League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls

P.O. Box 4034, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308-4034 ~ www.lwvwichitafalls.org ~ 940-692-8498



Voters Guide

General Election, Wichita County Tuesday, November 6, 2018



This VOTERS GUIDE is published and funded by the League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls (LWV-WF), through donations from League members, Citizens of Wichita Falls, and Residents of the Wichita Falls area. The LWV-WF is affiliated with the League of Women Voters of Texas and the League of Women Voters of the U.S., and is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that works to promote political responsibility through active informed participation of all citizens in their government. The League DOES NOT support nor oppose any political party, candidate, or proposition. This VOT-ERS GUIDE is designed to convey factual information to help prepare citizens to cast informed votes. Responses to the questionnaire are printed only for races contested in this election. Candidates' replies are printed without editing or verification. To conserve space, replies have word limits.

WHERE TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6

Locations are in Wichita Falls unless otherwise noted. On Election Day, all Wichita County voters may vote at **any** of these locations.

Allendale Baptist Church, 4650 Allendale Rd.

New Hope Presbyterian Church, 2201 Speedway Ave.

Western Hills Baptist Church, 5107 Ridgecrest Dr.

Faith Lodge #1158, 3503 Kemp Blvd.

First Christian Church, 3701 Taft Blvd.

Kamay VFD, 8537 SH 258 W, Kamay

Texas Hwy. Dept., 1601 Southwest Pkwy.

Wesley United Methodist, 1526 Weeks St.

First Baptist Church at Sheppard, 2101 Puckett Rd.

Legacy Church of God, 1420 TX-11 Loop

Cameron Gardens VFD, 153 FM 1740

Commissioner Pct. 2 Bldg., 102 W. College, Burkburnett

New Harvest Church, 1401 Red Fox

Tenth and Broad Church of Christ, 1319 10th St.

Region 9 Education Service Center, 301 TX-11 Loop

First Baptist Family Center, 220 W Park, Iowa Park

Faith Baptist Church, 411 S Wall, Iowa Park

Martin Luther King Center, 1100 Smith

Jefferson Baptist Church, 401 Jefferson St.

First Assembly of God, 3101 McNiel

Faith Baptist, 3001 Southwest Pkwy.

Life Tabernacle Church, 4350 Seymour Hwy.

Floral Heights United Methodist Church, 2114 10th St.

Haws Road Community Church, 2635 Haws Rd., Iowa Park

First United Methodist, 1107 Bailey, Electra

WHERE TO VOTE EARLY

Wichita County Courthouse 900 7th Street, Wichita Falls

Wichita County Tax Office Substation

400 N Wall Street, Iowa Park

Commissioner 2 Bldg. 102 W College, Burkburnett

Oct. 22-Oct. 26 (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.) Oct. 27 (7 a.m. - 7 p.m.) Oct. 28 (Noon - 5 p.m.) Oct. 29-Nov. 2 (7 a.m. - 7 p.m.)

Sikes Senter Mall & Home Depot

Oct. 22-Oct. 26	(10 a.m 7 p.m.)
Oct. 27	(9 a.m 9 p.m.)
Oct. 28	(Noon - 5 p.m.)
Oct. 29-Nov. 2	(9 a.m 9 pm.)

Commissioner 4 Bldg. 2023 SH 25 N, Electra

Oct. 22-Oct. 26 (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.) Oct. 29-Nov. 2 (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.) *CLOSED Noon to 1 p.m. for lunch

*CLOSED Oct. 27 & 28

Election information can be found by contacting Wichita County Clerk Lori Bohannon at (940) 766-8100, or by visiting www.co.wichita.tx.us/County Clerk

To view this Voters Guide online or get the PDF, visit www.lwvwichitafalls.org.



U.S. HOUSE, DISTRICT 30

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: Describe the training and experience that qualify you for this office.

Defense: What do you think our defense priorities, including cyber security, should be?

Medicare/Social Security: How should Congress ensure the viability of Medicare and Social Security into the future?

Health Care: What specific reforms, if any, would you propose in health care policy to address the cost of and access to heath care and medications?

Immigration: What changes, if any, should Congress make in immigration policies?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of Congress, and what is your position on these issues?

» Mac Thornberry (R)

Background: Fifth-generation Texan. Raised on family ranch in Donley County and continue to be involved in the family cattle business. Graduate of Texas Tech University and the University of Texas School of Law. Currently represent the 13th District in Congress and am Chairman House Armed Services Committee. **Defense:** The most important component of our national security is the people who serve. We owe them the best equipment, the best training, and the best support our country can produce. We also have to field modern technologies faster. In some areas, we are behind our adversaries.

Cyber is a domain of warfare. We have the best people and the best technology, but we have tied our own hands from defending the country against state actors. All of us have some role to play, both in keeping our computers safe and in double-checking information that comes across our screens.

Medicare/Social Security: Medicare and Social Security are two of the most important federal programs and it is important to face their challenges openly and honestly—protecting benefits for those currently enrolled in the programs, for baby boomers, and for future generations without bankrupting the country in the process. Changes should be phased in over time, keeping promises to those who count on them while giving younger people time to adjust to a new system.

Health Care: I support and voted for the House-passed bill that fully repeals and replaces Obamacare. It failed in the Senate by one vote. We must continue to

work for ways to stop the harmful effects of Obamacare, control costs, and put patients in charge of their health care, all while protecting Medicare beneficiaries **Immigration**: Any nation must control who and what comes across its borders, so border security and enforcement are essential. We must also enforce laws inside this country with tools so that government and employers can quickly and effectively know who is here legally. Also need efficient way for temporary workers to enter so we know who comes, where they are, and that they go home when their permitted time expires. Finally, our legal immigration system must be reformed so that we can continue to attract the world's best and brightest to come here to contribute to our economy.

Other Issues: Trade— Agriculture is always on the front lines of trade disputes and heavily affects the economy of our district. Trade is the one thing that is threatening the economic growth that is off to such a good start and must be watched closely.

Taxes—Congress should make the tax cuts permanent and completely eliminate the death tax.

Opioid Crisis— The opioid epidemic is a crisis affecting all of our communities that we cannot ignore and Congress must continue to work on legislation to combat this threat to our society.

» Greg Sagan (D)

Background: BA in Political Science; MBA in Organizational Behavior; ABD in Industrial Relations/Labor Economics; former Navy LCDR/Vietnam vet; extensive experience consulting to senior executives, most in nuclear utilities, on corporate culture and human performance

Defense: 1. Cyber security 2. Military pay/benefits 3. Military family support 4. Veterans' care 5. Coast/border security 6. New weapons development **Medicare/Social Security:** 1. Repeal of the recent tax act that lowered the tax rates for the wealthiest individuals and corporations 2. Make FICA applicable to all income levels 3. Provide universal, single-payer health care to all Americans 4. Raise the retirement window for Social Security for those joining the labor force now 5. Encourage and support extending mandatory retirement ages **Health Care:** Universal, single-payer health care for all Americans. Eliminate the profit motive from health care, and eliminate competition in health care - both of which drive costs up and not down. Reduce private health insurance to covering elective care, income replacement, and any "uncovered" costs associated with universal, single-payer health care.

Immigration: Recognize that immigrants are a vital source of economic health; make it easier for immigrants and refugees to become citizens; provide citizenship to all legal immigrants who serve in the armed forces; establish a North American Economic Union, to include Canada, the U.S., Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean nations; return to welcoming refugees and providing safe haven

Other Issues: Government corruption - remove from office all of those who use their office for personal profit Foreign meddling in our electoral processes - either reduce dependence on digital technology for voting or secure such technology from foreign exploitation or both Trade policy - Stop the trade war the current administration has started and regain the markets we have shed Women's equality - In pay, career opportunity, health care, domestic violence, sexual assault and access to education and employment LGBTQ equality - accept these "marginalized" members of our society Minority justice

» Calvin DeWeese (L) No response received



TEXAS SENATE, DISTRICT 30

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Water: Given the historic recent droughts and the projected future water shortages for Texas, how would you protect and sustain our current water sources and satisfy the growing needs of people, cities, businesses and agriculture?

Health Care: What, if anything, should the state do to ensure that more people have access to adequate health care?

Education: What are your legislative priorities for ensuring that all Texans have access to quality education?

Government: Do you favor expanding the rights of local or county governments? Please explain.

Equal Rights: Do you feel Texas has gone far enough in ensuring the equal rights and protections of all Texas residents? If so, what do you feel our state is doing right? If not, what areas could Texas improve upon?

» Pat Fallon (R) No response received

» Kevin Lopez (D)

Water: North Texas is not a water rich area. But we are a state that continues to grow with new businesses and more residents. We must be forward thinking and proactive to protect this limited, vital resource so our economic growth can continue. As a state, we should pursue water recycling systems to reduce waste. There should be a collaborative effort between private organizations, the state, and the individual communities to educate and implement water conservation initiatives. We must find cost efficient port unities to upgrade the water infrastructures of drought prone and high water use areas.

Health Care: All Texans should have access to quality, affordable healthcare. I strongly believe that Texas should expand Medicaid coverage to reduce the cost of healthcare for all Texans, improve the health and life of the people here, and bring more healthcare providers to rural Texas. Texas chose not to expand Medicaid coverage when the ACA was enacted. That decision has caused increased healthcare costs throughout the state, and resulted in 26% of rural Texas and 23% of urban Texas uninsured. As the costs of healthcare continues to rise, more Texans are unable to see a healthcare provider, especially those who are uninsured. Emergency care is often so expensive, families simply can't afford to pay the hospital bill and put food on the table. Doctors and hospitals are struggling to maintain their practices because patients cannot pay for their services. This has caused a decrease in healthcare resources in rural communities. I believe Texas should expand Medicaid coverage to lower the cost of he

Education: Texas should be leading the nation with our public schools. But we are sorely behind. Education is my top priority, and I stand strong with Texas educators. I am against private school vouchers as this would take funding from public education. We need to invest more in public education to not only prepare our students for higher education, but also bring trade class opportunities for stu-

dents. These trade class programs will give students and opportunity to step out of high school into a great career, great pay, without a mountain of debt. Texas needs to invest more in public education to increase teacher's pay to a competitive rate with the rest of the nation. We need to work to decrease the teacher to pupil ratio to provide a more one on one learning environment. I will not support any attempt to privatize teacher's retirements, so teachers can count on a stable retirement system.

Government: I believe that local and county governments should maintain their rights for local control as each community is different and their needs are different. The state should not infringe on local control unless civil liberties are being infringed upon. There have been several bills passed that has infringed on local control out of the last legislative session. I believe a State Senator's role in Austin is to represent the communities within the district they serve, not pass laws that infringe on their local control. Other Issues: Public Education: A child's background, zip code, race, or how much money their parents make shouldn't matter—every child deserves the chance to succeed. We need universal Pre-K for all Texas kids & to remove the caps on special education funding. We must pay & treat our teachers as professionals & make sure they are teaching to our children, not a standardized test. For any of this, the state must pay its fair share of public education & stop putting the load on local communities & taxpayers.

Equal Rights: No, I do not believe Texas has gone far enough on ensuring equal rights and protections of all residents. People of all different walks of life can be fired for arbitrary reasons, not based on work performance but based on their private life, and Texas does not provide any legal remedy. Women can legally be paid less for the same job as a man, and the legislature regularly quash any bills that would ensure equal pay for equal work. Our laws should protect all citizens, to ensure equal opportunity for all Texans.

