the Texas Women’s Health Program.

Q: Since 2006, state educational funding has been reduced and student enrollment has increased. What measures would you propose to restore adequate funding to Texas schools?  
A: Restoring adequate funding for public education requires the political will to make education the highest state priority. Money is available. The state comptroller has revised revenue estimates upward by $1.2 billion for the next biennium. The ESF has more than $8 billion on hand. Cutting wasteful spending could free up additional funds by, for example, reducing costs for administering standardized tests.

Q: What programs or solutions, if any, do you believe are needed in order to address the current and future water needs of the State?  
A: In the next 50 years demand for water in Texas will double. The State Water Plan estimates spending over 50 years will total $231 billion. Management of the water supply must focus on conservation, and protection of our water supply from natural and industrial pollution. The state should encourage increasing the available water supply by supporting such projects as desalination of brackish water, and expanded reuse of grey water.

STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE REP. DISTRICT 17
Colin J. Guerra (D)  
No response received

Tim Kleinschmidt (R)  
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.  
A: Lexington HS Grad; TAMU BS; Baylor Juris Doctorate 31 years in private business; lifetime rancher; two terms as state representative; Vice-Chair House Land and Resources; pilot; husband 28 years; father 24 years Business, land resources, agriculture, oil/gas, industry, education; health care cost

Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?  
A: Pledge--I have pledged to not raise taxes, except to support needed transportation infrastructure. I believe to have raised taxes in the last session would have delayed Texas’ economic recovery. I believe to raise taxes currently, except as necessary to improve our state transportation infrastructure, would hinder the economic growth of Texas. Keeping Texas unhindered by regulatory requirements and increased taxes keeps Texas business strong.

Q: Texas hospitals have seen uncompensated expenditures soar over the past few years. Not coincidentally, Texas also has the largest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the U.S., which is a factor in today’s insurance rates. Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made available by the Affordable Care Act? Please explain. What other programs (if any) would you support or develop to keep our Texas hospitals fiscally sound and to reduce the percentage of uninsured Texans?  
A: I do not support the Affordable Care Act. It will be too expensive for our state to support. I support continued Medicaid and Medicare for our elderly and for physically and mentally disabled persons. I believe emergency medical service providers should be able to reject all persons seeking non-emergency medical care without liability upon referral to non-emergency providers. I support a continuing aggressive Children’s Health Insurance Program

Q: Since 2006, state educational funding has been reduced and student enrollment has increased. What measures would you propose to restore adequate funding to Texas schools?  
A: I support funding education at least at current levels, plus increases for inflation and population growth, within state budget requirements. I believe schools should be funded on an enrollment basis to avoid costly weighted average daily attendance accounting. I support allowing schools to disregard statutory requirements required by unfunded mandates.

Q: What programs or solutions, if any, do you believe are needed in order to address the current and future water needs of the State?  
A: Texas needs continued scientific and technical studies to increase water conservation and production. We should keep an open mind to increased desalination and storage projects. We should protect local water needs while recognizing private ownership rights of water in place. Local populations’ water needs should be protected for at least a projected 50 years. Water in excess of such requirements should be available for private ownership uses.

STATE REP. DISTRICT 20
Marsha Farney (R)  
Unopposed

STATE REP. DISTRICT 45
John Adams (D)  
Q: Please describe your specific areas of interest, education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.  
A: I have a BS in Computer Science, 30 years at IBM as a programmer/mgr including Space Shuttle and Space Station programs, 6 years as school board trustee, am a Master Trustee, 7 years as advisory board member for Computer Science Dept. at Texas Tech.

Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what policy, issue or legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?  
A: No. It doesn’t make sense to limit your options before you face potential problems. Representatives need to make use of all tools afforded the office in order to adequately address issues as they arise. I would not use a mechanic who decided not to use wrenches on the day my car needed a repair. I wouldn’t want my elected officials to limit their tool set either.

Q: Texas hospitals have seen uncompensated expenditures soar over the past few years. Not coincidentally, Texas also has the largest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the U.S., which is a factor in today’s insurance rates. Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in...
Continued from previous page

Texas, as made available by the Affordable Care Act? Please explain. What other programs (if any) would you support or develop to keep our Texas hospitals fiscally sound and to reduce the percentage of uninsured Texans?

A: Insurers will tell you the larger the insured pool, the lower the unit cost. Eliminate emergency room visits—most expensive by covering the uninsured. Texas cannot let Federal Medicaid dollars escape—they are our tax dollars to begin with. 1 in 3 children in Texas live in poverty—they need Medicaid to be healthy. I support using Medicaid dollars for our children.

Q: Since 2006, state educational funding has been reduced and student enrollment has increased. What measures would you propose to restore adequate funding to Texas schools?

A: As a 6 year DSISD Trustee, I made education a priority. Our current legislators prioritized politics over our children when they cut 5½ billion dollars from the budget. I will work to restore the ridiculous cuts to public education by closing corporate tax loopholes. We must prioritize our children’s education in Texas because the future of the state depends on it.

Q: What programs or solutions, if any, do you believe are needed in order to address the current and future water needs of the State?

A: I am the current State Representative for District 45, elected by the voters in 2010. My wife and I have two young boys in public school in Hays County. I work in the trucking industry, own a small business, coach youth sports, and lead a non-profit.

Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what policy, issue or legislation did you pledge to support or fight?

A: No—I don’t believe in pledges, other than the oath I swore to the Constitution of the United States. But my main concerns is the overreach of government into our financial and personal lives. I am committed to reducing the size and control of the State Government. My first focus will be on the unfair property tax system in Texas.

Q: Texas hospitals have seen uncompensated expenditures soar over the past few years. Not coincidentally, Texas also has the largest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the U.S., which is a factor in today’s insurance rates. Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made available by the Affordable Care Act? Please explain. What other programs (if any) would you support or develop to keep our Texas hospitals fiscally sound and to reduce the percentage of uninsured Texans?

A: I oppose the expansion of medicare—I believe the state and federal government has no business mandating health care—in fact they are the cause of the ever increasing costs associated with health care. But I will work to find ways to let health insurance actually be insurance instead of managed care which has contributed to the increased costs.

Q: Since 2006, state educational funding has been reduced and student enrollment has increased. What measures would you propose to restore adequate funding to Texas schools?

A: There is no proven beneficial relationship between education spending and education results. In fact it appears the ballooning spending has actually exacerbated the problem. The problem with education isn’t the schools—it’s the breakdown of the traditional family and all the problems children have from this breakdown.

Q: What programs or solutions, if any, do you believe are needed in order to address the current and future water needs of the State?

A: There are some technologies on the horizon that will actually capture water directly from the atmosphere. Looking into this and common-sense conservation should be able to address the issue satisfactorily.

Q: What programs or solutions, if any, do you believe are needed in order to address the current and future water needs of the State?

A: We must conserve. I joined the Texas Water Smart Coalition to promote conservation and formed the Hill Country Caucus for legislators to discuss ways to protect natural resources. I passed a bill that lowered costs of a local groundwater conservation district to put more emphasis on conservation. We must build reservoirs approved by the legislature, but stalled by the EPA.

STATE REP. DISTRICT 46

Dawanna Dukes (D)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.

A: As a third generation native, it has been an honor and privilege to serve District 46 as a member of the Texas House of Representatives for the past nine terms. Currently I serve as a respected member of the Appropriations s/c on Health & Human Services and the Culture Recreation & Tourism Committee.

Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight?

A: I have not signed any pledge. The only pledge in which I believe is the one that ensures I serve the people of my district to the best of my abilities and work to make certain that the future of all Texans is full of equal opportunity and hope. I will continue to fight for an excellent public education for all children, opportunities for students to afford and succeed in higher education and affordable and quality health care for all Texans.

Q: Texas hospitals have seen uncompensated expenditures soar over the past few years. Not coincidentally, Texas also has the largest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the U.S., which is a factor in today’s insurance rates. Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made available by the Affordable Care Act? Please explain. What other programs (if any) would you support or develop to keep our Texas hospitals fiscally sound and to reduce the percentage of uninsured Texans?

A: The increased costs under ObamaCare have caused many businesses to stop providing coverage, and the CBO has predicted that many individual premiums will go up. We must reform the insurance industry to keep rates low so more Texans can afford coverage, but expanding an inefficient government program that comes with a $1 trillion tax is not an option I support.

Q: Since 2006, state educational funding has been reduced and student enrollment has increased. What measures would you propose to restore adequate funding to Texas schools?

A: The premise of this question is misleading. Over the past 20 years, expenditures for education have increased 142% and Texas’ per-pupil costs have increased from $3,659 to $11,024 after adjusting for inflation. This biennium, public education received an overall increase of $125.2 million. We do not have a funding problem, we have a spending problem.

Q: What programs or solutions, if any, do you believe are needed in order to address the current and future water needs of the State?

A: We must conserve. I joined the Texas Water Smart Coalition to promote conservation and formed the Hill Country Caucus for legislators to discuss ways to protect natural resources. I passed a bill that lowered costs of a local groundwater conservation district to put more emphasis on conservation. We must build reservoirs approved by the legislature, but stalled by the EPA.

Continued on next page
Andy Fernandez (L)
No response received

STATE REP. DISTRICT 47

Chris Frandsen (D)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: I took an oath to serve and to protect the Constitution of the United States when I was sworn to service as a regular U. S. Army officer. I will take no other pledge until I am sworn in to the Texas House of Representatives. I am running to represent the citizens of District 47, Texas House of Representatives. I will not take a pledge to represent special interests or positions of other entities or individuals.
Q: Texas hospitals have seen uncompensated expenditures soar over the past few years. Not coincidentally, Texas also has the largest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the U.S., which is a factor in today’s insurance rates. Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made available by the Affordable Care Act? Please explain. What other programs (if any) would you support or develop to keep our Texas hospitals fiscally sound and to reduce the percentage of uninsured Texans?
A: Nullify Obamacare. Whatever problems we face now will only be compounded by this piece of unconstitutional legislation. If we end all social services to non-citizens and end the corporate welfare state, this would reduce the size of our state government by billions of dollars each year and put it back in the taxpayers pocket where it belongs. They could then take that money and invest in their healthcare needs as they see fit.
Q: Since 2006, state educational funding has been reduced and student enrollment has increased. What measures would you propose to restore adequate funding to Texas schools?
A: 1. I would file legislation that requires public schools to work more efficiently and effectively within their individual budgets. This would include Reining in superintendents pay. 2. I would file legislation that would tax at least 13% out of the Texas Lottery’s prize pool, and add that directly to the 25% that goes towards public school funds. This proposal would generate more than ¼ a billion dollars annually for public education.
Q: What programs or solutions, if any, do you believe are needed in order to address the current and future water needs of the State?
A: Audit the LCRA! I will file legislation that requires a full and complete audit of the LCRA. Texas’ population is expected to almost double in the next 50 years, and we have already given permission for more water to be withdrawn from many of our rivers and lakes than is actually in them. My question is simple, if the LCRA understands what Texas’ population is going to be like in 50 years, then why didn’t they have the same foresight 20 years ago?

Nick Tanner (L)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I’m an everyday tax paying citizen who’s sick and tired of the results that democrats and republicans have delivered, and I’m not willing to accept it anymore. I’m a steering committee member of Texans for Accountable Government as well as a debt free American, who knows how to live on a budget.
Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: I’ve signed the Americans for Prosperity (Texas) - Defending the American Dream Pledge. It states that all decisions about new taxes and spending should be made by taxpayers. I’m proud to say I’ve also signed the Save Our Texas Schools, End the TSA, Eliminate Texas Property Tax, and Audit the Fed petitions.
Q: Texas hospitals have seen uncompensated expenditures soar over the past few years. Not coincidentally, Texas also has the largest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the U.S., which is a factor in today’s insurance rates. Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made available by the Affordable Care Act? Please explain. What other programs (if any) would you support or develop to keep our Texas hospitals fiscally sound and to reduce the percentage of uninsured Texans?
A: Medicaid is a federal program that provides health care coverage for low-income individuals. It is not a sound and equitable solution that preserves a strong Rainy Day Fund, and cuts unnecessary and duplicative government programs.
Q: Texas hospitals have seen uncompensated expenditures soar over the past few years. Not coincidentally, Texas also has the largest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the U.S., which is a factor in today’s insurance rates. Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made available by the Affordable Care Act? Please explain. What other programs (if any) would you support or develop to keep our Texas hospitals fiscally sound and to reduce the percentage of uninsured Texans?
A: I will not take a pledge to support truth in budgeting and balance our budget by limiting spending not raising taxes. I believe for Texas to stay #1 in the nation in job creation we need to make the small business tax exemption permanent and equitable, preserve a strong Rainy Day Fund, and cut unnecessary and duplicative government programs.
Q: Since 2006, state educational funding has been reduced and student enrollment has increased. What measures would you propose to restore adequate funding to Texas schools?
A: 1. I would file legislation that requires public schools to work more efficiently and effectively within their individual budgets. This would include Reining in superintendents pay. 2. I would file legislation that would tax at least 13% out of the Texas Lottery’s prize pool, and add that directly to the 25% that goes towards public school funds. This proposal would generate more than ¼ a billion dollars annually for public education.
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Paul Workman (R)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I’ve been a small businessman for over 40 years, creating hundreds of jobs for Central Texans. I earned a BS in Building Construction from Texas A&M and I served in US Army Reserves for 10 years. I was first elected to the Legislature in 2010. Served on the Board of Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse.
Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: I support the principles of the Texas Budget Compact because I believe we need to practice truth in budgeting and balance our budget by limiting spending not raising taxes. I believe for Texas to stay #1 in the nation in job creation we need to make the small business tax exemption permanent and equitable, preserve a strong Rainy Day Fund, and cut unnecessary and duplicative government programs.
STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE REP. DISTRICT 48

Joe Edgar (L)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: Graduate of the University of Oregon—Honors Degree in Economics, studied mathematics at University of Texas @ Austin, graduate studying at Cornell University, worked with the State of Texas during 81st & 82nd legislative session and focused on bringing Jobs to Texas during recession.
Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: I have not signed any pledges. I believe a Legislator’s responsibility is to be unbiased and dedicated to upholding the constitution. I believe the job requires putting people over politics. Democrats and Republicans in our Texas house have disappointed me with their lack of ability to put donor concerns and politics aside for the sake of Texans. It is time for new voices in our political process. I ask for your vote this November.

