



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF TEXAS

2017 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION

EDITION

NONPARTISAN

# VOTERS GUIDE



EARLY VOTING • OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 3, 2017

ELECTION DAY • NOVEMBER 7, 2017 • POLLS OPEN 7AM TO 7PM

AD VALOREM TAXATION • CHALLENGE TO THE CONSTITUTION • LIMITING SERVICE OF OFFICEHOLDERS  
HOME EQUITY LOANS • CHARITABLE SPORTS FOUNDATIONS • PRIZES BY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Support the  
VOTERS  
GUIDE

Support the *Voters Guide* with a tax deductible contribution to the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund, 1212 Guadalupe # 107 Austin, TX 78701 or make a secure donation online at [www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org).

## About This Voters Guide

This Voters Guide is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund. For more than 90 years, helping voters cast an informed vote when they go to the polls has been the primary goal of the League of Women Voters. As an organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, the League believes that all of us are stakeholders in Making Democracy Work. Neither the League nor the Education Fund supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

## Table of Contents

STATE OF TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.....	2-7
REGISTERING TO VOTE.....	4
WHERE AND WHEN TO VOTE.....	6
BALLOT BY MAIL.....	6
STUDENT VOTERS.....	6
PROVISIONAL VOTING.....	7
DONOR RECOGNITION.....	8
VOTERS AFFECTED BY HARVEY.....	8
TRAVIS COUNTY BOND PROPOSITION .....	9-10
AUSTIN ISD BOND PROPOSITION .....	11-12
AUSTIN AREA CITIES AND ISD .....	13-16

©2017 League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund  
[www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org)

The Voters Guide is protected by copyright.  
For permission to duplicate the Guide,  
please call the LWV-Texas office at 512-472-1100.

## Voter Identification: What To Take To The Polls

### TEXAS REQUIRES VOTERS TO SHOW PHOTO ID

The seven forms of approved photo ID's are: (must not be expired more than 4 years)

1. Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS);
2. Texas personal identification card issued by DPS;
3. Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS;
4. Texas handgun license issued by DPS;
5. United States military identification card containing the person's photograph;
6. United States citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph;
7. United States passport.

**OPTIONS:** voters who are on the official list of registered voters and who do not have any form of approved photo ID may complete and sign a "reasonable impediment declaration" and vote a regular ballot if they present a:

- Valid voter registration certificate (card)
- Certified birth certificate (original)
- Current utility bill
- Current bank statement
- Current government check
- Current paycheck
- Any other government document with the individual's name and address (original).

ID address does not have to match the voter registration address.

## Your Voter Registration Certificate

VOTER REGISTRAR  
800-687-8546 / 972-547-1990  
2019 REDDAUD BLVD., SUITE 102  
MCKINNEY, TX 75069  
[www.collincountytx.gov](http://www.collincountytx.gov)

Secretary of State's Office  
Elections Division  
1-800-252-VOTE (8683)

2016 - 2017 Sample

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE (Certificado de Registro Electoral)			CONGRESS (Congreso)	STATE SEN (Sen Estado)	STATE REP (Rep. Estado)	COM	JP
COLLIN COUNTY (condado de Collin)			CITY (Ciudad)	CITY DIST (Ciudad dist.)	ISD (escuela)	ISD DIST. (escuela dist.)	SBOE
VOID (VUID)	Gender (Sexo)	Valid from (Valdo desde)	Name and Mailing Address (Nombre y direccion de correo)				
Year of Birth (Año de Nacimiento)	Prec. No. (Pct. Num.)	thru (hasta)	John Q. Voter 1234 Street City Name, Tx 75024				

Voter, John Q.  
1234 Street  
City Name, Tx 75024

VOTER MUST PERSONALLY SIGN HERE. NAME IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT, IF APPLICABLE.  
(El votante debe firmar esta tarjeta personalmente al punto de dirección elegida)

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office, or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

An electronic version of the Voters Guide is available at [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org).

## HELPFUL WEBSITES

**Secretary of State**  
www.sos.state.tx.us  
www.VoteTexas.gov

**League of Women Voters (U.S.)**  
www.lwv.org

**Democratic Party**  
www.txdemocrats.org

**Green Party**  
www.txgreens.org

**League of Women Voters of Texas**  
www.lwvtexas.org

**Republican Party**  
www.texasgop.org

**Libertarian Party**  
www.lptexas.org

**VOTE411.org**

Support the Voters Guide with a tax deductible contribution to the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund, 1212 Guadalupe # 107, Austin, TX 78701 or make a secure donation online at [www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org).

# ► PROPOSITION 1 AD VALOREM TAXATION (HJR 21)

## OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE:

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of part of the market value of the residence homestead of a partially disabled veteran or the surviving spouse of a partially disabled veteran if the residence homestead was donated to the disabled veteran by a charitable organization for less than the market value of the residence homestead and harmonizing certain related provisions of the Texas Constitution.

## EXPLANATION

The Texas Constitution, Art. 8, Sec. 1-b(1), allows the legislature to provide a partial homestead exemption for a partially disabled veteran or the surviving spouse equal to the percentage of the disability if the homestead was donated at no cost to the disabled veteran.

Proposition 1 would amend the constitution to allow the legislature to entitle a partially disabled veteran or the surviving spouse to a partial homestead exemption even if the homestead was donated at some cost to the veteran. The enabling legislation, HB 150, allows partially disabled veterans to claim a property tax exemption if they paid 50 percent or less of the market value for the house donated to them by a charity.

### Arguments For:

- Currently a partially disabled veteran who paid part of the cost of a donated home receives no property tax exemption. Proposition 1 would give the same property tax exemption to a partially disabled veteran who paid something toward the value of a donated home that is currently received by partially disabled veterans whose homes were donated in full.

### Arguments Against:

- Proposition 1 would continue a pattern of giving exemptions to specific groups of people. Reducing the taxes on specific groups usually means other groups must absorb more of the tax burden.
- The legislature should focus its efforts on reducing the tax burden on everyone.

## Amendments to the Texas Constitution Since 1876 .....

The 1876 Texas Constitution, the fifth since statehood, had 289 sections organized into 17 articles. The original version of this 1876 constitution is viewable online on The University of Texas School of Law Tarlton Law Library website at <http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/constitutions/texas1876>.

Over the years, 216 new sections have been added, while 66 of the original sections and 51 of the added sections have been removed, so that the Texas

Constitution today has 388 sections. For most of that time, the constitution has been updated at least biennially through amendments proposed by the legislature and approved by the Texas electorate.

No legislative rules or other restrictions limit the number of amendment proposals, provided each receives the required two-thirds vote in both the senate and the house.

Since 1876, the legislature has proposed 673 constitutional amendments, and 670 have gone before Texas voters. Of the amendments submitted to the voters so far, 491 have been approved by the electorate and 179 have been defeated. Three amendments never made it to the ballot for reasons that are historically obscure.

(Texas Legislative Council, 2016)

# ▶ PROPOSITION 2 HOME EQUITY LOANS (SJR 60)

## OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE:

The constitutional amendment to establish a lower amount for expenses that can be charged to a borrower and removing certain financing expense limitations for a home equity loan, establishing certain authorized lenders to make a home equity loan, changing certain options for the refinancing of home equity loans, changing the threshold for an advance of a home equity line of credit, and allowing home equity loans on agricultural homesteads.

## EXPLANATION

Proposition 2 would amend Article 16, Section 50(a)(6) of the Texas Constitution that governs home equity loans—money borrowed against the value of a homestead by its owner using the property as a guarantee to repay the loan. This amendment proposes changes to the following terms:

*Fee cap.* Lower the maximum limit on fees that can be charged to borrowers from 3% to 2% of the loan principal and exclude the cost of appraisals, property surveys, title insurance premiums, title insurance, and title examination reports from calculation of the maximum limit on fees.

*Refinancing.* Allow a home equity loan to be refinanced as a non-home equity loan secured with a lien against the property if certain conditions are met. This is currently prohibited.

*Home equity lines of credit.* Repeal a provision that prevents additional advances on a home equity line of credit if the unpaid principal exceeds 50% of the fair market value of the homestead.

*Agricultural homesteads.* Allow a home equity loan for a homestead designated for agricultural use. This is currently prohibited.

*Approved lenders.* Expand the list of approved home equity lenders by adding subsidiaries of banks, savings and loan associations, savings banks, and credit unions; and replace mortgage brokers with mortgage bankers and mortgage companies.