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 69

» James Frank (R) Unopposed

VOTE411.0RG

Vote411.org provides election information for specific locations. To see what will be on your ballot on Election Day, go to the site, type in your address, and click "Get Personalized Information on Candidates and Races." You will see only those candidates and races that will be on your ballot. As with the printed version of the Voters Guide, the candidate's responses are in their own words and are unedited.



WICHITA COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What are your qualifications for this office (including occupation, education, training & experience)?

Issues: What do you feel are the top two (2) issues facing Wichita County and what do you see as appropriate action for the county to take?

Funding: In an austere funding environment, what criteria are most important in evaluating competing funding needs?

Collaboration: Do you see ways in which the counties, schools, and cities could collaborate more? What are those areas and what would you do to increase this collaboration?

» Jeff Watts (R)

Background: As a lifelong resident of Wichita County, I believe I possess the qualifications needed to continue serve the citizens of Wichita County. I have had the privilege of serving the citizens of Wichita County as a County Commissioner for the last four years. Additionally, as a small business owner with conservative Christian principles, I feel I share the same values as many of the people I serve. I know the importance of balancing a budget and making a payroll. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to serve on other various governmental boards and commissions over the past 25 years. My business experience, coupled with my governmental experience, make me the best candidate to continue in the role of Wichita County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Issues: The top two issues facing Wichita County are intertwined: our County's tax rate and unfunded state mandates. Our County is creeping ever closer to the 80 cent tax cap. We can't raise taxes just because it is the "easy" solution. We must make hard choices and cut programs that need to be cut. I am proud to say that in the recently approved 2019 budget, we lowered the tax rate. The second issue relates to unfunded state mandates. We struggle to find ways to pay for required programs sent to us from Austin without funding mechanisms. All too often, the state requires that we fund a program but doesn't give us the funding to do so. We must continue to work with our locally elected state officials to limit unfunded state mandates.

Funding: I believe the number one responsibility of government is to protect its citizens. That means we must adequately fund the sheriff's office, district attorney's office, and the like to make sure that our citizens are protected. That doesn't mean we are able to fund every request they make, but we must make sure they have adequate funding to keep those charged with crimes locked up and off the streets and that the district attorney's office has the resources to diligently prosecute those offenders. At the end of the day, we all want to be safe in our homes, schools, and businesses and I intend to do my part to continue to ensure that happens.

Collaboration: We are lucky to live in a community in which the local school districts, cities, and Wichita County all work together well and are willing to sit down and discuss strategies moving forward. Some communities in Texas don't have this relationship between their governmental bodies. There needs to be continued discussions on utilizing each tax dollar to the fullest. We need to collaborate on different programs and services as we move forward. We didn't need two health departments – that is why we currently have a combined Wichita Falls/ Wichita County Health District. We must continue to analyze which other offices can be merged to provide the citizens with the best services and the lowest tax burden.

» Catie Robinson (D)

Background: I have a master's degree in Government and bachelor's degrees in Criminal Justice and Sociology from NMSU. Prior to moving to Wichita County, I taught political science courses at Antelope Valley College in Lancaster, CA. In the last year, I have learned a lot about the job of County Commissioners, and I will be ready to get to work when I get elected. I have studied the Texas Constitution, Local Government Code, Texas Transportation Code, Road Reports, and resources from the Texas Association of Counties. I attend nearly all of the public hearings, including special budget sessions. I even went out to a county road work site to observe and learn the chip seal process for fixing potholes from the road crew.

Issues: The number one issue facing the county is the responsible use of our tax dollars. As Commissioner, I will prioritize spending on the most vital services, such as the needs of the Sheriff's Office, and community services like mental health and veterans services. I will never vote for a raise for myself because this is a public service job. Another major issue is increasing voter turnout. Wichita County has a terribly low voter turnout rate. I believe that our right to vote is one of our most sacred rights as Americans. I will work to engage the community in the election process and to spread information about the importance of voting. The only way to increase turnout is to make information accessible to people and remove barriers to voting.

Funding: Number one is the safety of the community, which is why I fully support the Sheriff's Office. As a member of the Citizens Academy Alumni Assn., I have seen firsthand some of the conditions our deputies and jailers work in, and we can do better. We must always make sure that our law enforcement has the tools they need to keep us and themselves safe. The second most important criteria is ensuring that tax dollars are spent efficiently and responsibly. When I am elected, constituent services (like volunteer fire departments and road maintenance) will be a priority. Most importantly, I will earn my taxpayer-paid salary by being a full-time Commissioner for the people of Wichita County.

Collaboration: One thing that would benefit all levels of government would be collaboration on voter registration and turnout. Our community and our country will do better when more people are civically engaged, and this could be achieved if local leaders worked to inform and encourage people to get involved in the political process. Collaboration toward increasing the tax base will also benefit the community. As Commissioner, I would approach community leaders and find ways to make Wichita County more attractive to young people and make sure our schools are desirable for families. Doing so will increase the tax base and better the community. This is an issue that the community needs to work together to fix, and I will do all I can to make this happen.



UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY OFFICES

- » Lori Bohannon (R) County Clerk
- » Patti Flores (R) District Clerk
- » R.J. Bob Hampton (R) County Treasurer
- » John Gillespie (R) Criminal District Attorney
- **» Rodney Burchett (R)** Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2
- » Judy Baker (R) Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4

- » Woodrow W. "Woody" Gossom Jr. (R) County Judge
- » Gary Butler (R) Judge, County Court-at-Law No. 1
- » Greg King (R) Judge, County Court-at-Law No. 2
- » Robert Woodruff (R) Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 2
- » Robert Johnson (R) Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3
- » Lee Harvey (R) County Commissioner, Precinct 2

MAYOR, WICHITA FALLS

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What are your qualifications for office (including your occupation, education, training, and experience)?

Issues: What do you feel are the top (2) issues facing Wichita Falls and what do you see as appropriate action for the city to take?

Funding: In an austere funding environment, what criteria are most important in evaluating competing funding needs?

Public Opinion: How could you as a council member/mayor enhance the public opinion of our city government?

» Stephen Santellana

Background: After graduating from Midwestern State University in 1998, I entered the business world. Working in a family business afforded me opportunities to take on critical leadership roles, problem solving, financials, budgeting, management and an overall sense of responsibility for myself, business, and employees. I have also started a business from the ground up. It has been a very rewarding experience. Perhaps most rewarding though is my civic involvement. I've had the opportunity to serve on community boards as well as the school board of Christ Academy. These experiences have further developed and honed my business skills and financial acuity. I have also served as District 1 councilor and as Mayor of Wichita Falls for the past four years.

Issues: Economic Growth is an issue that Wichita Falls has faced for several decades. Growing our tax base by attracting businesses will help with citizen retention, student retention, and the lack of economic growth. I plan on helping the existing industries grow their current businesses, continuing to help our two local colleges grow, and strengthening the relationship with Sheppard Air Force Base. Planning for our deteriorating infrastructure is an issue that Wichita Falls must soon address. Many of our city streets, water systems, sewer systems, and other parts of our infrastructure are old and antiquated. We are now at a point where planning, updating, and renovating of these systems is a critical reality. **Funding:** Due to budgetary constraints and lagging sales tax revenue, developing a criteria for the competing needs is imperative. That criteria is addressed with a

strong strategic plan for our immediate and future needs. A systematic approach is essential when considering the budget concerns that Wichita Falls faces yearly. Public safety is paramount when considering funding for Wichita Falls. The policing of our citizens and the necessity for well-trained first responders cannot be overlooked. The safety and well-being of our citizens is vital. Water, sewer, and sanitation are basic needs that must be a priority. These fundamental needs for our city will always be at the top of the list when considering competing funds. rate with the rest of the nation. We need to work to decrease the teacher to pupil ratio to provide a more one on one learning environment. I will not support any attempt to privatize teacher's retirements, so teachers can count on a stable retirement system.

Public Opinion: I believe that it is paramount that we lead with positivity and transparency. As elected officials, we have to showcase our great city at every turn. We also shoulder the responsibility of being active in the community and being available to the citizens we represent. I take pride in being active and addressing citizen concerns at all times. We are elected to represent fully, and by showing citizens that we can be good stewards of their tax money, we can help enhance that relationship. Being transparent in all that we do is a the best way to show citizens that we want them to feel comfortable with our decisions. Making Wichitans feel part of the process is the only way to enhance public opinion of all that we do for Wichita Falls.

» Lowry W. Crane

Background: 6 years college (most criminal justice studies-economics); Police Academy; Police officer; Lives in Wichita Falls/property owner; Small business owner

Issues: Frivolous spending; High property tax. Frivolous spending must stop; Promote city growth to lower property taxes

Funding: Stop wasteful spending now and promote growth and develope the Sheppard Air Force Base area to attract the young trainees who could potentially add \$50,000,000. To \$150,000,000. New revenue annually that could be used to expand and create new jobs and lower property taxes. As mayor I would be ac-

tive in contacting new businesses and corporations making them feel welcome to come here.

Public Opinion: First work on making Wichita Falls more business friendly. Many businesses say they can't or won't do business with current city policies and codes. Promote Wichita Falls as the friendly city for business and residential development. So many neighborhoods are 50 plus year's with no infrastructure repairs. Make public all plans and get input from citizens on how to improve our city.



WICHITA FALLS CITY COUNCILOR, DISTRICT 3

» Jeff Browning Unopposed

WICHITA FALLS CITY COUNCILOR, DISTRICT 4

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What are your qualifications for office (including your occupation, education, training, and experience)?

Issues: What do you feel are the top (2) issues facing Wichita Falls and what do you see as appropriate action for the city to take?

Funding: In an austere funding environment, what criteria are most important in evaluating competing funding needs?

Public Opinion: How could you as a council member/mayor enhance the public opinion of our city government?

» Tim Brewer

Background: I am long time resident of the Wichita Falls community and have lived in District 4 for 39 years. My family and I experienced the 1979 tornado, losing everything, but were fortunate to rebuild our lives in this wonderful community, experiencing firsthand what a great group friends and neighbors makeup Wichita Falls. I served the Wichita Falls Community as EMT from 1976 – 1979, including on that fateful day, Terrible Tuesday. I have been a small business owner and I am a real estate agent. I have been married to my lovely wife, Debbie, for 41 years. We have 3 wonderful children and 7 grandchildren. I consider myself a fiscal conservative, pro small-business and have years of management experience and handling tight budgets.

Issues: I feel the two pressing issues facing our community are a building a stronger job base and long-term water solution. Supporting and expanding Sheppard AFB and Midwestern State University are critical elements of job growth for our

community as well as attracting outside businesses to Wichita Falls. A strong economy and job base as well as viable water supply are issues outside companies consider when evaluating Wichita Falls as a potential home base. I believe we can meet these challenges and provide opportunities for growth and revitalization.

Funding: The needs of many outweigh the needs of a few. I will work to grow our community and economic base, thus, funding criteria should be evaluated on its ability to meet these goals. I believe my job as a public servant is to listen to voters needs. Thus, in competing funds it is important to listen to voters and ensure their interests are heard as well as represented.

Public Opinion: I believe my most important job is to listen to voter needs, discover new ways to meet goals without raising taxes, and stay within budget. I hope to work to bring more families and jobs to Wichita Falls, generate revenue through economic growth. To put it simply, I plan to work for the people.

