



# 2014 VOTERS GUIDE

BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS AND LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE AUSTIN AREA



The American-Statesman has partnered with the League of Women Voters on this guide. Using content gathered from candidates by the League, the Statesman designed and published the guide. In addition to being carried in the October 19, 2014, American-Statesman, several thousand copies will be distributed by the League at various locations, and both the League and the Statesman will provide the content on their websites, [statesman.com](http://statesman.com) and [lwvaustin.org](http://lwvaustin.org).

The Spanish version can be found at [ahorasi.com](http://ahorasi.com), [statesman.com](http://statesman.com) and [lwvaustin.org](http://lwvaustin.org) and will be distributed to various locations.

## FUNDING

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## ABOUT THIS VOTERS GUIDE

This printed Voters Guide lists candidates in races who are on the November 4, 2014, General Election ballot and provides their answers to questions posed by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund and the League of Women Voters-Austin Area Education Fund. It also presents the proposed Texas Constitutional Amendment on transportation, followed by an explanation of the amendment, arguments for and arguments against, as researched by trustees of the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund. In addition it includes one City of Austin bond issue and two bond issues from Austin Community College.

Additional information can be accessed online at [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org), including an online Voters Guide with candidate videos and races not included in the printed Voters Guide. [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) allows voters to enter an address and review races and ballot initiatives specific to that address. It also includes the responses of candidates who miss the print deadline.

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

## RACES AND CANDIDATES

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

Questionnaires are sent to all candidates in contested races. Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification. Due to space restrictions, candidates are given strict character limits. Replies exceeding the character limit are indicated by slashes (///). Candidates are asked to avoid references to their opponents; those who do not comply are listed with the notation, "Response does not meet criteria." Candidates appearing with no photo failed to submit one. Those who do not respond to our questionnaire by the print deadline are listed with the notation, "No response received by print deadline. See [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) for any later responses."

This Voters Guide is organized by office, with candidates listed by party. Ballot order may vary from county to county. The names of unopposed candidates are also listed.

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## WHAT TO TAKE TO THE POLLS

TEXAS REQUIRES VOTERS TO SHOW PHOTO ID

Texas now requires voters to show an acceptable photo ID at the polls. The only acceptable photo IDs are:

- Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) issued photo IDs
- Driver's license
- Personal identification card
- Concealed handgun license
- Election Identification Certificate
- United States government issued photo IDs
- Passport
- Military identification card
- Citizenship certificate or naturalization certificate with photograph

Only the above photo IDs can be accepted at the polls. Other photo IDs, including student IDs, employer IDs and out-of-state driver's licenses, cannot be accepted.

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# U.S. CONGRESS

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

## U.S. SENATOR

**Q1: Immigration:** The Senate passed a comprehensive bill last year that would have bolstered border security, made legal worker programs and offered a path to citizenship to the estimated 11.5 million people now living here illegally. What specific changes, if any, would you propose to the bill so that it can eventually be adopted as a law?

**Q2: Environment:** According to the National Climate Assessment report, climate change effects are happening here and now. What steps, if any, should the Senate take to establish environmental regulations to curb the effects of climate change?

**Q3: Other Issues:** What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

### David M. Alameel (D)

**Education:** Doctorate of Dental Surgery, University of Texas Health Science Center

**Experience:** I'm an Army veteran, and a proud husband and father. Starting from scratch, I built a successful multi-million a year business. I have been active in civic and charitable work and programs to improve education



opportunities for young people.

**Q1:** The Bill contains all the elements I stand for and will advance should I be elected. It is a question of how much in funds is allotted to border security and to what areas, as well as timing in the implementation of each of these components. I favor a concurrent implementation, and a comprehensive approach to immigration reform.

**Q2:** I stand for a leveled, glob-

al implementation of mutually agreed upon standards, that impact all emitting countries fairly and not the current formulas that unfairly 'tax' the United States and other industrialized nations, while being more lenient on countries that are also huge greenhouse gas emitters.

**Q3:** Texas has more vacancies in the federal judiciary than any other state. We need to address this. The hostile environment in Texas towards Planned Parenthood and other providers of women's health services is of deep concern to me. Medicare and Social Security are promises made to our seniors. I will never vote for cuts in this programs.

### John Cornyn (R)

No response

### Rebecca Paddock (L)

**Education:** BS awarded in 1986 from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. MS awarded

in 1987 from North Texas State University. Additional graduate level Engineering courses completed at Texas Tech University and Southern Methodist University.

**Experience:** Held positions including: Electrical Engineer, Program Manager, Capture Manager, Engineering Manager, and Regional Manager. Management includes oversight of thousands of engineers and successfully developing several billion dollars worth of products.

**Q1:** Art 1 Sect 8 of the Constitution authorizes/tasks Congress to both secure the borders and create a uniform rule of naturalization. Congress needs to secure the borders. A uniform rule of naturalization (path to citizenship) is already in place. Those who wish to legally immigrate are welcome. Those who have broken the law should be returned to



their country of origin.

**Q2:** Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution does not include "climate change mitigation" or "environmental regulations." As such, Congress would be overstepping its bounds should any action be taken. Any other issues regarding environmental destruction/damage should be handled at the state level.

**Q3:** Government overstepping its Constitutional limits. Actions to address include: 1) Vote against any unconstitutional bill, 2) Remove second amendment infringements on law abiding citizens, and 3) Consolidate intelligence agencies & create proper oversight. No spying on US citizens. Determine cause of/address Veteran suicide rate of 22/day + 1/day for active duty military.

### Emily "Spicybrown" Sanchez (G)

No response

## U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

**Q1: Immigration:** What specific changes, if any, would you propose to the current immigration policy? Please explain.

**Q2: Voting Rights:** The recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in Shelby v. Holder struck down parts of the Voting Rights Act. What tools would you use to prevent discrimination in voting and to secure the ballot?

**Q3: Infrastructure:** What would you propose to do to improve the current condition of transportation infrastructure, such as bridges, railways, highways, and pipelines?

**Q4: Foreign Policy:** With the Middle East and other countries in turmoil, what should America's role be in foreign policy?

### DISTRICT 10

#### Bill Kelsey (L)

**Education:** US Naval Academy, 1973, Naval Science and Chinese

**Experience:** pilot in Africa and the Middle East specializing in remote operations for humanitarian organizations, diplomatic missions, and oil drilling industries

**Q1:** We must approach the challenge with an appreciation for the contributions made by immigrants, compassion for refugees, and a welcoming attitude. All who wish to join our so-



ciety and live peacefully and productively among us should be allowed to do so. There should be no government subsidies to immigrants. Immigrants must be self sufficient or under the financial sponsorship of private individuals or organizations.

**Q2:** The role of government is to prevent fraud, trespass, and theft. The Federal government would thus have a legitimate role in addressing any vote fraud or theft of the will of the people which takes place on the local level.

**Q3:** Those who use and profit from them should be the ones

contributing to maintaining and improving them through user fees or creative partnerships with private operators. Laws of eminent domain to confiscate private property for the benefit of private corporations should not be used.

**Q4:** End participation in all known and unknown wars abroad. Proceed with a graceful and orderly withdrawal of all US soldiers from outside the territory of the United States. Systematically close all foreign bases, while cleaning up hazardous waste and unexploded ordnance. End aid to all foreign governments without any special exceptions. Withdraw from all military treaties and alliances without exception. Ban weapons sales without exception.

#### Michael McCaul (R)

No response

#### Tawana Walter-Cadien (D)

**Q1:** The US Senate has already passed an immigration reform bill, I, as representative of the 10th District of Texas, will in-

sist that the bill is brought to the House floor for a vote. I, as representative of the 10th District of Texas, will make it known to my fellow colleagues that do not have an immigration issue in their state, that immigration is an issue for the state of Texas, and insist that the bill be brought to the House floor for a vote.

**Q2:** Prior to the 19th Amendment, women's voices were denied. Discrimination at the voting booth is an obstruction to all citizens across this country. I will lead and support bills and efforts to ensure that discrimination, especially at the voting booth is eliminated. My daughters, your sisters, granddaughters, and mothers are depending on leaders like myself to ensure that our voices remain valuable and unobstructed in this country.

**Q3:** With staggering numbers such as 65% of major roads rates as less than good condition, 25% of bridges requiring repair, and 45% of Americans lack-



ing access to transit, it is imperative that America's transportation system, be safe, accessible, and efficient. I propose authorizing funding to continue to build America's infrastructure as a moral and economic benefit to citizens and communities across the country.

**Q4:** America is a global leader and plays a significant role in world stability. Polls indicate Americans are understandably war weary. I as with many Americans feel our allies including NATO and the UN should step up and shoulder more of the burden of policing global conflicts. America must continue to lead from a moral, economical, and military standpoint.

### DISTRICT 17

#### Bill Flores (R)

No response

#### Shawn Michael Hamilton (L)

**Education:** Baylor University

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# U.S. CONGRESS

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

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**Experience:** United States Air Force Veteran Business owner



**Q1:** We need some sort of immigration reform. A new process needs to be implemented within our immigration laws making the path to legal citizenship more streamlined and efficient.

**Q2:** Any US citizen should be able to participate in the voting process.

**Q3:** Taxes already being collected for these things should be used for such and not be redistributed into other "projects".

**Q4:** The United States has enough issues within that need to be dealt within before getting involved in other country's affairs. The situation in the Middle East is something that should be closely monitored but also something we should not be directly involved in unless there is a direct threat to citizens within our own borders.

**Nick Haynes (D)**

**Education:** Nick earned his Master's degree in Social Work from Baylor University. He also holds a Bachelor's degree in International Studies from Baylor.



**Experience:** As a Social Worker, Nick has served veterans, churches, and the poor. He is a person of faith, a devoted husband, and a member of our community.

**Q1:** As a member of Congress, I will work towards a bipartisan solution to fix our broken immigration system. I support immigration reform that: 1) provides a path for undocumented immigrants already living in the U.S. to earn their citizenship; 2) secures our borders and allows us to keep track of who is coming and going; 3) remedies our visa system so that employers have access to the visas they need for hiring workers; 4) respects the rule of law.

**Q2:** As a member of Congress, I will work to make sure that ev-

ery American has a voice on election day. I will support policies that encourage and promote voter turnout. I will fight to eliminate barriers to voting caused by race, gender, socioeconomic status, or anything else that stands in the way of Americans exercising their right to vote.

**Q3:** Our nation's infrastructure is one of our greatest resources. It provides a way for us to get to work, and brings us the goods and services we need. It creates needed jobs for thousands of workers. Our infrastructure is the backbone of a strong economy. As a member of Congress, I will support ongoing funding for the development and repair of America's transportation infrastructure.

**Q4:** The United States is a world leader. However, we should not act as a rogue agent in world affairs. We must work alongside the international community in responding to international crisis. Our strength is in our ability to partner with our allies to achieve peaceful solutions to international problems. If it becomes necessary to resolve matters of humanitarian urgency using force, it should be done in a concerted effort with other world leaders.

## DISTRICT 21

**Antonio Diaz (G)**

**Education:** Associate Degree C.B.M. Electronic Tech. Texas A&M Electronic Engineering Ext. St. Philips College Nursing Program

**Experience:** Retail Sales Management Nursing Transportation Service Industry

**Q1:** Immigration Reform should include a path to citizenship. Of the 11 million already here after all their contributions such as tax paid into existing infrastructures then either give credit or apply a fee to them, then move on to legalize their Immigration status. Of the 500,000 Dreamers their status should be legalized. Of the current influx of Unaccompanied Children, a majority should qualify as Refugees due to fleeing economic violence.

**Q2:** Article 5 offered the most protection for inclusive voting rights of all eligible voters. Now all we have as protection is Article 2. Federal guidelines should be the standard for all 50 States. Political bias should not rule over voters right to vote. Jim Crow type of prerequisite limiting voters participation should be a reminder of a racist past history and not a current political evil of today.

**Q3:** All these issues offer employment opportunities for large segments of our underemployed worker population. Also it opens opportunities to protect our Natural Resources by rerouting highways, railways, or pipelines that are polluting our water or that are destroying habitats needed by pollinating insects, such as Bees and Butterfly. We must think of quality of life for our future generations. A vibrant economy doesn't have to come at such a high cost

**Q4:** Look internally 1st, how does this government deal with Indigenous People. Historically this government has dealt in extreme harshness in all fields towards it's Indigenous People. Middle East people are struggling against the Colonial Systems imposed upon them for hundreds of years. All these Nations are Sovereign and should be treated with that respect. If all we want are their Natural Resources then we can disregard their right to self govern.

**Ryan Shields (L)**

**Education:** Texas A&M San Antonio, History/Political Science

**Experience:** Head of many private organizations and civic groups, and an avid community activist.

**Q1:** Our immigration policy should be in direct correlation with our economic needs. If our economy is booming and we have more jobs than workers; our immigration policy should reflect such needs. As for the opposite, which is what we are going through now, where we have more workers than jobs our im-



migration and tax system should try to make it easier for job creators to move their businesses to the United States from other countries.

**Q2:** Preventing discrimination and securing the ballot is a very important issue that strikes at the very heart of our democracy. These problems involve a lot of very complex situations that are not easily solved overnight. However, I believe, very stringent background checks on polling officers need to be enacted across the board, to ensure all those who can vote are allowed to vote.

**Q3:** I would cut programs and departments that are not necessary from the budget in order to fund needed infrastructure repairs and developments. For example: The bureau of land management, the department of education, EPA, and the IRS. Each of the entities have state agency counterparts that do the same job, so having a duplicate in Washington D.C. makes very little sense, and costs the tax payers billions.

**Q4:** The most involvement, I would like to see is sending foreign ambassadors to seek peace talks. Aside from a country or countries seeking to conquer our allies, the use of military force is irresponsible.

**Lamar Smith (R)**

**Education:** After graduating from high school in San Antonio and then Yale University, I earned a law degree at Southern Methodist University.

**Experience:** I have served as a state representative and county commissioner. I now chair the Science, Space and Technology Committee. I stay in touch with my constituency.

**Q1:** The US has a tried and proven pathway to citizenship. Our nation admits one million people every year - as many as all other countries combined. The right way to enter America is to play by the rules and wait your turn as generations have done before. If current immigration policies were enforced and the

border secured, illegal immigration would be reduced.

**Q2:** The Voting Rights Act no longer treats states differently, as should be the case. And provisions to stop alleged voting irregularities have been upheld by the courts. Texas, in requiring its voters to show a photo ID when casting ballots at polling places, has significantly strengthened the level of ballot security and election integrity. More people should be encouraged to register to vote and then make their voice heard on election day.

**Q3:** America's roads, railways and bridges are essential to our prosperity. Investing in the maintenance and expansion of transportation infrastructure is imperative for the socio-economic health of the nation. This also is true of pipelines. The President could help the country become energy independent by approving the XL extension of the Keystone pipeline from Canada to Houston. It's beyond time for the US to take advantage of this opportunity.

**Q4:** For the sake of our nation and the safety of our people, America should return to being a strong leader in foreign policy rather than displaying a weakness that invites various acts of aggression and terrorism at home and abroad. A cohesive, coherent foreign policy is vital to domestic tranquility and productivity. Such a policy requires strategic planning, which are largely lacking today.

## DISTRICT 25

**John Betz (L)**

No response

**Marco Montoya (D)**

**Education:** PhD (Socio-demography); MPH (Public Health); 3rd Infantry NCO Academy, National Defense University and Naval War College Distinguished Graduate

**Experience:** Army Staff Sgt./1st LT; Public Health Service



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# U.S. CONGRESS

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

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LCDR/CDR/CAPT; EPA Researcher; TxState Program Director; TX Coordinating Board Assistant Commissioner

**Q1:** Border security begins at home. It starts with a rational immigration system that is fair to everyone and protects our national interests. We need to make our bright, young Dreamers citizens, place hard working, tax-paying families on a citizen track, but make sure we hire citizens first. To accomplish these goals, we must reform immigration now!

**Q2:** We must act to preserve the principle of one person, one vote. Our voting system should enhance turnout, simplify registration and protect the right to vote that generations of servicemen and women fought for. Congress should update the voting coverage formula for Federal pre-clearance and allow the Attorney-General to monitor polls to preserve our citizens' right to vote.

**Q3:** District 25 needs good roads and bridges. So does the rest of Texas, but we're not there yet. One of every 3 roads is in poor condition and one of every 5 bridges is deficient or obsolete. We aren't making the very necessary investments for a transportation system that is second to none. I would revamp the Federal Trust Fund to improve rural roads and promote the necessary investment for safe roads and bridges.

**Q4:** Before we ever send our men and women in uniform into harm's way, we must carefully consider our national interests. Our role in the world is to promote international trade through a free market system and promote social and economic stability abroad. We must protect our homeland, defend our national interests and promote international cooperation while enhancing emerging democracies around the world.

## Roger Williams (R)

No response

## DISTRICT 27

### Blake Farenthold (R)

**Education:** BS

in Radio, Television, and Film from University of Texas at Austin and St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio

**Experience:** Previously: Attorney, Kleberg Law Firm in Corpus Christi and Founder, Farenthold Consulting LLC, a Computer Consulting firm

**Q1:** The 1st step in addressing immigration must be to secure our border. Next we must stop those who exploit undocumented workers by implementing E-verify, requiring employers to verify employee's eligibility to work in the U.S. & holding accountable those who break the law. We should craft an immigration policy that meets the economic needs of America through the guest worker program and more high-tech/skilled worker visas. I do not support amnesty.

**Q2:** Our laws must protect access to the polls for all qualified and registered voters while preventing voter fraud. I oppose unnecessary federal intervention in any state's election processes. I am also a strong supporter of Texas's voter ID law.

**Q3:** Infrastructure must be a priority at both state & federal levels. Through my work on the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee I've helped streamline the process for planning & building new highways by eliminating unnecessary regulation. I support returning more control to the state for highways, and pursuing public/private partnerships. We must ensure our ports/waterways are ready for increased traffic, while not wasting taxpayer's money.

**Q4:** We must continue to support our friends & allies abroad such as Israel. We must stop sending money to countries who do not share our interests for peace & democracy. We must continue to fight terrorism abroad & secure our borders to keep America safe. Our President has damaged our reputa-



tion around the world with his failed foreign policy. It's time for the U.S. to reassure our allies & the world that we will be there to defend them & ourselves.

### Wesley Reed (D)

**Education:** B.A., College of Wooster, '91

**Experience:** 25

years in the USMC; 14 years as a pilot for FedEx; Member of the Airline Pilots Association - Chairman of the Strategic Preparedness Committee.

**Q1:** Immigrants are a vital part of who we are as a nation and have made America the truly exceptional country that it is. While our border policy should be based on security, we owe a commitment to productive families and DREAMers who aim to make the American dream their own. It is time to pass comprehensive immigration reform that secures our borders, creates an efficient path to citizenship, and grows our economic prosperity.

**Q2:** I will support policy that ensures equality for all voters, and increases voting participation among all citizens. Crucial among these initiatives are those that promote voter accessibility such as disabled voter assistance, proper ballot translation, as well as community sponsored voter registration drives. I will also offer full-fledged support for local and national organizations that increase voter turnout and improve voting systems.

**Q3:** Our nation's transportation system is not only the center of American commerce, but is also a national security necessity. Congress' inability to address transportation issues has placed our country at a competitive disadvantage with global trading partners, and will inhibit economic prosperity for American families. When elected, I will make transportation a top priority and author legislation that secures funding for transportation projects.

**Q4:** America's leadership in the world is not by accident. A strong foreign policy based on preemptive strategic deci-



sions, unwavering protection of our allies, and an unmatched defense system are pillars of American foreign policy. As a Marine I have had the opportunity to visit and study countless nations across the world and have obtained valuable international relations experience that I will utilize in Congress.

### Roxanne Simonson (L)

No response

## DISTRICT 31

### Scott Ballard (L)

**Education:** High School, Community College, read everyday

**Experience:** 40 years Libertarian, business management

**Q1:** Fire all border control management, enforce current laws, setup border crossing offices for temporary applicant identification processing, employment opportunity.

**Q2:** If you are a citizen you vote. If not, you don't.

**Q3:** No response

**Q4:** Trade only, no foreign intagelments, get the troops home, now.

### John Carter (R)

No response

### Louie Minor (D)

**Education:** Norwich University, Master Public Administration Tarleton State University, Bachelor of Criminal Justice

**Experience:** Law Enforcement, Iraq Veteran, Department of Homeland Security

**Q1:** We must address Comprehensive Immigration Reform, with a pathway to citizenship for those already living in our borders who successfully pay their taxes, pass a citizenship test and a criminal background check. I would support legislation like the Dream Act, to ensure that all children living in our country have the opportunity to receive an education and help grow our economy, without the fear of being deported.

**Q2:** I will support and or co-sponsor legislation to amend the



Voting Rights Act in ways that support and protect voters. Voter identification laws that disproportionately affect minorities and the poor will be replaced. All States will have to prove voter fraud exists in a manner that would affect elections to require voter identification or any substantial change to existing laws.

**Q3:** The infrastructure of our nation is aging. Aging and inadequate infrastructure will effect and stifle our economy. We must invest in our infrastructure to meet these overdue needs. This can be accomplished with public-private partnerships and or raising the gas tax. Infrastructure of the future needs maintainability, inspect ability, sustainability, visibility, multi-functionality, and to be environmentally friendly.

**Q4:** The United States is a leader in the world. In this role, we should work to join with other stakeholders such as; the UN, NATO and Middle Eastern countries with solutions to end the instability and turmoil.

## DISTRICT 35

### Cory W. Bruner (L)

No response

### Lloyd Doggett (D)

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

**Experience:** As a life-long Texan, I have served in the State Senate (1973-85), Texas State Supreme Court (1989-94) and U.S House of Representatives (1995-present)

**Q1:** To grow our economy, to prevent families from being torn asunder, to accord opportunity to DREAMer students, I support comprehensive, bipartisan immigration reform such as that endorsed by the Chamber of Commerce, LULAC and others. As Ranking Subcommittee Democrat concerned with all forms of child abuse/neglect, I strongly oppose undermining due process protection for children fleeing



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# U.S. CONGRESS

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

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ing violence. Not asking for amnesty, only a little humanity.

**Q2:** Democracy thrives when all citizens can voice their concerns. I am a sponsor of legislation to correct the Supreme Court's undermining of the Voting Rights Act. Texas was found guilty of intentional discrimination with too many of our officials seeking to suppress voting, rather than expanding access to the polls. Voter ID laws unconstitutionally create hurdles for too many Americans. We should be making voting easier, not harder.

**Q3:** We are failing to make the required investment in repairing roads and bridges to ensure safety, boost our economy, cut commute times, and create jobs. We need a 5-year transportation bill of the type that previously enjoyed bipartisan support to permit reasonable planning and funding of our roadways and public transportation needs. Delay costs us dollars and lives.

**Q4:** To lead but not take on the entire cost in blood and treasure of seeking order. Bush launching costly, unnecessary Iraq war left our families less safe. We must respond to terrorists without being entrapped in ground

wars. We must rely not only on our military but upon our other strengths to reduce conflict. Congressional approval needed before any broad military action. Also must seek negotiated reduction of Iranian nuclear capability.

## Susan Narvaiz (R)

**Education:** Leadership Training Institute Certificate, Public Policy 2002 – 2005 Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México Spanish

**Experience:** Three-term mayor of San Marcos, small business owner who balances budgets, meets payroll, and provides leadership that produces positive results.

**Q1:** Gaining operational control of all of our borders, (land, sea and air) must be our first priority. It is the Federal government's responsibility to protect all Americans from the influx of drug cartels and gang members. Securing the border comes first and after that I am open to immigration reforms. We should begin those reforms by streamlining our legal immigration process.

**Q2:** The Supreme Court ruling



that you cite supports that all 50 States should be treated the same to ensure that we do all we can to prevent discrimination in voting and secure the ballot. I agree with this as I believe that voting is a privilege and should be protected equally under the law. I applaud efforts made across the country that provide identification, free of charge, to all those that are qualified by federal law to vote.

**Q3:** States should have the responsibility and discretion to allocate more of their own dollars towards improvement of aging infrastructure. State and local officials are better aware the condition and the urgency of repairing or reconstruction of critical transportation structures in their own cities and towns. I would vote to return more of Texas' share of their gas tax dollars.

**Q4:** We need to have an all of the above Foreign Policy that includes Strong Defense and Effective Diplomacy that is based on "Peace through Strength". We need to Honor our Volunteer Armed Forces by providing the best and most effective resources available, bolster our Missile defense Program, stand with our Allies such as Israel and never

apologize for taking steps to defend our freedom, our borders and our principles at home and abroad.

## Kat Swift (G)

**Education:** School of Trial by Fire

**Experience:** Co-Chair Green Party of Texas, Ballot Access Coordinator, Spokesperson National Women's Caucus, 15 years of electoral activism in Texas

**Q1:** The immigration policy is too convoluted and full of problems that probably the best thing to do is to start over from scratch. Reduce or eliminate the cause(s) that lead to the need for people to illegally immigrate and simplify the process to legally immigrate. The policy needs to be based on the health of the nation as a whole and done in a humanitarian way. As a first-world nation, we should strive to have fair and just system.

**Q2:** Implement democracy: Vote at any poll on Election Day; Make Election Day a statutory Holiday; Switch to hand-counted paper ballots, using Approval Voting, counted in poll location, with live video streaming of entire process; Same day voter reg-



istration; 'NOTA' option; Remove corporate funding of campaigns, elections, and lobbyists; Money is not Free Speech; Implement guaranteed income for all Citizens to enable public participation in democracy

**Q3:** Redirect funding from the Military & Prison Industrial Complexes to our basic needs of infrastructure, which would also create sustainable jobs. Pipelines are not an environmentally reliable safe transportation mode and need to be phased out. Rail needs to be upgraded such that people can travel around the country easily and quickly - hours not days; and we need to restructure cities such that transportation is less car dependent.

**Q4:** Our role in foreign policy should be "We apologize for our part in the imperialist destabilization we have imposed on the rest of the world and our own nation. These practices have created much of the problems and poverty around the world. We will stop overthrowing govts, funding the militaries of other countries, and invading countries for their natural resources. We have much to do in our own country to provide food, water, and housing to all."

## HOW TO DONATE TO THE AUSTIN LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Donate to the LWV-Austin Area Education Fund to help Make Democracy Work throughout the Austin Area. Tax deductible contributions to the Education Fund support expanded distribution of the nonpartisan Voters Guide in English as well as Spanish throughout the Austin Area and on our website.

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## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

AUSTIN AREA

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# GOVERNOR / LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

## GOVERNOR

**Q1: Health Care:** According to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, about 1 million uninsured U.S. citizen adults below the poverty line in Texas do not qualify for affordable coverage through either Medicaid or the health insurance marketplace. Would you consider negotiating with federal Medicaid officials to pursue a Texas solution to close the coverage gap? Why or why not?

**Q2: infrastructure:** Texas is the fastest growing state in the nation. The annual 12% population growth is placing a strain on water, energy, schools and transportation. What measures do you support to meet our growing infrastructure needs while continuing to grow a business-friendly state?

**Q3: Other Issues:** What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

### Greg Abbott (R)

**Education:** Duncanville High School, Class of 1976. Undergraduate B.B.A. in Finance from the University of Texas, 1981. JD from Vanderbilt University, 1984.

**Experience:** Attorney General of Texas, 2002-Present. Supreme Court of Texas Justice, 1996-2001. Judge of the 129th District Court, 1993-95. Attorney, Butler and Binion, LLP, 1984-92.

**Q1:** Our healthcare system must be regulated at the state level, free of federal intervention; this includes repealing Obamacare and block-granting Medicaid. Texas provides an extraordinary network of access to health care, including local hospital districts. My ideas would



enhance health care for women, the disabled, and veterans, and keep Texas a leader in medical research.

**Q2:** I would increase funding for transportation by more than \$4 billion annually without new debt, taxes, fees, or tolls. We must continue to improve water infrastructure, including by reducing regulations, speeding up permitting process, and working at the regional level. I supported Prop. 6 (2013) financing water projects, and support Prop. 1 (2014) funding transportation.

**Q3:** 1. To protect individual liberty & prosperity by preventing big government policies from running Texans' lives. 2. To make public education in Texas top-ranked in the country by empowering parents, teachers, & principals by restoring genuine local

control. 3. To keep Texans safe by securing our border and curtailing spillover crime caused by international gangs & cartels.

### Wendy R. Davis (D)

**Education:** I am a graduate of North Richland Hills High School in Tarrant County. After two years at Tarrant County College, I transferred to TCU where I graduated first in my class. I continued on to Harvard Law School where I graduated with honors.

**Experience:** Fort Worth City Council 1999-2007; Economic Development Committee, Chair Texas State Senator, 2009-present; Senate Committee on Economic Development, Senate Committee on Transpiration, Veteran Affairs and Military Installations Committee

**Q1:** Yes. Texas has some of the best doctors and hospitals in the country and every Texan should be able to access that care. We need to keep 100 billion of our tax dollars here in Texas to improve the health of our hard-working citizens and create 3 million jobs across the state over the next 10 years. It makes no sense to allow our tax dollars to be spent in other states.

**Q2:** Texas' energy industry fuels the world and deserves a world-class infrastructure to



match. I helped pass a landmark water plan last year; we can begin to address our transportation needs by supporting Prop. 1 in November. Developing our Texas workforce through career-technical and higher education will help Texas remain a top job creator and economic competitor.

**Q3:** Invest in our schools and teachers. Make college more accessible and affordable. Sign the Texas Equal Pay Act. Fight to increase the minimum wage. Close tax loopholes and eliminate wasteful spending. Implement comprehensive immigration reform. Hardworking Texas families are the key to our economic success and to grow our communities, we need to empower them.

### Kathie Glass (L)

**Education:** B.A. English, University of Georgia 1974; J.D., University of Georgia School of Law 1977

**Experience:** Successful trial lawyer while raising family with husband Tom Glass. Nominations: Governor 2010; Atty.Gen. 1982. LULAC Woman of Distinction 2014. Open Carry Texas. Disabled American Vets. League of Independent Voters. Nix Prop 6 Coalition.

**Q1:** NO! Medicaid is over 25%



of our budget. The federal government dictates the terms. We must opt out of Medicaid, using the savings to craft a made-for-Texas program, resulting in better services at lower cost. This is part of my Plan for Texas Independence (not secession!) so Texas stands on our own two feet, strong and free, sovereign and independent. See kathie-glass.org

**Q2:** Nullify unconstitutional federal acts -- Obamacare, EPA, etc. etc. Use line item veto to cut budget 50%. No taxpayer-funded services for non-citizens. Opt out of Medicaid, replace with Texas plan. End property taxes, toll roads, occupational licensing. End cronyism. Stop funding projects with debts. Serious educational overhaul. For details, see kathieglass.org.

**Q3:** I want to be Texas Governor to unite Texans to resist tyranny from Washington and cronyism in Austin, to reclaim our ability to act as the sovereign state we are, such as securing our border-- ourselves. I'm the only one in this race with a vision of the coming collapse, a plan for how Texas stays strong and free when that time comes, and the guts to see it through.

### Brandon Parmer (G)

No response

## LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**Q1: Transportation:** What measures do you support for Texas to meet its growing transportation needs?

**Q2: Education:** An educated workforce is one of the building blocks of responsible job growth. What measures do you support to improve our public education systems?

**Q3: Health Care:** According to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, about 1 million uninsured U.S. citizen adults below the poverty line in Texas do not qualify for affordable coverage through either Medicaid or the health insurance marketplace. Would you consider negotiating with federal Medicaid officials to pursue a Texas solution to close the coverage gap? Why or why not?

**Q4: Other Issues:** What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

### Robert D. Butler (L)

**Education:** I studied International Relations at the George Washington University, and Political Management at the George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management. I was also certified to teach English as a Foreign Language in Mexico.

**Experience:** I first started as the Military and Veterans Affairs intern for US Senator Connie Mack as a high school student in Florida. I have worked with various public officials over the years and have assisted in crafting state and federal legislation.



**Q1:** We need to encourage new technologies like Google's driverless cars and Tesla's electric cars with their free refueling stations. The private sector has the answers to the future of transportation if only the government would get out of the way. We need to allow the direct sales of these new vehicles to the public without the outmoded car dealership monopoly.

**Q2:** Public education is guaranteed by the Texas constitution. We need to streamline the funding process according to the financial need of the students. Parents should be able to choose which school their children attend. State money should follow

those students to their school of choice. Schools should choose their own books & lesson plans without state interference.

**Q3:** Our goal should be effective and affordable healthcare for everyone. We can accomplish this goal by ending the excessive federal and state regulations that currently burden our system. Hospitals & doctors are spending more of their time & money on paperwork and less on patient care. We also need to end the AMA's cap on the number of residents who become doctors.

**Q4:** We need to legalize immigration by creating a rational pro-

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# LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR / ATTORNEY GENERAL

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

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cess for people who wish to work in the US. We need to end the war on drugs because it hasn't stopped drug abuse and enforcement kills & injures more people than the actual drugs. We need to end illegal searches without warrants including local police, the NSA, and TSA. We need to end civil asset forfeitures.

## Chandranatha Courtney (G)

**Education:** Government College of Music and Dance, Vijaywada, AP, India

**Experience:** State Executive Committee, Texas State Green Party

**Q1:** Increase spending for state infrastructure.

**Q2:** Texas record on education is abysmal. We need to: 1) Increase spending for education. 2) Have a fact-based rather than agenda-based orientation towards state approved curricula and their related textbooks. This means reining in the State Board of Education which has become the laughing stock of the US.

**Q3:** Definitely. Texas needs



to get on board with this. Aside from the federal funds which are available, it is simply the right thing to do.

**Q4:** 1) Immigration - It is not the business of state and local agencies to be involved in Immigration policies. 2) Prison Reform - Texas has one of the largest incarceration rates in the US. This must change. 3) Texas needs to get out of the "War on Drugs". 4) Women need unfettered access to abortions without interference from the state.

## Dan Patrick (R)

**Education:** University of Maryland-Baltimore

**Experience:** I

have been an entrepreneur my whole life. I started working as a TV sports anchor in Scranton, PA, and landed in Houston. I worked as an anchor for several years and eventually purchased several radio stations.

**Q1:** Texas has increasingly relied on debt to fund our roads. Since 2004, the state's outstanding debt has more than doubled to \$41.3 billion and debt per Texan has grown to \$1,584 from \$865. I will move back to a



pay as you go structure by ending the diversion of gas taxes and dedicating vehicle sales tax dollars to fund roads.

**Q2:** As the chairman of the Senate Education committee, I led the charge on reducing standardized testing and reforming schools to better prepare our kids for college and career. I will continue to identify ways to link the local business community with public and higher education to ensure our students can pursue the college or career of their choice.

**Q3:** I am a strong proponent of the 10th amendment and allowing states to implement the health and education programs that reflect their circumstances and values. I also believe that Medicaid is a sinking ship drowning under the weight of government. I support seeking a block grant from the federal government and allowing Texas to design a sustainable health care system.

**Q4:** Our increasing property taxes are hurting our business climate and punishing families. I am committed to passing property tax relief that will protect against rapidly growing taxes. I'm

also committed to securing the border. We must protect Texas from the drug cartels and potential terrorists. We need Washington to pass immigration reform that does not include amnesty.

## Leticia Van de Putte (D)

**Education:** 1993

Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government 1978-1979 University of Texas at Austin, College of Pharmacy 1976-1977 University of Houston, College of Pharmacy 1975 University of Houston 1973-1974 St. Mary's University

**Experience:** 1999 - Present Texas State Senate District 26 1991 - 1999 Texas House of Representatives District 115

**Q1:** I voted for SJR 1 during the 83rd 3rd Called Special Session proposing a constitutional amendment providing an estimated \$1.4 B of funds in the first year for road and bridge projects. As Lieutenant Governor, I will work with our legislature and local and state leaders to find a sustainable and long-term solution to our transportation issues.

**Q2:** I will create an education



system where teachers are free to teach and students are free to learn. Starting with getting high-stakes testing off the backs of our children. We will utilize widely accepted sampling procedures to gather school or district data. It would also save taxpayers millions in testing costs that we should reinvest in our classrooms.

**Q3:** I will negotiate with federal Medicaid officials to pursue a Texas solution to close the coverage gap. 1 of every 4 Texans lacks health insurance. Because of Governor Perry's decision to reject Medicaid expansion, Texas will lose approximately \$79 B in federal matching funds over the next 10 years. That system is unsustainable, bad for business, and bad for Texas families.

**Q4:** As Lt. Governor, I will continue to work on policies that keep Texas the #1 state for veterans, servicemembers and their families. I will lead the fight against human trafficking, in making the investments in water and roads that our state economy needs to thrive and ensuring our children and grandchildren receive an education that prepares them for a global workforce.

## ATTORNEY GENERAL

**Q1: State/Federal:** The Attorney General's Office has been actively involved in questions of state and federal jurisdiction. What do you see as the role of the Attorney General in these issues?

**Q2: Responsibilities:** Which advisory and enforcement responsibilities of the Attorney General's office will need the most attention and resources in the next four years, and how would you address them?

**Q3: Other Issues:** What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

## Jamie Balagia (L)

**Education:** 1976, AA Degree, Law Enforcement, Blinn College; 1978, BS Degree, Criminal Justice, SWTSU (Texas State University); 1992, Doctor of Jurisprudence, University of Texas School of Law; 1956-current, Hard Knocks Degree, School of Hard Knocks.

**Experience:** 1978, Texas Peace Officer, Brenham Police Department 1979 - 1990, Texas Peace Officer, Austin Police Depart-

ment 1992 - current, Texas Criminal Defense Attorney 1993 - current, Federally Licensed Attorney

**Q1:** Doing the job assigned by the Statutes and the Texas Constitution without political party interference. Favoring the citizens of Texas first and then the State of Texas next. There are times that the State of Texas must resist Federal overreaching without political grandstanding. There are also times that Federal

Law trumps State Law and I am thankful for that.

**Q2:** Those involving the Energy Industry, Transportation, Population Growth and Water resources. I also believe that we must protect individual freedoms and the State and Federal Constitutional Rights of our citizens. We have a lot of intelligent people in this state that are not controlled by the political parties or corporations. These are the resources we need to utilize.

**Q3:** The legalization of marijuana and body camera video taping of all police/citizen encounters will bring down the animosity that is increasing between law enforcement and our citizens. We need to demilitarization of our police departments while understanding that in extreme situations specialized response teams are necessary. We

need to bring "to protect and to serve" back.

## Sam Houston (D)

**Education:** 1984, BBA, University of Texas at Austin; 1987, JD, Baylor Law School

**Experience:** 26 years as a practicing attorney. Partner in my own firm—Shepherd, Scott, Clawwater & Houston

**Q1:** The Attorney General of Texas represents the state and must protect the rights of all citizens. I will be a strong advocate for Texas, but often a lawsuit is not the best solution for all Texans. I will remove politics from the office and work to resolve issues without spending unnecessary time and taxpayer dollars on lawsuits that drag on for years.

**Q2:** I will work to improve ma-



ny responsibilities of the office, including the open records division, the child support division, and the consumer and environmental protection divisions to name a few. I will take an active role to insure that the office issues proper and timely opinions.

**Q3:** The single most important issue in the race for Attorney General is the issue of trust and integrity. As Attorney General I will come to work everyday and apply Texas values to meet the challenges of our great state. I pledge to the people of Texas to be an Attorney General they can trust -- an Attorney General with professional integrity.

## Jamar Osborne (G)

**Education:** Juris Doctorate (law degree) Masters Degree in

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# ATTORNEY GENERAL / COMPTROLLER

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

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Public Affairs Bachelors of Arts (Political Science)

**Experience:** I graduated law school; however, I am not a member of any bar association. I have represented myself in lawsuits and have helped others to do the same.

**Q1:** I support limited government both at the federal levels. Big government is usually much more intrusive at the state level. The government's role is not to act as an adult babysitter. The Attorney General's office should



prevent mob rule from trampling over individual freedom. The AG should protect free markets and the freedom to contract.

**Q2:** The process for requesting public records should be simplified. Secondly, the process for requesting Attorney General opinions should be accessible to the public by broadening the definition of "authorized requestors." I also would like to get a statute passed, making the AG's office the designated agent for accepting service of process on behalf of the State.

**Q3:** I would fight to deregulate the legal profession so that all citizens would have equal access

to legal services. I would fight to impose strict regulations over attorneys fees and to allow citizens the freedom to contract with the counsel of their own choosing, irrespective of whether or not the chosen counsel is a licensed attorney.

## Ken Paxton (R)

**Education:** Baylor University, B.A. (Psychology), Baylor University, M.B.A., Virginia University, J.D.

**Experience:** Attorney, Partner in a law firm, State Senator, SD 8: January 2013 - current, State Representative, HD 70: January 2003 to January 2013.

**Q1:** The Attorney General's primary role is to defend the state in court. This includes defending state laws when the state is party to a suit and when a federal law conflicts with state law. The U.S. Constitution must be interpreted in the manner in which our Founding Fathers intended. I will defend the Constitution which I am sworn to protect and advance its principles.

**Q2:** Border security and stopping human trafficking are major priorities. Crimes by individuals and gangs will be investigated and prosecuted. I will investigate and prosecute Medicaid fraud, waste, and abuse. I will promote

a pro-job, pro-business regulatory environment. Child support collections will continue to grow as they have under General Abbott.

**Q3:** Protecting personal privacy and prosecuting identity theft is another area of importance. The Attorney General should work to protect individual liberties from government interference. I will continue to oppose the Affordable Care Act mandates and regulations that threaten individual liberties and intrastate commerce.

## COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

**Q1: Responsibilities:** The comptroller is the chief steward of the state's finances. What measures do you support to ensure wise use of state money?