### Arguments For:

- The proposed amendment will make home equity loans more accessible, lower costs for borrowers, and provide consumers more choice.
- Fee cap. Lenders will be able to make loans under \$100,000 more easily; the fee cap will not include fees by third parties, and consumers will still be protected against extreme fees from lenders.
- Refinancing. Allowing a home equity loan to be refinanced into a non-home equity loan within reasonable restrictions would increase consumer choice. The borrower could combine a home equity loan with another loan to have one payment or to get a lower interest rate.
- Home equity lines of credit. The change would allow the borrower to initially take out a smaller loan and pay less interest before borrowing more against the line of credit.
- Agricultural homesteads. Owners of large and small agricultural homesteads should have the same choice as other Texans to borrow against their property under the consumer protections of a home equity loan.

### Arguments Against:

- The proposed amendment will raise costs for borrowers and remove several important consumer protections that have worked for borrowers and lenders.
- Fee cap. Adding the costs for appraisals, surveys, and title insurance and reports on top of a maximum fee limit of 2% of the loan principal would likely be higher than the current 3% cap on all fees.
- Refinancing. Home equity loans have important protections related to judicial foreclosure and protection against loss of non-home assets. A new home equity loan with the consumer protections is a better option than a non-home equity loan without those protections.
- Home equity lines of credit. Current limits require the borrower to budget carefully for projected expenses and their repayment.
- Agricultural homesteads. Home equity loans and lines of credit for agricultural properties are costlier than farm operating loans and lines of credit due to the added large costs for appraisals, surveys, and title insurance and reports.

**i** The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office, or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

An electronic version of the Voters Guide is available at [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org) and [www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org).

Support the Voters Guide with a tax deductible contribution to the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund, 1212 Guadalupe # 107, Austin, TX 78701 or make a secure donation online at [www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org).

# ▶ PROPOSITION 3

## LIMITING SERVICE OF OFFICEHOLDERS (SJR 60)

### OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE:

The constitutional amendment limiting the service of certain officeholders appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate after the expiration of the person's term of office.

### EXPLANATION:

Proposition 3 would modify the holdover provisions for all unsalaried officers appointed by the governor such as appointees to volunteer boards and commissions. Current law, known as the "holdover" provision, allows all unsalaried appointees to continue to perform the duties of their office until a successor is duly qualified. "Holdovers" ensure continuation of functions but have been used to serve as extensions of terms of office.

This proposition makes it clear that if a term expires when the legislature is not in regular session, the officer will continue to serve only until the last day of the next regular session of the legislature. These unsalaried officials would not continue to serve in office past the expiration even if no successor has been appointed. If a new official is not appointed by the end of the session, then the office would become vacant.

#### ARGUMENTS FOR:

- This amendment would limit the amount of time a governor's appointee can serve and would address concerns about some gubernatorial appointees being held over in their positions long after their terms have expired. Placing the limit at the end of a regular legislative session allows Senate confirmation hearings of appointees.
- Placing a limit on how long an appointee could continue serving in office would ensure that these unsalaried volunteer positions are rotated among qualified Texans.

#### ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

- The Governor has many appointed positions to fill; the existing law allows flexibility for appointees to continue serving until qualified replacements are found.
- This amendment could result in many important appointed positions remaining vacant if a qualified replacement is not found within a certain time frame.

## REGISTERING TO VOTE - Be Ready for the 2018 Primary Elections .....

You must register to vote at least 30 days before the election date. The last day you can register to vote in the 2017 Constitutional Amendment Election is October 10, 2017.

**Eligibility** - You are eligible to register to vote if:

- You are a United States citizen;
- You are a resident of a Texas County;
- You are at least 17 years and 10 months old;
- You are not a convicted felon, or, if convicted you have been pardoned or fully discharged your sentence, including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, or probation; and
- You have not been declared by a court to be either totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

#### How to Register to Vote

- In person at the voter registration office in your county, or
- Fill out an application that can be mailed (or faxed with follow-up by mail) or returned in person to the voter registrar in your county of residence.
- Application forms are available at many libraries, government offices and high schools.
- The application is available online at the Secretary of State's voter information website, [www.VoteTexas.gov](http://www.VoteTexas.gov). This website allows you to search to see if you are already registered.

After you apply, a voter registration certificate will be mailed to you within 30 days. This certificate includes your precinct for voting on Election Day as well as your congressional, state legislative, county, and local districts.

#### For how long is my registration effective?

- The registration will remain in effect until you move or change your name,
- A new certificate will be sent to you every two years without further application on your part.
- If you move, however, your registration certificate will not be forwarded to your new address.
- If you move within the same county or change your name, you must notify your county clerk or election administrator in writing or online of your new address or your new name as soon as possible. Then a new certificate will be mailed to you.
- If you move to another county, you must re-register by applying to the election office in your new county.

©2017 League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund  
[www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org)

The Voters Guide is protected by copyright.  
For permission to duplicate the Guide,

please call the LWV-Texas office at 512-472-1100.

**i** You may bring this Voters Guide into the voting booth! In 1995, the Texas law prohibiting use of printed materials, such as this Voters Guide, in the polling place was ruled unconstitutional (Texas Election Code, Section 61.011)

# ► PROPOSITION 4 CHALLENGE TO THE CONSTITUTION (SJR 6)

## OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to require a court to provide notice to the attorney general of a challenge to the constitutionality of a state statute and authorizing the legislature to prescribe a waiting period before the court may enter a judgment holding the statute unconstitutional.

## EXPLANATION:

Proposition 4 would require a court to notify the state attorney general when a party to litigation files a petition, motion, or other pleading challenging the constitutionality of a state statute. Courts must wait 45 days, after providing the notice, before entering a judgment holding the statute unconstitutional.

In 2011, the state legislature passed a statute with a similar notice and waiting period, but in 2013, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ruled that the law was unconstitutional. Proposition 4 is designed to provide a constitutional basis for the notice and waiting period to restore the 2013 law.

### ARGUMENTS FOR:

- Proposition 4 ensures the state has an opportunity to defend the constitutionality of its laws.
- The proposed amendment would not alter the state's separation of powers doctrine nor restrict the ability of courts to strike down laws as unconstitutional.
- This amendment would only provide the attorney general with notice so the attorney general could offer assistance to defend a state law. It would not change the authority of the attorney general's office over criminal matters.

### ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

- The constitution should not be amended in a way that could undermine the state's separation of powers doctrine. Each branch of the government should be able to exercise its powers without interference from another branch.
- The legislature should not establish procedures that delay a Texan's right to pursue and receive relief from unconstitutional laws.
- Under current law, in criminal cases the state prosecuting attorney, not the attorney general, represents the state. This law could create confusion regarding the attorney general's role in criminal cases.

Support the Voters Guide with a tax deductible contribution to the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund, 1212 Guadalupe # 107, Austin, TX 78701 or make a secure donation online at [www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org).

**i** You may bring this Voters Guide into the voting booth! In 1995, the Texas law prohibiting use of printed materials, such as this Voters Guide, in the polling place was ruled unconstitutional (Texas Election Code, Section 61.011)

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office, or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.  
**An electronic version of the Voters Guide is available at [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org) and [www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org).**

©2017 League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund  
[www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org)

The Voters Guide is protected by copyright.  
For permission to duplicate the Guide,  
please call the LWV-Texas office at 512-472-1100.

# ▶ PROPOSITION 5

## CHARITABLE SPORTS FOUNDATIONS (HJR 100)

### OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE:

The constitutional amendment on professional sports team charitable foundations conducting charitable raffles.

### EXPLANATION:

Proposition 5 would amend Article 3, Section 47(d-1) of the Texas Constitution, enabling certain professional sports team charitable foundations to conduct charitable raffles. Voters approved a constitutional amendment in 2016 to allow certain professional sports team charitable foundations that existed on January 1, 2016, to conduct charitable raffles at home games. It authorized the 10 Texas major league sports franchises that had charitable foundations on that date to conduct charitable raffles.

Proposition 5 and its enabling legislation, HB 3125, would expand the number of professional sports team charitable foundations that are eligible to hold charitable raffles at home sports games. This amendment proposes to:

- Remove the restriction that only charitable foundations existing on January 1, 2016 may conduct charitable raffles
- Define “professional sports teams” eligible to conduct charitable raffles to allow professional hockey, basketball, football, baseball, soccer, motorsports, and golf teams, including minor leagues as well as major leagues

#### ARGUMENTS FOR:

- Proposition 5, in expanding the number of eligible sports teams, allows more teams to capitalize on the large and supportive crowds at sporting events, which increases the amount of charitable funds to support their charitable programs.
- It would add minor league sports teams representing more rural and suburban communities, bringing charitable revenue to new and different parts of the state and uniting sports teams and their communities to assist disadvantaged Texans.
- The proposed amendment only expands the number of sports teams that could participate in charitable raffles; it would make no other change and would not remove safeguards that were established to protect against improperly conducted raffles.

#### ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

- Current law, which applies only to the 10 Texas major league sports franchises, protects against the creation of entities solely to take advantage of charitable raffles.
- Proposition 5 could open the door to further expansion of charitable raffles conducted by the foundations of less well-established teams.
- The proposed amendment expands gambling in Texas by increasing the number of raffles that sports team foundations can conduct, which could lead to other groups requesting authority to offer such raffles.

## **i** STUDENT VOTERS .....

Students may use either their parents’ address or their college address for voter registration, whichever they consider to be their permanent address. Students cannot be registered at both places. The general rule of thumb is that wherever students claim residency is the place where they should be registered to vote. Students who will be away from their address on Election Day and during early voting may request ballots by mail. Student IDs are not adequate photo IDs for voting and will not be accepted at the polls.

## WHERE AND WHEN TO VOTE .....

**Early Voting:** All registered voters may vote early by personal appearance at any early voting location in their county. Check with your local newspaper or the county clerk or election administrator for early voting times and locations. Early voting days for the November 7, 2017 Constitutional Amendment are October 23 – November 3, 2017.

**Election Day Voting:** On Election Day you must vote in your precinct of residence (unless your area is participating in countywide vote centers). Your precinct is listed on your registration card, or you may find out where to vote by calling or going online with your county election administrator.

County elections addresses and fax numbers are available at [www.VoteTexas.gov](http://www.VoteTexas.gov) or at [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org). Voting places are also listed in most newspapers. If you report to the incorrect polling place, you will be redirected to the correct site or offered a provisional ballot. You can vote by provisional ballot, but if it is determined that you are not registered in the precinct where you vote, your ballot will not be counted by Texas law. More information on provisional voting appears on the Texas Secretary of State website [www.VoteTexas.gov](http://www.VoteTexas.gov).

### Ballot-by-Mail Voting

Only specific reasons entitle a person to vote by mail (no longer called absentee voting).

You may request a ballot by mail if you

- will be away from your county on Election Day and during early voting
- are sick or disabled
- are 65 years of age or older on Election Day
- are confined to jail, but still eligible to vote.

You do not need a photo ID to vote by mail, but photo ID will be required of first time voters if a driver’s license or Social Security number was not included with the voter registration application.

Request an Application for Ballot by Mail from the early voting clerk in the county where you are registered, or download the form from [www.VoteTexas.gov](http://www.VoteTexas.gov). The completed form must be received by mail or fax by October 27, 2017. Note: postmarks don’t count.

A ballot will be mailed to you, and you must return your completed ballot to your county elections department by 7 p.m. on Election Day, November 7, 2017. The ballot must be received, not just postmarked, by that date. If you are mailing your ballot from outside the United States, the early voting clerk must receive your ballot by the fifth day after Election Day. (You must mail it no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day.)

# ► PROPOSITION 6 AD VALOREM TAXATION (SJR 1)

## OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE:

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a first responder who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.

## EXPLANATION:

Proposition 6 would give property tax exemptions to surviving spouses of first responders killed in the line of duty if the spouse has not remarried. If the surviving spouse moves to a new homestead, the spouse is entitled to an equivalent homestead exemption for real property taxation.

### ARGUMENTS FOR:

- Families of fallen first responders, with their incomes reduced, should not have to bear the burden of losing their homes because of the price of property taxes.
- Surviving spouses of first responders killed in the line of duty should be treated the same as surviving spouses of veterans killed in the line of duty.
- The fiscal impact on a single taxing district would be minimal.

### ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

- Regardless of how deserving the recipients, creating additional property tax exemptions may require local governments to place an additional tax burden on other taxpayers.
- School districts would receive less revenue from property taxes so the state may decide to cover this reduction by taking it from the General Revenue Fund, creating a cost to the state.

# ► PROPOSITION 7 PRIZES BY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (HJR37)

## OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

Proposing a constitutional amendment relating to legislative authority to permit credit unions and other financial institutions to award prizes by lot to promote savings.

## EXPLANATION:

The Texas Constitution, Art. 3, Sec. 47, prohibits lotteries and raffles with a few exceptions, such as bingo games and charitable raffles conducted by nonprofit or religious organizations. Proposition 7 would amend the constitution to allow the legislature to authorize credit unions or other financial institutions to conduct promotional activities that can award a prize to one or more of the institution's depositors selected by lot to encourage savings.

The enabling legislation for Proposition 7, HB 471, defines raffles legalized under this amendment as savings promotion raffles; the criteria for entering is a deposit of a specific amount into a savings account or savings program. Other terms of the savings account or program – fees, withdrawal limits, interest or dividends – must be commensurate with those of savings accounts or programs that are not subject to a savings promotion raffle.

### ARGUMENTS FOR:

- Saving incentives are needed as more than one-third of Texas households lack a savings account and about half do not have a three-month emergency fund. States that have removed legal barriers to such raffles have seen a significant increase in consumer savings.
- Savings promotion raffles are not gambling as they require no form of payment, only a deposit into a savings account, and benefit the consumer even if the consumer does not win a prize. Depositors can withdraw their money at any time and therefore do not lose money as in other raffles.

### ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Proposition 7 would permit one industry to do a raffle and would be the only non-charitable raffle allowed in the state. It is not equitable to allow only one industry to conduct raffles.
- This proposition could lead to other industries requesting permission to hold raffles and to more serious forms of gambling.

## WHAT IS PROVISIONAL VOTING?.....

The Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 provides for provisional voting if a voter's name does not appear on the list of registered voters due to an administrative error. If your name is not on the rolls of registered voters in your precinct, but you believe you are registered, the election judge will attempt to determine if you are registered somewhere in your county. If your registration cannot be found, you may cast a provisional vote by filling out an affidavit and a paper ballot. This ballot is kept separate from the regular ballots, and the case will be reviewed by the provisional voting ballot board. The ballot will be counted only if the voter is determined to be a registered voter in that precinct. Provisional voters will receive a notice in the mail by the tenth day after the local canvass advising them if their provisional ballots were counted and, if they were not counted, the reason why.

## Photo Id Requirements and Exceptions

See WHAT TO TAKE TO THE POLLS on the front page for a list of accepted photo IDs. This section provides additional information about the photo ID requirements.

- The photo ID needs to be current or have expired no more than 4 years before voting (citizenship and naturalization certificates have no expiration date).
- The name on the photo ID should match the voter registration card. If names don't match, a voter may be accepted if names are "substantially similar." If names match, addresses don't need to match.
- If the names don't match exactly, the voter can be accepted if names are substantially similar; poll workers will look at address, date of birth, and the photo. If names are substantially similar, the voter will initial a box for similar name when signing in to vote.
- Voters with a documented disability from Social Security or Veterans Affairs can apply for a voter registration certificate exempting them from the photo ID requirement.
- Voters without acceptable ID can obtain an Election Identification Certificate (EIC) from Texas DPS. Requirements for the EIC can be found at <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/electionID.htm>. There is no charge for the EIC but the necessary documentation may have a cost.
- Photo ID is not required to vote by mail. See Ballot-by-Mail Voting, p. 6.
- Voters who do not show an acceptable ID at the polls can vote a provisional ballot and have six days to show the required photo ID. See What Is Provisional Voting, p. 7.

### Attention Voters Affected by Harvey:

- If you had one of the accepted photo IDs, but no longer have it, you may vote with one of the alternative forms of ID (see the list of What to Take to the Polls on the front page). You will **sign the affidavit and vote a regular ballot**.
- If you are temporarily staying in a county where you are not registered to vote, you may submit an application for ballot by mail to your county's election office. It must be received no later than October 27, 2017. **You will need to provide a mailing address that is outside of your home Texas county.** See Ballot-by-Mail Voting, p. 6.
- You may choose to register to vote in the county where you are now residing if you intend to stay in the new county. The deadline to register is October 10, 2017.
- You may vote a "limited ballot" during early voting in the county where you are currently residing. Limited ballot voting is only available at the main early voting location in the county. The limited ballot will include the constitutional amendment election. **Voting a limited ballot in the new county has the effect of registering the voter in the new county.**
- As a last resort, if you no longer have any form of acceptable ID, you may vote a provisional ballot. **You have six days to go to your county registrar's office and complete affidavit swearing to the natural disaster.** See What Is Provisional Voting, p. 7.

Check the League's website for other helpful information about elections, voting and issues: [www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org).



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF TEXAS

### ADVOCATING AGITATING EDUCATING

Who else but the LWV is a nonpartisan, political organization and one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations? The LWV...encouraging active participation in government...working to increase understanding of major public policy issues...influencing public policy through education and advocacy...making democracy work!

Learn more about our 27 Local Leagues and how they help shape today's important issues by visiting the League's website at [www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org).

