VOTING IN THE 2018 PRIMARY ELECTION

Voter Identification: What To Take To The Polls

Texas requires most voters to show photo ID

The seven forms of approved photo IDs are (must not be expired more than 4 years; for voters age 70 or older no limit on the expiration of the ID):

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; (Note: does not expire)
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:

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

ID address does not have to match voter registration address.

Where to Vote

In Travis and Williamson counties, you may vote at any polling place during early voting and on election day. In Bastrop County, you may vote at any location during early voting, but on election day you must vote in the precinct for your residence. Your precinct number, found on your voter registration card, is used to find your polling place on election day.

To view the ballot based on your residence, you can enter your address at your county’s election website below. Bastrop County polling places can also be found on its website.

Travis County
www.votetravis.com

Williamson County
https://apps.wilco.org/elections/

Bastrop County
www.bastropvotes.org/voter-information-2/voter-lookup

You may bring this voters guide into the voting booth! Mobile devices are prohibited.

What Is a Primary Election?

Primaries are state-level elections that take place prior to a general election (November 6, 2018). Texas utilizes an open primary system. At the primary (March 6, 2018), a voter may choose which party primary ballot (Republican or Democratic) to vote on. Minor parties do not hold primaries; their candidates for the general election are chosen in county and state conventions.

The voter must pledge that he or she will not vote in another party’s primary or convention that year. You may also vote in the runoff election (May 22, 2018) for the party primary you chose to vote in the primary. If you vote in one party’s primary, you do not have to vote for that same party or same candidates in the general election (November 6, 2018).
Q1. Should the federal budget plan in advance for funding disaster relief for catastrophic events, such as hurricanes and flooding? Why or why not?
Q2. What specific reforms, if any, would you propose in health care policy to address the cost and access to health care? Explain.
Q3. What changes, if any, should Congress make in immigration policies? Why?
Q4. What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of Congress, and what is your position on these issues?

Sema Hernandez (D)

Background:
I do not have previous political experience. Instead, I offer a genuinely human approach to fixing our political system. I am a working-class, first-generation American. I can relate to the struggle of working Americans because I’ve lived it.

Education: Career college (healthcare)
Website: http://www.semafortexas.us

A1. Absolutely. By including this in the budget, the federal government will be prepared to handle the needs of impacted people. I live in an area impacted by Hurricane Harvey and have experienced the disaster firsthand. FEMA came to my area and offered disaster relief loans rather than grants. Putting people further into debt is not the answer. This system has to change.

A2. I support single-payer healthcare for all. We are the wealthiest nation in the world that does not guarantee universal healthcare. A single-payer system would put healthcare in the hands of patient and doctor, taking the profit-driven health insurance companies out of the picture. I support single-payer healthcare and H.R. 676 because healthcare is a human right!

A3. Undocumented immigrants in Texas are treated as second-class citizens even though they play a crucial role in our state’s economic vitality. As your senator, I will work to pass legislation that gives undocumented immigrants a clear path to citizenship. I will also push for the simplification of the immigration process and ending immigration waitlists.

A4. I believe that higher education is a right and anyone should be able to attend public colleges and universities tuition-free. I support the decriminalization of marijuana, which could bring in major tax revenue for the state. I believe that our military has grown too bloodthirsty and we should cut the military budget, bring our troops home, and pursue a policy of peace.

Edward Kimbrough (D)
No response

Beto O’Rourke (D)
No response

Ted Cruz (R)
No response

Stefano de Stefano (R)
No response

Bruce Jacobson Jr (R)
No response

Mary Miller (R)

Background:
CPA, Master’s in Accounting and Taxation, over thirty years of business experience while supporting my sailor as he served the USN for 27 years, mother, proud American, and prouder Texan. I work for you, not special interest.

Education: Round Rock High, University of Texas (BS), San Jose State University (MSA and MST)
Website: http://maryusa.org

A1. Absolutely. With the current system, there is little or no control over the process and with emergency appropriation bills, the risk runs high they will contain pork. The solution is an annual budget that adequately funds FEMA’s Disaster Relief Fund (DRF), ensuring the balance carries over as intended rather than budgeting the minimum and consistently failing.

A2. Small businesses are drowning in the Obamacare obligation. And strangling small business isn’t the way to get the economy thriving. History has shown us that a prosperous middle class is the key to economic benefits for everyone. The employee level is too low that demands coverage. Healthcare should be required for over 100 employees rather than 50.

A3. The overlapping of internal investigation offices at U.S. Customs and Border Patrol has exposed a need to centralize their efforts to curb an alarming number of terminations. I am a proponent of DACA. The problem should have been solved years ago and the children are grown, productive taxpayers who need final acceptance into the only home they’ve ever known.

A4. Russia’s tampering with our election cannot go unanswered. Another branch of the military should be formed to counteract cyber threats. We’ve been hacked by China, Russia, and North Korea. The time for action is now.

Geraldine Sam (R)
No response

This Voters Guide is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund and the League of Women Voters Austin Area. Since 1919, helping voters cast an informed vote when they go to the polls has been the primary goal of the League of Women Voters. As a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, the League believes that all of us are stakeholders in making democracy work. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

ABOUT THIS VOTERS GUIDE
This Voters Guide lists candidates in contested races in Travis, Williamson, and Bastrop Counties who are on the March 6 Primary Election ballot and who provide their answers to questions posed by the League of Women Voters of Texas and League of Women Voters Austin Area.

Additional information can be accessed online at www.VOTE411.org including an online Voters Guide, and an “On Your Ballot” feature allowing voters to enter an address and review races and ballot initiatives specific to that address.

This Voters Guide lists candidates for statewide, regional, and local races in Texas.

Due to space restrictions, candidates were given strict word limits. Candidates were also asked to avoid references to their opponents. Candidates appearing with no photo failed to submit one.

ABOUT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan. The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office, or political parties. Any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

DESIGNATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES
These abbreviations are used throughout the Voters Guide to designate candidate political party affiliation:
(R) = Republican Party
(D) = Democratic Party

Voters Guide Editors: Frances McIntyre and Jaci Collins
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Q1. Explain your position on immigration to the U.S. Please address DACA, a pathway to citizenship, and border security.

Q2. What would you do to ensure affordable healthcare access for all citizens?

Q3. Identify three measures you would support that reduce gun violence.

Q4. What policies would you pursue to address safety and inequalities facing women and people of color?

Q5. Do you believe the government has a role in reducing student debt? Why or why not?

Q6. What are your legislative priorities for responding to our changing climate?

Q7. (All districts except for District 21) What other issue do you consider most important and how would you address it?

Q7. (District 21 only) If spending cuts are necessary where would you cut the budget? Please be specific.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 10

Richie DeGrow (D)
Withdrawn

Madeline K. Eden (D)

Background: 15 years Business Management and Software Design experience. 25 years IT Management, Network Security experience.

Education: 15 years Business Management and Software Design experience. 25 years IT Management, Network Security experience.

Website: http://www.edenforcongress.com

A1. I was raised in San Antonio, and have seen first hand the unforgivable damage caused to immigrant families. DACA recipients add almost half a trillion dollars to our GDP, and many have never lived outside the United States. The Dream Act can resolve this issue, so I will support that legislation, and demand permanent protections for our dreamers. All of our immigrants need a realistic pathway to citizenship, and I will fight to make sure they have one. There are cost effective technology solutions available which can secure our borders more efficiently and with fewer resources. Walls are so 1961!

A2. The United States is the richest country in the world without universal healthcare. Sadly, there is no immediate resolution for people currently without coverage. We need to move quickly toward a “Single Payer” or “Medicare for All” solution. This could be accomplished by building from our existing Medicare program and gradually lowering the age requirements, year by year, until all Americans are eligible for benefits. This will effectively stabilize prescription and healthcare costs, streamline the administrative processes, and focus on providing universal healthcare coverage for everyone.

A3. I’m a Texas Democrat with a CHL. However, I support sensible gun laws that secure our 2nd amendment rights while reducing the availability of military style semi-automatic assault weapons. We need to require background checks for all firearms purchases, and close the gun show loophole. We need a universal background check which includes: military crime data, domestic offenders, terrorist watch lists, and people with a history of violent mental illness. We also need to require training certifications for our background check system. I would sponsor legislation supporting any of these measures.

A4. Gender equality, racial equality, and marriage equality are paramount for me. My family has felt the sting from each of these issues directly. Our basic equality and fundamental rights need to be secured by federal laws; and eventually amended in our constitution. Many of our rights are only secured by executive orders and judicial rulings. We need to lay the groundwork for real change on this front. I will advance every opportunity to enact actual change in our system of government, so that those rights will be preserved and enforced under federal law. A vote for me is a vote for equality.

A5. The total outstanding student loan debt in the U.S. is $1.2 trillion. Student debt negatively affects our economy and the government should play an active role in reducing it. When 44 million Americans pay large monthly payments on their outstanding student debt, they have less money to spend, invest, or start a business. The government should not be profiting off of student loans. They should provide opportunities to students for refinancing their loans or have caps on the finance rates for student loans. Employers should be offered incentives to pay off their employees student loans. This …

A6. Immediately addressing the lack of available FEMA funding and disaster relief for areas in District 10 impacted by the recent climate disasters.

Working to ensure federal resources are available for our future disasters (we haven’t seen the end of it here in Texas).

Lobbying our Senators to ratify the Paris Climate Accord. (They can be motivated!)

Sponsoring or authorizing legislation in support of:
- Clean energy sources
- Reduced carbon emissions
- Energy efficient manufacturing standards (and enforcing those we already have)
- Federal codes for energy efficiency
- Improved agriculture standards

A7. Electoral Security—The security of our electoral systems, and voter rolls must be addressed in full force. Our current representation lacks a fundamental understanding of modern technology, and the dangers it presents to our society. Their ignorance has broken our country, diminished our electoral process, and left us vulnerable. I understand the electronic threats, and have a plan to rebuild our electoral infrastructure using a “trust but verify” system and open-source cryptographic technology. It’s time we had an election system with verifiable results, transparency, and accountability.

Matt Harris (D)

Background: Work history includes large companies (IBM, PayPal, FICO) and several small startup companies. Served on

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**A1. Immigration is a complex issue.**

DACA—We need to provide a clean, short path to citizenship for these individuals and stop playing games with their lives.

Broad Policy—We need a system of carrots and sticks to pull participants into a legal framework. Employers must face serious sanctions for violating the rules. Immigrants must be matched with jobs and assured of fair, and equitable treatment if they follow the rules. The rules must include health insurance at the border, payment of taxes, coverage under labor laws, and safe transit of people and money. The wall is absurd.

**A2. There is no free market in medicine and we need to plan accordingly.**

I believe we should build on medicare to ensure universal coverage for all U.S. residents. I am also open to adapting the ACA to make it a truly universal system. I also believe we must do much more in the area of prevention. It should be an outrage to Americans that we do not use the bargaining power of the federal government to contain medication prices. We also need to reform patent laws. They are especially ridiculous as pertains to pharma. I also support the idea floated by the Clinton Foundation to encourage public option that was part of the original proposal for the Affordable Care Act. Private insurers should have some support. We should require employers to pay rules. I don't oppose these, but just don't think they have strong enough effect.

**A5. Yes, but I also believe we need to step up and fund education such that debt is not part of the education process in the first place.**

The Republicans have been executing a long-term strategy to defund education. This must be reversed. I would favor giving young professionals a generous tax credit against student loan payments, perhaps 2:1. Open to ideas on this.

I also believe we need to support young people entering trades, or non-academic professions. Not everyone benefits from college education or wants to take that path. Other paths into trades and professions deserve support too.

**A6. Climate change is one of the most important issues of our time.**

If we do not stop carbon extraction our descendents will face a grim and reduced world.

I support the idea floated by the climate scientist, James Hansen, for taxing carbon extraction and then rebating the funds to every adult in the country. Incentives matter. Those who choose a high carbon footprint will pay much more while people who choose a small carbon footprint will come out ahead.

I also support an expanded role for government research with patent sharing. Alternative fuels through algae and biomass look good.

**A7. 1) Economic opportunity and fairness—Extreme inequality is unnaturally, bad for people, and ultimately bad for business.**

We need to re-align our tax system to shift taxes from work and productive activity and onto natural resource privileges and other forms of monopoly and corporate power.

2) Sustainability—We need incentives to move away from carbon extraction to renewables.

3) Electoral fairness—Gerrymandering must end. I favor an amendment to overturn Citizens United and end corporate personhood. Regulate money flows into politics.

Kevin Nelson (D)

**Background:**

An Austin resident since 1996, I went to graduate school at UT and then worked in publishing. I have recently returned to Austin from California.

**Education:**

B.S., Texas A&M; graduate work at University of Texas at Austin; PhD, Stanford University

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

**A1. Immigration is part of America’s foundation and has always been a source of strength for us.**

In view of that, I will stand up for legal, properly regulated immigration by those who can contribute to our country. I also support DACA. Law-abiding residents who came here as young children should not have to worry about deportation. At the same time, we should maintain border security. A “wall” is the wrong way to go about that, but fair and consistent enforcement must be part of our border policy.

**A2. This is one of the most important issues we face as a nation.**

I believe we should build on the Affordable Care Act instead of undermining it. I support Medicaid expansion, and the federal government should provide further incentives for states to participate in that expansion. I also support the public option that was part of the original proposal for the Affordable Care Act. Private insurers should have some more competition.

**A3. First, we should expand background checks to cover all purchasers and sellers of guns.**

Second, those background checks should be set up to prevent anyone from purchasing a gun who has been convicted of offenses such as stalking. Third, significant training should be required in order to obtain a concealed-carry permit. Although that third measure is primarily an issue for individual states, the federal government should at least stay out of the way by not demanding that states accept each other’s permits.

**A4. I would like to live in a country where everyone feels safe, and where opportunity is available to everyone.**

There is a lot of work we need to take towards that goal, and there are literally hundreds of specific steps Congress could take. Here are a few that I support. We should require employers to offer paid parental leave. We should prohibit employers from demanding that discrimination and harassment complaints be taken to arbitration rather than to court. And we should give tax relief to working people by shifting more of the tax burden onto those most able to afford it.

**A5. Yes, absolutely. First of all, there should be more government support for students so that there is less need for them to take on debt. Specifically, I would support extending the Pell Grant program. Secondly, those who are experiencing significant hardship (for example due to health problems) should be more easily able to discharge student-loan debt in bankruptcy proceedings.

**A6. Energy conservation will not only help the environment; it will also help our economy and national security in the long run.**

We should strengthen fuel economy standards, encourage public transportation, and develop alternative energy sources such as wind and solar energy.

**A7. We need new people in Washington, but just as importantly we need new processes.**

Gridlock and inaction have produced frustration across the whole country. The congressional leadership should not have such an easy time blocking legislation favored by a majority of members. I also believe campaign-finance reform is important, including better regulation of so-called super PACs. Finally, I strongly support abolition of the electoral college. The people should choose their President.

Mike Siegel (D)

**Background:**

Public school teacher; Teachers’ union representative; Executive director of nonprofit education agency; Civil rights lawyer; Assistant City Attorney...
We should fund programs to address violence and harassment and work to eradicate human trafficking. To address inequalities facing people of color, we should implement educational and criminal justice reforms—including ending the school-to-prison pipeline. We should also increase the availability of credit and small business loans in traditionally under served communities.

### A5. Yes. At nearly $1.4 trillion, student debt is now the second-largest source of household debt. This debt makes it more difficult for people to stay out of poverty and prevents people from buying homes. It is a symptom of high tuition, decreased funding for public education, predatory for-profit colleges, unfinished degrees, and poor job prospects with low wages. The federal government should promote income-contingent low or no interest loan repayment options, expand service-oriented loan forgiveness programs, and limit lending at for-profit schools with poor student-outcome records.

### A6. The Clean Power Plan should be implemented. The plan is focused on reducing emissions from coal burning power plants, and increasing the use of renewable energy and conservation. Congress should provide tax incentives for carbon capture, use, and storage. Infrastructure investments can reduce emissions and improve resilience to climate impacts. Congress should fund international programs to help other countries reduce carbon emissions. The U.S. should also implement a carbon fee and dividend program, with an international trade component to encourage climate friendly consumer choices.

### A7. Voter suppression and money in politics. I would enact campaign finance reform to prevent corporations and special interests from buying election results and influencing the votes of lawmakers. I support federal legislation to prevent the disenfranchisement of minority voters such as automatic voter registration when obtaining a state issued ID, adequate polling locations, expansion of early voting and the prevention of the purging of voter rolls immediately prior to elections. I support non-partisan redistricting commissions in all states and measures to prevent cyber interference in elections.

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**Education:** B.A., Comparative Literature, Brandeis University; Teaching Credential, California State University—East Bay; J.D., Cornell Law School

**Website:** [http://www.siegelfortexas.org](http://www.siegelfortexas.org)

**A1.** Immigrants enrich our culture, strengthen our economy, and make the United States a better place. Republicans look at taxingpaying, law-abiding, loving and productive members of society and call them criminals, just because they're trying to build a better life for their families. My commitment will be to ensure a fair immigration system that provides a clear path to legal status for contributing members of our community. I support the DREAM Act and reforms that allow families to stay together. I oppose the border wall as a wasteful and divisive measure that will do nothing to make Texas safer.

**A2.** I support the “Medicare for All” bill proposed by Senator Bernie Sanders. Healthcare is a human right. Without healthcare, we cannot succeed economically; we cannot support our families; we cannot plan for the future because we are always on the precipice of economic and personal ruin. I am ashamed that I am a citizen of the wealthiest country on this planet but that we cannot guarantee a basic level of care for every single resident. Until we establish a universal system, I will fight to protect the Affordable Care Act, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and similar essential programs.

**A3.** I draw the line at the difference between civilian and military hardware. I believe in the right of self-defense, and the right to own firearms for that purpose; I also believe that folks who want to hunt animals with shotguns or rifles should be able to do so. But we need to draw the line at high-powered rifles that shoot far more bullets per minute than is necessary to protect a home or kill a deer. I support immediate efforts to take these military weapons out of public circulation. I will support background checks, mental health checks, and prohibitions on unregulated gun show sales.

**A4.** Establishing universal healthcare will advance gender equity and racial equality: the lack of healthcare is a tremendous limiting factor for many communities. I support pay equity legislation like the Paycheck Fairness Act to provide mechanisms to hold employers accountable and support women as they negotiate for better wages. I support criminal justice reform, including an end to the War on Drugs and dramatic reform to the system of pretrial detention. I will pursue efforts to strengthen the Voting Rights Act including: an end to felony disenfranchisement; and automatic voter registration.

**A5.** Yes. The bedrock of democracy is equal opportunity; our aspirations in life should not be limited by the economic status of our families. Unfortunately, the U.S. system of higher education has been captured by the same forces of finance capital that drive increased credit card debt and home loan debt. The federal government should intervene to regulate private student loans—in particular loans paid to for-profit institutions—and demand loan forgiveness or reductions in many cases. Further the government should increase guarantees that all Americans can access higher education.

**A6.** The fight to mitigate climate change is one of the most important struggles of our time. On the regulatory side, I will fight to strengthen the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and similar laws. We must decrease reliance on fossil fuels and increase renewable energy. On the appropriations side, I will support mass transit and clean renewable energy, and full funding of EPA enforcement programs. We must invest in urban rail and high speed rail. We must also ensure that workers in fossil fuel industries are supported as they transition to new employment.

**A7.** I support an immediate repeal of the 2017 “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act,” which effectively set up the transfer of one trillion dollars from working people and government programs to the wealthiest Americans. This repeal is urgently necessary or else the tax cuts will likely be used to justify austerity programs including attacks on Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. More broadly speaking, we must restore balance to federal taxation policies, which currently facilitate the increasing gap between rich and poor. America is a wealthy country, and we should all share in its economic prosperity.

**Tami Walker (D)**

**Background:** I am a business attorney, with 28 years of legal experience in different industries related to energy and infrastructure.

**Education:** B.S. in Accounting from Southwestern Oklahoma State University (1986) and a J.D. from University of Texas (1989)

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

**A1.** I support D.A.C.A. Immigration is vital to the U.S. economy—more visas should be issued where there are labor shortages; migrant workers should be protected from wage abuses; and undocumented residents need a reasonable path to citizenship. While we must enforce reasonable immigration laws, we need to stop spending $2B per year on private detention centers that are financially incented to hold people when more cost effective alternatives are available. These centers lack transparency and are rife with abuse. A border wall would hurt the environment and landowners. We should increase drone use.

**A2.** First and foremost, we should immediately protect Medicaid programs serving vulnerable children, adults with special needs, and the elderly, and we should fund Planned Parenthood to make women’s and prenatal care more accessible. Then, I believe we should adopt a single payer Medicare System for all. I would also support negotiated prices on imported prescription drugs to reduce cost and legislation specifically targeted to sustain rural hospitals and rural emergency services which are disappearing.

**A3.** 1) Authorize funds for the CDC to study gun violence; 2) Close loopholes that allow people to obtain guns without a comprehensive background check that includes domestic violence, like internet and gun show purchases; and 3) Make people on the no-fly list ineligible to purchase guns.

**A4.** We should close the gender pay gap with the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would make wages more transparent, put greater requirements on employers to justify wage discrepancies, and prohibit retaliation. We should fund programs to address violence and harassment and work to eradicate human trafficking. To address inequalities facing people of color, we should implement educational and criminal justice reforms—including ending the school-to-prison pipeline. We should also increase the availability of credit and small business loans in traditionally under served communities.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS: VOTERS GUIDE—PRIMARY ELECTION 2018
NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 10 (continued)

Tawana Walter-Cadien (D)

Background:
I am a Public Administrator, and RN Health Care Educator committed to serving, and advocating for citizens across CD10 and the United States.

Education: Executive Masters in Public Administration/Texas Southern University; Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing/ Prairie View A&M University

Website: http://www.tawanacadienforcongress.com

A1. The United States of America has for centuries opened its doors to immigrants in search of a better life. The attempt to dismantle DACA and the individuals and families that are a part of this program, is not only non reflective of America’s history of being immigrant friendly, but is cruel. Many of those on the verge of being deported have established employment, and are vital parts of the communities in which they live. I will fight against dismantling DACA, and for a clear pathway to citizenship. Border security must not be intentionally used as a bargaining tool for DACA discussions.

A2. As a Registered Nurse and Public Administrator, I know that affordable and accessible healthcare is pivotal for survival. I will continue to fight for healthcare for all. It is because of healthcare being under attack that I began my run for Congress in 2012. I saw that the citizens rights to affordable healthcare was being utilize as a bargaining tool of party politics. Texas at the time had the highest number of uninsured citizens. I did not wait to try to change what was happening, but I ran full speed ahead. Your help in electing me to Congress will assure an advocate for healthcare.

A3. Death and injury by gun violence is on the rise seemingly on a daily basis. We must make a change in gun laws. This starts with the U.S. Congress. Several measures should be in place, including but not limited to:
- Limitations on contributions by lobbyists and the NRA.
- Extensive background checks including mental health checks.
- Ban on access to assault weapons. Parents of the children killed at Sandy Hook Elementary were not even able to allow their children to be viewed due to their bodies being blown up by assault weapons. This must stop. Gun violence has taken the lives of too many.
- As a woman and African American, I have first hand experience in facing inequality. Women and people of color are integral contributors to the very fiber of America, yet they are constantly voted against. I will be their voice Congress. I will legislate bills that support causes for women and minorities including:
  - Measures to eliminate strongholds in voter access
  - Bills eliminating tactics and restrictions to capital for entrepreneurship
  - Increased funding for research and resources for diseases specific to women and minorities
  - Bills eliminating gender and race based wage gaps.

A5. The government has a role in reducing student debt because laws must be put in place that limit unscrupulous lending institutions from taking advantage of students, and institutions of higher learning. I will legislate and support bills that reflect a tuition free option for American students. An investment into the American student is an investment into our future. The fact is, these young people will lead this country soon. Many that hold the key to cures for cancer, Alzheimer’s and heart disease will be unable to attend college due to financial constraints. I will advocate for them.

A6. Education is key in addressing climate change. We must have an open conversation where true understanding is gained. I will press for legislation that incorporates the human impact on the climate beginning at the elementary school level. If children are taught at early age on how to preserve and nurture the planet, we will see remarkable changes within the next decade. Education on all levels is important, as the distinction between climate and weather changes is needed. I will also support and press bills that call for a reduction in fossil fuels, and limitations on chemical releases.

A7. Protecting Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP are extremely important to me. Seniors, children, and those that are disabled stand to lose so much if true advocates are not elected into Congress. I will fight to protect all of these programs. People will literally die due to the proposed cuts. Seniors already on fixed incomes should not have to face additional cuts when they already have so many limitations. Parents of disabled children and caregivers of disabled adults should not have to live in peril. I will take your voices to Capitol Hill. When I go, you go.

John W. Cook (R)

No response

Michael T. McCaul (R)

No response

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 17

Rick Kennedy (D)

Background:
I am the father of three. I have had a 32+ year career in software development and IT. I have held management/leadership positions for 25 years.

Education: Bachelor of Science, Computer Science, The Pennsylvania State University

Website: http://rickkennedyforcongress.com

A1. We must provide undocumented immigrants with a just pathway to legitimacy and citizenship. For DACA recipients, Congress must immediately pass a clean Dream Act.

Other undocumented residents should have a 3-part approach:
1. Provide the 11 million undocumented immigrants path to legal permanent residency and citizenship similar to DACA. 2. Use technology to enable a new and streamlined immigration policy. 3. Leverage technology to improve enforcement. We don’t need a physical wall on the southern border. We must also crack down on employers who exploit undocumented labor.

A2. Access to healthcare is seen in our society as a right, not a privilege. I support universal healthcare. We must:
1. Immediately stabilize the ACA by funding cost-sharing subsidies, enrollment outreach and support services, and by restoring the full length open enrollment period; 2. Allow Medicare to negotiate the price of prescription drugs; 3. Add a public option to the available insurance options; 4. Progressively roll back the 1943 IRS decision exempting employee withholdings paid towards health insurance from payroll taxes; 5. Progressively lower the age of eligibility for Medicare

A3. Assault weapons are not designed for target shooting or hunting. They are designed to kill the largest number of people in the shortest period of time possible.

Children in classrooms do not deserve to be killed. People at concerts do not deserve to be killed.

We must:
1. Ban all bump stocks or other modifications that convert weapons to fully automatic; 2. Strengthen background checks on all gun purchases; 3. Require legitimate safety courses for all gun purchases and require a minimum of 7 days between purchase and possession.

These measures will help keep guns out of the wrong hands.

A4. We must implement criminal justice reform, specifically eliminating for-profit prisons. We must invest in proactive community policing. We must increase the minimum wage to a living wage standard. We must Amend or replace the Equal Pay Act with an enforceable law that will guarantee pay equity for women. We must provide access to quality affordable childcare so that families do not have to choose to have a family member leave the work force—a choice that disproportionately impacts women. We must make college affordable and accessible to all to encourage social mobility.

A5. Yes. The cost of college has increased at a far greater rate than average household incomes. States have cut support of public institutions resulting in significant increases in tuition and fees. As a result, Americans currently bear between $1.4 and $1.5 trillion in student loans.

It is critically important to make college more affordable and available to those who choose to attend. Making college affordable for those in households in the lowest 25% income increases economic and social mobility and decreases income inequality.
I have an extensive epidemiologist. The United States should rejoin and ratify the Paris Climate Agreement to reassert our leadership in this space. Additionally, we should retool the National Flood Insurance Program entirely to anticipate sea level rise, discourage building and/or rebuilding in flood-prone areas, and charge premiums that accurately reflect the risk associated with properties in vulnerable areas.

Money must be put in the hands of people who need to buy things, but can’t. We should have a $15/hour minimum wage.

I consider the slowing of social mobility and the vast rise in income inequality to be the most damaging issue we face in the United States today.

We should revisit the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and rework it to craft a revenue-neutral bill that will preserve some of the provisions for corporate tax cuts, put money in the hands of consumers who are currently constrained in their purchasing, and reduce or eliminate immediate tax cuts for the upper 10%.

Dale Mantey (D)

Background: I have an extensive background in public health, from direct field work to program supervisor to epidemiologist.

Education: BA History—Angelo State University BA Psychology—Angelo State University MPA—Texas State University PhD—University of Texas (in progress)

Website: http://www.DaleForTexas.com

A1. Pass the DREAM Act. DREAMers are our neighbors and colleagues. We are stronger with them here.

Develop a roadmap to citizenship. Immigrants are part of our community and contribute to our economy. It is time we have a rational discussion about a roadmap to citizenship.

Modernize the immigration application process. We need an immigration process that gives an answer in months—not decades.

Enforce employment laws. We cannot overhaul our immigration system as long as businesses are able to get away with labor exploitation, wage theft, and unfit working conditions.

First, we will create a public option available to all citizens. This will keep insurance companies from price gouging customers.

Next, you—not your employer—will pick your insurance company. We will continue to pay health benefits, you will pick your insurance company. This will drive down prices as insurance companies compete for your business in a transparent market.

Medicare will negotiate prescription drug prices. Pharmaceutical companies will no longer be able to price gouge our seniors and tax payers.

We will lift the ban on researching gun violence. We will establish a domestic violence prevention task force that provides every city, county, and state law enforcement agency with the resources needed to stop intimate partner violence. And we will close the gun show loophole.

We must promote health and wellness for all women. Access to contraception, annual well-woman exams, and preventative screenings must be protected. Simply put, we cannot allow employers, insurance companies, or politicians to come between a woman and her doctor. I will oppose any legislation that is counter to these principles.

Further, we must decriminalize marijuana. A disproportionate number of minorities, particularly males, are currently incarcerated for non-violent drug offenses. This has disastrous impacts on communities, particularly communities of color.

Yes, we must take an active role in reducing student debt. Student debt is crippling the economic growth of young entrepreneurs, recent graduates, and small businesses. Instead of putting money into our local economy and supporting small business, recent graduates are living paycheck to paycheck—paying $100s or $1,000s a month in student debt.

The economic future of our nation—of our middle class—depends on reducing student debt.

Climate change is real. I will fight to keep us on track to reduce carbon emissions nationwide—and globally.

Responding to climate change cannot be done purely by focusing on the United States. We must use our economic and political strength to reduce carbon emissions in high pollution nations such as China and India.

We can reduce carbon emissions worldwide by including requirements for environmental protections in all future trade deals.

We must stand up for our democracy. This means expanding the Voting Rights Act, ending gerrymandering, establishing term limits, and getting dark money out of politics. I have a platform on all of these topics and I refuse to take PAC money. We cannot expect true change in our government for as long as corporate interests can buy political influence.

Bill Flores (R)

Unopposed

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 21

Derrick Crowe (D)


Education: 2002 Texas Tech University graduate with a B.A. in political science

Website: http://electcrowe.com

A1. I strongly oppose the Trump administration’s attack on DACA protections for Dreamers, and support a clean Dream Act. I support whistleblower visas to allow workers to report abuses without fear of retaliation and expanding parole-in-place policies. I am a firm supporter of a pathway to citizenship. I strongly oppose President Trump’s outrageous plan to build a wall on the southern border as well as attempts to tie local law enforcement to immigration enforcement. We need increased funds for Customs and Border Patrol oversight and training and a stronger internal affairs office at CBP.

A2. I am a firm supporter of Medicare for All, single-payer health care, and the right of all Americans to health care, so much so that I went to jail in protest the last time the GOP tried to kick millions of people off of insurance by repealing the ACA. Congress must also reauthorize CHIP immediately and reject the Trump administration’s plan to tie work requirements to Medicaid. I’d fight to bring drug companies to the negotiating table using the buying power of Medicaid while also pursuing anti-trust enforcement against health care conglomerates to ensure pricing competition.

A3. 1) I support universal background checks for all gun sales. 2) I would undertake vigorous oversight regarding Defense Department reporting systems that failed to flag the Sutherland Springs shooter for his prior offenses—which under current law would have prevented him from buying the weapons he used. 3) I would push for legislation to ensure shooters cannot obtain high-capacity magazines far in excess of the clips carried by law enforcement.