**Q2: Immigration:** Do you support updating the 2006 study on the economic impact of illegal immigration in Texas? Why or why not?

**Q3: Other Issues:** What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

## Mike Collier (D)

**Education:** I hold a BBA in Petroleum Land Management and an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin. I graduated from Georgetown High School in Georgetown, Texas.

**Experience:** Landman at Exxon, 1984 - 1996, Houston Price Waterhouse (PwC), 1988-2011 (Austin, Dallas, New York, and Houston) (spent 11 months as Controller of Scientific Measurement Systems in 1992) PwC partner 2001-2011 CFO, Layline Petroleum, 2011-2013

**Q1:** 1. Implement quarterly revenue forecasting to provide Legislature with more accurate, more timely revenue information; 2. strengthen financial controls including ethics, compliance and enforcement upgrade; 3. reform fund accounting to eliminate diversions and other "shell games"; 4. restore Performance Reviews to Comptroller's Office and rename them Accountability Audits.



**Q2:** I support any study that enhances our understanding of the facts underlying important policy decisions. If we have reason to believe the 2006 study is obsolete, it should be updated. As an independent Comptroller, I would be very happy to lead that effort and offer an unbiased point of view if asked to do so by the Legislature.

**Q3:** On tax administration, reform is needed to ease the burden of compliance on businesses. Comptroller should also form an independent point of view based solely on the facts as to the vital decisions confronting the legislature.

## Glenn Hegar (R)

**Education:** Bachelor's Degree, Texas A&M University; Law Degree, St. Mary's University; Masters Degree, St. Mary's University

**Experience:** Small business owner, former State Rep. (2003-2008), current State Senator, served on both House Appropri-



ations & Senate Finance Committees, Chairman of Senate Subcommittee on Fiscal Matters, former Chairman of the Sunset Advisory Commission

**Q1:** I will continue the Comptroller's legacy of increasing transparency. Also, I would like to implement zero-based budgeting, a method of budgeting in which all expenses must be justified each new budget cycle. Finally, we need to end the practice of diverting fees that were collected for a specific purpose in order to balance the state's budget.

**Q2:** Yes. Texans deserve to know how much illegal immigration costs the taxpayers each year. In order for Texas to truly understand the costs of illegal immigration to our state, we need updated numbers.

**Q3:** The current system of taxation is inefficient, unfair, and relies too heavily on an antiquated system of property tax collection. Other components of our tax system that need to be reformed are the appraisal process and the state's margin tax. Both are too burdensome and need significant reform.

## Ben Sanders (L)

**Education:** Bachelors of Science - Chemistry; Master of Science - Computer Science; Doctor of



Business Administration - Applied Computer Science; Certified Contracting Officer's Representative - Defense Acquisition University; Certified Records Manager - NARA

**Experience:** I've trained my entire life for this position. During my years at NASA and the US Army, I honed my skills in leadership, through fairness, integrity, and honor and will instill those values in the eighteen Field Offices across Texas. (on website)

**Q1:** As I have said countless times we first have to fully understand what it is we are spending our money on and why. Once we have a clear understanding of that, then we can move to reducing our budget. After we've reduced our collective expenditures in the budget we can move to reduce taxes for everyone. (<http://tribtalk.org/2014/07/06/a-libertarians-take-on-property-taxes/>)

**Q2:** As Comptroller I will not waste the taxpayer's money on reports and studies that are best suited by the academic departments of the State's already funded Universities. This question was recently updated and answered in March of 2014 by UTEP and NCBSI. (<http://ncbsi.utep.edu/documents/UAC%20Project%20Site%20Visits/UTEP%20NCBSI%20Final%20Report%20March%2020%20>

2014.pdf)

**Q3:** The Local and State pensions have an unfunded liability of \$53,849,110,848. As Texas Comptroller I would strongly advocate that all government employees be given the same right to influence their future and retirement as any other citizen through the implementation of 401k or IRA systems. (read more web on my web site <http://www.vote4sanders.com/issues>)

## Deb Shafto (G)

**Education:** I have an undergraduate BS and a Master's Degree from the University of Houston

**Experience:** I have worked in service jobs, worked for a state agency helping adolescents move to successful adulthood, and taught early childhood education for 16 years. I owned and operated a small business (15 to 35 employees) for many years.

**Q1:** The comptroller must support and work with staff to insure accuracy in reporting and must use those accurate reports to advise the legislature of the financial impact of proposed bills. Of greatest importance is the duty to inform the public about the financial ramifications of proposed legislation.



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# COMPTROLLER / GENERAL LAND OFFICE / AGRICULTURE

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

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**Q2:** Yes, the study needs to be both current and accurate to allow us to plan responsibly for

the future. The 2006 study was indicative of needs and the realities of the time, but does not account for the recent influx of immigrants fleeing violence to

the south.

**Q3:** Fair taxation and distribution of resources where needed. The needs of the people must be considered ahead of per-

sonal or corporate profits. Our schools must be adequately funded to ensure a capable citizenry. Also of great importance is the provision for adequate

water resources for the future. We must start now.

## COMMISSIONER OF GENERAL LAND OFFICE

**Q1: Coastal Lands:** Texas is among the five states receiving federal funding through the Restore Act passed by the Senate in 2011. How should this funding be used to improve the existing threats to Texas coastal lands?

**Q2: Wetlands:** Much emphasis is being placed by ecologists and environmental groups on restoring and protecting the coastal wetlands to alleviate damage from major storms; however, developers and home owners want to build in these areas. How would you address the concerns of these divergent interest groups?

**Q3: Other Issues:** What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

### Valerie Alessi (G)

**Q1:** The fact that this is still a question four years after the BP oil spill is ludicrous. It is evident that the current leadership does not care for the environment, as the board that was appointed to address these problems did not even meet for the first time until October of 2013 and only unveiled a website in July 2014. Restoration needs to begin immediately.

**Q2:** It is without question that environmental devastation contributes to climate change, and negatively impacts the world that we pass to our children. I cannot imagine having to tell future generations that property rights were more important

than a sustainable environment, so I fully intend to always put the well-being of the environment above the needs of the landed gentry.

**Q3:** For too long the state of Texas has put the needs of industry before the sustainability of the environment, and that must stop. I fully intend to take a strong position in favor of the good of the environment.

### George P. Bush (R)

**Education:** Born in Houston, George P. received his undergraduate degree from Rice University. In 2000, he attended The University of Texas School



of Law, where he earned his Juris Doctorate.

**Experience:** Former inner city public high school teacher. Past Chairman of Uplift Education. Entrepreneur in real estate investment and energy sector. Officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve. Served in Afghanistan. For more information: [www.GeorgePfor-Texas.org/about](http://www.GeorgePfor-Texas.org/about)

**Q1:** We should focus on regional solutions that have benefits to water quality & habitat restoration as well as enhanced public recreation activities (fishing, boating, beaches). Protecting the ecological resources in turn assists in protecting our coastal economic resources, by slowing storm surge to reduce damage and improving habitats for our fishing and sporting industries.

**Q2:** I believe we can do both. Texans have proven that we can manage our natural resources effectively while fostering a vibrant and strong coastal economy. I look forward to working with all stakeholders to ensure we have a bright future for the Texas coast.

**Q3:** As Land Commissioner, I will use the influence that the GLO has over public schools due

to the Permanent School Fund to push for improvement in education, including more choice, more flexibility for schools and more results for students. I will also work to promote more energy jobs and to help our veterans as they return to civilian life after having served us in combat.

### John Cook (D)

**Education:** Immaculata High School, NYC, NY, St Francis College, Brooklyn, NY, El Paso Community College, El Paso, TX, University of Texas at El Paso, BBA, Mktg/Mgmt, University of Texas at El Paso, Teaching Certification

**Experience:** 1965-1974 Western Electric Company Installer 1967-1970 United States Army Soldier 1975-1983 Mountain Bell Manager 1983-1990 Southwestern Bell Manager 1992-1993 EPISD Teacher 1994-1995 Hoang Foods VP Mktg 1999-2005 City Council 2005-2013 Mayor

**Q1:** The historic funds exist in two categories the Direct Component and the Centers of Excellence component. The funds are available through grant programs and can be used to make



improvements to the ecosystem or for economic recovery. Our grant requests should be to assist the industries impacted, including the fishing, shrimp-ing, and crabbing industries and eco-tourism.

**Q2:** The beaches of Texas have always belonged to the people of Texas. We need to keep it that way for future generations of Texans. I believe we should focus on protecting and restoring coastal areas. This includes restrictions on development. Developers must partner to keep tradition in mind on their projects thereby allowing development yet maintaining public access.

**Q3:** Set standards for Fracking that: 1 Protect our water resources, 2 Protect the health of populations 3 Respect adjacent property owners right to preserve their quality of life. 4 Maximize the royalties paid to fund Public Education. History records oil booms & busts. . Let's be careful not to destroy while we build our future on energy independence

### Justin Knight (L)

No response

## COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

**Q1: Environment:** How do you propose to grow a business-friendly state while maintaining the environment?

**Q2: Water:** What measures do you support to address the future water needs of Texas?

**Q3: Other Issues:** What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

### Kenneth Kendrick (G)

**Education:** My Wife serves on our school Board here in Wilson and I have a web page that shows my passion for teachers [https://www.facebook.com/WilsonISDconcernedcitizens?ref\\_type=bookmark](https://www.facebook.com/WilsonISDconcernedcitizens?ref_type=bookmark) in my local district.

Even though I am running for Agriculture Commission ///

**Experience:** As it relates to Agriculture Commissioner : Even though known as a Whistle Blower against the Peanut Company, I also have worked as a lab tech in the food industry, The peanut

Plant, and a Pest Control Tech (all within Dept of AG) 5 year advocate ///

**Q1:** I want Texas to be known as the safest place to buy agriculture Products, thus causing major producers to want to buy from Texas and have the Texas label. I want food from China marked as such given the problems they have caused. I GMO marked as such as consumers have the right to know. The pesticide division must enforce what is their, and chemical used must have been on ///

**Q2:** Water conservation dis-

tricts have to be there. Fracking is a killer in that takes water and contaminates. We must progress in how we handle this. I know the aquifer that my area uses starts in Colorado, we can not let some dry it up from the northwest and then leave the rest of use bone dry. Like cities, we may have to implement a state wide restriction process also.

**Q3:** I am proud to be Running for Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, my main issues: 1) Make Texas Food the Safest in the nation and that be known nationwide. 2) water be safe to drink. As

a Former Pest Control Technician I know the way we must make sure our drinking water safe. 3) Corporate Accountability- After Blowing the Whistle on Peanut Corp of America, it was discovered ///

### Jim Hogan (D)

**Education:** I graduated from Mansfield High School in 1969 and I attended college at Tarleton State University.



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# AGRICULTURE / RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

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**Experience:** I have spent 32 years in the dairy business and in farming.

**Q1:** Sustainable agriculture is a goal that we must reach for. Young farmers is must. An environment that allows farmers to succeed. Land availability is right up there. Work with univeristies to have safer alternatives for herbicides and pesticides.

**Q2:** Desalination is definitely on the horizon. The cost has got to be worked on.

**Q3:** To be a farmer. You need land, capital, markets, and water. All will be prioritized.

## Sid Miller (R)

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

Tarleton State University - Graduated with Honors

**Experience:** As an eighth generation Texas farmer and rancher, I raise crops, cattle, horses, & nursery stock. I am a former vocational agriculture teacher and served twelve years in the Texas House where I was Chairman of the Livestock & Agriculture Committee.

**Q1:** I believe the best stewards of the land are those who earn their living from it. While Texans should be concerned about preserving our environmental resources, we should not over regulate to the point that we kill jobs & economic opportunity. Today, Texas provides the safest, most cost effective food supply in the world while creating jobs and opportunities in agriculture.



**Q2:** Protecting our precious water resources is a top priority and will be a focus of the Texas Department of Agriculture. We must maintain the rule of capture, create desalinization plants, make water infrastructure improvements, and encourage conservation, including removing restrictions to allow rainwater harvesting.

**Q3:** We must protect our private property rights and fight back against overzealous &, oftentimes, abusive federal government overreach by the EPA, BLM, & USDA. We must preserve our unique Texas heritage and defend our constitutional freedoms, including our 2nd Amendment rights to keep and bear arms. We must secure our border and protect the farmers and ranchers who live there.

## David (Rocky) Palmquist (L)

**Education:** High School Austin Community College

**Experience:** I have been involved in agriculture since the age of 16 when I started my own plant business out of my backyard, thus carrying on 11 generations of family involvement in agriculture. I have been involved in many civic organizations.

**Q1:** The worst thing a farmer or rancher can hear is "I am from the government and I'm here to help you" What the government does least is what's best. With continuing drought we must look to new crops such as industrial hemp. Many states have already legalized this and as Texans we should be the leader in this eco-friendly crop of many uses.



**Q2:** The Texas Department of Agriculture really has little to do with our water resources. I would strongly encourage proper soil erosion prevention, rain water collection resulting in a tax break, and drought tolerant crops such a hemp. Some studies suggest irrigation water will be gone in 15 years in parts of Texas. We must begin the transformation now.

**Q3:** Marijuana Legalization needs to become a reality in Texas. We are losing millions of dollars to states like Colorado just as we have been losing gambling money to Louisiana and New Mexico. Let's legalize, regulate, tax, and then begin dismantling the state property tax. It can be done. Don't let politicians tell you otherwise. After all, they've been lying to us forever!

## RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

**Q1: Fracking:** Drilling rules were written to increase well productivity. What types of fracking rules are needed and how should they be enforced?

**Q2: Commission Structure:** The Railroad Commission no longer allows staff members access to news media. How would you increase transparency of the Railroad Commission?

**Q3: Other Issues:** What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

## Steve Brown (D)

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

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

**Q1:** Rules should be established to ensure that landowners and key stakeholders are properly notified about permit applications. I would also support establishing a baseline of environmental factors through geological surveys and water tests to determine how drilling might impact an area. Finally, violators



must be penalized decisively to deter future transgressions.

**Q2:** Texans deserve an accountable and transparent Railroad Commission. It is critical that the media have access to agency experts like petroleum engineers who understand the quality of work being done as Texas' oil and gas production booms. Repealing the media access rule would be a good first step in regaining the public's trust.

**Q3:** The voices of Texas taxpayers are buried in an avalanche of campaign cash. The public has lost trust in the fairness of the regulatory process. I would change the name to the Energy Resources Commission, shorten the fundraising period to one month per year for Commissioners not up for reelection, and prohibit donations from

businesses with contested RRC matters.

## Mark A. Miller (L)

**Education:** BS Engineering, Harvey Mudd College, 1972; PhD Petroleum Engineering, Stanford U., 1983

**Experience:** 42 years as a practicing petroleum engineer, 18 of which were spent on the petroleum engineering faculty at UT Austin. Currently CEO and CTO of a small company that develops software for the oil and gas industry.

**Q1:** The Commission has rules to satisfy many purposes, e.g., prevention of waste, protection of mineral rights, water resources, and public safety. Fracking, per se, requires few additional rules. However, the fracking boom requires consideration of rules related to such things as waste water injection, discharge of natural gas, and protection of surface owner rights.

**Q2:** I oppose the current Railroad Commission policy and will work to revise it. Until I am able to do so, I will make myself readily and regularly available to the media and the public. As a knowledgeable expert in oil and



gas, I will easily be in a position to adequately explain the Commission's policies, rule-making activities, and findings on important specific issues.

**Q3:** The oil and gas industry believes the Commission to be a fair arbiter of its "inside baseball" conflicts. The Commission must earn the same trust with the public by having highly-qualified Commissioners whose focus will be protecting public safety, natural resources, and the rights of all property owners, along with the right to engage in free and prosperous commerce.

## Martina Salinas (G)

**Education:** Bachelor's of Science in Civil Technology-Construction Management-University of Houston

**Experience:** Have worked the past 8 years in the construction industry working on city and state road construction projects.

**Q1:** The railroad commission needs to implement regulations that protect the quality of life that Texas citizens have come to expect. No one should have to worry whether their air is safe to breathe, or if their water is safe



to drink. The commission also needs to be more vigilant in that only safe and reputable energy companies are allowed to operate in Texas.

**Q2:** I hope to amend the policy to at least allow technical staff to explain technical issues and provide technical information through the news media in order to provide public information.

**Q3:** As a public agency the Railroad Commissions only duty should be to the citizens of Texas. Industry interest should not be held more important than the rights of Texas citizens. Eminent domain and common carrier policy need to be reformed. Disposal well construction needs to be standardized and should have more inspections performed.

## Ryan Sitton (R)

**Education:** Catholic Preparatory School - Irving, Texas; Texas A&M University, B.S. Mechanical Engineering

**Experience:** In 2006 my wife Jennifer and I founded Pinna-pleAIS, an engineering and technology company focused on re-



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# RAILROAD COMMISSIONER / TEXAS SUPREME COURT

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

Continued from Page 10

liability and integrity programs for the oil, gas, and petrochemical industries. I have over fifteen years of energy industry experience.

**Q1:** All of the commission's rules should be based on sound

science and data and properly balance the safety and health of communities with our need to responsibly produce as much energy as possible. Fracking is a proven, reliable and safe drilling technique that has allowed for tremendous growth in energy production. The current rules re-

lated to fracking are sufficient.

**Q2:** I don't believe this question is accurate. My understanding is that staff members are made available to the media in certain situations. I will encourage more access to the staff, but my way of increasing transparency will be to make myself avail-

able to the public and media to answer their questions about what actions the commission is taking and why.

**Q3:** I think it is critically important for the citizens of Texas to feel confident in the way that our natural resources are being produced. I plan to spend a great

deal of time answering people's questions about what the commission does and why we do it. We have important challenges facing us including water issues, seismicity, municipal jurisdiction and others.

## TEXAS SUPREME COURT

**Q1: Public Protection:** The Texas Supreme Court oversees and controls rules and standards for the legal profession. What changes, if any, are needed to provide better protection to the public?

**Q2: Impartiality:** Do you believe changes in the current election process are needed to improve or maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds from political campaign contributors?

### CHIEF JUSTICE

#### Nathan Hecht (R)

**Education:** J.D., SMU Law School cum laude; B.A., Yale University (Honors in Philosophy)

**Experience:** Texas Supreme Court (elected Justice 1988, re-elected 1994, 2000, 2006; appointed Chief Justice 2013); Fifth Court of Appeals (1986-1988); 95th District Court (1981-1986); lawyer and shareholder, Locke firm (1976-1981); Lieutenant, US-NR, JAG Corps

**Q1:** Attorney ethics rules should be revised to prohibit unreasonable fees, better protect client confidentiality, prohibit improper intimate relationships with clients, ensure lawyer loyalty, and provide for fair but strict discipline of violators. The Texas Supreme Court has supported rules revisions to provide high ethical standards for lawyers and protect the public.

**Q2:** Texans want to elect their judges, and campaigning is expensive, but from my first race for the Texas Supreme Court, I helped pioneer contribution limits that have since become law. I have tried to raise broad support from many people and avoid any appearance of impropriety. I am always mindful of my solemn oath to faithfully execute the duties of my office.

#### Tom Oxford (L)

**Education:** Undergraduate

degree in Political Science from The University of Texas. Doctor of Jurisprudence from The University of Houston.

**Experience:** Managing Attorney for the firm of Waldman and Smallwood P.C. for the past fifteen years. Managing Attorney for a non-profit legal aid office in Southeast Texas for the preceding ten years.

**Q1:** While no system is perfect Texas has a working and effective grievance process. Lawyers are suspended or disbarred every month for ethical lapses. Our problems involve access to justice and the courts. This is where we should focus our efforts.

**Q2:** I do not have an easy answer to the lack of impartiality in many of our courts. No one has that answer. If the public continues to allow thirty second TV ads to govern their vote candidates will continue to be beholden to the wealthy. Going to a non partisan election system would do nothing to change the need for large cash contributions. Voters must get beyond the ads.

#### William Moody (D)

**Education:** B.A. Political Science UTEP J.D. Texas Tech University

**Experience:** 28 years as District Judge

**Q1:** None

**Q2:** Yes

### JUSTICE, PLACE 6

#### Mark Ash (L)

**Education:** Las Cruces High School, Las Cruces, New Mexico, High School Diploma, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico, Associates in Arts University of Texas at El Paso, Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology, South Texas College of Law, JD

**Experience:** Practice of Criminal and Civil Law in the State of Texas for over 20 years, I have represented individuals and small businesses in all federal and state courts in both criminal and civil matters.

**Q1:** The Texas Supreme Court should approve standard forms that can be accessed by both lawyers and the persons who represent themselves without a lawyer (pro se). These forms should be available online and in all civil courts throughout the state. These forms should be suggested-forms only and not be considered legal advice or a substitute for competent counsel.

**Q2:** Impartiality can be difficult to maintain if a judicial candidate accepts political campaign contributions. I will not accept campaign contributions from anyone in excess of \$50.00. However, judicial candidates should be free to accept any contribution amount so long as the contribution amount is a matter of public record.

#### Jeff Brown (R)

**Education:** I have a BA in English from the University of Texas and a law degree, with high honors, from the University of Houston. I'm also



board-certified in civil trial law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

**Experience:** I have almost 13 years of judicial experience—6 years as a trial judge, 6 years as a court-of-appeals judge, and 11 months as a Supreme Court justice. I've won 3 judge-of-the-year awards. Before taking the bench, I practiced at Baker Botts in Houston

**Q1:** The Court works diligently to responsibly oversee and administer the legal profession. I'm honored to serve as the Court's liaison to the Grievance Oversight Committee, which reviews the attorney-client grievance process and makes recommendations to the Court. The Court is constantly working to assure that the profession is responsive to the needs of the public.

**Q2:** I believe judges should be accountable to the voters. Currently judges must run for office and must raise money to fund those campaigns. Though I do not believe that Texas judges allow contributions to affect their impartiality, I understand that some may disagree. I am open to the idea of adopting retention elections to dampen the influence of money in judicial elections.

#### Lawrence Edward Meyers (D)

**Education:** B.A. in history & chemistry from Southern Methodist University in 1970 J.D. from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1973 L.L.M. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1998 Board Certified in Criminal Law and Criminal Appellate Law

**Experience:** 1973-1974 Assistant District Attorney, Montgom-

ery County, Kansas 1975-1988 practiced civil, criminal, and appellate law in Fort Worth 1989-1992 Associate Justice, Second Court of Appeals in Fort Worth 1992-present Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals

**Q1:** I do not see the need for any changes at this time.

**Q2:** Yes.

### JUSTICE, PLACE 7

#### Gina Benavides (D)

**Education:** JD University of Houston Law Center 1988 BAA University of Texas at Austin 1985

**Experience:** Appellate Justice, Chair Texas Center for Judiciary, Board of Texas Access for Justice Commission, Board of Judicial Section, 2014 Judge of the Year, 2007 Latina Judge NHBA, Minority Director of SBOT, President MABA Texas, Regional VP TADC, many more

**Q1:** While the legal profession is a self-regulating profession, we should also be mindful of the needs of the public at-large and how our profession affects the public. One of those needs includes ensuring that the everyone has continued access to our justice system. Since my appointment to the TAJC by the Texas Supreme Court in 2010, I have work hard to ensure that right.

**Q2:** As a judge who has sat through two elections and participated in an appointment-selection process, I support the election of judges. Until we have a system which is void of politics and money, our current sys-





# TEXAS SUPREME COURT / TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

Continued from Page 11

tem at least gives the citizens of the State of Texas the right to choose their judges. As a judge for 7 years, I do not allowed politics enter into my decisions.

## Jeff Boyd (R)

**Education:** Justice Boyd graduated summa cum laude (second in his class) from Pepperdine University School of Law in 1991. Before attending law school, he graduated cum laude with a degree in Biblical Studies from Abilene Christian University, in 1983.

**Experience:** Justice, Texas Supreme Court (2012-present) Chief of Staff & General Counsel, Office of the Texas Governor (2011-12) Attorney, Thompson & Knight (1992-2000, 2003-2010) Deputy Attorney General (2000-2003) Youth & Family Minister (1983-2000)



**Q1:** Our profession's greatest current challenge is finding ways to make it easier, more efficient, and less expensive for people to seek justice in the justice system. We have implemented e-filing, expedited trial rules, & Access to Justice programs around the state, and we need to improve these innovative changes to make courts more "user-friendly."

**Q2:** Changes in the current system could help, but many changes bring problems of their own. I have committed to not take a position on any current proposed changes until I have personally been through this election cycle as a candidate. The vast majority of Texans want to keep ELECTING their judges, and my general view is that we should be hesitant to take away that right.

## Don Fulton (L)

**Education:** High School Diploma Arlington High School,

Arlington, Texas (with honors) 1968 B. A. Economics 1972 (with honors) from U. T. A. Army Officer's Basic Course 1972 Juris Doctor S. M. U. School of Law 1976 Arly Officer's Advanced Course (App 1978)

**Experience:** Private practice of law for 37 yrs in the courts of at least 35 counties around the state, along with: U.S. Sup. Court, U S Court of App., 5th Cir, Sup. Court of Texas, Court of Criminal Appeals, 3 Courts of App, FC ND TX, BIA and Imm. Court

**Q1:** They need to set better standards for themselves and the courts of appeal-pass a rule of appellate procedure which prohibits justices from seeing or learning the name of the lawyer submitting petitions or briefs. Make a decision on the merits and not on who the lawyer is. Enforce that rule with ethical sanctions for violation by attorneys or



parties, recusal for justices.

**Q2:** The proposed rule above will do more than all the campaign finance rules. Once put in place a lot of the funds would dry up. There are now plenty of free sources for judicial candidates to get their message out for little or no cost, and any contribution would be legitimate, rather than an attempt to buy influence. I have refused to solicit or accept any campaign funds.

## Charles E. Waterbury (G)

**Education:** Baylor University School of Law, 1992 Juris Doctor Texas Christian University, 1989 Bachelor of Science, Cum Laude

**Experience:** Practicing law since November of 1992. I have practiced in my own firm since February 1996. The focus of my practice is personal injury and immigration cases.



**Q1:** I believe the rules and standards of the legal profession I believe provide significant protection to the public.

**Q2:** The judicial election process has been utterly corrupted by the need to raise massive amounts of money in order to run a viable campaign. This requirement was put in place and maintained by both the Democrat and Republican party. The corrupting influence of huge amounts of cash ensures that both the Democrat and Republican candidate are beholden to special interests.

## JUSTICE, PLACE 8

### Jim Chisolm (G)

No response

### Phil Johnson (R)

No response

### RS Roberto Koelsch (L)

No response

## TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

**Q1: Access to Justice:** The traditional funding source for legal aid for the poor and for indigent defense has been shrinking because of low interest rates. How can Texas improve access to justice in criminal cases?

**Q2: Obligations:** What are the most important obligations of a Court of Criminal Appeals judge and why?

## JUDGE, PLACE 3

### Mark W. Bennett (L)

No response

### John Granberg (D)

**Education:** 1998 Texas Tech University Dual Bachelors in Philosophy and Communication Studies with Honors 2001 Texas Tech University School of Law JD

**Experience:** Solo Practitioner, Granberg Law Office, El Paso, Texas 2005---Present General Practice with an emphasis on criminal and immigration law. Licensed in the State of Texas and New Mexico, State and Federal Court. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

**Q1:** There are many ways the source of funding for indigent can be improved. The screening

process can be improved so that truly needy people receive indigent defense representation. Another source, would be to have a set percentage rate of taxes set by statute so that the various counties across the state will have a stable and predictable fund to draw upon.

**Q2:** The most important obligations are to review death penalty case and writs of habeas corpus. The justices need to be fair, impartial and accessible to last minute stays of execution. With the state empowered to take a life, the judiciary needs to do its part to administer justice as openly, transparently, and as quickly as possible. Justice delayed is often justice denied.

## Bert Richardson (R)

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

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

**Q1:** I have presided in 40 counties in the last 5 years. When counties have funding available for a Public Defender's Office that works best, in conjunction with judges appointing qualified lawyers from a list approved by the courts when the PD is conflicted. I have participated in 2 significant pro bono projects in my career and also believe local lawyers should do that.

**Q2:** First, to write opinions that lawyers easily understand



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

## JUDGE, PLACE 4

### Quannah Parker (L)

**Education:** Attended school in Norman Oklahoma through sophomore year, Abilene High. Abilene Christian University UT Law School, US Army M.P. officer basic course, Texas District Attorney's Association basic course and the school of hard knocks.

**Experience:** Had 3 jobs Bible Salesman Soldier Lawyer. Sold bibles 9 yrs 4 Southwestern Company 2 put myself through school. Lead Army M.P. platoon & 40 yrs defended the rights of the crippled, downtrodden &



damned in wrecks divorces and accused.

**Q1:** Since the supreme court implemented mandatory court appointments for folks that meet guidelines it's better. If we eliminated surcharges on drivers license mandatory license suspensions and decriminalized pot it would make for a lot less poor criminals who wouldn't need access to justice because they already got it.

**Q2:** Judges shouldn't care about the popular thing, but the right thing to do. Judges should be independent and not just a rubber stamp for the state. Judges should never go with the flow but stand up for the people and their right to pursue life liberty and happiness. My dad said it best "The government should collect the taxes pave the roads defend the shores & leave us alone"

### Judith Sanders-Castro (G)

**Education:** Bachelor of Fine Arts, University of Texas in Austin

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# TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS / TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

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Juris Doctorate, St. Mary's University School of Law

**Experience:** 33 years of civil litigation in civil rights, personal injury, family law, consumer law and special education, with some criminal litigation.

**Q1:** The funding problems of legal aid for the poor and legal defense for the indigent accused of criminal offenses are two different matters. The state legislature could address both problems by providing funding to support legal services programs for civil law problems and creating a non-partisan entity to distribute funding by numbers of indigents accused in each county.

**Q2:** As the court of last resort for people who have been adjudicated in the Texas criminal system, judges on this court must not only follow the law but must insure that both the letter and the spirit of the law are objectively and fairly followed. Ad-

ditionally, the Court of Criminal Appeals must be a fair arbiter of convictions possibly based on erroneous evidence.

## Kevin Patrick Yeary (R)

**Education:** St. Mary's University B.A. English Communication Arts - 1988. St. Mary's University Law School J.D. - 1991.

**Experience:** Licensed attorney for nearly 23 years Former briefing attorney at the Court of Criminal Appeals - 1991-1992 Former civil litigator/criminal defense attorney 19 year appellate prosecutor Commissioner for Texas Board of Legal Specialization

**Q1:** Indigent criminal defendants are entitled to free, constitutionally effective counsel, both at trial and on direct appeal. Some counties use public defender offices. In other counties, the courts appoint counsel. I have some other ideas, but any



solution must balance the need for quality representation of indigent defendants against the reality of scarce resources.

**Q2:** The Court of Criminal Appeals (CCA) is our state's high criminal court. A CCA Judge must work with the other CCA Judges to ensure our laws are enforced appropriately in all the trial and appellate courts in Texas. A CCA Judge should also always seek justice and should help to communicate the role of the Court and of other courts in our system to lawyers and the public.

## JUDGE, PLACE 9

### George Joseph Altgelt (G)

No response

### David Newell (R)

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



Texas School of Law, 1997

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

**Q1:** Harris County has increased representation of the indigent through its Public Defender's Office. For counties that can't afford such an office, devoting a portion of asset forfeiture funds to indigent defense could provide additional revenue. Private organizations such as Fort Bend Lawyers Care, which my wife and I have volunteered with, can also provide assistance.

**Q2:** To fairly, impartially, and consistently interpret the law as written. Serving as a small group worship leader has shown me the need for humility in all aspects of my life. My extensive work on the editorial board for

The Texas Prosecutor demonstrates my commitment to consistent application of the law for a more transparent, predictable, and fair criminal justice system.

## William Bryan Strange III (L)

**Education:** I hold the following degrees: BA in political science (SMU); Juris Doctor (George Washington University) and Science Masters (MIT).

**Experience:** I served as a Naval Officer and am a combat veteran of the Vietnam War. I have over 35 years experience as an attorney and business manager.

**Q1:** Texas should fund a robust system of public defenders.

**Q2:** A Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals must stand detached from outside influences such as campaign contributors and political parties. In addition, a Judge must apply strict standards to avoid abuse of power by the State.



## COURT OF APPEALS

**Q1: Access to Justice:** The traditional funding source for legal aid for the poor and for indigent defense has been shrinking because of low interest rates. How can Texas improve access to justice in criminal cases?

**Q2: Obligations:** What are the most important obligations of a Court of Criminal Appeals judge and why?

## CHIEF JUSTICE, 3RD COURT OF APPEALS

### Diane Henson (D)

**Education:** J.D. with Honors, Drake University Law School; Order of the Coif, Order of the Barristers; Case Notes Editor, Drake Law Review; Board Certified, Texas Board of Legal Specialization



since 1995.

**Experience:** Justice, Third Court of Appeals, 2007-2012; Decided 2,000 judicial cases, issued 700 written opinions; Voted "Best Qualified" by lawyers in 2014 State Bar Preference Poll; Former federal prosecutor, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

**Q1:** Counties should consider adding public defenders' offices

so that indigent defense can be provided by qualified lawyers in a cost-effective manner. Also, the Legislature and the counties should allocate sufficient funds to pay for indigent defense and to expand legal services to the poor.

**Q2:** Judges must be fair, independent, and hard-working. Judges must be stewards of our U.S. and Texas Constitutions; and adhere to the highest ethical standards. In our democracy, the judiciary provides an important check and balance to the legislative and executive branches of government.

### Jeff Rose (R)

**Education:** Undergraduate - Baylor University, BBA in Finance and Business Management; Law Degree - Vanderbilt University; Mediation Certificate - Harvard Law School Negotiation Institute

**Experience:** Justice, Texas 3rd Court of Appeals; State District Judge, Travis County; Texas Deputy First Assistant Attorney General under Greg Abbott; Former Partner, Strasburger & Price law firm; Board Certified, Civil Trial law; married 18 years, father of 3

**Q1:** When people cannot afford legal services, it weakens the rule of law. We need to continue legislative funding solu-



tions, lawyers volunteering services, and courts innovating our processes so that those who cannot afford lawyers can still seek justice. For example, our Court of Appeals participates in a program to encourage and reward lawyers who handle pro bono appeals.

**Q2:** An appellate judge must properly apply the law to get the answers right in the cases before the court and convey those answers in clear, logical, and thoroughly-researched written opinions. This promotes the rule of law by giving the public clear and consistent application of the law. Judges must base their decisions on the law, not politics or personal preference.



# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT / STATE REPRESENTATIVES

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

## TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (PROPOSITION 1)

**Official ballot language:** The constitutional amendment providing for the use and dedication of certain money transferred to the state highway fund to assist in the completion of transportation construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation projects, not to include toll roads.

**Explanation:** The proposed amendment requires the controller of public accounts to allocate one-half of the amount of oil and gas production tax revenue currently transferred to the economic stabilization fund, known as the Rainy Day Fund, to the state highway fund for the purpose of constructing, maintaining, and acquiring rights-of-way for public roadways other than toll roads.

House Bill 1, the enabling legislation for Proposition 1, requires any amount transferred to the state highway fund to be allocated throughout the state by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) consistent with existing formulas adopted by the Texas Transportation Commission. The bill also calls for the appointment of a committee of legislators to determine a sufficient balance for the Rainy Day Fund, below which no general revenue would be transferred to the state highway fund.

### Arguments for

■ The proposed amendment with its enabling legislation is a key step toward securing critical funding for transportation projects in Texas. The two measures together would present a politically viable means to secure a portion of the funding Texas needs to maintain roadway congestion at current levels, given population and economic growth.

■ The enabling legislation allows the legislature to take necessary measures to ensure that a minimum balance is available to respond to natural disasters and fiscal emergencies by appointing a committee of legislators to determine a sufficient balance for the Rainy Day Fund.

### Arguments against

■ The proposed amendment and its enabling legislation do not provide a solution to the state's serious, ongoing highway funding shortage. Because neither measure authorizes the collection of any additional revenue, the measures in effect take money out of one fiscal pocket and move it to another.

■ The two measures would not adequately safeguard emergency reserves nor guarantee a minimum balance in the Rainy Day Fund. The bill would assign this authority to each legislature, which is subject to the preferences of any given legislative session. The Rainy Day Fund transfer is designated in the constitution in part to provide a well-protected reserve, which is important for the state's ability to withstand economic calamities and for its credit rating.

## STATE REPRESENTATIVES

**Q1: Health Care:** Texas has more citizens without health insurance than any other state. Do you support the expansion of Medicaid, or do you have another solution for those millions of uninsured Texans. Please explain.

**Q2: Water:** What is your position on a long-term policy for making sure that all Texas residents have an adequate supply of water?

**Q3: Voting Rights:** The U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Shelby v. Holder* struck down parts of the Voting Rights Act. What tools would you use to prevent discrimination in voting and to secure the ballot?

**Q4: Redistricting:** Would you support the use of an independent citizens redistricting commission to draw the congressional and state legislative districts? Why or why not? Please explain.

### DISTRICT 17

#### Carolyn Banks (D)

**Education:** M.A. English, University of Maryland

**Experience:** I have a long and continuous record of publication in fiction, nonfiction and screenwriting. I founded a nonprofit media arts organization, Upstart.

**Q1:** I support the expansion of Medicaid and feel that it is immoral not to have done so already.

**Q2:** I think groundwater conservation districts should be strengthened and indemnified against lawsuits. I believe that surface water decisions to permit input from all stakeholders. I think serious studies should be done to prevent the war over water that we have begun to see.

**Q3:** We should be teaching the importance of voting in high school and there should be continuous outreach to register voters coming out of high school. There should be emphasis on the importance of voting through Public Service advertising, and outreach for mail-in voting to people in assisted living facilities.

**Q4:** Redistricting should make it easier for citizens to know whose district they are in. As it stands, it is a total mess. I don't know who I would trust to do this, but independent citizens might be our best bet.

#### Tim Kleinschmidt (R)

**Education:** BS from TAMU 1978 Juris Doctorate from Baylor 1981

**Experience:** Practiced law



in Giddings for 33 years specializing in contracts and real estate

**Q1:** I support using a reasonable portion of our Texas state budget for health care for the underprivileged in Texas. I want to use such funds as wisely as possible to obtain the best value of quality health care services for them.

**Q2:** We must first conserve water. We must also develop all water resources utilizing technology to expand the availability of water in Texas.

**Q3:** I support the utilization of photo voter ID in Texas.

**Q4:** I would certainly seriously consider the creation of an independent citizens redistricting commission, but I would want to closely consider the appointment process for its members. I would not want to create a full-time commission for a process that only occurs every ten years.

### DISTRICT 20

#### Marsha Farney (R)

No response

#### Jarrod Weaver (L)

No response

#### Stephen M. Wyman (D)

**Education:** Bachelor's Degree in Telecommunications, 1979, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

**Experience:** A lifetime spent as a caring, concerned citizen of these United States; more than 30 years residing in Texas.

**Q1:** I do support the expansion of Medicaid, bringing Texan's

federal tax dollars back home, in Texas. There's more to be done, but Medicaid expansion would be a great first step.

**Q2:** We need to consolidate water related agencies across Texas into a single state agency. The recent, extended/extensive drought has brought home the message that there are consequences to unplanned water use.

**Q3:** The right of all citizens that have attained the age of majority, not currently serving a sentence for a felony conviction, to vote needs to be documented clearly in both state and federal constitutions.

**Q4:** I would support a Judicial commission for redistricting as soon as Judges are appointed only; liberated of the need to run for reelection.

### DISTRICT 45

#### Jim Duke (L)

No response

#### Jason A. Isaac (R)

**Education:** BBA, Stephen F. Austin State University, Major in Marketing, Minor in Management

**Experience:** Legislator committed to great schools, an efficient transportation system, reliable water infrastructure, responsible spending, and low taxes.

**Q1:** During the 83rd Legislature, I opposed an amendment that would greatly increase state spending by expanding Medicaid. Meaningful increases were made in Health and Human Services for mental health and women's health programs. We must continue to look at ways to reform the insurance industry, with free-market solutions, to keep rates low so that more Texans can afford coverage, and business owners are not financially burdened by providing coverage

**Q2:** Last year voters approved \$2B out of the rainy day fund to fund our state's water plan. This \$2B along with local matching



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# STATE REPRESENTATIVES

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

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dollars, earned interest, and other investment strategies, should fully fund the state's water plan for years to come and ensure a sustainable water supply for future generations of Texans. I will continue to support legislation that helps to implement this plan, protects our natural resources and promotes water conservation.

**Q3:** I agree with the U.S. Supreme Court in the decision to rule Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act unconstitutional. It should be legal for the states to make changes to election laws where they see fit, as long as laws are fair and consistently enforced. I am a proud advocate of voter ID legislation and believe it is critical for voter integrity in Texas, proven by the increase in voter turnout in the elections since the passage of the bill.

**Q4:** No. Although the redistricting process is often politicized, an "independent commission" would also inevitably become politicized as well. In the end, elected officials are still held accountable to the voters who can voice disapproval. A citizens commission could not be held accountable in the same way.

## DISTRICT 46

### Dawnna Dukes (D)

**Education:** B.S. Psychology, Texas A&M University

**Experience:** Dawnna Dukes is a tenth term member of the Texas House of Representatives and a third generation native of District 46.

**Q1:** I strongly support the expansion of Medicaid. Texas currently has the highest population of uninsured Americans. By expanding Medicaid we will not only improve the quality of life of more than a million Texans by providing healthcare coverage, but we will also greatly stimulate the economy. Estimates include an increase in economic output by \$67.9 billion during fiscal years 2014–2017 and generating an ad-



ditional 231,000 jobs in Texas by 2016.

