

LWW® VOTERS GUIDE

BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE AUSTIN AREA

The Austin American-Statesman has partnered with the League of Women Voters on this guide to the May municipal elections in Travis County. Using content gathered from candidates by the League, the Statesman designed and published the guide. In addition to being carried in the Sunday, April 29 Statesman, several thousand copies will be distributed by the League at various locations, and both the League and the Statesman will provide the content on their websites, statesman.com and lwvaustin.com.

ELECTION DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2012

Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

EARLY VOTING

MONDAY, APRIL 30 TO TUESDAY, MAY 8

The League of Women Voters of the Austin Area is a nonpartisan organization that works to promote political responsibility through active, informed participation of all citizens in their government.

Neither the League nor the Education Fund supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

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JOINT GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS

■ The Voters Guide includes responses to a questionnaire sent to those candidates in contested races.

■ All candidates in the same race received the same set of questions and instructions.

■ Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification.

■ Due to space restrictions, candidates were given strict word limits for replies. Replies exceeding the word limit are indicated by ellipses (///).

■ Candidates were also asked to confine their responses to the questions asked and to avoid references to their opponents.

■ Candidates without photos failed to submit one.

■ This Voters Guide lists

candidates in local races. Because of the variety of races in different communities and school districts, governmental entities are listed in alphabetical order.

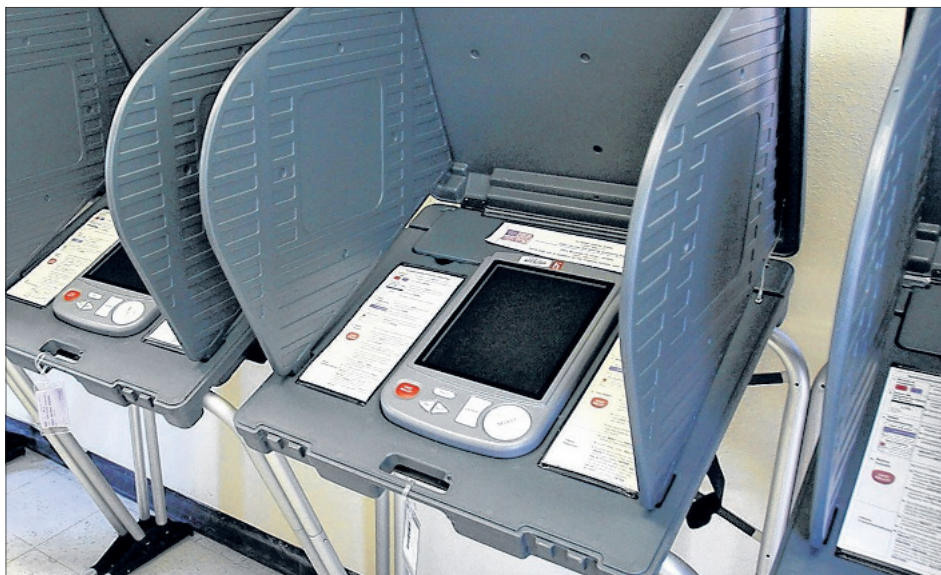
■ Candidates running unopposed were not sent Voters Guide questions. The League of Women Voters of the Austin Area provides answers and resources for all your questions on voting. See "Informed Voters Know" below and "Contact Information" on page 11. Because this election involves a variety of municipalities, voting locations will vary by area and neighborhood. Your voter registration card shows the political districts in which you can vote.

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Barbara Hankins

Carolyn Baker, Maxine Barkan, Nancy Bene, Dr. Mathis and Mary Blackstock, Jeb Boyt, Joan Hilgers, Melissa Jones, Joann Lovelace, Janice May, Frances McIntyre, Margit and Arnold Orange, Judy and Ed Parken, Susan and Williams Reid, Kathy Rider, Dabney Roe

American-Statesman file photos



INFORMED VOTERS KNOW...

