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## VOTERS GUIDE

**Nonpartisan**

**MAY 4, 2019, LOCAL ELECTION**

**ALLEN CITY COUNCIL & ISD**

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Early voting: April 22-30

Election Day Polls: May 4 – 7 am to 7 pm

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### ABOUT THIS VOTERS GUIDE

This Voters Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of Collin County to help citizens prepare to cast an informed vote. The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

This guide is available online at [www.LWVCollin.org](http://www.LWVCollin.org), along with guides for other offices that include all or part of Collin County. Candidate responses for all races are also available at [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org), where you can enter an address and view a personalized ballot with races specific to that address.

Questionnaires were sent to all candidates for each office, whether or not the race is contested. Candidate replies were subject to a character limit and are printed without editing or verification. If a candidate did not respond by the deadline, "No response received" is printed. Candidates were asked to avoid references to their opponents. Photos are included for candidates who provided them.

This Voters Guide is organized by office sought, with candidates listed in alphabetical order.

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League of Women Voters is a Nonpartisan Organization

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

**Allen City Council**

3-year term, elected citywide. Must be at least 18 years old, a qualified voter, and a resident of the city. The City Council establishes city policy through ordinances and resolutions.

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**Questions**

**Growth:** How should the City Council best balance the growth of the city with the concerns of residents regarding congestion?

**Property taxes:** What adjustments should be made, if any, to property taxes? How would these adjustments affect city services?

**Demographics:** How are the city's demographics changing, and what adjustments are needed to city planning, if any, including housing?

**Vision:** What is your vision for the city in 10 years, and what steps are needed to get there?

**Other issues:** What are the most important issues you think will come before the City Council in the next few years? What are your views on these issues?

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**Melanie Hughes**  
**Allen City Council, Place 4**



**Email:** [hughesforplace4@gmail.com](mailto:hughesforplace4@gmail.com)

**Website:** <http://www.HughesForPlace4.com>

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/HughesForPlace4>

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/ForPlace4](https://twitter.com/ForPlace4)

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/v/r9wG6jN-1vk>

**Campaign Phone:** (214) 785-8404

**Education:** The University of Texas at Austin, Bachelor of Science in Applied Learning and Development

**Experience:** Working as an educator, case manager, and student welfare officer honed my advocacy skills. I've handled six-figure budgets, state and federal documentation and training. I've served on boards, currently as President of the Allen Early Childhood PTA.

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**Growth:** It is absolutely paramount we balance future residential growth with current quality of life. With fast-paced growth, we must focus on adequate infrastructure and recreational spaces which would benefit and be utilized most by residents. The city has already released a comprehensive plan for Allen until 2030 which includes developing viable public transit options, enhancing several roadways, which may include syncing signal light timing, and upgrading our bike and walking trails. As cycling grows in popularity, I would look to expanding our trails to link into corridor trails for commuters.

**Property taxes:** Allen has been able to lower city taxes over 20+ years due to increasing property values, which are set by the Collin Central Appraisal District. That doesn't reduce citizens' sticker shock at their tax bill. I believe we can continue lowering taxes but justify how the city uses tax monies and engage citizens more often about services they use and desire. If property values continue to increase, services will continue uninterrupted. If they drop, informing taxpayers about city services and budget needs allows citizens to understand and evaluate how they would prefer their tax dollars spent.

**Demographics:** Thirty years ago, Allen was a sleepy suburban town for young families. Now we are one of the top cities in which to raise a family and to launch a career. We have high-density housing and mixed-use developments for young professionals already built or in progress; I'd like to see us attract developers building high-quality homes at lower price-points for newer families starting out in Allen, public servants who would like to live in the city they serve, and seniors looking to retire closer to their grandchildren.

**Vision:** With greater emphasis on citizen input, Allen will have mindfully completed build-out with developers to enhance residents' lives through a combination of business and lifestyle options. Our downtown district will have transformed into a unique destination for culture, food, and local retail with added walkability. Our bike trails will be connected to provide for commuter access and public transit will have been decided by citizens. Refurbishment of older areas of town through tax incentives for small businesses and neighborhood grants will have helped balance east and west Allen landscapes.