**Q2:** Long-term investment in water is critical to the economy and our quality of life. In serious drought conditions, Texas does not and will not have enough water to meet the needs of its people, its businesses, and its agricultural enterprises. Last session I supported legislation to create a water infrastructure fund to implement the State Water Plan. The plan includes conservation and other water management strategies to meet the state's needs.

**Q3:** Poor and minority voters are disproportionately affected by limiting early voting and registration, requiring voters to show photo ID, and purging voter rolls. I support expanding early voting, election day registration and fair, uniform practices of purging voter rolls. I will continue to fight against the voter ID law, the most stringent in the nation. I also oppose the redistricting maps, which discriminate against minority voters.

**Q4:** The use of an independent citizens redistricting commission to draw congressional and state legislative districts sounds positive in theory. I would need to see more examples of how it has proven effective. Ensuring the selection process for commission members is impartial and the commission is diverse and representative of all Texans would be challenging. Statute would need to set criteria for the commission to follow when drawing districts.

### Kevin Ludlow (L)

**Education:** Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics from the University of Texas at Austin.

**Experience:** Political activist. Published author. Host of a political science podcast. Former City of Austin Commissioner. Citizen.

**Q1:** I do not support this expansion. The idea that insurance is necessary for better healthcare is blatantly false. We should focus on reducing the actual cost of healthcare instead of pad-



ding corporate insurance coffers. This can be accomplished by increasing minor care facilities, increasing the supply of doctors with incentives and lower education costs, reducing medical regulations, mandating price transparency, and reducing malpractice claims.

**Q2:** The State cannot possibly know the individual water requirements for 26 million Texans. For this reason I firmly believe we should rely upon the market. We should strongly encourage water conservation, but in no way legislate it through force. We should encourage the prosecution of anyone who contaminates groundwater (especially through fracking). Above all, we should remove regulations related to the sale, transport, and storage of water.

**Q3:** No person should ever be denied the right to vote on the grounds of insidiously crafted voter registration laws. I would fight against any such legislation in Texas. It is also high time we embrace 21st century technology and implement convenient digital voting solutions. This would dramatically increase civic participation, provide voters with receipts, and increase overall transparency. I would encourage Texans to embrace this new frontier.

**Q4:** Yes. Gerrymandering is a tool that has plagued the American electorate for generations. It should be corrected. By carefully drawing districts, the two parties maintain a firm grip on the electorate and continually suppress challenges to the status quo. Although I ultimately believe they will find and exploit holes in any system, a transparent and citizen-driven redistricting would be a powerful first step towards eradicating the overall problem.

## DISTRICT 47

### Scott G. McKinlay (L)

No response

### Paul D. Workman (R)

No response

## DISTRICT 48

### Ben Easton (L)

**Education:** B.A. Philosophy - Washington & Lee Univ.

**Experience:** Living, working, breathing, noticing ... several decades of analyzing and confirming that we, as a society, are way off track.

**Q1:** No, I support the abolition of Medicaid. Government has no proper authority in either the insurance industry or the medical industry. I support re-privatization of all these functions.

**Q2:** I propose a steeply-inclined price structure. For basic personal usage, the cost per gallon ought to be pretty damn cheap. Then, as users turn the spigot on, wider and longer, they would pay at a higher rate (along with the greater volume). Really big users (e.g. golf courses, farmers, hydraulic fracturing drillers) would pay at the highest rate per gallon. This structure would encourage water conservation and more honest accounting.

**Q3:** The controversy around ballot access is massively overstated. I doubt there is presently any voter discrimination anywhere in the United States. And, if there is, laws have long since covered such infringements. Such an occurrence would be easy to prove and prosecute. In fact, voters ought to use greater discrimination: weed out the demagogues by voting for truth-telling candidates willing to trim government and champion accountability.

**Q4:** Whenever I see a freshly-redrawn district that looks like an octopus, I immediately know that there have either been some dirty deals cut in back rooms OR the idiots drawing the boundaries are so concerned with quotas, skin color, median income, gender status, etc. that they lost sight of what fairness means. Any candidate unwilling to mount a campaign given a simple geometrical shape for a district is already announcing unfitness for office.



### Donna Howard (D)

**Education:** BSN and MA from the University of Texas at Austin

**Experience:** former critical care nurse, patient educator, and UT instructor, served on Eanes ISD School Board

**Q1:** Last legislative session I was a Joint Author of a bipartisan bill to seek a so-called "Texas Solution" to Medicaid Expansion, which would have leveraged private insurance, cost-sharing, and managed care to help provide coverage for impoverished adults. I authored an amendment which would have taken any state savings from expansion and applied them to raising MD reimbursement rates. These efforts failed to pass, but my advocacy will continue.

**Q2:** I supported HB 4 & Prop 6 creating a \$2 billion revolving loan program to fund statewide infrastructure for water projects with an emphasis on conservation. Last session I introduced an amendment that would have required consideration of environmental impacts in project selection. I have testified numerous times at TCEQ & LCRA to advocate for an improved Water Management Plan that considers new data & trigger points reflecting drought & climate.

**Q3:** I voted against discriminatory Voter ID legislation, which adversely impacts minorities and the elderly, and has been shown to be ineffective at preventing voter fraud. I have also been supportive of efforts to expand access to the ballot through the use of online and same-day voter registration. Additionally, I authored legislation to conduct a study on the feasibility of online voting which was successful in the House but did not finally pass.

**Q4:** I have consistently supported the creation of an independent redistricting commission for our legislative and congressional districts as the current system effectively allows of-



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# STATE REPRESENTATIVES

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

Continued from Page 15

ficials to choose their voters. By essentially deciding general elections in party primaries, our process increases partisanship and discourages compromise across party lines. I have historically registered as present not voting when such motions have come before me.

## DISTRICT 49

**Daniel Krawisz (L)**  
No response

**Elliott Naishtat (D)**  
**Education:** B.A. Queens College; MSSW University of Texas at Austin, School of Social Work; J.D. University of Texas School of Law



**Experience:** VISTA Volunteer; Staff Counsel, Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos; Chairman, Austin Community Development Commission; Texas House of Representatives

**Q1:** More than 1 million working Texans fall into the health coverage gap. This is why I still support Texas accepting federal health care funds to close this gap by expanding traditional Medicaid, or negotiating with the federal government to develop a custom-built Texas Solution. With a custom-built solution, Texas could use private insurance plans that include reasonable co-pays, and the federal government will pay 90 percent of the cost.

**Q2:** Texas' need for water, fueled by population growth, is exacerbated by the state's severe drought. I supported implementation of the Texas Water Development Board's 2012 State Water Plan. This plan strengthens conservation efforts and allows communities to fund the local projects that they identified in the plan. Additionally, it is critical to preserve environmental resources, and enhance the protection of our rivers, bays and estuaries.

**Q3:** Following the Shelby decision, there is little federal oversight to prevent voter discrimination.

The states still have a full range of powers to promote fair elections, if the political will is there. In Texas, that is doubtful. The Texas Photo ID law is one of the most restrictive in the nation. We should revisit the law and provide simpler access for students, seniors, people with disabilities, minorities, low-income and rural voters.

**Q4:** The current method of redistricting has become indefensible and enormously costly. Change will be difficult, but I would be open to constructive ideas for change, including a citizen commission. A new system would have to be carefully crafted to ensure districts are geographically contiguous and compact, minimize the impact on local neighborhoods or communities of interest, be open and transparent and not diminish minority voting power.

## DISTRICT 50

**David Dreesen (L)**  
No response

**Celia Israel (D)**  
**Education:** Bachelor's degree in Government from the University of Texas at Austin, Class of 1988



**Experience:** Aide, Gov. Ann Richards; Fmr. Boards: GENaustin; Capital Area Food Bank; GENaustin; AISD school safety task force; Current; Hispanic Chamber BOD

**Q1:** I wholeheartedly support Medicaid expansion in the state of Texas. Our state has the highest percentage of uninsured citizens in the country, and we must expand our healthcare infrastructure to ensure every Texan has access quality healthcare. My hope is to pick up where moderate Republicans left off and try to forge an alliance for progress. Most business groups and social service agencies were for this. We need to find common ground on this.

**Q2:** This issue requires all hands-on-deck approach. Conservation is our highest priority, but we also must ensure we are

investing in research in technologies from desalination to reuse to ensure Texas has a sustainable water supply.

**Q3:** I strongly encourage Congress to support the Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014, which contains a set of voting protections that are flexible, forward-looking, and written to capture recent discrimination and stop discriminatory changes before elections take place. On a state level, my first bill will allow online voter registration, which will make the process more efficient and eliminate errors.

**Q4:** Yes. For too long, our state's federal and local district lines have been decided by partisan interests and political gamesmanship. An independent redistricting board would ensure voters select their representatives and not the other way around. The City of Austin did it -- the state of Texas can too.

**Mike VanDeWalle (R)**  
No response

## DISTRICT 51

**Arthur DiBianca (L)**



**Q1:** Like most Libertarians, I am opposed to government interference in health care. I believe it's unjust to force people to pay for other people's health care. A free market in health care would be a big improvement over the status quo.

**Q2:** A free market would help a lot. If the state and local governments remove restrictions on water pricing, the results will be beneficial. For example, in areas with water shortages, the price might go up a lot. That would result in greater supply, lower usage, and probably lower population growth.

**Q3:** If we want to prevent discrimination, let's start by allowing alternative political parties reasonable access to the ballot. One of the greatest voter discriminations is when you simply can't vote for the candidate you want, because the state refuses to put him or her on the ballot.

Right now, the state puts a huge petitioning burden on a new party, amounting to a \$150,000 filing fee.

**Q4:** I would prefer to have a small nonpartisan board, directly elected statewide at large. The board would have independent constitutional authority to draw the districts. I'm not a big fan of an appointed commission, because I think it would amount to gerrymandering by proxy.

**Eddie Rodriguez (D)**  
No response

## DISTRICT 52

**Larry Gonzales (R)**  
No response

**Irene Johnson (L)**  
**Education:** Center for Advanced Legal Studies, Champions school of real estate, Strayer University



**Experience:** Business owner and Secretary of Libertarian Party of Williamson County

**Q1:** I feel we should expand more free market solutions to ensure everyone has more reasonable access to health care.

**Q2:** Stopping oil companies from using fresh well water to use and encourage desalination instead.

**Q3:** I feel we need to encourage more young people to vote and make voting more accessible to voters.

**Q4:** Yes I support this idea because I feel citizens should be more involved in their congressional and state legislative districts. The power of the people speaks volumes in the area of public service. Citizens deserve to be an important part in this decision making process.

**Chris Osborn (D)**  
No response

## DISTRICT 136

**Justin Billiot (L)**  
No response

**John H. Bucy III (D)**  
**Education:**

Bachelor of Arts from Austin College in Sherman, Texas.



**Experience:** Founder of TCSAAL, an extra-curricular league that serves over 75,000 public school children. Director of ACE of Texas, an education advocacy group.

**Q1:** Yes I support the expansion of Medicaid. By expanding Medicaid, we will save lives and save money for Texas.

**Q2:** We need to have government buildings begin transitioning to xeriscape lots, then create an incentive program for individual home owners and private businesses to do the same. We also need to address the current infrastructure to deal with water loss, due to leaking pipes.

**Q3:** We need to repeal the voter ID bill and make it easier to vote. Voting is the sacred right of all Americans, and everyone deserves to have their voice be heard.

**Q4:** Excessive gerrymandering is a problem in Texas, and we should do what we can to make the process as fair as possible.

**Tony Dale (R)**  
**Education:** B.A.

Political Science, The Ohio State University, 1992 Graduate, U.S. Army Armor Officers Basic Course, Fort Knox, KY, 1992



**Experience:** State Rep. 2012-pres; member Energy Resources, Homeland Security & Public Safety, House Select Committee on Child Protection. Cedar Park Council 09-12

**Q1:** The DC-driven one-size fits all program will not work for Texas. The expansion would result in one of the largest tax increases in Texas history. I oppose expansion. I want a Texas

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# STATE REPRESENTATIVES / STATE SENATORS

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

Continued from Page 16

Plan whereby DC allows us flexibility to set rules for who is in the program, what items are covered and levels of payments to providers. We must encourage personal responsibility by using copayments, health savings

accounts, and high-deductible catastrophic plans.

**Q2:** I was co-author of HB 6 that was approved by voters as Prop 6 in 2013 to set aside \$2B in funding to address more than 25 years of projects under the state's water plan. Addressing infrastructure needs such as

water projects is a core function of government and in the next session I intend to continue to work on water related issues to ensure Central Texas has secure and diverse sources of water.

**Q3:** Fair and secure elections are critical to the preservation of our liberty. In order to

secure the ballot I will continue to support the use photo identification to ensure the integrity of the vote. I favor increased penalties for criminals who falsify mail-in ballots or prey upon elderly or disabled citizens to fraudulently cast votes on their behalf.

**Q4:** I favor preserving the citizenry's right to have their elected officials represent their interests in establishing boundaries for Texas legislative and Congressional districts, rather than an unelected panel.

## TEXAS SENATORS

**Q1: Health Care:** Texas has more citizens without health insurance than any other state. Do you support the expansion of Medicaid, or do you have another solution for those millions of uninsured Texans. Please explain.

**Q2: Water:** What is your position on a long-term policy for making sure that all Texas residents have an adequate supply of water?

**Q3: Voting Rights:** The U.S. Supreme Court decision in Shelby v. Holder struck down parts of the Voting Rights Act. What tools would you use to prevent discrimination in voting and to secure the ballot?

**Q4: Redistricting:** Would you support the use of an independent citizens redistricting commission to draw the congressional and state legislative districts? Why or why not? Please explain.

### DISTRICT 5

**Charles Schwertner (R)**

No response

**Joel Shapiro (D)**

**Education:** Joel attended School in California and Texas as a child and went on to complete an MBA with a concentration in Business Management

**Experience:** Joel served in the US Air Force during Vietnam War, served as Precinct Chair and has held senior management positions in the communications industry

**Q1:** I fully support the expansion of Medicaid as proposed by the White House within the State of Texas. The expanded coverage allows the remaining Texans not currently covered by ACA the same level of care as those who already benefit from ACA coverage. The cost of the expansion is off set by the tax dollars all Texans already pay to the Federal Government. It simply allows those tax dollars to flow back to Texas rather than going to other states

**Q2:** Water is and will be a serious issue in Texas. Along with in-



creased efforts to protect our current limited resource, I will introduce and support legislation to seek and develop new water sources and to make sure that water is available to all Texans at a reasonable cost in the future. Our problem is not that we don't have access to water it is that we don't have access to water where it is needed. I am committed to finding real solutions.

**Q3:** Every American citizen has a constitutional right to their vote and it is the responsibility of those in the government to protect and ensure that right. The actions taken in the recent legislative session curtailed those rights for many otherwise eligible voters. To remedy this injustice, I will introduce and support legislation to guaranty the right of every Texan to have their vote count.

**Q4:** The current system of the dominant political party carving up the state every 10 years is unacceptable. I support the creation of a non-party based citizen driven system to draw congressional and state legislature districts. To assure representation of all Texans, districts maps should fully represents the distribution of people living in a

contiguous area not a political patchwork favoring the dominant political party

**Matthew Whittington (L)**

**Experience:** 17 years Software development Serial Entrepreneur Compliance and Regulatory Officer of Bitcoin Startup.

**Q1:** Health insurance and healthcare are not the same thing. Today health insurance and healthcare environment is a result of the same regulatory and bureaucratic environment that has destroyed the ability of individuals and charities to fill this need. Medicaid should only be for the truly needy and disabled that have no charitable alternatives. It will take time, but charitable alternatives should be incentivized not an expansion of Medicaid.

**Q2:** Deregulation. This does not mean dirty water. It means removing governmental price and use controls. As scarcity of water increases, a free market would increase the prices to the point that alternative sources of water would become cost effective to provide. High water prices will hurt, but it can cause the problem to be solved instead of managed for political purposes.

**Q3:** Voter ID laws are not discriminatory. I have philosophical issues with our government mandating any ID, but in this case, we are participating IN our government. Requiring an ID in this case is not overly burdensome. You can currently obtain valid ID for free. That being said, if it is shown that you are actively obstructing voters or acting unethically, you should lose your



right to participate and lose any reward that you may have gotten.

**Q4:** No. Keeping politics out of redistricting is not possible. The only way I could see it is if a third party controlled redistricting and that would only work as long as they are not in power. I would, however, support a technological solution based strictly on population without any adjusting demographic factors.

### DISTRICT 14

**James Arthur Strohm (L)**

**Education:** Bachelor of Arts, University of TX at Austin, Dept. of English, 1983. Bachelor of Journalism, University of TX at Austin, 1987.

**Experience:** Libertarian nominee for US Congress TX-21, 2006, 2008, 2010; Member of State Libertarian Executive Committee 2014.

**Q1:** Government regulation of and intrusion into medicine is one of the greatest drivers of increased medical costs. The second greatest driver is insurance. With pay rates for Medicaid dropping as fast as costs are rising, many Texas providers no longer accept Medicaid patients. So expanding Medicaid simply will not work. A better alternative is for government to dramatically cut back its involvement in medicine, starting with repealing Obamacare.

**Q2:** Conserve, conserve, conserve. We're in the middle of what may prove to be our drought of record. Conservation, our best short-term solution, should be part of our long-term solution. We should provide for greater re-use of residential and industrial gray water for irri-

gation. Finally, we need to place strict limits on the commercial taking of ground water for any purpose when the taking affects rural residential users, regardless of prior rights.

**Q3:** Shelby v. Holder allowed enactment of SB 14, the Texas voter ID act. This unfortunate law does little to prevent voter fraud, which, based on years of prosecution records, is nearly non-existent. Instead, the act at best serves as an inconvenience to voters and poll workers alike; at worst, it serves as a poll tax targeting Texas' poorest, most disadvantaged citizens. Shelby v. Holder was a mistake; SB 14 is a debacle that must be repealed.

**Q4:** I've been a candidate for U.S. Congress 4 times since 2006; now I'm running Texas Senate District 14. I can't remember the last time I started a campaign without having been redistricted. Why? Because the existing redistricting system by the Texas House repeatedly returns district plans that are challenged in court, time after time. I would support a redistricting commission composed of independent citizens, because what we have now doesn't work.

**Kirk Watson (D)**

No response

### DISTRICT 25

**Daniel Boone (D)**

**Education:** MA 1968 & BA 65, UTexas; PhD Experimental Psychology, U Wyoming 75; Internship, Baylor/Waco VA Hospital 76; PhD Clinical Psychology & Li-



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# STATE SENATORS

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

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**Experience:** 26 years Military - Enlisted, LtCol USAF Ret; Research, Test & Evaluation, Contract Mgt, Hospital Clinical, Adjunct Univ. Prof, Business Owner, Rancher

**Q1:** I strongly support the expansion of Medicaid, especially with 100% of the cost being borne by the Federal Government for the first years and 90% thereafter. With the new AHC, Affordable Health Care, a different solution is not necessary when Medicaid provides care for those ineligible for AHC coverage and Chip covering the balance of uninsured children. Texans need health care; it is both humane and cost saving.

**Q2:** Water is not a commodity to be bought and sold to the highest bidder. We must work to develop a multi-state, integrated, fifty-year water plan that assures adequate supplies of water to urban areas, agricultural needs and industrial requirements. Both ground water and surface water must be assessed to insure water rights for every Texan. Pollution of water must stop; the quality of our water is also of utmost importance.

**Q3:** Americans have fought long and hard and died to secure voting rights for all citizens. We must not allow that right to be taken for political gain. If the

U.S. Congress fails to revise Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, the Texas legislature must work to amend the Texas Constitution either on its own or by referendum to be voted on by the people of Texas. Like redistricting, voting rights must easily be available to every citizen.

**Q4:** I support the use of an independent citizens commission to fairly draw congressional and state legislative districts. This will assure an appropriate balance in our legislature, important for fair representation and avoid times consuming expensive litigation, all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Additional discussion welcome on all issues.

## Donna Campbell (R)

**Education:** B.S. Central State University; M.N. Texas Woman's University; M.D. Texas Tech Health Science Center; General Surgical Internship, Methodist Hospital

**Experience:** Sen. Donna Campbell was first elected in 2012. She sits on Education and Veterans Affairs Committees, and received a Courageous Defense of Life Award.

**Q1:** As a doctor, I have seen the broken Medicaid system firsthand. The expansion of it will cost taxpayers billions without providing access to quali-

ty care that more Texans need. Due to government burdens on doctors, emergency rooms are already being overcrowded with non-emergencies, and Obamacare is driving health care costs up. Medicaid expansion will make the problem worse. A better solution is block grants and mobile clinics for indigent care.

**Q2:** With the Texas population increasing and persistent drought conditions affecting the state, it is imperative we invest in the necessary infrastructure to keep up with this growth and keep our economy strong. The \$2 billion voters approved last November to set up an evergreen loan for key water projects across the state will have a dramatic impact. Now our duty as lawmakers is to oversee that these tax dollars are spent wisely and efficiently.

**Q3:** Discrimination at the ballot box is illegal and I will make sure any allegation of unlawful discrimination is fully investigated. Fortunately, this has nothing to do with parts of the Voting Rights Act that the U.S. Supreme Court struck down. That ruling simply gave Texas lawmakers the right to set our own congressional districts like other states are allowed to do without having to go through the Obama Administration or federal government first.

**Q4:** States that have attempted to put independent com-

missions in charge of redistricting have generally failed to draw lines considerably different from the overall outcome achieved by elected lawmakers. Even more concerning, because these commissions are not accountable to the voters, they are more susceptible to outside influences. I believe the process is most transparent when conducted by elected officials acting in their legislative duties.

## Brandin P. Lea (L)

**Education:** Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - MBA Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - BS Aeronautics Park University - BS CIS/M US Army - CaPM and PMP

**Experience:** Project Manager, Defense Contractor, Business Owner, Community Activist, Volunteer, Military Veteran

**Q1:** It is no mystery that comprehensive healthcare is very important to most citizens of the United States and Texas is no exception to that understanding. It should also be noted that government meddling in healthcare along with any other aspect of our individual lives has been disastrous to the state of Texas as a whole. I do not support the expansion of Medicaid, Medicare or any other government sanctions on the individual right to choice.

**Q2:** Water is the key to life, and without it Texas would cease to exist. We stand at a point in history where the planet is undergoing change, whether by natural causes or human intervention. The people of Texas need to own their choices of water use, not the government. Therefore I do not support government involvement in the uses of Texas water supplies. It drives up cost of living and taxes for no reason. Free market and educated choices prevail.

**Q3:** We are at a point that our innovative and technological prowess can overcome the needs for restrictive or abusive laws that inhibit voting or even cause voting fraud. The electoral college must remain intact and any laws requiring specific types of identification must be done away with. Putting together a non-government commission to review the technologies available, ensuring non partisan involvement, will begin to alleviate concerns.

**Q4:** No, doing this is how popular vote democracies begin to surface. When this happens abuses of individuals constitutional rights begin to occur. No one group of people should have any power or authority over another, regardless of size or numbers. The districting as it is causes problems enough as they are laid out because of dense city centers swinging votes.



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# AUSTIN BOND / AUSTIN MAYOR

## CITY OF AUSTIN BOND PROPOSITION PROPOSITION 1

**Ballot language:** The issuance of \$600,000,000 bonds and notes for rail systems, facilities and infrastructure, including a fixed rail transit system to be operated by Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (which may spend its funds to build, operate and maintain such system) servicing the East Riverside Corridor, downtown Austin, the State Capitol complex, the Medical School complex, the University of Texas, Hancock Center, Austin Community College Highland campus, and surrounding neighborhoods, and roadway improvements related to such rail systems, facilities and infrastructure; provided that the City may not issue bonds or notes to pay costs of the fixed rail transit system (other than expenditures for planning, designing and engineering necessary to obtain grant and/or match funding) unless (i) the City obtains grant or match finding for the cost of the fixed rail transit system from the Federal Transit Administration or one or more other federal or state sources and (ii) the City provides funding in an amount not less than \$400,000,000 to pay costs of roadway improvement projects of regional significance that are designed to relieve congestion, enhance mobility and manage traffic in the I-35, US 183, SH 71, RM 620, RM 1826, RM 2222, FM 734 (Parmer), Lamar Boulevard, and Loop 360 corridors; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.

**Explanation of Proposition 1:** Voters will decide whether or not to authorize the city to borrow \$600 million toward the cost of a \$1 billion, 9.5-mile urban rail line in Central and Southeast Austin. The ballot language includes two conditions: (1) the rail project could commence only after the Austin City Council commits to an additional \$400 million for road projects on highways of "regional significance," such as I-35, US 183, and SH 71; and (2) the city won't build the urban rail line unless the Federal Transit Administration or other state or federal agency agrees to match what the city puts into the project. If approved, the line would open for service about 2022. Resulting debt payments would likely increase the total tax bill on a \$200,000 home by \$217 per year, according to city officials. The city would own the rail line, and it would be operated by Capital Metro.

### Proponents say

■ With a net increase of 100 people into the area per day and 70 vehicles, transportation is the area's top challenge and demands a comprehensive solution, including the addition of an urban rail system.

■ Bond issue approval will fund regionally significant road improvements and provide design and engineering funds to accelerate start dates for priority corridors. This includes IH-35 intersection improvements at Riverside, Oltorf, Stassney, and William Cannon; direct connects to the airport from US 183 and SH 71; and design and engineering projects to speed up improvements on Loop 360, RM 620, RM 2222, and Parmer Lane. The program also will leverage state funding through TxDOT partnerships.

■ The bonds may help bring back to the Austin area more than \$600 million in federal tax dollars for the urban rail system that would otherwise go elsewhere.

■ Research shows that the rapidly growing congestion of the region can only be addressed by using all transportation options, including urban rail. The addition of urban rail will assist in maintaining air quality and encourage more densely populated development and shorter home-to-work trips.

■ The proposed urban rail system will integrate with the existing 32-mile MetroRail commuter system, much like a thoroughfare integrates with a highway or interstate.

### Opponents say

■ The proposed urban rail bond costs too much and does too little.

■ The proposed route in North Austin, from Highland Mall south along Airport Boulevard and Red River Street, is the wrong corridor. There will not be sufficient ridership. The proposal instead should include a Guadalupe Street and North Lamar Boulevard route.

■ The urban rail and road bonds should be voted on separately.

■ \$50 million of the \$400 million road bond package is actually for urban rail construction.

■ There is no guarantee that Austin will receive federal matching funds.

■ The just-rebuilt Waller Creek Boathouse will have to be torn down again to make way for the urban rail bridge across Lady Bird Lake and must be replaced at taxpayers' expense.

## AUSTIN MAYOR

**Q1: Cooperation:** If elected, what strategies will you use to prevent ward politics and to ensure cooperation among all council members?

**Q2: Transportation:** Austin's population is growing quickly and in many areas of the city. What public transportation efforts do you support to serve the Austin-area population?

**Q3: Affordability:** There is a lack of affordable housing in Austin. What programs do you support to create more affordable housing units in all the areas of the city?

**Q4: Water:** In view of the continued drought, what steps would you take to preserve our water supplies and natural resources?

**Q5: CodeNEXT:** The city has been holding meetings for public input on the process to redesign the way Austin will develop, considering the increase in population and Imagine Austin's vision plan (our long-term plan). How will you weigh the different forms of stakeholder input to the rewrite of our land-use code (CodeNEXT)?

### Steve Adler

**Education:** First in family to graduate from college. BA, Princeton '78.

AB, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and Int'l Affairs, 74-'78. JD, Univ. of Texas '82.

**Experience:** 10 years as civil rights attorney and 30 practicing eminent domain law. 8+ years in State Senate as chief of staff. 20 years on boards of non-profits

**Q1:** First 100 days of new Council should be devoted to framing long-term issues: Every Council Member leads entire Council for a full day in their district; council brings in speakers on policy areas to interact with Council; designed to support council members thinking broadly, policy-oriented, long-term, proactive; we need shared vocabulary. New Committee structure with each Member a committee chair and vice chair with city-wide responsibilities.

**Q2:** It is estimated that our population in the area will grow from 2 to 4 million in 25 years. We need an all of the above approach including public transit, roads, bikeways, and trails. Even if we built every project on the CAMPO 2035 wishlist (which would cost \$30bil+), we would still have terrible traffic. We can't just build our way out of the problem. This is ultimately a land-planning question, and we need to change where and how we live.

**Q3:** The most important issues impacting affordable hous-



ing are political will, the land development code, and permitting. A mayor must rally the community. The LDC must be re-written to encourage affordable density and protect neighborhoods. Permitting must be reformed by making it cheaper, faster, more predictable. Must computerize everything and encourage a culture of customer service. By changing building risk profiles, we can increase the supply.

**Q4:** Before we consider an expensive conveyance system or purchasing new supplies from the east, we must do everything that we can to conserve and re-use our existing water supply. We must expand our purple pipe re-use water system and remove barriers to use. We must re-vamp the water utility's business model so it is not dependent on selling more and more water. We rally conservation and take steps with city code to allow for more re-use.

**Q5:** This is one of the most important things happening in the city. Some groups feel left out. We need all stakeholders at the table so that the end product is deliberate, considered, and generally agreed upon by all parties that it impacts. We must preserve affordability, protect neighborhoods, and make the code easier to navigate and understand. We must set the rules so that they are predictable so as to reduce variances.

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# AUSTIN MAYOR

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## Sheryl Cole

**Education:** I graduated from the University of Texas in 1986 earning my BBA in accounting and then I went back to UT to earn my law degree in 1991.

**Experience:** I was a practicing CPA and lawyer, former PTA President of Lee Elementary; the first African American woman on the City Council, and Mayor Pro Tem.

**Q1:** The fact that 78 people are running for City Council should be celebrated. For too long we've failed to tap Austin's pool of diverse talent and experience. I believe a bigger threat than ward politics is a Mayor who believes it's their way or the highway, and fails to bring a collaborative approach that brings people together. As Mayor, I would strengthen the council committee structure around functional areas rather than geographic ones.

**Q2:** I voted to put rail on the ballot in November and I also plan to support it personally. There are others who are trying to thread the needle to score politically even if Prop.1 fails. That's not leadership. There's a high cost for inaction. That's why I have strongly supported giving Austin mobility options, including enhanced public transit, improved road infrastructure for MoPac and I-35, safe biking routes and car sharing services.

**Q3:** When the affordable housing bonds were rejected at the ballot, I took the lead to reassemble the coalition of community organizations and put the bonds back on the ballot, and I was one of the first to recognize that bottlenecks in our planning and development review were causing building permits to get delayed. I have worked on several initiatives to improve the speed and simplicity of our code and permitting to allow for new housing supply.

**Q4:** Conservation is easily the best investment in water resources that we can make. We have made significant strides



in recent years, but drought and population growth demands that we re-double our efforts. Our reclaimed water programs deserve our focus and require broader implementation to reach their potential. Lastly, we should immediately consider implementation of the citizen task force recommendations on water resource planning.

**Q5:** Three decades of amendments to our land development code has given us a document that is difficult to use, contradictory in its interpretation, and in need of alignment with our community's long-term plan, Imagine Austin. CodeNext is a difficult but necessary community conversation. No stakeholder should have outsized weight in its development and the highly technical effort will be driven by an outside moderator.

## Ronald Culver

**Q1:** No response

**Q2:** As of this point in time, I do not endorse any of the City's present proposals. I do have ideas that I will discuss with the City Planner, and if they are helpful and feasible the Council with share with the citizenry.

**Q3:** I feel we, the City Council should work on slowing Austin's inflation rate. I feel throwing money at the problem to businesses is not the answer. I feel Austin's City Council has been too business conscious, instead of people conscious.

**Q4:** Water is a natural resource, which we all need to survive. Conservation is highly necessary at all times, since we are at the whims of nature to replenish or provide this valuable need. Adding an usage tax to the utility bills is an absolute wrong way to go.

**Q5:** No response

## Mary C. Krenak

No response

## Mike Martinez

**Education:** A graduate of Leadership Austin, Council Member Martinez attended Austin Community College and the University of Texas at Austin.



**Experience:** Mike Martinez is a former Austin Firefighter and current City Council Member who has spent his career protecting Austin's middle class.

**Q1:** Austin is facing a historic change this November. At least 9 out of 11 members will be new. I believe one of the most important functions of our next Mayor will be to help our almost entirely new Council be successful in the initiatives that support their district and protect the middle class. Our next Mayor must ensure that everyone has a voice; he or she must understand how local government works, why it matters, and how it can help people.

**Q2:** I support an affordable mix of roads, bus lanes, bike paths and rail that enables Austin's middle class to get to places like work, school and the grocery store. I believe Project Connect is a plan that will help address our congestion problem. I am proud of the work I have done to ensure the long-term sustainability of Capital Metro as Board Chair. I helped lead the agency from the brink of insolvency to firm financial footing.

**Q3:** The affordable housing bond recently approved by voters is one way to address that need. I also support creating a Homestead Preservation District and efforts to increase density on transit corridors and in our urban core. I support a balanced approach to property tax relief that helps middle class families and protects renters and doesn't shift the tax burden from our wealthiest residents to the most vulnerable.

**Q4:** The use of graywater will be the largest factor for conservation and consumption in the future. We must employ programs to require more reuse in new and existing subdivisions and on commercial properties. We should also fix leaking infrastructure that wastes millions of gallons of potable water. Land planning that encourages urban density, which requires less water and energy use, may also help us preserve our water supply.

**Q5:** We need to balance stakeholder input in a way that leads

us to a final plan that meets the needs of Austin's middle class. The Imagine Austin process was successful because of the stakeholder engagement process. I fully support utilizing Imagine Austin as our guide for how to address the growth Austin will face moving forward. It reflects much of what I have worked toward during my time on Council to create a compact and connected Austin.

## David Orshalick

**Education:** Business degree in Industrial Management, extensive post-graduate coursework UT Austin in Computer Science and Instructional Technology.

**Experience:** Veteran USAF, electronic tech, small bus. owner/manager, tradeshow producer, tech writer, textbook author, college instructor, neighborhood activist.

**Q1:** As a strong proponent of Robert's Rules of Order, I will maintain efficient use of public and Council meeting times with one exception: I will call out councilmembers deviating from what benefits citizens as a whole. My standard: If it's good for Austinites, do it! If it's bad for Austinites, stop it! However, what is good for one neighborhood or district will often be good for all, so balance and equity in decision-making will be encouraged.

**Q2:** Reorganize CapMetro to serve as a competent and reliable mass transit partner for the City. Bus routes and schedules will serve high density and lower income areas where need is greatest. A system of 22 transit centers or hubs throughout Austin with direct transfers between centers will provide faster transit times. Mass transit innovations will pass cost-benefit analyses to keep cost of living low. Innovative shuttles serve niche transit needs.

**Q3:** Build 2400 affordable housing units above the 22 transit centers of previous question. Reorganize CapMetro to accommodate transit oriented devel-



opment (TOD) outside Austin's core, and form Public-Private Partnerships (P3) with non-profits and institutional investors. Preserve character and quality of life of our neighborhoods. Reduce property taxes through operational efficiencies at all taxing authorities. Stop all City marketing & recruitment.

**Q4:** Implement recommendations of the Austin Water Resource Planning Task Force, especially a 25-year Integrated Water Resource Plan (as part of a City Strategic Plan). Prioritize conservation and reuse. Treat and reuse storm water. Enhance efforts to reduce leaks and system losses. Modify code to encourage residential and industrial water reuse. Revive native plant xeriscape initiatives. Improve drought preparedness and foster regional cooperation.

**Q5:** Citizen and stakeholder input will be solicited in an efficient, effective, and transparent manner through the City's website. The City Council will streamline Imagine Austin, our comprehensive plan, to be less of a social engineering experiment that erodes our quality of life. CodeNEXT consultants will reformat and reorganize the Land Development Code (LDC). Only then will the LDC be changed to follow requirements in the new comprehensive plan.

## Todd Phelps

**Education:** I grew up in Austin and went to Hill Elementary, Hyde Park High School, ACC and the University of Texas

**Experience:** Alternative Wind Energy founder and Austin local business owner, Event production company owner and very involved in several charities.

**Q1:** I think the great thing about our new single member district system is that it will do just that, ensure that all communities of our diverse city are fairly represented. For far too long under the at-large member approach, City Council has historically been disproportionately



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# AUSTIN MAYOR / AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

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controlled by a few select neighborhoods. As mayor, I will work with all members of City Council to make sure all of our communities have a voice in their city government.

**Q2:** I support bus service being expanded to under served areas. I also support using more fuel efficient shuttle style vehicles where ridership is not as dense on certain routes in order to most efficiently serve the public. I also support an all of the above 21st century solution which includes private investment as well. I support an above ground transportation nexus starting from the dense areas and along the most congested corridors.

**Q3:** As someone who I grew up here I understand the soul of Austin and the soul of Austin is it's people. Those people are being pushed out of Austin because of the affordability crisis. That is why I am advocating for a property tax exemption

which will extend to rental properties in addition to residential homesteads in order to help protect renters in Austin. I also am advocating for utility rate relief for renters especially in regard to fees.

**Q4:** I will make sure that all blocked tributaries to Lake Travis are opened. I will look for other regional sources. I will make sure we continue to maintain our contract with the LCRA for the fifty years we do and add to that advocating that we are guaranteed that the water we need is not going to be let down the river in times of drought. Encourage the water utility to develop and implement a plan for citywide water-efficient infrastructure.

**Q5:** Dan Paralek of Opticos design who has been heading up the code next process said in his presentation that the definition of compatibility is to exist together without conflict. In addition to a resolution without conflict I would like to take that one step further and work for out-

comes where all parties involved consider the outcome a win win and to the betterment of all. I would like to achieve a land use code that can facilitate just that.

## Randall Stephens

**Education:** Waggoner OK H.S. graduate class of '79 US-AF Aircraft Maintenance Schools Community College of the Air Force Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

**Experience:** Founder and CEO ADBIRDS.COM Employer as: AD&M Advertising President, TEJAVIA LLC - Aircraft Brokerage. AMT, American Airlines

**Q1:** As in my campaign communications, I will consistently promote the concept of #OneATX and #OneAustin. My leadership will be based on Communication, Cooperation, Information, Action & Trust. Developing net city council positions will require intense communication and respect for different



perceptions by some members from that of the majority, yet I will stress we have to respect and confer with each member, to treat each minority as an equal.

**Q2:** Fix freeway traffic jams. Austin must prioritize removal of traffic lights from area commuter freeways along SH183, 360, 290 and 71. The city must quickly develop and implement plans in cooperation with CTRMA and TXDOT to that end. Example A: SH71 & E. Riverside intersection bridged. Project took approximately one year to complete and the traffic now flows freely from ABIA. Establish costs for rail options including extending Red Line to ABIA.

**Q3:** Re-prioritize economic incentives package to support attracting regional small businesses into a new, connected "growth ring" of light industry, retail and multifamily housing units with substantial percentage of Sec. 8 apartments, condominiums outside commuter freeways E. 183, S. I-35, 290. Explore possi-

ble commodity-level purchase in bulk of construction materials for complexes to reduce costs and pass on savings to home builders and buyers.

**Q4:** 1). I would ask city council to order institutional and commercial properties other than recreational facilities to stop watering grass and replace greater than 90% of lawns with drought resistant native or desert plants and landscaping. 2). I would ask city council to order new homes to have no greater than 30 seconds from opening any hot water tap until hot water is delivered to any faucet or shower/bathtub, + re-use of grey water to lawns.

**Q5:** I will protect neighborhood integrity first of all. Preventing further hi-rise development in and around our entertainment district and near-East Austin; develop a new "growth ring" along and outside of SH183, connected by improved freeways without traffic lights or tolls, more urban commuter trails.

## AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

**Q1: Transportation:** Austin's population is growing quickly and in many areas of the city. What public transportation efforts do you support to serve the Austin-area population?

**Q2: Affordability:** There is a lack of affordable housing in Austin. What programs do you support to create more affordable housing units in all areas of the city?

**Q3: Water:** In view of the continued drought, what steps would you take to preserve our water supplies and natural resources?

**Q4: District Issues:** What are the three most critical issues in your district and how will you address them?

### DISTRICT 1

#### Andrew Bucknall

**Education:** St. Edwards, Master of Science: Organizational Leadership and Ethics; Huston-Tillotson, Bachelor of Arts: Political Science/Leadership; Austin Graduate

**Experience:** Chairman, City of Austin Urban Renewal Board\*Chairman, City of Austin Urban Transportation Commission\*Member City of Austin Affordable Housing Comm.

**Q1:** Safe walking and bike



routes for kids to school. Increase ticketing for unsafe car and bike drivers. Expand roads, improve traffic flow, eliminating left turns where possible. Scale bus size to meet demand with smaller buses and more frequent schedule. Increase park and ride service to use as transit nodes to get people into downtown. Support planning that emphasizes nearby services to allow neighborhood accessibility to jobs and fresh foods.

**Q2:** Incentivize mixed income affordable housing with access to transit instead of concentrations of poverty. Address residen-

tial fraud of home owners claiming multiple homestead exemptions. Commercial properties pay their fair share of property taxes. Keep Austin Energy under control of City Council to keep utility rates affordable. Create forgivable loan program to low income residents to install solar to create sustainable affordability

**Q3:** Increase incentives and education for rebate programs. Encourage conservation. Use non-potable water for commercial/city landscape irrigation, explore best practices and costs for water reuse. Conduct audit and address current annual losses of water on City side from old inefficient cast steel pipe delivery system. Continue to support rain water collection with rebates and drought resistant landscaping.

**Q4:** Community police relations, affordability, and environment. Property and drug crime are high in District One. I support funding APD to levels to allow full staffing. Community policing cannot be done with the current staffing model. Officers

have time to respond to calls, write reports and still work overtime with no opportunity to engage the community. I will work with residents to find innovative solutions to overcome the barriers we face.