» Nicholas J. Schreiber

Background: ACTIVE|ENGAGED|COMMITTED: Involved or recently involved with many local non-profits (Big Brothers Big Sisters, United Way, Meals on Wheels, Communities in Schools, Knights of Columbus and more). Chosen as 2017 Texas Big Brother of the Year. Sat on Economic Development (ED) Steering Committee "focused on developing a comprehensive community and economic development initiative that will help lead to a more prosperous and successful future FOR THE ENTIRE CITY." Co-chair for Implementation Team to pursue a best-practice ED program and a member of the Modern School Facilities action team. Volunteer in downtown clean-up. Attained BA at UNT which led to my career as Marketing Director for SLA Architects, specializing in federal/state government.

Issues: LONG-TERM WATER SOLUTIONS: A potential marketable aspect in the future is sustainable water solutions. After surviving the drought, we must cement the legacy of Wichita Falls as a place that will sustain future droughts. GROWING THE TAX BASE: We must find ways to capitalize on our most prized city resource – its people. We must change internal perceptions of younger generations to entice them to live, work and grow their families here by creating direct lines between established employers and MSU/Vernon/CEC. We must be a city that entices men and women of Sheppard AFB to retire here or continue their non-military lives here. Once growth trends are identified, we can look more to the quality-of-life that appeals to the next generations.

Funding: PUBLIC WORKS: The city budget must be maintained through a methodical and calculated approach. A city has to be able to survive before it can thrive. This includes long-term water resources, street maintenance, flood control, sewer and more. Alongside that is PUBLIC SAFETY. The importance of safety, security and support from our local police officers and firefighters cannot be ignored. They must be compensated appropriately for a city of our size to be competitive in keeping these men and women here. Beyond those two items, directing funds in a purposeful and thoughtful way will grow this city's tax base through amenities and economic opportunities that entice the future entrepreneurs and business owners to live here.

Public Opinion: WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN/LEARN: I'm open to meeting any individual who is willing to voice their thoughts to me. There is not one direct path towards city prosperity and I recognize that opposing views can lead to an opportunistic compromise for all in our community. I'm always available (940.337.2016 / nschreiber@slatx.us) and I'm always willing to listen. COMMUNICATION: The public opinion of our city officials recently took a hit in May and many in the community felt city officials did not listen to public opinion. City officials should be able to offer a transparent, outlined, and methodical explanation behind the measures they choose. If elected, I will schedule a monthly sit-down at a local coffee shop for anyone who wants to attend.

WICHITA FALLS CITY COUNCILOR, DISTRICT 5

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What are your qualifications for office (including your occupation, education, training, and experience)?

Issues: What do you feel are the top (2) issues facing Wichita Falls and what do you see as appropriate action for the city to take?

Funding: In an austere funding environment, what criteria are most important in evaluating competing funding needs?

Public Opinion: How could you as a council member/mayor enhance the public opinion of our city government?

- » Mitesh Desai No response received
- » Chris Reitsma No response received

» Steve Jackson

Background: I've been raised here most of my life & have lived in District 5 most of my life. I graduated from Hirschi High School. I was an aircraft mechanic at SAFB 80th flying training wing and worked on all the training planes (T-38,T-37 & the T-6 turboprop). I have a passion for my hometown & the people that live in it. I have worked close with base personnel.

Issues: #1 I would like to lower property taxes. I recognize Wichita Falls is a town of working poor. 20% of our town lives in poverty and 67% of our ISD students are economically disadvantaged. I think any city council should strive to lower property tax rates to offset any tax appraisal increases and keep a tight bud-

get. #2 more water resources. The drought scared people and opened eyes that water is scarce and precious. #3 Improving city identity and public relations with our community

Funding: We need sustainable plans that promote growth combined with conservative spending. We need to make sure we get the most out of every dollar and be good stewards of the finances.

Public Opinion: We need business friendly city ordinances. We need to help small to medium businesses with their permits. I think trust is the biggest issue with citizens and government. We need to win the citizen's trust.

DISTRICT JUDGE, 30TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

» Jeff McKnight (R) Unopposed

VOTERS GUIDE DONORS

One of the most valued services in Wichita County is the Voters Guide. We publish information provided directly from the candidates as well as both sides of issues being voted on. Even though the Voters Guides are free to the public, they are not free to provide. Please take a minute to look at the list of donors who contributed to our League of Women Voters Education Fund to make this possible. If you know anyone on the list, then say thank you to them for making this educational tool possible for our county.

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Texas Democratic Women of the Wichita Area
Nita Tillery
Bridget Tison
Jessica Traw
Wichita Falls Teachers Federal Credit Union



WICHITA FALLS ISD BOARD MEMBER-AT-LARGE (4-YEAR)

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What are your qualifications for office (including your occupation, education, training, and experience)?

Issues: What do you feel are the top (2) issues facing Wichita ISD and what do you see as appropriate action for WFISD to take?

Infrastructure: The district has many infrastructure issues. What would be your priorities in addressing these problems?

Teachers: What do you propose to do to attract and retain quality teachers?

» Susan Grisel

Background: I am a full-time mom and volunteer in the school district. I have 3 children currently enrolled in WFISD. I am at their school functions. I know their friends, classmates, and teachers personally. I am in the schools regularly and know what is going on in our schools. My children are 9, 14, and 16. I understand the emotional, physical, social, and educational stresses that our children face right now. I started volunteering in the public schools during college. I continue to volunteer weekly reading with the children in WFISD who are below level reading. I have 12 years of experience as a youth leader, mentor, and teacher at church.

Issues: 1. WFISD recently received a grade of 2 "C's" and 1 "D" from the TEA (Texas Education Agency). There are 37 other school districts in our region (Region 9). WFISD ranked #34 out of 37 districts. We are rated the 4th worst district in our region. A "C" rating does not reflect the wonderful community of Wichita Falls. 2. WFISD currently operates too many old, inefficient buildings. We are wasting our taxpayers' hard-earned money. We need to develop a long-term, comprehensive and transparent plan to 1) address our district's educational goals, 2) decide how to better use the money we have, and 3) address our aging facilities

Infrastructure: We have too many buildings. The first priority should be to consolidate and/or redistrict to close the buildings in the poorest condition. We should use our best buildings at there optimal operating capacity. This does not require additional money and would save our taxpayers money. We also need a long-term facilities plan in place. It should address the short term and long term needs of the district. It should be transparent, simple to understand, and focused on the education of our students. We must FIRST do everything possible to use our current resources better and more efficiently. Then we need to bring this concise, simple, future-focused plan to the community.

Teachers: Our teachers deserve the right to know they are safe and supported. They need to feel safe physically and emotionally. We need to have facilities that lend to their physical safety. We need to create an environment where teachers feel that their voice can be heard and their opinions matter. This can start at the board level by creating a positive teacher-focused culture. The teachers are the reason our students succeed. They need to be better supported. We can also better support them through their pay. We need compensation that reflects the importance of their job. If you want the best teachers in the state, their pay should be reflective of that. One way to achieve this is to stop wasting money on old buildings.

» Elizabeth Yeager

Background: I have 4 years' experience as a WFISD Trustee, including over 50 hours of continuing education. I have deep roots in our community as a 4th generation Wichitan, 3rd generation product of WFISD, and parent of recent WFISD graduates. I received degrees from Sweet Briar College (Mathematical-Physics) and The University of Texas (MBA). I spent 8+ years with Accenture, helping international businesses manage organizational change. I have 20+ years' community service, including leadership roles with the Wichita Falls Symphony Orchestra, MSU Texas' Lifelong Learning Center, Southwestern University, WF Alliance for Arts and Culture, WFISD Foundation, City of WF Arts Commission. I am a Read2Learn volunteer at Haynes and Booker T. Washington.

Issues: 1. Academic achievement. Every student deserves the opportunity to be successful. We should focus on curriculum, instructional methods, professional development, and targeting resources to meet specific needs at each campus. I'd like to see WFISD collaborate with the community to address school readiness and issues that cause students to struggle. 2. Financial management. The WFISD board has kept debt per student among the lowest in Texas while making over \$70 million in improvements in 4 years. We should continue to increase teacher salaries, focus resources on the classroom, ensure all campuses are safe, and im-

prove our facilities. We need to continue advocating for increased state funding to reduce reliance on local property taxes.

Infrastructure: My priorities are to listen to the community and study the data from current facilities assessments to develop a facilities master plan that is both supported by the community and in line with WFISD's newly adopted strategic plan. WFISD must consider input from students, teachers, parents, and community members to develop plans that meet future educational needs without overburdening taxpayers.

Teachers: WFISD needs to create a work environment that attracts and retains the best teachers. That can be achieved by empowering teachers in the classroom, mentoring new teachers, providing all teachers with professional development, support, and opportunities for advancement. WFISD has recently attracted teachers from neighboring districts because our teachers are currently the highest paid in our region. WFISD should continue efforts to increase salaries to become more competitive with higher-paying districts outside our region. We should continue WFISD's "grow your own" teacher training program to train the next generation of teachers.

UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES FOR WICHITA FALLS ISD BOARD

» Katherine McGregor Board Member-At-Large, 2-Year Term

» Tom Bursey District 5

» Bob Payton District 1



WICHITA FALLS ISD BOARD MEMBER, DISTRICT 3

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What are your qualifications for office (including your occupation, education, training, and experience)?

Issues: What do you feel are the top (2) issues facing Wichita ISD and what do you see as appropriate action for WFISD to take?

Infrastructure: The district has many infrastructure issues. What would be your priorities in addressing these problems?

Teachers: What do you propose to do to attract and retain quality teachers?

» Adam W. Groves

Background: I was elected to the School Board in 2016 after running for a 2 year term. During that time, I have completed the required annual training as well as additional credits to develop a critical knowledge base. Topics include Community Engagement, School Finance, Board Operations, and the Education Code. I received a bachelor's in Computer Science from Angelo State University and a Commission in the USAF; I retired in 2016 after 21 years if service. My last duty was as Chief of Continuous Process Improvement and Strategy Management where I was certified in LEAN/6 Sigma. Techniques and skills I developed give me a unique perspective at finding ways to remove waste from processes. I am currently a simulator instructor pilot at Sheppard AFB.

Issues: The top 2 issues I believe the District is facing are the below standard achievement scores and the ability to attract and retain quality teachers. The below standard achievement of a number of schools is a two-part problem; first we must address the early education and language ability of students; second, we have to address issues of students in the schools now and how to improve their performance. Preschool education in the home is key. Specialized programs like Seidlitz and High Reliability Schools are the means for the students to be able to achieve the desired levels of learning. My goal for attracting and retaining teachers is by finding ways to make the District more efficient so we can use those funds toward higher teacher salaries

» Mark Lukert

Background: Self-employed. Certified trainer with the John Maxwell Team. Travel nationally working with schools and businesses on Leadership Training and Team Building. *23 year employee of WFISD as teacher and principal. *Former State President - Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association. *Former Texas Representative - National Association of Elementary School Principal. *Former State President - Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading. *4 grown children – all successful WFISD graduates. *8 grandchildren, present and future students of WFISD. Midwestern State University - BA and MA degrees. Certifications: *Superintendent; *Mid-Management; *Supervisor; *Special Ed. Supervisor; *Speech Therapy; *Deaf/Hard of Hearing

Issues: I believe the top issue is the large number of teachers and families leaving WFISD to teach or have students attend school in a neighboring district. Why are we losing so many students and teachers in our district? Most of the teachers leaving are taking large pay cuts. This problem needs to be addressed and taken care of. Without good teachers and happy customers, we can't expect to have good schools. The second issue facing WFISD is facilities. I will discuss that in the next question.