LWV Texas Voters Guides are funded by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) corporation that is supported by contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations. LWV-TEF gratefully acknowledges major contributions in the past year from:

### ORGANIZATIONS:

**Glify Charitable Fund**

**Mary Kay O'Connor Fund of  
Communities Foundation of Texas**



**Texas Bar Foundation**

### INDIVIDUAL DONORS:

Linda Barker • Elaine Bridges  
Patricia Cheong • Grace Chimene  
John and Linda Elder • Ruthann Geer  
Margaret "Peggy" Hill • Barbara Hotinski  
Julie & Michael Lowenberg  
Imogene Mitchell • Susan Morrison  
Carolie Mullan • Kaylene Ray  
Dabney Roe • Jane Wetzell  
Elaine M. Wiant • Nancy Wilson

The League of Women Voters of Texas would like to acknowledge the following entities for information on the constitutional amendments:

Texas Legislature On Line Ballot Look Up,  
<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us>

House Research Organization,  
<http://www.hro.house.state.tx.us>



# VOTERS GUIDE 2017

TRAVIS COUNTY AREA PROPOSITIONS

▶ LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AUSTIN AREA

## About this section of the *Voters Guide*

There are no candidates on the ballot for the city of Austin. This section shows one proposition from the Austin Independent School District and two propositions from Travis County. This Voters Guide has the ballot language, an explanation of the ballot language and pro and con statements from advocacy groups. See below.

The online Voters Guide lists in addition the candidates for municipal and Independent School Districts in Travis County. The complete Voter guide for local elections may be found online at [www.lwvaustin.org](http://www.lwvaustin.org). Questionnaires were sent by email to candidates in contested races. Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification. The names of the unopposed candidates are also listed.

## Where to Vote in Travis County

Vote Centers in Travis County are in effect for Early Voting and Election Day. You may vote at any polling location within your county of residence where you see a "Vote Here" sign. You can find more information about voting locations and ballots at Travis County Clerk websites ([votetravis.com](http://votetravis.com)).

## ▶ TRAVIS COUNTY BONDS

### OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE PROPOSITION A, TRAVIS CO.

The issuance of \$93,445,000 of Road Bonds for the purpose of the construction, maintenance and operation of macadamized, graveled or paved roads and turnpikes, or in aid thereof, including acquiring land and rights-of-way therefor, road drainage, bike lanes, sidewalks and shared use paths, and replacement and improvement of road bridges and culverts, and the levying of the tax in payment thereof.

Vote For or Against

### EXPLANATION:

Bond elections allow voters to approve or reject long-term financing for major capital improvement projects in Travis County. Financing projects through bond authorizations allows the County to pay for improvements over 20 years rather than funding the projects with current funds. This method of financing allows for current and future citizens of Travis County to share the cost of improvements that benefit residents County-wide. Bonds are sold to borrow money to pay for major projects such as improvements to roadways, bridges, drainage improvements and park infrastructure. The proposed bonds are general obligation bonds and will be repaid over the next twenty years from property taxes.

Members of Travis County's Commissioners Court appointed a 15-member Citizens Bond Advisory Committee (CBAC) in February 2017. They charged the CBAC with determining whether an election was needed, and if so, with recommending a capital improvement budget and potential projects. The CBAC worked with County staff to develop a preliminary list of projects that were presented at six public meetings held throughout the County during June 2017. After receiving public comment, the CBAC presented their recommendations to the Commissioners Court in July 2017. In August 2017, the Commissioners Court approved holding a November 2017 bond election and a list of projects that are included in the following Propositions. This bond is divided into two propositions, A and B.

### PROPOSITION A: Roadway Capacity, Drainage, Bridge, Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

The Roadway Capacity, Drainage, Bridge, Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Proposition allows voters to approve or reject funding for capital improvements which may include the following: Roadway Capacity- the addition of new lanes to existing roadways, construction of new roadways, or the widening of narrow roadways. Drainage/Stream Crossings- Improvements to provide for the rehabilitation or replacement of substandard bridges and improvements to road related drainage. Finally, funding is included to provide for new sidewalks and bicycle safety projects; moreover, many of the added lane capacity projects will include the construction of bike lanes and sidewalks.

**Total Cost of Proposition A: \$93,445,000**

**OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE** **PROPOSITION B, TRAVIS CO.**

The issuance of \$91,495,000 of Bonds for the purposes of constructing and improving County parks and the acquisition of land and interests in land in connection therewith, including the acquisition of open space park land, and acquiring conservation easements on land for any authorized purposes, including, without limitation, to retain or protect natural, scenic, or open-space values of real property or assure its availability for agricultural, recreational, or open-space use, protect natural resources, maintain or enhance air or water quality, or conserve water quantity or quality, and the levying of the tax in payment thereof

Vote For or Against

**EXPLANATION:**

Bond elections allow voters to approve or reject long-term financing for major capital improvement projects in Travis County. Financing projects through bond The Parks and Conservation Easements Proposition allows voters to approve or reject funds for improving the park system and conserving land. The \$74,830,000, earmarked for park projects will be used to acquire parkland, build new recreational facilities, and protect natural and cultural resources in the county park system. The \$16,665,000 earmarked for land conservation will be used to purchase conservation easements, for perpetuity, from willing landowners, to protect natural and cultural resources throughout the County.

**PROPOSITION B** funds will be invested in park and conservation easement projects throughout the county. In eastern Travis County, park funds will be used to build a system of parks along the Colorado River and its tributaries and to improve soccer fields at Northeast Metro Park. In western Travis County, funds will be used to acquire land or interest in parkland, to build a sports complex near Lakeway, and to expand overnight facilities at Arkansas Bend Park. Funds for conservation easements will be used in both eastern and western Travis County for projects that meet County standards for protecting natural and cultural resources.

**Total Cost of Proposition B: \$91,445,000**

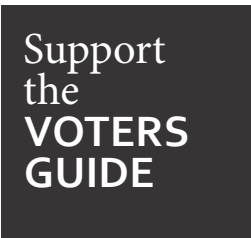
**General Obligation Bond Authority: \$184,940,000**

**Total Proposition Amount**

A. Roadway Capacity, Drainage, Bridge, Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety .....\$93,445,000

B. Parks and Conservation Easements..... \$91,495,000

For more information on the specific bond propositions, go to <https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/cbac>



Support the *Voters Guide* with a tax deductible contribution to the League of Women Voters Austin Area Education Fund, 1609 Shoal Creek Blvd. Ste 202 Austin, TX 78701 (512) 451-6710 or make a secure donation online at [www.lwvaustin.org](http://www.lwvaustin.org)

# ▶ AUSTIN ISD BOND

## OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE PROPOSITION, AUSTIN ISD

The issuance of \$1,050,984,000 school building bonds for the construction, acquisition, rehabilitation, renovation, expansion, improvement, modernization and equipment of school buildings in the district, including (i) technology systems and equipment, (ii) safety and security systems and equipment, (iii) improvements to address overcrowding and safety concerns, (iv) improvements for students with special needs, and (v) reinvention programs for twenty-first century learning; the purchase of the necessary sites for school buildings; and the purchase of new school buses, and the levy, pledge, assessment and collection of ad valorem taxes on all taxable property in the district, sufficient, without limit as to rate or amount, to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the costs of credit agreements executed in connection with the bonds.

Vote For or Against

### EXPLANATION:

Bonds represent a cornerstone of how school districts pay for capital expenses--new schools, for example--as opposed to the day-to-day costs like salaries. Under state law, a district must seek voter approval to issue bonds; with approval, they can sell the bonds on a timetable of their choosing, and pay them off with tax money. That spreads the cost for infrastructure over time, rather than taxpayers facing a massive upfront rate hike every time a district needs a new campus.

This bond package is among the first in a series called for in a comprehensive 25-year facilities master plan that aims to modernize the district and all its campuses. The project total is \$1.13 billion, but leftover funds from previous bond packages and the proceeds from land sales will reduce the cost to \$1.05 billion. Here are some of the major items in the package:

- New buildings for Brown, Casis, Govalle, Brentwood, Menchaca elementary schools and Rosedale School.
- Phase 1 modernization of Bowie High School.
- New 800-student campus for Eastside Memorial High School and International School on the original L.C. Anderson High site.
- Move the Liberal Arts and Science Academy to the current Eastside Memorial site, which would allow it to expand to up to 2,000 students.
- Phase 1 modernization of the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders.
- New 800-student middle school in the Mueller development.
- Phase 1 construction of a school to relieve overcrowding at Blazier Elementary.
- The \$1.05 billion bond proposal comes with no tax rate increase. According to AISD and independently verified by the Austin Chamber of Commerce, that can be accomplished partly because the District would not borrow the funds all at once. The District would pay off existing debt at higher interest rates as it takes on new debt at the lowest interest rates possible. All money raised through bonds remains in AISD.