Q: Texas hospitals have seen uncompensated expenditures soar over the past few years. Not coincidentally, Texas also has the largest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the U.S., which is a factor in today’s insurance rates. Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas?
A: I proposed an amendment last session to restore some funding to Texas Schools. The amendment would have appropriated any additional automatic contributions to the Rainy Day Fund beyond the $6.4 billion then setting there to make up for some of the $5.4 billion the Republican leadership insisted be cut from public education last session. The amendment was defeated by those who pledged to use no Rainy Day Funds, period.
Q: What programs or solutions, if any, do you believe are needed in order to address the current and future water needs of the State?
A: I support new funding to implement the state’s water plan, including funding to support strong water conservation efforts.

Donna Howard (D)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: A native Austinite, I graduated from Reagan H.S., earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing and a master’s in health education, both from the University of Texas. I worked as a critical care nurse at Brackenridge. I served on the Eanes ISD board from 1996-1999. I have represented HD 48 since 2006.
Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: As my campaign website explains, I do not sign pledges. My pledge to HD48 constituents: “As your state representative, I promise to put the interests of my constituents above all else and to listen to your comments, concerns, and suggestions. I promise to learn all I can about the issues and how they impact our community so I can advocate for solutions that promote responsible government, healthy families, and equal opportunities for all Texans.”

Q: Texas hospitals have seen uncompensated expenditures soar over the past few years. Not coincidentally, Texas also has the largest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the U.S., which is a factor in today’s insurance rates. Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas?
A: I have an MSW and provide more options to our children and giving the classroom back to teachers. Fund the mind–end teaching the test.
Q: What programs or solutions, if any, do you believe are needed in order to address the current and future water needs of the State?
A: Communities must put together water reserve plans. Texas water supply is limited and the use of water for hydraulic fracturing and electrical production is on the rise. I appose raising natural gas prices to pay oil companies to build more water consuming power plants. I support the expansion of residential solar that requires no water and provides power when we need it most–hot days. No more eminent domain for oil and more clean energy for you.

Robert Thomas (R)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: BA Loyola University, JD/MBA U of Texas. Built, bought and managed companies. Business consultant, founded law firms and owned large granite fabrication corporation. Community work–served on nonprofit boards, coached youth sports, PTSA and booster clubs, NWACA, and AISD Bond Oversight Committee.
Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: I have signed no pledge cards, and do not plan to do so. My only pledge is to the people of my district to work hard, to be effective, to listen (and hear) attentively, to keep my mind and heart open, to seek agreement and solutions, to govern effectively, and to vote consistent with the district’s best interest, not special interests.
Q: Texas hospitals have seen uncompensated expenditures soar over the past few years. Not coincidentally, Texas also has the largest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the U.S., which is a factor in today’s insurance rates. Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made available by the Affordable Care Act? Please explain. What other programs (if any) would you support or develop to keep our Texas hospitals fiscally sound and to reduce the percentage of uninsured Texans?
A: Support healthcare for all Texans without bankrupting the state, and still funding other state priorities. Scrub Medicaid expenditures for waste, develop innovative health care delivery models that increase access and quality and decrease overall costs. Emphasizing preventative public and behavioral health initiatives, implement school health screenings and health education, get people out of ERs and into clinics with interdisciplinary teams.
Q: Since 2006, state educational funding has been reduced and student enrollment has increased. What measures would you propose to restore adequate funding to Texas schools?
A: I support new funding to implement the state’s water plan, including funding to support strong water conservation efforts.

STATE REP. DISTRICT 49

Elliot Naishat (D)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I have an MSW and law degree from the University of Texas. My experience includes eleven terms in the Texas House. I serve on the Human Services Committee, the Public Health Committee and the Legislative Committee on Aging.
Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: I have an MSW and law degree from the University of Texas. My experience includes eleven terms in the Texas House. I serve on the Human Services Committee, the Public Health Committee and the Legislative Committee on Aging.

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your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: I have not signed a pledge that would affect my vote on any issue. I refuse to sign Grover Norquist’s “no new taxes” pledge because I believe we need a balanced approach to addressing our continuing budget problems. Next session, with a looming budget shortfall, all revenue-generating measures should be on the table.
Q: Texas hospitals have seen uncompensated expenditures soar over the past few years. Not coincidentally, Texas also has the largest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the U.S., which is a factor in today’s insurance rates. Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made available by the Affordable Care Act? Please explain. What other programs (if any) would you support or develop to keep our Texas hospitals fiscally sound and to reduce the percentage of uninsured Texans?
A: I support Medicaid. With the highest rate of uninsured people in the nation, Texas has much to gain by expanding Medicaid, since the federal government will cover 100% of expansion costs through 2016, with the state’s maximum share at 10% beginning in 2020. Implementation of the ACA will result in tens of thousands of Texans gaining coverage and reduce the amounts of uncompensated care costs that hospitals currently absorb.
Q: Since 2006, state educational funding has been reduced and student enrollment has increased. What measures would you propose to restore adequate funding to Texas schools?
A: When the Legislature convenes in 2013, we should restore the educational funding cuts made last session. The franchise (”margins”) tax should be reformed to make it more equitable, close loopholes, and bring in more revenue to meet the needs of our schools. I also support using a portion of the Rainy Day Fund, expected to total $8 billion, to adequately fund public education in Texas.
Q: What programs or solutions, if any, do you believe are needed in order to address the current and future water needs of the State?
A: We must generate revenues to fund water-related infrastructure improvements, including building and maintaining reservoirs, and disposing if necessary, including the Rainy Day Fund.
Q: What programs or solutions, if any, do you believe are needed in order to address the current and future water needs of the State?
A: When you’re dealing with imbalances in supply and demand, the free market is fantastic. If the price of water goes up, people will either find new sources, or limit their use, or move somewhere that has more water. What we don’t need is additional government programs. That’s a great way to make existing problems worse.

Kent Phillips (L)
No response received

STATE REP. DISTRICT 50
Mark Strama (D)
Unopposed

STATE REP. DISTRICT 51
Arthur DiBianca (L)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: Libertarians like me support free markets, civil liberties, and peace. We believe that the purpose of government is to secure people’s rights. I have worked as a Libertarian political activist for most of the last 9 years, including time on the staff of the Texas and national Libertarian Party.
Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: I don’t recall any pledges that would affect the 2013-14 term. I would be happy to sign a pledge that I will support legislation that defends people’s rights, and oppose legislation that violates people’s rights. I’m skeptical of anti-tax pledges, because I think they can be used to trick voters into thinking you want less government, when you really don’t.
Q: Texas hospitals have seen uncompensated expenditures soar over the past few years. Not coincidentally, Texas also has the largest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the U.S., which is a factor in today’s insurance rates. Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made available by the Affordable Care Act? Please explain. What other programs (if any) would you support or develop to keep our Texas hospitals fiscally sound and to reduce the percentage of uninsured Texans?
A: Let’s return medical care to the private sector. I think we should throw out Medicaid and Medicare. (Yes, I said "Medicare" too.) The purpose of government is to secure rights, not to provide benefits and entitlements. The less government interferes in our health care, the better our health care will be. You can quote me on that.
Q: Since 2006, state educational funding has been reduced and student enrollment has increased. What measures would you propose to restore adequate funding to Texas schools?
A: Public schools suck. You know it’s true. Not for lack of money -- we throw more and more money at public schools, and nothing improves. I would support a constitutional amendment to get rid of the requirement for free public schools. In the meantime, I support education tax credits.
Q: What programs or solutions, if any, do you believe are needed in order to address the current and future water needs of the State?
A: When you’re dealing with imbalances in supply and demand, the free market is fantastic. If the price of water goes up, people will either find new sources, or limit their use, or move somewhere that has more water. What we don’t need is additional government programs. That’s a great way to make existing problems worse.

Eddie Rodriguez (D)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I have served five terms in the Texas Legislature as State Representative for House District 51. I currently serve on the House Transportation Committee, House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, and the House Committee on Calendars. I am also Vice Chair of the Mexican American Legislative Caucu.
Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: No I have not signed any pledges that will affect my vote on any issues.
Q: Texas hospitals have seen uncompensated expenditures soar over the past few years. Not coincidentally, Texas also has the largest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the U.S., which is a factor in today’s insurance rates. Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made available by the Affordable Care Act? Please explain. What other programs (if any) would you support or develop to keep our Texas hospitals fiscally sound and to reduce the percentage of uninsured Texans?
A: I strongly support expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made possible by the Affordable Care Act. I will continue to advocate for Medicaid, CHIP, and any state or local programs to help ensure that all Texans have access to affordable health coverage. Because the ACA will reduce the number of uninsured Texans, that in itself should reduce the up front costs hospitals are currently being faced with.
Q: Since 2006, state educational funding has been reduced and student enrollment has increased. What measures would you propose to restore adequate funding to Texas schools?
A: I believe the state of Texas needs to make public education funding a top priority by at least replacing the cuts from last session. We can do this by reforming the franchise tax and closing tax loopholes. I also support using funds already at the state’s disposal if necessary, including the Rainy Day Fund.
Q: What programs or solutions, if any, do you believe are needed in order to address the current and future water needs of the State?
A: I believe the state needs a dedicated revenue stream to fund our water plan and make sure that families and businesses have access to adequate water supplies. I would consider various methods to create a dedicated revenue source to fund our state’s water plan.

STATE REP. DISTRICT 52
Larry Gonzales (R)
No response received

Lillian Martinez Simmons (L)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: Certified Professional Legal Secretary by the National Association of Legal Secretaries. Two years of college at University of New Orleans 1963–66. Experienced legal secretary.
Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: I pledged to not raise taxes.
Q: Texas hospitals have seen uncompensated expenditures soar over the past few years. Not coincidentally, Texas also has the largest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the U.S., which is a factor in today’s insurance rates. Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made available by the Affordable Care Act? Please explain. What other programs (if any) would you support or develop to keep our Texas hospitals fiscally sound and to reduce the percentage of uninsured Texans?
A: I strongly support expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made possible by the Affordable Care Act. I will continue to advocate for Medicaid, CHIP, and any state or local programs to help ensure that all Texans have access to affordable health coverage. Because the ACA will reduce the number of uninsured Texans, that in itself should reduce the up front costs hospitals are currently being faced with.
Q: Since 2006, state educational funding has been reduced and student enrollment has increased. What measures would you propose to restore adequate funding to Texas schools?
A: I would promote private schools. Education should be private. Public education should be only for indigents.
improved health outcomes for seniors. Expansion of this current broken system should not be considered until Texas can ensure that wasteful spending and fraud is eliminated.

Q: Since 2006, state educational funding has been reduced and student enrollment has increased. What measures would you propose to restore adequate funding to Texas schools?
A: The state’s contribution increased $1.6 billion from last biennium, but was offset by a loss of federal stimulus funding of about $4 billion. I support empowering results, not subsidizing the status quo. We need more local control over our schools so that parents and teachers can focus on student achievement. There are many unfunded mandates from the state that need to be eliminated. I support not raising taxes and growing the economy.

Q: What programs or solutions, if any, do you believe are needed in order to address the current and future water needs of the State?
A: The issue of water will be one that will span more than one session. The legislature needs to examine the state water plan and begin to prioritize the projects that will have the greatest impact to ensure an adequate supply for all uses without violating private property rights. The state will not be alone in solving the water issues. Counties and cities have a role in conservation efforts and on the supply side as well.

Matt Stillwell (D)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I am a small business owner, husband and father to 3 young boys. I sit on the RRISD Bond Oversight Committee and sat on the RRISD Grading Committee. I was the Secretary of the PTA and sat on the Site Based Advisory Committee for my elementary school, and hold a Texas teaching certification in Art.

Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: I have not signed any pledges, nor would I. Pledges are made for a purpose and then used at a later date to support or oppose a bill that was never intended for that purpose.

Matthew W. Whittington (L)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: Over the last 15 years I have been involved in the creation of 3 companies. These dealt with regulated personal data and interacting with various governmental organizations. I am currently Working for Seton as the developer handling the data interactions between the Hospital and CMS (Medicare).

Q: Have you signed a pledge that will affect your vote on any issue? Why or why not? If so, what legislation did you pledge to support or fight? Why?
A: I signed a no new taxes pledge on the understanding that it did not mean no new taxes ever, but a net negative for my time in office. I support massive tax cuts, but that does not mean that I would never find a tax that I could support. I said I would support changes in laws effecting the craft beer industry to lower barriers of entry into the business. For a pledge here, I would support any legislation that lowers barriers of entry.

Q: Texas hospitals have seen uncompensated expenditures soar over the past few years. Not coincidentally, Texas also has the largest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the U.S., which is a factor in today’s insurance rates. Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Texas, as made available by the Affordable Care Act? Please explain. What other programs (if any) would you support or develop to keep our Texas hospitals fiscally sound and to reduce the percentage of uninsured Texans?
A: The Affordable Care Act is not perfect by any means, but neither is our healthcare system in Texas. Expanding Medicaid would be a reasonable way to reduce the unacceptably high rate of uninsured, especially with the Federal Government picking up most of the cost. Preventative healthcare paid by Medicaid is less costly than emergency care at the ER, and both are ultimately paid for by taxpayers. I’d rather spend less and keep people healthy.

Q: Since 2006, state educational funding has been reduced and student enrollment has increased. What measures would you propose to restore adequate funding to Texas schools?
A: The chronic underfunding of Texas education has resulted in a system that has not kept up with the advances of the rest of the developed world. At the same time, we are extending billions in state tax exemptions and loopholes to industries in our state. It’s time to review these loopholes and measure their worth against the value of a highly educated workforce. Spending $500,000,000 on standardized tests is an expense we should also reexamine.

Q: What programs or solutions, if any, do you believe are needed in order to address the current and future water needs of the State?
A: Increased and incentivized conservation methods can take us most of the way to successfully managing our future water needs, but it won’t solve the problem entirely. Whether the remaining strategies involve building new reservoirs, investing in desalination, better management of current usage by various industries or all of the above, we must develop - and fund - a plan in this next legislative session.

Q: What programs or solutions, if any, do you believe are needed in order to address the current and future water needs of the State?
A: Water Restrictions need to be set aside in favor of costs being scaled to the current drought levels and it needs to get more expensive by volume. As water scarcity increases, the cost of water needs to increase instead of just conservation. As water costs increase, it will make it cost effective to provide or produce water that is not currently available to the state. I do NOT support registration or fees on wells. I support water rights.
**DISTRICT JUDGE, BASTROP COUNTY RACES**

**BASTROP COUNTY DISTRICT JUDGE**

**21ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Carson Campbell Jr. (R)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.

A: A graduate of Texas A&M and South Texas College of Law. Thirty years of experience in the criminal and civil matters that come before the Court. A competitive primary and run-off election that transferred my experience from attorney to public servant.