**Other issues:** I see growth management, civic apathy, and division between the west and east sides of Allen as concerning issues. It is in our best interest to have a united voice in shaping Allen's future. Allen City Council should encourage our citizens to become more involved and take a greater interest in all of Allen. Many citizens are currently unwilling to be involved as they feel unheard and undervalued. If we can update our communication corridors, use bidirectional social media and provide added transparency through further open government, I feel more citizens might be energized to participate.

**Chris Schulmeister**  
**Allen City Council, Place 4**



**Email:** [chris@chrisforallen.org](mailto:chris@chrisforallen.org)

**Website:** <http://chrisforallen.org>

**Facebook:** <http://@chrisforallen>

**Campaign Phone:** (214) 762-4922

**Education:** BBA University of North Texas, MBA Southern Methodist University

**Experience:** Board President/Member, Allen Community Outreach (2011-2017) Allen Community Dev. Corp. (2011-2016) Allen Economic Dev. Corp. (2016 – 2019) Collin County MLK Jr. Appreciation Day Service, 2018, 2019 First United Methodist Church Allen. (1986 – Prese

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**Growth:** The City of Allen, through its Comprehensive Plan, has managed to take a very proactive approach to the inner-city traffic concerns. For example, the 2016 CIP Bond directed \$23.9 million to improving inner-city congestion. Regionally, a recent Collin County Bond package included the issuance of \$140 million that included funding toward county-city projects. Allen, a city of 27.0 square miles, is surrounded by cities over twice its size. As a member of City Council, I will be proactive in working together with our neighboring cities on a plan that addresses regional growth and congestion.

**Property taxes:** The City has managed to reduce the tax rate over the last 22 consecutive years and should continue to do so. If SB2 Legislation of a 2.5% effective tax rate becomes law, Allen will work under that legislation. Over time, with the ebbs and flows of the economy, there will be years where revenues are challenged and we must make choices to stay within budget. Public Safety and infrastructure will always be priorities. Other City services may need to be adjusted and I will work together with City staff and citizens to prioritize properly and minimize the impact.

**Demographics:** We must expand programs that foster inclusiveness so all residents can embrace the beauty of different cultures in our increasingly diverse City. We need to strengthen the cooperation between AISD and ACO to support families in the growing number of economically struggling households. We should continue to build on our successes with Community Block Development Grants. In 2018, over \$340K in grants were directed toward safe and sanitary housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities. The more we help our neighbors, the more vibrant & bold our City can be.

**Vision:** I see Allen as the best place in all of Texas to live, work and play. Setting the right priorities is the key to getting there. Our award-winning parks and trail system will expand and

improve connectivity to our surrounding cities. Maturing areas of our City will be revitalized and the history of our City will be preserved. We will remain one of the safest cities to live. By maintaining strong partnerships with the school district, Collin College and local community and civic groups, we will make Allen the “best place to live.”

**Other issues:** Managing the development of the 121 corridor and the Central Business District (downtown) area are a couple of key near-term decisions. Both must be done with the focus on enhancing quality of life Allen residents have grown accustomed to. They must drive growth in commercial tax revenue and provide a combination of mixed-use that is family friendly with embedded parks and trails, while preserving our City history and habitat. We will also be transitioning to a new City Manager in 2019. As a City Council member, I will use my experience with the City to make this a successful transition.

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**Baine Brooks**  
**Allen City Council, Place 6**



**Email:** [BaineBrooks@tworows.com](mailto:BaineBrooks@tworows.com)

**Website:** <http://bainebrooks@us.org>

**Facebook:** <http://councilmanbainebrooks>

**Campaign Phone:** (214) 675-6698

**Education:** Bachelors in Communications - University of Oklahoma

**Experience:** 30 Years in the restaurant business

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**Growth:** I would suggest we have a county/regional discussion about public transportation.

**Property taxes:** There is some room for adjusting property taxes. But keep in mind, it may effect some city services.

**Demographics:** The demographics are changing because we are seeing younger homeowners. These younger homeowners are not wanting big yards like previous generations. They are also wanting to live, work and play in one area.

**Vision:** I see Allen almost at build out. During this time, we will continue to follow the strategic plan of the city. We need to slow down, focus and get it right.

**Other issues:** Water - We need to continue to find ways to not run out of water and to educate those in the community about water reservation. Traffic - We need to have a regional and

county plan of action on transportation. Term Limits - They will be on the ballot for Allen in May and the way they are written will not be in the best interest of the city.