Infrastructure: The infrastructure issues facing the District require the full understanding of where we are and where we need to go. Community engagement and clarity with the required information is the key to providing voters with a Bond that will be supported. The biggest concerns I have are the age and maintenance of our Secondary Campuses and making sure there are the right number of properly sized elementary campuses. Studies of our facilities and engagement with the community is underway to gather and share the required information. The truth is we must overlook the rivalries of the past and not let them drive the decisions for the future or we will find ourselves in a downward spiral that will only hurt WFISD students at all stages of education.

Teachers: Wichita Falls ISD has begun the process of attending and conducting job fairs focused on attracting quality teachers. We cannot fool ourselves in thinking that there is any other primary influence to retain the teachers we have and attract the teachers we need than higher pay. We need to continue to find ways to make the District more efficient without a negative impact on the staff and students. Doing so will help us find the additional funding to compete with other school districts that attract our high-quality teachers and prospects. Pay increases have been presented to the Board by the Superintendent and approved but we still have a ways to go attract the talent we need and to keep skilled professionals we have.

Infrastructure: A facility study has been done. Without even looking at the document, one can easily see that we have too many schools. There are several schools with low attendance, one being a high school. Attention needs to be paid to this situation and considerations made to combine schools. Too much money is currently being spent on facilities. This money should be spent on students and teacher salaries.

Teachers: The first thing that needs to be done to attract and retain quality teachers is to take care of the ones we have. Our schools are only going to be as good as our teachers. I believe the morale is low. Most have not seen much of an increase in their salaries over the last 8 to 10 years. Even though they get a 1% to 3% raise, the rise in insurance cost has been more than the salary increase. Teachers need to be compensated well. They need to be appreciated and valued. Happy teachers create happy students who want to learn. Happy students create happy parents. Happy parents create a happy community that is proud of their school district. It all begins with building strong relationships and taking care of our teachers. Teachers matter!

To view this Voters Guide online, visit www.lwvwichitafalls.org.



WHAT IS THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS?

OUR MISSION - The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization, which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and which seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

OUR FOCUS - Public policy issues. Members join the League because of a general or specific interest. People support the League because of the positions on public policy for which we advocate, OR because we are non-partisan in our service to voters.

NON-PARTISANSHIP - The League never supports nor opposes a candidate or a political party. After thorough study and discussion of a public policy issue, we may come to a consensus either to support or oppose that issue.

YOU MAY CONTACT the League in Wichita Falls by phone at (940) 692-8498, or through the contact form on our website at www.lwvwichitafalls.org. The LWV of Texas phone in Austin is (512) 472-1100. Their website is www.lwvtexas.org.

MONTHLY MEETINGS are held at noon on the first Wednesday of the month (with the exception of July and August), in the Luby's Cafeteria banquet area. Programs are presented on important issues of the day.

OUR MAIN SERVICE is to encourage the registration of voters, publish Voters Guides, and hold public education forums.

» HELPFUL CONTACTS AND WEBSITES

League of Women Voters of Texas

lwvtexas.org

Secretary of State

sos.state.tx.us VoteTexas.gov

Election Protection Voter Hotline!

866-OUR-VOTE English 888-Ve-Y-Vota Spanish

888-API-VOTE English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese, Bengali, Urdu, Hindi, and Tagalog

Party Websites

texasgop.org txdemocrats.org lptexas.org

How to use this Voters Guide

The law now permits voters to take aids, such as this Voters Guide, into the voting booth. You may feel free to do so, as it is a non-partisan reference to support the intelligent and informed exercise of a Constitutional right -- the right to vote.



» READING YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE





- 1 The precinct number of where you live
- **2** Congressional district
- 3 State Senate district
- 4 State House district
- **5** County Commissioner precinct
- **6** Justice of the Peace precinct/Constable precinct
- 7 School district
- 8 School board member district
- **9** State Board of Education district
- 10 Which city you may vote in
- 11 City Council district

U.S. SENATOR

Six-year term. One of two members of the U.S. Senate from Texas. The Senate has the exclusive power to advise and consent on presidential nominations to executive and judicial offices, to ratify U.S. treaties, and to try impeachments. With the U.S. House, the Senate adopts budgets, levies taxes, borrows money, regulates interstate commerce, provides services, adopts regulations, and declares war. Current annual salary: \$174,000

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

Health Care: What specific reforms, if any, would you propose in health care policy to address the cost of and access to health care?

Immigration: What changes, if any, should Congress make in immigration policies?

Public Safety: What do you see as the best way to address mass shootings such as the ones in Santa Fe, Sutherland Springs, and Las Vegas?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of Congress, and what is your position on these issues?

» Ted Cruz (R) No response received



» Beto O'Rourke (D)

Background: As a member of the City Council, I balanced a budget each year and ensured we were creating opportunity for everyone—fighting for public schools, good paying jobs and a community that treated everyone with respect. As a Congressman, I've worked with both parties to write legislation includ-

ing laws that improve access to health care for veterans.

Health Care: As the least insured state, we should be working to ensure every Texan can see a doctor, afford their prescriptions, and get the care they need so they are healthy enough to go to school, work a job, and live to their full potential. We must also work together to end the maternal mortality crisis in this country. Finally, let's lower prescription costs, safeguard Medicare, expand Medicaid, defend protections for those with pre-existing conditions and achieve guaranteed, universal health care.

Immigration: We need to rewrite our immigration laws to reflect our interests, our values, and the reality on the ground in Texas. Recognizing we are a nation of laws that can maintain order at the border without dehumanizing anyone, we have to put a stop to family separation, ensure that every separated family is reunified, pass the DREAM Act, provide immigrants with a fair path to work and citizenship, and ensure that everyone who comes to this country can contribute to their full potential.



» Neal M. Dikeman (L)

Background: I'm a 6th gen Texan with a young family, active in my church and community. I've founded 7 tech startups, held every executive job from CEO, CFO, to Board member. My degree is economics, my career has been international. I know energy, tech, finance, ag, & Texas. I'm not a politician or career

government employee, but I know policy and I deliver

Health Care: Today doctors work for insurers; insurers for your boss; nobody works for you; so the system doesn't work. We need a Million Payer system: health insurance not tied to your job with spiraling costs hidden by government intervention and a bad 1940s corporate tax deal. Where you buy insurance directly, usable anywhere not just in a private insurer network. Give you corporate tax deal, open up the networks, require good faith estimates. Address cost and choice, not restrict price and service.

Immigration: Congress has talked about fixing immigration my entire voting life—with no action from either side. This has to change. Our current system works for no one. Immigration is a strength of America. We need more legal immigration, so that our companies and jobs stay home, and America reaps the benefits of its melting pot and factories. We need clear pathways for immigrants to come to this country to work, whether they stay and earn citizenship or not, combined with enforcement of our laws.

Public Safety: Texas should lead the way in preserving the 2nd Amendment while ensuring people can live without fear of gun violence in our churches, schools, concerts and communities. Let's require background checks for all gun sales and close all loopholes; give federal help to school districts to improve campus safety; stop selling weapons of war that are designed to kill people as effectively and efficiently as possible; and support research on gun violence to better understand and address its root causes.

Other Issues: Every child deserves access to a high-quality education. We must keep our tax dollars in our public school classrooms, ensure equity in funding, and empower teachers to teach to students—not to high-stakes standardized tests. Prioritizing education also means finally paying our teachers a higher salary, ending the Windfall Elimination Provision, and taking care of our retired teachers. Let's make sure higher education is affordable too, including access to student loans and training programs.

Website: http://betofortexas.com **Campaign Phone:** (915) 730-3876

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/betoorourke

Twitter: twitter.com/BetoORourke **Email:** beto@betofortexas.com

Video: https://www.youtube.com/v/RZUFA67aS1Q

Public Safety: If I had a silver bullet solution, I'd lay it out. But no one does. This is not simple or fixable with federal action. Shall we pass new gun laws, erode our founding fathers' most basic protection against government overreach, and pretend that fixes such a devastating cultural issue so we can feel like we acted? What will we do when another shooting happens anyway, and our "silver bullet" did not work? Let's solve our crisis of community in our community, not from Washington.

Other Issues: Congress can't pass budgets, has run up debt levels not seen since WWII, borrows 20% of each \$, ignores the warnings of its own accountants. It's run up \$21 Trillion in unfunded Medicare, Medicaid & Social Sec debts from underpricing and overpromising, endangering hardworking Americans. In human terms: \$340K/American family, 2x the American mortgage. They plan to add \$12T in new debts by the time my 5 year old gets to HS, out borrowing the entire GDP growth. We need basic fiscal management.

Website: http://www.nealdikeman.com **Campaign Phone:** (281)624-5504

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/nealdikemanforsenate

Twitter: twitter.com/nealdikeman **Email:** info@dikeman.net



GOVERNOR

Four-year term. The governor is chief executive which means that he/she carries out the law. He/she appoints members to boards and commissions, appoints statewide executive officials, state judges, and district attorneys when vacancies occur, delivers the State of the State address, provides guidance to the legislature, calls special sessions of the legislature and sets the agenda. The governor can veto legislation (including a line-item veto on appropriations), sign legislation, or allow it to become law without his/her signature. Current annual salary: \$150,000

» What does the governor do? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9mbgGhulyY&feature=youtu.be

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

Health Care: What specific reforms, if any, would you propose in state health care policy to address the cost of and access to health care for all Texans?

Infrastructure: What specific measures do you propose to meet the state's growing infrastructure needs (i.e. water, energy, and transportation)?

School Safety: What can be done to ensure the safety of our children in schools? **Other Issues**: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas Legislature, and what is your position on these issues?

» Greg Abbott (R) No response received



» Lupe Valdez (D)

Background: As a daughter of migrant farmworkers, I've dedicated my career to public service and working for the greater good. From 2005-2017, I served as Dallas County Sheriff, managing a \$140+ million budget, and reformed a department that sorely needed it. I'm a proud veteran and spent most of my ca-

reer as a federal agent.

Health Care: We have a health care crisis in Texas. An unregulated private health care system puts profit over people, while we remain the most uninsured state in the country. It's time to accept Medicaid expansion, which would insure 1.5 million Texans. We must expand access to healthcare in rural communities, which have become medical deserts after Texas closed more rural hospitals than any other state in the country in the last 8 years. I will also fight tirelessly to protect women's healthcare.

Infrastructure: First, we need to stop focusing on harmful, job-killing bills and start paying attention to the issues that truly matter to Texans. We should promote public and private investment in renewable energies and make sure all communities have access to safe, clean drinking water. All over our state, Texans sit in traffic because we have failed to make adequate investments. This is why transportation funding must meet our needs today, so that we are ready for future growth.



» Mark Jay Tippetts (L)

Background: I am bilingual and bi-cultural, and by profession, I am an International Legal & Business Consultant in Mexico and Latin America. I represented the Libertarian Party on the ballot in 2010 for Travis County Judge. In 2017, I was appointed to city council in Lago Vista, Texas. I know what it means to

hold office and stand on principles.