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

A: If the client hires the attorney, the Judge cannot interfere with their relationship. It is the client’s responsibility to fire his attorney or bring a cause of action against his attorney. If the attorney is appointed by the Court, I would advise the client of his right to effective assistance of counsel and offer the client another attorney to advise him about effective assistance of counsel.

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

A: Laws determine the rate of incarceration. As for recidivism in probation, I would encourage evidence based practices as to rehabilitation, incapacitation, deterrence and punishment. Through a proper interview, the probation officer would determine the cause of the act, and apply steps to remove that cause; relying on evidence that those steps properly address the cause of the criminal act.

**Sam Z. Damon (D)**

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.

A: Received my legal education at the Baylor School of Law. I graduated in 1990 and passed the bar in both Texas and NM. My first significant job was with the Public Defender in Las Cruces, NM. After 4 years, the Governor appointed me District Defender in Alamogordo and then in Las Cruces.

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

A: Inadequate representation is disturbing and woefully common. A judge who sees injustice developing before his eyes must act quickly. The cause must be rooted out. Is it temporary - failing to be prepared, substance abuse, illness, emotional distress? If there is no remedy, there must be a mistrial. If there is a remedy, then there must be a continuance for as long as it takes to correct the problem.

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

A: Our prisons are packed with persons there as result of substance abuse or mental health issues. Austin and the bigger cities are blessed with Drug and Mental Health Courts. I will actively seek grants, legislation, etc. to set up the same opportunities for the rural counties in Texas. We cannot continue to simply warehouse the young and those who can be saved.

**335TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Reva L. Towslee Corbett (R)

Unopposed

**423RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Chris Duggan (D)

Unopposed

**Caldwell, Comal, Hays County District Court Judge**

**22ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Bruce Boyer (R)

Unopposed

**421ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Todd Blomerth (R)

Unopposed

**Travis County District Court Judge**

**53RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Scott Jenkins (D)

Unopposed

**98TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Rhonda Hurley (D)

Unopposed

**126TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Darlene Byrne (D)

Unopposed

**167TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

David Wahlberg (D)

Unopposed

**200TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Gisela D. Triana (D)

Unopposed

**345TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Stephen Yelenosky (D)

Unopposed

**353RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Tim Sulak (D)

Unopposed

**390TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Julie H. Kocurek (D)

Unopposed

**427TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Jim Coronado (D)

Unopposed

**Williamson County District Court Judge**

**26TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Billy Ray Stubblefield (R)

Unopposed

**395TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Mike Jergins (R)

Unopposed

**425TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Betsy Lambeth (R)

Unopposed

**Bastrop County RACES**

**Sheriff**

Terry Pickering (R)

Unopposed

**Tax Assessor-Collector**

Linda Harmon (D)

Unopposed

**County Judge**

Paul Pape (R)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.

A: Business Administration, West Texas A&M University, 1974. I have over thirty years of experience in business, primarily in real estate brokerage and management. I gained governmental relations experience during ten years with the LCRA. I built and operate a small family business in Bastrop County.

Q: How would you use the county’s existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?

A: Generally the competing interests are those who want more development for a broader and deeper tax base and those who want less development to preserve open space and protect the environment. A county has limited zoning power. The county’s most effective tools for assuring a reasonable mix of residential and commercial development and caring for the natural resources are its subdivision rules and regulations.

Q: Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to county residents? Please explain.

A: The county should cooperate with the three incorporated cities — Elgin, Bastrop and Smithville — in order to streamline development services and avoid duplication. As County Judge I will be working with the Mayors and City Managers to assure efficient coordination of services. Since Bastrop County has limited zoning and regulatory power, it is smart to work with the cities as partners for development in common jurisdictions.

Q: What are the three most important issues you hope to address, if elected?

A: 1: See that efforts to clean up after the disastrous fires of 2011 continue until the work is completed and all of Bastrop County is on the road to a full recovery, 2: Attract clean commerce and industry to Bastrop County by promoting economic development in all areas of the county – bringing new jobs and building our tax base and improving the quality of life for all. 3: Operate as efficiently as possible, work to lower the county tax rate.

**Ed Rivers (D)**

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.

A: Education: BA Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M Experience: 23 yrs. as President of Bastrop Abstract Co., a trusted locally-owned business serving all of Bastrop County; President of Elgin Education Foundation & Main St. Board; Longstanding member of all three Chambers of Commerce in Bastrop County

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Q: How would you use the county’s existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?
A: Recognize that the County has only the powers specifically enumerated by statute. Yet, such powers as approval of subdivision plats, authority to collect and abate taxes, authority over roads and drainage, give the County a front seat opportunity to harmonize public opinion, developmental pressures, and pursue the County’s best interest. An informed and engaged Commissioners Court will have the standing to secure real progress for our citizens.

Q: Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to county residents?” Please explain.
A: Efficiency in the administration of County offices and among the four precincts is essential. The consolidation of any duplicated efforts would promote that goal and conserve resources. The County’s services do not tend to overlap with other governmental entities except in respect to cooperative agreements and subsidies, the best of which should be encouraged.

Q: What are the three most important issues you hope to address, if elected?
A: 1) The recovery of our people, parks, and forest from the Labor Day fires; 2) Strong representation of the County’s best interest regarding regional transportation funding & water resources; 3) Improving Emergency Medical Services. My experience has prepared me with the consensus building skills required of a County Judge leading our Commissioners Court during this important time and together, with your support, we can meet these challenges.

COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

W.L. “Bill” Peterson (D)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I am a native of Bastropian. I was a power plant operator for LCRA. I worked for the Federal Bureau of Prisons for 24 years and retired as a Facility Manager. I prepared, monitored and managed a multi-million dollar budget for the federal government. I am a former member of the Bastrop City Council. I also need to make sure we are using outside funding resources as they come available. To do this, I am serving on the committee to construct a new building for development services, 911 addressing, tax assessor & others. This is an important goal.

COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

Phil Cook (I)

No response received

Fred Ensinger (R)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I have earned a B.A. from the University of Texas at Tyler, A.B.S. from Texas A&M Corpus Christi with honors, a Masters in Business Administration from University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio with honors, and achieved the credentials of a Certified Public Manager through Texas State.

Q: How would you use the County’s existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?
A: My primary interest is being proactive and managing economic development in our community. This captures many of the other issues of concern such as: taxes, tax abatements, water, schools, road and bridge infrastructure, emergency services, community parks, and environmental issues.

Q: Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to your County residents? Please explain.
A: In conjunction with our County leaders, I will do an organizational business assessment to determine the efficiency of our County business. My priority is to make sure our money is being spent efficiently. We also need to make sure we are using outside funding resources as they come available.

Fred Ensinger (R)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I have earned a B.A. from the University of Texas at Tyler, A.B.S. from Texas A&M Corpus Christi with honors, a Masters in Business Administration from University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio with honors, and achieved the credentials of a Certified Public Manager through Texas State.

Q: How would you use the County’s existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?
A: The state regulates what the county can and cannot do when it comes to development. I review and evaluate any plat that is submitted to the county and make sure it meets all county and state standards. I will also encourage the development community to develop property to a standard that will meet community standards. I will continue to encourage clean and green businesses to locate to Bastrop County.

Q: Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to your County residents? Please explain.
A: Development Services is the only department in the county that I think provides overlapping services. State requires that these departments be divided. The departments are Septic permitting and inspection, flood plain permitting and 911 addressing. The county has provided office space in one building so the people seeking permits do not have to go to different areas. We are building a new structure to house these departments and tax assessor.

Q: What three issues do you hope to address, if elected?
A: Water is a big issue. I will continue to work with the legislature and the Lost Pines Ground Water District on this issue. I will continue to improve the roads and infrastructure of Pct. 3 and the remaining portion of the county. I am serving on the committee to construct a new building for development services, 911 addressing, tax assessor & others. This is an important goal.

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at our Bastrop County Budget.

BASTROP COUNTY CONSTABLE,
PRECINCT 1

Dan Hall (R)  Unopposed

CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 2

August “Gus” Meduna Jr. (D)  Unopposed

CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 3

Matthew Henderson (D)  Unopposed

CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 4

Ron Lundrigan (R)  No response received

Roy Pruneda (D)  No response received

Caldwell County Race

Ray Chandler (R)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: My career started in March of 1987 in Elgin Texas and I retired from the Austin Police Department in July 2012. With just over 25 yrs of experience I hold a Masters peace officers license along with a multitude of instructor licenses. I was a Sergeant for over 16 yrs and I am a graduate of the UT-APD Leadership Program modeled after the USMA-West Point Military Leadership program. Being a public servant is what I am!
Q: What measures do you propose to reduce crime in our community?
A: Give the officers the tools necessary to do their jobs begin with a computer assisted dispatch system (CAD); increase their training; and to properly utilize the resource’s currently available. Implant a reserve officers program and work with the community to address their needs. Work closely with all the local Law Enforcement agencies. Have the Deputy’s get to know the people they serve so they know what’s going on in their area of patrol.
Q: How does the sheriff’s office work with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and what improvements or changes, if any, would you propose.
A: It’s the Sheriff’s duty to work with all Law Enforcement agencies not just (ICE)! I will see how things are being done and whether or not they are being done in accordance with the law. If they aren’t then I will make the necessary changes in order to become compliant; if they are then we will continue moving forward. It’s my goal that the Caldwell County Sheriff’s office has a positive working relationship with all other agencies.

Daniel C. Law, (D)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
Q: What measures/programs do you propose to reduce crime in our community?
A: Enhance D.A.R.E. & Explorers Post 8200 educational youth prog. Expand & enhance crime prevention programs through community neighborhood watch to better educate both public and sheriffs’ Officers of community enforcement concerns. Begin the “Are You OK” prog enhancing communications with senior citizens. Continue to work with Commissioners Court to prepare for expanding population. ie... traffic units, river response, enhanced patrol presence.
Q: How does the sheriff’s office work with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and what improvements or changes, if any, would you propose.
A: The Caldwell County Sheriff's Office works with all local, state, and federal agencies of enforcement to ensure the well being and needs of every citizen in our county whether resident or visitor.

TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

Debra Burditt French (R)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: My overall experience and education enable me to perform the fiduciary responsibilities of Caldwell County’s Tax Assessor-Collector. My Team management approach results in cross-trained staff and superior customer service to the community. My qualifications include the following: CPA since 1993; MPA and BBA, UT Austin, May 1992; Auditor with UT System and Coopers & Lybrand; Consultant providing litigation support and fraud reviews.
Q: What measures will you take to maximize the tax collection rate?
A: Caldwell County is fortunate to have the Caldwell County Appraisal District. The Tax Assessor-Collector no longer has duties to this regard.
Q: What measures do you propose to ensure that County voter registration lists remain current?
A: The Caldwell County Elections Office handles all aspects of voter registration. The Tax Assessor-Collector no longer has duties of this capacity.

Daria Law (D)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: All property taxes are collected at the Caldwell County Appraisal District Office. The Elected Tax Assessor-Collector for Caldwell County handles all of the motor vehicle registrations. I plan to keep current on all of the latest software and technology available to ensure effective and efficient service to all Caldwell County citizens. I also plan to seek the most up to date training for all Tax Office employees to maintain professional and tim
Q: What measures do you propose to ensure that County voter registration lists remain current?
A: Caldwell County has added a new department titled the Elections Administrators’ Office, which handles all elections and voter information. The Caldwell County Tax Assessor-Collector no longer has this duty.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

John H. Richards (D)  Unopposed

COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

Alfredo R. Munoz (D)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I am a resident of Caldwell County since 1998. Attended The University of Texas and St. Edward’s University. Records Administrator-State of Texas. Member of the Gaslight Theater, Greater Caldwell County
Continued from previous page

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, City of Lockhart Civil Service Commission, LISD Trustee District 4

Q: How would you use the County’s existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?
A: The County has development ordinances in place. I would like to think the County can “guide” development, rather than “regulate” it. Of primary importance are the rights of property owners to enjoy use of their land within the framework of the law and without having “government” restrict these rights outside of what is minimally necessary to promote the economic growth of our County to the benefit of all residents.

Q: Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to your County residents? Please explain.
A: I am concerned about improving the ways that government can positively influence people’s lives. This means that I will work hard to maintain an excellent working relationship with other governmental entities, including school districts, cities and the State.

Q: What three issues do you hope to address, if elected?
A: I believe that the basic element of good county government is fiscal responsibility. I will insist that the court be held accountable for its actions and policies. I believe that we should use our tax dollars judiciously and prudently to provide governmental services. Property Rights: Our right to acquire, own, and use private property is an essential element of our society.

Todd Smith (R)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.

Q: How would you use the County’s existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?
A: I applaud the City and County coordination for radio communications and pet shelters, and the ongoing discussion about EMS services. It is wise and right to continue looking for more ways to save the County money in regional solutions, but we must put our people first in making these important decisions.

Q: What three issues do you hope to address, if elected?
A: (1) We must increase the salaries and benefits of our County employees if we want to enjoy the long-time benefit of their institutional knowledge. It is unacceptable to have full time employees below the poverty level. (2) The Development Ordinance needs to be amended. (3) I will improve constituent services. I am ready to work full-time as needed to respectfully and promptly respond to the needs of my potential constituents.

Kathy Haigler (R)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: 8 years Office Manager for Surveying Company, 3 years Contract Management Coordinator at NASA, 3 years as Cost Tracker for ExxonMobil’s multi-million dollar HOOPS Project, 4 years Legal Secretary, Secretary for 3 Baptist churches and Office Manager of a Private Christian School.

Q: How would you use the County’s existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?
A: I adamantly oppose any power grabs from entities ranging from international to the local level which would undermine quality of life and personal liberty, and/or rob individuals of personal property rights. It is a statutory duty of the County Court to manage public lands held by the County, so we must responsibly regulate development for orderly and consistent growth without infringing on private property rights.

Q: Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to your County residents? Please explain.
A: I would like to think the County can “guide” development, rather than “regulate” it. Of primary importance are the rights of property owners to enjoy use of their land within the framework of the law and without having “government” restrict these rights outside of what is minimally necessary to promote the economic growth of our County to the benefit of all residents.

Q: What three issues do you hope to address, if elected?
A: (1) Employee pay. I will work towards increasing the pay scale for all county employees. This will benefit both the employees and the taxpayers. County employees will be paid what they are worth and the taxpayers will see a cost saving through diminished turnover and decreased hiring and training costs. 2. Road Maintenance 3. Economic Growth

COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

Neto Madrigal (D)

No response received

Richard Polfus (R)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.