I would add a fourth measure to this list: I would push for a federal law making “straw man” transactions a federal offense.

A4. I support equal pay in the workplace among genders and would push a federal law to that effect. I also support paid parental leave and paid sick leave, period. I would fight GOP attempts to defund women’s health care and VAWA programs.

Much of the injustice visited on people of color is found in the war on drugs, which I want to end by decriminalizing possession of small amounts of illicit substances (less than a gram). Drug addiction is a health crisis, not a criminal issue, and it should be treated as such. I also support the demilitarization of law enforcement and an end to money bail.

A5. The government absolutely has a role to play in reducing student debt given that Congress has allowed profiteering to take place at student expense in the first place. The crushing debt loads carried by graduates today represents a huge boondoggle for Wall Street and a huge drag on individual economic freedom. I support College for All (tuition-free public colleges and universities) paid for by a Wall Street financial speculation tax. I would end the government practice of making billions in profit off of student loan programs and allow the renegotiation of interest rates.
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 21

Derrick Crowe (D) (continued)

A6. We must immediately take action to reduce our carbon emissions to net-zero by 2035. That means we must affirm our commitments to the targets set in the Paris Agreement, commit to a national carbon budget, require federal agencies go carbon-free by 2035, impose a carbon-fee-and-dividend system and a green transition carbon fee to fund electric vehicle technology; assist states in preparing for the onset of climate change while helping them and local municipalities get off of fossil fuels; end fossil fuel subsidies and convert them to electric vehicle incentives; and ban fossil fuel exploration.

A7. The first step to assuring responsible budgeting is to return to regular order budgeting and end Congress’ reliance on continuing resolutions and omnibus legislation. The breakdown of regular order has allowed a growing number of programs to operate with expired authorizations, a sure sign that Congress is failing to ensure efficient and effective use of taxpayer dollars.

Second, I would end emergency funding for so-called “overseas contingency operations” and put Pentagon spending firmly back in the regular budgeting process.

Joseph Kopser (D)

Background:

Joseph Kopser is a 20-year Army veteran, technology entrepreneur, and father of three daughters running in the Democratic Primary for TX-21.

Education: United States Military Academy, 1993; Harvard Kennedy School of Government, 2002

Website: http://www.kopserforcongress.com

A1. I will be a strong supporter of comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship. In the short-term, I remain hopeful that Democrats in Congress will stay resilient and united in getting a clean DACA bill passed. In the long-term, I will focus on being a part of a solution that keeps families together, streamlines the immigration process, creates a pathway to citizenship, and addresses the needs of both low-skill and high-skill employers that cannot currently find enough employees to fill available jobs.

A2. I will fight to ensure coverage for all, regardless of employment status or income level, and I’ll work to close the disparities in both the system’s costs relative to the quality of care Americans receive and the vast gap in coverage that separates the wealthiest Americans from everyday citizens. You can see specifics at www.kopserforcongress.com/my-values/health-care-for-all/

A3. The leadership of the National Rifle Association has developed into little more than a hired bull for gun manufacturers. NRA lobbyist Wayne LaPierre and his ilk bully Republican members of Congress into a corner, and it is unacceptable. In Congress, I will work towards common-sense solutions like re-instituting the assault weapons ban, universal background checks &no-fly/no-buy, and protect state-supremacy on gun safety laws. You can read more specifics at https://kopserforcongress.com/my-values/gun-safety/

A4. For too long, too many politicians in Congress have treated the constitutional rights, economic opportunity, access to healthcare, and societal status of communities referenced in the question as a bargaining chip in negotiation. In Congress, my bedrock support for these communities: their health, their opportunity, their choice, and their freedom will never be a bargaining chip. It will be a foundational principle on which I base my representation of Texas 21 and my votes on complex legislation. You can read more specifics at https://kopserforcongress.com/my-values/womens-health-opportunity/

A5. Absolutely. A system is which a college degree is a prerequisite to entering today’s economy—and thousands of dollars in student debt is a prerequisite to obtaining the degree—is immoral. Americans should have universal access to a post-high school education without it leading to five-figure debt accounts, and graduates who already have amassed this debt need viable options for loan forgiveness or discharge.

A6. Climate change is real and scientists globally accept that emission of carbon dioxide through human consumption of fossil fuels is its principal contributing cause. A stable climate is a critical underpinning of quality of life and sustaining that stability—while exploring leadership solutions for a less stable climate—are at the core of my energy policies. These include: investing in wind/solar, following the Pentagon’s lead in investing in energy efficiency; carbon pricing & rebates; and 3rd party financing. You can read more at https://kopserforcongress.com/my-values/climate-energy/

A7. I would start by seeking cuts to defense spending. In particular, I would look for places to innovate by engaging the Department of Defense to propose cuts in areas that have proven redundant or unnecessary in the context of today’s national security landscape. This emulates work I did building the Defense Energy Summit—https://events.techconnect.org/DTCFall/. Further, I would look to areas where the federal government is subsidizing large corporations that no longer need federal investment—such as oil and gas exploration tax credits, for example.

Elliott McFadden (D)

Background:

Former Executive Director of Travis County Democratic Party—Leader of efforts to create Healthcare District and pass housing bonds

Education: Bachelors of Arts in Government, University of Texas at Austin

Website: http://mcfaddenfortx21.com

A1. I believe our highest priority on immigration is passing a clean Dream Act so the 800,000 American and 124,000 Texas Dreamers can have the security of a certain future. These undocumented immigrants brought to America as children only know the U.S. as their home and are contributing to our communities. On a broader scale, I would like to see a pathway to citizenship for law abiding undocumented residents. I oppose the building of a border wall and want to see our border security focus on proven, effective measures to control immigration.

A2. I am proposing a Medicare for All program as one of my key initiatives to address access to healthcare. I believe healthcare is a right, not a privilege. I have personally seen too many families and individuals bankrupted by unexpected healthcare costs, a reality over 4 million Texans face. I want to see eligibility to enroll in Medicare opened up to all Americans and expand access to Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program for all Americans who cannot afford the Medicare premium or private insurance.

A3. There are three policies with wide public support I will fight for to reduce gun violence. First, we have to close background check loopholes including requiring background checks at gun shows and personal sales as well as re-instituting the ban on sales to the mentally ill. We also need to ban high capacity clips, bump stocks, and assault weapons. Finally, we need good science to understand the problem better, and I support the use of CDC research dollars in finding the effective solutions to gun violence.

A4. I want to make sure our Justice Department pursues any cases of racial profiling in policing, and profit should never be a motive in taking away someone’s civil rights so we have to get out of the private prison business. We also need to reform our drug laws which, disproportionately affect people of color, by decriminalizing drug use and focusing on treatment instead. One of the ways I want to see us address pay inequity for women is to require paid family leave so women have the flexibility to work and advance while being able to deal with family illnesses.

A5. Yes, I believe crushing, life-long student debt is one of the greatest economic challenges of our generation, and I support debt relief programs for those to take on highly needed jobs like teachers and nurses as well as debt restructuring for everyone. We need to expand our investment in public education to meet the 21st century demand. One of my signature programs is to provide free tuition at public universities, community colleges, and trade schools, and I have provided a way we can pay for it with our current education budget and small increase on the tax on the top 1% of earners.

A6. Climate change presents one of the ways I want to see us address pay inequity for women is to require paid family leave so women have the flexibility to work and advance while being able to deal with family illnesses.
funded attacks on legitimate research. I am proposing a real infrastructure bill that focuses on investment in green energy and transit, and I support carbon cap and trade proposals that allow us to realize the indirect cost of carbon on our environment.

A7. One of the areas of spending I want to see reprioritized is our massive defense budget. I do not think the need to fight two WWII size theaters of war simultaneously nor is a massive nuclear arsenal needed in our current world. We must avoid wars of choice that drive this spending, and defense spending should be reduced to focus on a more nimble force to face the threat of terrorism. We should focus our dollars to influence foreign policy by investing in development projects with other countries so the world sees us as partners, not invaders.

Mary Street Wilson (D)

Background: Mathematics professor and educator for 20 years. Currently, I pastor a small congregation in Cedar Park.


Website: http://electmarywilson.com

A1. I believe congress should pass a clean DACA act immediately. I also believe we need a complete revamping of our immigration policies. When a person attempts to immigrate here legally, following our system is nearly impossible, and those who succeed often persevere for 15–20 years. For those who can afford to wade through the process, I applaud them. For others who do not have the financial means or who come here in fear of their lives or their children’s lives, we need to find a better way.

A2. We have models that are already in place—medicare, healthcare for govt employees, the military. We have the knowledge and means to implement a universal healthcare system and we should. There is freedom and security in knowing we will not face bankruptcy due to medical bills. When I was in college I worked at a local emergency room. Everyone was treated, but not everyone could pay. The hospital, as hospitals continue to do today, simply raise rates for those who can pay to make up the difference. We all pay for health care, but right now we do it in the most inefficient manner possible.

A3. 1. Close the gun show loophole; 2. Background checks; 3.1. Ban bump stocks; 3.2. Waiting period. In Texas, a shotgun wedding would require a three day waiting period, not because it takes three days to apply to get a gun, but because it takes three days in order for the wedding certificate to become valid. If we can require couples to wait 3 days to get married, we can require people to wait at least 24 hours before receiving a gun.

A4. 1. Vote for women. 2. Hire women. 3. Prohibit those accused of domestic violence from purchasing a gun without a background check.

A5. I think we need to end the “for profit” nature of student loans. They have become an albatross around the necks of graduates and prevent them from participating in the larger economy. To that end, we need to implement a debt forgiveness program and at the very least put a cap on the interest rate of new loans.

A6. 1. On a local scale, promote sustainable resources—wind and solar are particularly viable for the congressional district 21. Texas currently produces the most wind energy in the US. There’s no reason we shouldn’t continue to take advantage of this natural resource.

2. On a global scale support UN-REDD. According to their research “Deforestation and forest degradation account for approximately 17 percent of carbon emissions, more than the entire global transportation sector and second only to the energy sector.” Clearly, we need a multifaceted approach and we need global cooperation.

A7. Although cutting the budget sounds appealing, we also have to remember we want good roads, bridges, schools, healthcare, educated diplomats, etc.

More than cuts, I would like to see us examine where money is being left out of the current tax system.

For instance, we know from the Panama papers that off shore accounts are a means to evade taxes. The New York Times estimates the loss is near $70 Billion in tax revenue. Secondly, salaries and wages are taxed at a higher rate than investment income. I would like to see a graduated tax rate increase on investment income.

Ivan Andarza (R)

No response

Eric Burkhart (R)

Background: Retired CIA Operations Officer Former INS Immigration Agent Author, “Mukhabarat, Baby!” Retired Urban Planner, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Geography/Urban Planning- Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas US INS Immigration Academy, Glynn County, Georgia

Website: http://www.Burkhart2018.com

A1. Our nation is only as safe as the weakest part of our border. As a former Intelligence Agent and honor graduate from the Immigration Academy, my experience with Immigration issues has proven invaluable during my careers in both INS and the CIA. One of the most pressing and emotional Immigration issues needing resolution is the question of status for undocumented persons brought into the US by their parents. I support the option of providing Legal Permanent Resident status, but only if the option to petition for parents is removed. We must never reward people for breaking our laws.

A2. I support Rand Paul’s proposal to replace Obamacare, which includes a tax credit of up to $5000 per person to be used as a Health Savings Account to pay for care. Paul’s plan would abolish many of the elements of Obamacare, including the mandate for minimum standards, which allow for cheaper, less comprehensive plans. This plan proposes a two-year period where people with pre-existing conditions can get coverage; afterwards, those persons would be protected as long as they kept coverage. It keeps the exclusion of employer sponsored plans from taxation, and adds a tax deduction for insurance.

A3. As a society, we need to identify the root causes of violence, not just aggression that involves the use of a firearm. A vehicle, a knife, or a baseball bat can be just as deadly a weapon. How do we reduce violence in our communities? We must aggressively promote the idea of responsibility to young people, and the value of the family unit. We must do a better job supporting both Law Enforcement and First Responders, so that honest, caring, dedicated folks continue to get involved with these dangerous jobs. We need to stop supporting Hollywood and its endless stream of violent movies.

A4. The issue of discrimination and inequality is not limited to race and gender. Persons of a certain weight, appearance, and socio-economic background can also be subject to dangerous work environments and discrimination. The key to this issue, and others that burden our country, begins at childhood, and directly involves the obligations of both parenting and good schools. We need to spend less time focused on “inequalities” and celebrate the things we share, especially our faith. We must unshackle the power of faith, because it is the ultimate equalizer. We are all equal in the eyes of God.

A5. Currently, the government provides a number of options to address student loan debt. These include Teacher Loan Forgiveness, Public Service Loan Forgiveness, Income Driven Repayment, Military Service and AmeriCorps. These programs are worthy, well-meaning opportunities for the government to assist with this problem. While I support the programs already in existence, I don’t believe we need to add any additional options. I support the government creating programs that assist with eventual repayment in full. The taxpayer deserves a good-faith effort to repay borrowed money.

A6. Congress should convene a study of this issue, and include only US scientists, climatologists, meteorologists, and related specialists and researchers. To date, although American researchers have been involved, the climate change data that gets disseminated originates in Europe, or is sponsored, funded or controlled by the UN or European sources. We must address this issue from a national perspective, involving our universities, our research facilities and our renowned academics and climatologists. I believe in an American definition of the problem, and an American solution.
**Government Regulation to allow for a Free Market system with limited prevention of preventable diseases. I would be for a Health Care Act that educates on how to respect the US taxpayer.**

**Eric Burkhart (R) (continued)**

A7. During my government service, I saw a tremendous amount of waste. We must convene a civilian audit of the GSA. Each time we assign a government audit of any time, we end up just wasting more money. We must make Congress more transparent, so Members are shamed into giving up pork and the never-ending list of entitlements. Congress must have the courage to say no to taxpayer-funded gender-reassignment surgery for convicted traitors. Every government agency should be given the opportunity to cut spending, otherwise the cuts will be made for them. DC must re-learn how to respect the US taxpayer.

**Francisco “Quico” Canseco (R)**

No response

**Mauro Garza (R)**

**Background:**

Mauro Garza, Native, 4th Gen, President/CEO of two Companies. Resident (San Antonio) of TX 21 for 27 years is a Republican Conservative.

**Education:** Master of Science, University of Texas @ San Antonio, emphasis Neurophysiology.

**Website:** http://maurogarzaforcongress.com

A1. My position is to enforce Immigration Laws and border security first. My position is to phase out to the point of elimination a program such as DACA that has occurred because of Immigration Laws not being enforced. We do not want our future generations to have to deal with an issue such as this. The path to citizenship for those in the current DACA should also include the consequences for those that are not currently or do not currently identify as DACA. If, and only if, there will be a compromise for the DACA, it must be with the end in mind.

A2. I would introduce a Prevention Health Care Act that educates on how to limit the insurmountable amounts of preventable diseases. I would be for a Free Market system with limited Government Regulation to allow competition so that premiums can fluctuate. I would be sure our Veterans and our Elderly will also be afforded healthcare access in an equal, free-market, high-quality healthcare arena.

A3. 1. Allow responsible individuals the freedom to bear arms. 2. Ensure visitors, Non-US residents do not bear arms in our country and 3. Educate and increase programs for the safe and responsible use of weapons.

A4. The policies I would pursue are largely in terms of Education. Those behaviors just do not need to be taught. I pursue other policies to address safety and inequalities when it applies to all Americans. One group should not have more protections than another. We all have the exact same protections. But, we may need to do a better job in terms of Education.

A5. No. It is a contract. I also feel, that individuals have a choice to travel a vocational path. We have a great need for those that choose not to attend college. This would be where the future small businesses of America will come from.

A6. My legislative priorities for responding to our changing climate for the US to balance its budget first. Just like in Texas, we require a balanced budget. Then, we can explore, renewable energies to keep a balanced budget and to reduce our impact on our climate. This will allow us to respond better to disasters whether due to climate change or not.

A7. I would first seek to cut budgets with the Department of Education, the EPA and many others to streamline them and make them more efficient.

**Foster Hagen (R)**

**Background:**

– New breed Thomas Jeffersonian conservative; – Believes in the liberty of constituents in this district; – Created many jobs in the oil & gas industry

**Education:** Petroleum Land Management University of Texas at Austin

**Website:** http://fosterhagen.com

A1. I think we have to secure the border, but I don’t automatically think that immigrants are bad people. I think quite the opposite. I think that most immigrants come to this nation seeking the American dream.

Immigrants already in the country would be required to register with the government, pay a fine, and after 10 years of registration as a provisional immigrant, apply for a green card status for three years and then apply for citizenship.

“Dreamers” DACA would all be phased in over five years, 20% each year, years one through five.

A2. I would dramatically expanded health savings accounts with a larger tax free contribution to those accounts.

I would also greatly expand competition and choice in the healthcare arena and expand association health plans and allow individuals to purchase insurance through non-traditional groups. In theory, any person who wanted to purchase group insurance would have the opportunity to do so.

I would also legalize the purchase of insurance across state lines, challenging the insurance cartels and overzealous state regulators.

A3. Existing laws must be enforced. There are approximately 80,000 background check denials every year and only 500 prosecutions.

I’m an advocate of shifting the prosecution of illegal gun possession to federal court. This enhances sentencing to 5 or 10 years depending on federal law.

Prosecutors across the country when negotiating a plea agreement often drop gun violations in lieu of prosecuting the drug crimes associated with the charges. This must change.

A4. I’m a feminist, in the sense of being an advocate of equality under the law for all men and women. Sexual and domestic violence are still too common. This is unacceptable. I’ll do anything I can to stop this abhorrent behavior towards all women.

The wage gap between men and women and people of color is narrowing. With my input that gap will continue to narrow.

I believe it is imperative that our Republican Party be a part of bringing about criminal justice reform. Criminal justice should be applied equally and any law that disproportionately incarcerates people of color needs to be repealed.

A5. I am for making student loan repayment more manageable and replacing the complicated array of loans with a single streamlined repayment plan.

Student loans will be capped at 10% of a borrower’s net income, as well as making those repayments tax-deductible over their working career.

A6. Natural gas is the backbone to any climate strategy. The increased use of natural gas will result in a significant reduction of carbon emissions.

The climate is always changing. You can’t argue about that. I wonder why our friends on the left amended that term instead of using the phrase global warming.

The earth is 4.5 billion years old. Geology knows that over long periods of time, that our climate changes. Earth has been much warmer than it is today. We have real data for the last 100 years. Comparing that data versus 4.5 billion years is inconclusive to say the least.

A7. Government needs to shrink in size. We can eliminate the Departments of Commerce, Education and Energy.

Foreign aid must end to countries that receive millions of dollars while chanting “Death to America”. Not one more dime goes to these haters of America.

We have 800 military bases in 70 countries across the world. That must end.

We can balance the budget in 6 years by reducing the budget 1% per year.

**Jason Isaac (R)**

**Background:**

Jason Isaac is a fourth-generation Texan, husband, father, man of faith, and small business owner. He has served in the Texas Legislature since 2011.

**Education:** BBA, Marketing from Stephen F. Austin State University

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

A1. Texas has seen firsthand that a porous border creates a pipeline of criminal activity into our communities. The border may be hundreds of miles away, but the ripples of transnational gang and cartel activity are here in the Hill Country. As a state representative, I voted to ban sanctuary cities, and to crack down on human trafficking, and send more resources to secure the bor-
Ryan Krause (R)

**Background:** Small business owner. Executive Coaching and Leadership Development. Former Executive Pastor of a large non-denominational church.

**Website:** [http://krause4u.com](http://krause4u.com)

**A1.** Immigration needs to be reformed. There needs to be a clearly defined path to citizenship that must be adhered to. I do not support amnesty. We should define a temporary, expedited path for those currently living here (including DACA) in order to legalize people who are active, contributing members to our society. This is a one-time shot at expedited citizenship. Our borders must be secured in order to provide for a safe, effective, and managed means of immigration. Immigration needs to be limited to protect the American culture and values.

**A2.** Get the Federal Government out of healthcare. Government should secure our borders and protect our freedom, not tell us what Doctor to go to. This is not the role of government. I believe healthcare should be a free market system. I have yet to see a socialized medicine program that provides good healthcare to everyone.

**A3.** 1.) easy access to guns for law abiding citizens; 2.) removal of gun rights for those that limit the rights of others (criminals); 3.) strong, expedited penalties for anyone using a firearm in an illegal manner

**A4.** I would support a free market enterprise that rewards hard work and success. A free market does not recognize color or gender. Capitalism rewards success regardless of color or gender.

**A5.** There can be no doubt that spending cuts are necessary. Our national debt has skyrocketed to nearly $21 trillion. It is simply immoral to impose this burden on future generations, jeopardizing the futures of our children and grandchildren. The lack of financial leadership in D.C. threatens our nation's stability and long-term growth and our own well-being. We must balance the federal budget by reducing frivolous spending, just like Texas does. I am eager to cut spending in any programs that are not part of the federal government's constitutionally enumerated powers (which is most of them). Again, I believe that a free market system in education would be the most productive and effective means of education.

**A6.** Global warming, Global cooling, Climate change—or whatever it is being called today is not fact. The earth goes through cycles to replenish and restore itself. God's creation is much more resilient and capable than we give it credit for.

God did provide an amazing planet for us to utilize during our time here and we should be good stewards of his possessions, but the scare tactics employed to scare us into submission have gone way too far.

Our children are being taught myths as fact and this needs to stop.

**A7.** Common sense must be employed when it comes to the budget. We cannot afford to continue spending more than we are bringing in. It is a simple economics issue that we are encouraged to use at home, but our government does not follow the same principles.

Where do we cut?

Entitlements
Entitlements
Entitlements

We do not leave the retired, elderly, or veterans out in the cold. They should and must be taken care of, but we should not be paying a healthy 25 year old to sit at home on the couch.

In 2015, 25,000 families that made more than the maximum limit for HUD lived in government housing.

Matt McCall (R)

**Background:** 20 years in the medical industry, contracting with the U.S. Military and exporting American-made products to distributors in Europe

**Education:** Bachelors in Business and Economics, Westmont College

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

**A1.** I believe in legal immigration. I believe in nationhood and that it defines us. The border is not an artificial line. However, as a country we are grappling with justice vs. mercy. Justice calls for deportation and a wall. Mercy knows that families and livelihoods are at stake. So, I believe in strong borders and nationhood. I believe in building a wall, physical or high-tech, so long as it works. I do not support any new path to citizenship. Once those things are settled, we need to redo our entire immigration system so it is fair and also takes into account the on-the-ground realities.

**A2.** Republicans owe their constituents a full repeal and replacement of Obamacare and should follow it up with a free market. Women and men should decide for themselves what is adequate, affordable, and accessible. Free markets always drive value up and costs down. Interstate competition between insurance companies is a great place to start. In addition, the product approval process in the U.S. creates huge costs ultimately borne by the U.S. taxpayer. We must streamline the approval process and provide clear price signals so Americans can shop for the best value for their families.

**A3.** First, we should get rid of all gun-free zones for licensed gun carriers (with the obvious exception of bars). When was the last time you heard about gun violence at a gun show or at a police station? Mass shootings only occur in gun-free zones. Second, we should recruit law-abiding citizens to take concealed guns classes. Third, we should encourage the NRA to offer free gun safety courses in high schools. Liberals want to teach 10-year olds how to use condoms, which I believe is entirely a family discussion. Gun safety is as much a social issue as sex education and just as practical.

**A4.** I’m writing this on Martin Luther King Jr. day, and I’m reminded that we should judge by the content of character, not the color of skin. I reject racism in all forms. I reject sexism, and I believe in equal pay. I believe in equal opportunity. However, I do not believe in quotas or institutionalized favoritism. Just because an organization or company is predominately white or black, male or female, does not make it inherently racist or sexist. Everyone is privileged in some way compared to someone else. But all citizens deserve equal treatment under the law, and that is what I support.
to change the narrative back to, “what cut is self-evident. We need to get rid of in debt. That the budget needs to be categorized under the heading of, “climate change.” I believe the environment. It is not the tax-payers’ burden to rescue them if the financial cost-benefits don’t add up. A6. Climate change happens, and humans clearly affect environments, but whether humans are causing worldwide temperature-based cataclysmic global warming is unclear at best. Ten years ago it was, “global warming,” and now it is, “climate change,” because the scientific models for warming didn’t pan out and anything that happens can be categorized under the heading of, “climate change.” I believe the environmental movement has been hijacked by socialists. I fully support clean air and clean water. I also fully support safe offshore drilling and the judicious use of our natural resources.

A7. The current government report says there is $430 billion in waste, fraud, and duplication in the federal budget. If we eliminate that, it’s a great start. America is currently $20 Trillion in debt. That the budget needs to be cut is self-evident. We need to get rid of entire departments of the government to change the narrative back to, “what do we really need?” Do we really need a Department of Education? America survived until 1978 without it. What else can we get rid of? It has to happen for us to be solvent.

Susan Narvaez (R)

Background: Former three-term Mayor of San Marcos, Small Business Owner, Community Volunteer, Wife, Mother, Grandmother.

Education: Attended South San Antonio High School
Website: http://www.susanforcongress.com

A1. There is no question that our immigration system and border security policies are broken and for too long Congress has failed to address this critical issue as a matter of national security. As a nation founded by immigrants, we must find ways to prevent people from overstaying their visas, secure our borders, and producing a common sense policy that allows non-permanent immigration legal for temporary highly skilled workers or students who graduate from American universities with advanced degrees—this is another avenue and innovative approach to growing our economy.

A2. America has long been known as the land of opportunity—and our nation’s health care system should be no different. American’s should have more choices, lower costs, and greater flexibility in their health insurance options. A one-size-fits all solution is not the answer. It currently costs billions of dollars and over a decade to develop new prescription drugs—driving the costs to all Americans higher and higher. We must reduce the red tape and find sensible solutions that benefit all.

A3. The bottom line is that we must keep our families safe. I am a supporter of our Constitution and the Second Amendment. I believe that to reduce the number of gun related deaths we must first enforce the system that we have in place. Many states fail to put criminal and mental health records into the current national background check system. We must also find solutions to keep violent criminals off of the streets and find real solutions to our mental health system. There is no easy solution but I know that if we work together there is a path to finding a safer America.

A4. I believe deeply in the American Dream. It was the American Dream that allowed me to rise from a teenage mother who dropped out of high school to work multiple jobs in order to provide for my family, to starting a successful small business, and representing my community as Mayor. I support measures that allow all Americans the opportunity to find success, live in safety, and maintain our individual liberties as outlined by our Constitution.

A5. I do not believe government has a role in reducing student debt. I do believe an investment in all types of lifelong learning from technical training to apprenticeships to on-the-job training will prepare our students for success in the workforce. Having served as Mayor of San Marcos, home of Texas State University and working with many college students, I understand the skyrocketing cost of college tuition. There is certainly an opportunity for a path forward if we partner to address these and other issues.

A6. I support measures that would balance conservation and stewardship with common sense environmental policy solutions that work for the people, our economy and our beautiful natural resources, not against them. I support an “all of the above” energy policy that relieves our reliance on foreign oil, develops American-made energy sources that also protects the environment. It is so important that we expand oil and gas energy exploration, and prevent insurance companies from placing caps on health care. We have seen how expensive premiums have become under a federally run system like Obamacare. I believe the federal government can be effective in three main areas: ensure that you can stay on your parents insurance up to 26 years old, allow anyone with a pre-existing condition to buy insurance, and prevent insurance companies from placing caps on health care.

A7. Government spending is out of control and we must address this immediately to reduce our national debt. I support measures to review duplicate federal programs, assess current agencies and departments for effectiveness and efficiency to cut spending, and find innovative ways to streamline services to our citizens. We must also reform our archaic budgetary rules to restrain unnecessary government growth and stop excessive spending. Through this, we will reduce spending and the overreach of government into our daily lives.

William Negley (R)

Background: I served for seven years in the Central Intelligence Agency as an undercover officer, I subsequently launched Sound Off to provide support to veterans.

Education: BA (History and Political Science) @ University of San Diego MA (International Relations) @ University of San Diego EMBA @ UT Austin—McCombs

Website: http://negleyforcongress.com

A1. I agree with President Trump’s decision to allow DACA to expire. President Obama ignored the rule of law and our Constitution when he used an executive order to extend rights to those here illegally. Any future action on DACA must come from Congress. Additionally, I will not support any immigration reform until we have fully secured our southern border. Criminal illegal aliens, human traffickers, and drug smugglers continue to pour across our border—this poses a clear and imminent threat to our national security.

A2. We have not yet attempted to create a marketplace with broader opportunities for access to affordable and quality health care that is run by a free market. We have seen how expensive premiums have become under a federally run system like Obamacare. I believe the federal government can be effective in three main areas: ensure that you can stay on your parents insurance up to 26 years old, allow anyone with a pre-existing condition to buy insurance, and prevent insurance companies from placing caps on health care.

A3. The Obama Administration abandoned harsh prosecution of federal gun crime. If you use a gun for criminal activity and violate federal law, you must be prosecuted. Second, we must enforce the laws on the books that prevent felon’s and those who have been deemed mentally unfit to own firearms. Third, we must have better local policing of the major metropolitan areas of our nation that have high rates of gun violence.

A4. I will vigorously support pro-growth policies that help expand opportunities for everyone. For the nearly a decade prior to 2017, our na-
tion endured both a recession and stagnated growth which kept wages down, reduced opportunities in the job market, and stifled the ability of workers to earn higher wages. Lower income workers felt this most profoundly. We now have an opportunity to drive the kind of growth that will allow people to earn more, move to a new/better job, and help empower the upward mobility that lives at the heart of the American Dream.

**A5.** Much like the issues that faced the housing market leading to the 2008 financial collapse, the government backing of student loans through Sallie Mae and other federal programs has driven the cost of college to unacceptable rates. If we get the government out of the business of administering student loans and allow the free market to operate, we can have an affordable university system once again.

**A6.** The United States has never been in a better position regarding the use of clean and renewable energies based on the technology developed by the private sector. We must continue to allow the private sector to innovate as we focus on the major global polluters in emerging economies like China. Furthermore, if we are going to become a nation that is less dependent on fossil fuels, we must expand American nuclear energy which has the potential to transform clean energy in the 21st century.

**A7.** We must stop kicking the can down the road. Entitlement and mandatory spending in the Federal Budget is over 60% of the budget that Congress has ceded control of over to unelected and unaccountable federal bureaucrats. Until we can have real reform to the mandatory spending, we cannot hope to have a much needed balanced federal budget.