#### Michael D. Cargill

**Education:** Troy State University, 1989-1993

**Experience:** Owner of Central Texas Gun Works; Former owner of training school, trucking company; Former Manager at telecomm company, Sergeant in the U.S. Army

**Q1:** Restructuring bus routes and bus stops could improve the public's access to transportation for commuting to work and at the same time relieve traffic congestion.

**Q2:** Proper long-term tax and spending management by the Council would alleviate affordability issues in Austin for all residents. The City is hurting affordability by increasing property taxes and spending year after year.



**Q3:** Any supplementary water supply to Austin's current water supply should be a part of the City's comprehensive water plan. I support sustainable development, for example, incorporating rain water trapping into irrigation systems.

**Q4:** 1. Traffic and Public Transportation: Restructuring bus routes and bus stops could improve District 1's access to transportation. 2. Education: The City Council should reallocate Austin Parks and Library services to increase access, including bilingual services, and lower costs to the citizens of District 1. 3. Efficiency: Reducing wasteful spending and keeping tax-paying citizens' interests in mind, will always be my priority.

#### George Hindman

**Education:** M.S. Aerospace Engineering, UT-Austin; B.S. Aerospace Engineering, University of Virginia;



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# AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

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FAA certified Commercial Pilot and Flight Instructor

**Experience:** President of Keystone Aerospace, aerospace R&D firm; former Astronaut Instructor at NASA Johnson Space Center; also worked at Dell & Applied Materials

**Q1:** Since large capital expenditures are required to improve congestion, it is important to develop solutions that make economic sense. The Project Connect plan costs hundreds of millions of dollars and produces limited results. I believe that near term spending should be made to optimize signal synchronization, improve east-west corridors, study elevated decks, promote flexible employee schedules and explore innovations from the private sector.

**Q2:** With the cost of living continuing to increase, Austinites need assistance on multiple fronts. My specific proposals include: 1) a 10% homestead exemption for all, 2) an additional 10% exemption for first time home buyers, 3) a long term homeowner tax ceiling, 4) end utility revenue diversions to lower consumer rates and 5) a land development code rewrite that achieves a proper balance between affordability and city regulations.

**Q3:** Current water levels are at 35% of capacity. Every year we lose 3 billion gallons of water alone to broken pipes and an aging infrastructure. I would direct annual water utility expenditures and future bonds to fixing pipes - the most effective method of conservation is to prevent infrastructure losses. I would also support better rainwater collection methods and implement various gray water options for reuse in irrigation and cooling systems.

**Q4:** In addition to affordability, District 1 has significant unemployment/underemployment. Since small businesses produce the greatest number of jobs, more focus should be on local entrepreneurs who currently cannot expand due to the city's complex regulations. Also, free-

dom of speech concerns have arisen since other Texas cities have recently attempted to dictate acceptable speech and behavior for their employees, citizens and businesses.

## Ora Houston

**Education:** Huston-Tillotson University BA Psychology/Sociology 1966

**Experience:** Texas Mental Health & Mental Retardation, Staff Sen. Barrientos, SafePlace, Imagine Austin Citizens Advisory Task Force, Family ElderCare

**Q1:** It is vital that the new Council be free to implement a comprehensive transportation plan that connects all of Austin instead of the current North/South model. I support public transit and I support rail. The Imagine Austin Growth Concept Map indicates that growth will be along the edges or near District #1. The city must develop a transportation system that encourage people to take public transportation that connects the entire city of Austin.

**Q2:** Please define what you mean by "affordability". We must focus on creating truly workforce housing. The median family income in DI is \$42,000. We need policies that allow workers and families, public servants and teachers to live in the city. I support using public lands to increase workforce housing throughout the city.

**Q3:** The business model of the water department must be re-assessed. There are things in place but need more education such as: internal water audits; use of gray water in all public spaces; more efficient use of gates at Longhorn dam. Need to study the impact of using Lake Austin, Lady Bird Lake and/or Decker Lake in well defined emergencies. Suggest that environmentalist and developers have a conversation about this critical issue.

**Q4:** Education: Work with elected officials of the AISD and the Travis County delegation to identify a way to have some of the recapture funds returned to low performing schools in Dis-



trict 1. Workforce housing located in the district, including opportunities for home ownership and rental units. Meaningful employment opportunities, with wages that will support a single person or family with children, without the need for public assistance

## Chris Hutchins

**Education:** High School degree, some college

**Experience:** Lots of experiences.

**Q1:** More busses at more frequent intervals 24 hours per day, and have the routes be designed by crowdsourcing.

**Q2:** Develop elsewhere. Create schemes of stabilization.

**Q3:** The steps necessary to conserve water are more radical and necessary than people are willing to accept, perhaps. The answer is that growth as we know it must cease.

**Q4:** Housing, wages and transportation. Some people use the verb "to address" to mean solve or repair. If I'm not mistaken, it means to draw attention to. The issue with housing comes from an imbalance in property taxation on all fronts. The issue with wages is that people who work for minimum or low wage jobs can't lead a life of decency in society. The issue with transportation is you can't get anywhere on time relying on public transit.



## Norman Jacobson

No response

## DeWayne Lofton

**Education:** Austin Community College, Principals of insurance and Criminal justice

**Experience:** Former Chairman Travis County Children's Protective Services Board; 2006 Bond Advisory Committee; Commissioner, Austin Human Rights Commission

**Q1:** As stated, Austin's population is rapidly growing and we are increasingly in need of different transportation options. For the most part, we have lost the ability to build new capacity. There-



fore, we must look at other forms of transportation. I support light rail as a mode of transportation. We also have to look at other forms of public transportation like rapid bus, bikes and trails in response to our multimodal approach to this problem.

**Q2:** I am proposing a property tax exemption on your homestead as an immediate relief to rising property taxes. In addition to this, I suggest we continue to work with developers who receive incentives and bonuses to require them to build in more affordable units. A lot of the affordable housing gets shifted to certain parts of town, but I feel it needs to be spread citywide and will work to ensure this happens.

**Q3:** In order to safeguard our limited water supply, we must continue to promote conservation. In addition to this, as we must create developments that do not require a lot of water and that have limited impact on the environment. We also need to start connecting more businesses and other high end users to reclaimed water. Instead of using portable water for irrigation, chilling and fabrication, those uses should be switched to reclaimed water.

**Q4:** Affordability, Jobs and economic development. I'm proposing a property tax exemption as well as homestead preservation district to address the affordability issue. I will work with the Greater Austin Chamber and others to attract a major employer to Austin that pays high wages for middle and low income citizens. Finally, promote our small businesses to help them grow and work to develop new entrepreneurs through assistance programs.

## Valerie Menard

**Education:** BA-English, UT Austin BJ-Journalism, UT Austin

**Experience:** Austin Arts Commission, 1992-98 Center for Mexican American Cultural Arts, 1998-present Hispanic Quality of Life Initiative, 2009

**Q1:** Listening to the priorities of residents in my district, I would



support expanding bus routes to reach outlying areas of Austin and to run more frequently and efficiently. I support rail but not an increase in property taxes at this time. I support developing an electric vehicle infrastructure to include FREE charging stations. We need freeways, not toll roads. I would support toll-free Mondays on all toll roads and HOV lanes on IH35 and Mopac.

**Q2:** Austin voters approved a \$55 million bond package for affordable housing in 2006 and \$65 million for affordable housing last year. In 2012 we voted to issue \$78 million in housing bonds so funding is not the issue. Clearly Austin voters support the concept but I would like to see these projects distributed citywide, not just east of IH 35. Like Colony Park in Dist.1, partnerships with HUD can create more sustainable communities in Austin.

**Q3:** The city has many good rebate programs already in place, e.g. drought survival tools for the yard, rainwater harvesting, to ramp up water conservation beyond watering restrictions but better marketing may be necessary to inform consumers about them, especially in historically underserved communities. I would support funding a bilingual marketing initiative.

**Q4:** The three issues of concern are property taxes, traffic congestion, and access to city services. Homestead exemptions, whether a percentage or flat figure, have gained the most traction as a solution to rising property taxes. I support the concept and will work with fellow council members to find cuts to help fund either option. I would open toll roads to address congestion and will place a priority on parks, libraries, and erosion projects

## Sam Osemene

**Education:** University of Texas at Austin, B.A., Political Science; Texas State University, M.A., Political Science; Texas State University, M.A., International Studies.

**Experience:** A candidate for

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# AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

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the Austin City Council in 2010 for Place 6.

**Q1:** Bus system: We need to improve on the services being offered by the Capitol Metro. It makes sense since the city is growing to have a 24 hr bus service, add more bus stops to some neighborhoods. Urban Rail. We need an urban rail that connects the whole city. The current proposal is not good enough for the city. We must make sure every section of the city benefits from the rail system. Bike Way: We must be a bicycle friendly City.

**Q2:** 1. A 20% Homestead Exemption for home Owners and Seniors'. 2. Cut property taxes. 3. Private and public sector partnership. 4. Reviewing some of the City Ordinances that are anti-business/private sector: Obtaining building permits, Inspections regulations, city codes that are not business friendly and streamlining the bureaucracy to make it easier for builders and home owners to build.

**Q3:** Public education is needed in order to make this happen. We must encourage residents to conserve water through education. We can also encourage people to retrofit their homes to meet the needs of our time. The people of Austin have to decide if we need another Water Treatment Plant to meet the needs of the growing population.

**Q4:** Affordable Housing: We must have a private and public sector partnership, review the City codes that make it hard to build. Property Taxes: We are being taxed too much. We need a 20% Homestead Exemption for homeowners and grand-father clause for our seniors. We must not be forcing our seniors and the poor to sell their homes because they cannot afford to pay these irresponsible taxes. Public Safety: Support our police officers, EMS and Fire Dept.

## DISTRICT 2

**Delia Garza**

**Education:** B.S. Journalism, Texas A&M University



ty, 1999 J.D. Gonzaga University, School of Law, 2010

**Experience:** Austin Firefighter/EMT (2001-2007) Assistant Attorney General, Child Support Division (2011-present) Member of the 2012 Charter Revision Committee

**Q1:** Our approach to transportation has to be multimodal. I generally support the Project Connect vision, but do have concerns about the lack of efficient and dependable public transportation options in South Austin. I would support more busses on each route and more dedicated bus lanes, and I will support the right rail plan that provides the biggest benefit to the greatest amount of Austinites at the lowest possible cost.

**Q2:** I believe that we should strategically invest the voter-approved bond funds in ways that supplies the City with as many affordable units as possible. I think we should consider prohibiting the allowance of developers paying a fee in lieu at least in some circumstances. We should ensure that the fee paid is a sufficient investment to help Austin families struggling to make ends meet. In addition, we should prohibit source of income discrimination.

**Q3:** We should look for innovative ways to continue to conserve beyond the traditional practices such as low flush toilets and low use water heads. There is no single solution that will solve our problems related to water quality and protecting our water resources, and we must expand on a comprehensive approach to address these issues long term. If elected, I'll use the report issued by the Austin Water Planning Task Force as a guide.

**Q4:** Families are still facing ongoing issues related to unsafe living conditions in the Onion Creek area resulting from the Halloween floods. I'll be a strong advocate for finding solutions to address these challenges. Affordable housing is also a critical issue and we need to expand affordable housing options. I will also work tirelessly to address the existence of food deserts

and lack of services that enable healthy living in District 2.

**Mike Owen**

**Education:**

A.A.S. EET

**Experience:** U.S.

Army, 89-92 UPS

92-96 Semiconductor eng/tech. 96-2003 Cirrus Logic, Novelus Systems, Mattson technology journeyman/master sign electrician

**Q1:** This is the number one problem for us in district two and most of Austin. I believe a comprehensive transportation solution is needed. I think the Lone Star Rail project is worth looking at. ( <http://lonestarrail.com> ) I think we have done a poor job in Austin of managing our resources in this area. While Prop. 1, Urban rail, does too little and cost too much, ignoring the need for a loop around the city and pandering to the bicycle community.

**Q2:** Yes it makes the list as a big problem. In a growing city where rents and values of domiciles are rising faster than the wages, we have done nothing to help. In addition, taxes and fees have gone up consistently with absolutely no help for our middle class. The COA loves to give out millions of dollars to million and billionaires with no relief for tax payers. We oppose corporate welfare in most cases. The solution is found by managing our \$

**Q3:** The COA loves to talk about saving water. They should lead by example. Buying a golf course in Circle C for \$9.8 million does not look or sound like they want to conserve water or money. Running their sprinklers in the middle of the day when it is 100 degrees F, at noon, while threatening to fine its citizens is absurd at best. Telling restaurants not to serve water and turning off water faucets at city parks does nothing but enrage people.

**Q4:** District two is full of blue collar workers. Electricians, plumbers, welders, carpenters, stone masons, movers, painters, pipe layers and many more construction trades. The compact and connected model does not work for us. We have to get to work building this city. We cannot



take a bus or a bike to work. We need roads. We need good wages to pay or taxes and feed our families. We need our government to spend our money wisely.

**Edward Reyes**

No response

**John C. Sheppard**

No response

## DISTRICT 3

**Susana Almanza**

**Education:** Para-

legal - Career Centers of Texas

**Experi-**

**ence:** Model of civic engagement; spent life organizing for underprivileged; served on City's Planning Commission, CD-C, PARD, Enviro Board & numerous committees.

**Q1:** Multifaceted approach that includes demand management: staggered work hours & working from home - by State, county, city & private business employers. Comprehensive neighborhood strategy focused on access & safety: lighting, sidewalks, crosswalks, bicycle lanes & trails. Rapid buses - Include East/West routes & reduced bus fares, cover bus shelters, baby stroller storage. HOV lanes. Remedy highway bottle necks. Make all roads free - no tolls!

**Q2:** At legislature: Appraisal tax reform, Inclusionary zoning, Rent Control, Levy condominium conversion fees. City- Homestead Exemption 20% phased in; Transform City owned land to affordable housing; Lower MFI for ownership & rentals: 30 - 60% MFI; Accept Source of Income;

Land Bank; Use portion of tax revenues from city-owned redeveloped properties; Living Wage of \$15 hr.; Maximize Bond funds; Dedication of General Funds for affordable housing.

**Q3:** Prioritize conservation & re-use of water over developing new supplies outside Austin. Require new development be net-zero water use. Redesign & diversify Austin Water Utility's (AWU) business model, non-dependent on revenue solely from selling treated water. Require

AWU to develop & implement a plan - water-efficient infrastructure citywide. Require decentralization of water supply. Preserve SOS Ordinance & support watershed & tree protections.

**Q4:** Affordable Housing: Improve the quality & availability of decent, safe, & affordable housing options through rehabilitation, new construction, tax exemptions, & expanded opportunities for home ownership. Job Creation: Invest in Hispanic/Latino & African American business community through training & mentoring, incentives, access to capital, partnerships & City policies to employment & contracting. Livable Wage: Require a livable wage of \$15 hr.

**Mario Cantu**

**Education:** Aus-

tin Community College, Vocational Photography, EMT-Paramedic.

**Experience:** EMT-P, Emergency Response, Disaster Management, Pre Small Business Owner, HOA VP and President 5 yrs, Austin Neighborhoods Council Sector 9 Rep 2 yrs.

**Q1:** We must get back to the basics of our city's transportation infrastructure. When it comes to transportation and mobility, all modes must link together (e.g. sidewalks, connected trails, safe bike lanes, synced traffic lights, as well as our bus lines) and each must be easily accessible. If these very basics of transportation are not met with effective and efficient means, we defeat the purpose of the bigger picture, being advanced transportation.

**Q2:** I believe we must take a good, hard look at the current system and investigate as to why we are having these present issues with the housing shortage and rising costs. Rental property would be another avenue to evaluate. We often talk about how many people are coming to Austin on a daily basis, however, I never hear anything about how many residents are leaving per day and for what reason?



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**Q3:** We must recognize climate change and consider a City of Austin drought protocol. We must protect our water resources from contamination and encourage water capture with an innovative city incentive program. We should look into investing in water re-use projects. I also seek to work with the other council members in evaluating the current measures that are in place for water usage, consumption, protection, filtering, and as a long-term resource.

**Q4:** Gentrification: Address the issues and concerns with high property taxes that's pushing long time Austin residents to live in surrounding areas of Austin. Re-evaluate zoning. Rising Taxes: Seniors and retirees as well as Austin residents have to adjust their fixed incomes to simply maintain a basic lifestyle. I will direct council members to examine the reason and causes. Affordable Housing: Implement new Innovations to lower costs.

## Julian Limon Fernandez

**Education:** Govalle Elementary, Allan Junior High, Albert Sidney Johnston High, U.S. Air Force A.G.E. Capital Area Trade and Technical (Heating and Air Condition)

**Experience:** Business, Health Care Coordinator, City Clerk's Record Management. Public Relations and Neighborhood Advocate for the Aging and Disable. People person

**Q1:** Public Transit System, PTS (CapMetro) seems to be our quickest cure. In the growing areas we must have developers also include PTS in their plans. I will propose a discounted bus pass to all city employees who volunteer to leave their cars at home. Offer tax incentive to big corporations that participate and organize PTS pick up and delivery stops to 25% of their work force. I will not burden the tax payers with urban rail at this time. Too vague

**Q2:** I believe we are on the right track with our current programs. They all need a massive over haul

and need to focus on the needs of our communities. District 3 has many areas that can be developed for affordable housing to lower to middle income families. I will recommend that home developers not only build homes but also have solutions for public transportation for those residents. Affordability also includes rent, taxes, transportation...

**Q3:** Water preservation can only work if the City as a whole participate in conserving our water resources. The new Mayor and Council must address this issue as a water conservation emergency. I will propose a challenge to the other 9 district council members in which of our districts will save more water. Of course not counting commercial businesses, plazas or malls. I would include AISD and ACC too. EDUCATE and PARTICIPATE in conservation.

**Q4:** 1) Property Taxes; propose homestead exemption to seniors over the age of 58, offer a 5% decrease in property taxes on homeowners that rent to low to middle income families at an affordable rate, 2) Transportation; I will work to decrease 10% of traffic in my district by increasing public transit routes and frequency in my District 3 Displacement; I will fight to keep the old families and homesteaders in my District 3. It's the right thing to do!

## Chris Hoerster

No response

## Shaun Ireland

**Education:** Bachelor's of Fine Arts degree from New York University (2006) and a certificate in Solar Electric Systems from Austin Community College (2014).

**Experience:** My business leadership experience includes budget oversight and regulatory compliance. In 2012, I publicly advocated for the 10-1 ballot proposition.

**Q1:** District 3 includes a large population of blue collar and low-income workers that rely on public transportation. Austin needs extended bus hours

with expanded routes. Citywide, we need more sidewalks and improved roadways. I will work to ensure our traffic signals are synchronized to reduce traffic congestion and decrease emissions. The city should seek to increase downtown-area parking for visitors and service industry employees.

**Q2:** The Housing Authority of the City of Austin is lacking 48,000 affordable units for Austinites earning an annual salary of less than \$25,000. We cannot continue to rely solely on bonds to provide housing assistance. HACA should increase family-size affordable units through re-development aging of and unsafe properties. The city should encourage more public-private partnerships such as The Point at Ben White to immediately increase available units.

**Q3:** The incoming city council should make water security a top legislative priority. I will seek funding solutions to upgrade our aging water pipe infrastructure, implement a grant program to encourage xeriscaping or green turf replacement, and expand so-called "purple pipe" for non-potable water irrigation use to commercial and multi-family dwellings. Water is the lifeblood of our city and we must enact measures to better protect this resource.

**Q4:** 1) Education: This district includes two public school districts with students often struggling to overcome adversity. I'll stand up for public schools and work with AISD/DVUSD to increase Pre-K availability and improve high school graduation rates. 2) Affordability: Lower utility rates, audit Austin Energy, and build affordable units. 3) Diversity: I'll seek to establish a city commission on inequity and equality to provide policy suggestions.

## Fred McGhee

**Education:** M.A. and Ph.D, UT Austin; B.S. (cum laude) Northeastern University; classes at Norwich University, Fachhochschule Karlsruhe, numerous military

schools

**Experience:** President, Fred L. McGhee & Associates; Board of Adjustment & Charter Revision Committee; Founding President, Montopolis Neighborhood Association

**Q1:** Fixing our transportation problems will require both public and private solutions. All options must be on the table. I support optimization of existing motor vehicle traffic alongside simultaneous development of two-wheeled, pedestrian, and public transportation options. Twenty-first century Austin will require a broad public transportation mix that includes rail and a modern bus system that runs on time and later into the evening.

**Q2:** This is not just an issue of affordable housing "programs" or supply and demand. The root problem lies in the fact that our local economy has become increasingly unequal and stressful. Accordingly, what we should be doing is precisely defining what we mean by "affordable" and putting policies into place that help to create the social and economic conditions that will allow rank and file Austinites to pay their rent or mortgage.

**Q3:** I am in agreement with most of the recent recommendations made by the Austin Water Resources Planning Task Force (particularly the guiding principles) and will support further policies on the dais that encourage water conservation, reduced use, and distributed water provision. I am an ARCSA (American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association) trained professional and have advanced credentials in this area.

**Q4:** Dist. 3 has a poverty rate greater than 34% and also has the lowest home ownership rate of all ten districts at only 27%. Any city council member representing this district will have to tackle these issues; Brownfields, illegal dumping, and environmental justice; Education at all levels, including Pre-K. Tackling these challenges will require experienced and wise leadership by example, something I bring to the table as someone raised in poverty.

## Kent Phillips

**Education:** Virginia Tech Member of the Corp of Cadets Additional education at Texas State

**Experience:** Candidate for Texas Senate D14, 2010; Texas House of Representatives D49, 2012 Volunteer for Richard Mack's campaign '12, staff for Debra Medina '14

**Q1:** First, the city has been subsidizing housing developers and incentivizing businesses to move here. This practice has unnaturally inflated our growth beyond our infrastructure. We must suspend this practice to buy time to build better traffic systems.

Second, 10-15 yrs is too long to wait for our current proposal, which is a bad solution anyway. City Council has failed to research above-ground, modern options like Personal Rapid Transit & monorail

**Q2:** Use (previously mentioned) methods to reduce the increasing rate of unnatural population growth. This will lower demand and lower prices. This also ends subsidies that go towards new high priced housing. Why should the current residents, including the low income population, pay property taxes to pay for housing for the people moving here? If we use these cuts towards lowering property taxes, then we will make existing residents' homes affordable.

**Q3:** We cannot make it rain, and we cannot change the value of water as defined by supply & demand. Eventually, prices will have to go up and residents will be forced to make cheaper lawn-care decisions. Any attempt to distort this must be paid by other means; which likely means higher property taxes (though I do support the use of a lower cost bracket). What we CAN do is speak with a louder voice to our up-stream neighbors, and involve the state.

**Q4:** Traffic, affordability and gentrification. 1. Use a private company to install an above-ground traffic system. 2. No to Prop 1 that will remove lanes on





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Riverside, increase traffic and tax burden-New traffic system will help traffic without reducing our roads-A private company will use investors for funding, which will reduce property taxes-Lower taxes=an increase existing affordability and a decrease in gentrification by limiting its tax-force

**Jose Quintero Sr.**  
No response

**Eric J. Rangel**  
**Education:**

B.A.I.S. - International Studies; Concentration in Business from Texas State University

**Experience:** President-Texas State University Alumni Association-Hispanic Chapter; President-South River City Citizens Neighborhood Assoc.; VP - South Austin Dems

**Q1:** I support rail and buses to serve the Austin-area. I believe the longer we hold off with rail, the more it will cost and the more difficult it will be to build. Imagine if we had the foresight to do this decades ago. By changing our culture from a "parking pass" culture to a "bus pass" culture and by changing our behaviors with alternate work hours and telecommuting, we will change our mindset and get to correct our traffic/transportation problems.

**Q2:** When it comes to affordable housing, I strongly support Public/Private partnerships, using Public Land, and streamlining the building process. I believe Public/Private partnerships, as well as, using Public Land give us the best return on investment (ROI) and allow us to place affordable housing throughout the city as many of us desire to see. And, by eliminating a lot of red-tape, it allows us as a city to grow more efficiently.

**Q3:** I would push to promote policies that pursue regional water self-sufficiency and a 4R approach that prioritizes water conservation and efficiency (Reduce), rainwater harvesting and graywater use (Reuse), waste-

water reclamation (Recycle) and ecosystem restoration (Restore) over large-scale water transfers and storage projects, and by understanding that "drought" is the new normal we can ensure that Austin has ample water supply for decades.

**Q4:** I support Public/Private partnerships, using Public Land, and streamlining the building process to address Affordable Housing. By helping change our culture and our behaviors, we'll be able to change our mindset and work towards correcting our traffic problems. And, by attracting manufacturing companies that will hire locally, pay fair wages, provide health benefits, and plan to contribute to the local economy we can help those in need of a job.

**Sabino "Pio" Renteria**

**Education:** IMB

Machine Repair Schools, UT-Austin and Austin Community College for accounting, auto repair, construction, and cabinet-making

**Experience:** I served 14 yrs (8 as chair) on the City's Community Development Commission, Environmental Board, and 12 yrs on East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Team

**Q1:** I've been a long-time advocate for public transport and worked the referendum to create Cap Metro decades ago. I also support rail, trails, sidewalks, rapid bus, park'n'ride, and the old Dillo. I'd like to use toll waivers for semi-trucks using SH130. We've got to find ways to reduce the bus/rail fares for very low-income folks especially transit-dependent folks like seniors, disabled, youth, and homeless folks. I support HOV lanes too!

**Q2:** Increase VMU affordable units to 25%, lower income limit to 50% MFI max, stop fee-in-lieu. Expand Homestead Preservation Act to more areas; implement the Saltillo TIF. Build more single-room-occupancy units for singles/seniors so they can stay in their own neighborhoods. Fix the broken appraisal system by building coalitions to change state law to require public dis-

closure of property sales, reduce school taxes by implementing state income tax.

**Q3:** More incentives to lower-income families/small local businesses to conserve via xeriscaping, rain water collection, and reuse of discharge. Stop recruiting and offering incentives to large, water-consuming employers for job creation. Fix and upgrade our outdated water distribution system, especially in the central city. Restrict all new development if/when the SW 45 Loop is complete to protect our aquifer, make it a limited access parkway.

**Q4:** Residents and small local businesses in District 3 are really hurting when it comes to being able to afford rent, utility bills, transit, taxes, daycare, senior care, health care, and user fees for recreation centers, sports and special events. I also know that crime and safety is a big issue and that property crimes are a huge concern, too. I want to meet more D3 folks and hear their issues, especially the south-siders, before deciding all issues

**Ricardo Turullols-Bonilla**

**Education:** BS

Physics UT Austin; MS Math-Physics Imperial College, London; MBA, Business Ethics U. Iberoamericana Mex City; MA Philosophy (incomp.) UNAM Mex City

**Experience:** Taught @ Nat'l Poly Inst MexCty 3Y graduate level; owner commerce medical devices & industry baby incubators 30Y MexCty; 10Y writer ATX & 8Y @ HS AISD

**Q1:** 1st we need to think holistically, understanding that the whole is essentially constituted by three interlocking pieces, as triad 3-in-1! We need to speak the common sense "both-and" freedom language and shed the machine language "either-or" of one & zero programming straight-jacket if we are harmonize our human nature with the world around us moving forward. The philosophy of practice need be the practice of philosophy. Now, what is the city triad?

**Q2:** Transportation is to mind

what affordability is to body & what water is to spirit. Just like people are triads made of body & mind & spirit, so city as our collective self is triad made of transportation & affordability & water, for present purposes. The business model is left-brain thinking, valid within \$ arena, but not beyond its range of validity unto public & education. Some things count but not countable, others don't count & are countable.

**Q3:** Water is just like energy, vital resource. City needs whole-brain thinking of triad paradigm. As things stand at present, we have a 2-value system made of "either" private "or" public ownership, when we should have a triad system of "both", private & public, "and" universal ownership. It is the case that energy, water, and recycling should be used to create third protagonist of society as the universal sector. Combat effects & address causes too!

**Q4:** 1st we need to understand that the city is a triad, 3-in-1! Just like family is one, made up of Mom, Dad, and Child, & we as persons are one, made of body, mind, & spirit, so is the city a triad made of neighborhoods, education, & people. Solving the problems of neighborhoods requires addressing the issues of education & the concerns of people. If city problem-solving isn't done holistically, we end with broken city. Reconstitution ATX by Triads!

**Jose Valera**

**Education:** Uni-

versity of Texas School of Law, Class of 2009; United States Military Academy at West Point, Class of 2000; LBJ High School; Kealing Junior High

**Experience:** Owner of Tama-le House East; Intellectual Property attorney at Wilson Sonsini; Captain, US Army; Iraq war veteran 2003-2004

**Q1:** Transportation efforts require a comprehensive approach that coordinates private and public transportation. Pedestrian access, bikeways, ride sharing, and improved roadways must support and be support-

ed by public transportation. The first priority should be improving existing bus service by revising outdated routes, increasing frequency, and providing sheltered bus stops. Further, each bond program should support multiple transit options.

**Q2:** First, tax relief for our residents through reform at the city, county, and state level is key. Second, the city should designate underutilized land for affordable housing. Future multi-family developments should also include affordable options. Further, increasing housing availability by increasing density, whether in multi-family units or properly regulated accessory dwelling units can relieve pressure on current renters and homeowners.

**Q3:** First and foremost conservation of natural resources, especially water must be a priority. Consumer education can result in huge water savings at relatively low cost. We should also support implementation of reclaimed water systems. Additionally, proper weatherization of homes to improve energy efficiency can help to conserve natural resources while at the same time save money for residents.

**Q4:** The three most critical issues are creating educational and economic opportunities in the district, supporting affordability and home ownership, and preserving our neighborhoods. First, education must be made a priority in Austin like transportation or environmental protection. Second, we must leverage responsible growth and development within the district for the direct benefit of its residents, workers, and small business owners.

## DISTRICT 4

**Greg Casar**

**Education:** University of Virginia - B.A. with High Distinction

**Experience:** Leader of successful campaigns to pass over two dozen local policies; Ap-

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pointed to Travis County Economic Development Task Force by Sarah Eckhardt

**Q1:** Prioritize our local bus service, including expansion of current routes, investment in dedicated lanes, and minimizing transfers;- Support plans for passenger rail service to neighboring regions;- Improve our taxi cab and 'for hire' transportation options; Promote a multi-modal city-wide transportation network; Fight for safe pedestrian and bicycle access throughout District 4 and the city.

**Q2:** Phase in a homestead exemption to benefit our homeowners paired with an expansion of utility-bill relief and weatherization for moderate-income homeowners, renters, and working class people; Purchase underutilized land and require that future development of that land include family-friendly, affordable housing; Hold large commercial interests accountable to pay their fair share of development costs, energy bills, and taxes.

**Q3:** We must change the business model at Austin Water to meet our most pressing community need: conserving as much water as possible. This is the most fiscally responsible option for Austinites, because the cost of overuse is too high. We should pursue robust conservation initiatives such as: - Reduce irrigation areas in new development; Provide rebates and incentives for retrofits; Expand grey water use; Improve building and plumbing code.

**Q4:** Making ends meet: I will fight to create living wage jobs, support our local workforce, and grow our small businesses. Public safety: I'm for effective criminal diversion programs, funding mental health care, safe new parkland, and building community trust with law enforcement. Preserve our affordability: Our district has some of the central city's last affordable housing. Improve our neighborhoods without pushing current residents out.

## Katrina Daniel

**Education:** Associates Degree Nursing, San Jacinto College; Baccalaureate Science in Nursing, Texas Womans U

**Experience:** RN, ER nurse; legislative aide, policy analyst; state agency executive; neighborhood assn pres; numerous board appointments; Vice-chair Central Health

**Q1:** We need an array of strategies, with multimodal solutions and community based initiatives, including increasing mass transit capacity and ridership. Economic development and infrastructure will give residents options for employment, grocery shopping, and other amenities nearby, reducing car time. Work with major employers will create more work schedule flexibility. Local representation will bring much needed attention to District 4 solutions.

**Q2:** Affordability goes beyond housing, although a significant component of the cost of living, and we need a broad spectrum of tools: availability of housing at an array of price points; density directed along transportation corridors, consistent with neighborhood plans; economic development that provides living wage jobs; a City of Austin homestead exemption; revitalization without gentrification; streamlining the permitting process.

**Q3:** Pursue aggressive conservation efforts, creating a culture of conservation. Maximize, and publicize incentives for residential and commercial properties to minimize or eliminate landscape watering and fix leaking fixtures. Use gray water and treated sewage for irrigation and other non-drinking purposes. Consider source alternatives, working with local and regional water resource planners, balancing competing needs of Austin and rural neighbors.

**Q4:** A long-time resident, I know the issues firsthand: public safety, mobility, and affordability, mostly discussed above. Each complex, with intertwined solutions, e.g, improving public safety goes beyond enhanced polic-



ing to engaging our community. Sidewalks and street lights will help deter crime and aid transportation. Economic development is an important strategy to addressing the needs, with little park space and few grocery stores.

## Monica Guzmán

**Education:** BA in Political Science, MA in Human Sciences (Sociology and Education)

**Experience:** Being invested in Austin, I build community to address issues by encouraging participation at all levels of the process.

**Q1:** I support expanding bus routes and increasing frequency, lower bus fare, and improved infrastructure for pedestrian and bike traffic planned with greater community engagement, especially across language barriers and the digital divide. I support different types of transportation addressing the needs in high density corridors, creating less pollution, with a high return on investment without cost-burdening low/near-low income populations.

**Q2:** The City is legally responsible for upholding the Fair Housing Act, to reverse housing segregation by eliminating barriers faced by vulnerable populations. I promote use of public lands for increasing the availability of affordable housing through existing nonprofit organizations or land trust programs. In 2013 my proposal to Austin ISD Trustees to use available land for affordable housing was well-received, AISD is researching possibilities.

**Q3:** I will work with environmental leaders to increase environmental-friendly ordinances and best practices, expansion of gray water and reclaimed water usage, rainwater harvesting, and encouraging drought tolerant landscaping for both residents and businesses. The fee structure also needs review, ensuring businesses pay fair share and residents are not further cost-burdened, especially with water bill allocation in multifamily housing.



**Q4:** Three critical issues are housing, health care, and economic development. In addition to using public lands, I support expanding rental registration and enforcement for safe and affordable housing. In order to reduce healthcare service gaps I advocate for networked partnerships between public, private, and nonprofit entities. I support a living wage, increased educational opportunities, job training programs, and investing in local businesses.

## Louis C. Herrin III

**Education:** BS in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M

**Experience:** 35 years working on water quality issues, assistant scout master, president of home/school association, and campus advisory council

**Q1:** I support the expansion of our highway systems. I would support toll roads only if the tolls were removed after the road is paid for. Bus routes need to be reevaluated to ensure the appropriateness of the routes and stops. We need to ensure the city has enough cabs to serve the community and the handicapped. We need to look at other methods of transportation including trains to see where we get the biggest bang for our buck.

**Q2:** Unless we can get property taxes under control, we will not be able to get affordable housing in the long term. I support requiring developers to set aside a percentage of housing for low income persons, however, rising property taxes would not enable low income to maintain their homes. The voucher system is another area I support as long as the vouchers are used for a specific set timeframe based on the need of the recipient.

**Q3:** I would expand the city's reclaimed water program by constructing satellite wastewater treatment plants throughout the city for the purpose of using the reclaimed water for irrigation of city's parkland, golf courses, green belts, and, possibly, residential areas. I would request



the city set up an asset management system for their water systems to better track their leaks and conditions of their pipes and set up a schedule for their replacement.

**Q4:** Crime: I would recommend the "beat" cop again in the higher crime areas. I would encourage more neighborhood watch programs. Low-cost housing: I would support incentives for developers to build quality low-cost housing units. Jobs: I would support encouraging start-up of small businesses and their growth to supply additional jobs in the area by removing some of the barriers and adding incentives.

## Marco Mancillas

**Education:** BBA Marketing and Business Management

**Experience:** Texas House and Texas Senate staffer, campaign consultant, non-profit sector as Public Relations Director, Executive Director for Hispanic Physicians

**Q1:** Transportation is a huge issue for Austin. We need to increase metro bus, because its cheap and mobile. It can be efficient to add more buses in high density areas. Also, increase metro rapid to different areas of Austin, Its fast and efficient that provides real-time for riders. If we utilize these two forms of public transit in an effective manner we can take off more cars from the pavement. More options through social media and smartphone.

**Q2:** We have to make Appraisal Tax reform a #1 priority for city council legislative agenda for the upcoming legislative session.. Reforming our state's property tax system for affordability and fairness won't be easy and nothing will be perfect. Second, a 20% homestead exemption that can provide tax relief now. With the housing bond that passed last year, its a good start for pushing expansion of affordable housing projects through more grants.



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**Q3:** Define, promote and expand grey water reuse systems in Austin for single, and multi-family building for newly built, as well as remodeled structures. Grey water reuse will slow down the needs for additional water treatment facilities, beautify Austin through greener landscapes, reduce evaporation of a valuable resource, and disperse said water back into the ground for normal seepage back into the water table.

**Q4:** Crime, Affordability and Transportation. We all need to work together to make D4 community an investment for growth and opportunity for its people. We need to bring the neighborhoods together, stake holders and advocates to come to the table and work together at implementing a plan that addresses our issues. Our solutions will take time to solve but at least we have the plan to follow through stay on the right path.

## Sharon Mays

**Education:** Texas A&M University at College Station - Bachelor's degree in Public Relations; double minor in Management and Marketing

**Experience:** 20 yrs experience as a community and business leader, 15 yrs experience managing people/projects/budgets, 10 yrs experience as an entrepreneur

**Q1:** Multi-modal transportation options: optimizing Cap Metro so it services more areas & runs at a higher frequency, as well as late night options; transportation options that have dedicated pathways so they do not share lanes with cars/buses/bikes; more sidewalks and bike lanes to encourage pedestrian travel. Economic development of "community centers" that allow people to work/shop/play in their neighborhood instead of driving in traffic.

**Q2:** Create a Land Bank to acquire unproductive, vacant and developable lots for affordable single-family housing development. Programs and incentives



to support housing development of options in the \$150-\$200K price range. This would give people who are stuck renting because they can't afford to buy, a path to home ownership as well as help reduce the demand for rental properties which is driving the avg lease prices up.

**Q3:** Austin Energy is one of the largest consumers of water in the area. We need to move to more efficient energy sources that do not put such a heavy burden on our shrinking water supply. Increasing the number of customers who use grey/reclaimed water through education and incentives. Continued and expanded rebate programs for customers who purchase large home appliances that are energy and water efficient.

**Q4:** Affordability, Transportation, Public Safety. The issues are interrelated & need a multifaceted solution. A land bank would allow blighted properties that are a haven for crime to become affordable housing. More sidewalks & bike lanes would allow residents to safely travel to/from public transportation. Economic development of blighted strip malls attracts business to the area, drives out crime, encourages work/play in an pedestrian travel radius

## Roberto Perez Jr.

**Education:** Bachelor of Arts, Public and Social Policy, University of California, Davis; MBA, University of Phoenix; DBA candidate, Walden University

**Experience:** My experience in business, social work and workforce development along with my educational choices make me confident to represent District 4.

**Q1:** We need to use all the options available to accommodate daily commuters. A possible solution I propose is looking at implementing free public transportation for Austin Residents. The fare recuperation for Capital Metro was 11.7% system wide in 2012 The future goal is to get in the neighborhood of 20%. Free service would be beneficial



to all employees and reduce traffic congestion. We can study the models used by 39 other communities in the USA.

**Q2:** Existing Housing - To give people the option of staying in their existing homes and to keep the existing housing stock affordable we have to: -Slow the rise of the increase in the effective property tax rate (ad valorem tax rate). -More fairly evaluate the property value of commercial properties -Explore property tax exemption options such as homestead preservation districts New Housing: Supply and demand determines housing availability.

**Q3:** Conservation should be encouraged but it alone will not meet the needs of future growth and continued drought. The use of treated water should be thoroughly evaluated along with desalination of ground water. Also, studies should be conducted on the types of groundwater available within 100 miles of the city. Is fresh groundwater available and how much will it cost to get it to Austin?

**Q4:** Three main issues in District 4: Safety, Affordability and Workforce Development. To address these issues my mission is to empower neighbors through collaboration; leverage existing emerging and unique catalysts for community improvement in District 4.

## Laura Pressley

**Education:** Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry, UT Austin, 1994

**Experience:** Neighborhood Advocate, Restore Rundberg Team, Safe-Place Board, 26 yrs in Austin, 20-yr property owner, Sm. Business Owner, 17 yr Engineering Expert

**Q1:** Efficient roadways lead the way to progress. For transportation options to be effective, they need to be affordable, flexible, frequent, reliable and accessible to and from high density areas. We will optimize bus routes, traffic light timing, incentivize ride sharing and shuttle services, encourage staggered work and class schedules, and enhance roadway and ramp design to im-



prove mobility.

**Q2:** Building affordable housing is most effective from a cost standpoint if it is no frills construction. We should prioritize safe, structural and utilitarian needs over and above cosmetic appearance. I fully support policies that would require the City to include affordable housing on city-owned land that is opened up for residential development. This is how we can create affordable housing in all areas of the City.

**Q3:** Water conservation is the top environmental issue facing Austinites. My approaches to conservation are the following: a) Incentivize irrigation designs for landscaping that reduce usage, b) Encourage rain water collection for residential and commercial properties, c) Promote efficient gray water usage, d) prioritizing Austin Water Utility to repair infrastructure leaks that comprise about 8% water loss per year.

**Q4:** Affordability: We will implement cost controls in utility departments, lower fees, develop a 20% City Homestead Exemption & reduce subsidies to big corporations. These combined reductions will help homeowners & renters. A Homestead Exemption will enable more renters to become homeowners & build wealth for their families. Neighborhoods: We will protect the integrity & safety of our neighborhoods, & ensure Fire, EMS, APD have resources they need.