Q: What do you think are the most important responsibilities of the County Constable’s office?
A: My primary responsibility to the community will be to serve its citizenry with attentiveness and respect, while performing the duties of my office as described in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures. My personal approach to law enforcement centers on being active in my community, approachable by all, and attuned to the needs of not only the residents of my precinct, but of the county as a whole, while maintaining a friendly professionalism.

Q: What are the advantages or disadvantages of having service of process handled by the County Constable’s office or private process servers?
A: The advantage of having Constables serve civil papers is that we normally know the people we have to serve. Therefore we can show compassion. Unfortunately private servers often treat the public like a number as they are being paid per service. At the same time, the private server has the ability to change their pricing in order to serve more papers. Our prices are fixed by the Sheriff of our county. Price is really not the issue, service is.

CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 1

Tim Adams (R)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: Crockett High School Graduate, Austin Community College, Reserve Peace Officer, Travis County Training Academy for intermediate and TCLOSE certification. I have worked in every aspect of Law Enforcement - Patrol, Warrants, Civil Process, Undercover narcotics - in Travis County and Caldwell County, fo

Q: What do you think are the most important responsibilities of the County Constable’s office?
A: The most important responsibility of the Constable’s office would be to serve the courts in a timely and diligent manner. I would make myself available 24/7 to the Courts and residents of Caldwell County. I want to do more than just serve papers, I am willing, as time allows, to patrol the communities and get to know the people. Law enforcement needs to reach out and earn the respect of the citizens of the County.

Q: What are the advantages or disadvantages of having service of process handled by the County Constable’s office or private process servers?
A: There are so many important aspects of the Constable’s office. However, I feel professionalism on and off duty is imperative. We must work well with all other law enforcement agencies. Lastly, we must keep the peace. We should be there for the public. That means being a good listener. We must work with law firms and the public with regard to civil process. We must develop new programs that prove to the public that the Pct. 1 Constable’s Of

CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 2

Victor “Smitty” Terrell (D)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I have 60 hours of College from Austin community College. I also have over 2000 hours of law enforcement training. I spent six years in the U.S. Navy. I worked for Tx Parks and Wildlife for seven years. I was a Reserve Deputy Sheriff for Caldwell County for seven years. I have been the Constable

Q: What do you think are the most important responsibilities of the County Constable’s office?
A: There are so many important aspects of the Constable’s office. However, I feel professionalism on and off duty is imperative. We must work well with all other law enforcement agencies. Lastly, we must keep the peace. We should be there for the public. That means being a good listener. We must work with law firms and the public with regard to civil process. We must develop new programs that prove to the public that the Pct. 1 Constable’s Of
Caldwell, Hays County Races

Continued from previous page

A: As Constable, you’re a Peace Officer of the State of Texas. It is your sworn duty to uphold the laws of the State. If, while serving papers or on patrol, you notice suspicious activities, you shall investigate further and resolve the issue (DWI, Burglary, Speeding etc.). A private server is a glorified mail carrier—taking papers from the court to whomever as directed - not to be bothered with other issues in the county.

Richard Callihan (D)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: My experience includes 17 years as a police officer and assistant police chief for the City of Luling. I am the current Constable for Caldwell County Pct. 2 and have held this position for 12 years. I hold a Master Peace Officer certification and have completed 1450 training hours through TCLEOSE.
Q: What do you think are the most important responsibilities of the County Constable’s office?
A: The Constable has the power and responsibility of any peace officer in the State. They may write tickets, make arrests, conduct investigations and file criminal charges. The Constable serves as Bailiff of the Justice of the Peace Court and is responsible for serving and executing Civil Process and Civil Court orders. The most vital duty of the Constable is to serve and enforce Court Process Orders issued from Civil and Criminal Court Systems.
Q: What are the advantages or disadvantages of having service of process handled by the County Constable’s office or private process servers?
A: The Constable’s office should be the sole process server. The Constable is familiar with the local area and the residents of the precinct because the Constable lives there. The Constable reports directly to the Justice of Peace, whereas a private process server lacks a relationship with the court and the citizens of the precinct. The educational and experience requirements are much less for a private process server as compared to a Constable.

Constable, Precinct 3
Margarito Zapata Jr. (D)
Unopposed

Constable, Precinct 4
Art Villarreal (D)
Unopposed

Hays County RacE

County Sheriff
Gary Cutler (R)
Unopposed

TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR
Luanne Caraway (R)
Unopposed

County Commissioner, Precinct 1
Mary E. Gonzales (R)
Q: Please describe your specific areas of interest, education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I favor small government and more private sector job opportunities. Having worked for nine corporations with 20 years of business management experience, I am a champion of revenue creation. My experience and education is not paid for by tax dollars.
Q: How would you use the county’s existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?
A: I would use Hays’ County authority to regulate development to protect our environment and upgrade health standards. We need rules that require developers to help provide amenities for the developments that they bring to our communities so that the tax burden will not fall on every citizen. I will work for the even-handed enforcement of Hays County subdivision rules.
Q: Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to county residents?
A: We should be able to consolidate more elections together. I would like to see the school districts have their election along side the county and the city in all areas of the county thereby creating more interest and participation in the election process. I will support any consolidation of services with intentions to save taxpayer money.
Q: What are the three most important issues you hope to address, if elected?
A: 1. Cutting unnecessary spending so that any increase of revenue income can be utilized to address government debt incurred by the previous courts. This will also help the county to stop growing government. 2. Working for more responsive, transparent government for all citizens. 3. Water issues for a growing population must be adequately addressed.

Debbie Gonzales-Ingalsbe (D)
Q: Please describe your specific areas of interest, education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I have over 780 hours of county government training, attended SWTSU, am a licensed Peace Officer. Have a proven record & commitment of working well with others providing transportation needs, quality jobs & other services while keeping our tax rate low.
Q: How would you use the county’s existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?
A: Continue to work with all interested parties to ensure we are listening and understanding all needs and issues. We must grow responsibly, providing good quality development for a fast growing diverse population while protecting the beauty of our county’s heritage, water resources and existing neighborhoods.
Q: Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to county residents?
A: Over the past few years, the county and other law enforcement, Fire, EMS & ESD agencies have met to discuss their support, commitment and benefits of a Consolidated 911 & Emergency Dispatch Center. Some benefits include: shared resources with reduced costs, improved quality of service, cross-training of agencies and increased staff, on-site, to cover major incidents.
Q: What are the three most important issues you hope to address, if elected?
A: Continue work on transportation needs. Living in one of the fastest growing counties in the state & nation, we must plan to ensure for the safety & mobility of our residents. Work with our cities, water providers, groundwater district & legislators to help meet our current & future water needs & promote economic development of quality jobs with higher wages/job retention.

County Commissioner, Precinct 3
Will Conley (R)
Unopposed

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1
Amy Lea Akers (R)
Q: Please describe your specific areas of interest, education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: It is my mission to make a difference. After five years into the construction industry building homes, churches and elderly care facilities I began law school. With a law degree from St. Mary’s University I am ready to serve Hays County citizens.
Q: If elected as Justice of the Peace, what would be your highest priority?
A: As Justice of the Peace my highest priority will be that everyone entering the court receives respect and justice in the law. Whether acting as magistrate, presiding over criminal or civil cases, and, most importantly, when a juvenile is in front of the court, my mission will be to ensure that everyone is treated with dignity and respect; applying the law as written.
Q: What is the role of the Justice of the Peace in the county justice system?
A: JPs have many roles in the county justice system including presiding over class C misdemeanors (traffic, truancy, animal, alcohol and tobacco violations), evictions, other minor civil suits, and examining trials. Often they also have the duties to magistrate (determine bonds, issue warrants and protective orders), conduct administrative hearings and perform inquests.

JoAnne Prado (D)
Q: Please describe your specific areas of interest, education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: Graduated from SMHS in 1981 and have been continuously employed with Hays County since 1984, 28 yrs employment with Hays County and the over 500 hours of judicial education with the Texas State Training Center makes me the most qualified candidate.
Q: If elected as Justice of the Peace, what would be your highest priority?
A: To continue to be a fair and impartial judge who presides over the variety of cases that are filed. My open door policy will continue and I am easily accessible. I magistrate on a daily basis and I understand that the decisions I make in setting bonds affect many. My commitment to consider every situation carefully and to set fair bonds is my first and highest priority.
Q: What is the role of the Justice of the Peace in the county justice system?

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**HAYS, TRAVIS COUNTY RACES**

**CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 1**

David Peterson (D)

Q: Please describe your specific areas of interest, education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I have over 25 years of law enforcement experience in Hays County. I have a Master Peace Officer License through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education. Most of all, I have been a citizen of Hays County for over 58 years.

Q: In your opinion, what are the most important responsibilities of the Constable’s office, and what will be your priorities if elected?
A: The most important responsibilities of the Constable’s office are serving the community of Hays County by providing civil process, enforcing the law, educating citizens on safety and providing community service. If elected, my priorities will be to offer the Constable’s services to the fullest extent of my ability.

Q: What are the advantages or disadvantages of having service of process handled by the County Constable’s office rather than by a private process server?
A: The advantages of having the Constable serve civil process is accessibility, should a defendant have a question, he or she can call your Constable as long as the question is not a legal question and civil process servers are limited on what they are able and not able to serve. For Constable’s do have continuous jurisdiction into other counties to also serve civil process.

**CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 2**

Ron Hall (R)

Q: Please describe your specific areas of interest, education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I utilize my 19 years of experience as a peace officer and administrator to provide a professional service to my community. I am a Master Peace Officer, a FBI National Academy Graduate and have over 2400 hours of training recorded with the State.

Q: In your opinion, what are the most important responsibilities of the Constable’s office, and what will be your priorities if elected?
A: The most important responsibilities of the Constable’s office are making sure that each and every civil process paper and hot check warrants that are sent to the Constable’s agency are being served in a timely manner and returned back to the courts. If elected as your Constable, I am to serve the public as the Constable should be doing and to gain the trust of the public.

Q: What are the advantages or disadvantages of having service of process handled by the County Constable’s office rather than by a private process server?
A: The advantages of having the Constable serve civil process is accessibility, should a defendant have a question, he or she can call your Constable as long as the question is not a legal question and civil process servers are limited on what they are able and not able to serve.

**TRAVIS COUNTY RACES**

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

David Escamilla (D)
Unopposed

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1**

Ron Davis (D)
Unopposed

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3**

Gerald Daugherty (R)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I have been an Austin businessman for more than 28 years and have owned several successful businesses including a sporting goods store and the Pleasant Valley Sportsplex. I am currently an owner in Jack Allen’s Kitchen, a popular restaurant located in Oak Hill.

Q: How would you use the County’s existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?
A: Instead of imposing regulatory burdens and threatening private property rights, I would advocate the end of corporate authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests.

Q: How would you use the County’s existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?
A: I respect individual property rights but will challenge anyone unwilling to adopt reasonable measures like buffers, setbacks and a recalibration of the “right of capture” rule. I believe counties should have the capability to address concerns of affected communities and I will rally all stakeholders, as I did in my previous tenure on the court, to develop reasonable, enforceable safeguards that fit in the framework of Texas heritage.

Q: Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to your County residents? Please explain.
A: An excellent example of governments working together is the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) that is shared by Travis County and the City of Austin. It isn’t easy to get governments to share turf but there are efficiencies to be realized by consolidating services such as police and fire, and health and human services. Metropolitan government is an idea whose time has come and I would push the legislature to enact laws in support of it.

Q: What three issues do you hope to address, if elected?
A: I will again be the conscience of the Court when it comes to taxes and spending, not allowing spending to drive the tax rate and checking nonessential spending. I will focus my energies on identifying and funding an adequate road system to address the continuing growth in Precinct 3. I will work to develop reasonable and equitable solutions to meet the growing demands on our drinking water supply and the impact on the economy of our lakes.

Patrick Dixon (L)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I am a 2 term city council member in Lago Vista. I am a registered professional engineer with a bachelor’s degree from Miami University. I have testified several times before the state legislature on a variety of issues and have been successful at defeating bad legislation.

Q: How would you use the County’s existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?
A: I support the idea of governments to share turf but there are efficiencies to be realized by consolidating services such as police and fire, and health and human services. Metropolitan government is an idea whose time has come and I would push the legislature to enact laws in support of it.

Q: Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to your County residents? Please explain.
A: An excellent example of governments working together is the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) that is shared by Travis County and the City of Austin. It isn’t easy to get governments to share turf but there are efficiencies to be realized by consolidating services such as police and fire, and health and human services. Metropolitan government is an idea whose time has come and I would push the legislature to enact laws in support of it.

Q: What three issues do you hope to address, if elected?
A: I will again be the conscience of the Court when it comes to taxes and spending, not allowing spending to drive the tax rate and checking nonessential spending. I will focus my energies on identifying and funding an adequate road system to address the continuing growth in Precinct 3. I will work to develop reasonable and equitable solutions to meet the growing demands on our drinking water supply and the impact on the economy of our lakes.

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TRAVIS COUNTY RACES

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In a time of drought and stress on finite energy resources, we should not be trying to artificially stimulate consumption of our natural resources.

Q: Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to your County residents? Please explain.
A: It is not my objective to completely tear down Travis County government and rebuild it. It is my objective to work with fellow commissioners and staff to identify opportunities for conducting business more efficiently. That is why I do not wish to list specific department consolidations at this time. Such changes should not be done without the inclusion and deliberation of others.

Q: What three issues do you hope to address, if elected?
A: Free Market Sustainability: We should not subsidize the consumption of energy, water, and natural resources. We need to follow free market principles Growth: I am neither for nor against growth. The marketplace will dictate whether an area grows or stays the same size. Environment: Government has a responsibility for holding polluters accountable. Nobody gets away with doing harm to others.

Karen Huber (D)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: B.A. Gov./History, Univ. of Texas; M.A., International Business, Univ. of North Texas; 4 yrs-Travis County Commissioner, 20 yrs. in real estate development, economic development, electric/water utilities; Bd exp: Scenic TX, Wild Basin Bd., LCRA Pedernales River Panel, TX A & M Sea Grant Advisory Bd.

Q: How would you use the County’s existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?
A: Travis County is already using most of the authority delegated to Texas counties so it is becoming more incumbent to use partnerships and collaborative efforts to balance competing interests. I will use public/private partnerships to further quality growth and will continue to reach across the table to work out issues and provide the leadership to help stakeholders find the middle ground.