### A1 M. Poteet (R)

**Background:**
Conservative Rep; decorated combat Cobra pilot; former private/public sector Sr Exec; CEO Humana Veterans HC; Deputy Ass’t Secretary Regan Admin;

**Education:** Bachelor of Science Major Poly Sci earned under G.I. Bill

**Website:** http://PoteetForCongress.com

- **A1.** I support legal immigration. Our borders must be strong, applicants must be fully vetted for eligibility & able to work as productive individuals. Automatic “chain” migration & immigration “lottery” must be discontinued unless comprehensive vetting is instituted. DACA—I do not support any changes to Immigration & Nationality Act permitting reclassification of millions of illegals as “lawfully present” providing entrée to state and federal benefits. Each applicant must be fully vetted and then offered an earned pathway to citizenship that does. The “wall” must be built 1st to secure our border.
- **A2.** The current U.S. healthcare system is imploding and is not sustainable in the long term. Congress must work with the private sector HC providers develop market-based programs that don’t bankrupt businesses—especially small businesses—to provide affordable, meaningful coverage. Accommodations/sacrifices must be made by all parties to create a sustainable program. VA HC system must be reorganized to provide vets high-quality, timely HC. I am unalterably opposed to any action to gut Medicaid. States must not incur the full financial burden of providing quality care to lower income citizens.
- **A3.** Gun violence is a manifestations of society’s ills. Curbing these senseless acts requires: 1. Enforce existing gun laws; 2. Thugs/felons must be precluded from owning/use firearms; 3. Conceal/Carry permits for law abiding citizens; 4. Support NRA’s efforts to teach firearm safety, training, & mentoring programs; 5. Follow 2nd Amendment; 6. Bolster citizens’ right to own/possess/use firearms used for protection, hunting, or sport; 7. Do not limit the legal sale of firearms or ammo to honest, law-abiding citizens; and, 8. No gun-free zones—they invite gun violence against the defenseless.
- **A4.** It is not the responsibility of Congress to pass laws to address every social issue facing every segment of our citizenry. Sufficient laws exist (civil rights act, 14th Amendment “equal protection under our laws, etc.) that provide safeguards to virtually everyone as guaranteed under the Constitution. Strong moral values will ensure these protections are applied fairly, evenly, & without prejudice. Judges must not “legislate” from the bench—the judiciary must interpret the law as written by the Legislative branch & signed by the President. Ensure freedom of religion—not freedom from religion.
- **A5.** Caveat emptor—the most expensive post-secondary education may not be the best. Exorbitant tuition costs should be brought under control by consumers of education. U.S. citizens have the opportunity to secure post-secondary education. Consumers of education must approach college as a business—do not take “fun” classes that will not lead to a good paying job. Work to pay back all debts/loans. It is not the taxpayers responsibility to pay this debt. Possible solution: debt to be reorganized & paid back. Taxpayers should not be on the hook. An other option—join the military & use the G.I. Bill.
- **A6.** Weather changes as has the climate for millions of years—warmer/colder periods occurred & not managed. Cumbersome regulatory processes do not improve weather outcomes. I favor a clean/protected environment to sustain life—legislators should not blindly pass legislation that fosters political agendas instead of working men/women. Questions abound about the veracity/integrity of many so-called scientific studies re: Climate Change. Dire climate predictions have failed to occur—in the 1950’s, scientists predicted a new Ice Age was coming—not so much. It’s time for common sense to prevail.
- **A7.** I favor across the board cuts to all discretionary programs (funded at $1.244 trillion FY 2018) except DoD & VA. Fed bureaucracy is bloated & often ineffective. Modest spending cuts will lead to a balanced budget & start cutting the national debt. Washington has a spending problem—not a taxing problem. Fed govt must learn to do more with less using zero-based budgeting to stop budget growth by compounding affect each year. Many Fed programs are redundant & obsolete. A thorough review of all govt programs is req’d to weed out obsolete & wasteful programs need to be eliminated.

### Autry J. Pruitt (R)

**Background:**
Senior Judiciary Committee under Sen. Cornyn, Chief of Staff to Sen. Ted Cruz, Texas Attorney General’s Office, Texas Public Policy Foundation

**Education:** B.S. and M.S. from University of Virginia, J.D. from University of Texas School of Law

**Website:** http://chiproy.com

- **A1.** Establish a truly secure border and immigration enforcement system first (border, visa overstays, workplace enforcement). Second, reduce legal immigration and overhaul it to focus on America’s needs (re-focused on labor/education/assimilation rather than family chain migration).

All other questions should be addressed after these things have been met.

- **A2.** 1) Repeal virtually all federal healthcare regulations that are prohibiting affordable healthcare in the first place. 2) Block grant Medicaid to the states and reduce the Medicaid expansion that is straining the system.

- **A3.** 1) Enforce the gun laws on the books—but focus more heavily at the state level than the federal level. 2) Reduce government involvement beyond its core functions—and leave more money for safety and security (more resources to combat crime at the state and local level). 3) Continue to keep dangerous criminals in prison and off our streets (criminal justice reform should be focused on first-time, non-violent offenders).

- **A4.** We should encourage a government that focuses not on the color of skin, but on opportunity and equal justice under the law.

The best way to increase safety and opportunity for prosperity is to create a climate for strong economic growth, encourage the strong enforcement of our criminal laws, and take as many steps as possible to maintain the nuclear family. It is also in the interest...
Robert Stovall (R)  
**Background:**  
Psychology, research, and statistics.  
**Education:**  
B.A. Texas Tech—Psychology M.S. Texas A&M  
**Statistics Website:** http://votetemple.com  
**A.** There seems to be no evidence that DACA has any negative impact on the country and I find that the major flaw was that DACA did not provide a path to citizenship, leaving those individuals in a quasi-legal vulnerable state. Thus, I believe dreamers should be given a path to citizenship. I generally hold the belief that it is immoral to expel someone from the only country they have ever known, and on top of that, it’s generally bad for the economy too, as we have invested in the education and health of these people.  
**A.** The U.S. spends more on healthcare than any other country. We must not stop working on healthcare until our country has healthcare for everyone with outcomes and costs inline with other developed nations. The complexity of bringing costs down is difficult to express in a short time, but one excellent example would be to allow the government to negotiate drug prices for Medicare as we see that drug prices are much more expensive in the U.S. than in other countries.  
**A.** Generally speaking, there are any number of practical regulations that enjoy widespread support among all elements of the U.S. population that would help reduce gun violence: universal background checks, mandatory loss/theft reporting, ban of sales to mentally ill, etc.  
**A.** The problem is that politicians won’t do anything. The NRA lobby is a powerful force, and as a gun owner and concealed carry permit holder I will say that the NRA does not speak for me, and is far too rabid in its lobbying, IMO. As a grass roots candidate, I am not beholden to anyone, and can support common sense reform  
**A.** As far as safety is concerned, I support mandatory body cameras for police, with the footage controlled by a neutral 3rd party and stiff penalties for tampering. I also support tightening of stalker and harassment laws. Economic inequalities are much more abstract and challenging to approach, but one good example is the Fair Calculations Act which I would support.  
**A.** The government has a role in reducing student debt as it is vital to have an educated and skilled workforce along with a workforce that is not encumbered with debt in a consumption driven economy. I have suggested that student loan repayments be fixed at 4% of salary above $40,000/yr. This will reduce the debt load on new graduates and allow them to invest in housing and retirements earlier in life, greater benefiting the economy.  
**A.** 1. Incentivizing carbon capture, use, and storage. Allowing a tax credit for companies that capture and store carbon in declining oil wells is an excellent option to reduce our carbon footprint with a solution that is available today. 2. Increase nuclear energy capabilities. While it comes with it’s own set of concerns, nuclear power is carbon emission free, and an excellent option in fighting climate change. 3. Increase federal energy efficiency standards. Federal standards are the main driver of energy efficient which reduces demand from power plants.  
**A.** The first place I would start is to end the war on drugs, which has been an utter failure. Instead of the cost burden of enforcement, prosecution, and incarceration we can gain an economic benefit by taxing former contraband substances.  
It was estimated that the cost of marijuana enforcement alone was $20 billion in 2013.  
**Peggy Wardlaw (R)  
Background:**  
I am a lifelong Texan. My husband and I have 6 children who all grew up working in our business, have college degrees and successful careers.  
**Education:**  
BA in Political Science and Master’s in Petroleum Engineering from UT Austin. I founded & successfully ran Engineering and Real Estate Companies.  
**Website:** http://votepeggyl.com  
**A.** I believe that DACA should be extended and that qualified immigrants should be given a pathway to citizenship. I am in favor of a policy that allows immigrants who meet certain requirements to obtain work permits. Requirements include employment, children in school and out of gangs, insurance, clean criminal history, and to pay back taxes and a fine.. We need immigration policies that allow immigrants to come in legally to fill necessary jobs  
We need technologically advanced, cost effective border security focusing on the needs of American citizens who live on the border and criminal activity.  
**Yes.**  
**A.** As a Small Business Owner, I know the problems with our healthcare system. Americans pay almost twice as much for healthcare as any other country and have worse outcomes. Insurance companies have become the gate keepers between us and our doctors. I propose Radical Transparency. Healthcare businesses including pharmacies must post both cash and agreed insurance prices online. In agreement with AARP, I want legislation allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices and I will vote against legislation allowing large premium hikes for people over 50. I will propose allowing ages 55–65 on Medicare  
**A.** I believe that we should use commonsense measures that will ensure the rights of law abiding citizens to own guns while keeping automatic weapons out of the hands of terrorists and criminals. I would support legislation that would be supported by the police such as the restricting the sale of silencers, bump stocks and “cop killing bullets”.  
**A.** As a woman in a traditionally male field, I was able to be successful with the help and support of the men and women I worked with. I believe in equality of pay and programs which help female students and people of color get moral and monetary support to pursue their education. I support women who report sexual harassment and would support programs to help women enter traditionally male dominated fields such as engineering. Also, mentoring programs to bring women and people of different ethnic groups together in professional settings to help each other.  
**Yes.**  
**A.** This is a problem I know personally. I paid for most of my college expenses and a portion of my kid’s costs. Our economy and our Democ-
racy need educated citizens. Middle class families are paying 7–8% interest and 4.3% fees on government backed loans when home loans are at 3.5%. The government borrowing rate is 2.5%. The government shouldn’t be making money on student loans and should allow consolidation of loans when the interest rate goes down.

I believe the government should lower interest rates on student loans and more funds should be available for Work-Study and Pell Grants.

A6. I have worked on the economics of wind and solar energy and believe in the future of that technology. The cost of wind turbines has decreased every year. Texas went to free market energy pricing and that has aided the growth of wind energy in the state. In the first qtr of 2017, wind accounted for 23% of the electricity sold. I will vote to continue the current incentives for wind and solar. I want the United States to be the leader in green energy technology.

A7. I would require all government agencies to cut their budgets so that the most cuts would be where the most money is spent. Government employees at all levels should be rewarded for saving money. I believe that Veteran’s healthcare agencies should be fully staffed.

Anthony J. White (R)

Background:
32 Year Military Service Veteran Retired U.S. Marine Corps
Education: Bachelor of Arts, Communications—Califorinia Lutheran University Post-Graduate Certificate, Strategic Intelligence National Intelligence University
Website: http://WhitetoCongress21.com

A1. We are a Nation of immigrants. We are a Nation of Laws.

My mother immigrated to the United States from Mexico, following the laws & regulations. She was given a Green Card and worked hard to raise her family. She eventually became a US citizen. My position reflects the example of how my mother followed the legal pathway to legally immigrate to our country, and eventually become a citizen. And, I would advocate for this if elected, in this specific order: 1. Secure the Border, and end chain migration.

2. Allow immigrants under DACA, with clean records (no felony convictions) to be afforded . . .

A2. Reduce the tax burden on all Americans and limit spending (Balanced Budgets).

Get the Federal Government out of managing healthcare. Support this at the State level.

Find & support Marketplace solutions that make common sense. Reduce regulations that limit Free Enterprise to provide health insurance to sell policies across state borders. Require insurance companies to cover pre-existing conditions.


Support National Concealed Carry Reciprocity in all states.*

“To qualified individual must: (1) be eligible to possess, transport, or receive a firearm under federal law; (2) carry a valid photo identification document; and (3) carry a valid concealed carry permit issued by any state or be eligible to carry a concealed firearm in his or her state of residence.

A4. The second paragraph of the United States Declaration of Independence starts as follows: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. Enforce the current laws on the books.

A5. Yes, by reducing the tax burden on all Americans and limiting spending (Balanced Budgets), so that Americans can keep more of what they earn and use their money to invest in their own education. Dollars spent on your or a close relatives education would not be taxed or would be taxed at a lower rate. Get the Federal Government out of the Student Loan business. Encourage Americans to use tax free college savings plans from the time of birth, so that the students can attend college without going into debt.

A6. I believe that we must be good stewards of our lands & resources. I support energy independence. The United States has the natural resources to provide what we need to power our industries and our home. I would support commonsensical legislation to help ensure that we reduce air & water pollution, by funding science and technological research that would allow the discovery and smart transition to cleaner fuels, or the use of natural power. However, I do not support legislative efforts that harm our economy or force industries to close before we can transition.

A7. As referenced previously, we must be good stewards of our financial resources. First we need to prioritize spending requirements and achieve Balanced Budgets, long term! Second, we must change the mindset and practice of spending revenue annually under the practice of “Use it, or Lose it”. Tax dollars that are not spent should be used to pay down the National Debt. Follow this link for some examples:


U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 25

West Hansen (D)

Background:
Nat Geo Amazon River explorer, 20 years in reg/state govt’s. Award winning Social Wkr, small biz owner, wrote laws, auditor/investigator, husband/dad
Education: BS in Psychology, SWTSU/Licensed Social Worker Cert. Dispute Resolution Counselor Taught CNU in RN School at Lamar University
Website: http://www.westfortexas.org

A1. A border is more than a barrier. Its also a shared space.

Hard working people simply looking for a better life are systematically persecuted along racial lines. The process to legally immigrate is unduly expensive and bureaucratic, unless the immigrant is wealthy.

With an employment rate below 4%, including millions of immigrant workers, we need compassionate immigration reform that doesn’t burden our system and recognizes the civil rights of people who have called America home most of their lives. DACA needs to be codified into law and we need to de-criminalize workers and their employers.

A2. Medicare for all is a laudable goal, but unlikely to pass without a systematic plan. By offering Medicare as an option for one or two demographic groups at a time, then incrementally lowering the age for eligible recipients, the system can evolve and adjust to the larger roles and funding can be adjusted accordingly. First, I’ll work to offer Medicare to rural veterans who live far from VA clinics, then to teachers. The funding for these groups is already drafted and can be shifted. I will also work to immediately expand and fund Medicaid and eventually roll recipients into Medicare.

A3. Eliminate the “boyfriend loophole” in the Lautenberg Amendment and amend the law to restrict possession of firearms instead of merely restricting the purchase of firearms. Also, the specific law should give discretion to the judge or magistrate to order law enforcement agents to confiscate any firearms from the home of the adjudicated, while the person is in custody at the courthouse.

Overhaul the national online database system to include violent offenders, cross-referenced with gun ownership and histories of threats/violence.

Eliminate the “gun show loophole” for firearm purchases.

A4. Eliminate unconstitutional mandatory arbitration and non-disclosure agreements employees must sign in order to be hired by Congress or any other business or organization. I support Sen. Gillibrand’s measure to eliminate rules in Congress that exempt elected officials from laws designed to protect sexual predators and discrimination based upon race, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, gender identity and age.

I will work to eliminate barriers that prevent women and people of color from attaining all the opportunities in our country, afforded to those more privileged.

A5. Deregulation of college tuition, combined with violations of anti-trust laws have done away with affordable college education for average-income American families. Public, and many private, universities cooperate with predatory lending practices to sidestep the legal responsibility as non-profit organizations for providing an afford-

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West Hansen (D) (continued)
able higher education. Coaches are
paid millions and universities invest
in oil companies, making huge profits,
all the while raising student fees and
tuitions.
Tuition regulation should be re-
instated and colleges investigated for
anti-trust violations.
A6. As a U.S. Congressman, I’ll work
to get our country back into the Paris
Agreement and develop plans to of-
fer financial and tax incentives to
companies that provide real, mea-
sureable approaches that drastically re-
duce our carbon footprint and emis-
sions. I’ll work to restore the EPA
and all other environmental protec-
tion agencies decimated by the current
administration.

As a National Geographic explorer,
I conducted an environmental study
of the entire 4200 miles of the Ama-
zon River, with the Pacific Biodiver-
sity Project and for 5 years led 2 clean
ups per year for the 90 mile San Mar-
cos River.
A7. Patients should not have to un-
dergo medically unnecessary proced-
ures (like sonograms), medically unnec-
sessary delays, and listen to a po-
litically-based diatribe in order to re-
cieve legal medical treatment. I will in-
roduce legislation to repeal the Hyde
Amendment, which at its base is a vi-
olation of equal rights and socioeco-
nomically discriminatory. I will also
introduce legislation to amend the
Health Information Portability and
Accountability Act (HIPAA) to in-
clude a section on equal rights. Women
should be given the same rights as
men, when determining their own
paths to treatment.

Julie Oliver (D)
Background:
Former teen Medi-
caid mom who put
herself through col-
lege and law school;
attorney with back-
ground in taxation
and healthcare finance
Education: B.B.A, University of Texas
at Arlington (Summa Cum Laude);
J.D., University of Texas Austin
Website: http://oliver2018.com

A1. My positions entail: Ending family
detention and closing private immigra-
tion detention centers; Preventing ICE
from contracting with for-profit prison
corporations; Crafting bills that explic-
ically create policies calling for detain-
ing and deporting only those individu-
als who pose a violent threat to public
safety and that ensure that refugees
who seek asylum in the U.S. have a fair
chance to tell their stories; Protecting
the DACA and Temporary Protected
Status (TPS) programs; Expanding eli-
gibility to new categories which in-
cludes creating a route to citizenship
through employment
A2. We must stabilize the ACA by re-
enacting the individual mandate, and
we must reestablish cost-sharing subvi-
si-dies to the markets so that every Texan
has an opportunity to have healthcare
coverage. A universal healthcare sys-
tem is the only way to ensure that ev-
everyone who needs to see a doctor get
to, and the government is the only
payer that has the leverage to negotiate
with healthcare companies, prescrip-
tion drug companies, and medical de-
device producers. Moving to this model
would bring immediate healthcare sav-
ings of 10%. It’s good for businesses as
it lowers their costs.
A3. 1. Overturning the Dickey
Amendment, which prevents the CDC
from funding research into firearm in-
juries and deaths; 2. Requiring uni-
versal background checks and univer-
sal licensing requirements; 3. Closing
the “boyfriend loophole” so that any-
one who commits acts of domestic vi-
olence cannot purchase firearms (as
well as preventing gun sales to people
with prior violent-crime convictions or
to those who have been adjudicated as
mentally defective or have been com-
mitted to any mental institution).
A4. Ensuring that black women
through good preventive healthcare
have access to education about pelvic
floor disorders, breast cancer, and hy-
pertension, good pre- and postnatal
care, screening for pre-existing con-
tions, and care for chronic conditions;
Ending ideologically motivated attacks
on women’s reproductive health and
Planned Parenthood, which negatively
impacts low-income women seek-
ing birth control and preventive care;
Addressing gender pay inequality by
amending the Equal Pay Act so that it
is enforceable; Ending the federal pro-
hibition on marijuana; Instituting ag-
grressive bail reform.
A5. Yes, an educated society is an ad-
vanced society. That is why I am in fa-
vor of the following: Allowing ev-
every student from a family making up
to $85,000/year to attend an in-state
four-year public college or university
without paying tuition; Allowing bor-
rrowers to be able to refinance loans at
favorable rates not to exceed 2% and
providing debt relief to an estimated
25 million people; Allowing gradu-
ates the opportunity to receive
tax-free tuition remission in exchange
for research or college-work opportu-
nities to avoid acquiring student debt.
A6. Ensure that Congress funds the
EPA and the NOAA so that they can
provide necessary climate science re-
search and that these institutions re-
main independent; Rejoin the Paris
Climate Accord; Impose a carbon-feed-
and-dividend with an initial fee of $15/
ton on the CO2 equivalent emissions
of fossil fuels and annual escalations
imposed upstream at the mine, well
or port of entry; Invest in clean en-
ergy infrastructure, innovation, manu-
facturing and workforce development
to make our economy more competi-
tive with good-paying jobs and careers;
Amend the tax code to encourage re-
newable energy investment.
A7. We have to get corrupt dark money
out of our elections. So I plan to: file
or support bills that require any 501(c)
entity spending on “any” political ac-
tivity that mentions a federal candi-
date or that’s intended to influence an
election to be disclosed; taxing the
political activities of 501(c) entities
that spend beyond a certain thresh-
old on political activities; oppose any
and all attempts to repeal the Johnson
Amendment, which restricts 501(c)(3)
tax-deductible organizations from en-
gaging in political activity.
Chetan Panda (D)
Background:
I am a first-generation
American and an
Austinite. I was a
leader at a mutual
fund company; I
worked to protect
and grow retirement
savings.
Education: I attended the London
School of Economics and Georgetown
University, where I graduated with a
degree in International Economics.
Website: http://www.panda2018.com
A1. Our current immigration system
is outdated, inefficient, and encour-
ages undocumented immigration. I would
fix our legal immigration system, so
it improves our economy and secu-
rity. I support the passage of a clean
DACA bill. I would also create a path-
way to citizenship for undocumented
immigrants currently in the US if they
meet certain criteria. Regarding bor-
der security, we should employ a strat-
ey grounded in technology specific to
each border area. Furthermore, we
should also partner with our southern
neighbors to fight criminal organiza-
tions operating in their countries.
A2. I will work towards Medicare-for-
All so we can have quality, affordable
healthcare for every single American.
To effectively and smoothly transition
20% of our economy to such a system,
I support creating a government sub-
sidized healthcare plan that employ-
ers and individuals can buy into. Si-
multaneously, I want to cut the cost
of healthcare by eliminating redund-
dancies, lowering the price of pharma-
cutical drugs, and mandating price/
quality transparency by healthcare
providers.
A3. We must balance individual free-
doms with general safety. First, I sup-
port comprehensive background
checks and ensuring that informa-
tion is properly reported into the back-
ground check system. In recent mass
shootings, information that would
have prevented the gun sale was miss-
ing. Second, because 60% of all gun
deaths are suicides, I support expand-
ing mental health resources. Lastly, I
support ending the sale of bump stocks
and other similar accessories.
A4. From an economic perspective:
(1) improve access to capital/train-
ing to aid business formation; (2) pass
the Paycheck Fairness Act; and (3) ex-
pand parental leave. From a health per-
spective: (1) improve access to family
planning services, community health
clinics, and healthy food; and (2) re-
duce the maternal mortality rate. From
a public safety perspective: (1) pur-
sue criminal justice reform; (2) reform
police-community relations; (3) legal-
ize marijuana; (4) combat sexual as-
ault with consent-based education; and
(5) combat sexual harassment by
changing anti-discrimination/arbitration law.

A5. Government has a role in reducing student debt because there are negative socioeconomic implications. The student loan burden is causing young people to delay marriage and homeownership and reduce investment and spending. To lower student debt loads, I want to (1) shift to income-based repayment and allow for longer repayment periods; (2) increase funding for Pell Grants; (3) hold colleges accountable for graduating students on time with good paying jobs; (4) allow student loans to be refinanced at cheaper rates; and (5) modify the bankr
druptcy code to allow student debt to be discharged.

A6. To combat climate change, we must address energy production and usage. Regarding energy production, I want to: (1) build solar and wind farms in the district; (2) increase tax incentives for businesses/individuals to install solar panels; (3) invest in clean energy R&D; and (4) pay for these investments with a tax on harmful greenhouse gases. Regarding energy usage, I want to weatherize buildings, improve electricity efficiency, and increase fuel efficiency standards. Lastly, I support fully funding the EPA and allowing it to enforce existing environmental regulations.

A7. I want to invest in education so people are prepared for a 21st century economy. I want to fund universal pre-K, so our children are prepared for further education. I will support public schools by increasing funding for teacher training/technology and low-income students. I also support investing in vocational education by: (1) expanding the definition of vocational to include 21st century skills like coding; (2) incentivizing businesses to partner with vocational schools to develop curriculums and offer apprenticeships; and (3) expanding financial aid for vocational education.

Chris Perri (D)

Background:

As a criminal defense attorney in Austin, I tirelessly fight to uphold the Constitution, by defending Texans of all backgrounds and beliefs.

Education: M.A. (economics), University of Illinois-Chicago (2009); J.D., University of Texas School of Law (2005); B.A., Southwestern University (2002)

Website: http://www.chrisperrifortexas.com

A1. We have a moral duty to pass a Clean DREAM Act, and it’s also good for our economy, enhancing our social safety net and filling a labor shortage in many markets. Moreover, I believe that we need comprehensive reform of our immigration system so that there is a reasonable, certain pathway to citizenship. It’s unconscionable that people have to wait 10-20 years for their immigration applications to be processed. Regarding border security, I’m against a wall because it’s both ineffective and a symbol of isolationism. Mobile surveillance technology is cheaper and more effective.

A2. I support Medicare-for-All. Health is freedom. As a child, I often heard my mother and father (both health professionals) discuss patients who died from afflictions that could have been prevented with timely care, but they didn’t seek such preventative care due to a lack of adequate health insurance. Despite the ACA, millions of Americans remain uninsured. Medicare-for-All is the best solution for delivering universal health care. For-profit, private insurance companies have led to soaring costs, and the answer is to remove the for-profit motive from the health insurance industry.

A3. 1. Repeal the Dickey Amendment, which prevents the CDC from using federal funds to study gun-violence solutions. Without data, how can we craft the best policy solutions? 2. Remove the boyfriend loophole: Domestic abusers can still possess firearms under federal law if they never cohabited with the victim or had children together. Domestic violence is often a precursor to gun violence. 3. Repeal the gun-show loophole: Through advances in technology, criminal background checks can be conducted almost instantaneously. There’s no longer a reason to exempt gun shows from conducting these checks. 4. Fighting for freedom and equality has been my life’s work. Medicare-for-All is essential for addressing the assault on women’s health. Investing in education is important to help uplift people of color so that they have access to the skills needed for well-paying jobs. Further, gender and racial pay gaps are a huge problem, and I propose auditing companies to ensure pay equality. If there is not equality, then the companies must offer a race and gender neutral explanation that’s supported by objective data. Criminal justice reform is necessary to address systemic racism and mass incarceration.

A5. The government has a role in reducing student debt because education is an investment in our future. For our country to thrive, we must reduce income inequality, and education is essential in this process. It’s unconscionable that people often graduate college with hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt, and private banks are profiting off of this debt. The government should subsidize student loans so that the real interest rate is zero, along with forgiving student loans for people who work in underserved communities after graduation. This plan will help revalorize struggling rural areas.

A6. 1. Carbon Tax and Dividend in order to encourage corporations to reduce their polluting emissions and develop cleaner technologies. This tax should also apply to any type of pollution, including pollution of waterways. 2. Revive the Public Works Administration to invest in renewable energy infrastructure projects, such as solar and wind.

3. Rejoin the Paris Climate Accord. In fact, we should strengthen the agreement and encourage the world to move to 100% renewable energy as fast as possible.

4. Subsidize the installation of solar panels in homes and businesses (also helps conserve water).

A7. As long as Congress puts donors over voters and profits before people, any progressive policy advances can be undone. Thus, we must reform the electoral process through campaign finance reform and ending partisan gerrymandering. Only by restoring our government’s loyalty to the people can we achieve the policies needed for society to thrive and ensure that no one falls through the cracks. Further, corporate interests have hijacked our democracy, yet our government does nothing to prevent mega-mergers. Strengthening our anti-trust enforce-
and recycling. 5. Put more R&D into

cutz on education for reducing, reusing,
stalling solar panels, outfitting prop -
tional incentives (tax credits, etc.) for
lbers, nurses, law enforcement, and
for “other” service to our nation (e.g.,
tors for non-English speaking people
all are accepted; 5. Ensure transla-
crease diversity education in schools
ris. 2. Recruit more police from com-
more women to government at all lev-

A5. Yes, gov should play a role in re-
ucing student debt.

Government has shirked its role in
funding higher education, which has
driven up the cost of higher education.

Grads with federal student loans
should be permitted a pay-back sched-
ule based on income.

Student loans shouldn’t be profit
.

I support programs that write off
loans for graduates who take pub-
lic service jobs (for specified time pe-
periods) in under-served areas-a GI Bill
for “other” service to our nation (e.g.,
tachers, public health and social
kers, nurses, law enforcement, and
-
A6. 1. Move current fossil fuel subs-
ides to renewables. 2. Provide addi-
tional incentives (tax credits, etc.) for
people moving to hybrid vehicles, in-
stalling solar panels, outfitting prop-
erties for rainwater harvesting, etc.

3. Mandate all new gov bld have solar
panels & rainwater harvesting; 4. Foc-
us on education for reducing, reusing,
and recycling. 5. Put more R&D into

thorium reactors an alternative to cur-
rent nuclear-fueled plants. Initial re-
search shows that thorium consumes
95% of its own waste, so byproducts
need dramatically less storage and
waste cannot be converted to weap-
ons use.

A7. If only 1 issue, then is the redis-
tring process. I also believe we need
to overturn Citizens United, but will
speak re: redistricting: I’ll support a
bill that ensures fair and equita-
ble redistricting by states while elimi-
nating methodologies that enable can-
didates to choose voters instead of the
other way around. This can be done
with incentives (a la changing drinking
age to 21.) Without this, I believe our
democracy is doomed

Roger Williams (R)

Unopposed

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 27

Raul (Roy) Barrera (D)

Background: Born and raised in
Robstown, TX, living in C.C., TX.
35 years as a Sworn Officer and Public
Servant and continued to this date.

Education: Robstown High School
Grad. Del Mar College certified Peace
Officer and Communications Officer
and continue as public servant @ Fed-
eral Court C.C., TX

A1. The opposition party has stalled
on immigration reform. We should
not do away with DACA. These people
who arrived here as children are Amer-
icans in every sense of the word but
don’t have citizenship. They are part of
our Military, Police Forces, Teachers,
and are in various other professions.
They contribute billions of dollars into
our economy. Criminals who are not
here legally should be deported back to
their respective countries. People who
contribute to our society should be
granted citizenship or at least, perma-
nent status.

A2. The new Tax Reform has removed
the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)
mandate. Now the insurance rates will
up as there are not enough healthy
people signing up for ACA as they are
not required to do so. Republicans are
slowly depriving the ACA of funds and
that is how they will try to do away
with ACA Health care that is needed
for all. We need to strengthen the ACA
and not deprive it of funds. A Public
Option should be considered also as
long as the public option can provide
the same services that a private insur-
ance company provides.

A3. We agree with the Second Amend-
ment and we will defend the right to
own guns. What needs to be law is a
background check for all at all times.
Turning a semi-automatic weapon into
an automatic weapon with a sim-
ple Bump Stock should not be allowed.
No one should be allowed to purchase
a gun clip that will hold more than
10 rounds at a time. This type of weap-
ony is military grade and should be
used by the military only.

A4. We will pursue equal pay for equal
work. Women have been discriminated
for far too long by the men in power
positions. When you are cut off in
the middle of a sentence, when they dis-
miss your ideas, when they pass you
over for promotions with the prover-
bial excuse that you are not as qualified
as your male counterpart. I have a wife,
daughters and granddaughters in the
workforce and I hear their complaints
of the lack of opportunities. I will fight
for equality for women and people of
color.

A5. Yes! American students owe about
$1 trillion in school loans today. The
Government should play the major role
in operating student debt and should
not be privatized. Students are gradu-
ating with a Humongous school loan
that carries penalties and interest that
they will have to pay for a life time. We
should at least provide the first two
years of college free and relieve them
of this debt.

A6. We have abundant wind energy
and solar energy that we need to uti-
lize. The regulations that he EPA has in
place should not be relaxed. The EPA
should be given more support in es-
tablishing reasonable regulations. We
should cite all the companies that are
not complying with these standards
but not hinder their production.

A7. Social Security needs to be sol-
vent. The current administration has
threatened to privatize our social se-
curity system and we should not let
them as that would be detrimental to
the most important safety net that we
have. Health care is the other safety net
that is vital.

Our Veterans need better care and I
will help provide that through bet-
ter administration of the VA system
and more funds. We live in a free soci-
ety because our Military Veterans have
provided that freedom.

Vanessa Edwards Foster (D)

Background: No previous public
sector, nor any paid lobbyist experience.
However 20 years ac-
tive in politics from campaigns to unpaid
lobbying in DC & Austin, etc

Education: Del Mar College, Lone
Star College

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

A1. Not in favor of the border wall-
wasted money! Am in favor of DACA
which may be law soon. Immigration
should not simply be absolute open
borders, though. We should consider
immigration in a case-by-case basis of
need. Am concerned about issues such
as chain-migration and the lottery sys-
tem, and feel it should be vetted thor-
oughly rather than random selection.

However we need to make the path to-
ward legal emigration more stream-
lined, ensure its not strictly for wealthy
emigres only and perhaps should in-
crease the legal limits which are a caus-
ative factor in so many circumventing
the legal path.