WHERE TO VOTE: You must vote in your precinct of residence on Election Day (unless your area is participating in a countywide vote center trial). Your precinct is listed on your registration card, or you may find out where to vote by calling 512-238-VOTE, or by going online with your county election division. If you report to the incorrect polling place, you will be redirected to the correct polling place, or offered a provisional ballot. You may vote by provisional ballot, but if it is determined that you are not registered in that precinct, your ballot will not be counted. **YOU MAY BRING THIS VOTERS GUIDE INTO THE VOTING BOOTH!** In 1995, the Texas law prohibiting use of printed materials, such as this Voters Guide, in the polling place was ruled unconstitutional (Texas Election Code, Section 61.011).

Question 1: What education, training, and experience qualify you for this office? (75-word limit)

Question 2: What criteria would you use to set utility rates to be both equitable and sustainable? (75-word limit)

Question 3: What conservation strategies and efforts would you propose or support with respect to water, electricity and waste management? (75-word limit)

Question 4: Austin currently has six (6) council members and the mayor elected by citywide (“at-large”) vote. Do you support or oppose a change of the current at-large system? If so, do you support a “pure” single member district system or a system that includes both single member districts and at-large members? Please explain. (75-word limit)

Question 5: If Austin changes to a district method of government, would you support or oppose a non-partisan or citizens redistricting commission? Please explain. (75-word limit)

Question 6: The City of Austin (particularly downtown) is becoming unaffordable to citizens with average income. What programs do you support or would you propose to promote household affordability in Austin? (75-word limit)

MAYOR

Lee Leffingwell

Answer 1: Native Austinite, Graduate AISD and of the University of Texas, Retired Navy Commander and



Vietnam Veteran, Pilot/Captain for 31 years with Delta Airlines, Chair, COA Environmental Board, Chair, 2007 Water Conservation Task Force, Council Member, 2005-2009, Mayor, 2009-present. During my term as Mayor, Austin has come through the recession leading the nation in job growth, keeping our budget balanced and maintaining our AAA bond rating, while enhancing our unique quality of life ///

Answer 2: Any proposed utility rate increase must be based on a verified financial need, must fairly distribute the burden, and give special consideration to low-income residents, houses of worship and schools. It must maintain the viability of our utilities while respecting our renewable energy and conservation goals. As we continue to work through special Council sessions on rates, I'll be working to build consensus based on fairness and equity.

Answer 3: During my time as Mayor and on Council, I have championed a holistic strategy for energy and water conservation. I have helped to set aggressive goals and was a proponent of our current zero waste plan and expanded recycling program. Our aggressive conservation plans have dramatically reduced consumption and just a few years ago, I was named Conservationist of the Year by the Texas Section of the American Water Works Association.

Answer 4: I am in favor of changing our city charter from an at-large system to geographic representation, but am waiting for the process to be completed before deciding the details of the proposal we put before the voters. Careful consideration of what can ultimately win voter approval is critical when deciding what we put on the ballot. Austin is growing, and it's time our system of electing representatives evolved to make sure we're representing everyone ///

Answer 5: Philosophically, I support this but we're still in the process of determining what the legal and practical implications would be. If the charter amendment on some form of geographical representation is approved by voters, I believe politics should be taken out of the drawing of districts and a citizen redistricting commission should be adopted as soon as practicable.

Answer 6: I have worked hard to bring well-paying white collar, green collar and blue collar jobs to Austin, believing that affordability begins with a good job. I've supported more affordable housing options throughout the city with GO bonds. Notably, 40% of the incremental tax increase resulting from development

of former city property is dedicated to affordable housing. I support continuing the homestead exemption of \$51K for persons over 65 and/or disabled.

Richard C. “Clay” Dafoe

Answer 1: I am a University of Texas history graduate who understands how government policy profoundly impacts people's lives. My experience as a legal assistant and tax professional demonstrates I can responsibly manage complex finances and legal affairs. Participating actively in the City Council, I am a consistent critic of government waste. I understand the importance of prudent fiscal management and will bring a critical perspective on spending to the Austin City Council.