Q: Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to your County residents? Please explain.
A: The most critically needed consolidation is with emergency services – because Travis County Emergency Service Districts (ESDs) continue to take financial hits as Austin annexes their tax bases. I have worked diligently to augment ESD Boards with needed consolidation expertise, to facilitate collaboration for economies of scale, and with AFD to lay foundations for unification. Efficiencies also need to be pursued in other areas.

Q: What three issues do you hope to address, if elected?
A: Water – Population pressures are stretching our available water supplies to the limit. I will to continue to lead in the search for and implementation of viable solutions to our water challenges. Emergency Services – I intend to continue working towards a countywide fire service and better wildfire preparedness and response. Transportation issues – I will continue to proactively address critical congestion and realistic mobility solutions.

CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 1

Danny Thomas (D)

Unopposed

CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 2

Adan Ballesteros (D)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: Attended the University of Texas at Austin, 33 years of law enforcement experience, 14 years with the Constable’s Office and 4 years as Constable. CTJCPA Deputy Constable of the year and two time Constable of the year. Three time recipient of US President Gold medal Award for Community Service.

Q: What do you think are the most important responsibilities of the County Constable’s office?
A: The Constable should be proficient and certified in civil law. They need to be a servant of the community and in tune with the needs and struggles of that community to better serve. Being Constable is more than just being a peace officer, it involves truly serving your community. Community service is a way of life for me, it’s not just a campaign promise. As Constable I follow the letter of the law and not create it.

Q: What are the advantages or disadvantages of having service of process handled by the County Constable’s office or private process servers?
A: The advantage of having the Constable serve civil process is that the Constable is a peace officer and is accountable to the citizens of the community they serve. Constable’s are professional and are trained in civil process. There are certain types of process, that private process servers cannot serve, whereas Constable’s have the legal authority to enforce these types of orders.

Raul “Roy” Camacho (L)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: 1986/Alief Hastings High; L.E. Explorer Program. 2001/Houston Community College: Marketing. 2012/ Ashford University; B.A. Organizational Management. 20 years combined in investigations, security, civil process management and law enforcement. I’m a “People Person” always involve with the community.

Q: What do you think are the most important responsibilities of the County Constable’s office?
A: The primary responsibilities of the constable’s office are to efficiently service the courts. The Constable office also has an obligation to the community. He/she must always embrace unity by diversity and serve mankind, safeguard lives and property, and to respect the Constitutional rights of all persons, and to make the community a better place. The Constable’s office must always find ways to improve their services to the people they serve.

Q: What are the advantages or disadvantages of having service of process handled by the County Constable’s office or private process servers?
A: As a former Process Server I was more cost-effective and efficient than the county constables. I provided the courts with faster turn around and less back-log, which was a huge savings for tax-payers. I was able to make more attempts than the average deputy and my flexibility working Saturdays and evenings helped me outperformed any deputy. If I become Constable there will be quicker services for the courts and less burden for tax-payers.

Toby Miller (R)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I have been a career law enforcement officer for 24 years 17 of which are right here in Travis County. I have worked in several positions in the law enforcement community to include: Corrections Officer, Patrol Officer, Narcotics Investigator, Motorcycle Officer.

Q: What do you think are the most important responsibilities of the County Constable’s office?
A: The responsibilities of the Constable are spelled out clearly in Chap. 86 of the Texas Local Govt. Code. In short they are to serve all process and warrants that are delivered to them by a lawful officer or the courts. They are bound by law to service the J.P. Court of the Precinct. While they are authorized to function as any other Peace Officer in this state they are not primarily an investigative body.

Q: What are the advantages or disadvantages of having service of process handled by the County Constable’s office or private process servers?
A: The primary advantage for serving civil process is that a Constable or his deputies are acting under color of law. By using the Constables office there is no question to the legitimacy of the service by either party involved.

CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 3

Sally Hernandez (D)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: B.A. in Criminal Justices, St. Edward’s University; Master Peace Officer & Instructor Certification. Chief Investigator with over 30 years in law enforcement. President of Capital Area Law Enforcement Executive Assn. for the past 2 years. Endorsed by all Travis County public safety associations.

Q: What do you think are the most important responsibilities of the County Constable’s office?
A: The primary function of the constable’s office is serving civil process, executing court orders, serving warrants and ensuring that Travis County citizens receive due process. The constable should also provide effective community law enforcement by collaborating efforts with other law enforcement agencies and neighborhoods through patrol and neighborhood watch programs-while providing quality customer service by highly trained staff.

Q: What are the advantages or disadvantages of having service of process handled by the County Constable’s office or private process servers?
A: Executing service of process can be dangerous. Constables are highly trained peace officers that can execute both civil or criminal process throughout the county including citations, evictions, warrants, subpoenas, and writs. Private process servers are limited in what legal documents they can serve and are not trained to handle potentially dangerous situations that may occur. Constables provide a safe effective means of serving our community.
TRAVIS COUNTY RACES

Scott G. McKinlay (L)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I believe that law enforcement should reflect community values and think that an ordinary citizen can provide a prospective that is sorely needed. I am an IT executive and in 2010 was named the Austin InnoTech IT Executive of the Year. I am a graduate of the Travis County Sheriff’s Citizen Academy.
Q: What do you think are the most important responsibilities of the County Constable’s office?
A: I believe that the most important duties of the County Constable’s office are the office’s defined responsibilities of the service of process, executing warrants, and to support the county court system. Additionally, as an elected County law enforcement official the Constable has a responsibility to act to represent and support community values in the law enforcement process.
Q: What are the advantages or disadvantages of having service of process handled by the County Constable’s office or private process servers?
A: Private process servers have their place, but I believe that service of process is a proper role for the County Constable’s office. I would rather have the Constable’s office concentrate on the duties that are outlined for it - specifically serving civil process, executing warrants, and otherwise supporting the County courts – than for the office to be distracted by other law enforcement activities, such as manning speed traps.

Mike Varela (R)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I am a lifelong Precinct 3 resident with over 20 years of law enforcement experience. The majority of my career I have served our community as a supervisor in the Constable’s Office. I have also been the recipient of multiple commendations, and hold several certifications in the L.E. field.
Q: What do you think are the most important responsibilities of the County Constable’s office?
A: The Constable is first and foremost an Officer of the court. It is the Office’s responsibility to serve and enforce court orders such as: Small Claims/Justice Citations, Evictions, Subpoenas, Warrants, and Writs. That’s just to name a few. We also serve as first responders by assisting the community and other agencies when situations arise.
Q: What are the advantages or disadvantages of having service of process handled by the County Constable’s office or private process servers?
A: Not only are Constable’s highly trained Peace Officers, state law gives the Constable’s the authority to serve certain court orders not afforded to a private process server. Constable’s and their deputies are trained and equipped to deal with high stress and dangerous situations, which can occur while serving this type of service.

MARIA CANCHOLA (D)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: I have a Master Peace Officer Certification from the Texas Commission On Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education. I have worked just under 24 years in a Constable’s Department here in Travis County, 12 of those years have been as Constable of Precinct 4.
Q: What do you think are the most important responsibilities of the County Constable’s office?
A: Serving our courts and being responsive to the needs of our precinct. Constables are charged with protecting the public’s right to have their day in court by serving our civil process from the courts in a timely manner and staying completely impartial. In carrying out our duties we must treat everyone with respect and in a fair and equitable manner.
Q: What are the advantages or disadvantages of having service of process handled by the County Constable’s office or private process servers?
A: The Constable’s department is not a business venture. We are peace officers licensed by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Education and need to be responsive to the commission or loose our license. Officers are required to take continuing education classes in civil procedure as well as legislative updates and ethics. Remaining impartial, we are prepared to be informative to defendants without giving legal advice.

CARLOS B. LOPEZ (D)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: Employed 35 years with Travis County and 31 years as Chief Deputy. Master Peace Officer License and Graduate of Constable’s Leadership College from LEMIT/Sam Houston State University. Senior Faculty Instructor, Texas Justice Court Training Center at Texas State University.
Q: What do you think are the most important responsibilities of the County Constable’s office?
A: Service of Civil Process and Court Orders issued from Travis County Courts which include Child Attachments, Domestic violence Protective Orders, Evictions, Arrest Warrants and Enforcement of Disabled Parking violators.
Q: What are the advantages or disadvantages of having service of process handled by the County Constable’s office or private process servers?
A: Fast and Efficient service by trained and certified Peace Officers ensure the Courts that proper service has been effected. Constables are better prepared in dealing with potential volatile situations that adversely affect peoples property and lives.

MARC HULL-RADOWSKI (L)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: After High School I entered the Army for Pilot Training. I earned my pilot wings at age 19. My service continued for 27 years, fifteen of which I was a Special Agent with the Office of Special Investigations. Highest rank held was Lieutenant Colonel. I served eight years as Travis county Sheriff.
Q: What measures/programs do you propose to reduce crime in our community?
A: I will discontinue the ticket-writing frenzy that bolters coffers of county Government. Using deputies as revenues is “taxation by force”. Neighborhood security would be reinforced by the former patrol personnel. I would push for the legalization of small amounts of marijuana so our young people do not become convicted criminals. With a 6 million budget increase for 2013 I must closely examine staffing and operational expenditures. I want to Q: How does the sheriff’s office work with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and what improvements or changes, if any, would you propose?
A: The troubled ICE Program called Secure Communities will cease to function in Travis County under my administration. I will not permit the jails to be used as immigration holding cells for nontrivial or minor offenders who would be normally bonded out. Only those who have been charged with serious or violent felonies will be retained upon a Writ of Detainer from ICE eliminating unfair detentions and make out community happy and safe.

GREG HAMILTON (D)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
Q: What measures will you take to maximize the tax collection rate?
A: We would provide incentives to pay early; allow installment payments, within allowed limits; Ensure taxpayers know the penalties for late payments and that liens by taxing authorities can be applied; and ensure proper ownership is identified. I would be a voice in Travis County for the taxpayers, to lower taxes and therefore make it easier for taxpayers to pay their prescribed taxes.
Q: What measures do you propose to ensure that County voter registration lists remain current?
A: Include messages with other county notices about updating voter records for pertinent changes. Where possible, compare data with other county and state databases to ensure accuracy.

CARLOS BARRERA (D)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: Unopposed

JACLYN L. FINKEL (L)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: Unopposed

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF

RANDELL FRANK (R)
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: Employed 35 years with Travis County and 31 years as Chief Deputy. Master Peace Officer License and Graduate of Constable’s Leadership College from LEMIT/Sam Houston State University. Senior Faculty Instructor, Texas Justice Court Training Center at Texas State University.
Bruce Elfant (D)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: BS, Communications, UT Austin - 1980 As constable for nearly 20 years I have managed a large County department with a multi-million dollar budget. I initiated numerous collaborations with federal, state and local officials to strengthen laws, maximize local resources and implement best practices. I served as president of the Justices of the Peace and Constable’s Association of Texas and Vice President of the Texas Association of Counties.

Q: What measures will you take to maximize the tax collection rate?
A: I will work to help people understand their rights, the appraisal process, tax deadlines and available payment options. I will continue Travis County’s aggressive practice of pursuing collections by tracking down absentee property owners, publicizing top delinquent taxpayers, conducting property tax stings and, when necessary, seizing and selling property. As constable, I already play a significant role in helping to collect delinquent taxes.

Q: What measures do you propose to ensure that County voter registration lists remain current?
A: Having trained and deputized thousands of volunteers for the previous tax assessor, I am committed to getting more citizens participating in our democratic process. I will work to ensure people register to vote online, work with apartment managers, lenders, title companies and universities to make voter registration cards available to people who have moved, expand the deputy registrar program and audit the voter rolls to ensure accuracy.

Williamson County RACES

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Doyle Dee Hobbs (R) Unopposed

COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

Lisa Birkman (R) Unopposed

COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

James Andrews (L)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: Education: BS Aerospace Engineering, Texas A&M, College Station, TX Experience: Computer Science, NASA Johnson Space Center 4yrs, Texas Medicaid 3yrs, various corporate 7yrs; Construction, 2 years; Small business owner, 2 years

Q: How would you use the County’s existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?
A: Generally I would favor individual property rights whenever possible. I do believe in planning ahead and taking advantage of situations. For example, buying up low, flood prone, land to use for parks is a task I would favor as a means of preventing it from being developed and later flooded. However, I would only pursue a goal like that with the consent of the current land owners.

Q: Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to your County residents? Please explain.
A: Outsourcing and contracting are being maximally to this function. Second, each taxpayer is a customer, should be respectfully treated as such, and given existing as well as new payment options due to increased e-governance services. Third, delinquencies will be pursued fully, but only after honest attempts to work with such taxpayers individually.

Q: What measures do you propose to ensure that County voter registration lists remain current?
A: The information architecture behind the scenes will need to be revamped, to ensure that there are no duplicate entries, deceased, or ineligible voters on the rolls. This integrity can also be ensured by properly interfacing with the Secretary of State’s office, as well as other relevant agencies. Furthermore, the privacy of the sensitive voter data shall be secured from breach, as well as unauthorized access by individuals or institutions.

John Jackson (L)

No response received

CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 3

Bobby Gutierrez (R) Unopposed

CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 4

Marty Ruble (R) Unopposed

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Ken Crain (D)

Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.

Q: Are there measures or programs that you propose to reduce crime in out community (for example family violence and juvenile crimes)?
A: 1. Begin a “no refusal” policy for DWI’s in Williamson County in cooperation with local judges and incoming County Attorney Dee Hobbs. This would mean prosecutors would have breath and/or blood test evidence in one hundred percent of the DWI cases in Williamson County. Suspects would not be allowed to refuse to submit to blood or breath test. 2. Commence and publicize a “Top Ten Most Wanted Felon” list for Williamson County.

Q: Do you support the creation or expansion of specialty courts? Why or why not?
A: I would study the need for a Veterans Court in Williamson County. As a military veteran myself, I am very sympathetic to any combat or non-combat veteran who returns to civilian life with mental issues that lead to problems with the criminal justice system. I am not sure how many veterans that meet the criteria for a Veterans Court (brain injury and/or mental illness) currently come into the local justice system.
**Williamson County Races, Austin Community College**

**Jana Duty (R)**  
Q: Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.  
A: I have been the elected County Attorney since 2005 with a record of protecting the families and tax dollarsof Williamson County. I have doubled the amount of protective orders for victims of family violence and saved millions of tax dollars by handling civil litigation in-house.  
Q: Are there measures or programs that you propose or support to reduce crime in our community (for example family violence and juvenile crimes)?  
A: As County Attorney, I have worked with Our County Court at Law Judges to implement the DWI/Drug Court and the Pre-Trial Diversion Program. Both of these programs have been successful in reducing the number of offenders who come back into the criminal justice system.  
Q: Do you support the creation or expansion of specialty courts? Why or why not?  
A: I support the creation of a Veteran’s Court. The legislation was unanimously approved by the legislature. People only qualify who have been diagnosed with a brain injury or mental illness that occurred because they were in a war zone. We owe it to those who are forever changed because of the horrors of war to create a justice system that honors their sacrifices.