A2. Very much in favor of expanding
Medicare for all! The recent tax cuts
stripping $370 billion from Medicare
& $1 trillion to pay for the law is a trav-
esty! Every civilized nation has gov-
ernment healthcare for all. Personally
I would sponsor and heavily go to bat
for nationalized healthcare, preferably
expanding Medicare, as well as back-
4
ing strong government negotiation of
pricing on prescription drugs with big
Pharma. Additionally, I’d join Sen.
Grassley, Rep. Thompson & others in
pressing non-profit hospital corps. on
fulfilling their promise and expanding
their charity care of the indigent!

A3. The primary issue is the lack of
mental health support and funding.
Since the mid 80’s, we’ve slashed bud-
going and simply released people
to the streets and homelessness un-
treated. The safety net for those with
mental or physically violent histories
has disappeared and needs to be ad-
dressed and funded responsibly. We
need to ensure our gun registry is up-

DONATE!

Support the Voters Guide with a contribution to the League of
Women Voters Austin Area, a nonprofit nonpartisan 501(c)(3)
organization, 1609 Shoal Creek
Bivd., Suite 202, Austin, TX
78701 or make a secure donation online at LWVAustin.org.
to-date and fully communicating with all agencies. We also need public education on instructing civilians not to simply reach for a gun & react in anger, plus incentives for violence-prone areas to desist from gun culture (ex: Richmond CA)

A4. First we must address issues of pay inequality: equal pay for equal jobs should be a rule! Next we must find ways to fund and encourage entrepreneurship in small business as those will become America’s economic backbone of the future, esp. with corporations and big business moving toward automation and robotics. Justice system inequalities also must be stopped. Policering overreactions are still problematic and we need community policing to humanize and bring both sides together. Courts and police need to re-visit how they deal with victims of sexual assault—they need to be considered seriously!

A5. America needs to move towards tuition free higher education in all public universities. Government stopped funding the states at the onset of this millennium which caused all colleges to make up the difference by raising the difference on students. In a civilized nation like US, basic education should be free to ensure a competent workforce! On existing student debt, it’s a more difficult quan-
tity. If Congress can allow for their student debt, it’s a more difficult quan-
tity. We need to address systemic issues in ways our people of color are treated in all aspects of life ranging from education to economic opportunities to policing and more. People of color get stiffed—and that HAS to change.

Eric Holguin (D)

Background: Born, raised, and educated in Texas to a Hispanic working-class family of public servants. Previously worked for a US Cong-
gresswoman & NYC Comptroller.

Education: Bachelor of Arts–Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi

Website: http://www.EricForUs.com

A1. Our country is strong because of our diversity—and that includes immi-
grants. Tearing families apart is not only cruel, it’s not how America is, nor should be. We need to pass a clean DACA bill to support our DREAMers, and also to pass DAPA, so that immigrant families can stay together. The current pathway to citizenship is long & expensive. I learned this while helping immigrants deal with USCIS. We need to cut the red tape on the path to become naturalized. I believe we can have border security without a wall, & we do that by investing in tech-
nology to better monitor our borders.

A2. I fully support a single-payer healthcare system, because healthcare is a right and not a privilege. In or-
der for this to happen, we need to ex-
and Medicare—and we do that over a 5–10 year process by lowering the age requirements to be eligible for Medicare.

A3. In order to reduce gun violence, we need to begin by having that con-
versation—no matter how uncomfort-
able some may find it. I do believe we can protect our right to bear arms, while fighting to ensure violent members of society don’t get access to a fire-
arm. First, we need to stand up to the gun lobby. The amount of money the NRA puts into legislators pockets is disgusting and should be illegal. We need to close any loopholes that allow violent/convicted offenders to be able to buy guns—including the Charles-
ton Loophole. We need to reinstate the assault weapons ban as well.

A4. Women & people of color have been given the short end of the stick for far too long. We need to close the gender pay gap by eliminating the “previous salary” question from the hiring process, promote pay transparency for fair salary negotiations, and make sure we strengthen equal pay laws. The same goes for our people of color—we need more than equality, we need eq-

uity. We need to address systemic issues in ways our people of color are treated in all aspects of life—ranging from education to economic opportunities to policing and more. People of color get stiffed—and that HAS to change.

A5. I believe the government should have a role in reducing student debt, and have a role in ensuring this problem doesn’t happen again. I myself am currently paying on student loans—and it’s hinders many economic/life opportunities. Students who go into public service for a certain number of years should be able to get a reduction in their debt. We should look at ways that students can refinance their loans for much lower rates as well. Our stu-
dent should be able to grow their financial future—not stay stuck for the next 30 years of their life.

A6. As a candidate that is running in a district full of petrochemical plants, having very high environmental standards is paramount to me. I grew up in the 27th Congressional District and as a asthma sufferer, so it’s person-
ally important to me that we protect the air that we breathe, the water we drink and more. It’s important that we get back in the Paris Climate Agree-
ment—but go beyond that. We need to invest in a clean energy future and be the leader by helping our allies around the world do the same. There are many ways to lower greenhouse emissions & we do that by taking action in D.C.

A7. This country is built on strong in-
frastructure and it’s important that we reinvest in rebuilding Texas. With crumbling roads, bridges, rusted pipes, schools falling a part, it’s vital that each member of Congress does their part to bring funding to their area for that investment. I will fight to make sure

Ronnie McDonald (D)

No response

Bech Bruun (R)

Background: Chairman, Texas Water Development Board (2013–2017) Former Senior Staff to Gov. Rick Perry Former Chief of Staff to Rep. Todd Hunter (Corpus Christi)

Education: Bachelors of Business Ad-

ministration, University of Texas at Austin Doctor of Jurisprudence, Uni-

erity of Texas School of Law

Website: http://bechbrunforcongress.com

A1. I support legal immigration and believe that the federal government has fallen down on its responsibil-
ity of securing our borders. I support a path to citizenship for “Dreamers”, but in doing so believe the federal gov-
ernment should first address its failure to enforce existing immigration laws. Also, I believe we should rely on local law enforcement as to their needs in addressing border security and do ev-
erything in our power to support them on a federal level.

A2. I would support continued ef-

forts to dismantle Obamacare in ways that would result in more of a “market based” approach to healthcare as op-
posed to government mandates and limited options. Healthcare costs have sky rocketed and they will continue to do so if an until we can get federal bu-
reaucracy out of the way. This is espe-
cially true as it relates to access to qual-
ty healthcare for our veterans which vastly needs to be improved.

A3. I would vehemently defend the 2nd Amendment. I would support leg-
islation to remove barriers and inconsis-
tencies between states that hamper an individual’s ability to legally carry a concealed weapon. I would support measures to address mental health is-

sues that can be linked to violent behavior.

A4. I would support policies that pro-
mote the fair advancement of women and people of color in the workforce, especially working mothers. I believe
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 27

Bech Bruun (R) (continued)

in the rule of law and would work to ensure that existing anti-discrimination laws are properly enforced to their fullest.

A5. Yes, I believe that government needs to play a more active role in reducing student debt as opposed to promoting what can seem like its limitless use. Our universities and community colleges are graduating students who will enter the workforce with unsustainable levels of debt. I will work towards and support solutions that can address this so that our graduates can look forward to their future without being hamstrung by the hard work and dedication they put in to advance themselves into the diverse, competitive workforce that exists today.

A6. As Chairman of the Texas Water Development Board, I oversaw the adoption of the 2017 State Water Plan, a comprehensive planning tool for identifying the future water supply needs and solutions for the state. This process utilized sound science based on historical data to provide a “worst case drought scenario” benchmark to be used in long-range planning. This kind of practical approach should be used in evaluating climate issues both at the federal and state levels.

A7. Economic development based in improved infrastructure (water, roads, rail and ports) is vital to the growth and prosperity of District 27. Having chaired the state’s lead water infrastructure agency, I understand the challenges in developing these types of infrastructure and how best to work with local, state, and federal agencies to get things done.

Michael Cloud (R)

Background: State Republican Executive Committee member, four-term Victoria GOP Chair. Owner of Bright Idea Media, former staff at Faith Family Church.

Education: Oral Roberts University
Website: http://www.CloudForCongress.com

A1. Our immigration system is broken. An unwillingness to enforce the law over the past several decades has favored those who choose to break the law rather than go through the legal process. And Congress has been negligent in finding a solution to this serious problem. The first step in any immigration policy must be border security and enforcement, and Congress should pursue an “all of the above” approach. We should build a wall where it makes sense. President Trump’s approach to include DACA in a solution that secures the border and defunds “sanctuary cities” is a practical balanced approach.

A2. Obamacare has not only increased the cost of healthcare but has also restricted the freedom of Americans to choose their healthcare options. Obamacare must be repealed. Limiting regulation and lawsuit abuse would bring down costs, as would preventing Medicare fraud, which by itself costs each U.S. household on average nearly $500 per year. An approach that restores free market principles will lower cost and increase access to quality care.

A3. The right to keep and bear arms is essential to a free society. This is why the 2nd Amendment affirms the right of citizens to carry arms nationwide. Neither federal nor state/local governments may impose any requirement making the process of acquiring arms burdensome.

A4. The safety of all citizens regardless of ethnicity or gender is an important function of government. I support providing both the military and law enforcement with the resources they need to protect all Americans. The law should not distinguish between class, gender, ethnic, or other groups in the administration of justice.

A5. The federal government’s interventionist has produced record numbers of students bound by debt. Attempts to make college more accessible have actually made college much more expensive. As government loans increased, colleges realized they could raise prices without losing students. The federal government now handles 90% of student loans and over nine million borrowers are in default/delinquency or had postponed payments. Not only is this debt load harmful to graduates, it may cost taxpayers over $100 billion. Restoring free market principles would reduce costs and student debt.

A6. The EPA under the Obama Administration abused its authority, imposing costly new regulations on businesses and electrical plants. One of my legislative priorities will be to reestablish congressional control over federal agencies like the EPA to prevent this kind of overreach in the future.

A7. The federal government is too large and has too much power over the lives of citizens due to excessive taxation and spending. I would support tax relief and simplifying the tax code to eliminate loopholes and exemptions. The United States has acquired an enormous national debt. The crisis is avoidable, but it will take leaders with the courage to make hard choices. The first condition necessary for bringing down the debt is economic growth. Taxation slows the economy, so we cannot tax our way out of debt; spending must be reduced.

Eddie Gassman (R)

Background: contractor, and salesman

Education: Mary Carroll High School, Del Mar Jr. College, Corpus Christi State University

A1.. There are three basic points to my position on immigration. 1. immigration reform, 2. What to do with illegal adults already in the country and DACA, 3. border security.. We must have immigration reform that reduces the incentives to come her illegally.. No free benefits! Instead, Immigration should include incentives to immigrate Legally which includes faster processing, immigration should not take years to accomplish. We need to find a status.. not citizenship for people her more than 5 yrs. We need their tax money to help pay for increased border security and a partial barrier where needed

A2. 1. allow part-time employees to take part of their employers group healthcare programs. Its cheaper than individual plans. It will also cover more students and single parents, and the elderly who supplement their retirements It will also help people without upper levels of education 2. Get rid of the open enrollment time frame.

People who miss open enrollment must go the whole year without insurance. Imagine if we did that with car insurance and other forms of insurance. 3. Create more competition by allowing people to buy insurance anywhere they choose. . 4. Get the government out of healthcare

A3. I don’t believe in the term Gun Violence. Its people killing people using guns. 1. better background checks for people with mental health problems. Huge mental health care problem in America that is not be addressed 2.Reducing the availability of guns where there is no background check at all and where the chances of fraudulent paperwork is not properly checked and proper screening is not taking place. 3.fix the failure of agencies charged with checking and screening and granting permits not communicating with each other.. Restricting people form legally owning a gun is not the answer.

A4. 1 strengthen laws to increase the prison sentences of people who commit hate crimes and repeated crimes against women and children. 2. Increase the effectiveness of protective orders and restraining orders. Many women are killed and injured by husbands, Ex-Husbands and boyfriends who have restraining orders already on the books. This needs to stop! 3 More help. Funding for nonprofit organization housing and helping all abused women. 4. More authority and decision making ability For Police when dealing with domestic violence.. Hate crime and domestic crime Education should be a priority!

A5. I do believe he government can help in some cases to lower the interest rates for service members and people doing community service jobs, and those seeking higher education. I also believe the government should help people of lower income and people who did not complete their education.. Many of these people cannot finish their education because they have already had problem repaying their loans and are therefor restricted from receiving any more money. This keeps these people in lower paying, jobs and part-time jobs which almost always keeps them near or below the poverty level.

A6. I do not believe the Government has a role in changing climate.
**A7.** I would support all efforts to reduce Government Spending. I would pass a bill restricting the lawmakers ability to adding amendments and spending to bills that have nothing to do with the subject of the bill. at hand. Restricting Government by Stealth! Government spending is way out of hand. People are having a hard time paying all their Bills without the government adding more fees and hidden taxes.. We need to reduce the amount it cost for families to make ends meet. The More money families can keep the more they can save or spend. This will help the economy and the family Both!

**John Grundwald (R)**

**Background:** Raised on a 400+ acre produce farm. CPA Worked in business since 1970.

**Education:** BBA Western Michigan 1970

**A1.** Illegal is Illegal.

Those affected by DACA must go back to the country of origin. They must be given expedited consideration for reentry and citizenship. Those that are willing to enter and will join the military service including the Coast Guard for at least three years may automatically become citizens. Those that have lived here as if citizens, filed tax returns, etc. must be given expedited consideration but still must go through the full process including reading, speaking English and passing the exam before they become citizens. If not done, deport and start over.

**A2.** Health care is not an entitlement nor a right. People must work for it. Then they may become part of Medicare and Medicaid. Consideration must be made for their income. Most of us worked to get it.

**A3.** Guns do not kill people. People kill people. More people are killed by hammers than by guns.

1. Get the liberal news out of sensationalizing the incidents.
2. Educate the press and those that are pushing for more gun control about guns.
3. Educate the gun control advocates what really kills more people than guns and see if they want to control hammers, cars, etc.

**Jerry Hall (R)**

**Background:** Left home at the age 15 and had to make my own living and continued my education on my own. I built several businesses and put over 6,000 . . .

**Education:** I have specialized education from Harvard in Negotiations, Pepperdine University Conflict Resolution, Finance from Indiana University, UoH, UMKC

**Website:** www.jerryhall4congress.com

**A1.** DACA I would like to help these people find a way to legal status, due to no fault of their own they are in the USA. I am in support of building the wall, I have numerous rancher friends along the border who have been killed or robbed by the criminals coming across the border we need to Protect Americans first, we have a door by which anyone can come through legally we will accept them with open arms, but legally. It is unfair that the ones who did follow the rules are being insulted by the ones who don't. Why should they get special treatment.

**A2.** Open the start lines and allow competitive pricing, allow over the counter purchases of most medicines, demand competitive pricing for medications. Tort reform nationwide on medical malpractice suits. Medicare is something all retirees paid into and then there are being charged again. I want to stop the double billing on Medicare. We should not have to pay again.

**A3.** 1) Increase the punishment for violent crimes with a weapon
2) Allow open carry in every state
3) Gun shows sales with a government background check

**A4.** As a mediator, I routinely address this issue, inequality if a problem nationwide, you can not regulate treatment of other people. The federal government is no causing inequality by requesting on all application race selection. Inequality begins with asking designation of Color and gender. This should be mandated to be removed from all applications. Which by doing so would create a workforce of equality.

**A5.** Yes, the federal government continues to support and fund colleges that continually take government funds that should help reduce the cost of tuition but continue to increase the costs. I would support the reduction of College funding unless the universities become more competitive on tuition. I would like to see online education from the Universities at lower rates than the in class student tuition fees. I would support a nationwide CLEP type program that would offer anyone to test out of most of the courses and then complete their education at an accredited university that has US Funding.

**A6.** Welfare Reform, Social Security Reform

**A7.** Business regulations, fairness in business practices, openness to equality in hiring and pay. Education reform making College affordable. The Reduction of the discrimination against people who can not afford to go to college and are excluded from jobs the can easily do and are rejected solely on the reason they do not have a college degree.

**Christopher K. Mapp (R)**

**Background:** I understand the needs for families and small businesses. Education through vocational, college, or apprenticeship training programs are the basis for a . . .

**Education:** I am currently going full time to obtain my Bachelor’s degree. When I win the primary I will continue until the general and then suspend briefly.

**Website:** http://ckmappforuscongress27.com

**A1.** The immigration policy in our country has been ignored through multiple administrations. President Trump is correct to have congress fund building the wall as this is the first step to controlling the areas of entry. Sanctuary cities should be illegal and the Mayors, councilpersons and city managers should be indicted for their participation. DACA—The H1B visa program is good model to allow employers to sponsor immigrants wanting to work in the U.S. The H1B Visa program is capped at 65,000 per year and requires a Bachelor’s degree. Sponsorship could be a legal avenue to gain citizenship.

**A2.** Healthcare is not a right. Access to health care is a right. A free market solution for competing policies is a positive solution. Health savings account are the best mobile vehicle much like a 401K which goes with the person and the employer or employee can contribute. The 401K should be in lieu of social security as well as the health savings accounts. Accounts should be independent; government has raised social security and should not have access to the funds. Health savings accounts should have the same tax deduction model as IRA’s. Citizens should participate in self responsible benefits.

**A3.** Three years required military service would be the first goal. The second would be to use the laws we already have on the books to prosecute criminals who should not have weapons.
It is not just about the individuals, families and especially our Government. National debt and open borders will both have effects our national security and sovereignty. I am for tax incentives and also believe we should have a mechanism to pay on the debt everyday. I would propose a one cent national consumption tax to pay on the debt only and start cutting bloated budgets not including the military. We need updated hardware and weaponry to deter our enemies. Vocational funded training programs returning to our middle education level is a must.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 31

Mike Clark (D)

Background:
2nd Vice Chair, Williamson County Democratic Party; Precinct Chair, Williamson County Democratic Party; Chair Candidate Recruitment Committee, WCDP; Education: Master’s, Stephen F Austin; Bachelor’s, University of Texas

Website: http://www.votemikeclark.com

A1. Passing immigration reform should be a priority if we are to ensure a healthy American culture. Immigrants add value to our American culture, they do not dilute it! Cities with high immigrant populations have the highest economic growth and the lowest crime rates. Our immigration quota and regulations are antiquated and out of touch. We must pass the DREAM act that will help lay the pathway for minors whose hearts and souls are already Americans! If you are on DACA, you deserve to be an American citizen.

A2. Our nation’s future depends affordable access to health care. Let’s ensure that health care is a right for all and that Medicare is available to everyone! Controlling cost at all levels will be effective and efficient. Medicaid must be available in all 50 states so that are most vulnerable are taken care of, as well. It is not just about the patients’ needs when we talk health care. It also means our doctors, nurses, and medical technicians are treated like the medical professionals they are.

A3. Universal Background checks; Mandatory regular firearm training; Mandatory safety training; Restrict the distribution and types of bullets; Promote education and awareness programs

A4. Fully funding and expanding Planned Parenthood; Expanding Medicaid coverage; Equal work for equal pay; Equal bonuses and equal merits for the same goals met; Promote gender awareness programs in public schools

A5. Yes. The federal government can take a proactive role by: 1) Reducing interest on federal backed loans to 1%; 2) Promote public civil and social work programs in lieu of paying off student loans; 3) Offer military service in lieu of paying off student loans; This has the benefit of reducing unpayable student loan debt and providing a better economic future for graduates

A6. Passing the Paris agreement as a congressional resolution; Passing the Carbon Fee and Dividend program; Promote the reuse of water in homes businesses; Ban fracking; Ban continental shelf drilling; Promote geothermal, solar, wind, and other renewable energy systems.; Provide funding for environmental awareness and economic programs

A7. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD):
We lose just over 20 veterans per day to suicide, with PTSD being the leading cause. We need to bring this to the forefront because PTSD is a national crisis. It represents the true cost of war. Taking care of our veterans should never be in question or in doubt. As a parent whose children, brother-in-law, grandfather, uncles and father-in-law have served, this issue is very close to my heart. Our focus should be on quality and meaningful care for our veterans. We can never quit on them because they never quit on us!

Mary Jennings “MJ” Hegar (D)

Background:
Raised in my district, I did 3 tours in Afg as a rescue pilot. Purple heart Vet. Won the right for women to serve in combat. 5 years in Healthcare

Education: BA in Sociology and World Religions, The University of Texas at Austin Executive MBA, The University of Texas at Austin

Website: http://mjfortexas.com

A1. We are a nation of immigrants, and our federal immigration policy must be reformed to better reflect the values that this country was built upon. I support a federal immigration strategy that prioritizes fiscally responsible and environmentally sound border security strategies, provides local businesses with an effective system to fill their labor needs, and calls for a fair pathway to earned citizenship. I also support the passage of the DREAM Act, a bipartisan legislative solution that helps pave a pathway to citizenship for qualified immigrant youth.

A2. Access to affordable and quality healthcare is a human right. Too much of the healthcare conversation in Washington is driven by hyperpartisan attacks instead of people focused solutions. Having worked in the health-care administration industry for years, I understand how complex our insurance and healthcare systems are, which is why I understand that it will take a bipartisan effort to accomplish real reform. I support efforts that would improve the ACA by encouraging insurers to participate in the marketplace and stabilizing the insurance market. All citizens should have access to healthcare.

A3. As a combat veteran, I understand that the greatest threat to our 2nd Amendment rights is the gun violence epidemic in this country. I am a gun owner, and I take that responsibility very seriously. I support strengthening background checks and increasing awareness of and access to mental health services. As a gun-related domestic violence survivor, I also plan to reform the cross-border concealed carry permit process, which dispro-
portionately impacts fleeing victims of domestic violence. These are common-sense steps that protect our communities but do not infringe on our 2nd Amendment rights.

**A.4.** I have successfully fought for women’s rights in DC when I opened hundreds of thousands of jobs for women in the military, and I will continue this advocacy in Congress by fighting harassment and discrimination. I will work to empower marginalized communities by opposing legislation that creates systemic barriers to racial and gender equality, and I will support the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and address the pay gap. The criminal justice system must be fixed, and the failed war on drugs disproportionately and unfairly impacts communities of color.

**A.5.** Education is a human right, and we owe it to our children to invest in higher education to provide them with a foundation of knowledge that will enable them to be free to pursue higher education without saddling them with insurmountable debt. The impending student loan default crisis will have a catastrophic impact on our economy. If we want to continue competing in the world market and maintain our position as a global leader, we need to be free to pursue higher education without the fear of crippling debt. It is simply in our nation’s best interest.

**A.6.** Our planet is held in trust by us for our children. I support clean, renewable energy that will both save the business community money as well as lessen our dependence on foreign oil. Simplifying our foreign policy environment, providing a cleaner tomorrow for our kids, and reducing costs to the business community is not only prudent but will help us return to a position of strength on the world stage.

**A.7.** We must rectify the economic damage that will result from the fiscally irresponsible tax bill that was recently passed, including the removal of tax incentives for companies to hire disabled veterans. We also need to ensure that Social Security will be solvent beyond the 2035 estimates by raising the income cap.

**Kent Lester (D)**

**Background:**
Kent Lester is a retired Army officer and former social studies teacher at Belton High School in Belton, TX. He lives in Cedar Park, TX.

**Education:**
BS, Political Science, United States Military Academy at West Point MA, Management, Webster University

**Website:**
http://kentlesterforcongress.com

**A.1.** Immigration is not only what made this country great, it is what literally made this country. The fact that there is even a debate about DACA, a program for people who have done everything right, is shameful. We should not place unnecessary barriers against immigrants who want to contribute to our society by becoming tax-paying citizens. Additionally, there should be no nationality or religious based exclusion from immigration. Our border security policy should be dictated by the realities on the ground, not political gamesmanship.

**A.2.** I support Medicare for all citizens because I believe access to quality healthcare is an attainable goal in the United States; to me it is a matter of our priorities. I have been the beneficiary of quality government healthcare since birth. In fact, my father made a career out of the Army chiefly for the healthcare provided to my mother, who suffered from chronic illness. I know we can do this and I will support any legislation that increases access. I also pledge to fight for CHIP against those who would use the health of children as a political football.

**A.3.** The first measure I would support is finally allowing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study the root causes of gun violence. The second would be to strengthen background checks and the sharing of information between government agencies, so individuals with a history of violence and certain mental illnesses cannot legally possess firearms. Finally, I believe firearms should only be sold from reputable, licensed outlets that perform the necessary background checks and reports.

**A.4.** It is past time the United States ratified the ERA. How can we claim to be world leaders when women still make less than men for the same work and continue to suffer harassment in the workplace? As we’ve seen in the last few election cycles, the days of voter suppression, especially of minority voters, are still with us. States that continue to discriminate by hiding behind the 10th Amendment should face consequences. Additionally, there should be stricter federally mandated training and vetting requirements for law enforcement officers.

**A.5.** Because the government backs many student loans, the government should be more proactive in finding ways to reduce debt loads for the very people who will one day lead our nation. I support programs that forgive loans for important professions such as teaching and primary care. Ideally, we should offer young people free tuition for public junior colleges and trade schools. I want our young people to enter the workforce without the yoke of crushing student loan debt.

**A.6.** I will support legislation that would lessen our dependence on fossil fuels by providing energy companies incentive to make the switch. I am against the current administration’s plans to expand offshore drilling not only because it continues our oil addiction, but it also increases the chances for environmental catastrophes like the BP spill in the Gulf.

**A.7.** As a retired Army Quartermaster officer, I have been involved in the military’s acquisition process, and I have seen the waste and graft that occurs with major defense contractors. So many desperately needed social programs are left underfunded while our defense budget is the largest in the world. I don’t believe a strong defense and taking care of our citizens are mutually exclusive. The fact is, prestige weapons systems are breaking our defense budget and country by extension. I am uniquely qualified to be a leader in the push for a more reasonable defense budget.

**Christine Eady Mann (D)**

**Background:**
I am a Family Practice Physician in Cedar Park and an Adjunct Assistant Clinical Professor of Family Medicine with UNTHSC-FW.

**Education:**
Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, Ft. Worth, 1995

**Website:**
http://Christine4Congress.com
Christine Eady Mann  
(D) (continued)  

We must close loopholes that allow domestic abusers to obtain guns. We must keep guns out of sensitive places like schools. I will continue to support the Second Amendment right to own guns while working to end gun violence.

Q3. Referring to water, energy, public education, transportation, what specific measures do you propose to meet the states growing infrastructure needs? 

A4. People of color face inequalities in a broad range of areas. We know that health disparities are reduced when people of color have greater access to medical care, therefore implementing a Medicare for All Healthcare system will improve health status for these Americans. We must end sentencing disparities and incarceration for non-violent drug crimes. We must reduce barriers that limit access to the polls in this community, such as voter ID laws and reduction in polling places. We must implement strategies to ensure access to capital for entrepreneurs among people of color.

A5. Government absolutely has a role to play in reducing student debt. Student debt has risen 150% in the last decade, faster than any other sector in our economy. The average student can no longer afford higher education without taking on loans. Students are our future, and ensuring that they leave school without an undue financial burden is an investment in the future of our country. Student debt leads to postponement of home ownership, new business start-ups, marriage, and starting families. Both students and our economy are harmed by this burden of debt, and government must help address this.

A6. Climate change is a grave threat to our national security and our planet. I support a transition to renewable energy sources such as the Citizen’s Climate Lobby plan. This group is working in a bipartisan manner to reduce reliance on carbon-producing sources of energy with a revenue neutral strategy that will not unduly burden consumers or energy producers. The group’s plan is a clear set of benchmarks that gives energy producers the ability to transition to renewable energy in a transparent, predictable way, while also protecting consumers from the financial burden of these changes.

A7. One of my core issues is voting rights. If you don’t have a vote, you don’t have a voice. I support greater access to the polls by doing the following: Implementing automatic registration nationwide at age 18; making Election Day a National Holiday; expanding early voting days and polling places for greater access; re-registering all felons who have completed their sentences and have no other restrictions to voting; restoring the full force of the Voting Rights Act; removing bars to voting like voter ID laws. Our Democracy thrives when we all participate, and we must make participation easier.

John Carter (R)  
No response

Mike Sweeney (R)  
No response

STATE GOVERNOR

Q1. What specific measures, if any, would you take to improve voter registration, access to voting, voter turnout and the redistricting process? Why?

Q2. What specific reforms, if any, would you propose in state health care policy to address the cost and access to health care? Explain.

Q3. Referring to water, energy, public education, transportation, what specific measures do you propose to meet the states growing infrastructure needs? Explain rationale.

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

James Jolly Clark (D)  
No response

Cedric Davis Sr. (D)  

Background:  
I am a former Mayor, Police Chief, School Board Trustee, and EDC Board Director. I am accessible, influential, and energetic political leader. I have spearhead new school, roadways, and social projects. I have a B. Sc. in CJ, in Grad. Studies for MPA

Education: Sam Houston State University (B.Sc. CR1J). Mayor Davis is completing his graduate studies in Public Administration at Tarleton State University to obtain his (M.P.A.), he holds a Master Peace Officer license.

Website: http://www.mayorcedricdavis4txgov.org

A1. Drop voter ID law, fairly redistrict voting maps, explore more technology for electronically registering and voting. I believe this measure ensures equity, not suppression.

A2. Seek the $100 Billion of Medicaid Expansion refused by Gregg Abbott, drop lawsuit over women productive rights and restore proper CHIP funding for children and mothers. I would welcome Planned Parenthood as a means of women affordable health care.

A3. Stop long-term tax abatements for the large corporation, I would not allow corporations to abate the educational tax. Allow non-violent offenders to learn a STEM, HVAC, Plumbing, and Engineering training so once released they may be contracted to become employed by the state to rebuild infrastructure for a 2 yr. period. Design new water reservoirs and seek new aquifers.

A4. Equity in women’s pay and workplace harassment. Infrastructure Budgeting, and Criminal Justice Reform. Affordable higher education and work skilled labor training. Harsher ethics penalties for elected officials.

Joe Mumbach (D)  

Background:  
68 years in the school of hard knocks. Also I was a single parent with 2 daughters from 1979 to 1990. I have been self-employed for most of my adult life. I did work for the City of Pasadena for 10 years, mostly in Utilities and Engineering.

Education: 3 years of college at the University of St. Thomas, Houston and some additional classes at Lamar University, Beaumont, and the University of Houston, Main Campus

Website: http://www.joefortexas.us

A1. Voter ID laws should encourage people to vote; not discourage them. I could envision voter registration on election day with a valid driver’s license and maybe a dye marker on a thumb or finger. Something like that. Also the time for national census and redistricting is close by. I will end the gerrymandering and return to honest district lines.

A2. We should have established our own in-state marketplace options from the beginning. My preference would be for Medicaid for all. But at the very least we should have made it easier for people to get coverage from Day 1. CHIP has been an effective program, even without the heartfelt assistance from the state. I would prefer to combine CHIP, Obamacare, Medicare into 1.

A3. We have 20 years of backlog on infrastructure projects to catch up on. From the Ike Dike to a third reservoir for flooding. Encourage renewable energy jobs with a sales tax-free home/business improvement. Improve schools so that our kids are better educated and qualified for more tech jobs, including free public pre-K and 2 years tuition-free training in community . . .
STATE GOVERNOR

A4. Our Texas Legislature and governor have once again decided to scrimp on education in order to reduce the state budget. We can’t do that to our kids and our future. Our students and teachers need an advocate in the governor’s office. We will teach parents (especially poorly educated ones) how to help teachers teach their own kids with online programs and also tv programs.

Adrian Ocegueda (D)
No response

Jeffrey Payne (D)
Background: I offer common sense, business sense and the commitment to our big and diverse state to create the best atmosphere for our citizens and our state’s economy. I have years of experience as a mediator which should serve me well with our legislature.