Answer 2: Keeping rates equitable and sustainable requires basing rates on volume usage. That way the lowest volume users never pay excessive costs for their needs. Austin can prevent rate increases by eliminating ambitious new production projects that are not sustainable. Also, by lessening the amount of revenue spent on non-energy related general fund transfers, we will stop abuse of funds and keep our rates equitable without adopting unjust and punitive increases.

Answer 3: Austin should promote conservation by removing restrictive regulations on individual efforts to conserve. For example, graywater ordinances that create a permit process for water capture and reuse discourage conservation by implementing excessive rules that stifle creative solutions to our water problems. We should encourage conservation in all areas through voluntary efforts instead of government dictates.

Answer 4: I support changing at-large elections to a pure 10-1 single member district system. Our current at-large system favors big money candidates who curry favor with city wide business interests that fund their campaigns. Reducing constituencies into smaller units of representation will make members more responsive to the needs of those to whom they live closest.

Answer 5: I support establishing a non-partisan citizens' redistricting commission to draw district lines. This condition ensures that district boundaries respect the integrity of historically aligned neighborhoods and avoids the possibility of gerrymandered districts. Implementing a citizens' commission to create single member districts is the best method to guard against political maneuvering that could manipulate boundaries and distort representation.

Answer 6: I will promote household affordability in Austin by eliminating corporate welfare that wastes public funds to subsidize private development. Instituting new government programs will not solve our affordability problem,

but only compound the issue. Less government spending will mean taxpayers can keep more of their own money for essential needs. Stopping the practice of incentivizing growth would help keep Austin affordable.

Brigid Shea

Answer 1: I was a Councilmember from 1993-1996. Previously, I was an environmental advocate, leading Save Our Springs and working statewide. Earlier I reported at NPR stations, specializing in education and religion. I was a Rockefeller Fellow at UNC and a Yale Divinity School Fellow. After the Council I started two businesses, served on the boards of Livable City, American Youthworks and Clean Water Action. I have two sons and am VP of the McCallum High ///



Answer 2: The rates must be fair and affordable, especially for the low-income, houses of worship, and schools. The current proposal fails that test. They also needed an independent consumer advocate from the beginning. Rates must be equitable across rate classes. We don't know if they are because rates for the largest customers are secret. Rates must relate to revenue requirements of Austin Energy and not used to plug holes in the general fund through excessive ///

Answer 3: When I was on council I pushed Austin's first inclining rate for water. Given the drought, we need to be the most water wise city in the nation. I will focus on increasing conservation, reuse and fixing leaking water pipes. On electricity, we need to continue to strengthen our local energy codes while ensuring they produce the greatest efficiency for the lowest added cost. On waste management, I would encourage more recycling and composting.

Answer 4: I oppose the current at-large system, and as a council member campaigned hard for a change to the city charter in 1994. While I will look at all viable proposals for single member districts, I have signed the petition for the 10-1 system and believe they have done the most homework.

Answer 5: I wholeheartedly support a non-partisan citizen's commission. I am concerned that a council sharply divided along partisan lines would not serve the city well. A commission would also reduce the tendency to gerrymander district lines which could exacerbate partisanship and divide neighborhoods that have commonality of interest.

Answer 6: Austin's growing lack of affordability is the main reason I'm running for mayor. We must hold the line on utility rates and fees. I'll explore the feasibility of homestead exemptions, given the chronic undervaluation of commercial property. I'd leverage Austin's affordable housing dollars and partner with private developers on housing for families earning between 50%

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and 75% of MFI. We've not done enough for low-income families and need to work to keep them in ///

COUNCIL MEMBER, PLACE 2

Mike Martinez

Answer 1: I have been a member of the Austin City Council since 2006. I currently chair the Council Health and Human Services Committee and MBE/WBE Committee. I am also the Chair of the Board of Capital Metro and former member of Transit Working Group. Prior to that, I was an Austin firefighter for 13 years. I am a former president of the Austin Firefighters Association, as well as a former Big Brothers Big Sisters board member ///



Answer 2: We have challenged Austin Energy's assumptions and established affordability as a priority. The rates should not disproportionately affect homeowners and houses of worship, and we should limit our use of fixed charges that are regressive in nature. Beyond that, we should challenge the base line assumptions for needed cash on hand and how we arrive at what it is going to take to keep Austin Energy sustainable.