Health Care: I believe government should not provide, control, nor require health care. I do not believe that people have a right to be provided with healthcare at other peoples' expense. I will advocate the phasing out of Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIPS programs. I support free market based healthcare systems and health insurance. I oppose a "single payer" concept and the federal legislation known as the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Obama Care). Infrastructure: I support eliminating barriers to free market construction and maintenance of infrastructure. We should let market demand and willingness to fund dictate which routes are developed. I oppose costly projects intended to benefit land developers through the abuse of eminent domain. Never should unelected boards be charged with transportation planning; as such boards are not accountable to constituents or local authority. Toll roads should not be used to restrict people's freedom of movement.

School Safety: We can't talk about school safety without mentioning gun violence and how our governor is acting as if it is inevitable & isolated to schools. We are NOT powerless to stop the bloodshed, regardless of where it happens. Common sense measures to keep guns out of dangerous hands include universal background checks, making it a state offense to lie on a background check, "red flag" laws, closing the boyfriend loophole, and banning high capacity magazines & bump stocks.

Other Issues: Public Education: A child's background, zip code, race, or how much money their parents make shouldn't matter—every child deserves the chance to succeed. We need universal Pre-K for all Texas kids & to remove the caps on special education funding. We must pay & treat our teachers as professionals & make sure they are teaching to our children, not a standardized test. For any of this, the state must pay its fair share of public education & stop putting the load on local communities & taxpayers.

Website: http://www.lupevaldez.com **Campaign Phone:** (214) 942-2378

Facebook: http://facebook.com/LupeforTexas

Twitter: twitter.com/LupeValdez **Email:** info@lupevaldez.com

Video: https://www.youtube.com/v/3yl-h6lZBMU

School Safety: I support measures to restore decision-making regarding education to parents, teachers, and local education boards. I reject any involvement of the federal government in our local school systems, including funding. By doing this we can eliminate across the board standards that have turned our schools into little more than testing sites, rather than a place where students are developing skills, learning mechanism for handling challenges and disappointments, and being evaluated as individuals.

Other Issues: Drug Policy: I oppose the War on Drugs. Consistent with the principles of self-ownership, consenting adults ought not be restricted from partaking in activities that harm no one else. This includes possession, consumption and/or market transactions of substances for medicinal, recreational, or other purposes. Individuals seeking or providing medical treatment should not be subject to prosecution.

Website: http://www.mark4gov.com **Campaign Phone:** (512) 567-3947

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/mark4gov/

Twitter: twitter.com/mark4gov **Email:** campaign@mark4gov.com

Video: https://www.youtube.com/v/r8IN_y15p7A



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Four-year term. The lieutenant governor is powerful because of his/her position as president of the Texas Senate where he/she appoints the chairs and vice-chairs of committees, appoints senators to committees, assigns bills to committees, and controls the Senate's agenda. He/she is also a member of several commissions and boards, and serves as governor in the governor's absence. Salary is that of a state senator when serving as President of the Texas Senate \$9,612 plus \$190 per diem and that of the governor when serving in governors absence.

 $\textbf{\textit{www.youtube.com/watch?v=3R0FmiZnEPQ\&feature=youtu.be}\\$

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

Health Care: What specific reforms, if any, would you propose in state health care policy to address the cost of and access to health care for all Texans?

Infrastructure: What specific measures do you propose to meet the state's growing infrastructure needs (i.e. water, energy, and transportation)?

School Safety: What can be done to ensure the safety of our children in schools?

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



» Dan Patrick (R)

Background: Please refer to www.danpatrick.org/meet-dan for my biographical information.

Health Care: My stance on important issues facing Texas is detailed in my record as the Lt. Governor of Texas. Please refer to www.danpatrick.org, as well as my official website, www.ltgov

.state.tx.us, for the most current information on my positions.

Infrastructure: My stance on important issues facing Texas is detailed in my record as the Lt. Governor of Texas. Please refer to www.danpatrick.org, as well as my official website, www.ltgov.state.tx.us, for the most current information on my positions.

School Safety: My stance on important issues facing Texas is detailed in my record as the Lt. Governor of Texas. Please refer to www.danpatrick.org, as well as

my official website, www.ltgov.state.tx.us, for the most current information on my positions.

Other Issues: My stance on important issues facing Texas is detailed in my record as the Lt. Governor of Texas. Please refer to www.danpatrick.org, as well as my official website, www.ltgov.state.tx.us, for the most current information on my positions.

Website: http://danpatrick.org/ Campaign Phone: (817) 223-4767

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/dan.patrick.texas/

Twitter: twitter.com/DanPatrick Email: hannah@danpatrick.org



» Mike Collier (D)

Background: For many years I was a partner at Pricewater-houseCoopers, leading teams of professionals performing financial audits and rigorous financial and operational analysis. I hold a BBA and an MBA from UT-Austin. Suzanne and I have been married 29 years and we have two sons who attended pub-

lic schools (K-12) in Texas. Both graduated from UT-Austin.

Health Care: It's time we expand Medicaid. It's a good deal for Texas. We also need a Patient Financial Bill of Rights, including (1) absolute protection for Texans with pre-existing conditions, (2) protection against in-network vs.out-of-network surprise billings, (3) bills that are transparent and in plain English, and (4) mandatory disclosure if lower cost options (drugs and procedures) are available. And we must invest in women's health, mental health, and children's health, as we once did! Infrastructure: We have a revenue problem in Texas that we must fix. Otherwise we cannot invest properly in infrastructure. In so doing, we cannot increase taxes on homeowners, because we are over-taxed already. As Lt. Governor I will take the first step in solving this problem by closing a well document big-corporate property tax loophole (known as Equal and Uniform) which will recover \$5 billion in missing revenues (per year). Other steps, if needed, will be the subject of my reelection campaign.

School Safety: I do not support arming teachers and "hardening targets." The answer in my opinion is more counselors and trained psychologists who can develop relationships with students and react before, not after, a crisis develops. We also need a background check system that works, and red flag laws. Some physical security upgrades will no doubt be called for by local officials. The state should appropriate funds and enact legislation according to these principles. **Other Issues:** We must increase investment in public education (smaller class sizes, special education teachers, pre-K, better pay for teachers and support staff), reform the charter model to achieve the original objective (enhance public school effectiveness), and end further discussion of vouchers. We must restore healthcare benefits taken away from retired teachers, and fund teacher retirement plans (TRS-Care and defined benefit pensions). We must end gerrymandering and reform our criminal justice sys

Website: http://CollierForTexas.com **Campaign Phone:** (832) 544-9050

Facebook: http://Facebook.com/Mike Collier Twitter: twitter.com/CollierForTexas Email: campaign@CollierForTexas.com



» Kerry Douglas McKennon (L)

Background: I have 20+ years of management experience. I am National Chair of Outright Libertarians, have had two terms on the LPTexas executive board, and had two terms as the Platform Chair for LPTexas. I am the Libertarian Party Hale County Chair.

Health Care: The most important thing the state could do for healthcare is to allow interstate commerce of insurance. This would allow for true ompetition and drive down the costs. I'd also like, but do not have the authority, to drastically decrease the size of the FDA which creates corrupt structures reducing market competition. **Infrastructure:** TXDoT must prioritize TX's infrastructure results that are fixes rather than patches. Water is the life-blood of Texas's agriculture, energy and tourist industry. We must work with those industries and districts to ensure

» Kerry Douglas McKennon (L) (continued)

water in perpetuity. Energy and water go hand in hand. Our current guidelines are decades old, causing us infrastructure damage, loss of water, potential loss of energy, and loss of life and property. TX needs regulation and technology more modern than the mid 20th century.

School Safety: We have a constitutionally mandated public-school system in Texas, which we must make safe while respecting individuals and their rights. We must empower local schools to determine their safety protocols as opposed to a blanket state-issued guideline. Some schools may allow teachers to carry arms for defense. Others may put in metal detectors. Many will find ways to have secure lockdown. There are free market options regarding public school safety, which I encourage schools to research.

Other Issues: Police accountability through body cameras, require police to take out their own insurance for accidents, and demilitarize our officers. Repeal all laws which make a criminal of someone without a victim. A crime requires a victim. A perfect example of this is responsible cannabis use. For all such victimless cases I would expunge records of those currently or formerly incarcerated. Abol-

ish the death penalty. It is better to incarcerate hundreds of criminals than execute a single innocent.

Website: http://mckennon4texas.com **Campaign Phone:** (682) 717-8075

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/McKennonforTexas/

Email: mckennonfortexas@gmail.com



» LWV VISION STATEMENT

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Four-year term. The attorney general is the chief law enforcement officer of the state, represents the state and state officials in legal matters, issues opinions, collects child support, administers the crime victims compensation fund, enforces the open records/open meetings acts, approves public bond issues, and enforces consumer regulations. Current annual salary: \$153,750

» What does the attorney general do? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcrvTA-RIhE&feature=youtu.be

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

Responsibilities: Which responsibilities of the Attorney General's office are your highest priorities for the next 4 years, and how do you intend to accomplish them?

Consumer protection: What are the most important consumer protection issues facing Texans?

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

» Ken Paxton (R) No response received



» Justin Nelson (D)

Background: The Texas Attorney General should be a check on power, not a rubber stamp. I learned about the rule of law from Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. I teach at University of Texas Law School, and am a "Texas Super Lawyer" for being one of the most effective lawyers in Texas. Texas deserves

an Attorney General who will fight for ALL TEXANS.

Responsibilities: The Texas Attorney General should be a check on power. I will stand up for the rule of law. The Texas Attorney General should not be a rubber stamp for anyone—whether in Washington D.C. or Austin. Nobody is above the law. I will fight corruption, work to protect pre-existing conditions in health care coverage, fight for public education, advocate for resources to treat the opioid crisis, and crack down on fraud.

Consumer protection: The Texas Attorney General's office should fight fraud, cybercrime, and corruption to make sure everyone has a level playing field. I will

make sure that small businesses and individuals are not the victims of fraud and deception. This includes ending partisan lawsuits and focusing on non-partisan consumer fraud investigations and making sure Texas is the leader in responding to fraud after natural disasters.

Other Issues: The Texas Attorney General has wide power to ensure justice. I will clean up the Attorney General's office, ending the corruption, and addressing our most urgent problems—fighting the opioid crisis, protecting consumers from fraudulent and abusive businesses, reforming criminal justice, fixing the child support system, ending gerrymandering. I will make the office into one that fights for every single Texan.

Website: http://www.nelsonfortexas.com

Campaign Phone: (512) 964-9323

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/NelsonforTexas/

Twitter: twitter.com/NelsonForTexas **Email:** info@nelsonfortexas.com

» Michael Ray Harris (L) No response received



COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Four-year term. The comptroller is the chief financial officer of the state, collects state taxes and fees, pays the state's bills, provides revenue estimates to the legislature, certifies the budget, reports the condition of the state's finances, and provides economic development assistance to local governments and private businesses. Current annual salary: \$150,000

» What does the comptroller do? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=blKSUsAZk2E&feature=youtu.be

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

Revenue: What measures would you take to address the financial viability of the State of Texas?

Responsibilities: Which responsibilities of the Comptroller of Public Accounts office are your highest priorities, and how do you intend to accomplish them?