## DISTRICT 5

### Dan Buda

**Education:** Bachelor's Degree in Economics, University of Michigan

**Experience:** Small business owner, Chief of Staff to Sen. Wendy Davis, Committee Director to Sen. Mario Gallegos

**Q1:** I do not support Proposition 1 for urban rail or the expansion of SH 45SW. The city must work with CapMetro to expand bus service with more frequent and reliable routes. A related concern is the lack of sidewalks



near bus stops and schools. I support bus-cut outs on roadways to improve traffic flow.

**Q2:** Affordability is a priority issue for District 5 and all of Austin. I support a review of fees and waivers for new housing development to seek ways to encourage developers to build more affordable units. The city is facing a severe shortage of affordable family-sized units. As a result, studies show Austin has lost more African Americans than any other major American city.

**Q3:** I strongly support the build-out of nonpotable water through purple pipe for commercial and multifamily dwellings. We must improve our aging water pipe infrastructure and enhance our water conservation efforts. I do not support tapping the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer to supplement our water supply needs. We can save water through sound policies that also help us clean our watersheds and reduce use.

**Q4:** Throughout my campaign I have identified critical priorities for the district including strengthening public safety, working with neighborhood stakeholders to manage rapid commercial and residential growth, and seeking solutions to improve transportation. I will work with city staff and department heads to ensure our budget is focused on sound solutions and not band-aids.

## Jason R. Denny

**Experience:** United States Marine Corps, Neighborhood Watch

Commander, Community Advocates for a Safer Austin (CASA), Military Veterans Employment Network

**Q1:** Transportation is incredibly important to my district in South Austin. Unfortunately the growth in the district has not been matched by the City's public transportation service. I believe Bus Rapid Transit is the best solution, both immediate and long term to solving our rush hour transportation problems.



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Additionally, I support TNCs, increased cab availability and late night busses for our service industry employees and patrons.

**Q2:** I am in support of a property tax homestead exemption as well as putting intent focus on using our revenues efficiently. The city must operate in a cost efficient manner and pass those saving on to our residents. By increasing transparency and accountability in city hall we can make Austin a much more affordable city to live in.

**Q3:** We must first focus on educating our residents about the dire necessity to conserve water. Next, we must implement policies that encourage conservation while continuing to explore utilizing resources outside our immediate region. Additionally, we must always work to protect our water resources by ensuring that safeguards are in place before development occurs.

**Q4:** Traffic Congestion at intersections along Slaughter-Work to expand public transportation utilizing Bus Rapid Transit into South Austin Lack of Public Safety Representation- Work with Fire, Police and EMS to be active in South Austin to gain an understanding of the issues the residents have Tax Increases not equaling Service Expansion- Ensure that my district gets its fair share of services and representation

## Dave Floyd

**Education:** University of Texas-Austin, BA; Washington & Lee University School of Law, JD

**Experience:** Professional: lawyer, business consultant, business owner; Civic: community, charity, and professional organization member and leader

**Q1:** I support the concept of light rail, but I do not think the Prop. 1 plan addresses congestion or serves enough people. If it passes, I will of course support making it work. If it doesn't pass, then I will support commuter rail initiatives (i.e. Lone Star Rail) that I think will help highway con-



gestion. I will support increased BRT and dedicated routes along future rail corridors. I will support later bus service and consider TNCs.

**Q2:** I support organizations such as Foundation Communities and Habitat For Humanity. I support further efforts with tax and market incentives to developers to build affordable housing for low income buyers, as well as innovations like shared equity with buyers. Generally, we need more housing units in Austin, as low supply contributes to increased costs. We also fix roads and add transit so those who can't afford to live close can get to work.

**Q3:** We have done well in reducing demand, and I want to keep the city in the conservation mindset. We can incentivize native plant landscaping, rainwater collection systems, and other building practices that are low impact. We also need to expand the "purple pipe" water reuse system and update water infrastructure (and add technology to help quickly find leaks). We should also consider securing groundwater rights in the Carrizo aquifer.

**Q4:** Taxes: support phased homestead exemption and city fiscal responsibility; Transportation: support multimodal approach, including updates to roads, improved traffic controls, commuter rail, and enhanced bus service. Also support land use planning complementary to traffic and transit, development nodes, and promotion of telecommuting and flexible scheduling. Water/environment: see above, plus continued efforts to acquire greenspace around city.

## CarolAnneRose Kennedy

**Q1:** I fully support any mode of transportation that uses little or no gasoline per individual citizen: bus, train, carpool, hitchhiking, bicycle, electric cars - bicycles, healthy legs, segue and/or roller skates. I plan to serve on the Capital Metro Board.

**Q2:** Shelter is not a human right. Personal shelter needs



are naturally set by one's ability to beg, barrow, bum, barter or buy shelter. A significant number of single-family-home-owners would be willing and able to convert their house into multiple units. This progressive, innovative, evolutionary and revolutionary change could lighten the load of travelers, battered women shelters, child protective services, the homeless, aging parents, hospitals, nurses ///

**Q3:** What Austin needs most is clean air and clean water. I fully support removing Fluoride from the planet earth. In the meantime, I recommend boiling all injestable water for 3 minutes. Boiling Austin tap water will remove most or all of the Fluorine.

**Q4:** Addressing issue in my district will provide citywide benefits. A.Home the houseless: Take opportunities to bring them peace and comfort to them wherever they "live" from your own home. B.Marijuana: Either legalize it or eliminate or relax law enforcement of the "drug." C. Prayer: Prayer opportunities in school is almost as rewarding (to children) and successful (to parents and teachers) as Sex Education and P.E. Bringing prayer back into our ///

## Ann Kitchen

**Education:** Law degree, University of Texas BA, Psychology and Social Welfare, University of Texas

**Experience:** 20+ year District 5 resident; former State Rep for much of D5; Former Asst Attorney General; Experienced business person; healthcare advocate/attorney

**Q1:** No single fix exists. We must provide more options to build a better-connected system. With tighter public funds, we need lower cost, more immediate congestion relief while we tackle long-term issues: 1) street redesign to improve traffic flow 2) flexible hours, work days, telecommuting, 3) sidewalk and bike infrastructure, 4) maintain and improve existing roads, 5) improved access to buses; 6) stronger voice - South Austin Transportation Plan



**Q2:** Rapid growth is contributing to affordable and market rate housing shortages. Addressing this means increasing housing supply and preserving/expanding affordable housing where feasible. Key actions: continued funding and use of public lands for affordable housing; retention of existing affordable housing where possible; expanding housing types; rewriting Land Development Code; revamping development process; creating better housing/jobs balance

**Q3:** We have to get smarter to protect our future beginning with adoption of the Water Resource Planning Task Force recommendations. The City must embrace water conservation and sustainability, creating/supporting a culture of "water stewardship". Water must be affordable for all Austinites to support basic human needs. Austin Water Utility's business model must balance revenue reliability with volumetric rates that strongly encourage conservation

**Q4:** People are frustrated by traffic congestion, diminishing affordability, threat of running out of water, imbalance in availability of services experienced by some, and desire for greater representation. Onion Creek and Williamson Creek flooding must be addressed for resident's safety and to address environmental degradation from upstream development. Adequate green space and neighborhood parks must be addressed.

## Mike Rodriguez

**Education:** B.A., Political Science; M.A. Guidance & Counseling; M.B.A. (Aviation)

**Experience:** USAF Officer-combat pilot; instructor; Chief, Fighter Training Division (national); A-10 Commander; Advisor to U.S. Ambassador; Financial VP

**Q1:** Invest in connecting roads and design loops to steer traffic around downtown rather than through it. Add more buses and bus routes, plus extend operating hours to cover late night workers in support of the downtown entertainment industry. In-



centivize large, centrally located companies to implement flexible work hours, where feasible. Work with TXDOT to accelerate the improvements outlined in Mobility35. Sequence traffic lights and add turn lanes.

**Q2:** Offer tax abatements to builders to incentivize them to add parallel affordable housing projects. Streamline building code and permitting procedures that do not involve safety or public health. Site affordable housing projects near new schools when built.

**Q3:** Increase water reuse and recycling for commercial purposes and irrigation. Add gray water lines to new commercial construction. Adopt landscaping guidelines appropriate for low water demands, and steer architectural engineers to include cisterns and other catchment systems in new construction.

**Q4:** Affordability: Property taxes are too high and they contribute to higher rents, as well. Utility rate increases and added fees are further burdening our residents. I support a city property tax homestead exemption, rolling back utility fees and limiting new tax increases to the effective rate plus inflation rather than the state allowed 10% max. Traffic Congestion: See first question. Responsive governance: regular public dialog

## David Senecal

**Education:** BSEE University of Texas at Austin.

**Experience:** IRS Application software and database developer. High School Sports Official. Community volunteer. Sierra Club Outdoors Leader and Cleanup Captain

**Q1:** Mass Transit: Proposed line serves a small portion of Austin, no access to the Airport and cuts up current street lanes. Explore options: Union Pacific owns network of Rail Right of Way in Austin, including a path to the airport. We are a pass through city for them. Explore building a route around us for UP and take over their Austin assets. Second: focus Bus/rail



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on getting people to work and social events to reduce traffic and parking.

**Q2:** Optimize Federal, State and City Funding. Use tools (zoning, codes, permitting, and tax rates) to make developing affordable housing attractive and sustainable to investors and builders. Use all data and require Commercial property valuations reflect actual value. With the tax burden equally dispersed, the Council may lower the tax rate and revisit exemptions (Homestead, etc.). Review density rules and calculation of low income rent rates.

**Q3:** Identify the greatest uses of our current supply; explore solutions to lower usage rate. Promote waste water recapture, rain water collection, and regulate uses of current reservoirs and their sources. Address leaking water lines in city. Use green infrastructure techniques: ie. pervious concrete on parking lots, driveways, and sidewalks. Monitor new construction/expansions for impact to the recharge zones and to water supply and quality.

**Q4:** Zoning enforcement and Neighborhood protection:

Enforce current regulations and ensure communities are involved/informed of change requests. We all need to feel comfortable in our own neighborhoods. Parking and traffic density: Focus Bus/rail on getting people to work and social events to reduce traffic and parking. Broader involvement in city decision making: We have a diverse population and we are stronger as a city when everyone participates

## DISTRICT 6

### Jimmy Flannigan

**Education:** MBA in e-Business, University of Phoenix; BBA in Management Information Systems, The University of Texas at Austin

**Experience:** Small business owner, former President of AGL-CC, Co-founder Northwest Austin Coalition, Austin Chamber of



Commerce Transportation Committee.

**Q1:** My, Connected Corridors model places density and infrastructure along corridors, not the gridlock-inducing, cost-inefficient "Centers" plan in Imagine Austin. This makes for better use of expanded bus and rail investment. I oppose Prop 1, as we cannot build this rail because it doesn't expand to surrounding communities. We also need more transportation options like buses, taxis and TNC (Uber and Lyft), and safe bike and pedestrian pathways.

**Q2:** We must address this for existing residents first. This means fixing rapidly rising property taxes through homestead exemptions, cutting costs and overall tax rates, and State appraisal reform. For many, utility rates have a bigger impact than property taxes and we must make transparent the secret taxation of utility transfers. For renters, we need density along connected corridors to bring down rapidly rising rents caused by high occupancy.

**Q3:** Conservation and reuse efforts are key, including both expanding the purple pipe reusable water system and programs for property owner water conservation and reuse. We also need to restructure Austin Water to stop penalizing water customers for using less water. Expanding supply is an option, but nothing is cheaper than conservation and reuse.

**Q4:** Traffic: We need road design and engineering for Parmer Ln, 620, 2222, and to expand the Lakeline and Howard stations, which are currently at parking capacity; Property Crime: More community policing by APD and increased public awareness to eliminate the 30-40% of preventable property crime; City Hall ignoring District 6: I've spent a lifetime working on city issues and building the relationships necessary to ensure we are no longer ignored.

### Mackenzie Kelly

**Education:** Graduate from Westwood High School,



Disaster Scientist from the Emergency Management Institute

**Experience:** Former firefighter and current emergency management professional with over eight years of public safety experience.

**Q1:** The current transportation options needs to be expanded to the growing areas of Central Texas in order accommodate the various user needs of everyone. I support making Austin safer by increasing late-night transit options and increasing the number of taxi permits. TNC services such as Lyft and Uber need to be recognized by the City of Austin and regulated to provide a safe experience for the users of these services.

**Q2:** I plan on supporting homestead exemption programs to homeowners. It is my belief that those who made Austin what it is today are the ones that are being priced out of being able to live here. I fully support the state maximum for homestead exemptions for Austin homeowners. I support continuing the affordability bond initiatives which create more affordable rental and homes options for residents in Austin.

**Q3:** Residents who are conserving water should not be punished for their efforts with rate increases by Austin Water. I support LCRA's plan with creating a new reservoir to increase the water supply. Until Central Texas is out of the current drought, I do not support LCRA discharging from Austin's reservoirs for users downstream who don't pay their fair share for the water.

**Q4:** 1. Housing affordability. I support increasing the homestead exception on property taxes to the state maximum. More affordable housing through the affordability bond initiatives. 2. Transportation - Develop a new Urban Rail plan under 10-1. Provide bus service to underserved areas in Austin by working with Capital Metro. 3. Safety - Resolve the hiring freeze with AFD. Increase staffing with APD to keep with the population growth.

### Pete Phillips

**Education:** BS Political Science ENMU, School of Naval Aviation, Naval Post Grad School Aviation Safety, Expeditionary Warfare School, USMC Command Staff College

**Experience:** Teacher, Naval Aviator, Dir of Safety, Legislative Assistant, Disaster Preparedness Crisis Mgmt, Homeland Defense Security, National Security Policy

**Q1:** I advocate creating a well-connected system of alternative transportation means such as toll and HOV lanes, ride share services, train, bus, side-walks/trails, and commercially available services such as bikes and Car2Go in order to offer some traffic relief.

**Q2:** The CodeNext rewrite provides for lower fees for development projects that include a reasonable amount of affordable housing units. Reducing the cost associated with new projects through timely processing of permits will contribute to the reduction of housing costs, as well as increased density in select areas outside the central corridor. The continued development of multiple, high-density, mixed-use centers around the region.

**Q3:** Austin needs to consider alternatives to Lake Travis, possibly partnering with San Antonio, Brazos River Authority, etc to look at a consolidation plan. The City should expand water conservation programs through use of low-flow fixtures in all government facilities (including parks), requiring xeriscaping in new developments, and offering incentives to large scale projects that install energy efficient and low-flow fixtures. Expand purple water.

**Q4:** Traffic, Affordability and Small business development and intend to address these with my "2 Mile Smile" initiative.

### Matt Stillwell

**Education:** 1993 Graduate of Anderson High School in NW Austin; 1998 Graduate of Texas Tech University, BFA; 2014 Graduate of Leader-



ship Austin Essential program

**Experience:** Served on three committees for Round Rock ISD (chaired one), serve on neighborhood Architectural Control Committee, active in charity and neighborhood

**Q1:** The only good thing about toll lanes down MoPac? Their availability to public transportation. I support working with CapMetro to expand the service area and frequency of our current bus service with a goal of decreasing travel time in the parts of Austin currently underserved, like District 6. I propose that Austin should bring back the free downtown circulator Dillo streetcar (operating on renewable energy), as a cheaper option to urban rail.

**Q2:** I support: requiring a percentage of new dense development to be affordable, fast-tracking affordable housing development, reforming the permitting process to accommodate more units, & neighborhood plans that favor responsible & reasonable development. My wife & I support Foundation Communities, & Austin should continue to partner with similar organizations already fighting unaffordability. I've seen affordability vanish over 24 years in Austin.

**Q3:** Prohibit new development from using St. Augustine grass, incentivize property owners to replace water-intensive landscaping, require new development to have rainwater collection and reuse features where it makes sense to do so. Audit and restructure the municipal water utility and amend the business plan to adapt to current and future water usage trends. Continue to aggressively promote conservation & reuse through education. Water is my #1 issue

**Q4:** Traffic is at the top of most District 6 voters' lists, and I would work with TXDOT & the other agencies to address the intersection of 2222/620 and the access problem at Vandegriff HS, along with expanding capacity and new road construction. As the only district to touch both Lake Travis

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& Lake Austin, water is a critical issue; other top-3 issue is public safety, specifically property crime, NW Austin needs a police substation & more officers.

## Jay Wiley

**Education:** B.A. The Citadel - The Military College of South Carolina, J.D. St. Mary's University School of Law



**Experience:** Small business Owner with wife Sally Grogono, M.D., Fmr Aide to U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm (R-TX), Research Fellow at Texas Public Policy Foundation, Father

**Q1:** I support improvements on existing roadways with greater capacity and connectivity, car-sharing innovations like Lyft and Uber, and expansion of our bus system, among other programs. I oppose Prop 1 for urban rail which, according to Project Connect, would cost over \$400 k per new rider, be the largest bond/debt commitment in Austin history, and raise our property taxes by the hundreds yet carry less than 1/2 of 1% of local commuters by 2030.

**Q2:** The affordability problem is a direct consequence of a big and expensive local government. In the last decade the city budget has ballooned from \$1.9 B to \$3.3 B and the local tax burden has gone from 5.9% to 9% today and rising. Let's lower our tax burden and free up homeowners, renters, and business owners to keep more of what they earn. That incentivizes productivity and increases prosperity for everyone.

**Q3:** We should pass the 2012 State Water Plan and I will work to do that from Council. My career in state and federal public policy gives me unique relationships and an understanding of the legislative process that would serve Austin well. The wrong approach is to enact more regulatory burdens like mandatory curbside composting and continuing the ineffective plastic bag ban on retailers. These approaches burden individuals and

business owners.

**Q4:** 1. Affordability: We need to rein in the size and cost of City government and lessen our tax burden. 2. Traffic: Let's redirect dollars to road construction and streamline the project and review process to decongest traffic now. 3. Representation: 10-1 will finally give Northwest Austin a voice. We are a conservative district, but I want to work in good faith with liberal colleagues on Council and have begun to build those bridges.

## Don Zimmerman

**Education:** B.S. (1984), M.S. (1986) Mechanical Engineering, Texas A&M University



**Experience:** 28 years in Software Engineering: Schlumberger, Compaq Computer, IBM, several startups. Elected President of Utility District, Founded Taxpayer Union

**Q1:** I oppose Urban Rail and support real civil engineering solutions to our severe road congestion. Solutions include expanded road capacity and new or expanded freeways (including east-west freeway) with reversible-direction HOV/express lanes. HOV lanes, reversible in morning/evening, a cellular mass transit scheme, encouragement of innovative Lyft/Uber options, etc. Buses do everything rail does, but faster and cheaper with flexibility.

**Q2:** Austin city government policy has pursued unaffordable, unsustainable "high density growth", with a failure to expand roads, oppressive bureaucratic red tape to new development, and the acquisition of open lands forcing affordable suburbs further away from Austin. If these policies are reversed, affordable housing will be created by market forces. If existing policies are extended, extreme gentrification and unaffordability will worsen.

**Q3:** LCRA and other bureaucratic interests are largely to blame for shortages. LCRA sells water to agriculture interests at a tiny fraction of what city rate payers are charged. I would pursue the use of treated water for

irrigation and non-potable uses, and lobby to restore respect for private property rights to water, to help put market forces in charge of water conservation. Politicizing water use leads to waste and cronyism.

**Q4:** 1. Traffic, lack of capacity (above) - engineered design needed; 2. Wildfire risk -- existing AFD Wildfire Mitigation Division has been poorly managed and under utilized and I will reverse that; fire stations are lacking for annexed suburban areas and must be budgeted for 3. Lack of city department response to critical problems -- e.g. flash flooding areas; recommend replacing City Managerial staff with personnel more responsive to council.

## DISTRICT 7

### Jeb Boyd

**Education:** BA, American Studies, Reed College, Portland, Oregon. JD



with environmental certificate, Pace University School of Law, White Plains, New York

**Experience:** Administrative law & gov't relations. Former Assistant Attorney General and staff atty at GLO & RRC. Served on Parks Board and other boards.

**Q1:** I support Imagine Austin's vision of a compact and connected city. A city where people have real, multi-modal choices about how to make their daily trips. A city where a family might only need one car or even choose to have no car. I support Project Connect's vision for improving transportation in Central Texas, including the proposed urban rail plan. I will make finding funding for Lone Star rail one of my top priorities

**Q2:** I support a \$5,000 universal homestead exemption. I support revising the land development code to make it easier and cheaper to build housing, particularly in the Central City. We need to foster abundant housing for people at each stage of their lives. We need to encourage a range of housing types. I support using existing publicly owned lands as affordable hous-

ing sites. I favor building housing along transit corridors.

**Q3:** Conservation needs to be our first step, to better manage the water that we have. I support programs to better collect and manage rainfall and stormwater runoff. I support working with our regional partners through the Capital Area Council of Governments to better manage our surface and groundwater resources. I support the recent recommendations of the Water Resource Management Task Force.

**Q4:** Affordability, Transportation, & Redevelopment. I've discussed affordability above. In addition to what I said above, there is a need in Dist 7 for transit, cycling, and pedestrian improvements in the corridor between ACC Northridge, Kramer Rail Station, the Domain, the Pickle Campus, & the Arboretum. Redevelopment is a pressing and contentious issue in Dist 7. I will work to form consensus and mediate disputes over proposed development.

### Ed English

**Education:** BA - Political Science, graduated Summa Cum Laude - First in my class



**Experience:** 30 years Sales and Marketing including contract generation, contract management, and negotiating between interested parties to finalize agreements.

**Q1:** Traffic and transportation issues have become so severe that there is no single solution. All available options must be in the toolkit. I would support additional buses and route improvements, road improvements, cost effective rail (I oppose the current rail proposal), ride sharing, Uber/Lyft services, expanded and improved taxi service, bike lanes, better walkability, staggered work hours, more work from home opportunities and the like.

**Q2:** Numerous components will be required. We have to remove obstacles that push up construction costs such as our antiquated permitting process. Building small square footage

apartments where appropriate, preserving existing affordable housing, passing a homestead exemption, requiring that new developments include some number of lower cost units, and encouraging building where land costs are lower are a few potential approaches.

**Q3:** Aggressive conservation measures need to be taken. These include commercial and industrial water reuse, stricter enforcement of existing usage restrictions, encouraging additional rainwater collection, along with additional discount and rebate programs. Replacing Austin's most leaky distribution pipes, developing an Integrated Water Resource Plan and directing development away from the Edwards Aquifer are also needed steps.

**Q4:** The three most critical issues are traffic, zoning/land use, and a lack of general affordability. I would address the traffic issues as described in the first question - all cost effective options to be evaluated by City Council. Code Next may offer some promise for more managed growth but should not pass at the expense of existing neighborhoods. A homestead exemption and lower utility bills will aid in affordability. Both can be done.

## Zack Ingraham

**Education:** Majored in Educational Sports Sciences and English at Texas State University.



**Experience:** Animal rights activist. Was able to get APD to implement mandatory training for all officers in how they handle canine encounters.

**Q1:** I believe the problem of congestion in Austin is a big issue. Ultimately something has to be done. Were I on the current city council I would have supported a light rail bond that did more for District #7 and all of Austin. The current proposal only services a small area of mostly college students. If elected I would fight for more of this congestion relief to be in District #7.

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I would support light rail to the airport as well.

**Q2:** I believe the main issue preventing more affordable housing is the confusing and outdated city code. CodeNext is attempting to address these issues however if I am elected I plan to step in and make sure CodeNext reflects the 10-1 Council's views. By simplifying and streamlining the process and utilizing technology, more affordable homes can be built in a faster time frame. This increase in supply would bring down rent and sale prices in Austin.

**Q3:** Texas still has 2 sets of water laws. One for surface and one for underground. If elected I would move to protect the aquifers and allow the water to recharge from the surface water and runoff. We must also practice smart conservation that utilizes technology to limit water usage and the impact on Austinites. Certainly if nothing is done Austin is headed for extreme drought in the future. This may be Austin's most important environmental issue.

**Q4:** Affordability, Transportation, Police Accountability. By fixing city code we can build more homes and bring down rent. If we look at Austin Energy like a business we can find savings in Austin Energy's profits and redistribute those savings to the people. With a better light rail bill created by a 10-1 city council we can impact transportation issues in District #7. Through city ordinances we can stop the progression of the police state.

## Jimmy Paver

### Education:

Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Southwestern University 2001; Master of Public Affairs LBJ School of Public Affairs at UT Austin

**Experience:** Over a decade of public policy experience: Former District Director for Congressman Lloyd Doggett, Legislative Director for Representative Mark Strama

**Q1:** I fully support the expansion of our public transit system.

I think that the best way to reduce congestion in the short-term is to further develop our urban transit options including bus, rail, bike, and pedestrian routes. This contributes to the cultural changes that are needed to reduce dependency on cars. The more public transit is integrated into our city's culture, the more beneficial the expansion of our rail system and other infrastructure.

**Q2:** The code rewrite, hopefully, will go a ways in allowing for more affordable housing by streamlining the building process. I support continued partnership with affordable housing organizations to ensure that all Austinites have fair access to safe and affordable housing. I also believe that it is important to consider for whom we are we are developing affordable housing so that our supply matches and addresses the demand appropriately.

**Q3:** Although we have an ample water supply through our partnership with LCRA, water is a limited resource that needs to be protected. I would take steps to better prepare our city for drought by continuing to set aggressive conservation goals and to help meet those goals through municipal incentives/regulations and education for consumers. We need to integrate conservation culture into long-term proactive lifestyle change for Austinites.

**Q4:** 1) Traffic: As I said above, the best way to address this issue is by making public transit convenient and accessible. 2) Affordability can be addressed in the short term by considering a municipal homestead exemption that provides a flat-rate incentive to homeowners. 3) Fiscal responsibility by city government: adopt a balanced approach to spending and increase transparency/communication with constituents.

## Leslie Pool

**Education:** B.A., cum laude, Grove City College (PA) 1977; attended

mid-career MPAff, LBJ School of Public Affairs, 2000

**Experience:** Travis County 2011-current; National Wildlife Federation 2004-11; Legislative Aide, TX House 2000-03; TxDOT Planner/Mgr 1991-99; TX Emp Cmsn 1985-91

**Q1:** I support safe, multi-modal transit options in our urban region: rail, bus, bike, pedestrian. I support rail generally but the current proposal is flawed. We must maintain sidewalks and install bus stop structures that provide shade; increase transit routes, better connect them to commercial centers and neighborhoods and increase bus frequency. Crestview Station needs parking for users of the Red Line.

**Q2:** Housing is a basic human need: Austin needs almost 50,000 rental units for people earning \$25,000 or less. I would encourage and build on the work of affordable housing advocates to find innovative ways to address our housing shortage: e.g., continue to offer affordable housing bond propositions; expand housing stock for seniors, people with disabilities, vets, low income families; locate transit stops in walking distance from neighborhoods.

**Q3:** The prolonged drought is a critical issue: Rain is unreliable & the water we need to live is in short supply. We must adopt a culture of water stewardship and management where water to meet our human needs remains affordable to all. Adopt Water Resource Planning Task Force recommendations that protect and make best use of water from the Colorado River under current LCRA contract, and scale up water filtration and recapture strategies.

**Q4:** Tax Reform: Homeowners bear the brunt of the unfair property tax system. I will bring my legislative experience to our fight to reform the system at the Capitol to address Austin's affordability. Transportation is a challenge; we must improve our transit systems through better routes, schedules, frequency of bus & existing rail. Address crime: Parts of district 7 need more police presence; community

policing in a good tool to deter crime.

## Pete Salazar Jr.

### Education:

B.A. in History From the University of Texas, San Antonio. Certificate from the Institute of Law and Public Affairs.

**Experience:** Over a decade of experience in preparing people to re-enter the workforce. Addressed member of the United States Congress and Senate on vet issues.

**Q1:** I believe we need to expand our public transportation and create more connectivity throughout Austin. I would expand bus service in the areas of service times, to at least 3:30 AM, and Cap Metro needs to serve all areas of Austin, not doing so segregates our population and neglects basic service to our community. I would like to see rail be introduced in the future, but only after bus service is expanded. I do not support the current rail prop.

**Q2:** We need cheaper housing in Austin, this is why connectivity becomes so important, the more economic housing is being built in areas that have limited public transportation service. I believe ECHO has given good insights in building affordable housing. Austin is in desperate need for more multi-family housing. The current theme of building high priced condos is forcing families to move out of Austin. We need to build in outer areas, & bring ppl in

**Q3:** We need to expand in our re-usage of water, we can use gray water for non drinking usages, and we need to expand are usage in green technology in terms of getting power as a city, so that water turbines and cooling stations are less needed. We need to make it cheaper for Austinites to use in general. When dealing with landscapes and watering we need to get back to more native plants that can handle the Texas climate with less water needs.

**Q4:** The major issues in my district are handling new development in both commercial busi-



ness and housing. District 7 is losing local businesses that have been established for decades, and we have issues of mini-mansions and stealth dorms. I would create local business corridors, that help promote local business throughout my district and the city. I would also make sure there our new regulations on stealth dorms, and housing construction.

## Darryl Wittle

### Education:

BA Liberal Arts/Economics, '85 University of Texas

**Experience:** 20 years experience in both small business management and corporate business management

**Q1:** Increased hours for capital metro bus service. Financial incentives for car pooling. Increased permitting for taxi/cab companies. Loosening restrictions on commercial ride sharing, with consideration for prerogatives of existing taxi/cab services. Encouragement and promotion of flex hours and tele-commuting for industry. Re-examination of the creation of a "loop" around the city, utilizing 360, 35, 71 and 183. New flyovers and road building.

**Q2:** lifting of restrictions on size/spatial requirements downtown. Loosening of permitting process for new construction of both homes and apartments. Re-examination of restrictions on construction in neighborhoods, including remodeling, add-ons, mother-in-laws, garage apartments, etc.

**Q3:** continuation of promotion of conservation, but with incentives to do so as opposed to the rate increases currently proposed, which appear to some as punitive. Review of environmental ordinances to assure sustainable growth with watershed protection without inhibiting sound development. Continued acquisition and development of parklands.

**Q4:** need to increase/repair/replace aging infrastructure in older areas, accessible trans-



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portation/mobility, including roadways and sidewalks. Maintenance of neighborhood character. Will encourage every age appropriate person to register to vote and to take part in the democratic process, so that district 7 has the highest election participation rate in the city. I will be the ear, but this will give 7 a voice in the city budget process.

## Melissa Zone

**Education:** Master of Public Administration, City Management & Policy, Bachelor of Arts in Urban Affairs, Urban Planning & Management, Cleveland State University.

**Experience:** 20 years as a professional urban planner & policy, 25 year neighborhood & environmental activist, former Florida Supreme Court Certified Mediator.

**Q1:** As a professional urban/regional planner, I have worked hard to incorporate public transit into the fabric of the communities where I served. Buses have the greatest potential to reduce traffic with the least amount of capital investment. Cap Metro can develop bus lines anywhere in the city and they are not limited to fix guideways. I support continued investment in Austin's bus system by increasing the number of buses and routes.

**Q2:** The city can be more assertive about how we supply affordable housing to meet present and future needs. The city can expand their density bonus ordinance citywide to incentivize affordable housing, including multi-family rental properties, in new development and redevelopment. As a city Council member, I would vote to enforce developers' affordable housing commitments and deny requests for waivers except under extraordinary circumstances.

**Q3:** We need to concentrate development in areas with sufficient water resources and require best practices for water conservation. We should limit development in stormwater recharge zones, incentiv-

ize rainwater harvesting and make reclaimed water available for new development. Through CodeNEXT, the city could limit planting of turf and implement drought tolerant landscape standards. The city should also expand education and outreach.

**Q4:** We need to resolve traffic congestion on major arterials through upgrades to existing roads such as intersection improvements, improved signal timing and reverse lanes. We need Transportation Demand Management strategies like staggered work hours and telecommuting. We need more below-market-rate housing on public transit corridors. We have a deficit of public parks. I want to identify funding to fill the gap according to the Parks Master Plan.

## DISTRICT 8

### Becky Bray

**Education:** BS and MS Science-Texas A&M Professional Engineer/PE Professional Traffic Operations Engineer/PTOE American Institute of Certified Planners/AICP

**Experience:** 20 years in transportation, engineering, and land planning. I have served on many community and professional boards.

**Q1:** Initially a complete review of the current transit services needs to be completed. Route and schedule changes need to be made where necessary. Consideration for expansion of the Bus Rapid Transit needs to be reviewed. This might be a viable option on a regional level as well. In general, transit opportunities need to be expanded beyond the Urban Core and partnerships that allow for greater local and regional service areas should be developed.

**Q2:** I am a proponent of the housing bonds, they have been helpful in providing affordable housing in a variety of locations. During the code rewrite process allowances should be made for denser communities. I would also support the review of the City's current development review process. There needs to be

a thorough review of all the policies and regulations that have been implemented; these are only adding to the overall price of housing.

**Q3:** The first priority must be to continue the conservation and education measures we have in place. The Austin Water Utilities rate structure should be reviewed to see if water usage can be regulated through the rate structure. The City of Austin needs to work with our regional partners in the development of alternative water sources. The City also needs to work with state partners in the exploration of alternative water storage solutions.

**Q4:** Transportation; The roadways in southwest Austin have largely been ignored. We must continue to move forward on planned projects. Affordability% Austin must work with our partners to understand appraisal/taxing implications. Austin should look at cost/benefits of recent policy and regulations changes that have been made recently. Regional Partnerships: This includes AISD (educational), LCRA (water) TxDOT, CTRMA, Cap Metro (transportation).

### Eliza May

**Education:** Master's Degree, Administration & Planning, UT School of Social Work; McCombs School of Business, Community Business Advancement Program, Certificate.

**Experience:** Executive Leadership, Chamber of Commerce, CEO; State Agency Executive Director; Public Policy; Financial Management, Bonds; Coalition 10-1 city Council

**Q1:** We need a transportation plan that genuinely takes cars off the streets. We need a citizen engaged comprehensive plan for the city that will address mass transit while addressing solutions to the Citywide traffic problem to help all areas of Austin. I support immediate less expensive solutions like the synchronization of traffic signals, increase non-tolled capacity on Mopac, increased bus service,

4-day work weeks, staggered work days.

**Q2:** We must address the City Codes that make Austin such an expensive City to build a home and streamline the code. Second, we must search for ways to ensure that new developments have a mix of affordable units in their build-out; we also need protect existing affordable units by not adopting plans that eradicate existing low cost housing, an example. Affordability is a function income; recruitment-retention of good paying jobs is essential.

**Q3:** We need a water strategy to meet the demands of continued growth exacerbating by drought. I support aggressive water conservation, smart meters; Home Water Audits and replacement of old leaking pipes; increased use of treated sewage for non-drinking purposes; and the adoption of a citywide commitment on becoming the most water efficient city in Texas. There is a need take our water even more seriously and further foster a conservation culture.

**Q4:** In District 8, Southwest-Transportation, see above for solutions. Develop a District 8, transportation plan and advocate for the district's transportation solutions. Water, see above response. Property Taxes, there are various tools available in addressing the tax appraisal crises, some require legislative fixes such as the transparency of commercial appraisal values affecting us. I support the homestead exemption and a tax freeze for the 65+.

### Darrell Pierce

**Education:** Crockett High School, Bachelor's Degree in Business from St. Edward's University, Graduate, Austin Police Academy

**Experience:** Planning Commission, ISD Boundary Task Force, Chamber of Commerce Board, Leadership Austin Graduate, Transit Working Group, Public Education Found.

**Q1:** I will work with CapMetro

to plan for more bus Park & Rides to the South and Southwest region of Austin. Further, I will identify expanded after-hours public transportation options to improve safety. In addition, I will evaluate current permitting structure for the cab industry to ensure flexibility for the number of permits/cabs available to customers during special events.

**Q2:** I support reducing property taxes through a phased-in 20% homestead exemption and ensuring permitting and zoning processes are streamlined to reduce costs for home buyers and renters. Further, I support mix-use projects with density that are consistent with the spirit of Imagine Austin.

**Q3:** Develop a "water dashboard" to collect and measure how water is used and compile real data to form an integrated water supply and conservation plan that includes goals, objectives and performance measures. Look at best practices from peer cities and use the information to assist in establishing a regional conservation plan. Further, identify resources to offer rebates and incentives to those who decide to Xeriscape and replace old plumbing.

**Q4:** District 8's three most critical issues are transportation, community services, and protection of our environment. I would address each by securing adequate funding to support a regional, comprehensive transportation study for all of South Austin, ensuring lights on city streets are synchronized to yield optimal traffic flow, maximize the efficient delivery public safety services, and find funding to protect our open spaces, aquifer, and parks.

### Ed Scruggs

**Education:** University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK. (Major in Electronic Journalism), Attended Chaffey Community College, Alta Loma CA.

**Experience:** Austin City Hall Reporter, KLBK AM 1991-1992,

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Circle C HOA Director / President 2004-2006, AISD Bond Campaign Activist 2004.

**Q1:** Austin must invest in a comprehensive transportation network incorporating road, rail, bus and dedicated lanes. Completion of the Y in Oak Hill and careful expansion of Mopac capacity are top priorities. Also supportive of staggered work hours, ride sharing and the Lone Star Rail link to San Antonio. I oppose rail as outlined in Proposition 1, as the plan is too expensive, incomplete and does not acknowledge issues facing the southwest commuter

**Q2:** I am very supportive of expanding on the work of organizations such as Foundation Communities and Housing Works, which seek to integrate quality affordable housing with market rate units throughout the city. These efforts, funded partly through our public housing bonds, also offer educational and childcare services vital to working families. We should also prioritize efforts to preserve and maintain existing multi-family housing stock.

**Q3:** With the drought entering its seventh year, it is vital to our economic future that we adopt policies seeking to make Austin the most water conscious city in the state of Texas. This includes expanding our successful conservation programs and investing in recapture / re-use technologies. We must also attempt to measure the expected impact of new development on the water supply, with the goal of making new projects "net use neutral".

**Q4:** Affordability: Grant a phased in 20% homestead exemption and reform the city budget process to incorporate elements of zero based budgeting and sunset review. Transportation: Build an innovative transit system serving the commuter. Pursue road projects that do not worsen existing congestion and encourage increased cut-through traffic. We must also prioritize preserve open space, expand branch libraries and protect public safety funding.

## Ellen Troxclair

**Education:** University of Texas - McCombs School of Business, Licensed Realtor

**Experience:** Realtor & small business owner with over a decade of experience in public policy at the State Capitol, as well as an active member of our community.

**Q1:** Expanding the limited bus service in the region & investing in increased road capacity will help to relieve traffic congestion. If built, the proposed rail plan would carry less than 1/2 of 1% of the travelers in the region and will not reduce our traffic woes. I cannot in good faith say I am concerned about affordability and then support a plan that will significantly increase our property taxes while Austinites struggle to stay in their homes.

**Q2:** Affordability starts with efficient spending. We must refocus our priorities in order to control spending and reduce the city's need to constantly come to the taxpayers for more money in the form of tax hikes, fee increases, and bond measures. This will lower the cost of living for all Austinites. Additionally, keeping energy bills under control, streamlining permitting codes, and prioritizing basic city services will make Austin more affordable.

**Q3:** In the short term, the city should encourage conservation through efficient irrigation systems, rainwater collection systems, and responsible water use. In the long term the City should take advantage of the opportunities made available through the passage of Proposition 6 water fund by investing in water infrastructure and working with the Legislature and other municipalities to reach the goals of the state's water plan.

**Q4:** Transportation woes that have come as a result of an attitude of "if you don't build it, they won't come," the rising cost of living, including skyrocketing property taxes, and the growing crime rate in what has previously been considered a relatively safe area all critical issues. Please visit my website at EllenforAustin.com or



email me at Info@EllenforAustin.com for more information about how we can work together to address these issues.

## DISTRICT 9

### Erin McGann

**Education:** MS in Criminal Justice from Texas State BS in Justice and Policy Studies from Guilford College

**Experience:** I have experience with budget analysis, fraud investigation and auditing for contractual compliance, I manage 20 people around the state.

**Q1:** Austin can do a great job of handling the traffic problem by creating a circle of Park n Rides around the city, with a web of busses that criss cross the city. The busses can be of a variety of sizes to accommodate the needs of the station. The bus routes can be easily changed if there turns out to be more need somewhere else. We also need to invest in bike lanes, and better sidewalks including better lighting so people are safe biking and walking

**Q2:** One of the great opportunities it seem the city will be facing is the redevelopment of the Austin State School. It seems likely the ASS will be closed this year by the legislature, and the land will be open for development. I would like to see a development that is similar to Mueller, with a variety of housing, protected elder housing and apartments, town homes, duplexes, single family homes etc.

**Q3:** First, we have to accept that this is our climate, the likelihood of it changing is minimal. We need to continue to conserve water, we need to also increase use of grey, rain and recycled water. We must have every city building working with the maximum amount of conservation it can, and every city building should have solar panels as well

**Q4:** The most critical issues in my district are the rail bond, which I am again, as are most people I speak to. This is entirely to expensive and will no have much effect on traffic. It will serve less than 2% of the anticipated population in 10 years.

The ratio of EMS, Fire and Police to citizens is being reduced because of the large influx of new population, we must continue to hire and to staff the 911 center so we can be safe. Affordability

### Chris Riley

**Education:** UT Law School 1986 - 1989, Harvard College 1982 - 1986, Capitol Page School, Washington, DC 1980 - 1982, Austin High 1978 - 1981

**Experience:** City Council 2009-Present, Planning Commission, 2001-2007, CapMetro Board, 2009 - present, Water Conservation Task Force, 2006-2007

**Q1:** We've got to provide more and better public transportation options. I support continued strengthening of Capital Metro's bus system, including improvements at bus stops; a robust urban rail system; and better pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, including an all-ages, all-abilities network of bike facilities. I also support embracing innovations like car2go, Zipcar, and BCycle, RideScout, and am leading on legalizing apps like Uber and Lyft.