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**Jon Toney**  
**Allen City Council, Place 6**



**Email:** [toneyforcitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:toneyforcitycouncil@gmail.com)

**Website:** <http://votetoney.com>

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/VoteToney>

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/votetoney](https://twitter.com/votetoney)

**Campaign Phone:** (469) 854-9561

**Education:** Plano East Senior High Collin College

**Experience:** Management & IT professional with over nearly 2 decades of experience in Management, Implementation, Systems Integration, Process Flow, and Training/Support.

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**Growth:** I think it's time to revisit the question about the Dart Rail and discuss re-allocating funds from the Allen Economic Development Corporation and the Allen Community Development Corporation. Traffic is only going to get worse and focusing on increasing traffic without a plan to offset the congestion will exacerbate an already growing problem. This re-allocation will not raise taxes and residents will get a direct benefit from this change.

**Property taxes:** We need to ensure that the tax burden is equitable between businesses and residents. Too often we have tax giveaways that ultimately cause businesses to take advantage of our amazing city, but fail to contribute their fair share. Additionally, we need to work to ensure we keep our budgets reasonable and not grow our budgets to match revenue. If you pay more in tax from one year to the next, that's a tax increase. If we're increasing that - we need to justify it and be open about it.

**Demographics:** Allen's population is expected to grow roughly 17% in the next 5 years. This means we need to consider mass transit, resource (water) limitations, and leverage new "smart city" technology to manage and approach these problems. We need to start planning for the future now.

**Vision:** In 10 years time, because of open government policies and proactive community outreach, we will have a much more engaged citizenry. In getting more citizens involved, our elected officials will face actual performance reviews and have to justify their failures. When

the economic growth catches up with us, we will have already been planning for that rainy day and will not have built our storefront retail out to maximum density.

**Other issues:** The most important issue facing us is the lack of government transparency and complacency of elected officials. To remedy this, we will need to use existing and new technologies to ensure that residents are able to know what's going on and shape the discussion. An open and vibrant marketplace of ideas is the best way forward and to get this, we need to ensure our citizens are not only engaged, but part of the process.

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## City of Allen Charter Amendment Election

### Proposition A-1:

Shall the Home Rule Charter of the City of Allen, Texas be amended to provide term limits for the mayor and council members consisting of: (i) no person may serve as a member of the city council either as mayor or as a council member for more than twelve (12) years; (ii) no person who has ever served twelve (12) or more years on the city council either as mayor or council member may be elected to the city council either as mayor or as a council member; (iii) no person may serve either as mayor or as a council member for more than two (2) consecutive terms with the exception that the mayor may run for the office of council member and a council member may run for the office of mayor, provided such person has not already served twelve (12) or more years on the city council; and (iv) a person ineligible to run for the office of mayor or council member because of having already served two (2) consecutive terms is eligible to run for the office of mayor or council member after the expiration of one full term following the expiration of the last elected term of office, provided such person has not already served twelve (12) or more years on the city council?

Vote **Yes** – For the Measure or **No** – Against the Measure

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### Allen ISD Board of Trustees

3-year term, elected district wide. Must be at least 18 years old, a United States citizen, a qualified voter, and a resident of the District. The Board of Trustees makes all final decisions regarding school district priorities, policies, personnel, textbooks, expenditures, and growth management. Trustees adopt a budget, levy taxes, and submit bond issues to finance construction projects.

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## **Unopposed Candidates, Declared Elected**

**Amy Gnadt**  
**Allen ISD Trustee, Place 4**

**Kelley Rowley**  
**Allen ISD Trustee, Place 5**

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### **Allen ISD Bond Election**

#### **Proposition A:**

THE ISSUANCE OF \$422,800,000 OF BONDS BY THE ALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES AND THE LEVYING OF A TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF.

Vote **Yes** – For the Measure or **No** – Against the Measure

You may bring this <i>Voters Guide</i> into the voting booth! In 1995, the Texas law prohibiting use of printed materials, such as this <i>Voters Guide</i> , in the polling place was ruled unconstitutional ( <i>Texas Election Code, Section 61.011</i> )
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**Your vote is your voice. Be heard.**