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

» Glenn Hegar (R) No response received



» Joi Chevalier (D)

Background: As an innovative senior product strategist for successfully acquired startups to Fortune 100s, I've led large, diverse teams with products, programs, and internal businesses earning billions in revenue. Currently, I am a small business owner, focused on launching food companies into market, gen-

erating new food products, jobs, and entrepreneurs.

Revenue: Cutting costs is no substitute for creating revenue. The Comptroller's office should work to increase revenue with regular agency audits to understand/fix lost revenues; support real school finance reform; close loopholes in commercial valuations; increase small business growth and expansion; update outdated consumption taxes; fully implement Internet taxes after the SCOTUS Wayfair decision; sunset old sector abatements; reduce Texas' \$50B debt to free Texas finances up to serve its citizens.

Responsibilities: The Comptroller's office can tie dollars to real world outcomes. It must be neutral, fair, and accurate about legislation & program values; in-



» Ben Sanders (L)

Background: I've trained my entire life for this position. During my years at NASA & 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. As Comptroller I won't use scare tactics against my fellow Texans

to control them. Together we can Win!

Revenue: Your government's principal function is to protect your freedom, your unalienable rights of Life, Liberty and Property, all crucial rights for building a free and prosperous society. My vision of government is one strictly confined to its constitutional role, a government that respects civil liberties, recognizes that the individual is more important than the State, exercises fiscal restraint and understands that government must pay its debts, believing in free markets.

Responsibilities: 1.) Creating a more fiscally transparent Texas Government through the use of technology. 2.) Form a better fiscal educational outreach system for Texans. To help educate and promote small business and consumers on taxes and business process for better job creation. 3.) To faithfully execute my oath of office and safeguarding that I and no one in my administration performs any action that violates the constitutions of the United States of America or the State of Texas. **Other Issues**: Four years ago I warned the Texas Pension system was insolvent and grossly under funded, that it could not pay the money due its members. Now that warning has become a reality. As Texas Comptroller I have a plan to protect our State Pension Holders, and their families, ensuring their financial security by

giving them the right to retire on their own terms and control their own futures.

crease revenue while stewarding cost; encourage large & small business growth; be a proactive voice defending Texans' daily lives with innovative and forward-thinking management of her wallet. This includes Special Reports on economic opportunities in expanding ACA/Medicaid or tackling school finance reform, so legislators make informed policy decisions.

Other Issues: Healthcare: the Comptroller should provide special reports on costs to Texas in not implementing the ACA / Medicaid expansion. Texans carry the cost for uncompensated or underfunded care, no preventative care, or care pushed out to criminal justice and housing due to a broken ACA implementation and a failure by Republican leaders to have real data and prioritize this. We need to reclaim Texas' dollars and use them here. It's an outsized part of the budget and hampers prioritizing in other areas.

Website: http://www.joifortexas.com **Campaign Phone:** (737) 808-4405

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/JoiForTexas/

Email: chevaliercampaign@gmail.com

Website: http://www.vote4sanders.com **Campaign Phone:** (469) 262-6050

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/Ben-Sanders-for-Texas-Comptroller-2018

-322830497867223/

Twitter: twitter.com/vote4sanders **Email:** ben@Vote4Sanders.com

Video: https://www.youtube.com/v/CfhhY1XNqHg



» WHERE AND WHEN TO VOTE

Vote early!

- Early Voting begins Monday, October 22, through Friday, November 2, 2018.
- All registered voters may vote early in person at any early voting location in their county.
- Check with your local newspaper or your county clerk or election administrator for early voting times and locations.

Where do I vote?

- Contact your County Election Official. They can tell you where you can vote.
- Use **VOTE411.org**. Enter your address and find where to vote.



COMMISSIONER OF GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Four-year term. The land commissioner oversees the state's land and minerals. As such, he/she chairs the Veterans Land Board, which administers five programs for Texas veterans, manages the leasing and sale of state lands (which supplies funds to the Permanent School Fund), is responsible for environmental protection of Texas' coast, and chairs eight state boards including the School Land Board and the Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee. Current annual salary: \$137,500

» What does the land commissioner do? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BB1qoaQTz60&feature=youtu.be

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this

Coastal Planning: What measures would you implement to restore and protect the coast, wetlands, and the built environment to minimize damage from major

Veterans: What are the most significant land-related issues facing Texas veterans and what can the General Land Office do to address those needs?

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



» George P. Bush (R)

Background: I have run a conservative and efficient Land Office. I am saving taxpayer money while putting more money into the Public School Fund than ever before. The GLO has been a government office that works for the people during my

Coastal Planning: The restoration of McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge in Jefferson County is one example of what we are trying to do on the coast. Restoration to this area provides critical protection to Port Arthur and the oil and gas infrastructure of the state. The GLO, along with its partners, has identified approximately 60 similar, high priority projects.

Veterans: The General Land Office offers several great veterans programs such as the home loan and health care assistance programs. I'm committed to continuously looking at all of these programs at the GLO and across this great state for ways to improve the lives of our military and each of their families. Any time a veteran needs help in getting an education, a job, or health care we should try and provide some form of assistance.

Other Issues: Continuing Hurricane Harvey relief—The Texas coast was devastated by Harvey last fall and we need to continue to fight for those affected. Helping Veterans-Ensuring that veterans have access to crucial services is a top priority for my agency. Saving the Alamo-My objective is to ensure the Alamo tells the heroic story of the battle better than ever and for many years to come.

Website: http://www.georgepfortexas.org/

Campaign Phone: (512) 804-6068

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/georgepfortexas/

Twitter: twitter.com/georgepbush Email: teamp@georgepbush.com



» Miguel Suazo (D)

Background: As a former US Senate staffer, I have worked on issues related to land use planning, education, veterans, environmental protection, and economic development. As an energy professional and attorney, I will provide direction on mineral leasing for supporting education, a key duty of the GLO,

and also stewardship of our Texas lands

Coastal Planning: The Land Commissioner must be proactive in protecting the coast from natural and man-made dangers. I will use nature to protect it and ourselves a central focus of my duties. For example, restoring oyster habitats, preventing brackish water invasion of fresh water habitats, combating invasive species, building berms and sand dunes, are all elements of a "coastal wall" that will limit flooding and must all be part of a comprehensive approach to coastal protection.

Veterans: Veterans can face formidable challenges returning to civilian life following their service to their country. I am concerned that the VLB is not offer-



» Matt Pina (L)

Background: First, I was raised in Texas. For this position, it is of utter importance that this person is raised in the state as it monitors two major things. Our public lands, such as the Alamo, and our public school fund. I have my B.A. and M.A. in political science and currently sit on San Antonio's

Transportation Board.

Coastal Planning: While many of our bays are surrounded by larger metro areas there is plenty of coastline that is not supported or kept to the same pristine condition. With the offshore drilling taking place off the shore I would like to see ing sufficiently competitive loans to Texas veterans compared to many other programs through the Department of Veterans' Affairs and other states. I also think that the extent of the GLO's outsourcing to third parties the origination and servicing of these loans needs to be examined.

Other Issues: The most critical issue facing the next Land Commissioner is that of leadership. The Land Commissioner must elevate the profile of the key issues Texans face through the GLO and educate the public about these issues, especially with respect to the Alamo. The current commissioner has failed to demonstrate the managerial ability to achieve success for Texas on a range of issues. Texans must elect a leader with a proven record of success and I believe I am that leader.

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some of the revenue generated from that exploration go towards the maintenance of that space.

Veterans: The biggest gap faced by veterans is by those who are permanently disabled. In the state of Texas, little is done to ensure that they can live in adequate settings that afford them to live independent and normal lives. H.E.B. has on average provided 2 homes a year to Homes For Our Troops. An organization that builds homes for permanently disabled Veterans. While I applaud the effort made by these organizations, the General Land Office could coordinate in order to make these homes cheaper

Other Issues: The Alamo doesn't belong under the Land Commissioner's purview. As the current GLO commissioner isn't a native Texan, I will quickly



COMMISSIONER OF GENERAL LAND OFFICE | (continued

» Matt Pina (L) (continued)

explain that the Alamo was saved from demolition by a group of women who were descended from the founders of this great state—the Daughters of the Texas Republic. These women fought tooth and nail to purchase and restore the Alamo for all Texans. It should be returned to the effective stewardship of The Daughters of the Texas Republic.

Website: http://mattpina.com Campaign Phone: (210)336-8389

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/VoteMattPina

Twitter: @votemattpina **Email:** contact@mattpina.com

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Four-year term. The agriculture commissioner's principal job is promoting Texas' agricultural products. In this capacity, the commissioner facilitates trade and marketing of agricultural products, regulates weights and measures, regulates pesticide use and application, certifies organically produced products, administers the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs, provides financial help to farmers, and helps solve issues related to natural disasters. Current annual salary: \$137,500

» What does the agriculture commissioner do? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qcp0jPszNg8&feature=youtu.be

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

Agriculture: How do you propose to promote Texas agriculture at the state, national and international levels?

Health: What can be done to protect consumers and promote healthy lifestyle in Texas' communities and schools?

Other Issues: What are your highest priorities, and how do you intend to accomplish them?



» Sid Miller (R)

Background: I'm honored to be our state's 12th Commissioner of Agriculture. It's a job I've been preparing for all my life as an 8th generation farmer, rancher, commercial nurseryman, ninetime World Champion rodeo cowboy, vocational ag teacher, FFA advisor, six-term Texas legislator, Chair: House Commit-

tees on Agriculture & Homeland Security and Public Safety

Agriculture: Promoting Texas Agriculture and marketing Texas food & fiber across our state, our nation, and the world has been, and will remain, one of my top priorities as Agriculture Commissioner. During my first term, my team and I have made marketing trips to every continent on the globe with the exception of Antarctica. We have expanded and improved TDA's successful "GO TEXAN" marketing program and have initiated special programs to promote Texas' growing wine, craft beer, and specialty crop industries.

Health: Before I took office, our school lunch program was failing in its mission to help keep kids healthy. That's why I launched our Farm Fresh program to connect Texas farmers and ranchers, schools, child care providers and local com-

munities with tools and resources available through the Texas Department of Agriculture. The goal of Farm Fresh is to increase awareness of the vital role agriculture plays in our lives, as agriculture is the key to improving the wellness of our children & communities.

Other Issues: I want to further expand our TDA "GO TEXAN" marketing program marketing Texas agriculture products around the globe. Continue our program of making Texas school lunches great again. We've already made great progress by repealing all the burdensome TDA mandates and rules on our Texas schools. Strengthen TDA's consumer protection division and ensure that Texans are not ripped off by unscrupulous businesses or organized criminals using credit card skimmers and other tools to steal your identities.

Website: http://millerfortexas.com **Campaign Phone:** (265) 968-3535

Facebook: http://facebook.com/MillerForTexas/

Twitter: twitter.com/millerfortexas **Email:** millerfortexas@gmail.com

Video: https://www.youtube.com/v/UA6HJ38yQWc



» Kim Olson (D)

Background: I am a 4th generation farmer and beekeeper, 25 year veteran of the U.S.A.F., and lifelong public servant. My work as a school district administrator and nonprofit CEO, combined with my background in agriculture and military service, provide the skills and experience needed to succeed in the

role of Texas Commissioner of Agriculture.

Agriculture: My specific plans for marketing Texas ag products locally include infrastructure support, such as processing or distribution facilities; expanding local food purchasing among school and institutional foodservice, restaurants, and retailers; and updating the GO TEXAN program. Infrastructure and state-led mar-

keting will also serve farmers in accessing national markets. I will support Texas farmers as a strong advocate, ensuring that their interests are represented in trade deals and negotiations.