### ARGUMENTS FOR:

- AISD's bond package has something for every campus, as well as spending on district-wide facilities and infrastructure.
- Overdue maintenance and repairs are a priority item in this bond. AISD operates a many old campuses that are in desperate need of some attention.
- AISD has more seats than kids, and some are situated in neighborhoods where large populations of kids no longer live. Meanwhile, other campuses, 10-15 miles away, face chronic overcrowding. The District may have to consolidate and close some campuses if enrollment continues to decline or if the bond fails to pass, but the bond does not mandate any closures.

Continued next page

### ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

- The proposed Facilities Master Plan that the Bond would fund would continue institutional racism, discrimination and inequity at AISD and City of Austin.
- AISD must rewrite the Bond Plan and fully modernize, fund, value and support all Austin schools equitably.
- The Bond Plan would discriminate based on race and class by closing only Hispanic and African American Title I schools in east Austin -- Brooke, Metz, Sanchez, Norman, and Bertha Sadler Means Young Women's Academy even though all the targeted schools meet academic requirements and one, Norman is excelling.

Continued next page

- There are more funds in the fully modernized or new facility projects going to Title 1 schools (those receiving federal financial assistance due to the high percentage of children from low-income households) than non-Title 1 schools.
- The improvements also support new programs for 21st century learning spaces for all students, without a tax rate increase.
- AISD has adopted its first Master Facility Plan, to prioritize and guide its next 25 years of physical investment.
- AISD bonds will be some of the most appealing on the market keeping the district at an AAA bond rating.
- AISD has the lowest bond tax rate (at \$0.1113 cents) than any of the surrounding Central Texas ISDs.
- Every single tax dollar approved for this bond package will stay here in the Austin ISD. None of it will be siphoned off by the state to reduce its own obligation to public education.
- These are necessary investments for our children and the schools that are preparing them for the future.
- This bond will help keep the Central Texas region competitive in an increasingly demanding marketplace.
- If the bond should fail, there would be nothing for anybody. The District will be faced with painful and very unpopular decisions, such as potentially consolidating under enrolled schools into neighboring ones without modernization upgrades, and there will be no relief for overcrowded schools with critical deficiencies, such as HVAC, roofing, electrical and plumbing needs. AISD will have to take funds from its operating budget to make repairs which will impact other teaching and learning decisions and options.

- The five east Austin schools are being targeted in the Bond Plan for low enrollment; however, 23 schools across AISD also have low enrollments but are not being targeted.
- AISD claims that schools rated worst should get funding first, however, east Austin schools with poor facilities ratings would receive only 27% of the bond, or possibly be closed, compared to the 75% that west Austin schools with poor facilities ratings would receive. That criteria is being applied discriminatorily.
- These schools are central hubs of activity for their neighborhoods and families; closing, selling or consolidating them would be harmful to the communities, the neighborhood and families.
- If LASA were to move out of LBJ and displace the Eastside Memorial High School community from its Johnston Campus as the Bond plan proposes, AISD would again segregate our minority children by creating a district with three high schools that are only African American and Hispanic: Reagan, LBJ, and Eastside Memorial High School at the old Anderson location.
- AISD, City of Austin, and developers want profits from land and development sales of now highly desirable neighborhoods in east Austin.
- Whether the Bond passes or not, Austin ISD must keep open east Austin elementary schools - Brooke, Metz, Sanchez, and Norman and the middle school Bertha Sadler Means Young Women's Academy.
- Leave Eastside Memorial High School at Johnston Campus and reopen Allen Middle School in the Eastside Memorial vertical team.
- If Austinites were to pass this bond and its associated Plan were implemented as it's currently written, or, if AISD were to discriminatorily close the east Austin schools and displace Eastside Memorial High School anyway, the District would be in contravention of the 1970's MALDEF and LULAC lawsuit that ordered desegregation of Austin schools.
- The District's continuing reliance on property value increases is questionable. The District should use only current land values, instead of assuming they will continue to rise.
- You can't borrow a billion dollars without paying more in taxes than you would pay without this new debt. "No tax rate increase" is being used to imply there is no tax increase; the two are not the same.

## About This Voters Guide

LWV-AA produces bond proposition pro and con statements by consulting with groups and individuals involved in developing, supporting or opposing the initiatives. The League does not edit the material for spelling, punctuation or grammatical errors, nor perform fact-checking.

This Voters Guide is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area Education Fund. For more than 97 years, helping voters cast an informed vote when they go to the polls has been the primary goal of the League of Women Voters. As an organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, the League believes that all of us are stakeholders in Making Democracy Work. Neither the League nor the Education Fund supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

The Spanish translation including the Travis County municipalities and ISDs may be found online at <https://lwvaustin.org/voter-guide/>

# Travis County Local Elections

Q1: Given current budget constraints, how do you propose to manage the needs of your city, such as job growth, transportation and public safety?

Q2: What other pressing issues are facing your community and what actions would you propose to deal with those issues?

Q3: Why are you seeking this office?

## Jonestown

### Jonestown Mayor

**Paul Johnson**

uncontested

### Jonestown Alderman, Place 1

choose 1:

**Desiree Peacock**

**Background:** Voluntary

Community Service: Rehabilitate substance abusers, support local food banks, veterinary consults, charity and faith based organizations

**Education:** Associate of Science Degree from Austin Community College Attending Penn Foster University working towards a degree for Veterinary Technician

**A1:** I too have a kitchen table budget. Prioritizing how funds are distributed is a common occurrence. With my husband owning a small business we often make the hard decisions of where funds are needed most, or would result in the highest beneficial outcome. Given the budget constraints of the city, my focus will be to listen to the wants and needs of Jonestown residents and communicate those priorities to our Council.

**A2:** A major issue Jonestown is faced with can be seen in the business district. The city lacks central sewage, preventing many businesses from operating based on septic system regulations and expenses. The sales and use taxes collected are an important revenue for the city, and local business should be encouraged. Utilizing managed development and grant opportunities will aid in creating a central sewage system.

**A3:** I believe that what we do today impacts tomorrow. I want to be the citizens voice in making informed decisions, and to continue my community involvement with honesty and integrity. Since moving to Jonestown in 1995, I have watched how the city has progressed from dirt roads and pot holes to a thriving community. I would like to be involved with the progress our city will see in the future. When elected as the next Jonestown City Council Alderwoman, I look forward to working with our city representatives and all Jonestown citizens to benefit today's residents and future generations



**Donna Jo Priem**

no response

### Jonestown Alderman, Place 2

**Tom Buckle**

uncontested

## Lago Vista

### Lago Vista Mayor

choose 1:

**Kevin Sullivan**

**Background:** Life long Texan and have spent my adult life in the software professional services industry and real estate.

Decade plus resident of Lago Vista.

**Education:** BBA in Finance from UT Austin MBA from Southern Methodist University Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/KevinSullivanForLVMayor/>

**A1:** Our city has strong needs in the area of core infrastructure (water and waste water facilities), road rebuilding and maintenance, police, and economic development. These vital areas have received less than they needed in the past 8-10 years as previous administrations invested millions to support 2 local golf courses. I've worked hard in my last 18 months on city council to break that cycle and return our focus to essential services and investing in things that will help us grow in a positive fashion. By working closely with the other major entities in our area (LVISD, ESD #1 and #7, and the POA), we can achieve our objectives of focusing on essential services and promoting positive growth for our city.

**A2:** Lago Vista is unique in that it was fully laid out during its inception as a private resort community 40+ years ago. Streets were laid and lots fully platted at the time, but water and waste water infrastructure was not extended to all the lots, and as a result, we have a large number of undeveloped lots in Lago Vista. In addition, we have streets that were built 40+ years ago that have not had the appropriate maintenance performed on them in the intervening years. The lack of utilities and solid streets has been a hindrance to our growth and has become a growing issue for residents and long-time lot owners that would like to become residents. As mayor, I would seek to solve this issue through extension of a current pilot program.

**A3:** Since becoming a full-time resident over a decade ago, I've participated in a



wide variety of roles including youth organizations such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and sports leagues; organizations within my church; and the local Property Owners Association. Through these volunteer roles, I've had the good fortune to be exposed to many people in my community. It has given me a chance to learn what people find important in our community and how they would prioritize those items. I am seeking the office of mayor of Lago Vista to bring to fruition the desires I've heard in the community and to serve the citizens of Lago Vista to the best of my abilities.

**Ed Tidwell**

**Background:** 1stSgt USMC retired - 26 years.

City Council member - 5 years. President/Manager of youth sports and 4H club. Member - VFW, American Legion, Lions.