**James R. Wilson (R)**  
No response received

**TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR**

**Deborah Hunt (R)**  
Unopposed

**AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Description:** The Board of Trustees represent residents of the ACC Taxing District, encompassing parts of Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties. Trustees are elected at large to provide appropriate high-level guidance and leadership to ensure the College acts to meet community needs.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES, PLACE 7**

**Dr. Barbara Mink**  
Q: Please describe your specific areas of interest, education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.  
A: Twelve years on ACC Board with 4 years as Board Chair; Earned Doctorate in Educational Administration & Masters in Teaching; 40 years in Community College field; Faculty at three Community Colleges, Dean of two CCs; Consulted to 50 CCs nationally; Director, Community College Leadership Doctoral Program at University of Texas.  
Q: The ACC District serves about 30 ISDs in 8 counties, and all 9 board members are elected at large. Currently only taxpayers in 7 ISDs covering parts of Hays, Travis, Williamson and Bastrop Counties are paying taxes to ACC, thereby making them eligible to vote for Board Trustees. As more ISDs vote to pay taxes, the ACC voting district will be larger than some house districts. Do you see the at-large election of Trustees as a problem or roadblock to governance or adequate representation of ISD interests? Why or why not?  
A: I want to give back in appreciation for the benefits I received as a former ACC pre-med student. I graduated from Texas A&M University and the Corps of Cadets ROTC leadership development program. I am a bilingual educator, an Eagle Scout, a proud father, and a man of faith. My philosophy toward creating policy can be summarized as Keep it Short & Simple.  
Q: The ACC District serves about 30 ISDs in 8 counties, and all 9 board members are elected at large. Currently only taxpayers in 7 ISDs covering parts of Hays, Travis, Williamson and Bastrop Counties are paying taxes to ACC, thereby making them eligible to vote for Board Trustees. As more ISDs vote to pay taxes, the ACC voting district will be larger than some house districts. Do you see the at-large election of Trustees as a problem or roadblock to governance or adequate representation of ISD interests? Why or why not?  
A: I believe the current system is adequate, but a hybrid combination of at-large trustees and seats divided to areas within the ACC district could be more ideal if the ISD boards will agree on a fair distribution of that representation.  
Q: What are the current challenges facing ACC, and how would you solve these challenges?  
A: First, I will emphasize clarifying the purpose and values of ACC to each of the students as a primary priority since education should include character development. Second, my thoughts for improving the quality and scope of programs include promoting partnerships with private institutions serving our same area. Third, to make sure we are providing the best value of higher education services, we need to keep costs down, a difficult balance.

**Jana Duty (R)**

**Q:** Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.

**A:** Bachelor’s degree, Served ten years in the US Army: Interrogator in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Interrogator/Translator in Bosnia; trained with German, Russian, and American weapons, assigned as a personal detail to the 417th BSB Commander in Germany. Served in Special Forces/Mountain Fighters in Romania. Jungle training in Fort Sherman, Panama Fluent in three and proficient in four languages.

**Q:** What measures/programs do you propose to reduce crime in our community?

**A:** Educating young people about the law and law enforcement. Catching “real” criminals and not harassing honest law abiding citizens implementing immigration laws. Give job opportunities and training to all qualified citizens. Have the strongest and best law enforcement personnel in the State Opening the doors for military veterans Serving & protecting all of Wilco citizens Eliminating waste and improving communications throughout the Department.

**Q:** How does the sheriff’s office work with

**U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and what improvements or changes, if any, would you propose.**

**A:** Enforce the current immigration laws. Criminals to be held responsible regardless of their citizenship status. Falsifying a government issued ID is against the law and citizens or non-citizens should be held equally responsible. De-criminalizing business owners for hiring illegal immigrants unknowingly. In two years I will reduce the number of un-documented aliens by 80% using the blueprint of the German government’s immigration reform.

**Michael Andras (L)**

**Q:** Please describe your education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.

**A:** Bachelor’s degree, Served 12 years in the US Army: Interrogator in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba; Interrogator/Translator in Bosnia; trained with German, Russian, and American weapons, assigned as a personal detail to the 417th BSB Commander in Germany. Served in Special Forces/Mountain Fighters in Romania. Jungle training in Fort Sherman, Panama Fluent in three and proficient in four languages.

**Q:** What measures/programs do you propose to reduce crime in our community?

**A:** Educating young people about the law and law enforcement. Catching “real” criminals and not harassing honest law abiding citizens implementing immigration laws. Give job opportunities and training to all qualified citizens. Have the strongest and best law enforcement personnel in the State Opening the doors for military veterans Serving & protecting all of Wilco citizens Eliminating waste and improving communications throughout the Department.

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**Dr. Barbara Mink**

**Q:** Please describe your specific areas of interest, education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.

**A:** Twelve years on ACC Board with 4 years as Board Chair; Earned Doctorate in Educational Administration & Masters in Teaching; 40 years in Community College field; Faculty at three Community Colleges, Dean of two CCs; Consulted to 50 CCs nationally; Director, Community College Leadership Doctoral Program at University of Texas.

**Q:** The ACC District serves about 30 ISDs in 8 counties, and all 9 board members are elected at large. Currently only taxpayers in 7 ISDs covering parts of Hays, Travis, Williamson and Bastrop Counties are paying taxes to ACC, thereby making them eligible to vote for Board Trustees. As more ISDs vote to pay taxes, the ACC voting district will be larger than some house districts. Do you see the at-large election of Trustees as a problem or roadblock to governance or adequate representation of ISD interests? Why or why not?

**A:** I want to give back in appreciation for the benefits I received as a former ACC pre-med student. I graduated from Texas A&M University and the Corps of Cadets ROTC leadership development program. I am a bilingual educator, an Eagle Scout, a proud father, and a man of faith. My philosophy toward creating policy can be summarized as Keep it Short & Simple.

**Q:** The ACC District serves about 30 ISDs in 8 counties, and all 9 board members are elected at large. Currently only taxpayers in 7 ISDs covering parts of Hays, Travis, Williamson and Bastrop Counties are paying taxes to ACC, thereby making them eligible to vote for Board Trustees. As more ISDs vote to pay taxes, the ACC voting district will be larger than some house districts. Do you see the at-large election of Trustees as a problem or roadblock to governance or adequate representation of ISD interests? Why or why not?

**A:** While I do not see this as a current problem or roadblock, I will support single-member districts for the election of Trustees in order to insure that there is adequate representation for our citizens and taxpayers as the District grows throughout the Central Texas region. The ACC District already is larger in population than US House Districts. Single-member districts are inevitable and will serve the College and our constituents well.

**Q:** What are the current challenges facing ACC, and how would you solve these challenges?

**A:** Student success and increasing the completion rates of degrees and certificates.
AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Continued from previous page
- development of a new Academic Master Plan and cutting edge programs such as Math Plus. The redevelopment of the Highland Mall property - working with the City, the neighborhoods and ACC’s partners to create a multi-use Urban Village anchored by the College serving as a sustainable learning center for our students, the community, industries and the non-profit sector.

AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

AUSTIN ISD TRUSTEES, DISTRICT 2

Description: The Board of Trustees is comprised of Austin community members who are elected to serve four-year terms. Trustees provide public service to the Austin Community without financial compensation.


Sam Guzman

Q: Please describe your specific areas of interest, education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.

A: 1. Interest: Spending as much quality time as possible with my grandsons. 2. Education: BA in Sociology 3. Experience: 40 years of work experience including community organizer and social worker; youth programs; civil rights/equal employment/affirmative action; executive level administration of public and non-profit organizations. 4. Qualifications: Extensive involvement in leadership positions of civic and advocacy organizations.

Q: Do you believe that School Board members have a responsibility to be accessible to the community? If so, what steps would you take to ensure that you are accessible to and communicating with members of your district?

A: I already have an established process for communicating with and being accessible to the community via an advisory committee with which I meet frequently. I plan to expand this committee to provide for more geographic representation; conduct town hall meetings; hold community hearings on major issues. Will also establish a website for District 2 specifically in order to inform and communicate with community.

Q: What are the three most critical issues facing the Austin Independent School District, and what actions are needed to resolve these issues?

A: 1. School Finance and Budget Cuts which will adversely impact the District - need to mobilize the Austin community to become active to influence Legislators. 2. In the face of cuts, ensure that we continue to provide a rich portfolio of education curriculum and programs which will prepare all our students for their future endeavors. 3. Ensure that we continue of close the achievement gap, decrease drop-out rate, improve the attendance rate.

Q: What measures (such as bond issues, tax rate increases, public/private partnerships, or other measures) would you support or oppose to bridge funding gaps facing AISD?

A: As long as we can determine with some degree of certainty that the community will support and pass the items, I support bond issuances, and tax ratification elections particularly to provide a permanent salary increase for our employees. In order to get community buy-in, the District needs to continue to show that we are good stewards of taxpayer dollars, that efficiencies are in place, and that the District is going in the right direction.

Q: How would you attract, recruit, and retain good teachers in the classroom?

A: Austin is an attractive place to work and raise a family. We can attract, recruit, and retain good teachers as long as we provide competitive compensation and benefits. In addition, the District needs to provide an environment of fair treatment and show appreciation for our employees. Appropriate teacher training, adequate planning time, and an evaluation process which is not based solely on high stakes testing as a measue of student success.

Rev. Dr. Jayme Mathias

Q: Please describe your specific areas of interest, education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.

A: I am a 12-year resident of East Austin and fluent in both English and Spanish. On a solid foundation of public school education, I’ve built a curriculum vitae of two bachelor’s degrees, four master’s degrees, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Leadership Studies. I have served on numerous boards and have founded three local learning centers.

Q: Do you believe that School Board members have a responsibility to be accessible to the community? If so, what steps would you take to ensure that you are accessible to and communicating with members of your district?

A: I wholeheartedly believe that AISD Trustees must be accessible to the community at all times. As the elected Trustee for District 2, I will work with my colleagues to ensure the District’s website allows direct email contact with Board members. Additionally, I pledge to routinely hold community meetings in Dove Springs, East Austin and Travis Heights, so that all community members can have a voice in our public schools.

Q: What are the three most critical issues facing the Austin Independent School District, and what actions are needed to resolve these issues?

A: The first priority is to work with the 83rd Legislature to save our schools. Second, AISD must work to retain teachers and professional staff through longer contracts and more competitive pay. Finally, we must restore public trust and dialogue with the community following controversial decisions where parents and teachers seemingly had no voice. Also, our trustees must work together to provide a comprehensive review of existing board policies.

Q: What measures (such as bond issues, tax rate increases, public/private partnerships, or other measures) would you support or oppose to bridge funding gaps facing AISD?

A: It does not seem that we will be able to rely on the legislature to step up and take responsibility for funding our public schools during the coming session. In light of this, we will need to eliminate inefficiencies and focus on those services that directly contribute to the education of our students. I support the consideration of bond elections and tax rate increases, but all such ideas must be appropriately vetted by our entire community.

Q: How would you attract, recruit, and retain good teachers in the classroom?

A: Improving morale through extended contracts and competitive pay is key to recruiting and retaining quality teachers and staff. Our teachers are professionals and deserve to be paid the prevailing wage with benefits. As a trustee, I will encourage our board to move from a top-down approach to governance and provide stronger direction to our superintendent in accordance with applicable policy and laws.

Christine Brister

Q: Please describe your specific areas of interest, education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.

A: I am currently serving as the District 3 Trustee for AISD. I am employed as a Human Resources/Staff Services Officer with the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners. My four children attended schools in District 3 and all have graduated from Lanier High School. I have served on Campus Advisory Councils, and the District Advisory Council. I have served as the Secretary and Vice President of the Cook PTA, President of the Burnet PTO, Community Council.

Q: Do you believe that School Board members have a responsibility to be accessible to the community? If so, what steps would you take to ensure that you are accessible to and communicating with members of your district?

A: Yes, a board member should be accessible to his/her constituents. If re-elected, I would like to host meetings in various sections of district 3 to provide information on district initiatives. In addition, I would like to develop an education committee made up of parents, teachers, community members, and business owners to provide another avenue for communication to and from the area.

Q: What are the three most critical issues facing the Austin Independent School District, and what actions are needed to resolve these issues?

A: Budget - Reviewing programs for effectiveness and eliminating those that are not producing desired results and seeking out partnerships and grants as another way to deal with our budget issues. Improving Graduation Rates and Dropout Recovery - AISD has already started that work with the new Graduation Pathways Education Program offered at Premier High School Lanier and Premier High School Travis.

Q: What measures (such as bond issues, tax rate increases, public/private partnerships, or other measures) would you support or oppose to bridge funding gaps facing AISD?

A: As the only public entity that is required to go to voters for a tax increase, it is critical that the timing and communication of a potential tax increase election be well thought out. It is clear that a TRE will need to be put forward to the voters in 2013. A bond package will also need to go forward due to a number of facility needs. Continuing to seek out public/private partnerships will be important to bridge our funding gaps.

Q: How would you attract, recruit, and retain good teachers in the classroom?

A: By providing ongoing training, supports to struggling teachers. Working with staff to determine what skills and background are needed for a campus.
Ann Teich

Q: Please describe your specific areas of interest, education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.

A: As a retired public school teacher (27 years), substitute in AISD secondary schools (7 years), and a community activist (Vice President of the North Austin Civic Association, co-chair of the Downtown Cluster of Congregations and Social Service Agencies, former leader with Austin Interfaith), I would bring to the position of AISD trustee a deep knowledge of public education and a commitment to involving the community in Austin public schools.

Q: Do you believe that School Board members have a responsibility to be accessible to the community? If so, what steps would you take to ensure that you are accessible to and communicating with members of your district?

A: Yes, I do. The communities around our public schools are integral parts of our students’ education. I would make myself available for conversations in locations accessible to the communities around all AISD schools. I would take an active role in soliciting input from the communities around AISD schools.

Q: What are the three most critical issues facing the Austin Independent School District, and what actions are needed to resolve these issues?