Education: BA Louisiana Tech - History Minor - Mathematics
Website: http://www.jeffrey4texas.com
A1. I would encourage the legislature to abandon the Voter ID law which was designed to restrict voting not prevent fraud. Additionally, I would veto any legislation that made it more difficult for Texans to vote.
A2. We need to improve Women’s Health Care in Texas. The current state sponsored clinics are a sham and do not provide adequate care or information for Texas women. Healthcare should be a right not a privilege and as Governor I would work to encourage new initiatives to provide quality health care for all Texans. I would accept all Medicaid funds offered by the US Government.
A3. Texas needs an abundant supply of clean water. We need to improve our water resources and expand them. Our education system must be funded in accordance with the Texas Constitution. To do that we must insist that corporate citizens pay their fair share of property taxes. Renewable energy must be a priority.
A4. We need to encourage minority owned businesses and other small businesses with the same tax advantages given large corporations. Tuition at State schools must be affordable & we should institute a system that keeps students from going into massive debt. I would explore an Income Sharing Agreement (ISA) as an option. Livable Wage legislation to improve Texans lives.

Lupe Valdez (D)
Background: I’ve spent my career working for the greater good. From 2005–2017, I served as Dallas County Sheriff, managing a $140+ million budget, bringing sincere reform & saving taxpayer dollars. I’ve also been an officer in the Army and federal investigator.

Education: Master’s of Criminology, UT-Arlington, Bachelor’s in Business Administration, Southern Nazarene University
Website: http://www.lupevaldez.com
A1. Red & blue states across the country are reforming election laws. To modernize our elections, I support automatic voter registration, an independent redistricting commission, repealing discriminatory voter ID laws, shedding light on dark money, and any practical steps that protect the integrity of our elections and make it clear we want the people’s voice to be heard.
A2. I am committed to adopting the Medicaid expansion, adequately funding state mental health facilities, stopping the attacks on women’s healthcare, and ending the medical deserts in urban and rural Texas, where maternal mortality rates are unacceptable. As governor, I’ll wield the bully pulpit to push Congress to build on the ACA and protect our healthcare from sabotage.
A3. First, we need to stop focusing on harmful, job-killing bills and start paying attention to these issues that truly matter to Texans. We should reform the school finance system, promote public and private investment in renewable energies, and ensure our transportation funding meets the needs of today and future growth.
A4. Texans need to know they have a voice in Austin who will support our families, rein in special interests’ influence, and bring back some sanity. The Legislature must respond to people’s needs and focus on issues where we can improve their lives—this includes the economy, accessible healthcare, an equitable education system, and adequate transportation funding.

Tom Wakely (D)
Background: As a life long community activist who has fought for social, economic and environmental justice for over 40 years I bring a wealth of practical experience to the issues facing Texans today: income inequality, universal healthcare and global warming.

Education: Alamo Height High School, San Antonio Lorreighton College, Denver Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago
Website: http://texansfortom.com
A1. Every Texan needs to be automatically registered to vote when they turn 18. In addition, I believe TX needs to join Oregon, Washington & Colorado & conduct all elections by mail. Vote by Mail would solve the access to voting problem & substantial increase voter turnout. An independent bi-partisan commission needs to be in charge of redistricting.
A2. I support Medicare-For-All Texans.
A3. We need to scrap the state’s franchise tax system and replace it with a business income tax. The increased revenue from a business income tax would go a long way towards meeting our state’s infrastructure needs.
A4. Income Inequality is the #1 issue in TX. Connecting the dots you will find many of the problems facing TX can be traced back to income inequality. Two ways we can begin to address the issues is first, we raise the state’s minimum wage to $15 an hour. The second thing we do is repeal our state’s right-to-work laws. Rebuilt the labor movement, rebuilt the middle class standing up against the extremism in our state.

Andrew White (D)
Background: I’ve been a proven entrepreneur for twenty years and led hundreds of employees. My style of leadership involves tackling complex issues using data and building consensus and I am committed to

Grady Yarbrough (D)
No response

Greg Abbott (R)
No response

Secedee Kilgore (R)
No response

Barbara Krueger (R)
No response

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Q1. What specific measures, if any, would you take to improve voter registration, access to voting, voter turnout and the redistricting process? Why?

Q2. What specific reforms, if any, would you propose in state health care policy to address the cost and access to health care? Explain.

Q3. Referring to water, energy, public education, transportation, what specific measures do you propose to meet the state's growing infrastructure needs? Explain rationale.

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

Mike Collier (D)

Background:
Worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers for 22 years, 10 as partner. Learned to diagnose problems and provide leadership to solve them, with integrity. Suzanne and I met in college, married 28 years, two wonderful sons, one fabulous daughter-in-law.

Education:
BBA MBA
Website: http://CollierForTexas.com

A1. I will oppose any law that disenfranchises voters, such as discriminatory voter ID. I will support and champion any law that promotes enfranchisement and voting such as paid time off on Election Day. I intend to kill gerrymandering in Texas by converting to a Redistricting Commission model. And I believe strongly in civics and history education in public schools.

A2. Texas should expand Medicaid (the business community is with me) but we should also reform Medicaid so that it marries well with the requirements of medical service providers. We should seek to optimize ACA, not destroy it. Pre-existing conditions should be covered, there should be no lifetime coverage limits, and healthcare should be treated as basic human right.

A3. I am public education's staunchest ally. I am voucher's number one foe. We need more money in

A4. Jobs/economic vitality, without destroying Texas or our values. We can have a great business climate and a great state. Women's health is a huge issue; vilifying Planned Parenthood for political gain has cost countless women their lives and this must be reversed. Public policy in Texas is devoid of compassion, and that must change. Corruption can, and must, be stopped.

Michael Cooper (D)

No response

Scott Milder (R)

Background:
I have more than 20 years of experience as a businessman and served four years on the Rockwall City Council. I know what policies will help move our economy forward, and I am dedicated to serving the people of Texas.

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from The University of North Texas and Master's Degree in Public Relations from The University of North Texas

Website: http://scottmilder4txlg.com

A1. I will work to defend the Texas Voter ID law, ensuring our state's voters know their elections are not being undermined by fraud.

A2. Healthcare is a complex issue, and many Texas families are facing rising insurance premiums as a result of the disastrous federal Obamacare law. I support market-based solutions that will help drive down costs, including allowing the purchase of health insurance across state lines and ensuring all Texans are able to access Health Savings Accounts.

A3. I believe we have to take a hard look at our budgetary priorities and work to eliminate waste. By cutting unnecessary spending, we can free up much-needed funding for schools and infrastructure investments. I also believe we must fix our transportation crisis. There is not enough infrastructure to adequately serve our state's growing population.

A4. I believe property tax relief, transportation, and economic growth will all be key issues in the coming session. I fully support property tax relief and will work to see that the state starts paying its share of education expenses instead of forcing local property owners to make up the difference. I will work to cut bureaucracy and get out of the way of the free market.

Dan Patrick (R)

Background:
Bio information for Lt. Governor Patrick, including experience and accomplishments, can be found at: http://danpatrick.org/meet-dan/

Education: Bio information for Lt. Governor Patrick can be found at: http://danpatrick.org/meet-dan/

Website: http://danpatrick.org/


STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Justin Nelson (D) Unopposed

Ken Paxton (R) Unopposed

STATE COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Joi Chevalier (D)

Background:
17 years as innovative senior product leader in startups & Fortune 50 with P&L, acquisitions, and billions in revenue; pioneering small business owner incubating 23+ food+tech companies; Democratic delegate, state platform and resolution committees.

Education: BA English, Latin, UT Austin MA English, British Literature & Technology UT Oxford Program,
Brasenose College, Oxford UK Honors Graduate, Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts  
Website: http://www.joifortexas.com  
A1. Accurate forecasting, regular audits, special reports on strategic opportunities as in healthcare, education; seek innovative federal or state programs for incremental revenue; independent reviews; expand definitions of programs to include related contingent areas and dependent programs and departments for more impact accuracy; systematic review protocol to ensure data.  
A2. Absolutely. The discussion on needs to have factual, actionable information that is clear for different types of immigration, in order to remove emotion, assumptions, and hyperbole. Only then can real legislation be written to affect change in the priority arenas to keep what is positive, or to reconsider what does not work for Texas.  
A3. Healthcare: the comptroller must provide a variety of reports and investigations on the real costs to Texas (and at the county and city/healthcare district level) on not implementing ACA Medicare expansion. Texans do pay, regardless, for uncompensated care; underfunded care, and due to a broken implementation that severely hampers a reasonable discussion on what is needed.  

Tim Mahoney (D)  
Background: With a background in public policy and law, I understand there has to be a systemic change in how Texas engages citizens in our economic efforts. For example, what planning was done for hurricane Harvey? For options, we need effective forecasts.  
Website: http://Tim4Comptroller.com  
A1. The Comptroller’s estimates have been as much about politics as economics. Estimating becomes even more precarious with the uncertainty of our extractive industries. The more the uncertainty, the poorer the predictions. We need to start building coherent local/regional economies. Our investment strategies, including the Rainy Day Fund, make little sense.  
A2. The 2006 report should be updated; such information should be one of the Comptroller’s status reports before each legislative session. . . . [Removed part of response; did not meet criteria.] The 2006 study found “Undocumented Immigrants” provided more to the economy than they cost the State, though there was less local info.  
A3. Texas is poorly managed. The mantra of cutting taxes, suing the Feds, has been a diversion. In the wake of Harvey, we would have suffered more without the Feds. The Comptroller could provide better public data dispersed interactively to every region; then we will find new directions for a more engaged Texas.  
Glenn Hegar (R)  
Unopposed

STATE COMMISSIONER OF GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Q1. What specific short-term and long-term measures would you implement to restore and protect the coast, wetlands, and built environment to minimize damage from major storms?  
Q2. How do you address the concerns of developers and homeowners who want to build in these coastal areas?  
Q3. What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?  

Tex Morgan (D)  
Background: I hold 2 BS degrees & a MBA. I’ve served as a chief engineer, CEO, & tran sit trustee. I’ve been business & engineering background; no-nonsense attitude; Eagle Scout; no conflicts of interest. I’m beholden solely to the people of Texas, where I grew up.  
A1. 1st-efficiently restore destroyed properties, building up & bright, or buying out (Harvey victims still homeless!) 2nd-abate destroying & reclaim wetlands, marshes, prairie lands & floodplains. Build Coastal Spine & curved sea walls to cut storm surge. Restore, add, & expand dunes, beaches, groynes, Attack dead zones with water mega-pumps. Engineer & oblige porous parcels.  
A3. 1-Conserve our sacred Alamo & holdings, don’t squander a half billion $ on redoing its surroundings. 2-Responsible to our Veterans, our GLO’ll better communicate & deploy state land, housing & home improvement loan programs. 3-Permanent School Fund-it must reap more for better schools, to defray local taxes. 4-A Bipartisan Redistricting Board! 5-More transparency!  

Miguel Suazo (D)  
Background: I am the most qualified and experienced person on the ballot with a proven record of success. I actually work on issues related to the GLO and have for over 15 years. I am a proven leader and can bring in groups Democrats need to turn TX blue in 2018  
Education: New Mexico Military Institute Georgetown University The University of New Mexico School of Law  
Website: http://www.miguelsuazo.org  
A1. Short term, we need to care for those devastated by Harvey. Simultaneously, we must identify the projects that will most protect the coast. Protect estuaries, guard against encroachment of fresh and brackish water. Restoring oyster habitats, preventing brackish water invasion of fresh water habitats, combating invasive species, building berms and sand dunes.  
A2. Balancing the needs of nature, the public, and businesses has been a central component of my career. Having a vibrant coast is essential for tourism and for the enjoyment of the public. However, development must take into account environmental impacts. Raising the education level of where, how, and what to build is essential.  
A3. The most critical issue facing the next Land Commissioner is that of leadership. The Land Commissioner must elevate the profile of the key issues Texans face and educate the public and other elected officials about the importance of the issues dealt with by the GLO. This requires setting critical priorities and focusing relentlessly on those priorities each and every day.  

George P. Bush (R)  
Background: I have run a conservative and efficient Land Office. I am saving taxpayer money while putting more money in the Public School Fund than ever before. The GLO has been a government office that works for the people during my first term.  
Website: http://www.georgepfortexas.org/  
A1. The restoration of McMaddin National Wildlife Refuge in Jefferson County is one example of what we are trying to do on the coast. Restoration
STATE COMMISSIONER OF GENERAL LAND OFFICE

George P. Bush (R) (continued)
to this area provides critical protection to Port Arthur and the oil and gas infrastructure of the state. The GLO, along with its partners, has identified approximately 60 similar, high priority projects.

A2. I have long advocated for the construction of a coastal barrier. This system, often referred to as the “Ike Dike,” would protect vital assets already in place, as well as encourage future, responsible development in these coastal areas. I would recommend the expansion of the existing levee systems in Port Arthur and Freeport along with a new levee system in Orange County.

A3. Continuing Hurricane Harvey relief—The Texas coast was devastated by Harvey last fall and we need to continue to fight for those affected. Helping Veterans—Ensuring that veterans have access to services they need is a top priority for my administration. Saving the Alamo—My objective is to save the Alamo so that we can tell the heroic story of the battle better than ever.

Davey Edwards (R)

Background:

Education:
BS Biomedical Science at Texas A&M MS Geospatial Surveying Engineering at Texas A&M PhD Geoscience at University of Texas

Website: http://www.daveyfortexas.com

A1. Short-term would be to continue to provide beach replenishment and maintenance programs. Long-term would be to research plans that are being implemented in other areas of the world that have already or had coastal erosion issues.

A2. This is the same issue as developing in Flood zone areas throughout Texas. There is a certain risk the developer takes on when building in these areas that natural events cannot be predicted or changed.

A3. Bringing back experienced and knowledgeable staff that was eliminated in the early term of the current commissioner during the GLO “reboot” program. This will make the GLO more efficient and effective to all the stewardships of the agency.

Jerry Patterson (R)

Background:

Education:
BA, History Texas A&M ’69

Website: http://www.votepatterson.com

A1. A federally funded coastal barrier system such as the “Ike Dike” should be undertaken to protect the Galveston bay complex and the industries associated with it. Coastal development in eroding areas should be restricted in those areas of high rates of erosion, and habitat for coastal species should be enhanced and preserved in bays and estuaries.

A2. Building on coastal areas with high rates of erosion is folly. Its a simple math problem. If you have a thirty year mortgage, and the beach is eroding at a rate of over 5 feet per year, it can easily be calculated when your house will be on the public beach or on the state owned wet beach and have zero value.

A3. Restoring confidence and transparency in the management and finances at the Alamo which is now managed by the GLO. Restoring the Disaster Recovery Division of the GLO, which is responsible for temporary emergency housing for Hurricane Harvey victims, to the professionalism and level of competence that existed during Hurricanes Ike and Dolly.

Rick Range (R)

Background:
My 31-years as a first responder serves in reacting to natural disasters and veterans’ affairs. Teaching and oil and gas experience allows a perspective to conduct leasing and grow the school fund. 20+ years of Alamo research supports restoration.

Education:
B.M.E from West Texas State University in Canyon

Website: http://rickrange.us/

A1. Short-term: restoration from Harvey. GLO must assist storm victims in repairing their property. Long-term: strengthen structural requirements, Wetlands are endangered species habitats. New retainers, barriers, and drainage routes must be balanced with preserving the natural environment.

A2. Building in flood-prone coastal areas is neither practical or prudent. It is unfair to expect all state taxpayers to pay for the inevitable results of ill-advised future developments. Retainers and drainages can be constructed, building codes strengthened, and developments planned using such protective measures, but the bottom line is another Harvey will come.

A3. The other most urgent issue facing the GLO is the Alamo restoration in accordance with the Alamo Preservation Bill (HB 2968) passed and funded by the Texas Legislature in 2015. The structures need immediate attention. Then the original footprint of the 1836 battle can be recaptured, followed by a world-class museum to exhibit artifacts.

ACCESS THE INTERACTIVE VOTERS GUIDE…
Interactive versions of this Voters Guide are available online at VOTE411.org and on your mobile device using The Voting App—REPRESENT! TX, downloadable free from Apple App Store or Google Play Store. You will be able to compare the candidates’ responses to the questions and create a printout of your ballot that you can take into the voting booth.

STATE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Q1. Do you support or oppose supplementing the privately funded State of Texas Agriculture Relief Fund with taxpayer money to finance disaster assistance needs of farmers, ranchers, producers, and agribusiness owners in restoring operations and rebuilding property following catastrophic droughts and hurricanes? Why?

Q2. Which responsibilities of the Texas Department of Agriculture are your highest priorities for the next 4 years, and how do you intend to accomplish them?

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

Kim Olson (D)

Unopposed

Trey Blocker (R)

Background:
I have worked my entire career representing agriculture and rural Texas—from serving as staff to rural members of the Legislature to advocating for agriculture groups to advance their interests with the Legislature.

Education:
BA—Hampden-Sydney College, Virginia J.D. Univ. of Texas School of Law Attended Dallas Theological Seminary

Website: http://www.TreyBlocker.com

A1. The beauty of the STAR fund is that it is 100% privately funded (pre-
STATE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

ferred method of helping neighbors). However, we all depend on Texas Agriculture for our food and clothing, so it’s essential that their operations be restored as soon as possible. If the STAR fund is inadequate to ensure food safety and security, the Legislature should consider supplementing it. 

A2. I have a good working relationship with the Governor, Lt. Governor and most legislators and will work with them to preserve, protect, and promote Texas agriculture. I want to restore honesty, integrity, and fiscal responsibility to the Texas Department of Agriculture. The current commissioner has raised taxes, grown the government bureaucracy, and had ethical problems.

A3. As Commissioner, I will not consistently embarrass the agency and its employees or the state of Texas and will lead our employees with a greater sense of focus, vision and purpose. I will refocus TDA on its core mission to provide the food, fuel, and clothing that our state, our nation, and the world need. It’s time to put Agriculture first.

Jim Hogan (R)

No response

Sid Miller (R)

Background: I am trained as an urban planner, architect and historic preservationist; at first glance regulating the oil and gas industry in TX doesn’t seem like a good fit. The fact is that 88% of Texans live in cities. Oil & gas directly impacts urban life.

Background: At first glance regulating the oil and gas industry in TX doesn’t seem like a good fit. The fact is that 88% of Texans live in cities. Oil & gas directly impacts urban life.

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

Q2. Which reform(s) suggested by the 2016 Sunset Review Commission are your highest priority, and how do you plan on implementing them?

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

Roman McAllen (D)

Background: I am trained as an urban planner, architect and historic preservationist; at first glance regulating the oil and gas industry in TX doesn’t seem like a good fit. The fact is that 88% of Texans live in cities. Oil & gas directly impacts urban life.

Education: University of Houston Downtown, Bachelor of Business Administration; University of Texas Austin, Master of Architecture

Website: http://www.mcallenfor texas.com/

A1. Right now I plan to balance the commission. The current commission is entirely beholden to the industry. It is an open secret that commissioners accept campaign contributions 24/7, 365 days a year, from the industry. I will balance the commission by listening to and believing scientists, surface rights owners & municipalities and supporting them.

A2. I would lobby to change the name of the commission to something that tells the public, & the commission­ers themselves, what the commission is supposed to be doing. I would seek increased reporting requirements for wastewater injection wells. These wells are causing earthquakes and I believe polluting our water. This to me is immoral and unjust. Texans cannot afford it.

A3. Assiduous enforcement of existing regulations on all matters is crucial. Added costs to accomplish this can and should be absorbed by the industry. The health, safety, and welfare of all Texans here now, and God willing in the future, depends on this commission to do the right thing and it cannot do so as long as it continues to pander to the industry.

Chris Spellmon (D)

No response

Christi Craddick (R)

Background: My first five years in office, my focus has been finding efficiencies in our processes and overhauling our information technology infrastructure. These accomplishments allow us to do our job better, saving time and money for taxpayers and industry.

Education: The University of Texas, Bachelor of Arts in Plan II–Liberal Arts Honors Program; The University of Texas Law School, Doctor of Jurisprudence

Website: http://www.christicraddick.com

A1. I take seriously my duty to protect our natural resources while industry creates jobs. Strong, fair, consistent regulation ensures a safe environment and economic growth. During my time at the Railroad Commission, we have updated our rules to ensure the industry continues to do business in Texas, and at the same time, we have kept our communities and environment clean.

A2. Through the Sunset review process, the Railroad Commission has had considerable discussion about bettering its functions. We are more efficient today because of these efforts. One important reform, we are making improvements to our oil and gas monitoring and enforcement program, and oversight of Texas’ pipeline infrastructure.

A3. I’ll continue to maximize our efficiency and effectiveness; defend our state’s regulatory authority over energy development; increase transparency, bringing more agency data online; support streamlined permitting for infrastructure, ensuring safe transport of our energy resources; and, advocate for educational paths for a highly-trained, technically-skilled workforce.

Weston Martinez (R)

Background: Trusted Conservative Leader; Texas Real Estate Commissioner 6+ years; Real oil and gas experience owning my own companies. Weston is the only candidate in this race who endorsed Ted Cruz in the primary and Trump in the general when facing Clinton.

STATE RAILROAD COMMISSIONER
STATE RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

Weston Martinez (R) (continued)

**Education:** Bachelors Business Administration Texas; Certified Mediator AT&T Electrical Engineering Program
**Website:** http://www.westonfortexas.com

**A1.** We’re going to support oil and gas producers who responsibly produce energy in our state and we’re going to make it easier for them to do business, but we will always reprimand bad actors.

**A2.** Renaming the agency from the Railroad commission to a proper name as its members indicated April 29th of 2016, visit www.westofortexas.com for more in depth information.

**A3.** Protect land owners and business owners and stop running commission like a dictatorship. For land owners we must always focus on making changes at the commission that better protect private property rights while still encouraging oil and gas development. How we deal with allocation wells.

STATE TEXAS SUPREME COURT

**JUSTICE, PLACE 2**

Steven Kirkland (D)
Unopposed

Jimmy Blacklock (R)
Unopposed

**JUSTICE, PLACE 4**

R.K. Sandill (D)
Unopposed

John Devine (R)
Unopposed

**JUSTICE, PLACE 6**

Kathy Cheng (D)
Unopposed

Jeff Brown (R)
Unopposed

STATE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

**Q1.** What recent developments (e.g., client choice of counsel, technology) provide opportunities to improve the state’s indigent defense system in criminal cases appealed from lower court decisions?

**Q2.** Which responsibility of a Court of Criminal Appeals judge is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?

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**PRESIDING JUDGE**

Maria T. (Terri) Jackson (D)
Unopposed

David Bridges (R)
No response

Sharon Keller (R)

**Background:** Judge on this Court 23 years; 17 years as Presiding Judge. Written hundreds of opinions including in death penalty cases. As P.J. I work with legislature; oversee court operations. Chair, Indigent Defense Commission; former chair, CSG Justice Center

**Education:** S.M.U. School of Law, J.D. 1978; Rice University, B.A. 1975

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

**A1.** In Texas, the idea of client choice in criminal cases originated with the Texas Indigent Defense Commission, which I have led since 2002. We provided funding and technical assistance to create the first such program in the U.S. Because the concept proved successful, we have discussed adding appellate appointments to the program.

**A2.** My primary duty is to correctly interpret the law as set out by the legislature. I look first at the actual wording of the provision in question, resorting to legislative history only if the wording is ambiguous or absurd. I defer to the legislature whenever a statute can be construed to be constitutional.

**JUDGE, PLACE 7**

Ramona Franklin (D)
Unopposed

Barbara Parker Hervey (R)
Unopposed

**JUDGE, PLACE 8**

Jay Brandon (R)

**Background:** I have worked at this court, had many cases in this court, and spent my career in criminal appeals and writs, the exact work of this court. I’m a frequent speaker at criminal law seminars, with experience in all appeals including death penalty cases.

**Education:** University of Texas, B.A., English; Johns Hopkins University, Master’s, creative writing; University of Houston, J.D.

**Website:** http://jaybrandonyourjudge.org

**A1.** I serve on the Legal Services to the Poor state bar committee, so I’m familiar with developments in this area. Public defender appellate offices are good because they are appellate specialists. What we need to do is improve the quality of representation on appeal, which is why I speak at so many seminars.

**A2.** First, to write clear opinions instructing judges and lawyers in criminal cases how to try criminal cases fairly to all, with results we can trust (and I am a professional writer.) Second, to review writs filed by defendants, because this is the court of last resort for criminal cases. I have reviewed many writs in my career, and have helped wrongly convicted people.

**Michelle Slaughter (R)**

No response

**Dib Waldrip (R)**

**Background:** I am the only candidate board certified in criminal law by either the State Bar or the National Board of Trial Advocacy, is a police officer, an elected District Attorney as well being a judge and having previously worked for the courts of appeals.

**Education:** Texas A&M-BS Ag; Alamo Area Law Enforcement Acad.; St. Mary’s School of Law-JD; F.B.I. Nat. Law Enforcement Acad./Univ. of Virginia; Northwestern & George Mason Schools of Law Judicial Education Programs; Nat. Judicial College Judicial Leadership Seminar

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

**A1.** With help of others, I pioneered the first “Client Choice” for indigent defendants in our nation. Initially a pilot, the program proved its viability and is in use today in Comal County. Client choice is a free market economy solution that motivates counsel to improve to get the next appointment. By creating competition, the entire justice system is inherently enhanced.

**A2.** Preserving, protecting & defending the constitution & laws of the U.S. & our state require courage & intellectual honesty to avoid being an apologist for miscues of the state. I intend to be a solution finder & consensus builder to enhance intellectual integrity of opinions so that law enforcement, prosecutors & trial judges are not enabled to repeat errors with impunity.
STATE 3RD COURT OF APPEALS

Q1. What recent developments, such as improved DNA testing, provide opportunities to improve the state’s indigent defense system in civil and criminal cases appealed from district and county courts?

Q2. Which responsibility of a Court of Appeals justice is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?

JUSTICE, PLACE 2
Edward Smith (D)
Unopposed

Cynthia Olson Bourland (R)
Unopposed

JUSTICE, PLACE 3
Chari Kelly (D)
Unopposed

Scott Field (R)
Unopposed

JUSTICE, PLACE 5
Thomas J. Baker (D)
Unopposed

David Puryear (R)
Unopposed

JUSTICE, PLACE 6
Gisela D. Triana (D)
Unopposed

Donna Davidson (R)
Background: Experienced: 25 years as attorney and ethics advisor; Trusted: Legal counsel for Governors Perry and Bush/ General Counsel for the Republican Party and elected officials; Texan: Born in Texas; UT Law graduate; Conservative: will uphold the rule of law
Education: University of Texas School of Law, Doctor of Jurisprudence University of Texas, Bachelor of Journalism Mission High School, Texas

Website: http://donna4justice.com

A1. The Texas Supreme Court and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals set the policies relating to the state’s indigent defense system and the recent developments relating to electronic filing is an improvement as it will lessen costs for pro se litigants.

A2. My highest priority as a justice is to closely follow the text of the law—not legislate from the bench. The Texas Constitution creates three separate branches of government: the legislature passes law; the executive carries out the law; and the court interprets and applies the law. I will follow this constitutional structure and abide by the rule of law, with God’s help.

Jennifer S. Freel (R)
Background: I’m a board certified appellate lawyer with jury trial, civil, and criminal law experience. For nine years, I worked as a federal prosecutor. As a mother of three children, I want to ensure Texas remains as strong as it is now for future generations.

Education: The University of Missouri—Bachelor of Journalism, Magna Cum Laude; The George Washington University—Juris Doctor, High Honors, Order of the Coif
Website: http://www.jenniferfreel.com

A1. Our system of justice is the best in the world, but it is not perfect. Improved DNA testing is undoubtedly an important tool within that system. With regard to access to justice, the courts belong to the people. Judges should never forget that.

A2. My highest priority will be to reach the correct result in the cases before me. I will approach each dispute without fear or favor and work tirelessly to provide a well-reasoned and timely decision. I will not legislate from the bench.

Kristofer Monson (R)
No response

Michael “Mike” Toth (R)
No response

STATE TEXAS SENATE

Q1. What processes do you support to improve elections and voting in Texas?

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

Q3. After publication of the 2020 census, new congressional, state and educational districts will be redrawn. What process do you support to ensure fair representation?

Q4. What would you do to provide and fund an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?

Q5. What are your legislative priorities for the Texas environment? Discuss water management, renewable energy, and clean air.

Q6. What would you do to ensure healthcare for all Texans?

Q7. What other issue do you consider most important and how would you address it?

TEXAS SENATE, DISTRICT 5
Brian E. Cronin (D)
No response

Meg Walsh (D)
Background: Experienced, proven advocate for women. Finance and energy professional. 2008 Williamson County Volunteer of the Year Volunteer of the Year.
Education: University of Massachusetts BS in Retail Marketing with a Concentration in Business.
Website: http://megwalshfortexas.com

A1. All efforts must be taken to ensure that voting is readily accessible to our citizens. Some voters in SD 5 must drive 30 miles each way to vote, disproportionately affecting racial and economic minorities. We must expand polling locations in rural communities and work to uphold voting rights.

A2. I would start with an area where we have strong bipartisan support—background checks. When done correctly, background checks have resulted in a 47% reduction of women who are shot to death by intimate partners, a 48% reduction in illegal gun trafficking, and a 53% reduction in gun deaths against law enforcement officers. We must eliminate major loopholes in the law which make background checks much less effective. We must also eliminate—or at the very least—tightly regulate the transfer and possession of assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines.

A3. Any redistricting effort must ensure that every citizen is given fair and equal representation in Texas. All people across social, cultural, racial, and economic lines must have the opportunity to participate in the process of redistricting on a non-partisan basis. As such, a process as critical as redistricting should be handled by a non-partisan committee of citizens who are committed to fair and equal representation. We should look at states with the least amount of gerrymandering and take into consideration the recommendations of the special master who has been appointed in North Carolina.

A4. In 2011 the State’s share of funding for education was 45%. This has been decreased to 38%, leaving us 38th in the nation for school funding and 20% below the national average. Our children deserve better. We should immediately reinstate the state’s funding share back to 2011 levels and guarantee that the state’s contribution will go up over time, bringing us above national average within five years, where our children deserve to be. I would...
STATE TEXAS SENATE

TEXAS SENATE, DISTRICT 5

Meg Walsh (D) (continued)
work to reinstate the previously cut $2.5 billion of franchise taxes which were cut by the State and allocate that towards our schools.

A5. The use of green energy in state buildings and vehicles must be a priority, and we must provide incentives for large businesses that also use renewable energy. Further, I would advocate for state and local governments to maintain our previous position under the Paris Agreement, protect our aquifers against detrimental development, and invest in energy storage for the Texas grid which will make wind and solar more viable technologies. [Removed part of response; did not meet criteria.]

A6. Political differences should never put Texans at a medical disadvantage. Across the state, medically fragile children enrolled in the Texas STAR Kids program have experienced unnecessary and dangerous delays in necessary medical care they are entitled to; Our Texas Legislature recently cut $350 million in Medicaid funding for speech, physical, and occupational therapy. We must address the inadequacies in both of these programs, and make all federal, Medicaid, and CHIP funding available to all Texans in need. Texas must reinstate the funding for 160,000 women for family planning and health care

A7. I believe a society can be judged by how it treats its most vulnerable. There are few groups more vulnerable than children who have been mistreated by those whom they trust the most. In the last legislative session, our lawmakers injected a much-needed infusion of dollars into the system to hire additional caseworkers, and strengthened oversight of foster care facilities. The work is far from finished, however, and we must continue to monitor the system closely to ensure that vulnerable children in foster care are not being re-traumatized in hastily-recruited homes and residential facilities.

Glenn “Grumpy” Williams (D)
Background: Attorney with 42 years experience (40 in public sector with last 28 as CPS attorney, married with 2 children. Wife is functional life skills teacher.

Education: B.A. in Government—University of Texas 1973; J.D. UT Law School 1976
Website: http://www.Williamsforsd5.com

A1. Implementation of physical fitness voucher program in which voucher is combined with voter registration card resembling current driver’s license in which photo ID on card. It will provide an incentive for individuals to register to vote—see website for details.