**Education:** BioMedical Science Major Texas A&M University 1982-1986

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/tidwellcitycouncil.lagovista/> Twitter: [twitter.com/edditidwell](https://twitter.com/edditidwell)

**A1:** The first step is "Vision". The City currently has a Comprehensive Master Plan that lays out where we want the City to be through the year 2030. Within that plan we must assess our current situation and visualize where we want our PD, our Admin, our streets, and our transit system to be over the next year and over the next 5 years. Next is "Planning". We must create a Strategic Plan to address the 5 year vision and an Action Plan to address the annual vision. These plans are used to identify our mission, to execute our plan, to administer our plan, to finance our plan, and to control the growth. Planning also includes auditing the results and adjusting as the next years budget will alter our plans. "Communication" ties it all together.

**A2:** All issues must be dealt with in the same manner. It doesn't matter if it is our golf course, our affordable housing, our Capitol Improvement Projects, or our Retail growth. Some issues will undoubtedly need more attention or closer scrutiny but the process is the same. I plan to use the same 3 steps: Vision, Planning, and Communication. Various methods of citywide communication, brainstorming and researching will be used to produce a vision for each issue. Options will be developed. From there, Strategic Plans and



Action Plans are developed to address the visions and the options. The execution of these plans must be detailed and thorough. Audits and analysis will allow us to develop Succession Plans, thus allowing for future growth.

**A3:** I have served on Council for 5 years and with 2 Mayors, 5 City Managers, and 15 fellow council members. I have spent this time getting to know my community, what the citizens want, what the main issues are, and what the problems are we face. It has become apparent that we as a City have no clear vision of what we want our City to be. We as Council have no plans to deal with issues. We are reactive instead of proactive. We are not providing what the citizens want or need. We are slowly falling apart and growth is coming our way. Beyond that, we don't communicate. The citizens rarely know what is going on in the City, why Council votes the way it does and they never receive follow up information. I plan to change the way we work as a City. I will continue to use my Town Hall meetings to listen to the citizens. I will use advisory boards along with staff and council to develop our "Visions". Council along with staff and subject matter experts will produce our "Plans". I will produce Comprehensive Plans, Strategic Plans, Action Plans, and Succession Plans for each department, each fund, and each amenity. I will produce the same plans for future annexation and retail growth. I will use my Town Hall meetings, weekly press releases, video press releases, radio, and social media outlets to "communicate" the activities of the city staff and council actions to the citizens. Through the collaborative efforts of the citizens, the staff, the council, and my leadership, we will grow.

### Lago Vista City Council, Place 1

choose 1

**Mark Tippetts**

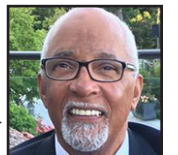
no response

**David Williams**

**Background:** Moved to Houston (1979); Lago Vista (2014). Worked at: Campbell Soup, James River Corp, Coca-Cola. Lago Vista Men's Golf Assoc: Vice President, Treas.

**Education:** Adelphi University, Bachelor of Arts Degree (Psychology, 1978)

**A1:** Work in conjunction with City entities to secure and promote Lago Vista and to help develop job growth through Business Incentive programs for new businesses: Work on multi-year deals that bring new businesses to Lago Vista. Meet with current business owners to determine needs and constraints placed on owners to make it more attractive to keep and secure businesses. City has contract with Capital Metro to provide transportation services: Evaluate the feasibility (financially and practicality) to continue or develop



## Eanes ISD Tax Ratification Election

Approving the ad valorem tax rate of \$1.20 per \$100 valuation in the Eanes Independent School District for the current year, a rate that is \$0.02 higher per \$100 valuation than the school district rollback tax rate, for the purpose of (i) accessing additional local operating revenues and (ii) decreasing the overall ad valorem tax rate by \$0.0125.

For or Against the Measure

alternative modes of public transportation. Economic comparison of the options while taking into consideration the needs of the citizens.

**A2:** Water & Sewage: Ways to decrease water costs. Upgraded sewer treatment facility (bond referendum)

Street Repairs & Infrastructure: Incentive programs for developers Bonds/grants.

Asset Management: Assets (library, pools, golf course, etc.) need to be evaluated and determine the best way to enhance venues and revenue. The assets of the community enhance the quality of life within the community.

Communication: Develop a consistent and frequent means of communication with citizens, Streamed online meeting, Email newsletter monthly, Provide volunteer opportunities within City departments.

**A3:** My overall objective is to work with the Citizens, City Council members, City Hall Management, the POA, the Lago Vista Chamber of Commerce and the Lago Vista School District towards a more organized, efficient, and inclusive City government. I believe we should be working together, collaboratively, openly, and respectfully, despite differences of opinion and ideas. I believe we should be working with each other, not competing with each other, or working against each other. It should not be territorial between entities, but rather collaboration in order to enhance the living experience in our community.

### Lago Vista City Council Place 3

choose 1:

#### Arch Davila

Background: Public school Teacher/Coach

Education: Associate of Science in Electronics Technology, Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics, Texas Teacher Certification

Facebook: <http://Arch Davila for Lago Vista>



**A1:** Economic development is needed to create more jobs in Lago Vista. Job creation will occur in conjunction with the success of economic growth in this semi-rural area. Currently, there is no city-wide public transportation, but as our city population grows, local carriers may become necessary to meet the mobility needs of some of our citizens. Finally, in this community of less than 7,000 residents, public safety is well maintained, as the crime rate is relatively low, and the Fire, EMS, and Police Departments are well managed.

**A2:** The most pressing issue is that of restoring aging infrastructure. Many of the city's 160 miles of streets are in need of repair. Historically, the city has not seen the new home construction rate that is currently taking place. Also, the city's

waste-water system needs to be updated. This system which handles the city's effluent water disposal is old and failing. The city's infrastructure will continue to be challenged to keep pace with the city's growth, and it is critical to supporting future residential and commercial growth.

**A3:** I am seeking a place on City Council to participate in decision-making that represents the desires of the city's residents and to promote cooperation between the City of Lago Vista, its Property Owners Association and School District. The recent growth of the city demands attention to identifying future needs and services for its citizens, and to develop a practical plan that keeps pace with the growing Lago Vista population. I have great interest in serving the citizens of Lago Vista to preserve the city's culture and character.

#### Enrique Lopez

**Background:** I own and manage a local real estate office in Lago Vista. I also own and am responsible for the content of Lago Vista News (A Facebook page)

**Education:** I graduated from Round Rock High School in 1980. I attended Texas State University and the University of Texas

**A1:** Stop subsidizing golf.

The City of Lago Vista currently owns and operates two golf courses. The Highland Lake Golf Course and the Lago Vista Golf Course, The City has been trying to resuscitate these two golf courses for many years to the tune of millions and millions of dollars. City infrastructure has always taken a back seat. If the question is "Do we repave some of our streets or do we repair or golf cart paths?"

Historically, expenditures on the golf courses have always take precedence. This year alone, the golf courses have cost the City about \$775,000. This is a huge amount considering that the population of Lago Vista is about 7,000 residents.

**A2:** What other pressing issues are facing our community?

We need to improve our streets. There are many many miles of abandoned streets through out Lago Vista that are in desperate need of repairs and repaving.

We need to run water and sewer lines. Lago Vista has many unbuildable lots. Some of these lots have panoramic view, but unbuildable because the lot or street has no water and sewer lines.

We need to build and refurbish our potable water plants. As Lago Vista grows, we have to keep up with the influx of new families moving in.

We need to build or refurbish sewer treatment plant. Many of our existing plants are old and outdated. You definitely know that they are there if you happen to live



close to one. The smell is terrible!

**A3:** As many of you may remember, I also ran for City Council in 2005 as it happens, I also ran for Place 3. I ran against Randy Krueger.

Today, Lago Vista is faced with huge and costly issues one of them being the golf course. This tiny community of about 7000 residents has spent close to \$8,000,000 in these 2 golf courses since they were acquired. Worse yet, the golf courses have been losing money year after year. This year, the losses exceeded \$775,000! Who benefits from this? The tiny number of residents that play golf every day (and twice on Saturday) at insultingly low green fees. This tiny list includes many previous City Council Members and Mayors. If you ask why we don't have nice streets and sidewalks? Well here is your answer \$8,000 I own and am responsible for the content of a Facebook page called Lago Vista News. This site has been one of the driving forces in uncovering wasteful spending, neglect and mind boggling decisions made by the past and current City Council Members. Many of their decisions have negatively impacted our property taxes, property values and the infrastructure that includes paved streets, water and sewer lines, lack of sidewalks and the list goes on... At a time when Lago Vista had no local newspaper or had no other means to hold City Council Members accountable for their incompetence or wasteful spending... Lago Vista News was and always will be there to be the voice of the people to question and hold Council Members accountable.