A: 1. Providing a quality education and facilities for all AISD students in the face of declining state funding for their education. 2. Attracting and retaining quality staff. 3. Involving the communities around schools in a meaningful way so that students are successful. We need to explore all possible funding sources to address 1 and 2 and strategically engage the public to help remove barriers to academic success for students.

Q: What measures (such as bond issues, tax rate increases, public/private partnerships, or other measures) would you support or oppose to bridge funding gaps facing AISD?

A: I would support exploring all possible funding sources to provide quality facilities and retain effective staff. I am open to innovative ways of providing a quality education to AISD students, as long as we do not lose sight of the fact that a free public education is the foundation of our country and our state.

Q: How would you attract, recruit, and retain good teachers in the classroom?

A: A salary increase is needed to attract and retain good teachers. If we want our teachers to continue to improve their skills and become master teachers, they need to be rewarded for doing so. Continuing the REACH program will also help retain good teachers.

AUSTIN ISD TRUSTEES, DISTRICT 5

Description: The Board of Trustees is comprised of Austin community members who are elected to serve four-year terms. Trustees provide public service to the Austin Community without financial compensation. District 5 is made up of the following schools: Austin HS, Barton Hills ES, Bryker Woods ES, Casis ES, Lee ES, Mathews ES, Oak Hill ES, O. Henry MS, Patton ES, Pease ES, Small MS, and Zilker ES.

Amber Elenz

Q: Please describe your specific areas of interest, education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.

A: I have volunteered in AISD schools for 13 years through PTAs, campus advisory councils and the district advisory council. I hope to combine the knowledge I acquired through these efforts with my passion for education and to work to improve the lives of all AISD students and families. My Plan II Honors Degree from UT, Masters in Management from Northwestern and work experiences in journalism, marketing and finance further qualify me for the board.

Q: Do you believe that School Board members have a responsibility to be accessible to the community? If so, what steps would you take to ensure that you are accessible to and communicating with members of your district?

A: Absolutely! As elected officials, school board members have a responsibility to be accessible to and genuinely hear the concerns of people in the district. If elected, I will build on the successful community engagement activities I initiated as president of the Austin Council of PTAs, where I organized formal and informal gatherings of parents, teachers and administrators with the goal of increasing trust and creating true working relationships.

Q: What are the three most critical issues facing the Austin Independent School District, and what actions are needed to resolve these issues?

A: The budget, unfunded mandates and achievement gaps are 3 of many issues facing AISD today. Leaders must regain trust and respect from the community when crafting solutions to matters like these. To succeed they must enable people who are closest to students to be part of each solution. I have seen schools turned around when parents, teachers, administrators and neighbors worked together with some autonomy, flexibility and a stake in the outcome.

Q: What measures (such as bond issues, tax rate increases, public/private partnerships, or other measures) would you support or oppose to bridge funding gaps facing AISD?

A: Students are our most valuable assets, so we must ensure that all of them have the classrooms, books, technology and best teachers available to meet their highest potential. Our District has made huge cuts in costs and personnel to meet the funding gaps left by the Texas Legislature. It is time for our community to step up and support the most strategic income-producing measures possible, whether it’s bonds, TREs or public/private partnerships.

Q: How would you attract, recruit, and retain good teachers in the classroom?

A: My children have benefited from amazing teachers at Bryker Woods, O. Henry and Austin High. I propose that we ask these teachers directly what motivated them to come and why they stay. Decision makers often make answers to these questions more difficult by seeking outside counsel or consulting the latest research. I believe the answer can be found among our own talent. We need to be smart enough to ask and humble enough to listen.

Charlie Jackson

Q: Please describe your specific areas of interest, education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.

A: Parent, community leader, and technology executive who holds degrees in Government and Technology Commercialization from the University of Texas. Has previously served on AISD’s technology advisory committee, supported educational research and worked with schools throughout the district. Son of a public school teacher and engineer. Father of two adult sons and active in civic causes.

Q: Do you believe that School Board members have a responsibility to be accessible to the community? If so, what steps would you take to ensure that you are accessible to and communicating with members of your district?

A: Board members should be involved as much as possible throughout the district and seek to understand all of the issues affecting various communities. I will work to bring all Austinites together to solve the challenges of our schools and ensure that I am actively engaged, along with my fellow Trustees, in building consensus for the changes that our schools need. Only by uniting together can our schools reach world class.

Q: What are the three most critical issues facing the Austin Independent School District, and what actions are needed to resolve these issues?

A: Improving all schools: We need to unite the entire community around actionable District and Campus plans with expanded metrics to make AISD a world-class district. Healing community divisions: The Board and school officials must build confidence in students, parents, educators and all of Austin for district-wide success. Removing obstacles: Inadequate funding, overtesting, and other impediments to progress must be addressed in smart ways.

Q: What measures (such as bond issues, tax rate increases, public/private partnerships, or other measures) would you support or oppose to bridge funding gaps facing AISD?

A: We face significant school funding gaps, even amidst one of the wealthiest cities and states in the nation. Providing sufficient financing for our schools will take a combination of public/private partnerships, facilities bonds and perhaps a tax ratification election (TRE). However, we must first ensure that homeowners — those burdened with the bulk of school taxes — clearly understand the value of their “investment”.

Q: How would you attract, recruit, and retain good teachers in the classroom?

A: Classroom teachers are the underpinning of educational excellence and can light a candle for learning that lasts a child’s entire lifetime. The Board must support improved pay, make Mentor Teachers available, provide critical resources for the classroom and not let any campus be shortchanged. With an action plan for improvement, and support for this plan, there should be no shortage of good teachers.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

POSITION 8 AT-LARGE

Description: The Board of Trustees is comprised of Austin community members who are elected to serve four-year terms. Trustees provide public service to the Austin Community without financial compensation. Position 8 is an At-Large position on the board.

Gina Hinojosa

Q: Please describe your specific areas of interest, education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.

A: As an attorney in Austin for 13yrs with a focus on access to justice for low-income and disenfranchised communities, I have worked to provide opportunities for others to live in dignity. With a child in AISD, I have a shared interest in assuring the best educational opportunities for Austin’s children.

Q: Do you believe that School Board
Continued from previous page

Mary Ellen Pietruszynski
Q: Please describe your specific areas of interest, education, experience, and other qualifications for this office.
A: Mom of two grown children – both products of great AISD educations. Executive Director of a private charitable foundation dedicated to providing educational opportunities to the underserved in Austin. Former teacher and attorney with a passion for educational policy.
Q: Do you believe that School Board members have a responsibility to be accessible to the community? If so, what steps would you take to ensure that you are accessible to and communicating with members of your district?
A: Absolutely. One of my motivations to run is due to the lack of communication between the district and key stakeholders. On a basic level, I would have an email and robust social media presence dedicated to community accessibility. As I’ve done in my work, I would provide access through a direct phone line to me – not simply through the AISD office.
Q: What are the three most critical issues facing the Austin Independent School District, and what actions are needed to resolve these issues?
A: 1. Due to proposed school closures; transfer of a school to private charter amid overwhelming opposition; massive teacher layoffs; & lack of transparency, there is a Trust problem. Healing begins with genuine community outreach. 2. Too many students are lacking skills they need. Diagnostic evaluation must be performed at the campus level before solutions are applied, beginning with stakeholder input. 3. Funding, (below).
Q: What measures (such as bond issues, tax rate increases, public/private partnerships, or other measures) would you support or oppose to bridge funding gaps facing AISD?
A: We must first & continually consider cost-cutting measures that wouldn’t be detrimental to children. We must always be vigilant with taxpayer dollars. We must better utilize alternative sources of revenue especially AISD’s Education Foundation. Given Austin’s overwhelming support for public education, this is a tremendous opportunity for generating funds and goodwill. Finally, once alternatives have been exhausted, we must engage the community.
Q: How would you attract, recruit, and retain good teachers in the classroom?
A: We must strive to more fairly compensate teachers or we will lose them to more lucrative professions/locales, and because it is the right thing to do. Teachers must be allowed to employ their gifts, skills, and training to experience workplace satisfaction. When teachers must “teach to the test,” both they and children are robbed of an environment necessary to create a love of learning. We must trust teachers as professionals.

With one of the fastest growing regions in the country presents recruitment and retention challenges. We need to provide our teachers with fair pay and benefits, performance incentives, and professional development to encourage and retain quality teachers. Great teachers and principals are our most valuable resource.

CITY OF AUSTIN PROPOSITIONS

Note: If Proposition 1 and 2 both pass, Proposition 2 will prevail because it incorporates Proposition 1.

PROPOSITION 1

Shall the city charter be amended to move the City’s general election date from May to November?
Explanation: Currently City Council and Mayor are elected in May. This would move Austin’s general elections from May to November.
For:
■ Most city elections would coincide with AISD and ACC, who have moved their elections to November, when federal and state are held. By sharing election costs, it will save the city money.
■ City Council terms of office and elections would remain the same.
■ With a focus on November for all elections, there could be higher voter participation in city elections.
Against:
■ Separate elections places more focus on city-wide issues.
■ A long ballot may confuse or lower the voter interest in local issues which are usually at the end of the ballot.
■ There would be a mix of partisan (state and federal candidates) with non-partisan (local candidates) elections on the same ballot.

PROPOSITION 2

Shall the city charter be amended to move the City’s general election date from May to November, to provide that council members serve four-year staggered terms, to provide that council elections occur in even-numbered years, and to limit the mayor and council members to two terms?
Explanation: Austin’s general elections would be moved from May to November, with council member terms changed to four-year staggered terms from the current three-year terms, council elections to be held in even-numbered years (now held every three years), and limiting mayor and council members to two terms instead of the current three terms.

For:
■ All local elections would coincide with AISD, ACC, when state and federal elections are held.
■ By sharing cost for elections, the city would save more money, with 4-year terms and all elections held in November.
■ It provides four years to focus on governing the city and less time on campaigning.
Against:
■ The current three-year terms, staggered, with three terms as maximum has been the model for Austin for many years and does not need changing.
■ Longer term limits (currently 3 instead of 2) provide more experience in serving the city as a council member.
■ When elections at all levels of government coincide, local issues are not addressed as well by media to provide information to voters.

Note: If Propositions 3 and 4 both pass, the one approved with the higher percentage will be adopted.

PROPOSITION 3

Shall the city charter be amended to provide for the election of council members from 10 geographical single-member districts, with the mayor to be elected from the city at large, and to provide for an independent citizens redistricting commission?
Explanation: Currently there are 6 Places plus the mayor on the City Council. With this proposition, Austin would have 10 council districts with the voters in each district electing one member representing that district and the mayor elected by the entire city, with an independent citizens commission which will be responsible for drawing the districts initially and redistricting after each census.
For:
■ With the recent growth in city population, neighborhoods could be represented better with a council member from the district.
■ Campaigning for council could be less expensive since it could cover only the one district, allowing for low-cost grass roots campaigns.
■ More neighborhood representation would encourage more people to seek office and to increase voter participation.
■ It would be easier for voters to know and hold accountable their council representatives.
■ Impartiality of redistricting commission leads to more citizen trust and voter engagement with local issues. Incumbents
CITY OF AUSTIN PROPOSITIONS

Continued from previous page

clerk of the municipal court. If voters approve this proposition, then members of the city council will be permitted to hire and manage their own staffs.

For:
- Increases the effectiveness of local government. A new Council member could hire staff immediately.

Against:
- Staff would be outside of civil service protections that other city employees enjoy.

PROPOSITION 6

Shall the city charter be amended to provide that the city council appoint the city attorney?

Explanation: The city attorney heads the city’s law department, is the legal advisor for all officers and departments of the city, including the mayor and city council, and represents the city in all litigation. Under the current charter the city manager appoints the city attorney and all assistant city attorneys. If Proposition 6 is passed then the charter will be amended to allow the city council to directly appoint the city attorney and to allow the city attorney to appoint assistant city attorneys.

For:
- In the council/manager form of government the role of the elected city council is to set policy and the role of the city manager is to implement policy. However, the work of the city attorney’s office has a significant impact on policy: the city attorney’s office drafts, approves or files written objections to every ordinance before it is acted upon by the city council. This work significantly impacts what policies are adopted by the city council and how closely the ordinances that are enacted reflect the intent of city council.
- If there is a conflict between the city’s elected leadership, the city council, and the city’s appointed leadership, the city manager, the city council will have greater confidence that the city attorney is giving them the best advice.
- In many Texas cities, including but not limited to Dallas, Fort Worth, Georgetown, McAllen, Port Arthur and Waco, the city attorney is appointed directly by the City Council.

Against:
- Political pressures on the city attorney may increase.
- It may increase the likelihood that a city attorney will be chosen based on political connections or other political considerations rather than merit.
- Some of the city law department’s duties, such as serving as legal advisor for city departments, are purely implementation of policy rather than setting of policy. Having the city attorney report directly to the city council will give the city council greater oversight of aspects of city government that do not relate to setting policy.

PROPOSITION 7

Shall the city charter be amended to reduce the number of signatures needed for a citizen initiated ordinance or referendum?

Explanation: Currently the city charter requires more valid signatures to put an ordinance or referendum on the ballot than are required to put a charter amendment on the ballot. According to Texas Local Government Code, if a petition to put a charter amendment on the ballot has the valid signatures of 5% of a city’s qualified voters or 20,000 qualified voters, whichever number is smaller, the city’s governing body must put the charter amendment on the ballot. Under the city’s current charter, if a petition to put an ordinance or referendum on the ballot has the signatures of 10% of the city’s qualified voters the ordinance or referendum must be put on the ballot. If Proposition 7 passes the petition signature requirements for the three types of ballot items will be identical; the city charter will define the number of signatures required to put an ordinance or referendum on the ballot as “the number of signatures required by state law to initiate an amendment to this charter.”

For:
- It shouldn’t be harder for citizens to pass an ordinance or referendum than to change the city charter.
- A petition drive to put an ordinance or referendum on the ballot engages citizens in policy-making. Voter participation in city elections is low; making a successful petition drive to get an ordinance or referendum on the ballot more attainable may translate into greater overall engagement of the city’s voters. An improved ability of citizens to steer city policy will improve voters’ trust that their voices are heard by city decisionmakers.

Against:
- Setting the number of signatures for initiative or referendum petition drives as being the same as are required by state law for petitions to initiate charter amendments means that state lawmakers could make the petition process easier or more difficult.
- State law does not permit a city charter to be amended more frequently than every two years and does not limit how frequently elections concerning referenda or ordinances may be held. If it becomes much easier to put an ordinance or referendum on the ballot by petition that could result in a substantial increase in how often the city must conduct elections.