Health: I will promote nutritious school lunches with training, education, and Farm to School, and will encourage participation in after-school and summer meal programs. My administration will promote local food access initiatives, such as workplace wellness, farmers' markets, and retail incentive programs. And, we will address food safety standards by ensuring that our farmers meet the requirements while educating consumers on their role in handling and preparing safe, healthy foods.

Other Issues: A top priority is the economic viability of Texas agriculture with marketing, infrastructure, and education initiatives. Also, we must return



COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE | (continued

» Kim Olson (D) (continued)

respectability and professionalism to the office, to ensure the credibility of TDA in the Texas legislature and among state, national, and international partners. Next priority—two words: broadband internet. We will pursue funding and partnerships to ensure high-speed internet access in rural areas for education, economic development, and healthcare.

» Richard Carpenter (L) No response to questions

Facebook: http://http://www.facebook.com/carpenterfortexas/

Website: http://votekimolson.org/ Campaign Phone: (903) 245-4233

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/KimOlson4TexasAg/

Twitter: twitter.com/kimolson4txag **Email:** info@votekimolson.org

Video: https://www.youtube.com/v/TEL_TJIA9fM

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

Six-year term. The railroad commissioner is one of the three-member Texas Railroad Commission. The commission has no regulatory authority concerning railroads. Instead, it regulates the oil and gas industry, gas utilities, pipeline safety, safety in the liquefied petroleum gas industry, and surface coal and uranium mining. Current salary: \$137,500

» What does the railroad commissioner do? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5uZASQUU0s&feature=youtu.be

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

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

Safety: How would you address the various safety issues concerning pipelines, and oil and gas production?

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



» Christi Craddick (R)

Background: Having served Texans for six years as your Railroad Commissioner, I am well-versed in the regulatory needs of the agency and the industry's importance to our state. In my first term, I have brought more of our data online, overhauled our IT infrastructure, and found efficiencies in our processes,

allowing us to do our job better and at less cost.

Natural Resources: Fair and consistent regulation allows us to protect our natural resources while the industry safely produces Texas energy, grows our economy and creates jobs. During my time at the Railroad Commission, we have updated our rules to ensure we are effectively regulating energy production, and that companies continue to choose to do business in Texas.

Safety: The Railroad Commission's statutory duty is to prevent waste of the state's natural resources, protect the correlative rights of mineral owners, and oversee the safe production of oil and gas. Enforcement of our rules, including

permitting and reporting requirements and field inspections, provides the tools we need to successfully carry out our mission.

Other Issues: During this time of enormous growth within the Texas energy industry, we must have thoughtful, balanced leadership at the Railroad Commission. I'll continue to streamline our processes, maximizing the agency's efficiency while maintaining our regulatory effectiveness. I'll increase transparency, bringing more of our data online for public use. I'll advocate for educational paths for a highly-trained, technically-skilled workforce.

Website: http://www.christicraddick.com

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Twitter: twitter.com/christicraddick **Email:** info@christicraddick.com

Video: https://www.youtube.com/v/R4kRzFGcEbQ



» Roman McAllen (D)

Background: I am trained as an urban planner, architect and historic preservationist; at first glance regulating the oil and gas industry in TX doesn't seem like a good fit. The fact is that 88% of Texans live in cities. Oil & gas directly impacts urban life. My diverse experience will allow me to be a leader in this im-

portant statewide position.

Natural Resources: Right now I plan to balance the commission. The current

commission is entirely beholden to the industry. It is an open secret that commissioners accept campaign contributions 24/7, 365 days a year, from the industry. I will balance the commission by listening to and believing scientists, surface rights owners & municipalities and supporting them. Current commissioners deny the science behind climate change. I do not and I will lead on the absolute need to move to 100% renewables.

Safety: I would lobby to change the name of the commission to something that tells the public, & the commissioners themselves, what the commission is supposed to be doing. I would seek increased reporting requirements for wastewater



» Roman McAllen (D) (continued)

injection wells. I will complete ride-alongs with employees in the field to see what is happening first hand on Texas land. I will hold public meetings all over Texas to hear from people what their concerns are. There are many professionals who have grave concerns.

Other Issues: Assiduous enforcement of existing regulations on all matters is crucial. Added costs to accomplish this should be absorbed by the industry. The



» Mike Wright (L)

Background: I have a BS in Engineering from the United State Military Academy (West Point) and a MBA from Harvard Business School. This educational background gives me the analytical ability to study complex situations and make rational decisions. I also have ten years of oilfield equipment

manufacturing experience.

Natural Resources: If a rule or regulation is requested to be waived but has the intended purpose of protecting natural resources or the environment, the operator would need to submit a plan to monitor the activities surrounding the natural resources or environment that the rule or regulation is intended to protect. This would allow early detection of any possible negative impact on natural resources or the environment before it becomes a major issue.

Safety: I would insist that all safety rules and regulations be followed. I would also want the Railroad Commission or the operators to conduct seismic studies when they conduct operations in areas with different geological formations

health, safety, and welfare of all Texans here now, and God willing in the future, depends on true leadership. *Sentence does not meet criteria*. We must do better.

Website: http://www.mcallenfortexas.com/

Campaign Phone: (713) 384-5233

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Twitter: twitter.com/RomanMcAllen Email: roman@mcallenfortexas.com

than they have operated in the recent past or when they use higher pressures or greater volumes of water where no known seismic activity has occurred. There are many opinions about the effect of fracking operations and the disposal of water into wells.

Other Issues: Making sure there is a supply of water and finding an economical method for disposing of the water used in fracking and production are major issues. Desalination can provide the fresh water and possibly could be used to recycle brackish water that comes from fracking and production. Based on some tentative calculations, it appears that this can be done economically. The operators would pay for the work but be given some credit against the Oil & Gas severance tax/fee they currently pay.

Website: http://mikewrightfortrc.com **Campaign Phone:** (281) 597-1693

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-171585976780844/

Email: mikewright47@usa.net

JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

Six-year term. A member of the court that hears only civil cases. The Supreme Court issues final decisions on civil and juvenile appeals, issues writs of mandamus/habeas corpus, and has jurisdiction over orders or judgments of trial courts if the Supreme Court determines them important to the jurisprudence of the state. Current salary: \$171,000

» What does the Texas Supreme Court do? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuRIMQt57Xo&feature=youtu.be

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

Public Protection: What changes, if any, are needed to provide better protection to the public regarding rules and standards for the legal profession?

Mental Health: What should the Supreme Court's goals be in the newly formed Judicial Commission on Mental Health?

Responsibilities: Which responsibility of a Texas Supreme Court justice is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?

» JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, PLACE 2



» Jimmy Blacklock (R) No response to questions

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campaign/

Email: contact@jimmyblacklock.com





» VOTING FOR JUDGES IN TEXAS

Although in some states judges are appointed, most judges in Texas are elected.

Judges make decisions about fundamental issues that affect all of us—family life, education, health care, housing, employment, finances, discrimination, civil rights, public safety, and government actions. It is critical that our judges make fair decisions based upon open-minded and unbiased consideration of the facts and the law in each case. Judges must know the law and not be influenced by any external political and economic factors.

» WHAT SHOULD VOTERS LOOK FOR WHEN ELECTING JUDGES?

According to the American Bar Association, principles to consider in selection of judges include:

- Judges should uphold the rule of law.
- Judges should be independent and impartial.
- Judges should possess the appropriate temperament and character.
- Judges should possess the appropriate capabilities and credentials.
- Judges and the judiciary should have the confidence of the public.
- The judicial system should be diverse and reflective of the society it serves.
- Judges should be constrained to perform their duties in a manner that justifies
 public faith and confidence in the court.

Unlike candidates for most political offices, judicial candidates cannot make promises about decisions they would make when certain issues or types of cases come up in their court. Questions posed to judges, therefore, focus on improvements they would make to their court, the need for impartiality and how they would increase access to justice.

» HOW IS THE TEXAS COURT SYSTEM ORGANIZED?

The Texas court system is made up of a statewide network of trial courts and appellate courts. In trial courts, judges and/or juries evaluate the facts and the law and make a decision in a civil or criminal legal dispute. When decisions in most trial courts are appealed, they are sent to an appellate court where judges consider what happened at the trial court, evaluate legal arguments, and then decide if a mistake was made. See http://www.courts.state.tx.us/pubs/court-overview.pdf for a chart of the Texas court structure.



» VOTER ID: WHAT TO TAKE TO THE POLLS

Bring your ID to Vote Texas!

All citizens wishing to vote must be on the official list of registered voters. Voters may use one of seven (7) forms of photo ID, listed below. **IDs may be expired up to four years. Persons seventy years of age or older may use an expired ID.**

- Driver license
- Texas Election Identification Certificate (EIC)
- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS
- Texas license to carry a handgun issued by DPS
- US military identification card containing the person's photograph
- US citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph
- US passport (book or card)

Registered voters without photo ID, who cannot reasonably obtain one, may sign a form and present the original or a copy of one of the following documents with the voters name and address to vote a regular ballot:

- Voter registration card
- Certified birth certificate
- Current utility bill
- · Bank statement
- Government check
- Paycheck
- Any other government document such as an out of state driver's license or expired Texas driver's license.

The form is called a "Voter's Declaration of Reasonable Impediment or Difficulty." The voter must mark on the form one of the following reasons for not providing a photo ID.*

- Lack of transportation
- Disability or illness
- Lack of birth certificate or other documents needed to obtain an acceptable form of photo ID.
- Work schedule
- Family responsibilities
- · Lost or stolen identification
- Acceptable form of photo ID applied for but not received

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

"Substantially similar name"

The name on the photo ID should match the voter registration card or be "substantially similar." If the names don't match exactly but are substantially similar, the voter will initial a box for similar name when signing in to vote.

Voter harassment

- Election officials cannot question a voter about the use of an ID type
- Poll watchers may never question a voter about Voter ID issues



JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT | (continued

» JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, PLACE 2 (continued)



» Steven Kirkland (D)

Background: In 13 years as a Judge, I've presided over more than 750 jury trials and fought to make our court system more transparent, accountable and fair. As a community leader, I fought to expand affordable housing and end discrimination. As a lawyer, I sued polluters to protect our neighborhoods.

These experiences help make my decisions more fair and just.

Public Protection: Justice demands the highest standards, but rules alone do not ensure quality representation. Recent studies reveal an alarming amount of mental health and substance abuse issues among attorneys. This crisis creates substandard service to clients and drives up costs for everyone. The Court should lead the profession in addressing these issues, not only through discipline but also through prevention. I have a long history of speaking and advocating for recovery from drug and alcohol addiction.

Mental Health: This commission needs to identify and remove the legal barriers people face when seeking help for mental health issues. This includes expand-

ing the use of problem-solving courts like veterans and homeless courts and drug and alcohol rehab courts. The commission needs to identify ways the legal system is detrimentally impacted by people in mental health crisis and seek solutions that humanely address the impacts. Finally, the commission must seek to educate the Justice system on these issues.

Responsibilities: Texans deserve justice, not politics, from their Court. Yet, the Court has increasingly issued opinions that can only be explained by extremist partisan politics. Texans deserve better. Because we elect our judges in partisan elections, it may not easy—but it's an imperative. We must restore the Court to its constitutional role as the protector of individual liberty and equality before the law, and an independent voice of everyday Texans in government.