A2. Insure conviction data entered into NCIC providing penalties for agencies that don’t comply; establish mandatory cooling off period for all gun sales; outlaw individual purchase of guns that can be converted into automatic weapons

A3. Establish nonpartisan commission with set guidelines (i.e. establish minimum width of district thus eliminating districts resembling birds or sea monsters.)

A4. Increase state share of funding by restoring taxes cut in 2015 recognizing that those cuts were part of a different time (i.e. higher oil and gas income and pre-Harvey destruction) insure that property taxes are fairly assessed by developing unit in Attorney General’s office skilled at defending appraisals. (Currently local entities are not equipped to battle company that challenges their appraisal.) With districts not capturing their share of property tax revenues children are not being equitably treated across the state.

A5. Increase incentives for programs that promote renewable energy, outlaw fracking, establish legislation allowing individual citizens to sue companies that pollute the environment.

A6. Expand Medicaid, restore Medicaid rates for special needs children, establish physical fitness voucher. (see website)

A7. Our protection of our vulnerable citizens must be strengthened by engaging all Texans though establishing an elected vulnerable citizens commissioner and abandoning legislation establishing a two year term and senate confirmation of DFPS commissioner. We need to abandon the potentially disastrous privatization of conservatorship function of child protective services. (see website for details)

Harold Ramm (R)
Background: 30+ years as a public school Superintendent; realtor with 30 years’ experience managing and selling properties; veteran

Education: B.S. in Education, Southwestern University; M.Ed., Our Lady of the Lake University; Ed.D Texas A&M University
Website: http://drharoldramm.com

A1. My goal is to ensure that Texas voters can be confident that elections are run in compliance with Texas Voter ID law and are free from bias and fraud. I have always encouraged others to utilize their right to vote in order that their voice might be heard.

A2. The infrastructure of the data base for background checks must be improved to ensure that all reporting agencies are linked and that the necessary information for a thorough check is reaching the point of sale.

A3. I would work with other legislators to ensure that districts are drawn in such a way that all Texans have fair representation. Districts should be drawn up logically with an emphasis on equal populations that do not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity. Districts should maintain contiguity (being physically adjacent), compactness, and reflect a community of interest or local adhesiveness.

A4. I believe public schools are the foundation of democracy, and we must support teachers and school districts by renovating the inequitable and inadequate school finance formula, reducing the scope and impact of standardized testing, and increasing teacher autonomy in the classroom.

A5. Funding for our Texas infrastructure, such as water and transportation, must be given precedence by the legislature. This is done by prioritizing spending and streamlining costs whenever possible.

A6. I want to ensure that all Texans have options to purchase health insurance across state lines. I support efforts to ensure that insurance costs are affordable for all Texans, including retired Texas educators.

A7. I would work to provide meaningful property tax reform by slowing the growth of property taxes and providing impartial oversight and affording transparency in the process. The legislature must increase the capacity of mental health services to assist law enforcement by boosting the services for children identified with mental disabilities, speeding up the process and effectiveness of mental health services, and providing additional support for law officials in dealing with the mentally ill. I believe that Texas is strong when we delegate control and resources at the most local level.

Charles Schwertner (R)
Background: Sixth-generation Texan who has served in the Texas Senate since 2013. Practicing surgeon residing in Georgetown with wife Belinda and their 3 sons.

Education: BS, Pharmacy, University of Texas (1992); MD, Magna Cum Laude, UT-Medical Branch (1997)
Website: http://www.drschwertner.com

A1. The right to vote is foundational to our democracy. Our republic works best with an active and engaged citizenry that has faith in their electoral process to accurately reflect their views and values at the ballot box. That’s why it’s so important that we take reasonable, commonsense measures to ensure the integrity of our electoral process, such as asking citizens to present a simple photo ID when casting their ballot.

A2. Every act of gun violence is a tragedy. But as a constitutional conservative, I don’t believe the solution to this problem is to shred the Bill of Rights or further infringe upon our Second Amendment. Rather than limiting gun rights, we should be focused on the kind of real solutions that have the potential to actually reduce mass shootings, suicides, and other gun-related tragedies. As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, I’ve worked to increase funding and resources for our state’s mental health system, particularly for our
STATE TEXAS SENATE

Jack Guerra (D)

Experience:
25 years as a city planner, urban designer and management / facilities operations consultant. I have worked in private and public sectors in Boston, New York City, Dallas, Austin and San Antonio. Currently, 18 years as a small business owner in real estate and 9 years stay at home parent—I quit my profession when our twins were born (they attend public school). I have been married for 18 years to a wonderful woman, my wife, who is from New England. I have a BA in Urban Economic Geography and a Master of Science in Community and Regional Planning in Urban Design and Real Estate—Both from the University of Texas (Austin). I have studied architecture at the Boston Architectural College and I have studied public policy and urban design at the University of Oslo (Norway). I also graduated from Jefferson HS in SATX, SAC and Texas State before earning my degrees. I have lived in London working at the Victoria Albert Museum; lived in Berlin, lived in Oslo as a grad student, and have extensive travel in Europe, Mexico and the United States.
Website: http://JackGuerra4TexasSenate25.com/

A1. Allow driver’s license become voter registration card and to allow same day vote and / or proof of residency (utility bill or appraisal payment receipts). Move voting day (in addition to early voting) to a two or one day weekend event. Move the primaries to late May.
A2. 1. Review existing screening / background check programs and make sure they are funded (enforcement is critical) in addition to adding a ‘boyfriend’ clause. 2. Eliminate gun show loop hole. 3. Broaden the public and private ‘assembly’ local regulations that will forbid bringing guns on site, such as public schools and universities, as well as charter schools, churches and other places of gathering.
A3. That the State Legislature take the lead. As a Senator and individual with geography mapping, census analysis, and urban economics, I can lead and challenge any redistricting map set up on partisan criteria. Redistricting is a Senators first year requirement when sworn into office. I have the depth of knowledge and law to challenge any redrawn map that doesn’t meet the spirit and intent of the Texas Constitution. I will provide ‘for the record’ data and testimony for any legal challenges establishing non-constitutional compliance.
A4. I would amend constitutional ‘protective clauses’ that exempt commercial properties from disclosing purchase prices of land/facilities. I would work with county chief appraisers and the State appraisal regulating board so that we may amend how we evaluate commercial and private residential properties—especially for low income home owners on fixed incomes who are facing ‘housing affordability issues in the inner city’. I would promote the use of the ‘rainy day fund’ and establish that it does apply to ‘basic programs that operated and maintained by the State of Texas,’ as mandated by the State Constitution. I would consider a 50% minimum funding from State Budget. I would consider the legalizing of marijuana, which will require local ownership/investors, to offset funding costs.
A5. To protect our Hill Country and Aquifers, by giving county governments added land use/platting regulatory jurisdiction to meet the exploding population growth of our region to prevent suburban sprawl and endangerment of ground and aquifer water qualities. To fund the construction of more desalination plants so our cities, towns, livestock and crops are not threatened by seasons of drought. To fund programs and require enforcement of methane emission standards so to capture and turn into electric power (micro power stations) converting fracking and compost fields energy.
A6. Expansion of Medicaid via vote in an election that proposes health care for all and which presents/proposes a

TEXAS SENATE, DISTRICT 25
Q1. What processes do you support to improve elections and voter turnout in Texas?
Q2. Identify three measures that you would support that reduce gun violence.
Q3. After publication of the 2020 census, new congressional, state, and State Board of Education districts will be redrawn. What process do you support to ensure fair representation?
Q4. What would you do to provide and fund an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?
Q5. What are your legislative priorities for the Texas environment?
Q6. What would you do to ensure healthcare for all Texans?
Q7. Explain three priorities for the Texas government in the next three years.
Q8. What policies would you support to protect against sexual harassment and assault?

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be Part of the Solution—Join the League
The League of Women Voters is the organization where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Add your voice to over 100,000 League members and supporters across the country in making democracy work.

Join the League of Women Voters, a respected national grassroots organization, where individuals like you are actively engaged in creating positive change on the local, state, and national levels. Become a member and serve as a leader in your community, and work to shape the important issues that keep our communities strong.

Membership is open to men and women 16 years or older. Annual dues are $60/person, $90/household, and $20/high school or college students.

Joining the Austin Area League means you also belong to the national LWV and LWV-Texas. LWV-AAA is a 501(c)(3) organization and dues are deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Join us and be part of the solution! The Austin Area needs leaders like you to help ensure that our communities are a strong, safe and vibrant places to live. For membership information, contact Brenda Koegler at membership@lwvaustin.org or easily join online at https://lwvaustin.org/new-member-signup/.

A8. That work environments dominated by males undergo voluntary sexual harassment training; blue collar or professional settings. If not required by policy, then have men take an oath to respect other women and men. Have existing parent organizations to offer to young boys and men in middle and high school to work/interact with women/young ladies to understand disrespectful behavior.

Create a 911 number for localities / universities / high schools and grade schools for females to use without fear of ‘being in trouble’ so they can contact a supportive individual. To increase the penalty of such harassment if it comes in person, via internet or other format and make comparable to a ‘David’s Law’ type of standard.

Steven Kling (D)
Experience: Information Technology—22yrs U.S. Army Reserve—11yrs including 2 Combat Tours—Iraq / Afghanistan where I specialized in Civil & Governmental reconstruction efforts. Awards: Bronze Star, Joint Services Commendation Medal, Combat Action Badge Website: http://klingforktexas.org
A1. Eliminate Voter ID Laws. Eliminate partisan gerrymandering. Increased budget for voter awareness campaigns and allow online registration. Explore and implement online voting initiatives and technologies that allow opt-out, neutral voter push notifications to smart-phones. Move minor elections to weekends and have an annual state holiday.
A2. Eliminate the “gun show” loophole and so-called “Constitutional” carry. Strengthen the Lautenberg Amendment to include anyone convicted of a violent crime and require existing weapon confiscation in new cases. Create a tiered classification of weapons that require increased levels of training and accountability. Owners of antiques or single-shot, bolt-action and pump-actuated hunting rifles and shotguns should have vastly different criteria than those seeking handguns or high-capacity assault rifles. We can still provide Constitutional, responsible and accountable ownership while protecting our communities.
A3. Computer algorithmic redistricting with oversight from a non-partisan board drawn from a lottery of educators and administrators from around the state.
A4. First and foremost: Restore state funding which has dwindled to now 31% due to corporate tax loopholes that allow large companies to get out of paying property taxes. Increase taxes on fossil fuels. Increase the per-child rate to catch up to inflation and allow each ISD to apply for additional per-child increases based upon special needs and eco-dis population counts. Increase teacher pay to meet or exceed national average immediately with state-funded, zip-code based COLA.
A5. Defund any subsidies to fossil fuels over a five-year period, redirect those funds to subsidize and incentivize investment in renewables with emphasis on wind energy, end-user solar and self-sustaining “microgrids”. Texas has 25% of the US potential wind energy and is one of the fastest growing states in population in America. With proper planning and incentive structures for new housing construction, eco-friendly, erosion-preventing, energy-saving and energy-producing technologies can be substituted in an increasing percentage of new homes. The increased demand will provide for economies of scale, driving down unit costs. This plus consumer-side rebate programs should make profits more attractive to owners of existing homes.
A6. Accept Medicaid expansion! Currently over 1,000,000 Texas children and 76,000 Texas veterans do not have health care due to the current administration’s refusal to accept Medicaid expansion. It is outrageous. Long term, if Washington cannot find its way to providing a single-payer solution, we should enact one here in Texas based on successful state systems like Massachusetts.
A7. Public education finance reform. See above. Anti-corruption, campaign finance and legislative reform. Texas politicians can receive “unlimited” contributions from private donors and PACs. This creates a system that gives undue influence to the very few and makes corporate employees of our elected officials. We need strict caps similar to those at the Federal level. Ridiculously low “salaries” ensure only the independently wealthy can afford to serve, leaving out so many qualified and exceptional Texans. And an ever-other-year legislature, established on an agrarian economic system cannot possibly budget or legislate effectively in a fast-paced, every-changing world. Our legislature should meet annually or semi-annually for shorter periods.

Human-centric policy. Business is important. It brings jobs. But attracting the right kind of business is what really matters. Having companies come to Texas to exploit cheap labor and tax loopholes attracts parasites and the wrong kind of jobs.
STATE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Q1. What processes do you support to improve elections and voting in Texas?
Q2. Identify three measures you would support that reduce gun violence.
Q3. After publication of the 2020 census, new congressional, state, and education districts will be redrawn. What process do you support to ensure fair representation?
Q4. What would you do to provide and fund an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?
Q5. What are your legislative priorities for the Texas environment? Discuss water management, renewable energy, and clean air.
Q6. What would you do to ensure healthcare for all Texans?
Q7. What other issue do you consider most important and how would you address it?

TExAS houSe OF houSe OF REPRESENTATIVeS, dIstRICT 17

Michelle Ryan (D)
Unopposed
John P. Cyrier (R)
Unopposed

TExAS houSe OF houSe OF REPRESENTATIVeS, dIstRICT 20

Stephen M. Wyman (D)
Unopposed
Terry M. Wilson (R)
Unopposed

TExAS houSe OF houSe OF REPRESENTATIVeS, dIstRICT 46

Warren Baker (D)
No response

Sheryl Cole (D)

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

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

Website: http://www.sherylcole.com

A1. I support online voter registration and same-day registration to make it easier and motivate people to exercise their right. We must allow people every opportunity to make their voice heard.
A2. I would support a) the requirement of universal background checks; b) the reversal of recently passed open carry laws; and c) a general ban on firearms on school properties. For the purpose of safety and care for others, we should always work to ensure that individuals who own and carry firearms, do not have a history of mental health issues or a propensity toward violence, which could result in tragic outcomes should the individual choose to use their firearm when upset or misunderstood. The introduction of weapons to a place of learning for young people poses many risks.
A3. One party in control of the process, which means they can draw boundaries to give themselves a numeric advantage over their opponents. However, often times, the outcome is not a true representative picture of what our great State truly looks like. In order to make this process as fair as possible, I would support having an independent commission (not appointed) draw up the districts to ensure a non-partisan result.
A4. I have constantly advocated for Austin policymakers to take a solutions-based approach to education. I would recommend and support making the appropriate amendments to state revenue allocations and tax reform which would put in place mechanisms for the state to be the primary funder. There is no better use of existing and new tax dollars than to equitably and fully fund our schools. Public school finance is a perennial issue, it is unsuited for the state to continue to take up the issue of diverting public dollars to private entities. Transparency and accountability to our tax $$ is important!
A5. We must begin to explore and attack the issues of water and energy as one issue instead of approaching the topics as 2 separate issues. The state spends far too much time being short sighted on this issue instead of creating comprehensive policies aimed at true environmental stewardship. We must create legislation to support better tax incentives for water and energy con-
Ana Cortez (D) (continued)

Education: I attended the University of Maryland with studies in biology and ...  
Website: http://www.caseyfor46.com
A1. We are stronger when we protect citizens’ right to vote, stop corpora-
tions’ outsized influence in elections. I will fight to end the broken cam-
paign finance system, overturn the disas-
trous Citizens United decision, restore
the full power of the Voting Rights Act,
and return control to the citizens.
A2. We can respect the rights of responsible gun owners while keeping
our communities safe. I support legis-
lature that will: Expand and strengthen
background checks and close danger-
ous loopholes in our current laws; Re-
peal the “Protection of Lawful Com-
merce in Arms Act (PLCAA) to revoke
the dangerous legal immunity
protections gun makers and sellers now
enjoy; And keep weapons of war—such
as assault weapons and large capacity
ammunition magazines (LCAM’s) off
our streets!

We need to study gun violence as a public health issue.
A3. While Democrats have also used
their power to draw partisan lines, the
net impact of gerrymandering bene-
fits the GOP because it controls the
process in key contested states. Re-
publicans enjoy [a net of] 16 to 17 ex-
tra seats in Congress under the maps
facing women of color. I am committed
to preserving and protecting the Affordable Care Act
and the peace of mind it has brought to
millions of Americans, and I will fight
all attempts to repeal the law and take
health care away from tens of millions
of Americans.
A7. I am committed to ensuring full
equality for women. I will fight to end
gender discrimination in the areas of
education, employment, health care,
or any other sphere. I support legis-
lation that will combat biases across eco-
nomic, political, and social life that
hold women back and limit their oppor-
tunities and tackle specific challenges
facing women of color. I am committed
to protecting and advancing reproduc-
tive health, rights, and justice.

Jose “Chito” Vela (D)
Background: I am currently an im-
migration and crimi-
nal defense attorney.
Before, I worked for a
State Representative
and at the Texas At-
torney General’s Office.
Education: I received a bachelor’s in
history, a master’s in public affairs and
a law degree from The University of
Texas.
Website: http://www.chitovela.com
A1. I support making registration as
easy and as quick as possible, including
allowing online registration and allow-

Dawnna Dukes (D)
Background:
Rep. Dawnna Dukes is the most senior
member of the Travis County state del-
egation, having served 12 terms.
Education: Texas A&M University
B.S. Psychology
Website: http://dawnnadukes.com/
A1. I believe the democratic process.
Elections and voting rights are impor-
tant to our country and House Dis-
trict 46. We need to follow better de-
sign practice for new ballots for voters
to view easy and clear. Also, support-
ing free and fair elections, while repub-
licans are making it a challenge.
A2. 1. Ban sales to mentally ill; 2. Uni-
versal background checks; 3. Child
proof locks
A3. The 2020 census around the cor-
ner, the Republicans will be gerryman-
dering the new districts to have the up-
per hand against the Democrats. As
your State Representative for House
District 46, I will do everything in my
power to see fairness and account-
ability throughout the process. Even-
though, we are a red state, I will not
stop fighting for fairness and account-
ability during the new redrawn dis-
tricts for the State of Texas.
A4. Education is the cornerstone
for our kids future. I will continue to
champion better education for our
kids. Public education of all levels need
to have all the resources necessary to
assist our kids in providing a top notch
education. My experience and leader-
ship of over 20 years in the Texas Leg-
islature has showed a track record of
being a fighter for our kids education.
A5. The Texas environment is impor-
tant to all citizens of Texas. We have to
provide a better quality of life for our
community. As your public servant, I
have the always been a fighter for clean
air, better public drinking water, better
clean energy solutions, and water con-
servation. The fight is never over and
I will continue to fight for the Texas
environment.
A6. Healthcare is important to every
Texas. While Healthcare technology is
increasing at a fast pace. Healthcare in-
surance is becoming too expensive. We
need to ensure our community has ac-
to to affordable healthcare. I have
been on the frontlines fighting for
better healthcare and will continue to
fight. My experience in the Texas Leg-
islature has allowed me to work across
the isle to make sure we come to agree-
ments and concessions to provide bet-
ter healthcare to Texans. I have in-
creased funding for our Medicaid
and CHIP programs and I fought for
women’s rights for better healthcare.
A7. Fight for Child Protective Services
so our children are better cared for.
Lead efforts to equalize our Public
School Funding system.
Continue efforts to reform Crimi-
nal Justice system.

Casey L. McKinney (D)
Background:
I am a native Texan
(born & raised in
Houston), committed
Democrat leader,
community activ-
ist, business woman, mother, proud
Texas-Veteran.
Education: I am a product of Texas
public schools and later (subsidized by
the U.S. Military) I attended the Uni-
versity of Maryland with studies in bi-
ology and ...
ing people to register to vote on election day. I would repeal the disenfranchising voter ID laws that Texas has recently passed. They negatively impact poor and minority voters.

A2. I would support the following measures to reduce gun violence: (1) universal background checks without any loopholes or exceptions (2) repeal the open carry and campus carry laws (3) ban the sale of assault weapons. As a young boy, I grew up hunting and fishing in South Texas. I appreciate the tradition of gun ownership in Texas. However, I also woke up in Las Vegas, Nevada on the morning of Oct. 1, 2017 when a madman with an assault weapon killed 58 and wounded more than 500. That horrific scene will forever haunt me. Our country must ban assault weapons.

A3. The current congressional districts clearly establish the fact that the last people that should be drawing a district are the politicians that will inherit those districts. Texas should have an independent, bi-partisan redistricting committee made up of diverse members selected on a statewide basis. There should be no elected officials on the committee.

A4. Funding quality public education is a core function of state government. Sadly, Texas has one of the lowest levels of per student funding in the U.S. We must move away from our reliance on local property taxes to fund education and toward a statewide tax system.

A5. Water Management—The cities of San Antonio and Austin, have natural gas, and raise badly-needed electrical plants, such as coal and natural gas, and raise badly-needed revenue for the state.

Clean Air—I will advocate to ensure the state complies with the federal Clean Air Act and holds polluters accountable.

A6. One of the biggest issues facing Texas today is our refusal to accept the Medicaid expansion that was part of the Affordable Care Act. About 900,000 Texans could have access to free and comprehensive health care through Medicaid if our state government simply said yes to the federal money. I strongly support accessing those federal funds and will make this my priority at the Texas Legislature.

A7. Criminal justice reform is an overarching issue that ranges from grappling with major shifts in policy to addressing mundane changes to the Texas Penal Code such as making it easier for people to keep and renew their drivers’ licenses by reducing fines that disproportionately affect the poor.

The war on drugs has failed. Texas should stop the over criminalization of possession for personal use and treat illegal drug use as the public health crisis that it is. And we must end the use of death penalty.

Gabriel Nila (R)
Unopposed

TExAS hOuse OF rEP rEsEntAtivEs, dIStRICT 47

Candace Aylor (D)
Background:
A 4th gen Texan, I’m a mom of 20 yrs & a nurse. A caring & compassionate activist & advocate, I ensure people’s lived experience influences policy.

Education: Assoc. of Applied Science in Nursing, El Centro College, Dallas, Dec 2001; Bachelor of Arts in HealthCare Admin, Ashford Univ, Dec 2014

Website: http://www.VoteCandaceAylor.com

A1. It is essential for the people to truly have a voice in elections. Drawing the lines of the boundaries of those districts should be done by an independent review body. Texas should also join the 21st century and allow online voter registration. There should be a greater focus on encouragement of civil engagement in schools, like finding ways to incentivize the existing requirement to offer voter registration to high school seniors. I posted a recent video to help with Get Out The Vote efforts on YouTube.

A2. 1. Ban the sales of and close loopholes to prevent access to assault styles rifles.

2. Develop stronger procedures to shift the culture of law enforcement to one of protection and encourage collaboration with community social services to end and/or prevent domestic violence.

3. End open carry laws and increase awareness of the importance of securing weapons and safety.

A3. Texas Republicans have maintained their position of dominance in the TX Legislature through engaging in illegal, and discriminatory practices implemented for the purpose of disenfranchising communities of color. Texas is a minority majority state, but the legislature we have don’t reflect that. Purple in population, but red in representation for far too long. Allowing legislators to draw their own lines and choose their voters has always created a conflict of interest. It is time to reassign the role of redistricting to a non-partisan, independent commission.

A4. Education is a top priority of my campaign. When I say our children’s future, I’m not talking about children that look like me, but all children in Texas. In Texas house District 47 we have one of the lowest numbers of economically disadvantaged students in the state. We are also one of the richest districts in Texas. I intend to hold us accountable to ensuring access to education is Equitable for all students in Texas. This means fixing our school finance algorithms, taxing large corporations by restoring franchise tax provisions and closing loopholes.

A5. Before campaigning my environmental causes were personal, ensuring a low family carbon footprint by using public transit, our family only using one car, recycling & preserving water. As a candidate for TXHD47 I recognize our need to preserve water sources in the district, with a large aquifers existing underneath our district, & by reducing the carbon footprint of my campaign as I have my household, through reduced printing of paper materials & reduced emissions with less travel to meet with individuals and more meetings with large groups, phone banking, and Outreach through social media.

A6. As a nurse in TX I champion healthcare for all solutions like Medicare for all, but as a state legislator I must consider that we will need to discover state-level solutions. With the loss of CHIP & the 1115 Medicaid waiver, our state’s answer to not joining the ACA, Texans are already losing their Healthcare & hospitals in Texas are already planning to close their doors. When I am elected as the Rep of TXHD47 I plan to work with legislators in developing our contingencies to mitigate this damage, through establishing healthcare for all Texas residents regardless of ability to pay.

A7. As a community organizer with Black Lives Matter, Austin Justice Coalition, and Measure Austin, to name a few, I have worked with our communities of color to pass legislation and champion causes from City Hall to the state Capitol that support equity for all and address the very real problems with institutional racism in our state. Last session we helped get over two dozen Criminal Justice Reform bills passed, and in the coming session I hope to continue that fight through passing legislation to prevent arrest for non-jailable offenses, & start to put an end to the for-profit prison industry.

Elaina Fowler (D)

Background:
Elaina Fowler has dedicated 20 years to a public policy career to protect the rights of fellow Americans. As the current State Director of Texas Retir…

Education: B.A. Wesleyan College International Business

Website: http://www.fowlerfortexas.com

A1. I support including information on restoration of voting rights and a voter registration card in exit packets presented to individuals during their exit interviews with their parole officers. The Sentencing Project and Restoration Project strongly recommend automatic restoration of voting rights upon release from the criminal justice system. [Removed part of response; did not meet criteria.]
regard to water conservation and flood mitigation. Texas leads the nation in renewable alternative energy sources such as wind and solar. Increased utilization of these renewables is good for the air that we breathe.

A6. It is also important that we support programs that fill the donut hole and allow women and men to choose their preferred provider. Restore funding to Planned Parenthood and similar providers for preventive healthcare screenings, yearly check-ups, cancer and family planning services and STI screening treatments and prevention. I would fight against all efforts to prevent local healthcare districts from contracting with clinics which comply with all science based regulations.

A7. equality: I oppose any effort to further divide our population and distract from the job of passing common sense legislation with any more bathroom bills and will support a House Speaker candidate who shares the values of all Texans, not just those of Empower Texans. I believe we need to repeal HB3859 which asks same-sex couples to choose between their ability to have a family and whether to follow their careers to Texas. I support banning housing discrimination based on sexuality or gender identity — there is no good reason why this is not already law.

Vikki Goodwin (D)

Background: Vikki Goodwin is the Broker/Owner of Goodwin & Goodwin Real Estate. She serves her community on a variety of Committees, Boards and organizations.

Education: BBA from the University of Texas, ’89. Master’s degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs, ’91.

Website: http://www.VoteVikki.com

A1. 1) Enable automatic voter registration with ability to opt out, similar to current successful programs in four states.; 2) Allow voters to use their registration card only without a second administration card only without a second administration with ability to opt out, similar to current successful programs in four states.

A2. 1) Ban devices that allow a gun to fire without the need for a human to pull the trigger. This loophole is growing and will lead to more gun violence. 2) Close loopholes such as the gun show and online sales loopholes which allow firearms to be sold without a background check. Also close the boy friend loophole that currently doesn’t prevent a boyfriend who has committed domestic violence from buying a firearm. 3) Rescind campus carry at our public colleges and universities, or allow them to make the decision. Data do not show that more guns lead to a safer society.

A3. We must put an Independent Redistricting Commission in place for drawing new district lines after the 2020 census. Allowing legislators to choose their voters through redistricting by politicians undermines fair representation and democracy. The outcome of the Supreme Court decision in the Gill v Whitford case will provide a basis for going forward. Regardless of the outcome, I support having a structure similar to what was used to select the first 10 district city council in Austin in which citizens made up the committee that drew the district boundaries.

A4. My highest priority is school finance reform, so the state takes on a larger share of public school finance with less burden on individual property tax payers. The recapture system which had the Austin ISD sending $400M to the state last year and $530M this year is an unsustainable model. At the very least the funding formulas must be updated to be meaningful and equitable. Last session HB21 would have helped, but it didn’t get passed. We must have legislators in the Capitol who will pass meaningful school finance reform. Teacher pay and retirement benefits must be a part of the equation.

A5. Texas must do a better job of planning for the future and protecting our air and water. We know the population is growing, and the need for water isn’t going away. We need to have stronger and more consolidated groundwater conservation districts. We need better planning for flood mitigation. We need to have TCEQ enforcing the regulations already in place in such a way that chemical plants have an incentive to follow the rules. We should encourage and enable the expansion of wind and solar power throughout the state. And we should test water fountains in schools for lead.

A6. I would expand Medicaid bringing more health care dollars from the Federal government to the state. I would restore funding to clinics that are serving our low income and rural communities. I would provide incentives for more RNs to become teachers to avoid a nurse shortage and would advocate for APRNs to fill vacancies in family practice clinics to lower costs and make health care available to more families. Our goal must be to have healthcare provided to every man, woman and child in an efficient manner. Having uninsured families show up in emergency rooms is not the solution.

A7. Traffic congestion is a problem for many Texans. We have not kept up with our transportation needs including building roads and providing innovative transit options. I would increase the gas tax which has not been increased since 1991, and index it to inflation. I would support adding lanes to IH35 and re-striping roads to add capacity where the space already exists. I support transit oriented development to encourage expanded usage of the rail line. I would encourage expansion of testing of self-driving cars in Texas. We need to look at all possibilities as our population continues to grow.

Will Simpson (D)

Background: I am an Austin native, husband, father and technology executive. The focus in my executive career is moving companies to a servant-leader model.

Education: I attended the University of Texas at Austin with a focus in Mechanical & Electrical Engineering. After 2 years, I entered the technology field.

Website: http://www.willfortx47.com

A1. All of the processes we use to register and allow people to vote must focus on ease of access and use. Expanding the use of online technology on the path to full online registration and voting needs to be the goal. I would also push for automatic triggers for voter registration when any other form of validated identification (Social Se-
A7. Traffic is a top issue in HD 47. The solutions will be found working with local cities and the county. There is not one fix-all solution, but we must move toward a solution that includes not only the building of roads, but one that will encourage commuters to travel less or at off-peak times.

We are in the 21st Century. . .the office and the classroom are a device away for many of the businesses and schools that call Austin home. This means working with local businesses and institutions that can offer remote work or varied schedules is a must for any viable solution.

Sheri Soltes (D)

Background:

For wounded vets and other disabled Texans for free.

Education:
Law degree with Honors, UT School of Law Bachelor’s with High Honors, UT Austin, Plan II, Honors Liberal Arts Program

Website: http://www.sherifortexas.com

A1. I support online voter registration, automatic voter registration, as well as repealing the discriminatory Voter ID law. I will work with organizations like Battleground Texas to have civic engagement discussions with high schools in my district to fulfill our statutory requirement to register them

A2. 1) I will fight to make sure “constitutional carry” never becomes law.

2) Get guns off of our higher education campuses.

3) Make sure individuals with domestic violence records are no longer able to purchase or own a gun, including the boyfriend loophole.

A3. We need a nonpartisan redistricting commission so that our state legislature, congressional and board of education districts actually have an opportunity to elect people who represent their values.

A4. We have to get back to the way we used to fund public schools. Over the years the legislature has put bandages on the formula that has just further complicated the process. We must increase the weight allotments across the board and stop relying on property taxes to make up for the legislature’s budgetary short fall when it comes to our public educations system. What we shouldn’t do is allow school vouchers, or savings accounts. No tax dollars should go to private schools! I do not vouch for vouchers!

A5. House District 47 has a vast amount of natural resources. We have to protect our watershed and invest in renewable energy across this state. Texas produces the most renewable energy in terms of sheer quantity. Clean and renewable energy has both environmental and economic benefits. Jobs, clean air, clean water not to mention water conservation. It takes 4.4 million gallons to frack one well. That is the amount of water 11,000 Texan families use in one day. Overdevelopment in HD 47 is another concern. People love this district because of how green and lush it is. Let’s keep it that way!

A6. In terms of what I would be able to accomplish on the state level, first we have to expand Medicare. This topic is forever changing with the Trump administration’s desire to get rid of the ACA all together and now with the removal of the individual mandate with the new tax bill, we will have to see what happens to healthcare in this state. What is important to me is that there is access to affordable care for every family in this state.

A7. Transportation is the top priority for the majority of constituents in District 47. Congested, unsafe, degrading, and insufficient roadways result in pervasive delays in commutes and are a public safety concern. Issues include both a higher than normal incidence of traffic collisions resulting in serious injury and fatalities and in the inability to evacuate certain neighborhoods in the event of natural disaster. Furthermore, emergency services are thwarted from saving lives. I would use a multimodal approach to transportation utilizing all technologies and bring experts to the table.