### Lago Vista City Council Place 5

choose 1:

#### Stephanie Smith

**Background:** Elected in 2015 and seeking a 2nd term as a Lago Vista City Council Member Place 5.

**Education:** Richmond Community College in Dallas 08/2000-08/2002; GPA: 3.0; No degree. Duncanville HS, Duncanville, TX; 1996-2000; GPA: 3.73; Received diploma.

**A1:** Transportation: Prioritize identified existing roadways in the greatest need of repair and secure a funding source. Continue to finish the sidewalk grant near the Lago Vista Middle School.

Public Safety: Citizen's approved a November 2016 ballot initiative for a new Emergency Service District #7 which will overlay the existing Emergency Services District #1 for improved paramedic/ambulance capabilities.

Efforts are underway to improve our Insurance Service Office (ISO) Rating resulting in improved response times and reduced fire insurance rates.

**A2:** Infrastructure: Complete our \$6M water and waste water capital improvements that were approved in early 2017. We increased our tap fees to afford more staff to keep up with an increasing housing starts that demand more water/sewer services.

Job Growth: Pursue workforce housing for lower income citizens to serve our local businesses. We need more rooftops to support increasing business growth and employment opportunities.

**A3:** Being the youngest council member (age 36), I want to continue to be a voice for young families that make up a growing part of our town. We need to determine recreational needs for our youth, especially during summer.

We need to consider some economic incentives for business; both existing & new. We need to continue to encourage property owner participation in civic beautification.

#### Dick Weatherly

**Background:** Born and raised in Texas. Multiple universities. Anesthesia training in U.S. Army. Previous city councilmen in McAlester, OK. Conservative.

**Education:** Registered Nurse Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Campaign Website: <http://dickweatherly.news>

Facebook: <http://contact@dickweatherly.news>

**A1:** The 2017-18 budget will already be in place when the new council meets. The main job will be to insure that allocated funds are used to the benefit of the city through proper auditing and oversight. The hardest part will be meeting the needs of city operations with the current budget. The one area I see were real improvement can be made without additional cost is transportation. The current CapMetro agreement provides several needed services, but our needs are changing. I would help establish a group to meet with CapMetro and change the present service to one that better meets our needs into the future, within the limits of the current financial agreement.

**A2:** Over the last 2 years I have seen a caustic attitude develop of pitting one segment of our community against the other. Part of this has developed from misinformation and lack of clarity by both the council and others in the community.

### Proposition Lago Vista ISD

The issuance of \$2,900,000 of bonds for the construction, acquisition, renovation and equipment of school buildings in the district, including HVAC equipment and for the purchase of new school buses, and the levying of the tax in payment thereof.

For or Against the Measure

My hope is to improve the flow of factual information to our citizen. We are a changing city and work is being done to improve our media communications. However, not all our people are able to access the media world. We need to insure through letters in the water bills, community groups, and whatever other means is available that the work of the city government is reported and all the fact are available to the citizens. Effort must be made to pull our community back together.

**A3:** I have watched in dismay as the current council has done one thing after another that was against the wishes of the citizens or will have long term detrimental effects on our city. The discord in our communities must be overcome. My previous council experience, a strong desire to see every citizen have an open mind and open ear on the council, and a willingness to commit the time and energy to help our city come together as we move into the future will guide my service on the council. It is my hope that the people of Lago Vista will come together November 7th and say they are tired of the discord with their votes.

## Manor

### Manor Mayor

**Rita G. Jonse**

uncontested

### Manor City Council Place 1

**Gene Kruppa**

uncontested

### Manor City Council Place 3

**Anne Weir**

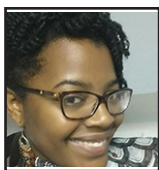
uncontested

### Manor City Council Place 5

choose 1:

#### Deja Hill

**Background:** Ms. Hill has approximately nine years State government experience. She has worked as a social services eligibility caseworker and policy analyst and



**Education:** BS in Social Work from Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches and a MS in Social Work from the University of Texas in Arlington

ty of Texas in Arlington

**A1:** I will get information on the current budget and proposed projects as they stand and with research I would figure out how to better utilize the resources we have to meet the needs of Manor now and in the future. My concern is to preserve Manor or from the push from Austin's expansion by controlling growth as best as possible in terms of job growth, transportation and public safety.

**A2:** In observation and listening to other citizens in Manor I have feel there are concerns in job growth, growth in the school systems and the variety of healthy food options within a convenient driving distance. I plan to continue to listen to the needs of the citizens and advocate for our citizens.

**A3:** I am seeking this position because I have a wealth of knowledge living and working in small towns and I understand the patterns of growth and change. I would like the opportunity to advocate for the citizens of Manor and help to honor the history, preserve the present and invest in the future.

#### Shannon C. Mugrage

**Background:** Married 13 yrs with 3 kids (6,5,3) Built our home in 2011. 7 yr Navy Veteran (E6), Operation Iraqi Freedom/Endurance Veteran. Born & raised in Texas.



**Education:** A. A. Electrical/Mechanical Technology Working toward a B.A. in Political Science at Texas State. Numerous leadership courses in the Navy

**A1:** By discussing programs instead of raising taxes every year to balance the budget if possible, we could hopefully reach a happy medium between taxation & growth. Hard working people are being priced out of their homes. We were almost a part of that group this past summer. We built our home in Manor because the taxes were lower than other places and the neighborhood was family friendly. Now taxes are about even with the areas that we declined. I would get together with the City Manager as well as the Chamber of Commerce to see if they needed support on programs that would enhance Manor's job growth. If elected I will meet with the

Police/Fire Chiefs to find out what they need in order to continue to keep Manor a safe place to raise a family.

**A2:** When we first built here, we were surrounded by fields, now we are surrounded by homes and that was expected. Manor has grown exponentially since we built here. There are environmental issues facing Manor because of it's rapid growth & I want to see that those concerns are addressed and not just swept under the rug in the name of growth. There is a happy medium between growth and environmental impact. I also love the Community Outreach of the Manor Police but there are areas of town that need more. I support the Police 1000%, my Grandfather was the first Chief of Police in Humble, TX & as a Veteran I have a number of friends that are Officers around the country, but I don't want to see an area fall through the cracks at no fault of the MPD.

**A3:** I'm seeking office because instead of moving to the "perfect" community, we decided to stay & perfect ours. We love the area, the people, our neighbors, & want to improve on what is already here. I don't believe in wholesale change but a new set of ideas never hurt. I would never claim to know every issue & I look forward to working with current Council members, the Mayor, & the City Manager to make sure all concerns in Manor are addressed. There are issues that are important to my fellow Manor residents that I am unaware of, but I am willing to fight for a cause I believe in. I look forward to canvassing in order to meet people & find out what the issues are that they face. No resident should ever feel like their voice is not heard.

## Pflugerville

### Pflugerville City Council Place 2

choose 1:

#### Adeline Bui

**Background:** I am a Mom, a business woman who owns multiple bars/ restaurants in Pflugerville and Austin, a real estate developer, real estate broker and more



**Education:** BS in Business from the University of Colorado

Campaign Website: <http://www.adelinebui.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/adeline4Pf/>

Twitter: [twitter.com/adelinebuitx](https://twitter.com/adelinebuitx)

**A1:** In Pflugerville, over 65% of residents commute outside of the city for work. Pflugerville needs to bring corporations and more local businesses to stay in Pflugerville and hire local residents. This will help to keep tax money inside Pflugerville and create jobs within the city. This will cut down on long distance commute and possibly rely on public transportation to be an option in the future as Pflugerville currently do not have any public transportation systems.

**A2:** Due to the recent growth within Central Texas, the large numbers of residents moving into Pflugerville because Austin is not as affordable, and how that growth created more developments, more constructions problems, more safety issues. The general consensus is how to keep Pflugerville affordable and safe. This will required a care and responsible planning from the City. We need to hold every project to the highest standards and ensuring that the needs of the City is met for the people not the developers.

**A3:** I have been in downtown Pflugerville for over 8 years. Every year, I hear a candidate sell me on Revitalizing Downtown Pflugerville. And in the 8 years, nothing has been done. It is because no one really know how to fix the problems. If the candidate do not have a vested interest in downtown or is a business owner, how could they possibly know how to fix the problem. I believe that I have the solution. It does required hard work, cooperation from the City, Economic Developments groups, the local business owners, the land owners if my vision is to succeed at revitalizing downtown.

#### Jeff Marsh

**Background:** I've lived, worked, and played in Pflugerville my entire life. My wife and I own a home in Old Town, and I currently serve on the City Council.