Website: http://judgestevenkirkland.com

Campaign Phone: (832) 779-0118

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/JudgeSK/

Twitter: twitter.com/stevenkirkland **Email:** info@judgestevenkirkland.com

» JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, PLACE 4

» John Devine (R) No response received



» R.K. Sandill (D) No response to questions

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» JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, PLACE 6



» Jeff Brown (R)

Background: I've been a judge for nearly 17 years, having served at all three levels of the Texas judiciary—six years as a district judge, six years on an intermediate court of appeals, and five years on the Supreme Court. I'm board-certified in civil trial law and have won three judge-of-the-year awards, including

Texas appellate judge of the year.

Public Protection: I serve as Supreme Court liaison to the Texas Board of Law Examiners and to the Grievance Oversight Committee. In the first role, I'm constantly working to make sure we admit to the legal profession only persons of high moral character. In the second role, I'm constantly working to guarantee that grievances clients file against their attorneys are thoroughly and fairly investigated. We must assure that attorneys handle their responsibilities to the public with competence and integrity.

Mental Health: I co-chair the newly formed Judicial Commission on Mental Health. The purpose of the commission is to develop, implement, and coordinate policy initiatives designed to improve the courts' interaction with—and the

administration of justice for—children, adults, and families with mental-health needs. We will do that through legislative proposals and through the sharing of best practices so that judges have the resources they need to serve folks who come into their courts with mental-health needs.

Responsibilities: My highest priority as a Texas Supreme Court justice is to decide cases fairly, efficiently, and according to the law. It's something I strive to do everyday. It requires hard work and a deep-seated devotion to the rule of law. I'm proud to say that I've built a record and a reputation as a fair, hard-working judge who never legislates from the bench. And I hope to continue in this important work as long as the people of Texas allow me to do so.

Website: http://www.justicejeffbrown.com

Campaign Phone: (817) 422-4136

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/JusticeBrown

Twitter: twitter.com/judgejeffbrown **Email:** info@justicejeffbrown.com

Video: https://www.youtube.com/v/Wis1BvTXHCI



» Kathy Cheng (D)

Background: For seventeen plus years, I represented clients in complex commercial litigation, contested divorce cases and probate cases, tax matters, and real estate cases, which are potential types of cases that the Texas Supreme Court might hear.

Public Protection: Our founding fathers created a system of check and balance whereby the judiciary shall be impartial. For almost a quarter of a century, the Texas Supreme Court has consisted of a panel of justices of one mindset as a result of straight ticket voting. In order for justice, fairness and equality to become a reality, the panel shall consist of justices of diverse background, experience and knowledge to be able to



JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT | (continued)

» JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, PLACE 6

» Kathy Cheng (D) (continued)

consider the applicable law from various perspectives and to apply it accordingly.

Mental Health: The Texas Supreme Court shall oversee the Judicial Commission on Mental Health only administratively as it does with the State Bar of Texas and the Board of Law Examiners.

Responsibilities: Educating the general population on how the judicial branch affects all Texans. Ways of achieving such priority may include but not limited

to conduct civic engagement events, generating a pamphlet detailing the roles of judges in the judiciary or be a frequent speaker for different events occurring throughout the state of Texas.

Website: http://chengforjustice.com **Campaign Phone**: (713) 623-1633

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Twitter: twitter.com/chengforjustice **Email:** info@chengforjustice.com

JUDGE, TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

Six-year term. A member of the court with final judgment in all criminal cases. The court must review all cases in which the death penalty is assessed. It also exercises discretionary review in other criminal cases and issues writs of habeas corpus. Current salary: \$171,000

» What does the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals do? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MdspUkvqoZ4&feature=youtu.be

» QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

Access to Justice: What recent technological developments provide opportunities to improve the state's indigent defense system in civil and criminal cases?

Mental Health: What should the Court of Criminal Appeals' goal be in the newly formed Judicial Commission on Mental Health?

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

» PRESIDING JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

» Sharon Keller (R) No response to questions

» Maria T. (Terri) Jackson (D)

Background: I have the experience, fairness and discernment needed on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. As a district court judge, I have presided over thousands of serious felony offenses, which range from low-level drug offenses to capital murder. I have presided over one hundred jury trials and I have

a combined 15 years of judicial experience.

Access to Justice: One of the more recent advancements in Harris County has been the implementation of electronic filing. Electronic filing enables attorneys and other users to submit documents to multiple courts, utilize digital signatures, reduces court costs and creates a centralized location for documents. The reduction of court costs and access to critical documents is paramount to the indigent defense system as it saves money on the front end.

Mental Health: The Judicial Commission on Mental Health was formed in February 2018. The goal is to develop, implement and coordinate policy initiatives

» William Bryan Strange III (L) No response received

Website: http://www.judgesharonkeller.com **Email:** judgesharonkeller@gmail.com

to improve the courts' dealings with individuals in the court system who are in crisis. In my opinion, the primary goal should be to create resolution for key issues that plague the judicial system, beginning with overcrowded dockets, lack of communication between judges, court staff, attorneys and mental health care providers, and funding issues.

Responsibilities: The Court needs judges that are sensible and can identify complex issues facing the court. My highest priority is to treat everyone fairly and be available when hot button cases, such as death penalty cases, come before the court, even if it is not within the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lastly, it is imperative to work closely with the Texas legislature, our Governor and other community stakeholders to address issues that need to be reformed in the criminal justice system.

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» JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS PLACE 7

» Barbara Parker Hervey (R) No response received



JUDGE, TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS | (continued)

» JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS PLACE 7 (cont.)



» Ramona Franklin (D)

Background: My experiences as a former Harris County Assistant District Attorney, defense attorney in private practice and currently a district court judge have all uniquely crafted me with an uncommon legal background. Serving in all of these capacities have afforded me the opportunity of experiencing the

legal perspective from all vantage points.

Access to Justice: The new e-filing system that is being implemented across the State of Texas is a new tool that has been very useful in streamlining court documents processing. As a Court of Criminal Appeals jurist I will not infringe upon a person's due process rights by enforcing unreasonable deadlines and causing a defendant to be executed because his attorney failed to timely submit an appeal before the court's 5 o'clock p.m. court closing time which was done to Michael Richard

Mental Health: In my opinion, the Court of Criminal Appeals should be the leader for all criminal courts in the State of Texas for handling mental health

cases. I concur with the opinion set out in Atkins v. Virginia (2002) 536 U.S. 304 that states, "More than any other single factor, mental defects have been respected as a reason for leniency in our criminal justice system." I am concerned with the nature of our current Court of Criminal Appeals decisions regarding mental health issues.

Responsibilities: As a Court of Criminal Appeals jurist I will continue to carry out the mantra I employ every day as a State District Court judge, "Blindfold Justice...One Case At A Time." I will concentrate my efforts in ensuring that indigent defendants are afforded all of the necessary tools to launch a successful appeal. I will work diligently to ensure that the results that occurred in the Ricky Kerr case will never happen again in the State of Texas.

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» JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS PLACE 8



» Michelle Slaughter (R)

Background: Having served as a district judge for the past several years, I have presided over thousands of criminal cases ranging from state-jail felonies to capital murder cases. Moreover, I have a proven track record of efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and saving taxpayer dollars, all while ensuring

that the interests of justice are served.

Access to Justice: There is so much opportunity to improve access to justice with technology. One example is e-filing. With e-filing, courts are much more accessible to the indigent. Online forms and instructions can be developed to allow individuals to create their own court filings and legal documents if they want to represent themselves. In addition, through the use of video chatting apps (i.e. FaceTime), those without transportation can still appear and participate in court without fear of sanctions.

Mental Health: The goal needs to be determining and implementing costeffective ways to provide justice in criminal cases involving mentally-ill defen-

» Mark Ash (L)

Background: I have been a criminal defense for 25 years. I graduated from UT/El Paso in 1985 and South Texas College of Law in 1992.

Responsibilities: Protect Civil Liberties. I will uphold the US and Texas Constitutions and improve the quality of life for all Texas by deciding individual cases

dants. While punishment is certainly a goal of the criminal justice system, so is rehabilitation. The cycle of criminal activity can only be broken if a defendant can be rehabilitated. Rehabilitation is especially difficult with mentally-ill defendants because the criminal justice system lacks the proper resources. That deficiency must be rectified.

Responsibilities: Preserving and protecting an individual's constitutional rights must be the highest priority in the CCA. As a constitutional conservative judge, my opinions will inform the public of the constitutional issues at hand and my decisions will strictly adhere to the U.S. and Texas Constitutions. Transparency is another priority. Therefore, even if I am in the minority on a decision, I will not be afraid to issue critical dissenting opinions that call attention to constitutional violations.

Website: http://JudgeMichelleSlaughter.com

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in an impartial manner based on the law and the facts because everyone's rights matter.

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CHIEF JUSTICE & JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEALS

Six-year term. Hears appeals on civil and criminal cases from lower courts in its district. Current Salary: \$154,500.

See VOTE411.org for Court of Appeals candidates in your district.

» TEXAS 2ND COURT OF APPEALS SERVES THE FOLLOWING TEXAS COUNTIES:

ArcherHoodTarrantClayJackWichitaCookeMontagueWiseDentonParkerYoung





» *VOTERS GUIDE* RULES

- Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification.
- Candidates are listed alphabetically by party.
- This *Voters Guide* is organized by office.
- The names of unopposed candidates are also listed.
- Questionnaires are sent to all candidates unless they are unopposed.
- Candidates are asked to avoid references to their opponents
 - Sentences that did not meet this criteria are indicated with the following;
 (Sentence does not meet criteria)
 - Videos that do not comply are removed.
- Candidates with no photo did not submit a photo by the print deadline
- Candidates who do not respond to our questionnaire by the print deadline
 are listed with the notation, "No response received." Their information may or
 may not be in VOTE411.org.
- Ballot order at the polls will vary from county to county.

» STUDENT VOTERS: AWAY AT COLLEGE? BE A TEXAS VOTER!

You must be registered to vote.

- Find out at votetexas.gov
- Register to vote! (Note! We don't have online voter registration in Texas)

I am registered at my parents' address!

- Drive home! Early vote or vote on Election Day
- or Vote By Mail

I am registered at my college address!

- Skip the lines! Vote early!
- Or vote on Election Day!

You must show an ID to vote! You can't use your student ID. Your ID address does not have to match the voter registration address.

» VOTE BY MAIL

Who can vote by mail in Texas?

- Over 65
- · Sick or disabled
- Out of the county on election day or early voting,
- In jail but otherwise eligible to vote

Apply to Vote By Mail!

- Applications to Vote By Mail are available from your county election official.
 For the Texas General Election your application to Vote By Mail must be received at your county election official's office by Friday, October 26, 2018. Note: postmarks don't count.
- A ballot will be mailed to you. Then Vote!
- Return your completed ballot to your county elections department by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 6, 2018. If mailed, the ballot must be postmarked by Election Day and received by the next business day.
- *If you are mailing your ballot from outside the United States, the county election official must receive your ballot by the fifth day after Election Day. (It must be postmarked no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.)



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» LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS VOTERS GUIDE

Editor: Carol Olewin

Interns: Beatriz Castillo and Mariana Lozano





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