Patty Vredevelt (R)

No response

Jay Wiley (R)

Background:
Conservative Christian, husband, father of 2 boys, local business owner. Homeowner in Four Points. 13 yr Travis Co. resident. Member, Riverbend Church

Education: B.S., The Citadel military college; J.D., St. Mary’s School of Law

Website: http://VoteJayWiley.com

A1. Simplify ballot language and add economic impact numbers on bond questions so taxpayers fully understand what is being proposed.

2. Move bond elections to even numbered general election years to maximize voter participation.

3. Close primaries to reduce cross party voting.

A2. The most dangerous place one can be is a “gun free zone” because criminals do not obey gun laws. Law abiding citizens pay the price. Studies all show more arms in the hands of good guys means less gun violence.

1. Constitutional Carry

2. Open Carry

3. Eliminate “Gun Free Zones” in public spaces

A3. More transparency by the Legislature to ensure communities of interest are grouped together in districts. It is also the responsibility of every citizen to watch closely and stay informed so politicians don’t play games with district lines. I will fight to make sure downtown Austin Democrats don’t unfairly influence the process and that suburban and rural voices are heard loudly and often.

A4. 1. End Robin Hood. It’s unfair and doesn’t work.

2. Accountability for the bureaucracies that surround public education.

3. Prioritize the classroom. More dollars to classrooms, not bureaucracies. Incentivize the good teachers and fast track the bad ones out the door.

A5. The high cost of energy in Travis County is a direct result of Austin Energy being owned and run by the Austin City Council. If rate payers had more choice they would pay an estimated $200 million less per year than they do now. Renewable “green” energy is a lovely goal, but it isn’t financially feasible yet and my first concern is for taxpayers and rate payers. We need a dramatic new direction and new leadership. We cannot keep doing the same thing year after year. Less talk, more action.

A6. Get government out of the business of healthcare. When government involves itself in healthcare (or anything for that matter), costs rise, bureaucracies flourish, and consumer choices are reduced. Spending on bu-
STATE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 47

Jay Wiley (R) (continued)

reacuracy happens first, then patient care gets whatever is left over.

A system based on the free market would reconnect the patient and doctor. Providers, hospitals, and drug companies would have to compete with each other, reducing prices. Our business, Luxe OB, is a concierge medical practice that provides a patient-centered model of care free of the insurance bureaucracy.

A7. Property taxes are at crisis level in Travis County but politicians keep kicking the can down the road. [Removed part of response; did not meet criteria.]

We need courage to stand up to the lobbyists and downtown Austinites who have an interest in keeping property taxes so high. I won’t stop until we fundamentally change our property tax system and reduce the unfair burden it places on homeowners, including lowering the fixed rate for seniors.

That is my #1 priority.

Paul D. Workman (R)

Background:

I am a 40-year construction professional, owning my own company for most of that time, creating hundreds of jobs in Central Texas.

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

Website: http://www.workmanfor	
texas.com

A1. The right to vote, and the responsibility brought with it, is sacrosanct in American civic life. It is paramount to take reasonable care to ensure the integrity of our elections. For example, in Texas voters are required to present photo ID in order to vote in person. If a person does not have a valid, government-issued ID, they can obtain a free Election Identification Certificate in order to vote. I voted in favor of Texas’s common-sense voter ID law because it is an important tool in combatting voter fraud. Additionally, I supported Texas’s law to outlaw fraudulent vote harvesting.

A2. As an ardent supporter of the Second Amendment, I do not support any measure that would infringe upon the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms. I do, however, support increased access to mental health services. All too often we find out after the fact that a perpetrator of gun violence has a history of mental illness but did not have access to the right kind of care.

A3. In Texas, the state legislature is responsible for drawing congressional, legislative, and State Board of Education districts. I support Texas’s long-observed, constitutional practice of entrusting the responsibility of reapportionment to the duly elected members of the Texas Legislature.

A4. The Texas Constitution requires the legislature to develop a system of public schools for the state’s schoolchildren, a mission I wholeheartedly support. Unfortunately, the state’s current “Robin Hood” school finance system has not worked out. Taxpayers in Austin ISD, for example, are on the hook for more than a half-billion dollars in “recapture” money that does not stay in Austin’s local schools. Any proposals to overhaul the state’s school finance system must take serious steps towards ending Robin Hood altogether.

A5. The procurement of a reliable supply of safe, clean drinking water for all Texans today and for generations to come has always been a top legislative priority of mine. As a member of the House Committee on Natural Resources, I have been heavily involved in the process of responsibly developing Texas’s water supply and the protection of our region’s Highland Lakes. When the next drought comes, Texas should be prepared.

A6. I support federal Medicaid block grants to the states that would allow Texas to develop a program that meets our state’s needs. The last thing our already complicated healthcare system needs is more top-down, one-size-fits-all mandates from Washington.

A7. In recent years, Texans have encountered a growing number of municipalities infringing upon their personal freedoms, particularly as it relates to business and private property rights. For example, the City of Austin has mandated to businesses that they may not run a criminal background check on a prospective employee until after they have already offered the job. It is simply not the place of local governments to interfere in matters of private enterprise. I will continue to vigorously defend my constituents’ rights when they are trampled upon by the central planners at city hall.

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 48

Donna Howard (D)

Unopposed

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 49

Gina Hinojosa (D)

Unopposed

Kyle Austin (R)

Unopposed

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 50

Celia Israel (D)

Unopposed

Eddie Rodriguez (D)

Unopposed

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 52

James Talarico (D)

Unopposed

Cynthia Flores (R)

Background: Social Services. 19 yrs @ the faith Based RRASC coordinating & managing programs meeting basic needs for families in So. Williamson County.

Education: BS Rehabilitation Studies, The University of North Texas

Website: http://www.cynthiabluflores52.com

A1. I support the elimination of dark money. Every contribution should be disclosed, every dollar spent should be searchable. I support requiring a photo ID to vote in order to protect the integrity of elections, as well as tougher penalties for mail ballot fraud.

A2. 1. We should let teachers and school employees carry a concealed weapon to prevent our schools from becoming killing zones at the hands of a deranged killer. 2. Families and children should learn gun safe precautions so they know proper procedures for safeguarding a weapon in the home.

A3. The issue is violence of any sort, so we must allow law-abiding citizens their constitutional right to be armed and defend themselves without interference by the legislature.

A4. The constitution authorizes state legislators to draw lines for state and federal office. Redistricting is always acrimonious, even in states where lines are drawn by a citizens’ commission. We must have a process that seriously includes all Texans in drawing districts that keep communities of interest intact.

A5. I will support increasing the state share of education funding, allowing school districts to reduce property taxes while mitigating the impact of the Robin Hood redistribution scheme. I will support raising teacher pay, adapting effective teaching models from across the country, improving our curriculum in career and technology, and ensuring accountability recognizes student progress at schools where a large percentage of students start behind grade level.

A6. As a Governor appointee Director on the Brazos River Authority, and support regional water planning. The state must approve vital regional water infrastructure projects as envisioned in the water legislation approved in 2013, and the proposition ratified by voters. I support an “all of the above” energy policy where Texas continues to incent investments in wind energy through local abatements. I support investments in carbon reduction projects that also clean the air, such as carbon capture and sequestration.

A7. Healthcare and health insurance are not the same. Texans have access to health care, but unfortunately too
STATE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

many Texans access care in the emergency room, the most expensive setting because they lack health insurance. We need a more vibrant marketplace, with greater consumer choice in the insurance marketplace. While much of this must be addressed at the federal level, it is important that the state more effectively manage Medicaid dollars, continue to invest in mental health, women’s health, and continue to invest in leading research that can to lead to cures for cancer and other diseases.

A7. As mentioned previously, we must increase the states share for funding for education. Families are having to move out of their homes due to the increase of property taxes. These go hand in hand and must be a priority.

Jeremy Story (R)
No response

Christopher L. Ward (R)

Background:
My education and career has been dedicated to bringing to market innovative therapies in Oncology, Neurology, and Rheumatology.

Education: Bachelors Degree in Biomedical Sciences from University of South Florida; Masters Degree in Crisis Management from St. Leo University

Website: http://www.vote4clward.com

A1. The largest need is simply interest. For those who are dedicated to a cause, voting comes easy. But my goal is to see that voting is considered a sacred duty again by showing the Texas voters that a person can rise up against the established candidate farm system and be a true voice of the people.

A2. Most gun violence occurs in areas in which no guns are allowed. I respect a business’ right to choose whether a permit holder is allowed to carry in the establishment but most gun free zones serve more as targets than safe havens. Environments in which a potential violent offender has to take pause out of concern that a CCP holder may be present is in the public’s best interest. I support the proper education and carry capabilities of any eligible teacher/admin in order to thwart a potential attack in our schools. I support the max sentencing for anyone found guilty of a violent gun crime.

A3. I will need to look more into this but I do support a more sensical geographic vs demographic boundary.

A4. School finance needs an overhaul. One that reflects a simple money in, money out accounting. Currently there may be 10 people in the US that understand the current process. Accountability and transparency during this process will lead to identifying those areas that are over or under-funded and attempt to shift fraudulent or out of control spending to those underfunded areas. This could be in the form of how districts are aligned in an effort to diminish traffic and shorten bus routes, to Super Intendent utilization, state vs. local contributions.

A5. School finance is my main priority. As an outdoorsman I appreciate nature as God has given us and support common sense protections for the environment that are not punitive for the sake of being anti-capitalist but truly precautionary. I support a property owner’s right to collect and utilize rain water on their property as needed for agriculture or personal use. I support a property owner’s right to use the method they choose. I believe energy derived from fossil fuels is the most consistent form of energy but am open to private sector/privately funded research to better advance renewables.

A6. Allow Texans to purchase insurance across State lines. Allow groups to aggregate to negotiate for better.

LOCAL BASTROP COUNTY

COUNTY JUDGE

Q1. What are the most important duties of a County Judge?
Q2. What are the transportation issues in your county and how do you plan to address them?
Q3. Because counties do not have zoning authority, how do you plan to address growth issues in the unincorporated areas of your county?
Q4. What are the health and human services issues in your county and how would you address them?

Donald A. Loucks (R)

Background:
Certified Texas Emergency Manager. Former Bastrop County Commissioner, Fire Commissioner & retired USAF Officer, Fighter Pilot. Volunteer Firefighter.

Education: Bachelor & Master of Arts (psychology), Squadron Officers School, Air Force Command & Staff, Marine Corps Staff, Air War College.

A1. Protecting the people’s physical & economic safety and maintaining transparent government is paramount. The Bastrop Co. Sheriff’s Dept. must have the tools & training to accomplish its mission. It is foolish economy to offer low compensation and not retain trained deputies. A county judge who is certified and experienced in emergency management is essential. Property tax reform is crucial to prevent citizens from being taxed out of their homes.

A2. While traffic congestion is an over-arching issue throughout central Texas, there are two county issues to address: county-maintained roads, and state highways. Bastrop County roads are rural. Scarce tax dollars must be used wisely to improve these roads to make them safe and protect against flood damage. As Judge, I will coordinate with the legislature and TXDOT to ensure state roads are maintained and improved to meet transportation demands.

A3. New subdivisions must comply with state law, period. Transportation issues which require traffic studies and water requirements will be utilized. Also, we should enact building code requirements which mandate certain construction requirements such as wiring conduits and flame-proof or retardant material, all of which help protect families in the event of fire. Population growth must also be factored into the services budget like law enforcement.

A4. There are three areas in which our county interacts here: Veteran Services, Indigent Healthcare & Patient Prescription Assistance Program. Our Veteran Services provides coordination to ensure Texas Veterans can obtain all the benefits to which they are entitled and has been very effective. These latter two mandated programs must be managed to keep county tax burden from becoming unreasonable. I will seek legislative remedies to these issues.
LOCAL BASTROP COUNTY

COUNTY JUDGE (continued)

Paul Pape (R)

Background: In my sixth year as Bastrop County Judge, I have dedicated my life to serving our citizens, based on years of business experience and leadership.

Education: BA in Business Administration; West Texas A&M University, Canyon, Texas; also years of experience in ministry and with LCRA in utility operations.

Website: http://paulpape.com

Gary “Bubba” Snowden (R)

Background: I was born and raised in Elgin. I was in the retail business on Congress Avenue for 40 years. My brothers & I owned Oscar Snowden’s TV & Appliance.

Education: Elgin High School, Sam Houston State, Texas State University. My real education came from 413 Congress Avenue in Austin, Texas.

My goal as a County Commissioner is to take care of the needs of the citizens of Bastrop County—by getting up and going to work every day and not treating this position as a part-time job. It is a full-time job 24/7 and I make myself available by giving my personal mobile number to everyone. Besides maintaining the road system in our rural county, I am involved with CARTS, I am the liaison of the BCAnimalShelter, and I work with the other commissioners to make good decisions for the county, including the budget. Increasing my support of the Sheriff’s Dept. is another goal.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Q1. What are the most important duties of a County Commissioner?

Q2. What are the transportation issues in your county and how do you plan to address them?

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

Q4. What are the health and human services issues in your county and how would you address them?

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

Clara Beckett (R)

Unopposed

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

Rosanna L. Abreo (R)

Background: I am from a large farming family. We were taught to work hard, value education, and to take care of our business fairly and professionally.

Education: B.S. Criminal Justice; Masters Public Administration; J.D. Texas Tech School of Law

A1. To identify the needs of the County, specifically within their precinct, and prioritize those needs for the betterment of the County. To fairly represent all people in the County and spend tax money wisely. It is important that the County Commissioners work together to plan for positive commercial and residential growth within the County. Growth that will help relieve some of the property tax burden. I also believe the Commissioners should work very closely with school districts to assure high quality schools which attract businesses and industries with a well-qualified workforce.

A2. Like many counties we have a constant need to maintain our rural roads and need to make comprehensive plans to address the repairs in order to minimize the costs. The County needs to work to expand the availability of public transportation within the County and to Austin. Specifically, to assure transportation for medical care and treatment.

A3. The lack of zoning authority has often resulted in haphazard development in Bastrop County. The State currently restricts much of the County’s ability to plan growth but some issues can be addressed if they adversely affect health and safety. Over population of a rural county without the necessary public services is detrimental to all citizens of the County and Bastrop should recognize health and safety issues when growth is planned and attempt to restrict such development when necessary to avoid harm.

A4. We are fortunate that there are current plans to expand current medical facilities and to build new medical facilities in Bastrop County, specifically in Precinct 4. These new facilities will greatly benefit the current needs of the County. As previously mentioned we need to work towards improving our public schools in order to provide a qualified workforce. With our ACC Campus we need to assure local educational resources are available to meet employment needs.

Gary “Bubba” Snowden’s TV & Appliance.

Education: Elgin High School, Sam Houston State, Texas State University. My real education came from 413 Congress Avenue in Austin, Texas.

A1. My goal as a County Commissioner is to take care of the needs of the citizens of Bastrop County—by getting up and going to work every day and not treating this position as a part-time job. It is a full-time job 24/7 and I make myself available by giving my personal mobile number to everyone. Besides maintaining the road system in our rural county, I am involved with CARTS, I am the liaison of the BCAnimalShelter, and I work with the other commissioners to make good decisions for the county, including the budget. Increasing my support of the Sheriff’s Dept. is another goal.

A2. Elgin and Bastrop County are experiencing a lot of growth which causes problems with our transportation system. I am working with community leaders to get funding for roads which need widening around our schools and main arteries into our city. Keeping our rural roads safe is another concern. There are approximately 230 miles of roads in Precinct 4 and we continually strive to keep them maintained within our budget. I am a member of CARTS, Capital Area Rural Transportation, which provides buses, etc. for countywide transportation.

A3. This is a major concern. With growth, comes development. As a commissioner, I am very much limited to what development can be restricted. Counties have little restrictions they may impose, besides septic tank inspection/approval. The commissioners with the Bastrop County Developmental Services have worked this past year to strengthen and improve the county regulations for development. It would be very helpful if our legislature would work to change the zoning laws for unincorporated areas.

A4. Many of these issues are being handled by the Bastrop County Indigent Care Office. One concern is affordable housing which is a topic that is being studied and researched at this time by the Workforce Affordable Housing Committee. Bastrop County does its best to meet the needs of the citizens.

JUDGE, COURT AT LAW

Benton Eskew (D)

Unopposed
LOCAL BASTROP COUNTY

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Bryan Goertz (R)
Unopposed

DISTRICT CLERK
Sarah D. Loucks (R)
Unopposed

COUNTY CLERK
Rose Pietsch (R)
Unopposed

TREASURER
Laurie Ingram (R)
Unopposed

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Q1. What are your qualifications for the position of Justice of the Peace?

A1. I come into contact with daily. Working with Juvenile Offenders, I have 35 years of experience as a (Former) Municipal Judge, Juvenile Corrections, Adult Probation. Business Owner 20 years +

Education: Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice Continued Education -Texas Municipal League, Texas Court Clerk Assoc., and Texas Teen Court Clerk Assoc.

Website: http://cindy@cindyallen.org

A2. Communication: Implementing workshops and small group discussions with local and community-based agencies. As a former judge, I am committed to doing the best possible job of administering the law and providing information services to the people I come into contact with daily. Working closely with local and community-based agencies improves public trust within the judicial system.

Training: Establish and publicize trainings when new legislation is enacted and new policies promulgated. Educating the public, opening our courts should be our mission.

A3. I plan on working extensively in my community to make it a safer place to live and raise children. Compassion plays a large role in this position. People are appreciative of a judge who listens, treats them with respect and resolves their legal problems. I plan on reaching out and working with communities to focus on solutions to the problems that hinder our community. People deserve patience and respect “every case is important”. Being a Judge is a tremendous honor. It’s one of the highest forms of public service. I am excited about the opportunity to serve the citizens of Bastrop.

Sherry Cook (R)

Background: Residence: Bastrop County, 30 + years Employment: DPS, 29 years; TABC 10 years

Education: MS, Information System; BS, Applied Arts & Science, cum laude AS/Criminal Justice, AS/Corrections, AS/Information Technology, Licensed Peace Officer

A1. ‘Two associates’ degrees in criminal justice one in technology, and a bachelor’s and master’s degree that focused on technology and administration provide me with the intellectual discipline and knowledge to understand and analyze the wide range of issues that come before all justices of the peace. I have 39 years of experience as a criminal justice practitioner in which I have dealt extensively with criminal justice investigations, technology and administration. For the past seven years, I had the privilege of serving as the first female Executive Director of the TABC.

A2. The most critical budgetary skill for any government official is to ask how can we accomplish the most with what we have. And, if we must have more, what is the compelling need? My experience will enable me to perform a careful, review to see where budget dollars can be stretched, possibly through technology, and where procedures can be streamlined. The Justice of the Peace must be flexible because the Legislature and county government can impact the resource needs of the Office through new or revised statutes and ordinances. A commitment to get the job done will provide that flexibility.

A3. A. Review practices and procedures. Is there a better way? That question will be ever present in my mind. B. Give everyone a full and fair opportunity to be heard and then make a fair and just decision based on the evidence before the Court. C. Welcome constructive criticism whether from the public, my own staff or other governmental officials, and then act on it.

Kelley Price (R)

No response

Mac W. Simpson (R)

Background: Grocery Industry Retail Management, Small Business Owner, Financial Advisor, Community Volunteer, Married 35 Years to Pam Simpson, 17 Years Bastrop Res.


Website: http://None

A1. For More that 35 years I have worked with people from all walks of life to help them find solutions to their problems. A phone call from a loving daughter a thousand miles away wanting to provide a half gallon of Blue Bell ice cream to a sick, home bound mother or a father wanting to provide a secure financial future for his family, these are the problems I have found a solution to throughout my career. The "Justice of the Peace" is the

Peoples Court. The people are entitled to a JP that can apply the law in a fair and impartial manner while keeping their needs as a person in mind.

A2. The current budget for this office is approximately $200,000. The majority of this budget goes to salaries and benefits with the balance going to office supplies, communications, transportation seminars and juror expenses. The resource that the sitting JP can bring to the office is respected leadership and a good working relationship with staff, the precinct constable who also serves as the court bailiff and the law enforcement community of the county.

A3. As mentioned above, the greatest resource a sitting JP can bring to the office is leadership. Constable and staff must feel that they are treated with respect and appreciation while working in a team environment to provide exceptional service to their employers, the community they serve. The greatest value I can bring to the office of Justice of the Peace is the attitude that this is the “Peoples Court” and in all situations, the JP and staff are there to serve the people of Bastrop County.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 2

Raymah M. Davis (R)
Unopposed

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 3

Katherine K. Hanna (D)
Unopposed

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 4

Larry Dunne (R)
Unopposed

COUNTY SURVEYOR
Michael Olson (R)
Unopposed
CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES
Q1. Explain why you would make a fair and impartial judge.
Q2. What are the most pressing problems facing this office and how would you handle them?
Q3. What steps would you take to reduce the rates of incarceration and recidivism?
Q4. How would you handle a situation where an attorney appearing before your court is inadequately representing his/her client?

CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES, 147TH DISTRICT JUDGE
Cliff Brown (D)
Unopposed

CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES, 299TH DISTRICT JUDGE
Karen Sage (D)
Unopposed

CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES, 331ST DISTRICT JUDGE
David Crain (D)

Background:
I am a native Texan and moved to Austin in 1970. I was first elected to office in 1985 and have been proud to serve Travis County since.

Education:
Bachelor of Art in History, The University of Texas Austin; Juris Doctorate, The University of Texas Law School
Website: http://www.judgedavidcrain.com

A1. The U.S. Declaration of Independence asserted that all persons are entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Ours is a nation of laws and these laws should be applied fairly and equally. Living up to these words requires a constant self-examination and recommitment to the principles of justice. In my last thirty two years, I am the progressive democrat in this race.

Education:
I graduated summa cum laude from the University of Santa Clara, School of Law.
Website: http://www.voteforchantal.com

A1. My mother was a naturalized citizen from Tunisia; my father was in the Air Force military police. We lived in a rural town in Tennessee, and we were one of the few Jewish families. After my father died in 1970, my mother experienced discrimination which I witnessed first-hand. I developed a strong sense of fairness and a hatred of discrimination. I became an attorney to help people obtain justice and fair play, and I have done just that for twenty-eight years.

A2. Many people who enter the criminal justice system suffer from issues of mental illness, substance abuse, and homelessness. These issues can be addressed through pretrial diversion programs and rehabilitation services. Travis County should be the leader in criminal justice reform because it makes our community safer, it helps those who need the most help, and it saves taxpayers money by lessening recidivism. The 331st Court has the most pretrial detainees among the courts, meaning more people are sitting in jail longer prior to trial. This is costly and contributes to jail overcrowding.

CIVIL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES
Q1. Explain why you would make a fair and impartial judge.
Q2. Discuss the effect of campaign fundraising on judicial independence.
Q3. How would you handle a situation where an attorney appearing before your court is inadequately representing his/her client?
Q4. What are the most pressing problems in the District Court Judge office and how would you address them?

CIVIL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES, 201ST DISTRICT JUDGE
Amy Clark Meachum (D)
Unopposed

CIVIL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES, 250TH DISTRICT JUDGE
Karim Crump (D)
Unopposed
**LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY**

**CIVIL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES, 459TH DISTRICT JUDGE**

**Maya Guerra Gamble (D)**  
**Background:** From Montopolis to Yale: Maya’s significant experience in civil and family law and deep ties to the community guides her to always help others.  
**Education:** Austin High School, 1988; Yale University, B.A. with distinction, 1992; Yale Law School, J.D., 1996.  
**Website:** [http://www.MayaGuerraGamble.com](http://www.MayaGuerraGamble.com)  

A1. I have the legal and trial experience to quickly grasp the intricacies of the cases in front of me, the strong working knowledge of the rules of evidence to make clear and correct decisions efficiently, and the life experience to run the courtroom with compassion. I know what it’s like to be the lawyer with a case worth hundreds of millions of dollars and I know what it’s like to be the lawyer with a mother facing the possible loss of her family. Nothing is more important to me than a fair courtroom; I bring the leadership we need for a fair courtroom that is also efficient and compassionate.  

A2. Ideally, judicial candidates would not need to raise campaign funds. Without public campaign financing the only choice would be to appoint judges. Currently, with our state government sometimes seeming to be at war with our local government that would be an unacceptable alternative. We have procedures for the recusal of judges if they cannot be impartial for any reason. We have financial disclosure requirements, voluntary financial limits, and other safeguards to guarantee the impartiality of our judges.  

A3. Incompetent representation requires a judge to take appropriate action, including informing the State Bar so it can take necessary action against the lawyer, and I would not hesitate to do so. Lawyers should have the freedom to represent their clients with the strategies the lawyer and client believe is best. If an inadequacy, or perceived inadequacy, is actually trial strategy then a judge should not take action and I would not interfere.

A4. Meaningful participation is the most pressing problem our courts face. I will foster meaningful participation and fair trials by avoiding arbitrary limits, by issuing clear rulings, and by offering accommodations needed for fairness. I intend to hold office hours to solicit feedback from the legal community to keep my courtroom operating at the highest possible level of performance. And I will continue to use trauma-informed practices (as I do in my law practice) to make sure that persons such as veterans and victims of domestic abuse are not further traumatized by the courts.  

A5. I will abide strictly by the letter and spirit of the Canons.  

**Greg Hitt (D)**  
**Background:** I have lived in Austin for 40 years and practiced law for 25. I am Board Certified in Family Law. My wife is a schoolteacher. We have 3 daughters.  
**Website:** [http://www.hittforjudge.com](http://www.hittforjudge.com)  

A1. I am a student of the law. I am committed to the highest standards of integrity and fairness. I am a member of the State Bar College, and the Barbara Jordan Inn of Court, organizations that promote scholarship and civility in law. I have practiced law for 25 years and am Board Certified in Family Law. I am a trained mediator and value my role as a neutral in cases I mediate. I have earned the respect of my peers and have a reputation for being fair, and having a calm, deliberative temperament.  

A2. Electing judges who are respected and trusted by their peers and the community is the most effective way to guard against undue influence. The Texas Code of Judicial Conduct requires judges to avoid even the appearance of impropriety. Canon 2(B) states: “A judge shall not allow any relationship to influence judicial conduct or judgment.” Canon 3(B)(5) states: “A judge shall perform judicial duties without bias or prejudice.”  

I have voluntarily submitted my campaign to the rules of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act. As a judge, I will abide strictly by the letter and spirit of the Canons.  

A3. Judicial Canon 3(B)(8) requires a judge to “accord to every person . . . the right to be heard according to the law.” Attorneys can be held accountable without shaming them or tilting the scales. I intend to establish a robust mentorship program to which I will refer attorneys who need help. If I believe an attorney is impaired, I will make a confidential referral to the Texas Lawyers Assistance Program for voluntary help with substance abuse and mental illness. If an attorney engages in sanctionable conduct, I will refer the attorney to continuing legal education in addition to other remedies.  

A4. The rule of law, which is the concept that all people should be subject to the same laws and should equally benefit from them, is under attack by some leaders. For our legal system to remain relevant, all of our residents must have access to the justice system regardless of race, gender identity, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic or immigration status. I am committed to running a courtroom that adheres to that principle. I will work with my colleagues on the civil bench to ensure safe access to the courts is a priority in Travis County.

**Aurora Martinez Jones (D)**  
**Education:** BA Government, The University of Texas at Austin. JD, The University of Texas School of Law. Child Welfare Law Specialist, NACC  
**Website:** [http://www.AuroraMartinezJones.com](http://www.AuroraMartinezJones.com)  

A1. I have proven myself as a progressive judge running a trauma informed court to achieve the best outcomes on the hundreds of cases I have oversen. It is my role and responsibility as judge to take the time to understand everyone as an individual person, to hear them out on their perspectives of their problems, and to work with them for solutions. As a member of the judiciary I see my role as not just the judgment maker, but as a leader to ensure we are continuing to move the court system forward to a more progressive way of functioning so that we reduce the inequities that are inherent in it.  

A2. Electing judges versus appointing judges both have their pros and cons. In Texas we elect our judges. Whether someone donates to your campaign or supports you or vehemently opposes you should have absolutely no bearing in the courtroom. In the years I have served as Associate Judge I have done so with fairness, clarity, and compassion at the forefront of my work. I view my role as a public servant as paramount whether I am on the bench or in the community. I will continue to serve with the utmost integrity as 459th District Judge.  

A3. I would first invite all attorneys on the case to talk privately in my chambers to find out if there is an underlying issue or concern that could be addressed discreetly. If the attorney is a court appointed lawyer, I would provide an opportunity for the indigent party to request a new attorney. If the issue lies with a lack of knowledge or experience on the part of the attorney, I may require a more seasoned lawyer to work as co-counsel with the attorney to ensure that the party they are representing has effective legal representation.  

A4. Two pressing issues are the ability to be an effective judge as soon as possible and the crisis in our child welfare system. I have spent years as Associate Judge working with our Civil District Judges and have the experience within the system where I will be ready on day one because I already oversee hundreds of cases per year. As for child welfare, we need a judge with the passion and knowledge to help ensure we are taking care of our children and vulnerable populations. Our foster care system is broken and looming privatization will only make it worse. We must be ready to take action.

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LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Q1. What are the most important duties of a County Commissioner?
Q2. What are the transportation issues in your county and how do you plan to address them?
Q3. Because counties do not have zoning authority, how do you plan to address growth issues in the unincorporated areas of your county?
Q4. What are the health and human services issues in your county and how would you address them?

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

Brigid Shea (D)
Unopposed

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

Margaret J. Gomez (D)

Background:
Travis County Commissioner Margaret Gomez was sworn into office in 1995, becoming the first Mexican American woman to ever serve in this capacity.

Education:
Bachelor of Arts Degree from St. Edwards University and Masters Degree from St. Edwards University.

Website: http://www.votemargaretgomez.com

A1. I believe the most important duty of a County Commissioner is working to ensure the tax rate is set as low as possible for Travis County families. We have an affordability problem in Travis County, and this is one thing I can do to ensure our families have a tool so that they are able to continue living in their homes. This is important because bond agencies review our financial policies in order to rate Travis County as Triple A. This allows the county to borrow at low interest rates for projects approved by the voters to make improvements for the needs of our community.

A2. Travis County faces big transportation issues that need to be addressed or we will continue to have problems with our roads, flooding, and access to public transportation. Our community needs to be serious about creating solutions. In Precinct 4, there are areas that are not serviced by Capital Metro, leaving many residents without access to public transportation. As a result, I worked to negotiate a contract between CARTS & Capital Metro so that every resident of Precinct 4 could have access to public transportation. These are the types of solutions I will continue to bring as Commissioner.

A3. Even though counties do not have zoning authority, we maintain subdivision controls that help our staff work with developers and their neighbors to address issues that are planned for these rural or incorporated areas of the county. Currently, we have a one-stop shop for developers whose developments are located in the county and the city. We do have more stringent rules in effect and we require these developments to address the environmental and affordability issues facing our community.

A4. The health and human services Travis County provides addresses issues that impact people, children, restaurants, including animal services. Travis County has invested well in health and human services so that almost any issue that comes up can be addressed. We have several contracts with the City of Austin to address health & human services concerns, as well as public health issues. Travis County has contracted with Central Health to provide health services to adults at the County Employees clinic two days a week in Del Valle and I aim to continue improving health services for Precinct 4.

Susanna Marie Woody (D)

Background:
Mother of three, wife, six years as a School Board Trustee for DVISD, Ten years of project management and dedicated public servant.

Education: Associate in Applied Science Degree

Website: http://susannawoody.com

A1. All duties of a County Commissioner are important, but the most important duties, to me, are setting a tax rate and adopting a county budget. By setting the tax rate and adopting a county budget, County Commissioners can hold county departments and officials accountable by ensuring that the community is provided all the resources needed to improve their quality of life first before approving each department’s budget.