**Q2:** In areas like West Campus, Downtown, Mueller, and the Saltillo District, I've supported city programs aimed at leveraging private investments to provide more affordable housing options. I also support allowing a diversity of market-rate housing options in appropriate locations, which takes pressure off the cost of housing across the city. We especially need to get better at meeting the demand for smaller homes in transit-friendly locations.

**Q3:** We need to meet our water needs locally through better stewardship of our resources. I have led on expanding our reclaimed water network and allowing more gray water systems, which will enable us meet more of our water demand through reuse. We also need to make better use of rainwater; for example, through continued progress on our commercial landscaping ordinance. Enabling more people



to live in smaller, closer-in homes will also help.

**Q4:** Housing, transportation, and public safety are all critical issues in District 9. We need to provide more housing options in the right locations to help meet demand and reduce costs. We need better transportation options for everyone, whether they're driving a car or not. And we need to work collaboratively to make sure the central city remains a safe place. Meeting those challenges will help ensure that Austin maintains its character as we grow.

### Kathie Tovo

**Education:** B.A., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; M.A., American Civilization, UT Austin; Ph.D., American Studies, UT Austin

**Experience:** Austin City Council (since 2011), Planning Commission, Families & Children Task Force, other city and AISD committees and task forces

**Q1:** We must invest in a multi-modal transportation network, which includes public transportation (urban rail, rapid bus), bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure (bike lanes, sidewalks, safety devices), and strategic roadway improvements (fixing intersections/bottle-necks). I helped draft the Families and Children Task Force Report, which provides a blueprint for making our neighborhood streets safer, including traffic calming and Safe Routes to Schools

**Q2:** Filling the housing gap requires thoughtful planning and dedicating significant resources to support, build, and preserve affordable housing in all areas of Austin. Bond funding should continue to target deeper levels of affordability, and we should look to partner with non-profit housing providers to develop new affordable units on city-owned land. We must also uphold density bonus programs that require on-site dedication of affordable units.

**Q3:** The long-term sustainability



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ity of our city depends on conserving and properly managing our water resources. I was the lead sponsor of the Water Resources Planning Task Force, and I am working on implementing their recommendations. I recently sponsored the development of an Integrated Water Resource Plan, a Water Conservation and Supply Project Evaluation Matrix, and improvements to enhance proactive implementation of drought response stages.

**Q4:** (1) Affordability: I'm leading efforts to relieve the tax burden on residents, restore balance to the tax appraisal system, and make corporations pay their fair share. (2) Education: I've fought the closure of neighborhood schools, strengthened our partnership with AISD, and prioritized family-friendly policies. (3) Enhance lives. I've instituted senior meals programs, restored social services, prioritized new parks, and protected the environment.

## DISTRICT 10

### Marjorie Burciaga

**Education:** Univ of Arkansas, BSBA major in Finance & Banking, Certified Professional Coach CPC, CCC, CRC, CBEC Completed Certified Financial Planning class work

**Experience:** small business woman with financial background & trained life coach; over 20 years on PTA including President; volunteer for over 20 nonprofits

**Q1:** A comprehensive bus line we can do now. It's cheaper than rail, increases mobility to more communities and enhances retained employment across the city. Use small buses for van pools. We can improve traffic congestion with HOV lanes, timed on-ramps, & re-timed traffic lights using state prop 1 \$400 million dollars. Collaborate with private and public entities to solve congested corridors. Increase cabs and transportation network companies.

**Q2:** We were the 1st to cam-

paign for city homestead exemption and reduction of fees by getting non-related utility items out utility department. We need an accurate cost analysis for all monetary impact that City regulations have on housing which will give relief to homeowners and renters. Political leaders to reach across party lines at the state level to equalize the appraisal system so homeowners do not pay the majority of the cost of city services

**Q3:** Stop making deals with water we don't have! Cut corporate utility subsidies that drive up costs for residents. We need to replace 725 miles of leaking infrastructure. Provide incentives for homes and businesses to use reclaimed water, dual flush commodes, tank less water heaters, polyethylene pipe for plumbing and landscape with native or semi-arid plants. Increase water runoff and reduce fire hazard conditions by clearing brush.

**Q4:** Affordability: 1 out of 4 residents say they will move if taxes & fees increase. City homestead exemption & reduce city spending with zero line accounting. Overcrowding effecting traffic, schools, crime, home prices and living with wildlife. Collaborate with neighborhoods & planning department to grow our neighborhoods safely and efficiently. Traffic: implement above transportation solutions. We need transparent, effective & efficient government.

### Tina Cannon

**Education:** Texas State University - Bachelors in Accounting

**Experience:** Tina is an entrepreneur, auditor, businesswoman, civic leader, educator, former EMT, served on Boards of Certified Fraud Examiners, Internal Auditors,

**Q1:** Huge supporter of multi-modal systems. As a whole, I love the concept of rail and hope that at some point we'll get there as city with the right routes and costs. We cannot build more roads to get out of this. We have not done enough

to explore a full citywide dedicated Bus Rapid Transit solution that is more agile, covers more routes, responsive, faster to deploy and more cost effective to the taxpayer debt burden. Rail/BRT bond would be better.

**Q2:** There are sensible solutions when we bring people together to explore options and innovations. Density does not equal affordability; mirco lofts fail to address family use. (1) Reform our broken property tax system that is unfair to homeowners. (2) Homestead exemption. (3) Open the door to single-family development, expand secondary dwelling and removing code obstacles (4) Affordability should not be geo-specific. (5) Increase single family inventory

**Q3:** (1) Full fiscal and operational audit of AWU, set baseline comparables & examine how we compare to other cities w/similar circumstances but yet more fiscally sound than AWU. (2) City-wide aggressive use/recapture plan (3) Move conservation out of AWU control (4) Continue to encourage conservation both indoors and out. (5) Adopt Water/Water Task Force recommendations. (6) Update Water Mgt Plan (7) Emergency drought planning (8) Con't LCRA contract

**Q4:** (1) Fixing broken property tax appraisal system that has commercial paying less than their fair share placing an undue burden of growth on homeowner tax rolls. (2) Budget - Manage concerns over water utility mismanagement, address long term conservation plan, implement task-force recommendations, monitor the ever-rising costs in both our utilities (3) Full emergency preparedness and response plans in the event of wildfires/natural disasters.

### Mandy Dealey

**Education:** The University of Texas at Austin (B.A. in Art History), Leadership Austin (1986), Leadership Texas (1988), LBJ School of Public Affairs (M.P.A. 2003)

**Experience:** Six city boards, commissions and task forces; chaired large nonprofits such as

Planned Parenthood, Texas Lyceum, Preservation Austin and KM-FA-FM radio

**Q1:** We must work together to find long-and-short-term solutions for our traffic problems. There is no quick fix, or one solution that will reduce congestion. Mass transportation and roads must both be a part of Austin's future planning. Looking for short-term solutions, such as telecommuting where possible, should also be a goal of ours. One way to cut down on traffic congestion would be to stagger the work hours, and the city should lead by example.

**Q2:** I am concerned about protecting the affordability of Austin housing, both owner occupied and rental properties. We need to make sure that constituents from all economic backgrounds are able to live in our city. I support Steve Adler's proposal for phasing in a 20 percent homestead exemption for homeowners if it does not means making cuts in services. I will work hard to make Austin not only a desirable place to live, but an affordable one too.

**Q3:** Austin will continue to grow, which means we need to find new ways to supplement our water supply while continuing to identify means of conservation. Encouraging gray water use for irrigation and cooling will be an important step. I want to initiate a program for residents to collect water from air conditioning systems and washing machines for reuse. It can be accomplished more quickly and less expensively than city-wide purple pipe installation.

**Q4:** Traffic/transportation is the biggest issue in District 10. There is no doubt that MoPac and Loop 360 are heavily congested and need relief, especially because drivers often divert to neighborhood street to avoid the heavy traffic. Rising property tax is a real issue in District 10, and wildfires also present a threat in much of the district.

### Sheri Gallo

**Education:** Attended Trinity University in San Antonio & the University of Texas at Austin

**Experience:** A 50 year resident of District 10; Local business owner for over 30 years; Strong leadership roles in numerous community organizations

**Q1:** I support public transportation systems but we must be smart about it and use resources and money in the right places. We will need to implement multiple solutions. Mass transit (buses, rail, ride-share, shared use paths) must be part of our future plans but with an eye for making sure it is in locations which will relieve the most current roadway congestion and is predictable, cost effective, and works for the user.

**Q2:** I would want to try to encourage affordable housing in every area of Austin. We must reduce the regulatory cost to develop and build in Austin which currently has negative impact on affordability of new home construction. We must be careful about adding more bureaucratic requirements & fees on the operations and ownership of rental housing because typically any increase in an owner's costs will usually be passed on to the tenants in higher rents

**Q3:** We must continue to have mandatory restrictions on water usage and continue to enforce violations of those restrictions. Austin must continue to educate citizens and property owners about conservation through xeriscaping, rain water collection and the reuse of grey water for our non-potable needs. The drought we are in could extend another five years or longer and I believe we are not prepared for the consequences of that should it occur.

**Q4:** (1) transportation-District 10 residents must battle MoPac, Loop 360 or Highway 183 every day and they must often travel when public transportation does not provide service. Need better roads (2) Affordability-The city can do its part to help control increasing costs by making it a top fiscal priority to operate a more cost efficient city govern-



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ment and reduce the cost of operating city services. 3) Water/drought/wildfire risk-see previous question

## Matt Lamon

**Education:** B.A. The University of Texas at Austin, M.P.A. Texas A&M University

**Experience:** Consultant at PricewaterhouseCoopers, Chief of Staff in the Texas House, Nearly 15 yrs experience making government efficient and accountable

**Q1:** I'm an advocate for bus service because it can be operated more cheaply and is more responsive to driving patterns than rail. Bus service is a much better deal for the taxpayer. I'm also for allowing companies like Uber and Lyft to operate because they offer more choices, like ride sharing. We can't talk about transportation with discussing roads. We've got to acknowledge that building and maintaining roads is also part of the solution.

**Q2:** First, I support a 20% city homestead exemption that will give immediate tax relief to working families. Secondly, I'll advocate for putting a cap on how much your taxes can increase each year. We should also create a rainy day fund for budget surplus that buys down the tax rate every year or pays down bond debt. Additionally, we need to reform the permitting process at city hall to make it less expensive to build, maintain or remodel your home.

**Q3:** I'm interested in creative ways to conserve water, like underground storage. That eliminates loss due to evaporation and allows land on top of the underground reservoir to be still be used. I'm also for desalination and learning how we can use brackish water. We need to maintain our water infrastructure to make sure we minimize the



amount of water lost in transmission.

**Q4:** Public safety is critical. I'll use my skills in management consulting to reduce government waste and maximize dollars for fire and police protection. Quality of life is important: our schools are overcrowded and our commutes are getting longer. I want to engage in collaborative dialogue with others to address these challenges. The rising cost of living impacts families in Dist 10 and I'll make sure we prioritize tax dollars and limit tax burdens

## Jason Meeker

**Education:** Bachelor's Degree in Journalism, UT Austin

**Experience:** Zoning & Platting Commission '11-'14, Prez-Great Hills HOA (9 & 10), Prez-Great Hills Park Neighborhood Assoc, Austin Neighborhoods Council Sector Rep

**Q1:** I like MetroRapid buses. Those are great. But we need a plan that better serves people now and in the future. In fact, we have a plan that we can use to link up our city: the Imagine Austin Plan, which features a forward-looking Growth Concept Map. It can be used as a blueprint to connect our city in a comprehensive manner. Then we ask citizens and business to invest in a progressive citywide plan they will benefit from all over town.

**Q2:** Ensuring affordability is critical to our future. We must tackle this challenge with vigor like Denver and New York City. NYC has a 10-year plan. Denver passed a strong ordinance that creates more incentives for developers to build affordable housing. We've invested billions in transit. We've built the airport. We improve our public infrastructure. These investments create value for developers. It is right for us to require affordability.

**Q3:** I worked to stop Water Treatment Plant 4, and found-



ed a grassroots group called Responsible Water. WTP4 was the wrong investment. Climate change is real. We must vastly improve water conservation. Water-intensive yards and landscapes must be switched to drought resistant plants. I'm talking about Arizona-type programs. The Austin Water business model will have to change too. We must reclaim and re-use water%especially in new development.

**Q4:** Transportation: Start the process to improve 360. The lights must be reconfigured so traffic flows better. Overpasses need to be built to allow neighborhood access. Wildfire: Give AFD the resources to better prepare and protect neighborhoods. Lion's Municipal Golf Course: We must preserve and protect this historic and environmentally sensitive site that's full of Heritage Trees. Our city is becoming more dense. We must save our green spaces.

## Robert Thomas

**Education:** University of Texas: McCombs School of Business, MBA University of Texas School of Law, JD Loyola University, BA Political Science & German

**Experience:** Board, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs; Tri-Chair, AISD Bond Oversight Committee; Bd. Chair, SafePlace; NWACA, VP; APIE School Mentor

**Q1:** Develop city-wide comprehensive multi-modal transportation plan for roadways and public transit to match Imagine Austin. Re-envision all public transportation options city-wide. Create new single regional transport entity to share costs and increase cooperation. Fix traffic light timing and use technology to increase car throughput. Reduce traffic by remote work, work from home, stagger start times, alternative work weeks and 4 day work weeks.



**Q2:** Enact Homestead Exemption. Cut number of \$100,000 a year city jobs, ensure property appraisals are fair, do city dept performance review/audit to root out duplication/waste, allow voters to vote on expensive projects, fix the permitting process, stop utility fee "hidden" taxes and prioritize spending on core municipal services to control expenses and lower tax rate. Diversify housing stock and attract living wage employers to help afford housing.

**Q3:** Create methodical conservation plan for homes and buildings. Fix leaking water mains to stop losing 3 billion gals/year. Move water conserve programs to independent unit. Incentivize existing and new buildings to implement water-wise measures. Revise annexation policy to reduce water costs and city water demand. Seek new sources of water. Coordinate with other cities to avoid competing for water and reduce cost to bring in new water sources

**Q4:** Traffic Congestion-see above. Affordability-see above. Water-see above. Fourth-Public Safety. Police resources are stretched thin and inadequate Fire Dept. resources for wildfires. Require all special events to pay for allocated police and redirect all payments back to the police budget instead of the General Fund. Hire analysts to help solve crimes and reduce response times. Plan for wildfire equipment purchases. Growth pays for city core services

## Bill Worsham

**Education:** BS Ocean Engineering 1986; studies in economic history and public choice

**Experience:** Over 25 years of engineering project management, program mgmt, small business ownership, organization leadership, team building, conflict resolution

**Q1:** Personal mobility is vital for



the economic well-being of individuals and families. I support efforts to improve personal mobility for the greatest possible number of residents. To do this, limited transportation resources should focus on congestion relief for drivers and efficient private and public transit service on our shared road system. While providing a range of options is a worthy goal, high cost-low benefit options must be avoided.

**Q2:** Overall, the best affordability strategy is to reduce government burdens on taxpayers and housing providers, while reserving growth-pumping strategies for slower times, so that household incomes can rise faster than housing costs. To leverage federal funds, it is appropriate to support an efficient city housing authority (HACA) focused on helping households move up and out rather than creating chronic dependency.

**Q3:** I support pricing strategies over rationing and enforcement to address scarcity. We must engage at the state level to avoid tragedy of the commons% outcomes resulting from a lack of well-defined and protected water rights. Past policy choices have limited our water supply to drought-prone surface water and ignored relatively drought-resistant groundwater sources. We should re-examine that choice while acknowledging environmental trade-offs.

**Q4:** 1) Mobility: avoid a multi-billion dollar mistake on urban rail and focus on shared roads; 2) High and rising tax burden and other city-imposed costs, focus on basic city services including public safety (including fire readiness) and maintenance of our existing parks/open spaces; 3) Uncertainty: we must dramatically reduce the tendency that around every corner is a new City program, regulation, or crony concession that affects our lives.

# AUSTIN ISD

## AUSTIN ISD TRUSTEES

**Q1:** Given that the current timetable for selecting the new superintendent extends beyond election day, if elected, will you honor the public input and process used? If so, why; if not, why not?

**Q2:** How could you help disseminate information on school programs and options within AISD to the parents in each school?

**Q3:** Given the numbers of immigrant children who will be in Austin schools, what are your views about serving these children?

**Q4:** What steps should AISD take to maximize the use of existing facilities and to address the issue of under-enrolled schools?

### DISTRICT 1

#### P. Kevin Bryant

No response

#### Edmund T. Gordon

**Education:** Ph.D. Anthropology Stanford MA Marine Sciences U Miami

**Experience:** Over 25 years teaching at UT Austin, Research and scholarship on race, gender and education. Community involvement local education issues.

**Q1:** Despite the possibility that I may not agree with the choices of the current board or their modes of consultation, its members were elected to undertake this responsibility and their decisions must be respected. If elected I plan to have a significantly more robust mechanism for consultation with the people of District 1 than is presently in place. Nevertheless, I will respect the process and the manner in which the elected board undertake it.

**Q2:** I will work with the parent teacher organizations in each school to get information out. I will also work with the neighborhood organizations in District 1 to provide another mechanism for outreach to parents. Finally, I will work closely with the Parent Training specialist in each school to design a mechanism the works best for the parents of that school to disseminate information to them.

**Q3:** These children must be as fully served as any other children in our district. They will have special needs including bilingual services that I believe must be put in places so that they have an equitable opportunity for a good education.

**Q4:** AISD must work with

the City to correct the underlying causes of flight from these schools. These schools should not be closed. Instead AISD should enhance the level and quality of educational programming in these school to attract more students to these campuses. The District should also partner with the City to provide wrap-around services at these schools. AISD should also provide supplementary educational opportunities at these schools.

#### Stanton Strickland

**Education:** Conroe High School - 1984 Baylor University - 1988 BBA (Mkt./Mgmt.) South Texas College of Law, Houston, Tx - 1992

**Experience:** Aldine ISD, Houston, TX - Staff Atty; Austin ISD - Sub. Teacher TX Dept. of Ins - Assoc. Comr. Org. of Central E. Austin Neighborhoods, Pres. 4 yrs

**Q1:** Yes. Over 21 years of public service has made transparency and the public process second nature to me, especially when gathering stakeholder comments. Public input is critical to hiring a superintendent that will possess the skills necessary to lead AISD forward in a positive manner and gain the trust and support of all stakeholders - parents, students, teachers, and the public generally. We cannot afford anything less.

**Q2:** The best methods of communicating information are likely different for each school depending on the demographics of the students and parents. For some, a digital divide, language barrier, or other challenge to receiving information may exist. As a trustee, knowing the characteristics and challenges of each



school and providing information in a manner that recognizes and overcomes the challenges of the parents audience is essential.

**Q3:** This is a legal as well as a humanitarian issue that we cannot ignore as a community and City. If children are already here in our community and schools without proper documentation, we have a humanitarian duty to provide them with a warm environment, which includes an education, while they await proper adjudication.

**Q4:** AISD should assign a champion to each under-enrolled school to coordinate its parent and community outreach to determine the needs of the community and the cause of the under-enrollment. Once AISD determines the community needs and issues causing the under-enrollment, it could design and coordinate a multi-use, multi-facility plan to increase the use of the under-enrolled schools while addressing the needs of the community.

#### David "D" Thompson

**Education:** Business Administration - Texas A&M University, Education graduate work - East Carolina University

**Experience:** Urban public school teacher in Austin, founding administrator of high-performing public charter school, and community minister

**Q1:** It is important to honor the process that is in place to ensure the input of parents and the community is heard. I'm advocating for someone with a proven track record of improving outcomes for students in the classroom, by developing and supporting great teachers and principals, innovatively addressing gaps in student achievement among diverse student groups, and working collaboratively to find solutions to overcome financial challenges.

**Q2:** As a teacher, I've seen the power parents and community members have when we engage them as partners in educating children. Our role as board



members should be to proactively reach out to parents and community members to understand the challenges we are all facing. It will be a priority of mine to work alongside the Community Engagement Specialists of AISD and within the systems they have created to make sure we are both informing and listening.

**Q3:** Every kid in Austin deserves access to great teachers and great schools. As a teacher, school administrator, and community minister, I've spent my entire career advocating for all kids to have access to great schools.

**Q4:** We should consult the approved Board of Trustees Facilities Master Plan. Strategies begin with identifying the reasons for low enrollment. Then, in light of what is best for kids, consider: the addition of academic programs like dual language offerings and Blackshear's Fine Arts Academy, boundary changes, grade level reassignments and addition of public/private partnerships. These must be presented to families for feedback before final decisions.

### DISTRICT 4

#### Julie Cowan

**Education:** BA Political Science, BFA Public Relations, Texas Secondary Teaching Certificate - SMU, Dallas, TX

**Experience:** PTA and Austin Council PTA Leader; Service on many AISD committees; House Legislative Aide; President of Travis County Medical Alliance

**Q1:** Yes, I will honor the process put in place by the current Board to hire the superintendent. Public participation by stakeholders has been reported to be excellent. I, myself, attended 5 sessions and was impressed by the comments shared. My hope is that selecting the superintendent with input from so many citizens will bring excellent to the Board for consideration. I look forward to working with the superintendent to move AISD forward.



**Q2:** AISD offers a variety of school options: neighborhood schools, fine arts, magnets, dual language, career & technology, college prep and more. The Board should offer guidance in cases like this. AIS's website, though it could be more user friendly, is an obvious way to share information. A showcase fair might also be considered. I plan to maintain a website that highlights Dist 4 and AISD successes as a constituent communication tool.

**Q3:** The economies of Texas and the US are dependent upon an educated citizenry. It is my understanding that the Supreme Court ruled decades ago that all children have the right to be educated. Until state/federal law changes, AISD will offer an education to all children who live within the attendance zones of their schools. As a trustee it is my responsibility to continue that policy. We must prepare Texas for its future through educating children.

**Q4:** A transparent, thoughtful study must be undertaken to address how AISD uses its facilities and addresses under-enrolled schools. As a PTA leader, I know that public schools are the heart of the community. Wanting to be a wise steward of taxpayer money, I also recognize that some hard discussions will need to take place if enrollment declines. Dialogues must include people from both sides so that trust, empathy, and consensus are formulated.

#### Karen Zern Flanagan

**Education:** 1984 BS Health Education Texas A&M 1986 M.Agr Food Science and Tech Texas A&M

**Experience:** Parent of 3 sons. Citizen Bond Oversight Committee member (CBOC) for 6 months.

**Q1:** I am glad we had the opportunity to provide input via a survey, but I think the district should publish the raw data, so we can interpret the information for ourselves. To date the district has not published the raw data. I

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# AUSTIN ISD

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think the survey will speak clearly what are important qualities to guide us to the correct person for the position. I'm not sure if the teachers have had any input, but their input is valuable, too.

**Q2:** The district has a thorough website that links to campus websites. It would be nice to have an independent AISD blog for parents and students to use. Issues can be raised, solutions considered, and brought to the attention of the district through board members. I've had parents mention a system similar to Austin's 311 system to help parents wade through the district admin. Campus offices can provide assistance to those without computers.

**Q3:** I'm a strong believer in becoming proficient in English through immersion. Some campuses have 25 different languages spoken! Campuses can embrace the other cultures represented on their campus through their social studies/history classes, literature, art, etc. Offering second languages, especially some of the spoken languages found on their campus, to all students would honor the cultures of the student population.

**Q4:** I'd like to look at the utilization of all the facilities that AISD owns and maintains. If they aren't being used for students could they be revenue producers or should they be sold? Under-enrolled schools could be dual purposed; students and relocated district departments to keep the students in their neighborhood. Could we partner with the City, non-profits, etc. to share facilities in under-enrolled schools? Get ideas from citizens, too.

## DISTRICT 6

**Kate Mason-Murphy**

**Education:** University of Texas, BS in Organizational Communication, Region IV Teaching Certification, Landmark Education - 10 years as a participant and coach



**Experience:** Public School Teacher - 11 years, Marketing, Advertising and Special Event Coordinator - 12 years

**Q1:** I will honor the work that has been done by those who participated in the whole process. If something doesn't sit well with me, I will ask questions until I am clear as to why we are moving in that direction.

**Q2:** Morning assembly and morning announcements help keep parents in the loop, electronic communication i.e. text, email, campus listserv and/or website, and hard copies for those who request it.

**Q3:** Dual language programs serve these children the most. I read somewhere that it takes 5 years with a language to be truly academically proficient in it. Bi-lingual education does not achieve fluency or academic success with the same results. I will advocate for dual language programming on all campuses to benefit all students who choose it. For those who don't, intensive English language programs will be in place.

**Q4:** I really like the idea of co-locating affordable housing, such as Foundation Communities, on AISD campuses. This would increase enrollment, and provide a stable, long-term population. Foundation Communities already offers their residents morning and evening ESL classes, after school enrichment programs and tutoring, healthy lifestyle initiatives, exercise classes, computer labs, community gardens, job fairs and other community-wide events.

**Paul Saldaña**

**Education:** 2007 Graduate, National Hispanic Executive Leadership Academy, University of Chicago 1997 St. Edwards University 1994 Austin Community College

**Experience:** Former Chief of Staff for Mayor Gus Garcia. 20+ yrs experience in public policy. Tri-Chair AISD's Neighborhoods & Schools & AISD Strategic Plan Co.

**Q1:** As an active community, business leader & parent I par-



ticipated in 1 of the 60 stakeholder meetings directly with the AISD search firm consultant and provided input into the development of the ideal characteristics for our new Superintendent. More than 2000 Austinites also completed the online survey. Given that the AISD Board recently modified the timetable for selection of the new Sup to accommodate run-off elections I will indeed honor process.

**Q2:** Dissemination of AISD info should remain organic & multi-lingual utilizing a combination of all communications methods to ensure every parent is receiving this important information. Utilization of existing PTAs, CACs, DACs, social service programs, parent support rep communication methods should continue. As a Dist 6 Trustee I will also commit to regular communications & community mtgs to ensure families receive & have access to AISD info.

**Q3:** I am a strong supporter of Comprehensive Immigration Reform on the local, state & national level. I am aware that in AISD for one in three students, English is not the first language. Our English Language Learner population has grown by 35% over the past 5 years & now comprises 29% of our student population. Every child & student in AISD schools should have access to quality education, a pathway to success and a quality of life.

**Q4:** AISD facility use is imbalanced, with growing enrollment in some areas & declining enrollment in others. Meanwhile, state & federal accountability systems impose sanctions that encourage student flight from struggling schools & can result in school closures. AISD needs to be able to inform & engage the community in transparent, inclusive & meaningful discussions about these demographic & educational trends & where their neighborhood school stands

**Monica Sanchez**

**Education:** Major: Journalism Minor: Fashion Design  
**Experience:** For-



mer Austin Council of PTAs Pres. DAC & Exec. Committee ESAC Joint Committee - MAC AISD UpClose Graduate Austin City Works Academy Graduate

**Q1:** Public input is one of my guiding principles and I firmly believe that our community must be invited to every conversation involving our school district because we are serving the Austin community. Therefore, even now, I do honor the public input & process used in the search for a new superintendent. As ACPTA President, we were the first organization to begin discussing a resolution on the qualities and characteristics of the next superintendent.

**Q2:** Through regular conversations with our interim superintendent, I encouraged him to consider creating a Welcome Center at district headquarters downtown and within every vertical team of the district so that parents can walk in to this center to learn more about every school within that vertical team. The Welcome Center would have campus and program information, as well as on site computers that parents/students can use to research AISD or apply.

**Q3:** After marrying my father, my mother immigrated from Mexico to Austin without speaking a word of English. As her daughter, my first language was Spanish and I was enrolled in bilingual education at Becker Elementary in the late 70s. Austin ISD serves all children, regardless of their immigration status. I meet regularly with Spanish speaking parent leaders across Austin who genuinely love their children and expect a great education just like I do.

**Q4:** Having regular conversations within the communities of these affected schools and facilities is one of my guiding principles, as I believe that our own community can help us solve some of the challenges we face. To fully understand every challenge, such as under-enrolled schools, we must look at why the school is under-enrolled, what programs are in place that help, and which ones are not helping or providing a positive impact on

achievement.

## DISTRICT 7

**Robert Schneider**

**Education:** A product of public schools, Robert is the chair for AISD committees and also serves as a Board Member for the Texas Association of School Boards.



**Experience:** First elected to the Austin ISD Board of Trustees in May 2002, re-elected in 2006 and in 2010. Retired from The University of Texas at Austin.

**Q1:** Yes, this is the second superintendent search that I have had the privilege of participating in as an elected member of the Austin ISD Board of Trustees. Throughout the current search, I have advocated for public input and transparency.

**Q2:** The school district has increased its public outreach efforts to include social media and multilingual options. As a trustee, I will continue to advocate for using emerging technology as a method to disseminating school program and event information to parents and legal guardians. I'm committed to working with the board to ensure adequate funding for multilingual outreach programs is budgeted.

**Q3:** I firmly believe that every child should be afforded the opportunity to Pre-K and public schools. As the first school district in the state, AISD has a history of providing programs that provide students with after school programs, magnet and academies, arts and athletic programs that enrich learning. No matter the student's nationality or origin or race. I will continue to support equitable programs for our 85,000 students.

**Q4:** The school district is currently in the process of updating its master facility plan. Without question, the district is seeing the impact of increased density and enrollment in parts of AISD where development is expanding from the urban core. The master facility plan will assist the Board

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# AUSTIN ISD

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of Trustees with planning for new schools and addressing under-enrollment at existing campuses. I will continue to call for public input on facility planning.

## Yasmin Wagner

**Education:** BA in Art History, University of Texas at Austin; Leadership Austin Essential and AISD UpClose alumna



**Experience:** Parent of two AISD students, boards of several non-profits, Gorzycki & Kiker PTA boards, ACPTA, Bowie vertical team, AISD Boundary Advisory Committee

**Q1:** AISD has done a good job of gathering public input to inform the selection process and it should be definitely be honored and acted upon. It is important that the choice of candidate reflect the expertise and needs of the community. If the process properly maps to the public input that has been gathered then the new board should continue to carry that forward if they are seated in time to do so.

**Q2:** Developing better communications strategies and meaningful community engagement is critical to building awareness about programs and options, developing solutions, and ensuring that they are effectively working for students. I am very active in my community and understand first-hand as a parent of children in AISD what meaningful communication feels like. I intend to be a present and available trustee in order to more effectively reach parents.

**Q3:** We must meet the needs of all children in AISD. With the dual language program, AISD is better able to ensure inclusive programming for immigrant children and close achievement gaps. The language knowledge of immigrant children is a great asset for the program and the program allows them to learn with their peers and thrive. Social-emotional learning curriculum is also beneficial to address

the stress that can come with their journey here.

**Q4:** We must make every effort to understand why these schools are under-enrolled so that we can build targeted strategies such as programmatic choice in concert with the community to address the reasons. This requires strong public engagement and dialogue. Additionally we should collaborate further with city government to maintain, strengthen and support neighborhood schools as part of city planning.

## AT-LARGE, POSITION 9

### Nael Chavez

**Education:** Seminary with Methodist of SC, RT, CLPIb, Lic. RRT, CLPIb, Lic. Renal failure Teacher (USA) MSW, Grief & Loss Counselor (MEX) Veteran US Army



**Experience:** Child crisis counselor, foster parent with the State of Texas, missionary liaison of manosquesanan, founder of enlightened warriors 501c3 since 2008

**Q1:** The public input is why we are here, we are made to serve so absolutely.

**Q2:** On a case by case every campus is different and deals with different demographics and there challenges are not all the same, results only matter so I would disseminate information on school programs and options that would benefit Child, Families and Teachers.

**Q3:** I am a immigrant, came to this country undocumented later to fix my papers I then joined the military and served this great country and currently serve giving a free program for youth at risk in Austin. Children are important no mater there status of immigration. I find it insulting that this is even a question very sad.

**Q4:** Change the corruption in AISD administration get more of the money to help children, teachers, and community involvement focusing on empowering families and commu-

nities. Both my teens and many foster children attended AISD and some districts where just strait up evil, some of the current practices that AISD uses in my eyes are child abuse: like indefinite school suspension, prosecuting families, so many kids to a teacher.

### Kendall Pace

**Education:** University of Texas at Austin, BBA Finance 1990



**Experience:** District and Campus Advisory Council member, financial consultant, former Treasurer of the board of Creative Action, former Director at MSDF and Dell

**Q1:** Yes of course! Over 2,000 members of the community, which included organized groups and civic leaders, responded to a survey that was used to develop a superintendent profile of desired qualities. Community engagement and input have been vital to the selection process, which has inspired trust in the community.

**Q2:** I have been actively working to launch Parents for Public Schools Austin that does this! I envision a website that has current qualitative information on all AISD schools and programs in an easy-to-read consistent format. Information also needs to be distributed in other mediums to accommodate our diverse population. Parent training at targeted schools could enhance this effort to promote community schools and enrollment options.

**Q3:** I am committed to serving all our families and providing a quality education to our children regardless of the immigration status of their parents and without discrimination.

**Q4:** I recognize there are no easy options in facility utilization which include: re-drawing of boundaries to equalize enrollment, launching new open enrollment programs, and making changes to the transfer and transportation policies. With under-enrolled schools, AISD must

first solicit input from all impacted stakeholders and clearly explain the many factors affecting enrollment and our financial situation in order to educate all our communities.

### Kazique Prince

**Education:** Ph.D., University of Georgia at Athens



**Experience:** Leadership in AISD, Boards, Non-profits, Diversity & Inclusion, Business owner, Educator, Bringing communities together

**Q1:** Yes. I have been participating in the public parts of the process. I have confidence in the process the Board has been using to involve the community and provide transparency in the selection of the new superintendent.

**Q2:** Start with a well organized website and social media offered in multiple languages, and have outreach and multiple engagement opportunities through the Parent Support Specialist, news media, and community engagement events. It is critical to have several modes of communication to spread information.

**Q3:** I believe we should continue our current efforts to educate every child in the District regardless of their immigration status.

**Q4:** Introduce quality programs to attract families to under-enrolled campuses such as the elementary fine arts program, dual language program, or early pre-K education programs. Follow the process laid out in the Facilities Master Plan, which requires that District be open to and receive community input about programs and services important to them.

### Hillary Procknow

**Education:** PhD - Curriculum and Instruction (LSU), MS - Architectural Studies (UT), BA - Psychology (UT)



**Experience:** Current developmental reading and writing instructor at UT Austin and Program Coordinator for develop-

mental studies, Former charter school teacher

**Q1:** I would honor all public input and would want to understand more about the process of evaluating that input to ensure marginalized voices were heard in the selection making process. Given that the board trustees are elected directly by the public, I would feel beholden to those people who elected me and would represent them faithfully according to my promises. Of course, it is always beneficial to have cordial working relationship.

**Q2:** There are a number of ways to disseminate information with parents. Many schools have dedicated websites or Facebook pages maintained by parents. Of course, having a physical presence at the schools is imperative. Additionally, I am a member of a number of teacher groups who share information about education. Teachers, who frequently have the greatest contact with parents, and are not always included in the communication process, are vital.

**Q3:** I believe it is one of our greatest duties and honors to be able to serve children, regardless of their country of origin. Education is not solely an academic endeavor; it is one in which we teach our children about the kind of people we want in our society. We want caring, compassionate citizens who see the value inclusion rather than exclusion. AISD should serve all children in our district.

**Q4:** The issue of under-enrolled schools should be viewed with a large lens and with attention to the longterm health of the district. Under-enrollment is, in part, a reflection of parents taking their children out of the district. In order to address this concern, the district must work toward becoming an innovative, equitable, and teacher-trusting district, one in which parents are delighted to enroll their students.

### Andy M. Trimino

No response



# ACC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Q1: Child Care:** What would be your position on providing child care for ACC students so they can attend class? Please explain.

**Q2: Job Training:** What would you do as a trustee to support ACC's current job training and retraining programs?

**Q3: Districts:** What is your position on any form of geographic representation for the ACC Board of Trustees?

**Q4: Fiscal Priorities:** What do you think are the fiscal priorities for ACC in the next four years, especially if the Texas Legislature does not increase state participation?

### PLACE 1

#### Tim Mahoney

**Education:** UT Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs South Texas College of Law

**Experience:** Trustee on the ACC Board since 2008, an attorney practicing law since 1992, and the major architect of ACC's new Campus Advisory Committees

**Q1:** I have been among those voices on the Board that take very seriously the duty of ACC to provide affordable child care, especially at the new Highland Campus. Appropriate child care is expensive, and we need to work it into our budget so it is also integrated with our training program for child care teachers.

**Q2:** The community college movement is largely an outgrown of job training programs established since the 1950s. Because, community colleges, and ACC in particular, have had such a close hand on the pulse of our local economy, compared to many other educational platforms, job training is one of major reasons that community colleges are still thriving. With the uncertainty of this economy, we need to be even more diligent in creating the new economy.

**Q3:** We need to create single member districts for ACC. Right now we have 9 Trustees that are elected from the same at large districts. It is very difficult for incumbents to draw up single member districts because they have a perceived inherent conflict. Utilizing a process comprised of drafting single member districts is something that could be initiated through the ACC



Campus Advisory Committees.

**Q4:** We need to connect the dots between our budget and the Academic Master Plan. Currently there is no meaningful connection. We need to ensure that there is a direct relationship between Student Success and the budget. In addition, Community College Trustees need to build a statewide dialogue, independent of the control by the President's organization, so we can get the Legislature to respond to a grounded education movement.

#### Mark Williams

**Education:** BBA, University of Texas - Austin, Leadership Austin, Class of 2003-04

**Experience:** Worked in finance capacities at Dell Inc and Arthur Andersen. Former Austin ISD Board President. Now serve on numerous non-profit boards.

**Q1:** Access to child care is critical for many students' success at ACC. Desirably, high quality and affordable child care would exist at every campus in the district. Currently, most campuses do not have adequate facilities to offer child care. Passing the ACC bond could provide the resources to establish the facilities. Identifying a mixed funding stream strategy along with finding child care center partners to operate the centers are essential.

**Q2:** ACC's job training programs are essential for Austin and our region's economic vitality. ACC's students have an opportunity to supplement existing skills or learn new ones to improve the futures of themselves and their families. With



my business experience, I can help foster collaborations and partnerships between the college and employers, who often struggle to find sufficiently qualified to fill their workforce needs.

**Q3:** In concept, some level of geographic representation makes sense. Austin is moving in that direction on its City Council with the new 10-1 system. While the mix of ISDs and communities that make up the ACC taxing district should have a voice in its governance, ACC is truly a One College regional institution. It is incumbent on the existing board to continue to think and act regionally as options for geographic representation are considered.

**Q4:** ACC should continue to focus on its student success initiatives and keep affordable tuition for its students. While the M&O tax election is important to offset state funding issues, ACC cannot overburden the taxpayers of the district. Thus, ACC will need to ensure its course offerings, spending and business practices are optimized. Competitive compensation and a supportive climate will be key to retaining a strong faculty and staff.

### PLACE 2

#### Bob Allen

**Education:** B.A. Public Administration Stephen F Austin State University, 1979 M.A. Public Affairs LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas, 1981

**Experience:** Managing Partner Political Insight Owner RBA Enterprises and former Special Assistant to the President of ACC and part-time Government Professor,

**Q1:** I believe this is an important item for Austin Community College to provide to as many students as possible. I know there are plans to provide day care at the new Highland facility and I would like to see it expanded to as many other campuses as possible.

**Q2:** We need to have as many Public/Private ventures as possible and job training and retrain-

ing is one of the best examples of proper cooperation between the public and private sectors. I would encourage ACC to consider a robotics training lab in conjunction with a private employer as robotics should continue to be a growing field for decades to come.

**Q3:** I live and grew up in South Austin. To my knowledge in the approximately 40 years that ACC has existed only seven board members were elected or appointed at lived in South Austin at the beginning of their term. Because of the numerous jurisdictions added to ACC and the fact that we now have campuses in 4 different Counties, geographic representation makes more and more sense for the future.

**Q4:** I have proposed building joint campuses between ACC and High Schools from school districts within the ACC boundaries. Smaller footprints and reduced construction costs are just two of the benefits from these ideas. Finding more private/public ventures and being creative in those new efforts can help overcome a loss of funding from the legislature as well.

#### Gigi Edwards Bryant

**Education:**

LBJ, Austin, Austin Community College-Computer Science Major, Saint Edward's University: Bachelors of Business, University of Texas at Dallas, MBA

**Experience:** Austin Community College Foundation for the past 5 years, Volunteer: College Prep Programs - First time student's Programs - Speaking engagements.

**Q1:** I am supportive of providing child care for students, while they are in class, on all campuses. Child care is a critical campus need for students with children. The converging expense of child care and classes is a primary consideration for ACC students. It is also a major factor in ACC's model of providing a traditional and workforce curriculum to working adults. It is a major concern in starting college and

maintaining attendance.

**Q2:** I would support the working relationships that has been developed and continue to grow between ACC, Texas Workforce Commission, Central Texas Chambers of Commerce, Capital Idea and other entities within those partnerships. I would support a deeper dive into our current programs that provide developmental-coursework preparing student for college level learning. I would support integrating the Teacher "TRAC" program into child care needs for ACC.

**Q3:** ACC's educational model is based on a committed, passionate, fully engaged Trustees that understand the mission of ACC and is fully committed to carrying it out. This commitment may come from individuals who incidentally live in the same geographic region and perhaps, may be neighbors. The Trustee's commitment to continued success, access to resources, financial stewardship and growing and developing a diverse student population really matters.