Answer 3: I believe strategies that incorporate energy efficiency assistance for low income citizens and a rate structure that rewards user conservation are approaches that have established Austin as a leader, yet we can do more. Our utilities are major revenue drivers, but we must also consider them as providing basic, necessary services for our community. Goals of 140/gal per person a day, Zero net capable and Zero Waste are goals I completely support.

Answer 4: I have supported geographic representation since prior to my election to Council in 2006. I first initiated the conversation in my first term in office and I am committed to seeing some form of change placed before the voters this year. I am currently on record as supporting the recommended 10-1 plan and believe the council should consider and vote on this recommendation. In the end, if there is not support for 10-1 I will ///

Answer 5: I am open to the idea of an independent, non-partisan redistricting commission but have many questions as to details of how the commission would be appointed and operate. I am in the process of learning how the model proposed by the Charter Revision Commission operates and whether that will work best for Austin.

Answer 6: Helping people own homes in the urban core is something that's very important to me. I have been the only council member over the past 6 years to propose a homestead exemption for city homeowners. I also think we should be

incorporating that concern into our land use decisions for every zoning case - not just traditional affordable housing projects. The homestead preservation district is another tool I have long worked on and will continue my efforts ///

Laura Pressley

Answer 1: Our Council should have at least one member with a technology background, and who has large and small business expertise. I hold a Ph.D. in Chemistry from UT Austin and spent 17 years in the semiconductor industry as engineer and business manager. I also own a small business and was on SafePlace's Board of Directors for 5 years, and the Women's Advocacy Project for 3 years, and have lived in Austin 23 years.



Answer 2: Utility fee structures should be progressive, fair and reward conservation. There are two ways to manage budget shortfalls: cut expenses or raise rates. Before raising rates, I would expect utility departments to propose 5-10% operating budget reductions. I've attended Committee meetings and cost savings are not pursued. This cannot continue; we must only consider rate increases if utilities are willing to question, identify and cut waste. I will set those expectations.

Answer 3: I fully support Austin's water conservation goals of 140 GPCD and with creativity, we can do better. I propose we remove roadblocks for commercial and residential owners to get permits to capture rain water so it can be used for irrigation. Electric and water rates should financially reward conservation and flat fees need to be replaced by volumetric fees. Also, Austin businesses have been demanding recycling, we must establish business recycling.

Answer 4: I support the geographical representation plan of 10-1. Where 10 member districts are drawn by a non-partisan randomly selected committee and the 10 members are elected from their respective districts. The Mayoral seat would be the only at large seat. This will better reflect and represent the needs across our varied communities that today do not have a voice.

Answer 5: I fully support the 10-1 plan and will work to ensure a randomly selected panel (similar to what is proposed by the Austinites for Geographical Representation) is established to draw the 10 districts to ensure at least one African American and two Hispanic districts are achieved. In addition, I will support an amendment to ensure an independent body oversees periodic redistricting.

Answer 6: Many cities offer their own homestead exemptions. For years, citizens have been asking for a City of Austin Homestead Exemption. I commit to and propose a City Homestead Exemption of \$35,000 to reduce tax burdens on new homeowners and low income families. This

will encourage more ownership, support neighborhoods, and counteract increased burdens generated by the high degree of gentrification occurring in downtown neighborhoods especially East Austin. Also we should stop waiving fees for developers.

COUNCIL MEMBER, PLACE 5

Bill Spelman

Answer 1: An award-winning teacher and researcher, I've been a professor at UT's LBJ School since 1988.