A2. As you move east of IH-35, you’ll notice something right away: transportation options are limited. Precinct 4 is surrounded by toll roads with limited linkage options between where we live and where we work. We need wider roads, reliable mass transit, sidewalks, and safe bike lanes for our families. As County Commissioner, I will actively participate in CAMPO and Capital Metro planning to negotiate arrangements that increase transportation coverage for precinct 4.

A3. I plan to fully utilize powers that counties currently have to create an equitable infrastructure investment plan that will account for expected growth while conserving environmentally sensitive areas.

A4. One of the most pressing issues Travis County faces today is the inequitable distribution of health and human services for residents living in unincorporated areas. As County Commissioner, I will thoroughly review departmental plans and budgets and keep them accountable for equitably investing in health and human services accessible to residents in every sector of Travis County.

JUDGE, COURT AT LAW

Q1. Explain why you would make a fair and impartial judge.
Q2. Explain how this office is important to your constituents and what your plans are for improvement.
Q3. How would you handle a situation where an attorney appearing before your court is inadequately representing his/her client?

JUDGE, COURT AT LAW, NO. 1

Todd T. Wong (D)
Unopposed

JUDGE, COURT AT LAW, NO. 2

Eric Montgomery Shepperd (D)
Unopposed

JUDGE, COURT AT LAW, NO. 3

John Lipscombe (D)

Background:
I am a lifelong Democrat, a proud union member, and presiding Judge of County Court at Law #3.

Education: Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1980; Graduate from St. Mary’s University School of Law in 1986

Website: http://www.johnforjudge.com

A1. I have served the people of Travis County for over 30 years as an appellate attorney in the State’s highest Criminal Court, a misdemeanor prosecutor and a criminal court judge. I have the education and experience necessary to be an effective Judge, and I have had the unique opportunity to deal with criminal cases from the inside out and outside in. I will continue to apply the law in a fair and impartial manner. I have a reputation for being fair and impartial, but also for treating everyone who comes before my Court with dignity and equality.

A2. Misdemeanor courts generally deal with regular people who have made poor choices. I do not believe that conviction and incarceration is an appropriate resolution for most misdemeanor offenders and I have worked hard to ensure that every person who comes into the system has access to appropriate alternatives to pretrial incarceration (release on bond), and appropriate intervention, diversion and rehabilitation programs, as well as access to community resources to help with economic and health problems.

A3. I plan to fully utilize powers that counties currently have to create an equitable infrastructure investment plan that will account for expected growth while conserving environmentally sensitive areas.

A4. One of the most pressing issues Travis County faces today is the inequitable distribution of health and human services for residents living in unincorporated areas. As County Commissioner, I will thoroughly review departmental plans and budgets and keep them accountable for equitably investing in health and human services accessible to residents in every sector of Travis County.

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A2. Misdemeanor courts generally deal with regular people who have made poor choices. I do not believe that conviction and incarceration is an appropriate resolution for most misdemeanor offenders and I have worked hard to ensure that every person who comes into the system has access to appropriate alternatives to pretrial incarceration (release on bond), and appropriate intervention, diversion and rehabilitation programs, as well as access to community resources to help with economic and health problems.
I believe I have a duty to give people a chance for a better future. **A3.** The most important issue is to see that the defendant is competently represented and that his rights are protected. The remedy depends on many factors—whether the problem occurs before trial or during trial, whether the infraction is slight and limited or major, whether the attorney is appointed or hired by the defendant. If the attorney needs assistance, I’d see that he gets access to the resources he needs. Additional methods may become necessary if the attorney is uncooperative.

**Paul Quinzi (D)**

**Background:** Former prosecutor and defense attorney for the past 15 years. Expert in expunction law. I raise and handle of therapy dogs (basset hounds).


**Website:** http://quinziforjudge.com

**A1.** My experience as both a prosecutor and defense attorney give me a well-rounded perspective of the misdemeanor cases before this court. I understand how the decisions of a judge can affect the lives of the people who come before the court, often permanently. Even if they are not found guilty, just having an arrest record can deny them a job, housing, or professional advancement. My experience on both sides of the courtroom gives me the perspective required to balance our community’s demands for justice with a person who has made a mistake, and their need for mercy and a chance at redemption.

**A2.** I believe that the people of Travis County want a criminal justice system that is fair to everyone in our community, not one that divides us by measures like black or white, or rich or poor. Our current bail bond system, which too often keeps the poor and people of color in jail if they cannot pay bail, until they have lost their job and emerge from court with a conviction that can keep them in a cycle of poverty, is unacceptable to me. I plan to make sure that those who cannot pay bail are brought to court more quickly so that taxpayer money is used for justice, not warehousing.

**A3.** I would begin by bringing the attorney into my chambers, and sharing my concerns. I would try to determine whether the attorney’s deficient performance was due to apathy, incompetence, or a matter of strategy. If it were apathy or incompetence, I would encourage the attorney to withdraw and allow the client to seek alternative representation. If I were convinced that the attorney was doing their best in good faith, I would appoint additional and more experienced counsel that would work with the attorney to make sure that the client’s rights were adequately protected.

**JUDGE, COURT AT LAW, NO. 4**

**Mike Denton (D)**

**Unopposed**

**JUDGE, COURT AT LAW, NO. 5**

**Mario Flores (D)**

**Background:** First generation American; born from migrant farm workers who valued education; dedicates his legal practice to helping those who need a champion.

**Education:** BS, Urban Studies–Cornell Univ.; MSCRP, Community and Regional Planning–the Univ. of Texas at Austin; Juris Doctorate, Texas Tech School of Law.

**Website:** http://mariofloresforjudge.com

**A1.** Experience, empathy and a commitment to the values and principles of the US Constitution is why I believe I will be a fair and impartial judge. Discerning the law is only one part of a greater role of being a judge, that is why the concept of “fair and impartiality” are always included in the syntax of being a judge. However, more important to “discerning the law” is being able to understand the implications of how a decision will impact the lives of the accused, the harmed, their respective families and society. Empathy, which comes with experience, is why I will make a great judge.

**A2.** Our criminal justice system is like everything else and constantly needs to be reinvented. My constituents need to be shown that a criminal bench is part of a larger subsystem involving: court administration, pretrial, the sheriff’s office, indigent services, IT services, the Defense Bar, etc. The stagnation of our justice system is because each subsystem is planning in a vacuum. As a former community and strategic planner, and community leader, I have the training and global perspective to help change and innovate these subsystems for the better.

**A3.** In order for “Justice” to prevail, the accused’s rights need to be advocated properly, thoroughly and protected. If a representing attorney is falling short of their commitment towards their client, I would conference with the attorney in the presence of the State and ask ‘why I was witnessing such unorthodox behavior.’ If unsatisfied with the response, I would request the immediate correction of such behavior. If a resolution is/improbable or impractical, I would declare a mistrial as “Justice” needs to be protected for the “accused” and for the “State.”

**Nancy Hohengarten (D)**

**Background:** Judge, Travis Co. Court at Law 5, 2004–present; Criminal Defense Attorney, 2001–04; Asst District Attorney, 1992–2001; Asst Attorney General, 1988–92

**Education:** University of Texas at Austin, B.A. Economics, 1983; University of Houston Law Center, J.D. 1988

**Website:** http://judgetohohengarten.com

**A1.** Since 2004 I have been a fair and impartial judge. Before I was elected Judge I was a prosecutor and defense attorney, which has allowed me to understand and empathize with different legal perspectives. I exhibit fairness by giving all parties equal time and listening to each side in an open-minded fashion before making a decision. I do not rush to judgement and am open to persuasion as events unfold in a particular case. Impartiality is best exhibited by ruling according to the law as it stands. I examine the facts of each case in order to appropriately apply the law.

**A2.** All citizens of Travis County rely upon me to protect them from people who violate the law as well as protect their rights if they are ever accused of a crime. My plan is to continue my work diverting persons with mental health or substance use disorders from jail and into treatment. I am currently collaborating with others to reduce the number of persons found incompetent to stand trial by expanding the intervention of mental health workers during police contact and utilizing Forensic Assertive Community Treatment case managers for these individuals so they can live safely in the community.

**A3.** I believe any intervention should be measured based upon the extent of the inadequacy. It is difficult to determine whether there is inadequacy because judges are not always privy to the parties’ negotiations. If an attorney has a supervisor I contact the supervisor and express any concerns. I can also appoint a more seasoned co-counsel at the court’s expense for any hearings or trials. If I believe that an incarcerated defendant’s case is being delayed by counsel I am likely to address it with them in whatever fashion is quickest, particularly when the accused suffers from mental illness.

**McKinley Melancon (D)**

**Background:** Native Texan and lifelong democrat. Raised by a teacher and a labor attorney. Established Melancon Law Firm in 2013.

**Education:** J.D. South Texas College of Law–2012; B.A. The University of Texas, Austin–2007

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

**A1.** I have the unique perspective of having been a defense attorney my entire career. I will always uphold the constitutionally guaranteed right to the presumption of innocence. A judge’s duty is to listen to the parties before making a ruling, thus the term, “hearing.” Bonds should be granted to those accused of low-level, non-violent offenses. This will prevent mass convictions for poor people who are un-
**LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY**

**JUDGE, COURT AT LAW, NO. 5**

McKinley Melancon (D)  
(continued)

able to pay their bail. I will ensure that women are treated with as much respect and dignity in my courtroom as the men, and that they are not subjected to harassment from anyone.  

**A2.** Women do not have to go along with the status-quo any longer. In 2018, courageous women all over the country are taking a stand and making their issues known. This must happen in judicial system as well. I vow to stand beside you as we fight this battle within our court system and across society. I am inspired by the women of my time and I hope that the women in Travis County are ready to fight sexism within the judicial system with me. As judge of this court, I will lead by example and treat every person that comes before me with the respect and dignity that every human being deserves.  

**A3.** I would have a private conversation with the attorney and ask them about the issue. It could be a number of things from being in over one’s head to a strategic approach. If at the end of the conversation I did not believe the attorney was competent then I would appoint co-counsel to represent the client.

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**

Q1. What are your qualifications for the position of Justice of the Peace?  
Q2. What are the resource needs of the office of Justice of the Peace?  
Q3. How can you improve the services of the Justice of the Peace?

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 1**

Yvonne Michelle Williams (D)  
Unopposed

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 2**

Randall Slagle (D)  
Unopposed

Chris Soileau (R)  
Unopposed

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 3**

Sylvia Holmes (D)  
Unopposed

**Background:** Associate Director of Legal Services for Students, 10+ years of experience in justice of peace court, co-organizer of 2017 Women’s March on Austin  

**Education:** The University of Texas at Austin, BBA McCombs School of Business, 2003; The University of Alabama School of Law, JD, 2006  

**Website:** http://sylviaforjp3.com

**A1.** The majority of my career has been in private litigation representing plaintiffs and defendants in small claims and criminal defendants in county courts at law. In my current role as Associate Director of Legal Services for Students at UT, I oversee a diverse staff in the daily workings of a non-profit legal office serving over 2,000 clients. I handle matters before the Justice of the Peace docks on a daily basis, including criminal misdemeanors, contract claims, landlord/tenant disputes, personal loans, car repairs/sales/collisions, and interpersonal relationships.  

**A2.** Improved technology to ensure that confidential legal information is being securely stored and protected from unauthorized use.  

**A3.** I would expand the hours currently offered for individuals to resolve uncontested matters and provide online dismissal options for common traffic tickets. Modern times require a people’s court that accommodates community members with non-traditional job times, who possess limited transportation options or simply desire convenience. Extending hours and providing online dismissal options are easy, cost-effective solutions that assist everyone.

**Susan Steeg (D)**

**Background:** Lifelong leader & social activist: poverty law, LGBTQ, Medicaid, women & children’s health, restorative justice, environment, and affordable housing  

**Education:** B.A. Honors University of Texas Austin 1975; J.D. UT School of Law 1977; Governor’s Executive Development Program LBJ School of Public Affairs 1997  

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

**A1.** As JP since 2007, I have presided over thousands of civil and criminal cases with dignity, fairness, and integrity. With 22 years of management experience, as JP and General Counsel of the Texas Dept of Health, I have eliminated court backlogs, efficiently set cases, and implemented a cloud-based case management system for all JP courts. I established the I Can Do It truancy prevention program directed by a social worker to work with families who face daily challenges with housing, mental health, and food security. Elected Public Official of the Year 2015- Nat’l Assn of Social Workers-TX.  

**A2.** The 2018 budget for JP3 is $1.8M which mostly covers salaries and benefits for the staff of 25. I have been able to shift staff as caseloads fluctuate between civil and criminal dockets by cross-training staff. The court is located in a building that needs to be modified to improve security, and these improvements will need significant resources that are outside the JP budget. Resources for technology upgrades come from a dedicated fee fund or Travis County’s technology department and vary from year to year.  

**A3.** A few of my improvements to date have been online filing, online access to judicial records, telephonic conferencing and hearings, and web payment. I am working with the Travis County Collections Office on Airport Blvd to implement video-conferencing so customers do not have to travel to complete payment plans, including indigency determinations. Public transportation to JP3 will be terminated by CapMetro and CARTS in 2018. I am committed to expanding alternatives to court appearances and funding ride vouchers for those who rely on public transportation.

**Martin Harry (R)  
Unopposed**

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 4**

Raul Arturo Gonzalez (D)  
Unopposed

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 5**

Nick Chu (D)  
Unopposed

**COUNTY JUDGE**

Sarah Eckhardt (D)  
Unopposed

**PROBATE JUDGE**

Guy Herman (D)  
Unopposed

**COUNTY CLERK**

Dana DeBeauvoir (D)  
Unopposed

**DISTRICT CLERK**

Velva L. Price (D)  
Unopposed

**COUNTY TREASURER**

Dolores Ortega Carter (D)  
Unopposed
LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

COUNTY JUDGE

Q1. What are the most important duties of a County Judge?
Q2. What are the transportation issues in your county and how do you plan to address them?
Q3. Because counties do not have zoning authority, how do you plan to address growth issues in the unincorporated areas of your county?
Q4. What are the health and human services issues in your county and how would you address them?

Blane Conklin (D)
Unopposed

Bill Gravell (R)

Background:
Judge Bill Gravell is a lifelong Republican and Williamson County native. He and his wife Jill have two adult children and five grandchildren.

Education: Judge Gravell graduated from Round Rock High School in 1982. He graduated from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in 1986.

Website: http://BillforJudge.com

A1. Judge Gravell strongly believes government officials should operate their offices with a conservative business-minded approach. When he took office in 2013, he made it his mission to transform his court into the most efficient and fiscally conservative office in Texas. Saying you are a conservative is one thing. Actually governing like one is another. We need a true conservative business-minded leader who does not have a record of raising taxes.

A2. Williamson County has a reputation for keeping our families safe and we must make our public safety professionals a top priority. One of the most important aspects of everyday life in Williamson County is transportation. Transportation issues are always going to be an important part of the discussion when it comes to Williamson County government. We must improve our infrastructure and mobility to keep Williamson County moving.

A3. Judge Gravell believes that economic development is the key to reducing the tax burden on property owners in Williamson County. Judge Gravell has been fighting for a business-friendly environment, while serving as a chairman of the board of economic development in Hutto. As County Judge, he will continue working to expand our tax base to give hard-working families the real tax relief they deserve in Williamson County.

A4. Our number one health related issue in Williamson County is making sure our county EMS system has all of the tools and resources necessary to be successful. We must make sure our EMS employees are taken care of because they care for our county. We must take a hard look at the increase of suicides in our county and work to reduce that number. I believe we are in the mist of mental health crisis in America and it requires our full attention.

Frank Leffingwell (R)

Background:
Frank Leffingwell was raised in Williamson County. He is a local entrepreneur and Tax Attorney. Frank and his family reside in Round Rock

Education: Southwestern Univ. in Georgetown (B.A., 1989), St. Mary’s Univ. School of Law (J.D.,1993), Georgetown Univ. Law (Candidate for Masters in Law, LL.M)

Website: http://www.frankleffingwell.com/about-frank-leffingwell/

A1. I believe economic development and good conservative fiscal management are the most important duties of County Judge. As one of the fastest growing counties in the nation, we must be focused on transportation issues and natural resources challenges while carefully managing the growth.

A2. Williamson County, as part of the Central Texas region, is in the grip of a mobility crisis. Because this challenge is a regional one which requires a regional solution we do not have the ability to effectively address this challenge through the work of any one local government within Central Texas. A meaningful solution can only be reached by working alongside our regional neighbors to find a regional solution.

A3. The County has tightened its subdivision regulations and can control anything being developed over 10 acres. Except for real property located in the most rural parts of the County, most real estate in the County is within the ETJ of one of the County’s cities and are therefore controlled by regulation under municipal zoning laws. Our County is becoming more urban, real estate not currently regulated by municipal zoning laws may soon be.

A4. My understanding is that although the County is legally required to provide up ten percent (10%) of its overall budget to indigent health care and services (the health dept. has never asked for full 10% but has asked for more). The extent to which funding can be made available beyond that which is legally required would depend upon the magnitude of other higher ranked priorities, budget resources, economic conditions, and support of the people.

DISTRICT JUDGES, 277TH DISTRICT JUDGE

Stacey Mathews (R)
Unopposed

DISTRICT JUDGES, 368TH DISTRICT JUDGE

Rick J. Kennon (R)
Unopposed

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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Q4. What are the health and human services issues in your county and how would you address them?

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

Kasey Redus (D)
Unopposed

Cynthia Long (R)

Background:

A1. My understanding is that although the County is legally required to provide up ten percent (10%) of its overall budget to indigent health care and services (the health dept. has never asked for full 10% but has asked for more). The extent to which funding can be made available beyond that which is legally required would depend upon the magnitude of other higher ranked priorities, budget resources, economic conditions, and support of the people.

A2. Williamson County voters have told us to stay ahead of the congestion by overwhelmingly voting yes for multiple transportation bonds. In response, I have led the charge to design a county transportation plan that addresses the explosive growth in Williamson County and we are delivering on that plan. We have built almost 300 lane miles of new roads and made improvements to 221 more. As a leader on CAMPO, I have brought millions of State and Federal transportation dollars to the County, keeping Wilco taxpayers from having to foot the whole bill for the improvements.

A3. As a strong supporter of private property rights, I believe that less gov-
LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

Cynthia Long (R) (continued)

erninent intervention is a good thing. The legislature has given counties
some authority regarding how subdivisions are planned. We must ensure
our subdivision rules are followed, that those rules protect the public and that
new development puts as little finan-

cial burden on current and future tax
payers as possible. Additionally, where
and how we build roads is a way in
which we can and do influence future
development.

A4. Partnership is key to addressing
these issues. Government can’t and
shouldn’t do it all. We are blessed with
a vibrant church and non-profit commu-
nity that the county and other govern-
mental entities partner with to address
many of the health and human service
needs. Individuals needing services in-
clude, domestic violence and other as-
sault victims, foster children, veterans,
abused seniors, individuals with mental
health needs, among others. The needs
range from the simple to the very com-
plex. The team approach has proven to
be effective as we tackle the challenges.

Bart Turek (R)

Background:
Texas Peace Officer and Williamson
County Emergency Management Deputy
Director

Education:
Austin Community College and North
Harris–Montgomery County law en-
forcement academy

A1. Be a full time, fiscally responsible,
transparent elected official to the citi-
zens of the precinct. Have an open dia-
logue between the citizens, cities of the
precinct, and myself to work together
for the benefit of the entire county.
And be the voice on the Commissioner
s Court for the citizens and cities in-
side the precinct.

A2. The issue(s) is the rapid growth
in the entire precinct. One resolu-
tion is to work with the cities in Pct 2,
and the state, in finding ways to im-
prove the roadways that are creating
the most congestion and demand. An-
other resolution will be to work closely
with these cities, and the state, to im-
prove the mass transit to provide the
most reliable and cost-effective means
of transportation, whether that be add-
ing additional rail lines or extending /
adding bus routes north.

A3. My plan is to work with the county engineers, local officials, public
safety, developers, and utility districts in these areas to ensure communi-
ties and businesses are created, or ex-

danded, that are environmentally safe,
affordable, and economically sound for
the county.

A4. County population growth is an
issue facing health and human ser-

dvices. Human services must have staff-

ing and funds to handle this growth.
Health and human services not only ad-

dresses indigent care, but it provides lo-

cal programs such as flu awareness and
women’s health programs. I will meet
with department heads about having proper funding to protect our commu-
nity in the most effective ways possible.
I believe working with the department
heads, health and human services can
be one of the top programs in the state.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

Carlos Salinas (D)

Unopposed

Russ Boles (R)

No response

David Marek (R)

No response

Heather Peal (R)

Background:
My experience in the private sector, signing
the front of the pay-

check, provides the

knowledge needed in
government placing
the taxpayers first.

Education:
After graduating from
Stoney Point High School, Peal at-
tended Mary Hardin Baylor where she
studied Nursing and Psychology.

Website: http://www.pearl
comissioner.com

A1. Residents are being taxed out
of their homes every day. While our prop-
erty tax assessments continue soar-
ing every year, we hear little more than
the misleading and very disingenuous
statement: “But we didn’t raise your
taxes this year…we held the line.” The
truth is, we see our tax bills increase
year after year due to inflated prop-
erty value assessments. We must focus
on “needs” not “wants”. As a mom, pub-
lic safety is also one of my top priori-
ties. We have a long-standing reputa-
tion of being one of the safest counties
in the nation for families to raise chil-
dren and I will keep it that way.

A2. I oppose stacking on hundreds
of millions in additional property taxes
for new roads in locations that make
absolutely no sense while not properly
maintaining the roads we have now. I
will work to develop a comprehensive
plan for future mobility, in a common
sense manner with community input
and without adverse effects on our resi-
dents, their livelihoods and tax rate. It’s
no secret Pct. 4 receives a smaller allo-
cation of county tax funds than other
precincts. For too long Pct. 4 has been
left behind while other precincts have
been made a priority. Our crumbling
roads are a prime example.

A3. I will be an advocate for all of Pre-
cinct 4. For too long, there has been a
reactive versus proactive approach east of Hwy 130. We are facing an “If you
build it, they will come; if you don’t build it they will come anyway” real-
ity with no real plan for the future. We
must recruit new businesses, which
will mean great-paying jobs, develop a
comprehensive plan on mobility and
improve our infrastructure. At the
same time, we must expand the eco-

omy in Pct. 4 responsibly while lowering
taxes and debt.

A4. Addressing the ever-growing
health care cost issue is paramount. The
county took a positive step in the right
direction when a Local Provider Partic-
ipation Fund was created and approved
last year. Someone has to pick up the
costs for indigent care. That is either
done through taxes, or higher costs at
the hospital. We must see that patients
and taxpayers get some relief and when
hospitals are able to offset their uncom-
pen.sated care costs, that is a step in a
positive direction for everyone.

Bobby Seiferman (R)

Background:
Round Rock School
Board 2009-12,
RRISD Policy Com-
mittee Chair, De-
egate State Repub
Convention, Taylor

Main Street Board Chair, Grad Leader-
ship Hutto

Education: Master of Science: Public
Administration Texas State Uni-
versity, Bachelor of Science : Adver-
tising UT at Austin AAS Criminal
Justice-ACC

Website: http://votebobbys.com/

A1. The most important function of
the county commissioner is to admin-
ister the county’s budget. I pledge safer
and enhanced roadways and applied
drainage projects, as well as empow-
ering our first responders to keep our
neighborhoods safer.

A2. As the population of William-
son County continues to expand, it is
important that we provide safe road-
ways. Precinct 4 alone has 560 miles
of county roads. My pledge to the pre-
cinct 4 voters is to enhance our exist-
ing roads and right of ways to improve
upon our transportation needs rather
than embarking upon an effort to try
and pave over half of eastern William-
son County which would disrupt many
of our Heritage Farm and Ranch Oper-
ations. I am a firm believer in progress
and growth but progress at any price
is not progress at all, but rather a re-
cipe for environmental and economic
disaster.

A3. One of the planks in my platform
is to work closer with other municipal-
ities and economic development or-
organizations as they plan for growth
and development in their respective
corridors.

A4. There are of course mandates as to
the needed and required budget con-
siderations to be made with respect to
HHS and I fully plan to support those
worthy endeavors.

ACCESS THE INTERACTIVE
VOTERS GUIDE . . .

Interactive versions of this Vot-
ers Guide are available online at
VOTE411.org and on your mobile
device using The Voting App—
REPRESENT’TX, downloadable free from Apple App Store
or Google Play Store. You will be
able to compare the candidates’ re-
sponses to the questions and cre-
ate a printout of your ballot that
you can take into the voting booth.
**LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY**

**JUDGE, COURT AT LAW**

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

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

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

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**JUDGE, COURT AT LAW, NO. 1**

Don Morehart (D)
Unopposed

Brandy Hallford (R)

**Background:**
I have 21 years of experience as a former prosecutor, Criminal Div. Chief and in private legal practice. I have litigated cases in every area of law.

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

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

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

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

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

**Warren Oliver “WOW” Waterman (R)**

**Website:** http://www.wow4judge.com

**A1.** I will uphold the law. I am impartial. No one “owns” me. My record of service and my reputation in the legal community show that I would be a fair and impartial judge. I have the appropriate temperament, character, capabilities, and credentials necessary for all citizens to have confidence in the decisions I will make. I have sat at both tables in the courtroom and know how important it is to treat the parties to any dispute fairly. It is this experience that qualifies me to sit on the bench that faces those tables and serve the Great State of Texas with dignity and integrity.

**A2.** This office is important to all the citizens because the decisions made in this court affect thousands of people. Case backlogs need to be eliminated by more efficient methods of moving dockets and avoiding unnecessary delays. My record as a prosecutor has shown that I will put in the hours and work overtime when needed. I will also create a separate docket for probation violators so that they can be held accountable more expeditiously. Justice delayed is often justice denied. I would also like to implement further expansion of the specialty court program for veterans.

**A3.** I would follow the proper response to such a situation which is governed by the Texas Code of Judicial Ethics and The Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. A Judge is duty bound to see that no party is harmed by a lawyer who is incompetent or unfit, and is required to take appropriate action which may include a duty to inform the Office of the General Counsel of the State Bar of Texas. A judge who is willing to overlook incompetence in an attorney is not seeking justice. Incompetence will not be tolerated in my courtroom.

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**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**

**Q1.** What are your qualifications for the position of Justice of the Peace?

**Q2.** What are the resource needs of the office of Justice of the Peace?

**Q3.** How can you improve the services of the Justice of the Peace?

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**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 1**

**KT Musselman (D)**
Unopposed

**Dain Johnson (R)**
Unopposed

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 2**

**Jonasu Wagstaff (D)**
Unopposed

**Edna Staudt (R)**

**Background:**
Native of Austin, Texas, married with 6 children and 10 grandchildren.

**Education:** Texas State University—500 certified hrs Civil & Criminal law /prior licensed Real Estate & Mortgage Broker/ Business Owner/ Graduate Business College

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

**A1.** My primary qualification is my successful experience with the JP court, law enforcement agencies, school districts, and the community for the last 23 years. I have officiated thousands of criminal and civil cases, administrative hearings, and death inquests.

**A2.** The Commissioner’s Court provides the funds for personnel, training, equipment, facility, and supplies. My greatest resource has been volunteer citizens. They assist with mentoring, teen court training, counseling, and other essential programs. This will continue to be an integral part of the administration of this office.

**A3.** To improve services I will utilize the latest technology and continue to require personal, professional, & trained staff. I will continue to be accessible and transparent. I will be diligent in the administration of Justice.
LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 2 (continued)

Bronson Tucker (R)

Background:
After graduating law school, I worked in landlord-tenant law for two years before joining TJCTC in 2004. Proudest of my two daughters, Audrey & Norah!

Education: JD from the University of Texas School of Law in 2002, BA in Political Science from the University of Oklahoma in 1999

Website: http://bronsonforjudge.com

A1. With the Texas Justice Court Training Center, I have trained thousands of judges, clerks and constables on the law and procedures that apply to Texas justices of the peace. Judges across the state, as well as the Texas Supreme Court, the Texas Legislature, the Texas Association of Counties, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, and more have used me as an expert resource on justice of the peace issues. Importantly, I am capable of providing leadership where needed, as well as collaborating and providing support to other officials across the county.

A2. A justice court needs a judge who knows the law and is willing to follow the law instead of their personal feelings about what the law should be. Additionally, court personnel must know the law and apply it correctly, and walk the tightrope of providing excellent customer service while avoiding legal advice. Justices of the peace frequently deal with the disadvantaged, so community resources are also critical. To help with this, I will implement the SHINE Foundation, which allows juveniles and indigent criminal defendants to improve themselves while improving the community we all share.

A3. Despite an exponentially growing population, criminal case filings dropped over 90% from 2012–2017. Law enforcement is no longer able to trust the process and that the law will actually be followed in this court. This will change on January 1, 2019 if I am elected. Also, I will utilize technology to improve efficiency and transparency of the court. Finally, as the only attorney in the race, I am the only candidate who would be able to issue search warrants to test the blood of individuals when there is probable cause that they have committed DWI or related offenses, improving public safety.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 3

Katherine Kerr Kubatzky (D)

Unopposed

Deanna Hoff Lewis (R)

No response

Evelyn McLean (R)

Background:
26 year law enforcement career, Captain Georgetown PD, FBI National Academy graduate, Leadership Command College graduate at SHSU

Education: Bachelors of Arts and Applied Sciences with an emphasis in Criminal Justice from Midwestern State University—graduated Magna Cum Laude

A1. As a member of the Executive Command Staff of the Georgetown Police Department, I help to both prepare and manage our over $15,000,000 annual police budget. I also command half of the entire Georgetown Police Department, which is 58 employees under my chain of command. I also have experience in strategic planning and policy development. As a Captain, I also have major incident and project management experience.

A2. As Williamson County continues to grow and Pct 3 continues to be one of the busiest courts, the addition of an Associate Judge will most likely need to be considered at some point in order to better serve the citizens.

A3. I assisted in the creation and implementation of the Georgetown Police Department’s Volunteers in Police Services Program in 2005. We have grown to over 200 volunteers, which saves us tens of thousands of dollars each year, not to mention many man hours. I will explore some semblance of a volunteer program for the Justice of the Peace Pct 3 office in order to increase customer service while not impacting the county financially.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 4

Stacy Hackenberg (D)

Unopposed

Judy Schier Hobbs (R)

No response

Randall J. Pick (R)

No response

COUNTY CLERK

Jessica Tiedt (D)

Unopposed

Nancy E. Rister (R)

Unopposed

DISTRICT CLERK

Lisa David (R)

Unopposed

COUNTY TREASURER

Omar Kadir (D)

Unopposed

Scott Heselmeyer (R)

No response

Lee Ann Seitsinger (R)

Background:
U.S. Navy Veteran and successful business owner.

Education:
Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management with a 4.0 GPA

A1. As a successful business owner, I have managed millions of dollars in real estate contracts and have a proven track record in financial management and expense oversight. I will provide diligent oversight of our county’s funds and apply my conservative practices to the office of Treasurer. Prior to my successful career in real estate, I proudly served our country in the U.S. Navy at various military installations and on overseas deployments and was honorably discharged at the rank of E5. I earned my Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management with a 4.0 GPA.

A2. As a veteran, I understand this election is about public service, not a career in politics. I believe elected officials should report for duty and show up every day to work for the taxpayers they serve. County Treasurer is the Chief Investment Officer of our county and holds upward to $500 million each day. Those funds require strict oversight and must be accounted for and deposits made. The office also must provide strict oversight of investments and assure we have the funds available to cover all operating expenses.

A3. My pledge to the citizens of Williamson County is that I will go to work every day looking for ways to increase government transparency, eliminate wasteful spending and provide strict oversight of our county’s funds. I took an oath to protect and defend our nation and proudly served our country for over a decade. I now report for duty to serve the people of Williamson County and will faithfully execute the duties of the Treasurer’s Office. I humbly ask for your support and vote in the March 6th, 2016 Republican Primary election.

LWV VISION STATEMENT

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