PROPOSITION 8

Shall the city charter be amended to allow council members to raise political funds for 30 days after an election in which the council member was elected?

Explanation: The city charter currently bars winning candidates from raising funds to retire campaign debts until after leaving office. Proposition 8 would allow elected officeholders to raise funds for 30 days after elected to retire campaign debts and to create an officeholder account. Officeholder accounts are currently limited to $20,000 by City Charter. The same dollar limits on campaign contributions that apply during an election would also apply to post-election fundraising. Unsuccessful council candidates are already permitted by City Charter to continue raising funds until campaign debts are retired.

For:
- This proposition ensures that newly elected or re-elected council members can focus on job responsibilities rather than be concerned by lingering personal debt or unpaid campaign bills.
- Successful and unsuccessful candidates should have the same rules governing their campaign funding.

Against:
- There are concerns that council members would be pressured to make these community expenditures from personal funds, and the restrictions would place wealthy council members in a better position to pay off debt from their personal funds.
- Because there is no defined limit on the use of these donations, elected officials could receive money from special interests allowing an incumbent to gain favor with groups and individuals, which may not advance a true public interest.

PROPOSITION 9

Shall the city charter be amended to permit the city council to lease parkland to an independent school district for a purpose that the council has found, by a two-thirds majority, is a park purpose?

Explanation: The current city charter does not give the City Council the power to lease parkland unless approved by the voters. The Education Code does not allow the school district to enter into agreements concerning real property unless it is owned or leased by the district. Passage of this proposition would amend the charter to allow the city to lease park space to an independent school district for park purposes only where council has agreed by a super majority without calling an election.

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CITY OF AUSTIN PROPOSITIONS

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For:

■ The City will be able to collaborate with an independent school district to lease parkland without an election to be decided by the general public.
■ This amendment restricts the powers of the city council to leasing parkland only and does not allow for other transactions such as the sale, conveyance or mortgaging of parkland property.

Against:

■ The 2/3 majority vote of the council is too high and there should be a lower threshold.
■ The public should continue as in the current charter to have a general election to decide the use of parkland.

PROPOSITION 10

Shall the city charter be amended to provide a civil service system for most city employees who are not already covered by a state civil service statute?

Explanation: If passed, this ordinance would establish in the city charter a Municipal Civil Service Commission, a commission of five members appointed by the city council. The Commission shall hear appeals and make final, binding decisions concerning civil service employees who are discharged, suspended, demoted, denied a promotion or put on disciplinary probation. The Commission shall conduct investigations and report its findings and recommendations to the city council and would have the power to subpoena witnesses when necessary to obtain evidence at a hearing or investigation and administer oaths to witnesses. Within 12 months of adoption by voters, the human resources director must prepare civil service rules and recommend them to the Commission, which may amend the rules and recommend them to the city council for adoption. The rules would govern a wide range of personnel actions. The municipal civil service commission will be separate from the existing public safety civil service commission.

For:

■ Passage of the proposition would provide non-safety public employees with civil service protections by replacing the city’s current employment system which is in management’s hands with a system which provides an independent check by a civil service commission on personnel decisions.
■ Employees would have the right to appeal to an independent commission against an arbitrary decision by a city manager.
■ Better and more equitable hiring objectives and promotion decisions will be achieved which can result in fewer lawsuits.

Against:

■ City employees already have a grievance procedure and the formation of a new municipal civil service commission will impose more costs on the city for additional staffing and technology.
■ The city has had many problems with its civil service system that covers police officers and firefighters and this would only increase problems.
■ It will be more difficult to fire difficult employees.

PROPOSITION 11

Adoption of the emergency medical services personnel civil service law.

A vote of for or against. This is not a city charter amendment.

Explanation: If passed, the city’s emergency medical services personnel would be governed by the Local Government code section 143.401. Currently Austin and Travis County EMS are employed by the city of Austin but are not part of the Austin Fire Department and thus are not covered by the state civil service law as are police and firefighters. Adoption of this proposition would grant EMS workers the same civil service protection as police officers and firefighters in Austin.

For:

■ EMS workers will have the same protections as police and firefighters such as just cause for firing.
■ EMS workers do not currently enjoy the same collective bargaining rights and protections as other public safety personnel. This will allow for stronger negotiations between the city and the workers.

Against:

■ There is no evidence that EMS workers need civil service protection.
■ The city has had many problems with its civil service system that covers police officers and firefighters and this would only increase problems.

PROPOSITION 12: TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY

The issuance of $143,299,000 transportation and mobility improvement bonds and notes and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes. $143,299 million would be used for transportation projects, which could include: Funding traffic signals, signal synchronization, and control systems; improving parts of Interstate 35, MoPac, North Lamar, East 51st St and East Riverside Dr. Reconstruction and renovation of streets, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, ramps, bicycle lanes, and drainage improvements; Adding bikeways to some city roads and contributing to creation of the Violet Crown Trail, a 30-mile trail from Zilker Park to Hays County.

PROPOSITION 13: OPEN SPACE AND WATERSHED PROTECTION

The issuance of $30,000,000 open space and watershed protection bonds and notes and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes. $30 million would allow the City to purchase land in the Barton Springs Watershed contributing and recharge zones to protect water quality. Purchase of this land would preserve open space in perpetuity and might provide opportunities for development of facilities for public access to open space land where appropriate. The City could also work with land owners by purchasing conservation easements.

PROPOSITION 14: PARKS AND RECREATION

The issuance of $77,680,000 park and recreation improvement bonds and notes and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes. $77,680 million could be used for designing, constructing, acquiring, improving and equipping public parks, natural areas, trails, recreation centers, and related facilities. Funding could also allow acquisition and development of parkland in areas throughout the City.

Representative Parks may include: Colony District Park; Emma Long Metropolitan Park; Gus Garcia Neighborhood Park; Republic, Brush, and Wooldridge Squares; Rosewood Neighborhood Park; Shoal Creek Greenbelt; Veterans Pocket Park; Waller Creek Trail and Park Improvements, and Zilker Metropolitan Park.

Facility Improvements may include: Barton Springs Bathhouse renovation; Dougherty Arts Center repair or replacement; Dove Springs Recreation Center expansion; Elisabet Ney Museum renovation; and Montopolis Community Building-Recreation Center.

PROPOSITION 15: HOUSING

The issuance of $78,300,000 housing bonds and notes and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes. $78,300 million would be used to fund the development of affordable rental and ownership housing, preserve existing affordable housing, and create transitional and permanent supportive housing for the homeless. To create both rental housing and affordable ownership homes, funding will be provided for grants and loans to qualified non-profit and for-profit developers. The grants and loans could be used to acquire property, design and construct new housing, or rehabilitate existing housing.

Funds could also be used for transitional and permanent supportive housing for individuals with special needs.

Funds may also be used for home repair to address substandard or hazardous housing conditions for low- and moderate-income homeowners, alleviating hazards and preserving affordable housing. Funding could also provide renters with disabilities with accessibility modifications to make residences livable.

PROPOSITION 16: PUBLIC SAFETY

The issuance of $31,079,000 public safety facility improvement bonds and notes and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.

$31,079 million would provide funding for designing, constructing, improving, and equipping police, fire, and emergency medical services facilities. Projects could include renovations, expansions, and new public safety facilities. The types of projects that could be undertaken may include but are not limited to the following: Northwest Police Substation; Mounted Patrol Police Facility; Onion Creek Area Fire and EMS Station; Women’s Locker Room Additions to Fire Stations; Fire Station Driveway Replacements; Public Safety Drill Field and Tower Renovations; and Ambulance Truck Bay Expansions.

PROPOSITION 17: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The issuance of $11,148,000 health and human services facility improvement bonds and notes and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.

$11,148 million would provide funding for designing, constructing, improving, and equipping health and human services facilities. Funding could include new facilities to accommodate underserved areas of the community as well as renovations and infrastructure improvements at existing facilities. The types of projects to be undertaken may include but are not limited to the following: Women and Children’s Shelter renovations/expansion; Montopolis Community – Neighborhood Health Center; Far South Clinic and Montopolis Clinic parking lot expansions; and Betty Dunkerley Campus infrastructure improvements.
PROPOSITION 18: LIBRARY, MUSEUM AND CULTURAL ARTS FACILITIES

The issuance of $13,442,000 library, museum, and cultural arts facility improvement bonds and notes and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.

$13,442 million would provide funding for designing, constructing, improving, and equipping library, museum, and cultural arts facilities. Library projects provide funding for interior and exterior renovations at multiple branches of the Austin Public Library.

Representative projects may include: Austin History Center and the Zaragoza Technical Support Warehouse and the following branch libraries: Cepeda; Milwood; Pleasant Hill; University Hills; Will Hampton; Windsor Park; and Yarbrough.

Cultural arts facility projects provide funding to expand City-owned buildings that are leased and operated by the Austin Film Society to increase the amount of square footage available for film and television production and add office space for creative small businesses.

**Background**

If the bond propositions are approved, the City of Austin will be authorized to issue general obligation bonds for these specific projects. These bonds will be backed by the City’s taxing authority. The bonds will carry the rating of the City, which is currently AAA. The total amount for the seven propositions is $385 million.

The planning process for this bond election began with a “Needs Assessment” conducted by the City staff, which identified $1.5 billion in recommended community investments. The Council appointed a citizen Bond Election Advisory Task Force to conduct public meetings and take input from citizens over a period of six months beginning in late 2011.

The Task Force ultimately recommended two bond package options—one totaling $575 million and another totaling $400 million. After receiving additional citizen input, the City Council voted to place seven bond propositions on the ballot totaling $384.9 million. By keeping the total bond debt under $385 million, this debt will be within the City’s existing bonding capacity, and the Council will not have to raise property taxes for general obligation debt service.

Voters should carefully consider each proposition on its own merits, its benefits to the community and its cost to the community.

**For:**

Supporters contend that the bonds are necessary as follows:

- The bonds for the projects in these seven bond propositions are in response to critical needs due to Austin’s growth in geographic size and in population.
- The improvements are needed to ease traffic congestion, to assure the availability of clean water, to increase the availability of housing for moderate-and-low-income families, to repair and expand a shelter for women and children in distress, to meet the growing demand for protection by the police, fire, and emergency services, and to upgrade the City’s heavily-used museums, parks, and libraries.
- To maintain the quality of life in Austin, it is necessary to continue to invest in the upkeep, expansion and improvement of our basic infrastructure and the roadways that make it possible for Austin’s citizens to get to their work and return home in a reasonable time.
- These investments can be funded without requiring an increase in taxes for general obligation debt service.

**Against:**

Opponents of issuance of the bonds contend that the City should not take on additional debt, as follows:

- There are two parts to the City of Austin’s 2012 tax rate of 50.29 cents per $100 property valuation, the Maintenance and Operation rate of 37.69 cents and the Debt Rate of 12.6 cents. If the City does not take on more debt, the debt rate could be reduced in future years, lowering the overall City tax rate.
- This is the largest bond election since 2006 when voters approved seven propositions for $567 million. The City should not take on more obligations at this time.

This bond initiative is mis-guided as it proposes to spend monies on what some people think are amenities rather than necessities for the City. In a city with a public school population of 63.7% economically disadvantaged, more attention should have been placed on projects to ease poverty.

Even though these bonds will not increase this year’s 12.6 cent bond rate, the City is planning increases in overall rates and fees for electricity, water and sewer service, trash and recycling, and other fees in the coming year because of budgetary increases by the City. For the City of Austin median household income of $50,000, the City is becoming too expensive for lower and middle-income families.

**PROPOSITION 1**

**Official Ballot Language:**

Approving the ad valorem tax rate of $0.129 per $100 valuation in Central Health, also known as the Travis County Healthcare District, for the 2013 tax year, a rate that exceeds the district’s rollback tax rate. The proposed ad valorem tax rate exceeds the ad valorem tax rate most recently adopted by the district by $0.05 per $100 valuation; funds will be used for improved healthcare in Travis County, including support for a new medical school consistent with the mission of Central Health, a site for a new teaching hospital, trauma services, specialty medicine such as cancer care, community-wide health clinics, training for physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals, primary care, behavioral and mental healthcare, prevention and wellness programs, and/or to obtain federal matching funds for healthcare services.

**Explanation:**

The Central Health Board has placed a proposal on the ballot to raise the healthcare tax by 5 cents per $100 valuation to expand and upgrade local health care. This increase would cost the average Travis County homeowner less than $9/month for a home with a county-average value of $214,000. The funds will be used to increase services available to those with little or no insurance, in part by paying for services performed by doctors, medical students, residents and interns. Some of those services will help support a new medical school at the University of Texas at Austin and the training of physicians, nurses and other healthcare providers. The funding will also increase availability of behavioral and mental health care in Travis County. A list of services that are being considered can be found at http://texasregion7rhp.net/info-for-partners. The funds will also be used to obtain matching federal money from a program that promotes health system transformation and helps providers cover the cost of uncompensated care. The federal funding is in effect through September 2016 and could provide up to $120 million annually. Central Health was created in 2004 to fund and coordinate services for Travis County’s vulnerable residents. The nine-member Central Health Board is appointed by Travis County and the City of Austin.

**For:**

- Improve health care for Travis County residents and their families and allow those without insurance (or with limited insurance) to be treated efficiently and affordably so they do not end up in expensive emergency rooms.
- Facilitate the creation of a new medical school at the University of Texas at Austin to help address the region’s need for doctors (it has been estimated that Central Texas will need 770 additional doctors by 2016). Taxpayers would cover approximately 10% of funding needed over the next decade for the medical school. For every dollar it raises locally, Central Health will get a match of $1.46 in federal funds to provide health care across the community.
- Combine with other private and public investments to create 15,000 permanent jobs across industries and skill levels and provide $2 billion in annual economic activity by increasing clinical trials, attracting new businesses and start-up industries, and helping make Central Texas a national leader in the fields of health care, biotech and the life sciences.

**Against:**

- Although the Central Health increase for the owner of a median value home of $214,000 would be approximately $100, other taxes and fees will also be increasing. The homeowner could see a yearly increase of approximately $20 from the city, plus almost $200 in utility fees.
- Between 2000 and 2010 the property tax bills have risen 38% while median income remained stagnant.
- Support of a medical school does not fall under the Central Health’s mission.

This Voters Guide is available online at both statesman.com and lwvaustin.org. Additional candidate information and races are available at VOTE411.org. The “On Your Ballot” feature of VOTE411.org lets you identify the races and ballot initiatives specific to your address.

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Words to live by.
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