**Q4:** Fiscal priorities for the next four years are: managing core resources (students, facility and staff); improving fiscal security (finances); managing expansion (campus development) and managing expectations (communication). The focus on completion rates, stronger advising, appropriate course loads, early intervention when students lag in attendance and partnerships are all performance measures relating to fiscal priorities and the success of ACC.

#### Michael Lewis

**Education:** Master of Business Administration-Finance, Prairie View A&M University & Bachelor of Business Administration-Accounting, Prairie View A&M University

**Experience:** Have more than 20 years of experience with the State of Texas which include work as an Auditor and Research Analyst of schools and junior colleges.



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# ACC BOARD OF TRUTEES / ACC BOND PROPOSITION

## AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOND PROPOSITIONS

### PROPOSITION 1, Ballot Language

The issuance of \$224,800,000.00 for the construction, renovation and equipment of college buildings district-wide (including but not limited to the renovation and repurposing of Highland Mall for a regional workforce innovation center, regional health sciences and STEM simulator lab, professional incubator space, digital/creative media center, culinary hospitality center and other college purposes; and the construction of a northwest campus in Leander), and the acquisition of real property for college purposes (including but not limited to property for the southeast Travis County regional workforce training center), and the levying of the tax in payment thereof.

### PROPOSITION 2, Ballot Language

The issuance of \$161,166,950.00 for the construction, renovation and equipment of college buildings district-wide (including but not limited to renovations for health, safety, technology, and environmental sustainability throughout the district; renovations at other district campuses for health science careers, radio/TV/film, trades and other programs after relocation of certain programs to Highland Mall); construction of college buildings on the Hays Campus for a regional first responder training center; expansion of the Round Rock Campus; construction of a workforce building at the Elgin Campus to house veterinary and animal science and other workforce programs, and the levying of the tax in payment thereof.

### SPECIAL MAINTENANCE TAX RATE ELECTION PROPOSITION, Ballot Language

Increasing the Austin Community College District maintenance tax rate by an additional one cent (\$.01) above the existing nine cent (\$.09) rate in fiscal year 2016 and by an additional one cent (\$.01) in fiscal year 2018 and by an additional one cent (\$.01) in fiscal year 2020?

## EXPLANATION OF PROPOSITIONS

### PROPOSITION 1: Planned Growth and Workforce Advancement

■ Finish repurposing the Highland Mall campus (\$152.8M) to serve as a regional workforce and health science center, digital creative media center, culinary and hospitality center, and as a professional incubator space.

■ Build a new Leander campus (\$60M).

■ Acquire real property for the Southeast Travis County Workforce Training Center (\$12M).

### PROPOSITION 2: Safety, Technology, Environmental, and Sustainability Improvements

■ Make district-wide renovations for health, safety, and sustainability (\$81M).

■ Expand the Round Rock campus (\$33.4M).

■ Provide a regional first-responders training center, Hays campus (\$22.4M).

■ Provide a veterinary and sustainable agricultural workforce training center, Elgin campus (\$13.2M).

■ Repurpose older spaces for kinesiology, art, dance, radio/TV/film, trades, and other programs (\$11.2M).

### Maintenance and Operations Tax Cap Election

ACC is also asking voters to raise the cap on its maintenance and operations tax rate. If approved, there would be a three-cent increase per \$100 property valuation, phased in at one cent each in fiscal years 2016, 2018, and 2020, to a maximum of 12 cents. In addition, school administrators will begin budgeting for a tuition freeze the next four fiscal years.

The ACC bond and maintenance tax cap will amount to an additional \$40 a year to the property tax bill for a \$200,000 home.

### Proponents say

■ The proposed improvements ensure a pipeline of skilled workers throughout the region for the jobs of today and tomorrow, while keeping college affordable.

■ This is only the second time that ACC has proposed a district-wide bond proposal in its 41-year history.

■ Raising tuition has paid for past improvements to facilities. This request to raise the cap is directly related ACC's commitment to hold the line on tuition.

### Opponents say

■ Taxpayers already feel stretched.

■ Considering that there has been a decline in ACC enrollment of about 8% since 2011, there is not enough data to support the need for this additional funding.

■ Campus advisory committees are supposed to report to the board to effect policy changes; however, the committees have been ignored.

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**Q1:** ACC students that are attending class and need child care should be provided some type of services if it will result in a successful student. A viable option needs to be explored without burdening the taxpayer or raising tuition and fees. A childcare facility at the Highland campus would be a good option.

**Q2:** I would support additional funding for ACC's current job training and retraining programs so the staff would continue to work with area employers to obtain grants to provide job training, continue to work with local businesses that need their employees to get additional training and skills for that company to be successful. I would also support the staff to continue the practice of soliciting grants from the Department of Labor (DOL).

**Q3:** Geographic representation for the ACC Board of Trustees may be a viable option in the future but as of today, there are more urgent needs such as continuing the vision laid out in the Master Plan. The ACC president and board trustees are fully aware of the needs of the student body, faculty and community and are working hard to meet these needs within the current budget.

**Q4:** The fiscal priorities for ACC would be to keep tuition affordable to allow more students access to a higher education, keep taxes reasonable, and to keep the faculty and staff fairly compensated. ACC needs to find other revenue sources such as being more aggressive in securing grants from federal and state sources. The current state participation rate is only 18.9% of total revenues.

### Jonathan Mathers

**Education:** Lehigh University ~ MA Government; Illinois State University ~ BS History, Emphasis in Secondary Education, Certificated Paralegal

**Experience:** Former management experience with Disney, Citibank, & Time Warner; Former

Higher Ed Policy Analyst in Texas House and Senate; Current ACC Professor

**Q1:** Childcare for ACC students could be a double blessing, benefitting both the student and their child. The latest results from the long-running U.S. National Institutes of Health study show children in high-quality childcare scored slightly higher on measures of academic and cognitive achievement years later as teenagers. Students with access to high-quality childcare are more likely to succeed in course and degree completion.

**Q2:** There are tangible benefits to job training: productivity becomes higher, economic growth becomes higher, an individual can move from a declining field to an emerging field. When someone is unemployed, they may become pessimistic about their value. Training can help to reverse that by giving someone purpose. I would work with local employers and government officials in securing job training program money and opportunities for ACC.

**Q3:** The desire to preserve the close relationship between representatives and their constituencies should be promoted in a republic state, based on democratic ideals, such as that in which we live. I would support a plan for geographic representation, provided the plan truly improved and promoted a close relationship between representatives and their constituencies.

**Q4:** The mission of ACC is to "promote student success and improve communities by providing affordable access, through traditional and distance learning modes, to higher education and workforce training in the eight-county service area." Therefore as a Trustee, my fiscal priorities for ACC would be primarily on the access to good classrooms and student success initiatives.

### Robb Misso

No response

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# ACC BOARD OF TRUSTEES / TRAVIS COUNTY

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

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## Jade Chang Sheppard

**Education:** B.S. University of Texas at Austin. Owners Presidents Management Program, Harvard Business School. Past Austin Community College Student.

**Experience:** Entrepreneurism, Workforce recruitment, training and development, small busi-



ness advocacy, actively engaged in many community boards and organizations

**Q1:** As a working mother myself, I support child care for ACC Students. After immigrating to the U.S., my mother attended community college. I wholeheartedly support every initiative to support young mothers in attaining their education, including providing care for their children while in class. Thirty-two years ago my mother took me

to the school's childcare center while she attended class. I've seen the benefits of these programs first hand.

**Q2:** Businesses need to open up their training and internship programs to students other than those in traditional 4 year degree programs. As a business owner whose employees are mostly community college trained, I have championed this cause by designating internships for community college students. As a

trustee, I will foster a stronger partnership between ACC and the Business Council to ensure our graduates are workforce ready.

**Q3:** I would support a transition to geographic representation for the district.

**Q4:** Austin Community College has sustained increased student enrollment through an expansion of campuses. First, maintaining the district's bond rating is a top priority. Second,

ACC must keep a balanced budget with contingency funds to supplement a potential loss in state funding. As a trustee, I will bring my background in business to help oversee the district's finances and long-term planning needs.

## PLACE 3

### Nan McRaven

Unopposed

## TRAVIS COUNTY JUDGE

**Q1:** How would you use the county's existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?

**Q2:** Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to county residents? Please explain.

**Q3:** What do you believe are the most important issues in your county, and how do you propose to address them?

## Sarah Eckhardt (D)

**Education:** JD (1998) Univ. of Tx at Austin School of Law; MPAff (1998) LBJ School of Public Affairs; BFA (1986) NYU

**Experience:** Precinct 2 Travis County Commissioner (2007-2013); Assistant Travis County Attorney (1997-2005); Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid (2006)

**Q1:** The Commissioners Court can leverage its permitting power to steer growth, encouraging development that demonstrates a sustainable water supply and available transit; contributes to a mix of uses, sidewalks and green spaces; and collaborates with school districts and emergency service districts. Development in areas where the water, transportation or emergency service capacity is inadequate should be discouraged.

**Q2:** The greatest overlap is in public safety. Travis County con-



tains more than 16 emergency service departments and districts and more than 10 local law enforcement agencies. Through partnerships we have achieved efficiencies in dispatch, booking, and ambulance transport. And we must do more. Regional coordination must become the norm with regard to public safety as well as transportation, affordable housing, economic development, and so much more.

**Q3:** The top 3 are water, transportation and affordability. We must reach agreements with nearby counties and cities to allocate our limited water supply. We must provide a transportation network of roads, rails and trails so that we arrive on time at a reasonable cost. We must increase government efficiency, tax fairly, encourage businesses to pay living wages, and put affordable transportation in reach of affordable housing.

## Mike McNamara (R)

**Education:** Journalism Degree from The University of Texas, EE Associate Degree (Equivalent Navy Training)

**Experience:** Worked in Austin's high tech field for 30 years in marketing and business development for large and small companies and government contractors.

**Q1:** The county does not have land use authority. The county does have permitting authority which serves as the county's regulating authority and must be fairly applied to all applicants. To the extent applicable under the law, the county should encourage development in the "desired development zone" as opposed to sensitive environmental areas and/or those areas in which water is an issue and ensure all parties are treated justly ensured by the Judge.

**Q2:** No. The County partners with City of Austin providing consolidated services for residents of Austin/Travis County in these areas: Emergency Services, Health and Human Services (Animal control and public health) and centralized booking. The County explored a Unified Fire Service for the unincorporated areas of Travis County, but



found that though there is some benefit, at this point in time it is cost prohibitive.

**Q3:** Taxes and Traffic: I will promote reducing the property tax rate. Those who know realize the Commissioners Court controls the tax rate, not appraisals. I will stand against raising the tax rate and am more concerned in setting clear budgetary priorities and limits. Traffic congestion must be addressed. It is a public safety issue placing the entire community in jeopardy. Working with state and city on a comprehensive road solution is a must.

## Richard Perkins (L)

**Education:** B.S. Chemical Engineering, UT Austin; Graduate Work, Arizona State

**Experience:** 32 years, Project Management / Materials & Processes Engineering; Board Member of Community groups, OHAN, OHTA, OH NPCT, Clean Air Force, SAMPE, HOA

**Q1:** One idea would be to encourage the incorporation of small Villages or Cities that could establish authority in their municipality. Once established, it can pass its own ordinances to control how the residents wish



their area to be responsibly developed. A second idea, is to develop a "Good Neighbor" program that publicly awards developers (not financially) who act responsibly, and likewise publicly and loudly condemns those that are bad actors

**Q2:** I support the hiring of a County Manager who could objectively analyze each department's staffing level, responsibility, and overlap with City governments. For example, the County absorbs more police protection / jailing responsibility and the City takes on more responsibility for parks and recreation. We need to stop arresting and jailing citizens for non-violent, victimless crimes and to stop shooting them. The goal is to do more, with less.

**Q3:** Transportation. We need to build new managed roads that encourage people to ride-share, use van pools or private/public buses. Includes: HOV Lanes, User-Fee Lanes, and Reversible Flow Lanes on city and county roads. New East-West limited-access HOV express lanes is a first step. Our population will double by 2035; we must build / plan now. Low-cost elevated Monorail for around the central city. The CTRMA is our best hope for the solutions.

# TRAVIS COUNTY

KEY: (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

## TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER

**Q1:** How would you use the county's existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?  
**Q2:** Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to county residents? Please explain.  
**Q3:** What do you believe are the most important issues in your county, and how do you propose to address them?

### PRECINCT 2

**Raymond Frank (R)**  
No response

**Steven Haskett (L)**  
**Education:** Music Performance, Interlochen Arts Academy, University of Evansville; BS

Petroleum Engineering, Texas A&M University. Programmer by trade.

**Experience:** 30+ years working with startups, Fortune 500 companies, State of Texas & Federal government projects, Ministry of Interior in



Iraq and Afghanistan.  
**Q1:** Travis County has had tremendous growth over the past several decades. One thing I would absolutely do is work to shut down incentives for 'new' businesses to move to the county. We are not in a situation where we should be taxing current residents and local businesses to pay competitors to move in. Let us use our regulatory authority to make Travis county a great place to live and work, businesses who value that can come in on an equal footing.  
**Q2:** As your commissioner my governing philosophy is to provide services as close to the pub-

lic as possible. Travis county encompasses over a million diverse individuals, with different needs and requirements. There is no top down, one size fits all solution which is the best for everyone. I'll work to support and empower the communities and individuals within the county to provide services appropriate to their community.  
**Q3:** Transportation infrastructure affects nearly every county resident on a daily basis. About 25% of the county budget goes to building and maintaining road infrastructure. County roads should be built/improved with the current residents first

in mind. Travis now has over 1.1 million residents. I expect this growth to continue, but I think it is important for the Commissioners Court to not assume that this increase in tax base will last forever.  
**Brigid Shea (D)**  
No response  
**PRECINCT 4**  
**Margaret J. Gomez (D)**  
No response  
**Joseph Morse (L)**  
No response

## COURT AT LAW #1

**Todd Wong (D)**  
Unopposed

## COURT AT LAW #2

**Eric Montgomery Shepperd (D)**  
Unopposed

## COURT AT LAW #3

**John Lipscombe (D)**  
Unopposed

## COURT AT LAW #4

**MikeDenton (D)**  
Unopposed

## COURT AT LAW #5

**Nancy Hohengarten (D)**  
Unopposed

## COURT AT LAW #6

**Brandy Mueller (D)**  
Unopposed

## COURT AT LAW #7

**Elisabeth Earle (D)**  
Unopposed

## TRAVIS COUNTY TREASURER

**Q1:** Many counties in Texas no longer have a county treasurer. Why do you believe this office continues to be an important part of county government?  
**Q2:** Please discuss ways that increased efficiencies and cost savings can be achieved in the county.

**Mike Burris (L)**  
**Education:** B.A. Texas Lutheran University, major: Economics. MBA Texas State University.



**Experience:** HHSC Texas; Texas State Auditor's Office; Consultant to some of the Workforce Development Boards; Former Cert. Internal Auditor. Tres. Hillcrest HOA.  
**Q1:** There needs to be a check and balance system for the receipt and disbursement of funds; the Treasurer services this purpose. If elected I would analyze

the processes in place and see if the Treasurer's job could included in the activities of the County Auditor and the County Clerk's office. If so, then the Treasurer's position could be eliminated. The Treasurer's position is generally an administrative position.  
**Q2:** This could be an extensive answer. Stop tax abatements to bring businesses into our county; this puts an additional tax burden on the existing citizens of Travis County. If you look at the Travis County website directory you will see many offices and sub-offices that most vot-

ers would wonder why they exist. Many duplicate services provided by agencies of the State of Texas, and those headquarters are usually here in Travis County.  
**Dolores Ortega Carter (D)**  
**Education:** B.A. Texas A&M University; M.A. Texas A&M University; Certified County Treasurer; Certified Investment Officer; Certified to meet requirements of the  
**Experience:** Travis County Treasurer 1987- to present. Attended and participated in certified continuing education and numerous seminars on the fundamentals of  
**Q1:** The County Treasurer's office is a constitutional office that provides the necessary checks and balance system needed to



monitor the financial accounting system of the County. The County Treasurer is chief custodian of the county finances and receives all funds belonging to the county from whatever source. The Treasurer's office provides a strong financial accounting system that eliminates fraud and misappropriation of county revenues.  
**Q2:** One of the most important ways for the taxpayers of the county can save their money is to eliminate any future spending of funds not yet received. The sale of bonds mortgages the future and increases the current liability of each taxpayer of the county. Reducing the spending of revenue collected will provide cost savings. Careful research of the purpose of each bond sale will educate the taxpayer on the purpose and necessity of the bond sale.

## TRAVIS COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

**Q1:** The JP courts are frequently described as "the people's courts". As justice of the peace, how would you ensure that this role is fulfilled in your court?  
**Q2:** What changes, if any, are needed in court processes and procedures, in your precinct, to make the court is more efficient and effective in fulfilling its duties?

### PRECINCT 1

**Yvonne M. Williams (D)**  
Unopposed

### PRECINCT 2

**Glenn Bass (R)**  
**Education:** Texas State University - Justice Court Training

Center, American Institute of Banking, Eastfield College, Angelina College  
**Experience:** Having served as Justice of the Peace for almost 4 yrs., I'm the most qualified candidate in this race. I'm also guided by over 25 years in business.  
**Q1:** The People need, require and deserve efficient access to this court. In 2010, I committed I would provide that and I



have delivered. Defendants with Criminal Cases receive their first court setting more than 5 times sooner than before I came into office. Further, the court is more current on setting Civil Cases than it has been in over a decade. I will continue to provide Fairness, improved Efficiency and even greater Accessibility.  
**Q2:** I will continue to look at innovative and effective ways to

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# TRAVIS COUNTY

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

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ensure we take every opportunity to efficiently and effectively meet the needs of those with matters before your court.

**Daniel Martin Ruble (L)**  
No response

**Randall Slagle (D)**

**Education:** UT Austin, Bachelor of Business Administration, 2003; South Texas College of Law, JD, 2005; Licensed to practice law in Texas and US Supreme Court

**Experience:** Travis County Attorney's Office, Assistant Travis County Attorney; Travis County District Attorney's Office, Assistant Travis County District Attorney



**Q1:** Our JP Court is a place where members of the community go to resolve legal disputes, often without the assistance of a lawyer. For our system to work, we need a judge with the necessary legal education and experience to ensure that everyone receives a fair day in court. I have dedicated my legal career to seeking justice, and have a decade of experience trying cases in the courtroom. I will ensure that our laws are applied fairly to all.

**Q2:** The high number of unresolved cases at JP 2 have created a heavy backlog, preventing people from receiving their day in court. I will immediately go to work hearing these cases and bring justice at a much faster pace. I have worked in all of our Travis County JP and Criminal County Courts. Through years

of training and experience in the courtroom, I have learned what works to reduce heavy dockets, minimize wait times and prevent frustrations.

## PRECINCT 3

**Nathan Kleffman (L)**

**Education:** B.S. in Electrical Engineering with a Technical Entrepreneur Certificate from the University of Iowa (2007)

**Experience:** I specialize in large and complex Salesforce.com implementations where I serve my clients in roles such as Application Lead and Solution Architect.

**Q1:** As JOP I would radically change the goal of the JP court from focusing on revenue gen-



eration for the state to protecting the rights of the individual. This means rightly prosecuting crimes that are malum in se, evil in themselves, while vigorously defending people accused of "crimes" that are malum prohibitum, illegal by statute. In this way the people will see the court as a tool for seeking justice, not as a device for taking their liberties.

**Q2:** The entire court system is engaged in a variety of scams and conspiracies to rob the people of their liberties. Lawyer tricks confuse people into waiving their natural rights and volunteering into oppressive contracts with the state. I would not seek to make the court more efficient in these corrupt machinations, instead I desire a court that effectively presumes innocence and honors due process

rights of the defendant from agents of the state.

**Susan Steeg (D)**  
No response

## PRECINCT 4

**Raul Arturo Gonzalez (D)**  
No response

**Zach Warren (L)**  
No response

## PRECINCT 5

**Herb Evans (D)**  
Unopposed

## TRAVIS COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE

**Guy Herman (D)**  
Unopposed

## TRAVIS COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK

**Q1:** How do you propose to address the increasing need for this office to provide passport services?

**Q2:** How would you improve public access to district court records while maintaining necessary security?

**Q3:** How would you encourage citizens and employers to be more responsive to jury duty service?

**Kevin Pick (L)**

**Education:** M.S. in Applied Physics from George Mason University, B.S. in Physics and Astronomy from Northern Arizona University

**Experience:** 4 years in Software Development and Automated Testing, 7 years as Physicist and SETA contractor for DARPA and the U.S. Naval Re-



search Laboratory

**Q1:** My experience in program management and software development, particularly in tools and automation, makes me uniquely qualified to manage and implement the technology that the office needs. A portion of the funds saved by removing many of the human interactions will be allocated to technology and support personnel for pass-

port services. Though the State Department is backed up, I will ensure that Travis County is not a bottleneck in this process.

**Q2:** Electronic security is an ever changing technology field, but there are software industry standard practices and state of the art technologies available to maintain customer satisfaction and to ensure the security of our office's networks and databases. In addition, a small portion of the office's budget will be allocated to periodic independent security inspections to assess our vulnerabilities and provide recommendations for improvement.

**Q3:** I pledge to reduce the overall operating costs of the District Clerk's office. Howev-

er, I firmly believe that jurors are inadequately compensated for their time, so I will act within my power to increase juror's pay by reducing other office costs including my own salary. I will also send mailers to county jurors informing them of their rights and responsibilities, and I will provide online resources for reporting employers who violate the law.

**Velva L. Price (D)**

**Education:** Colorado College BA - 1983 University of Texas School of Law, JD - 1986

**Experience:** Licensed Texas Attorney since 1986 Active with various legal and community or-



ganizations since 1983

**Q1:** Build on the present District Clerks efforts to make the passport services more convenient by increasing the ease and availability of locations.

**Q2:** Build on the present District Clerk's efforts to use technology in order for the public to obtain the records electronically and ensure the security of the records.

**Q3:** Work with the Courts to emphasize to the public the importance of the constitutional right to have legal matters determined by the jury of peers. Continue to use the I-Jury program which makes jury duty service as convenient as possible.

## TRAVIS COUNTY CLERK

**Q1:** What would you do to improve the accessibility of public records?

**Q2:** If elected, what do you hope to accomplish during your term of office?

**Q3:** What will you do to monitor the effects of the voter ID requirements on voter participation?

**Dana DeBeauvoir (D)**

**Education:** University of Texas at Arlington, Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Social Work, 1979 L.B.J. School of Public Affairs, Master of Public Affairs, 1981

**Experience:** 1987 - Present Travis County Clerk 1982 - 1985



Director of Property Tax Division, Travis County Tax Assessor/Collector

**Q1:** We have made great strides in digitizing millions of records and placing them online for easy access. Our new e-Recording system makes filing documents fast and accurate for attorneys and real estate professionals. We will continue to sup-

port the business community, genealogists and the public by rapidly recording marriage licenses, business names, and ownership records.

**Q2:** Travis County will need a new voting system to replace our aging eSlate. I want to implement STAR Vote which will

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# TRAVIS COUNTY / ROUND ROCK ISD

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

Continued from Page 43

offer voters the speed, accuracy, and access of electronic voting along with a voter-verified paper ballot to be used in recounts and proving beyond a question that all ballots are counted as cast. STAR Vote also supports Early Voting and Vote Centers.

**Q3:** We will continue our outreach to voters who need a DPS photo ID, track and study the number of provisional ballots cast due to insufficient ID, and work with the Legislature to expand the types of photo ID

needed for qualified voters to be able to vote.

**Michael M. Holt (L)**  
No response

**William E. Stout Jr. (G)**

**Education:** Bachelor of Science, Water Resource Management University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

**Experience:** Co-Chair Travis County Green Party. Legislative Liaison - Green Party of Texas,



80th Texas Legislature. Member of County Clerk's Election Study Group

**Q1:** Post online commonly needed documents at no cost. Assign staff to answer questions for public info. Charge for complex requests, and still meet state laws. Review purpose of placing home foreclosure notice info. online on the County Clerk's website: Foreclosed property owners, already financially vulnerable, don't need their names plastered on the internet. Predatory financial institutions have much to gain by

this readily available access.

**Q2:** Increase voting. Hand-counted paper ballots can save tax-payers Million\$. Remove corporate proprietary machines that must be maintained and replaced: Computer experts show they can be hacked; no paper recounts. Training citizens to count ballots is time tested, verifiable & transparent: It can take longer, yet done world-wide without incident; see Germany. Introduce Preferential Voting to avoid expensive runoffs. Leader of Election Reform.

**Q3:** V.I.D. is a barrier to many students, women, the elderly and poor voters; a solution w/o a problem that did not exist at polling stations. One result of this impediment is the reported increase of 500% of mail-in voting in Travis Co.: TX. law does not require an I.D., and in Legislative testimony, it is a common method of vote fraud. Track participation throughout the precincts; look for trends. Be guided by data; draw conclusions on results.

## ROUND ROCK ISD

**Q1:** What would you do to advocate for and ensure support for public education in your community?

**Q2:** Name the three most critical issues facing your school district today and what actions are needed to resolve each of these issues?

**Q3:** What do you see as the role of the board of trustees in relation to the daily operation of the district?

### PLACE 1

**Claudio Cruz**

**Education:** Attended UT Pan American, Edinburg, Texas. Majored in Education.

**Experience:** Retired US Army, Co-Chair '08 Bond Finance Committee, RRISD, Vice-Chair Round Rock Housing Authority, Vice Chair City of Round Rock Ethics Commission

**Q1:** I would ensure we have the right people in place to lead our school district. This would begin with the Superintendent, Teachers, and all support personnel. I would advocate to have the right policies in place that foster a learning environment that prepares today's learner's to be tomorrow's leaders. An important aspect of my campaign is to ensure transparency in all decision making and to be good stewards of the public money.

**Q2:** The three most critical issues facing Round Rock School District is to keep abreast of the continued growth, continue the momentum that our school district has established in preparing



tomorrow's leaders, and recognize the need to be innovative in addressing the needs of all of our students. Doing the same thing over and over again does not get us different results.

**Q3:** The primary role of the Board of Trustees is to have in place the best Superintendent around and to work with him/her as a team in leading the district to greater heights. Working together in a harmonious way in such a manner that our personnel feed off of it and accomplish their goals with enthusiastic vigor.

**Nikki Gonzales**

**Education:** BS Criminal Justice

**Experience:** For 14 years, I worked at the Capitol as a staffer and Chief of Staff. Currently, I work for Texas State Technical College in External Relations

**Q1:** As a school trustee I would frequently visit all schools within the district, initiate topical outreaches to create an open forum for community involvement, encourage innovative new trends in education, seek out input from



PTAs, and invest in staying apprised of global and local legislative headways to insure forward progress. Social media can be an invaluable cornerstone for public inclusion and be a gauge for productivity and improvements.

**Q2:** To be prepared for RRISD growth, I would ensure that the 299 million bond funds is appropriated efficiently to meet the long term needs of the school district. I would address all maintenance and infrastructure needs throughout the district to ensure cost saving facility measures. Teacher retention is vital and can be achieved by recognition and competitive salaries. Modeling transparency is critical, to include dynamic lines of communication.

**Q3:** Accessibility to the public is priority in addition to having the ability to listen to the community, students, and educators in unison. I would make it a formidable concerted effort to utilize board members to operate on a unified front on every degree of issues and perpetuate the message of solidarity to education and our dedication to excellence. Lastly I would promote an atmosphere of universal open mindedness so an not to be our own obstacle

### PLACE 3

**Bryan Black**

**Education:** California State University Fullerton, Bachelor of

Arts, Communications

**Experience:** Director of Communications Texas Dept. of Agriculture, Television Anchor/Reporter, PTA Executive Board Member, Leadership Round Rock ISD Graduate

**Q1:** Residents must have confidence in the school board before they rally behind Trustees. It's vitally important for new leaders to create an atmosphere of trust and prove to our community we're focused on what's best for children. To gain support of residents, I pledge to offer outstanding constituent relations. I will follow the motto "listening more and talking less". I will ensure board policy reflects the needs of students, parents and teachers.

**Q2:** Growth, growth and growth. This single issue is so important because it touches every part of our education system. Our students' achievement centers on having the right facilities, cutting-edge technology and great teachers. To be successful, we must be innovative in our thinking and fiscally responsible in spending. The passage of the recent bond measure means the board must be accountable for every dollar and target the funds to handle growth.

**Q3:** Board members need to be accessible every day to residents. It's essential Trustees listen to stakeholders' concerns



and react in a timely manner. What Trustees should not do is try to micromanage daily operations of the district. The board has hired Dr. Steve Flores to be our superintendent. We need to allow him to manage the district's day-to-day activities. Board members' jobs are to be leaders and advocates for the vision of the district.

**Diane Cox**

**Education:** High School

**Experience:** 9 Years as a RRISD Trustee, hundreds of hours of training through Texas Association of School Boards earning Master Trustee. TEA certified trainer

**Q1:** I am a founding member of a public school advocacy group of board members and superintendents, Central Texas School Board Association (CTSBA). After years of working with legislators I recognize they want you to not only bring problems but to bring solutions. To do this, it requires a thorough working knowledge and understanding of issues facing public education and this comes with experience. I bring 9 years of experience and extensive training

**Q2:** Growth, find efficiencies to balance providing adequate facilities while maintaining a stable tax rate. RRISD has the high-



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# ROUND ROCK ISD / WILLIAMSON COUNTY

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

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est bond rating of a public school, this saves our community money. Achievement Gap, look at data and make certain systems are being put in place to address gaps in all areas. School choice, keep funds in public schools and provide opportunities in certifications, academies, trades, alternative HS, IB, AP, dual credit, etc.

**Q3:** After 9 years I have a clear understanding that this is a role of oversight and we have one employee to hold accountable, the superintendent. When a school district is running well it generally has a full board of people who have a good understanding of governance leadership. Diversity yes, healthy discussions absolutely, this makes our decisions stronger and we are a better district because of it.

## PLACE 4

**Terri Romere**

Unopposed

## PLACE 5

**Suzi David**

**Education:** Training programs in Emerging Leaders, WFF Annual Leadership Development, EEO/Affirmative Action; Spirit of Diversity.

**Experience:** Has worked in education for 15 years.

**Q1:** I believe community partnerships enrich the value of our students' education and hope to continue the district's commitment to them. I also have 15 years' experience in education and feel my insight and understanding of the system could bring clarity and perspective to the decisions a school board makes.



**Q2:** I think RRISD does a great job doing whatever it takes to educate every student. I would only offer fresh ideas on how to continue as an exemplary school district that focuses on our students and the next generation.

**Q3:** Working collaboratively with parents and community partners to manage future growth and ensure it impacts our students' education positively.

**Paul K. Emerson**

**Education:** Oregon State University, B.S. Political Science; Prairie View A&M University, MBA; and Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Law degree.

**Experience:** Past board chairman, Round Rock Housing Authority; Board member, Williamson County CASA; RRISD Leadership Class; RRISD Citizens Bond Committees.



**Q1:** I would actively work with parents and community stakeholders in promoting a productive partnership with the RRISD. One such example is how the Round Rock Housing Authority partnered with the RRISD to create an after school/summer program that provides tutoring and computer training to students living in public housing. Programs like this help students understand the importance of an education. Parents and teachers made this program successful.

**Q2:** Funding: Maintaining a positive fiscal environment within the district, while advocating with the state legislature to modify the funding formula so that it positively addresses the needs of all students. Growth: Reviewing the district's operational budget to show how much additional funds will be needed while educating the public, and not over taxing homeowners. Academics:

RRISD needs to continue to strive for higher standards.

**Q3:** One of the key roles and responsibilities of a board of trustees is to hire a superintendent to serve as the chief executive officer of the district and evaluate the superintendent's success, the day-to-day operations should be the responsibility of the superintendent, not the board of trustees.

**Allen McKee**

No response

## PLACE 6

**Paul Joseph Tisch**

No response

**Tony A. Pitts**

No response

## WILLIAMSON COUNTY JUDGE

**Q1:** How would you use the county's existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?

**Q2:** Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to county residents? Please explain.

**Q3:** What do you believe are the most important issues in your county, and how do you propose to address them?

**Michael H. Custer (D)**

**Education:** BA English Literature- Indiana University; BS Nursing- UT- El Paso; MPH - Tulane University; Doctorate of Public Health (DrPH)- UT Houston

**Experience:** COL USA (Ret). 32 years in the Army with three years enlisted time. Deployed in Desert Storm and later OEF for short period. A proven leader.

**Q1:** The problem in Williamson County is a lack of open, trans-



parent government. The current administration is complacent and no longer seeks the input of all Williamson County residents. The government favors cronyism that supports special interests groups. That is not acceptable in our democracy. The county needs to support competitive bidding for contracts and quit trying to regulate input based on the court's notion of political correctness.

**Q2:** I am not aware of current services that need to be consolidated in Williamson Coun-

ty. However, if the issue came up I would certainly have the issue studied by professionals to verify that the services do overlap and, based on the study, implement the recommendations to the best of my ability.

**Q3:** The most important issue is the way the current government is conducted. It is characterized by a complacent Court that has not had to answer to the people for a decade because no one has politically challenged them. Williamson County needs a government that is open and fair and that will make decisions based on the common good and not on special interest. The Democrats in Williamson County will provide this leadership.

**Dan A. Gattis (R)**

**Education:** Bachelor of Science, Agriculture Education - Texas State University / Masters

of Education - Texas State University

**Experience:**

Teacher at RR ISD ,Consultant with Texas Education Agency, General Manager Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, and Williamson County Judge

**Q1:** I have never been in favor of giving counties more power over zoning. However, we have strengthened the subdivision approval process for the county to assure that infrastructure installed by developers meets county specifications. This is important because in most cases eventually the county becomes responsible for maintenance and improvements of this infrastructure.

**Q2:** In Williamson County the cities and county work very well together to assure that services are not duplicated. Our Emer-



gency Communication System, Emergency Medical Service, Parks and Trails, Animal Shelter and Health District are great examples of the cooperation and coordination that takes place in our county. With this said, both the cities and county are looking for ways to improve.

**Q3:** Water is a major issue in the state and also an issue in our county. However, we are blessed to be in the LCRA Watershed, Brazos River Watershed, and we have a good supply of ground water. With the rapid growth we are experiencing, water for the future is one of our major concerns. To this end, we are working with other counties and our cities to identify and hopefully secure other water supplies.

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

## WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

**Q1:** How would you use the county's existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?

**Q2:** Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to county residents? Please explain.

**Q3:** What do you believe are the most important issues in your county, and how do you propose to address them?

### PRECINCT 2

#### Eddie B. Hurst Jr. (D)

**Education:** Applied Science/ITT Tech Criminal Justice/University of Maryland

**Experience:** 3 yrs. Planning and Zoning Commissioner 10 yrs. Construction Advisory Committee 14 owner of

**Q1:** I would propose a requirement in the subdivision ordinance requiring a financial participation of developers to construct the infrastructure to bring the appropriate water resources for their development.

**Q2:** There needs to be a consolidation of city and county IT services to provide a quicker response time for our first responders. Presently the cities in Central Texas are working individually to share and communicate with each other to make response times to fire and hostage situations more coordinated. I suggest that each precinct should have a IT coordinator speaking with the Chief Information Officer of each city to consolidate info and implement

**Q3:** Purchasing procedures in Williamson County are out dated and do not provide the best bang for the dollar for the Tax Payer. I will provide an opportunity for more purveyors and service providers to bid on county work. I will also have all proposals go through the county's purchasing department to make sure that the Tax Payers receive the best bang for the buck.

#### Cynthia Long (R)

**Education:** Bachelors of Business Administration from Texas A&M University



**Experience:** 4 Years on Cedar Park City Council 7 Years - Cedar Park Planning Commission Small Business Owner Former Twin Lakes YMCA Board Member

**Q1:** I played a leadership role in the modernization of Williamson County's subdivision ordinances, working with existing residents and developers in the process. I have worked hard to build a dependable roadway system that serves both current and future residents. I have sought to limit government regulations so that families and businesses can thrive. This approach has helped strike a balance between existing residents and new ones.

**Q2:** Williamson County and its cities have many success stories where we have worked together and reduced duplication. As Commissioner, I work with Williamson County cities and the State almost daily on transportation projects. We have accomplished hundreds of important projects together. Williamson County, in collaboration with its cities, provides a world class EMS service. Williamson County and 4 of our largest cities share and animal shelter.

**Q3:** 1) Transportation. The voters of Williamson County have overwhelmingly voted and told us to "Keep Williamson County Moving" and stay ahead of congestion by building roads. I have done that. 2) Jobs. I have worked with numerous companies to help bring thousands of jobs to Williamson County. 3) Water. We are working with our cities and others in the region to address this issue.

### PRECINCT 4

#### Rob Fritsche (L)

**Education:** BA University of Texas History AAS Austin Com-

munity College Paramedic Technology

**Experience:** Managing small business, Community service in EMS, Volunteer fire departments and alumni groups.

**Q1:** Use the cities greater power to regulate development in the ETJ. Plan for traffic, water, waste water, law enforcement, fire and EMS. I want to protect the rights of the property owners. I also want to protect the rights of the current residents who moved here for the quality of life Williamson County provides. Traffic jams, water restrictions, poor service, and long emergency response times are not worth unlimited growth

**Q2:** The Williamson County government has grown since I moved here in 1973. I think it is time for the commissioners court to get out of the business of running the department, and hire a county administrator to oversee those departments. Make the administrator responsible for a cost effective government. And do not raise the county budget by more than the rate of inflation.

**Q3:** Traffic. Build the infrastructure to handle the need using a regional plan. Water. Partner with local, state and federal agencies to provide an adequate supply for agricultural and residential use. Drugs. Move toward treatment for users while keeping the jail space for dealers and violent offenders.

#### Ron Morrison (R)

**Education:** Bachelors Business, Masters Science Interdisciplinary Studies-Texas State University

**Experience:** 8 years as Williamson County Commissioner, Precinct 4; 25 years, business owner; Teacher, 10 years at Round Rock H.S. and 4 years at Texas State Univ.

**Q1:** As a county we do not have zoning authority to regulate development, however, depending on inter-local agreements with other municipalities we approve all plats for development in the unincorporated areas and any modification to property un-



der 10 acres. Although there are many competing interest for land, the prices have proven to be somewhat of a development regulator without governmental interference of zoning and regulations.

**Q2:** Williamson County currently works with our cities with emergency services, operations and communications. As a fast growing county it involves State, County and local government to make a infrastructure project come to fruition. All three governmental entities have worked well together in the past. Although the three governmental entities cannot be consolidated, by consolidating our efforts much more may be accomplished for the greater good.

**Q3:** Growth and staying ahead of the curve with infrastructure as much as possible. We will address them as mentioned above by consolidating our efforts with other governmental entities. Long range, water and clean air are important issues facing our region. I will continue to work with the Clean Air entities to bring awareness to the importance of the need to maintain attainment. Work with all entities to help insure adequate water for the future

#### Tom Mowdy (D)

**Education:** Master Degree, Public Administration, University of Colorado, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College Honor Graduate.

**Experience:** Created and sold two successful businesses. Director and Manager in state and federal government. Retired commissioned U.S. Army officer

**Q1:** Open and transparent decision processes are the key to balancing competing interest groups and including all other taxpayers.

**Q2:** I have no evidence that there are overlapping services that require consolidation. I lead and manage staffs to avoid duplication of effort and costs. If I am presented evidence of overlapping services, I would direct the

involved staffs to present alternative solutions.

**Q3:** Citizen trust and participation in government are key, critical and essential, requirements for good government. The numerous incidents involving organizations funded or managed by the Williamson County Commissioner's Court indicate the court's disregard for citizens and our founding principles. I propose to resolve these problems with standard open decision processes which hold elected officials responsible for their decisions.

### CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 3

#### Kevin Stofle (R)

Unopposed

### JUDGE, COURT OF LAW #1

#### Suzanne Brooks (R)

Unopposed

### JUDGE, COURT OF LAW #2

#### Tim L. Wright (R)

Unopposed

### JUDGE, COURT OF LAW #3

#### Doug Arnold (R)

Unopposed

### JUDGE, COURT OF LAW #5

#### John B. McMaster (R)

Unopposed

### SURVEYOR

#### Joe Baker (R)

Unopposed

### TREASURER

#### Jerri Jones (R)

Unopposed

### WILLIAMSON COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK

#### Lisa G. David (R)

Unopposed

### WILLIAMSON COUNTY CLERK

#### Nancy E. Rister (R)

Unopposed





# WILLIAMSON COUNTY / BASTROP COUNTY

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

## WILLIAMSON COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

**Q1:** The JP courts are frequently described as “the people’s courts”. As justice of the peace, how would you ensure that this role is fulfilled in your court?

**Q2:** What changes, if any, are needed in court processes and procedures, in your precinct, to make the court is more efficient and effective in fulfilling its duties?

### PRECINCT 1

**Dain Johnson (R)**

**Education:** Concordia University ~ Austin, BA in Business Management (1994), BA in English (1995)

**Experience:** Williamson County, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1 ~ (2003 - Present), Williamson County Juvenile Services, Juvenile Probation Officer ~ (1995-2002)

**Q1:** There are three major points to follow so a JP can insure that the “people’s court” role is fulfilled. First, allow parties to “have their day in Court” Litigants, on both sides, have the right to argue their case. Secondly, be timely. People do not



like to wait. If a case is filed, it should be heard within the time frame outlined by law. Lastly, be impartial. People deserve to have a fair hearing in front an impartial audience.