Before coming to Texas, I worked with police nationwide to develop the (then-new) practice of community policing; between 1997 and 2005, I directed an institute that trained 13,000 officers in community policing. I've also acted as consultant for a wide variety of local, state, and federal agencies, and served on the Austin City Council between 1997-2000 and ///

Answer 2: All our utilities need to encourage conservation and equity, not just sales. Austin Resource Recovery has done well with this: Citizens pay less when they recycle more, the city sells the materials, the profits pay for other city services. We need to extend this to water and electricity. The main criteria are affordable rates, increased reliance on conservation, and enough income so all utilities can pay their bills, retain bond ratings, and guard against disaster.

Answer 3: We can support conservation of all kinds by making high-end users pay more (an "inclining block rate" structure). We should provide more support for energy conservation (the cheapest way to produce electricity is to conserve it) and water conservation (by prioritizing and adopting the water conservation task force recommendations, and by building out our reclaimed water system). On waste management, I support a curbside food waste collection pilot and expansion of apartment recycling programs.

Answer 4: I've supported district representation for decades. After six failures, I want district representation to succeed this time. A hybrid polls better than a pure system, but many people have gotten energized about a pure 10-district system, will work hard to pass it, and will not work for a hybrid. Either system can work for Austin, and I can support either one. I will put before the voters the proposal I believe most likely to ///

Answer 5: I support it. The alternative is the circus we see every ten years in the state legislature. The commission's work should go before the city council on a "take it or leave it" basis: no tinkering; acceptance required unless legal rules have been broken. If possible, I'd like to appoint a commission to develop our first map this summer. This would demonstrate a commission can work, and improve

chances for passing district representation in November.

Answer 6: We need to watch spending in all City departments to keep taxes and fees down, but the biggest affordability problem is housing. The city should ask voters to support a housing bond, to fund investments in affordable housing throughout Austin, permanent supportive housing (especially downtown), and home repairs for low-income people. Reasonable measures to encourage in-fill will also increase the supply of central city housing and thus reduce its price.

Audrey "Tina" Cannon

Answer 1: I'm a 19-year resident of Austin. Prior to Austin, I grew up in Las Vegas, received my EMT certification. I graduated from Texas State University; Bachelor's in Accounting and became a financial auditor. I served on the Board of Certified Fraud Examiners. I was the CEO and co-founder of PetsMD.com, LOCA Loyalty Magazine and Book-a-Vet.com. Currently, I serve as the Entrepreneur-in-Residence at Texas State University. I also served as Co-Chair ///



Answer 2: To maintain the proper balance between implementing sustainable forms of energy and keeping electric and water rates affordable for homes and businesses we should strive to meet the high standards that we as a city have defined as part of our alternative energy culture. We must consider options that promote eco-friendly approach moving away from coal and nuclear and prompting conservation. We must consider lower income residents, non-profits and faith based organizations in our ///

Answer 3: Austin should be the leader in solar technologies. We should increase current city goals from 200MW by 2020 to 400MW by promoting solar rooftop programs and working with solar entrepreneurs driving consumer adoption of home solar installations. I would work with Clean Water Action and the Sierra Club to promote sustainable water policies that protect drinking water at its source, preserve wetlands and aquifer recharge zones, and conserve water for the future.

Answer 4: Not only do I support the 10-1 single member plan but also an independent redistricting committee. In addition, I would move elections from May, where historically approximately 7% of registered voters participate, to November where over 500,000 Austinites participate and would have a voice in their choice for City Council. I support the work of the Charter Commission and would look to pass resolutions placed before me on council.

Answer 5: I fully support the Charter Commission report recommending the commission have 14-members semi-randomly selected from a 60-person pool,

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meeting three major requirements. The first is for a “fully diverse commission” based on “gender, race, ethnicity, age, student status, sexual orientation, home address [geography].” Second, stipulations to avoid any conflicts of interest. Third, the pool should be “highly qualified,” a phrase that refers largely to voting history, but would take into account other ///

Answer 6: I grew up first generation American in the housing projects of Las Vegas. I have my feet firmly on the ground when it comes to the need for affordable housing and understanding that we need to work with private, public, non-profit and community leaders utilizing the framework of the Imagine Austin plan to ensure affordable housing combined with multi-modal transportation solutions, subject to the neighborhood plan and inclusion of environmental groups.