**Education:** Attended PfISD schools, K-12; Graduated from Pflugerville H.S.; B.A. in Political Science, Texas A&M; Certificate in Leadership Studies, Texas A&M

Campaign Website: <http://jeffmarsh.org>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/vote4jeffmarsh/>

**A1:** Budget constraints require creative solutions. I reorganized, then led the Finance and Budget Committee in a detailed analysis looking for creative solutions within the City's General Fund.

## Lake Travis ISD Proposition B

Approving the ad valorem tax rate of \$1.4275 per \$100 valuation in the Lake Travis Independent School District for the current year, a rate that is \$0.02 higher per \$100 valuation than the school district's rollback tax rate, for the purpose of increasing revenue for Maintenance and Operations.

For or Against the Measure

## Lake Travis ISD Proposition A

The issuance of not to exceed \$253,000,000 of Lake Travis Independent School District school building bonds for the purpose of designing, constructing, renovating, improving, acquiring, and equipping school facilities, the purchase of the necessary site for school facilities, and the purchase of new school buses, and the levying of a tax in payment thereof.

For or Against the Measure

## Prop A. Leander ISD

The issuance of \$454,405,000 of School Building Bonds for constructing, acquiring, renovating, improving and equipping school buildings and the purchase of necessary sites therefore, and acquiring school buses; and the levying of a tax sufficient, without limit as to rate or amount, to pay the principal of and interest on the Bonds and to pay the costs of any credit agreements executed or authorized in anticipation of, in relation to or in connection with the Bonds

For or Against the Measure

While serving on Council, we successfully redirected an additional \$1.2M for road maintenance while keeping the same tax rate and preventing further reliance on bonds. Good roads are safe roads.

We recently approved grant acquisition for heavy bullet proof vests for our police. We protect them, so that they can protect our community.

Creating jobs increases sales tax revenue. Council announced the arrival of CostCo, S&W Hospital, and Living Spaces to Pflugerville. The Council has also partnered with PCDC to bring companies to the 130 Commerce Center.

**A2:** Every successful town has an identity created by a "sense of place". Usually a vibrant downtown area serves as this sense of place, such as Georgetown's square or Round Rock's Main Street. Where's our place? I've already directed City Staff to create a detailed infrastructure construction plan with estimated costs for our Downtown district. This will include items such as promenade sidewalks with tree-wells, period style lighting and signage, paver-style streets and underground utilities. Creating a new atmosphere will incentivize private sector re-investment. While past efforts have failed, I've been complimented by businesses in Downtown for bringing more excitement to this project and already carrying it further than anyone has before.

**A3:** I live here. I understand Pflugerville and its residents. I've been a Pflugerville resident my entire life. I returned here upon graduation, bought a home, married, and currently run operations for my family's small Pflugerville-based company. I am a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church and the Lions Club. Pflugerville's successful growth has resulted from a focus on Public Health, Public Safety, and Responsible Business Development. As a Councilmember, I continue to prioritize these primary obligations to our citizens with the understanding they are critical to our success. I already work for you. I'm willing to continue to donate my time and energy exclusively in Pflugerville. Re-elect me so we can see our projects to fruition.

#### **Pflugerville City Council Place 4** choose 1

##### **George Lueck**

**Background:** I have over 30 years experience working as a transportation engineer.

**Education:** Bachelor of Science Texas A&M

Facebook: <http://GeorgeLueck>

**A1:** Successful cities leverage every opportunity possible, whether it be state, federal and county programs available. A key to being ready for opportunities, is to have your master plans up to date



and current. The key to securing federal participation for road projects is to have construction plans ready, environmental clearances, utility relocations and right-of-way clearances complete before applying for federal funds.

To attract new industry, I believe Pflugerville needs to focus on more knowledge based employers that can compete in a global economy.

The biggest challenge that cities face is retaining qualified personnel, a significant investment is made in training new officers. Salaries must be competitive with surrounding cities.

**A2:** Lack of funding, keeping taxes low while still maintaining services within available revenues is probably the biggest challenge facing elected officials. I will work to make Pflugerville as business friendly as possible. There are few hedges against the rising cost of living, but economic growth and the creation of new jobs is of paramount importance.

Another major challenge is maintaining the existing infrastructure in an acceptable manner. I have run a street maintenance department before and faced these challenges as a city staffer. If elected, I will help with condition assessments of streets and work with city staff to look for ways to perform operations more efficiently.

**A3:** I have spent most of my career, designing and overseeing road construction and maintenance in other cities that I do not live in. I have also worked on parks, drainage, water/sewer and transportation master plans. I have lived in Pflugerville for over 23 years, and I have come to the point in my life where I want to draw on experience to help the city I live in. I have seen Pflugerville make so many positive changes in that time, that I now believe that the building blocks are in place for Pflugerville to become an even greater community. I believe that I not only possess the vision to do this, but I have a proven track record of executing successful projects leveraging public and private participation.

##### **Rudy Metayer**

**Background:** Travis Co. ESD Comm. (Pflugerville Fire Dept.) VP, Pflugerville Charter Review Comm., Finance & Budget Comm. Co-Chair, State Bar of Texas Director

**Education:** Univ. of Texas at Austin (B.A. Government & Philosophy) Univ. of Texas School of Law (J.D.) Univ. of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs (MPAff)

Campaign Website: <http://vote4rudy.com>  
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/vote4rudy>

Twitter: [twitter.com/vote4rudy](https://twitter.com/vote4rudy)

**A1:** Job Growth, Transportation, and Pub-



lic Safety may seem to be three independent issues facing Our City and budget, but they are all linked. We prioritize the health and safety of Our citizens and that encompasses making sure that we have a strong and supported police department. To create this, we need to have the tax revenue from local businesses to pay for Department needs so this burden isn't on Our citizens and their property taxes. Therefore, we must create the infrastructure for businesses to come to Pflugerville to spur our job growth. The majority of Our citizens do not work in the City. Having a diversity of businesses here will change this. In doing so, we need to properly build & maintain roadways to allow for business to flourish

**A2:** Our City has become a destination point for people looking for a high quality of life, that is affordable for everyone. To keep this level of quality, we must not only look to elicit businesses that will help diversify our tax base, but also partner with other local taxing entities to maintain or improve our services. Too often these entities operate in silos & don't look at ways to pool tax revenue together for the betterment of the public. When they do work together, great things can happen. Two examples: as VP of the Fire Department, we worked with the Pflugerville School District to help create an Academy to provide students another avenue when they graduate from HS. We also worked with the City to entice Costco to come to Pflugerville.

**A3:** As an active member of Our community, I have been blessed to be involved in Our City on various levels. From being a member of the Steering Committee for the City's Strategic Plan, to also serving on the Commission to help provide direction of the new 1849 Park & Sports Complex, I have a very unique perspective that is shared by few in the community. This viewpoint is based on the various citizens & local officials that I work with on a regular basis. It has helped me to see that everything that is done in Our City is interconnected. From the building of the new Weiss H.S., to the implementation of paramedic services & the roll out of 4 new ambulances by the Fire Dept., nothing is in a silo. I bring this vision of your ideas to the Office.

#### **Point Venture**

##### **Mayor, Village of Point Venture**

choose 1

##### **Dan Deveze**

no response

##### **Jeffrey W. Warneke**

**Background:** From Houston, Texas. Lives in Point Venture Texas. Point Venture City Council 2007 -

2015. Texas Army National Guard 1988 - 2000. AT&T 1999 - Present

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Management - University of Phoenix - 2008  
Masters of Business Administration - University of Phoenix - 2013

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/TheBarefootMayor/>

**A1:** I consider myself to be fiscally conservative. This was evident during my years on city council. As Mayor, I will work with the council members and our constituents to continue to keep our tax dollars working for the community as efficiently as possible. One way of doing this is working with our partner organizations within Point Venture to make best use of our resources.

**A2:** Fortunately Point Venture does not have many pressing issues. That said we still have our issues to address. One issue that faces Point Venture is growth. Point Venture has experienced a spike in new construction over the past 2 - 3 years. We have a unique demographic of retirees, second home owners, and young families that all want to get away from the larger cities and enjoy the lake lifestyle. As Mayor, I hope to help lead our community into finding the perfect balance of lakeside living for everyone. #PointVentureLife

**A3:** I am seeking the office of Mayor of Point Venture because I believe I am best suited to lead our community as we continue to evolve our changing demographics, while maintaining the lifestyle that earned Point Venture the tag line "Where every day is a Holiday".

I have truly enjoyed the last 18 years of owning property, and especially the last 13 plus years of living in Point Venture full time. I want to continue to give back to the community that has given my wife and I so much enjoyment.

##### **Point Venture Council Member**

##### **Donald Conyer**

uncontested

##### **Matthew Meyer**

uncontested