**Q2:** The utilization of technology will change the way litigants and the courts conduct business in the future. My philosophy has always been if a litigant comes into the court lobby and conducts business then there should be no reason why he or she could not do the same from their home/office. Forms, dockets, filings, fines and fees, and even open record request should all be available online.

**Nick Lealos (D)**

**Education:** University of Texas School of Law- J.D., 2009 Uni-

versity of Texas- B.A., Government 2005

**Experience:** I was a partner in a small law firm, where I represented people and businesses. I currently serve as Assistant General Counsel for a state agency.

**Q1:** I will work tirelessly to improve access to the court and make sure the law is applied fairly. As an attorney, I know that all people deserve a fair chance and an equal voice before a qualified judge. My experience fighting for the rights of people in our state gives me the perspective I need to understand the struggles in our community. I will work to ensure that no person is denied access to justice, or receives less than their rights require.

**Q2:** Justice does not end at the courthouse steps, and so the court must change to effectively serve the needs of the community. I will tackle the crisis that fuels the “school-to-prison pipeline” by coordinating with educators, parents, non-profits, and



other courts. I will also assess court hours and judicial availability, and make changes where it is necessary- because as a community asset, the court must respond to the needs of the people.

### PRECINCT 2

**Dan Michael (L)**

**Education:** Licensed Master Peace Officer. Continuing education in mental health, mediation, juvenile law, case preparation, civil liability, cultural diversity.

**Experience:** 30 years experience regarding family violence, child abuse, juvenile crime/ mental health, and multiple other. Review/approve legal documents.

**Q1:** By implementing pretrial case management procedures easily comprehended by the lay person, that would provide them an avenue to a satisfactory disposition of their case without the worries of having to go through a trial. It is the people’s choice as it is the people’s



court. I envision the court as a place where, win or lose, those involved would say they were treated with dignity and respect, and received a fair trial.

**Q2:** While some of the responsibilities fall elsewhere, I accept responsibility for any necessary streamlining of the process to make it more efficient. I reference President Harry Truman in saying, “The buck stops here” I would achieve this by calling a meeting of all involved for discovering faults in the system, suggestions for improvements, and as a team, develop a plan structured for implementation on an acceptable time line.

**Edna Staudt (R)**

No response

### PRECINCT 3

**Bill Gravel (R)**

Unopposed

### PRECINCT 4

**Judy Schier Hobbs (R)**

Unopposed

## BASTROP COUNTY JUDGE

**Q1:** How; would you use the county’s existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?

**Q2:** Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to county residents? Please explain.

**Q3:** What do you believe are the most important issues in your county, and how do you propose to address them?

**Ty McDonald (D)**

No response

**Paul Pape (R)**

**Education:** BBA, West Texas A&M, 1974

**Experience:** Over thirty years in business (real estate and management); governmental operations during 10 years with LCRA; 2 years as Bastrop County Judge.

**Q1:** The county’s most effective tools for assuring a reasonable mix of residential and commercial development and caring for the natural resources are its subdivision rules and regulations. If possible, all development should honor the vested rights of private property owners. Policy makers must evaluate the costs and benefits of development, including the price to the environment or other private property interests.



Public safety is job one.

**Q2:** An inter-local agreement between Bastrop County and the City of Bastrop streamlines review and planning for development. The county cooperates with each incorporated city - Elgin, Bastrop and Smithville - to provide services and avoid duplication. As County Judge, working with our Economic Development staff, I coordinate with the Mayors and City Managers to assure efficient development activities.

**Q3:** Bastrop County is on

the road to a full recovery from the disastrous fires of 2011. We help the cities recruit businesses, promoting Bastrop County as a healthy place to live, a great place to raise a family and a welcoming place to build a business. We welcome economic development in all areas of the county - bringing new jobs and building our tax base with clean commerce and improving the quality of life for all.

### DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**Bryan Goertz (R)**

Unopposed

### JUDGE, COURT OF LAW

**Benton Eskew (D)**

Unopposed

### SURVEYOR

**Michael Olson (R)**

Unopposed

### TREASURER

**Laurie Ingram (R)**

Unopposed

### BASTROP COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK

**Sarah Loucks (R)**

Unopposed

### BASTROP COUNTY CLERK

**Rose Pietsch (D)**

Unopposed

# BASTROP COUNTY

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

## BASTROP COUNTY COMMISSIONER

**Q1:** How would you use the county's existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?

**Q2:** Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to county residents? Please explain.

**Q3:** What do you believe are the most important issues in your county, and how do you propose to address them?

### PRECINCT 2

**Clara Beckett (R)**  
Unopposed

### PRECINCT 4

**Michael Flowers (D)**

**Education:** University of Houston, Bachelors of Arts in Psychology University of Phoenix, Masters of Business Administration

**Experience:** Board & Committee Member Easter Seals Central Texas & Envision Elgin; Elgin ISD Redistricting; EISD Finance; Planning Network and Adviso-



ry, ATCIC

**Q1:** Smart growth demands that Counties devise policies and strategies that can effectively manage development that benefits the whole community. We must develop a framework to evaluate the long term impacts of major developments. It starts with open discussions among groups that have competing interests regarding land-use. I will facilitate the free flow of information that is essential to finding the common ground that unites us.

**Q2:** Increasing the efficiency of local government through consolidation or dissolution of the services they provide can be

used to put already scarce resources where they are needed most. Greater cooperation between governmental agencies can lead to greater efficiencies in road maintenance, and emergency services. As commissioner, I will continually look for opportunities to save taxpayer dollars.

**Q3:** Making county government smarter, leaner, and more transparent by improving the safety and quality of our roads through better road Management; continuous communication, using current technology to keep you informed; creating opportunities for student involvement by developing an intern program at the county courthouse. Making the Bastrop County Animal Shelter a no-kill facility

**Gary "Bubba" Snowden (R)**

**Education:** Sam Houston State and Texas State. I received my real education at the "Big O" at 413 Congress Ave. in Austin.

**Experience:** For over 40 years, I owned and operated Oscar Snowden's TV & Appliance store, along with my brothers, working six days a week 10 hour days.

**Q1:** Texas Counties have only the authority expressly granted by the Constitution or State Statutes. Counties have no authority to regulate ground water issues; have no zoning authority; can only regulate land division using Texas Local Government Code; and Septic Tanks using Texas Health and Safety Code. Until our legislature grants counties more authority, counties do not have the authority that is necessary to balance competing interests.

**Q2:** Emergency dispatch and



911 addressing have both already been consolidated. Cities have more authority than the county in regulation of land development. I would pursue a cooperative effort by Bastrop County, cities, and the Emergency Services District to identify potential areas of consolidation of resources and services. I would pursue Public-Private partnerships utilizing the opportunities now available through legislation.

**Q3:** As commissioner, I want citizens to know that the county is there to help them with their problems, especially with our County Road System. What can we do better to entice good, clean growth to our community? We need to let developers and corporations know "We want to help you become part of Bastrop County." I call it, "Putting our best foot forward." We always need to be looking at our Bastrop County Budget and how we can give tax relief.

## BASTROP COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

**Q1:** The JP courts are frequently described as ½ "the people's courts." As justice of the peace, how would you ensure that this role is fulfilled in your court?

**Q2:** What changes, if any, are needed in court processes and procedures, in your precinct, to make the court is more efficient and effective in fulfilling its duties?

### PRECINCT 1

**Debbie Moore (D)**

**Education:** Attended Louisiana State University Emergency Management School, Mt. Weater, VA and Bastrop, TX

**Experience:** CEO of the Baton Rouge, LA transit agency with an \$11 million budget, \$21 million in assets, and over 100 union employees. Experienced negotiator.



**Q1:** This court handles misdemeanor offenses, not felonies, so the individuals appearing before me will likely not have an extensive record with law enforcement. I will make sure that they have an understanding of why they are before me, and I will do my best to help them not come before me again. However, I am a firm believer that actions have consequences, and I intend to enforce the law with compassion. Repeat offenders are a different story.

**Q2:** My office will be open for business whenever the County Courthouse is open. I will be able to magistrate at the Sheriff's Office, which will eliminate current transportation expenses to the courthouse and possibly dangerous situations. I will respect law enforcement, and in all situations will exercise my duties within the limits set by the State of Texas. I will bring this office into compliance with the Tx. Office of Judicial Administration.

**Donna Van Gilder (R)**

**Education:** Texas State University-San Marcos BAAS, Legal Studies, 2010-14 (expected graduation); Austin Community College Associate's degree, Paralegal Oct '98-2010.



**Experience:** Bastrop County Justice of the Peace Pct.#1 Jan '11 – Present; Law Office of Derek R Van Gilder Paralegal Oct '98-2010

**Q1:** My experience as Justice of the Peace and formal legal education have equipped me to be knowledgeable of the duties and responsibilities in both civil and criminal matters. While JP civil courts are informal, there are rules. Texas Rules of Civil Procedure govern this court. I have held and will continue to hold educational classes to help educate the public about the workings and laws pertaining to this court free of charge.

**Q2:** I will continue to update the website and institute state and federally mandated requirements in a timely manner. There is a great need for additional

personnel, increase in the budget to run this office, would help as more is being placed on this court to help relieve the higher courts. Implementation of video magistrature would be more cost-and time-efficient creating added protection to the public and the officials who magistrate.

### PRECINCT 2

**Raymah M. Davis (R)**  
Unopposed

### PRECINCT 3

**Katherine K. Hanna (D)**  
Unopposed

### PRECINCT 4

**Larry Dunne (R)**  
Unopposed



# CALDWELL COUNTY

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

## CALDWELL COUNTY COMMISSIONER

**Q1:** How would you use the county's existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?

**Q2:** Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to county residents? Please explain.

**Q3:** What do you believe are the most important issues in your county, and how do you propose to address them?

### PRECINCT 2

#### Fred Buchholtz (R)

**Education:** Luling Public Schools, BBA at SWTSU - Texas State in San Marcos

**Experience:** Former Mayor of Luling, Presently Caldwell County Commissioner, Realtor 40 years, Mortgage Broker 22 years, former Subdivision Developer

**Q1:** Caldwell County is growing. Most of our new residential subdivisions are for manufactured homes. We would like to require conventional single family constructed homes but we don't have that authority. We will continue to use our authority to require good paved roads for all our new residential developments. Attractive paved roads hopefully



will lead to attractive single family homes and a stronger tax base.

**Q2:** Presently we have three 911 call centers in Caldwell County. We should evaluate & study our 911 call centers. With one or two better equipped 911 call centers in Caldwell County, the public may be better served at a lower cost.

**Q3:** Improvement in our county roads is most important. We have to seal coat our paved roads on a regular basis. Our gravel roads consist of dusty crushed limestone and they are unhealthy and dangerous. We have to continue to invest additional money each year in order to steadily improve our county roads.

#### Edward "Eddie" Moses (D)

No response

### PRECINCT 4

#### Joe Roland (D)

No response

#### Darrel Scott (R)

**Education:** Associates degree, Avionics systems maintenance, Community College of The Air Force.

**Experience:** Twenty years military service, 18 years transportation industry including supervisory positions.

**Q1:** An ongoing problem has been the creation of residential areas on land converted from agricultural use. Often the new construction does not meet current health and safety standards as well as conflicts with agricultural activities in the area and can overload existing infrastructure. No permits for new construction or converting land from agricultural use should be issued without an impact study of the effects of such changes surrounding property.

**Q2:** Code enforcement and sanitation department should be combined into one



office, with all personnel assigned trained in all areas of enforcement procedures. Priority should be given to stopping improperly installed septic systems, trash buildup on properties in the county as well as helping law enforcement track down those dumping in the county. All new construction should be inspected to insure all building standards are met.

**Q3:** Lack of commercial development is a top priority. Currently fees for new business construction are many times higher than in surrounding counties. My goal shall be to see those fees rolled back to a more reasonable level. Illegal dumping is a problem throughout the county. Greater emphasis should be given to county law enforcement personnel to track down and prosecute persons dumping in Caldwell County.

### DISTRICT ATTORNEY

#### Fred H. Weber (D)

Unopposed

## CALDWELL COUNTY JUDGE

#### Fermin T. Islas (D)

No response

#### Ken Schawe (R)

No response

## CALDWELL COUNTY COURT AT LAW JUDGE

#### Edward Jarrett (D)

Unopposed

## CALDWELL COUNTY TREASURER

#### Lori Rangel (D)

Unopposed

## CALDWELL COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK

#### Tina Morgan Freeman (D)

Unopposed

## CALDWELL COUNTY CLERK

#### Carol Holcomb (D)

Unopposed

## CALDWELL COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

**Q1:** The JP courts are frequently described as "the people's courts". As justice of the peace, how would you ensure that this role is fulfilled in your court?

**Q2:** What changes, if any, are needed in court processes and procedures, in your precinct, to make the court is more efficient and effective in fulfilling its duties?

### PRECINCT 1

#### Aurora "Rhoda" Chavira (D)

No response

#### Matt Kiely (R)

No response

### PRECINCT 2

#### Homer Horne (D)

No response

#### Patricia E. Oringderff (R)

**Education:** M.Div., Theology; B.A. (emphasis on political science, pre-law, and constitution-

al law, G.R.I., Real Estate) Associates Degree in General Studies, SAC

**Experience:** Formerly Chair, Grievance Com., San Antonio Board of Realtors; Arbitrator, Better Business Bureau; Counselor, HELPLINE Crisis Center; jail ministry.

**Q1:** The answer can be found in the reason that I am running for this race. If I am elected in the position of Justice of the Peace, Caldwell County, precinct 2, I will be readily available either by phone or in person to ensure



that no one will be encumbered in the process of having their day in court. Because of my past experience in working with people from diversified backgrounds, I will be able to judge fairly with justice and mercy to each one.

**Q2:** Every single person appearing in court should have their rightful opportunity to present their case, no matter who they are or who they know. No one should be pre-judged until all the facts are presented; however, there will be ample time for each person's story. The laws are there as set out in the Texas Statutes and can be applied accordingly by this fair judge who will work with full authority to do her job with respect and integrity.

### PRECINCT 3

#### Ben E. Brady (R)

**Education:** Attended College of the Sequoias in Visalia, California. Major: Journalism.

**Experience:** More than 40 years as a computer programmer and software developer specializing in developing solutions for small business.

**Q1:** Using my analytical skills developed over my career, I will evaluate the cases which come before me and propose solutions and judgments that are fair, lawful and consistent.

**Q2:** I will be holding court more often to ensure cases are resolved more efficiently. I believe the people involved in cases deserve to be heard as expeditiously as possible.



#### MaryAlice Llanas (D)

No response

### PRECINCT 4

#### Raymond D. DeLeon (D)

No response

#### David LaPoint (R)

**Education:** Bachelor of Science - Summa Cum Laude, Advanced Staff Non-Commissioned Officer Leadership Academy - USMC, Electronics, and Communications, CQT - ASQ

**Experience:** USMC Retired, Gulf War Veteran, Commander VFW Post 8927, Commander CAP Cadet Sqdr, EPA & OSHA Auditor, Substance Abuse Counseling, Corrections Officer



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# CALDWELL COUNTY / HAYS COUNTY

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

Continued from Page 49

**Q1:** At this level of jurisdiction the Justice Court is the only court with which many people will come in contact. When elected, I will work to ensure ac-

cess to the court by facilitating timely hearings thus preventing unwarranted delays in due process. Through fair and impartial treatment for all, I will promote a level of confidence in, “the people’s courts.” which will encour-

age good citizenship and responsibility in the community.

**Q2:** Court processes and procedures are part of the State mandated 80 hours of training after a candidate is elected and changes to those processes are

provided in the 20 hours required training annually thereafter. After the required training I will review procedures and processes and make those relevant changes necessary to bring my precinct court into compliance with

current statute to ensure a timely and unbiased evolution for all parties.

## HAYS COUNTY JUDGE

**Q1:** What do you think is the best way for a groundwater district to protect an aquifer’s water supply for the current and future residents of a county, and can your concept work when groundwater districts often have county boundaries while aquifers might serve multiple counties?

**Q2:** With an increasing population, how will the county provide the services that are needed?

### Bert Cobb (R)

**Education:** Abilene Christian University, 1964-66 Texas A&M University, B.S., 1968 The University of Texas Health Science Center, Doctor of Medicine 1972

**Experience:** Board Certified, Head and Neck Surgery Honorably Discharged U.S.A.F., Major San Marcos medical practice since 1979 Hays County Judge since 2010

**Q1:** It takes a partnership effort to manage our water supply.



Hays County is leading our region by securing our water quality and providing for our growing water needs, just as we are leading Central Texas with historic improvements to our roads and infrastructure. I am committed to enhancing our county’s long-term quality of life by planning ahead for quality water, better roads, excellent public safety, new high wage jobs, and financial security.

**Q2:** Hays County has planned responsibly for our growing needs. Take a drive around and you will see historic road

improvements underway all across the county. By modernizing emergency services, our schools and neighborhoods are safer than ever before. We have streamlined county operations to trim the budget and keep tax rates low. As a result, new employers are calling Hays County home and we are poised for a bright future of economic prosperity.

### Abel Velasquez (D)

**Education:** Graduate San Marcos High School, **Experience:** 30 yrs. military service, 10 yrs. Cnty Gov. 25 yrs. Occupational Safety, 10 yrs. Workers Comp, 10 yrs. prop liab

**Q1:** The best way for a groundwater district to protect an aquifer’s water supply is to educate the public on an alternative water supply, the ocean. It’s time to push the limits of our imagination beyond today and tomorrow.

rows water concerns and really plan for the future. Our current elected officials should be working with local, state and federal officials to pump water from the Gulf of Mexico to central Texas. Desalination is the way of the future.

**Q2:** We must first determine which services have been minimized and which have been overly coveted for political reasons. We need to get back to the basic mission of government and that is servicing the community in areas such as health care, housing for the homeless, environmental protection, and adopting regulatory codes such as fire protection and OSHA standards for county employees. We need to start planning NOW!

## DISTRICT ATTORNEY

### Wesley “Wes” Mau (R)

Unopposed

## COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

### Mark Jones (R)

Unopposed

## COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

### Ray Whisenant (R)

Unopposed

## SURVEYOR

### Kelly Kilber (R)

Unopposed

## TREASURER

### Michele Tuttle (R)

Unopposed

## HAYS DISTRICT CLERK

### Beverly Crumley (R)

Unopposed

## HAYS COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

**Q1:** How would you deal with truancy in our schools?  
**Q2:** What changes, if any would you propose in the JP’s office?

## PRECINCT 1

### Margie H. Hernandez (D)

**Education:** Bachelors degree from Texas State University in Criminal Justice

**Experience:** For over 11 years I have served as Justice of the Peace in Hays County. I also have 15 years of experience working with truancy and at risk youth.

**Q1:** For the past 11 years I have dealt with truancy in our schools by imposing sanctions using the statues of state law. The sanctions I impose are based on information provided to me by the family, student, and school per-

sonnel. My goal is to utilize the programs offered by the school district to ensure that the student finish their education. I have had the privilege to attend the graduation of many students who have been in my court for truancy.

**Q2:** Develop more open discussion with the county IT department and Tyler’s technologies concerning issues that prevent proper entry of traffic citations. There are errors that occur, which do not allow for the traffic tickets to generate properly in the County’s software program ODESSEY. The clerks in

the JP’s office currently are having to enter these tickets manually.

### Peggy Jones (R)

**Education:** Texas State Univ. - BAAS, Summa Cum Laude; MAG. Coursework in Spanish and Prof Counseling. Brokerage classes. Professional Counseling.

**Experience:** My experience as a Credentialed Mediator, Real Estate Broker and in Search and Rescue will aid my ability to adjudicate fairly and effectively on a va

**Q1:** It is imperative to set the cases quickly after charges are filed with consistent application of the judgments. I will propose many alternatives to tra-



ditional punishment. Effective truancy intervention policies must employ more than a “one size fits all” method. Each case will involve the use of incentives and sanctions while employing a multi-disciplinary, tailored approach for each student based on their needs, resources, and violations.

**Q2:** The office must be managed more efficiently: such as bringing the backlog of cases down to a functional level; making sure all information is entered into the computer system; improving communication between the office and public; the damaged relationships with other agencies and supporting private vendors must be repaired; and there are too many pending cases to only hold court 14 days

per month. I also propose night court to solve many issues.

## PRECINCT 2

### Beth Smith (D)

Unopposed

## PRECINCT 3

### Andrew Cable (R)

Unopposed

## PRECINCT 4

### Terry Kyle (R)

Unopposed

## PRECINCT 5

### Scott J. Cary (D)

Unopposed



# HAYS COUNTY

**KEY:** (D) Democrat; (G) Green; (L) Libertarian; (R) Republican

## HAYS COUNTY JUDGE

**Q1:** How would you address the situation of one party coming before you who is not represented by counsel? Would you assist him or her or take other actions to maintain impartiality?

**Q2:** How will you ensure impartiality in your court, given the current system of financing judicial campaigns, which allows donations from those who may later bring cases before your court?

**Q3:** What are the most critical administration-of-justice issues facing the court for which you seek election as judge?

### COURT OF LAW #1

**Robert E. Updegrove (R)**  
Unopposed

years. Previously certified in Juvenile Law with 3 years in juvenile court. Various civil cases.

**Q1:** At all times, a Judge must maintain impartiality. I would immediately cause that party to cease their communications with me, direct the party to opposing counsel and then initiate a hearing or proceeding as soon as practicable with all parties present to inform all parties about the communication, the extent to which I retained anything I might have heard, and ask the parties if they wanted to seek my recusal based on the

communication.

**Q2:** The system, while flawed, has worked for many years. Campaign finance reports are public information. If I have significant contributors, I would decline to hear any cases involving those persons for no less than the first year of my service on the bench. My record of fairness in Central Texas is well-known, as I have handled cases against many good friends, always being fair and reasonable but diligent in my duties to the citizens of Texas.

**Q3:** Hays County is in a period of rapid growth, and this is reflected in the court's caseload. The court needs to determine how it can keep up with growing dockets in a time of limited fiscal resources. The Court needs to maximize usage of available technology, thus improving the efficiency of the current resources and keeping in step with the resources used in similarly-situ-

ated counties.

**Linda A. Rodriguez (D)**  
**Education:**

Bachelor of Journalism, The University of Texas at Austin. Juris Doctorate, The University of Texas School of Law

**Experience:** Judge Rodriguez was elected to the Hays County Court at Law in 1990. She is also the Juvenile Judge and presides over Veterans Court.

**Q1:** Pro se parties, or parties not represented by a lawyer, are common in our court. Maintaining impartiality is not an issue for me; I listen with an open mind to their position and a propensity to give everyone a full opportunity to state their case. Indigent defendants are eligible for court appointed attorneys. Pro se defendants can also have standby counsel and are admonished about the perils of representing



themselves in a hearing.

**Q2:** I hold this office in public trust and never forget this premise. My reputation to not allow any relationship to influence my conduct and judgment is paramount. I decide the cases before me on the evidence, the facts and the law that applies, not on the personalities involved. I will diligently continue to uphold the Judicial Canons with impartiality and integrity.

**Q3:** We have many issues regarding growth in Hays County and the resources necessary to meet these demands. One of the critical issues is the rising number of criminal defendants with mental health issues. The State of Texas, our local agencies and our courts must come together to address this problem. We are discussing a separate docket for these defendants so that their needs are taken into consideration.

### COURT OF LAW #2

**David S. Glickler (R)**

**Education:** J.D., SMU School of Law, Dallas, TX., B.A., Rutgers College, Rutgers Univ. New Brunswick, N.J.

**Experience:** Board-certified in Criminal Law, prosecuting for 20



years. Previously certified in Juvenile Law with 3 years in juvenile court. Various civil cases.

## HAYS COUNTY CLERK

**Q1:** Describe the qualities that a successful Hays County Clerk should have.

**Q2:** What is the single most important issue that prompted you to become a candidate for County Clerk?

**Liz Q. Gonzalez (R)**

**Education:** Graduate of Foy H. Moody High School

**Experience:** I've worked for the County Clerk's Office for 26 years. I worked 5 years in Nueces County and 21 years for Hays County. I'm the current County Clerk.

**Q1:** A County Clerk should be

dedicated, hard worker, a great listener, motivated, and ready to stand on the laws set out by the state. You also need to surround yourself with employees that have the same qualities. My staff works hard daily to bring great customer service to everyone who enters the office or over the phone.

**Q2:** I felt that I could not only do the job but also make it flourish. I enjoy serving the public and having worked in almost all areas of the office helped prepare me for the next step. Running for County Clerk. I would love to continue to serve the citizens of Hays County and look forward to it.

**Gina Islas-Mendoza (D)**

**Education:** I have a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Texas State University.

**Experience:** I worked for the

County Clerks office for 25 years. With my hands on experience I have the ability to train and assist my staff.

**Q1:** The County Clerk should be someone who leads the office to ensure that it turns out a superior work product every day operating efficiently, effectively, and courteously. They should be able to communicate effectively with the various departments and divisions, as well as customers who seek the office's services. Finally, the County Clerk's vision should include the desire to train staff in such a way as to build expertise

and versatility.

**Q2:** I ran for office in 2010 and lost. I am running again because I have a passion to serve as the Hays County Clerk. I want to ensure the office staff shares that strong desire to serve and enjoys their work, so that this feeling is conveyed to our citizens. I will identify and utilize the strength of our office staff to better serve Hays Co. I truly enjoy working with the County Clerk's office, and I want our employees to embrace the same mentality

# SAN MARCOS

## SAN MARCOS MAYOR

**Q1:** What are the most important short-term and long term issues facing San Marcos?  
**Q2:** What is your opinion of the city's current economic development efforts?

**Daniel Guerrero**  
**Education:** San Marcos High School Texas State University - Communication St. Edward's University - Leadership/Ethics Austin Community College  
**Experience:** Mayor - 2010-Present Council Member - 2004-2008 Leadership San Marcos Citizens Police Academy Citizens Fire Academy Numerous Boards and Commissions  
**Q1:** Short term we will com-

plete the significant infrastructure projects that are enhancing the mobility, beautification, and economic vitality of our community gateways and urban downtown core. These investments will improve our job creation and tourism efforts to support small businesses. Long term, we will work with the SMCISD to promote our schools, secure new water resources, grow our single-family housing stock for

families and job creation.  
**Q2:** The City of San Marcos has taken a significant leadership role in promoting San Marcos and Central Texas as a hub for economic development and job creation. We are focused on enhancing our workforce education, developing assets that promote single-family housing growth and private investment, and promote the intellectual and human capital produced by the SMCISD, Texas State, Gary Job Corps and small businesses. Our efforts are creating jobs.

**Patrick Montgomery**  
No response

**Jonathan Sorenson**  
**Education:** Bachelor of Public Administration, Communication Studies - Texas State University  
**Experience:** 10 years of business development and management. Member: San Marcos Chamber, Central Texas Advocates for Seniors, Alzheimer's Association,  
**Q1:** The most important short term issue San Marcos faces is attracting high paying, stable jobs to our community while providing a supportive atmosphere that empowers our small business owners and entrepreneurs. The most important long term issue we face is ensuring that planning for future growth and

development is done so in a responsible and environmentally sound manner and with respect to the new comprehensive plan.  
**Q2:** It is important that while we are looking outward for opportunities to advance economic development that we also ensure that our local business owners have support and encouragement from the city. I believe the Greater San Marcos Partnership will prove to be a valuable collaborative effort however the city must take into account the return on our investment and if necessary seek out new and innovative strategies for economic development.

## SAN MARCOS CITY COUNCIL

**Q1:** What are the most important short-term and long term issues facing San Marcos?  
**Q2:** What is your opinion of the city's current economic development efforts?

### PLACE 3

**Mike Davis**  
**Education:** Moved to San Marcos in 1976; attended Tx State Univ.; started small business in SM that has grown to largest independent welding supply company in Tx.  
**Experience:** Served on city commissions incl. Planning & Zoning for 11 years, (2 yrs. chair; 1 yr. vice chair) when SM saw strongest/smarter growth in history.  
**Q1:** My 3-point platform is simple: Community Development, Essential City Services, A Unified Town. We must preserve and enhance what makes SM special: our river/watersheds, downtown/historic districts/neighborhoods, local businesses, cultural traditions; diversify/expand the tax base to ease the homeowners' burden; and cultivate higher paying jobs. Ensure that all who dream of making a home here can do so - with decent wages, good schools, and homes.

**Q2:** We all invest heavily in our university. We should enjoy the benefits of that investment - by bringing more strong businesses to San Marcos, providing good jobs for an educated workforce; housing opportunities and strong schools. We lose businesses & families to New Braunfels, Buda and Kyle, where single family housing is readily available. Homes bring families. Families build leaders. Leaders turn cities into strong communities.

**John Thomaides**  
**Education:** Attended Temple University, Philadelphia PA, graduate Leadership Academy for Public Service LBJ School and National League of Cities University  
**Experience:** Current City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem. Successful small business owner with 22 years of continuous residency in the City of San Marcos.  
**Q1:** I believe protecting and improving our quality of life is job

one. This is best accomplished by respecting our environment and protecting the San Marcos River. We must continue generating jobs keeping our graduating seniors in San Marcos and employing our citizens, promoting single-family neighborhoods, ensuring reliable and long-term sources of water, keeping property taxes low and ensuring a safe and secure community.  
**Q2:** I have a perfect record of supporting jobs-based incentives for higher paying jobs while opposing risky schemes with little or no benefit to the taxpayers. We are best equipped to attract small businesses but need to continue our efforts to keep San Marcos attractive for larger employers and support educational excellence in San Marcos. Employers locate where talented people live and talented people live where there's a good quality of life.

### PLACE 4

**Wayne Becak**  
**Education:** BBA, Texas A&M University  
**Experience:** My 40 years of Community Banking experience makes me uniquely qualified to help our city navigate the financial challenges for growth & job

creation!  
**Q1:** Economic development is the lifeblood of a growing city. Right now, San Marcos's average household income is below most cities in our region. That is why I am working hard to support local business growth while also attracting new high wage jobs to our city. Protecting our quality of life demands a proactive and balanced approach to growth that expands economic opportunity while also preserving our city's natural beauty and resources.  
**Q2:** As a retired community banker, I ran for council three years ago to improve our city's economic future in a responsible way. I worked to create hundreds of new high wage jobs and seek to continue this important work. I believe in a proactive and balanced approach to growth that promotes local job creation and attracts new high wage employers, while also meeting or exceeding standards for environmental integrity.

**Jane Hughson**  
**Education:** San Marcos High; Southwest Texas State University, highest honors, Mathematics major, Biology minor; teaching certificate in both + Computer Science

**Experience:** City Council 1996-2002, Planning & Zoning Commission, Master Plan 1995 & 2013, Economic Development Council, Transportation Advisory Board  
**Q1:** Long-term: Growth, how to direct it and how to support it with city services. We need businesses to provide jobs so we must continue to work with educational institutions for job training. We need more single-family housing, even with 1,000+ permits this year. We must continue our planning for future water. In all we do, we must protect our river and the environment. Short-term: Road construction projects all over town, current and future.  
**Q2:** The Greater San Marcos Partnership is actively seeking responsible companies to bring to our community. The private-public partnership has brought in several companies already. Texas State's STAR Park will be beneficial to all efforts. The City is using economic tools available including Transportation Reinvestment Zone, Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone, and Tax Incentive Zone. The City has other incentives for businesses, new and expanding.



# DEL VALLE / PFLUGERVILLE

## DEL VALLE ISD

**Q1:** What would you do to advocate for and ensure support for public education in your community?

**Q2:** Name the three most critical issues facing your school district today and what actions are needed to resolve each of these issues?

**Q3:** What do you see as the role of the board of trustees in relation to the daily operation of the district?

### PLACE 1

**Ann Heuberger**  
Unopposed

### PLACE 3

**Charles Diggs**  
**Education:** High school graduate, Louisville KY; while on active duty, college credit through Community College of The Air Force

**Experience:** DV Trustee Dist. 3 from 2001-2004; Del Valle resident since 1985; Top Volunteer 1991-1992; DVISD Citizens Growth Advisory Comm. member 2014; USAF, Ret.

**Q1:** I think one of the most effective ways to support public education is by working as a team with our parents by explaining what it really takes for our schools to produce successful students. I want to find new ways to get parents involved at their childrens' schools, to learn the in's and out's of public education; then they will have the con-



fidence to contact elected state officials to advocate for and support public education.

**Q2:** Growth-From 1998 to 2018, DVISD will have grown from roughly 5,000 students to a projected 13,450. In order to provide a productive learning environment, a bond package has been put on the ballot for the November, 2014 election. Funding-Advocate with state leaders to restore the funding they didn't restore 2 years ago & INCREASE the funding; costs have gone up. Affordable, available land-this is being addressed in the current bond package.

**Q3:** By law, the Board of Trustees oversees the management of the district; the Superintendent is responsible for managing the district on a daily basis. The Board holds the Superintendent accountable each year in her evaluation.

**Charles Neira**  
No response

**Michael Valescu**  
**Education:** BLS Mathematics, St. Edward's University, 1999

**Experience:** Semiconductor Equipment Engineer, 32 years

**Q1:** Our children are our future. If we do not advocate for our children, we lose our future. I will be an outspoken supporter for better public education and I will speak to anyone with an interest in their future. There simply is no other option. The state has eroded educational support for years, and we have to get that support back, whatever it takes.

**Q2:** Teacher retention rate in the DVISD is abysmal. We must vigorously investigate the root causes of this turnover and remedy the problem. Under the directives of HB5, we will provide education pathways for both academic and career-based studies. That is not enough. The career program must produce business leaders and the academic program must produce scholars. Finally, the community should be proud of our students, and we should show them why.

**Q3:** Trustees are facilitators. Trustees help school administrators fulfill their roles in the educational process. Trustees provide guidance and encouragement to the teachers to help them fulfill their teaching roles. Trust-



ees are a link to the citizens of the district, keeping them informed about how and why their tax dollars are being spent. And trustees keep the school district fiscally sound by making prudent financial decisions.

### PLACE 5

**Steven B. Hart**  
**Education:** I attended 12 years of public school, and 2 years of college. Of the 12 years, 8 years were in the Del Valle ISD.

**Experience:** I served on the Del Valle School Board for 15 years. I became a Master Trustee. I also served as a Federal Relations Network advocate for 2 years.

**Q1:** I would be available to my constituents for ideas, input and concerns. My belief is school board members, district administrators, and community should work together as partners to provide the best educational opportunities for our students. I would contact my Senator and Congressman to express my opinion on issues including the local impact of the legislation on our district. I would apply to be an advocate on the Federal Relations Network.

**Q2:** Increasing student test scores, growth, and maintaining fiscal accountability. I would support our students by providing



their teachers with the resources needed to ensure student success. Monitoring the growth in our district is a function of our leadership team. Open communication with parents, staff and community members will help address the growth concerns and provide direction in pursuing critical issues the district will face.

**Q3:** Balancing priorities while ensuring diligent accountability is an important function of the school board trustee. Collecting input from all vested parties to include parents, teachers, staff, administrators and community is critical in the decision making process. As trustees we must do whatever it takes to make sure that we have a safe and learning environment for our students to achieve and to become responsible adults in a ever changing world

**Nancy Wilhite**  
No response

**PLACE 7**  
**Susan Woody**  
Unopposed

**PLACE 8**  
**Darla Wegner**  
Unopposed

**PLACE 9**  
**Elvia Guardian**  
Unopposed

## PFLUGERVILLE CITY COUNCIL

**Q1:** What effect is development having on your community, and how do you propose to manage growth in your area, such as infrastructure improvements?

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

### PLACE 2

**Brad Marshal**  
**Education:** Bachelors, Criminal Justice. Masters, Technology Management

**Experience:** 3 years served as Council Member Place 2. 4 years served on Pflugerville Finance & Budget Committee. 3 years served on Emergency Services Committee.



**Q1:** Current residential and commercial development is having an extremely positive effect on Pflugerville. Increases in both property tax revenue as well as sales tax revenue have allowed the council to lower the property tax rate for the 11th year straight. Larger infrastructure projects will now be put to the voters in a bond election this November. If passed by the voters, significant investments will be made in the long-term needs of the city.

**Q2:** The 2 most pressing issues facing the region and our city is water and transportation/mobility. The current drought situation is a reminder that we must always have a robust strategy for handling this critical resource. I will push towards both, conservation measures as well as backup water supplies and re-use water strategies. In cooperation with TxDot and Capital Metro we will work to establish a Transportation/Mobility strategy.

**Rudolph K. Metayer**  
**Education:** University of Texas at Austin Government (BA) University of Texas at Austin Philosophy (BA) University of Texas School of Law (JD)

**Experience:** Austin Black Law-

yers President TY-LA Board of Directors Austin Texas Soccer Club VP Leadership Austin Emerge/Essentials Hendrickson HS Campus Advisor

**Q1:** The economic growth in the city has coincided with population growth & I believe this is not a fluke. The City has become a destination city for families, particularly young professionals, to live. The City must work with both the Pflugerville Community Development Corp & Pflugerville ISD to better plan the location and development of business and schools in areas of the City that can sustain development. The Kelly Ln diabolcle can't happen again



**Q2:** The City must address the lack of transportation options for its citizens, particularly our elder population. The options must keep up with the booming population. I propose partnering with PCDC to establish a trial study of city vans & buses to see the feasibility of a renewed partnership with Cap Metro. Trust must be re-established with the ISD to create roads that allow safe travel of children to school. Parks must be built for youth leagues

**PLACE 4**  
**Starlet Sattler**  
Unopposed

# VOTERS GUIDE

## WIMBERLEY ISD

**Q1:** What, in your opinion, is the best accomplishment of Wimberley ISD and what is one thing you would like to change about Wimberley ISD and why?  
**Q2:** What percentage of funding would you support for Wimberley ISD spending on athletics of all kinds? Please explain your answer.

### PLACE 3

#### Mark Hunter Bursiel

**Education:** I am a WISD graduate, class of 1999. I also graduated from Texas State with a degree in Business Marketing and Management.  
**Experience:** I am a 1999 WISD graduate, and have been a community supporter and volunteer since. Now I would like to support the district in a larger capacity.  
**Q1:** The best accomplishment of WISD is the ability to attract

and retain the best teachers and staff. These teachers and staff are dedicated to their jobs, the district, as well as our students. Once they are here, they don't want to leave and when they have to make that decision; it is one of their toughest to make. We need to change the number of electives by adding more to ensure that our students will be college, career, and life ready.  
**Q2:** Wimberley ISD currently spends approx .83% of its yearly budget on athletics. I am happy

we can sustain these programs with that percentage. If the decision remains that Robinhood is unconstitutional, I would like to see an increase to this line item to include other activities. I would focus more attention on adding new programs and electives that will encourage more students to participate and to get involved in extracurricular activities.

#### Vicki McCuistion

**Education:** BA - Southwestern University, International Studies: Asia and Political Science. Attended Chinese University of Hong Kong. Westwood HS-RRISD.  
**Experience:** Strategic planning, goal setting, budget management. Director Barnabas Connection-10yrs & Back to

School Fiesta. Mom-Holly '13, Hether '15, Hanna '16  
**Q1:** WISD Best Success: We encourage our students to pursue their dreams. As a result, they receive amazing scholarships, participate in academic, artistic, and athletic competitions, and even represent Texas at Girls Nation in Washington, D.C. However, I'm concerned barriers exist that prevent some students from accessing opportunities that can ensure future career success. We must work to eliminate these barriers to engage and empower all students.  
**Q2:** My children have benefited from WISD athletics, and I value this investment in character and community building. In 2013, 3.46% was spent on co/extracurricular activities, but I expect

transportation and staffing may be listed elsewhere in the budget. Before determining a reasonable percentage allocated for WISD athletics, we must have full transparency and accountability in program expense vs. income from gates fees and other revenue.

### PLACE 6

#### Gina Fulkerson

Unopposed

### PLACE 7

#### Ken Strange

Unopposed

## BUDA

### MAYOR

**Todd Ruge**  
Unopposed

### CITY COUNCIL, PLACE 5

**Eileen Altmiller**  
**Evan Ture**

### CITY COUNCIL, PLACE 6

**Craig Henry**  
**Bobby Lane**

## CREEDMOOR

**BOARD OF ALDERMAN**  
(Choose 3)

**Milissa Berry**  
**Richard E. Harrison**  
**Connie Meador Horn**  
**Jeff Jakobeit**  
**Jesse Solis**  
**James Stinson**

## LAGO VISTA

**LAGO VISTA ISD**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES,**  
**PLACE 4**

**Tom Rugel**  
**Bryce Welch**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES,**  
**PLACE 5**

**Sharon Abbott**

## JARRELL

### MAYOR

**Larry Bush**  
Unopposed

### CITY COUNCIL PLACE 1

**Daniel Klepac**  
Unopposed

## POINT VENTURE

**CITY COUNCIL**  
(Choose 3)

**Dan Devez**  
**Lisa Guest**  
**Bill Roney**  
**Michael Sutton**

## ROLLINGWOOD

### MAYOR

**Thom Farrell**

**ALDERMAN**  
**SPECIAL ELECTION**

**Sara Hutson**  
**Roxanne McKee**

**ALDERMAN**  
(CHOOSE 2)

**Colin MacDougal**  
**Amy Pattillo**  
**Jordan Scott**

## JONESTOWN

**ALDERMAN, PLACE 3**  
(Choose 1)

**Joseph Aaron**  
**Sarah Heihn**

### ALDERMAN, PLACE 4

**David Nelson**  
Unopposed

### ALDERMAN, PLACE 5

**Paul Johnson**  
Unopposed

## VOLENTE

### MAYOR

**Ken Beck**  
Unopposed

**CITY COUNCIL, AT-LARGE**  
(Choose 2)

**Kristy Belote**  
**Billy Connors**  
**David Springer**





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