Dominic M. Chavez

Answer 1: I have served in both public and private sector as a government affairs professional on transportation, economic development, and education. I have served my country in the military as a combat veteran. I have served my community as a neighborhood president. In short, my professional, community, and life experiences give me the common-sense, leadership skills, and vision to tackle the great challenges facing Austin and help us seize the limitless potential of our community.



Answer 2: Before we identify criteria for a rate structure, we must recognize the cost-drivers creating the need for higher rates. We must address how the energy company is used to support our general budget and how the green energy plan will create additional financial pressure over the long-term. We need to create a clear roadmap to financial stability and the appropriate level of general budget transfer and alternative energy goals prior to moving on ///

Answer 3: Historically, conservation has been largely culture-based—meaning citizens recognize the social, environmental, or community value in saving water, electricity and waste. Today, we are seeing that conservation is more market-driven—meaning citizens recognize that saving these things can have a positive impact on family budgets. We must leverage this shift in mindset and reinforce conservation with market-based strategies to demonstrate how conservation is not just good stewardship, but can save money.

Answer 4: Austin’s government must reflect the size, diversity and complexity of issues facing this community. I strongly support the 10-1 plan that offers true geographic representation while allowing all citizens to vote for Mayor. Today, we

suffer “ward politics,” because we only have one ward that revolves around central Austin and a small group of special interests. Single-member districts will improve representation, increase voter turnout, and encourage more collaboration in local government.

Answer 5: Single-member districts can only function well if we have a group of well-intentioned citizens willing to develop boundaries that reflect the racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity of Austin. An independent redistricting commission is critical if this plan is to be successful and achieve its goals, and I strongly support its creation.

Answer 6: First, we must explore offering a city homestead exemption like other local governments. Second, we must be more aggressive about controlling city spending to relieve pressure on property taxes. Third, we establish a fair, stable utility rate structure and build a sustainable budget around it.

David Yopez Conley

No response received.

John Duffy

Answer 1: I am an empathetic human being who cares more about the continuation of life and habitability of the planet than I do abstract rewards such as money or status. Further, I care more about human dignity than I do a market system.



Answer 2: Equitable between whom? Sustainable in what sense? Austin Energy utilizes the Fayette Coal plant which is neither equitable nor sustainable. Sustainability means the ability to do something indefinitely, thus there is nothing sustainable about our utilities in the least.

Answer 3: I would love to see more rainwater catchment initiatives, more trees planted to help retain water in the soil, a halting of the laying of concrete which runs water into storm drains, into the river, and off to sea, as opposed to into the soil. I would like to open a discussion about reduced garbage pickup and increased recycling pickup.

Answer 4: I am indifferent. I don’t believe electoral politics represent people adequately, and I don’t think districting will change that. I want to bring consensus decision making to the neighborhoods for those who want it. Right now, city elections only get 8% of the public to participate. They see it as invalid in their lives. We should scale back the city government to be commensurate with this perception, and put more decisions in the hands of ///

Answer 5: Again, I am indifferent to this.

Answer 6: I would propose the ceding of city lands and structures to the neighborhoods to be converted into co-ops. Surrounding these co-ops I would propose car free zones and start building walkable, bikable neighborhoods that

the citizens truly own a piece of. Make the cheaper neighborhoods where low income families live more desirable to live in.

Robert A. “Bo” Prudente

No response received.

John A. Rubine

Answer 1: I have several years of college but am undegreed. My training in the growing Austin hospitality industry has allowed me to develop a passion for people and an appreciation of diversity. My experiences as a working class parent and homeowner have ingrained in me a cost benefit analysis mindset. Austin’s low voter turnout proves the council’s need to reconnect with Austinites on their own terms. Skills like mine are needed now more than ever.



Answer 2: Utility rate increases must be gradual. They must not penalize conservation. They must not be a backdoor tax. They must not be a substitute for measures to cut operating costs. The process for determining the amount of needed increases must be open, transparent, and independently verified. They must be fairly distributed between commercial and residential users. They must not be overused to bankroll infrastructure projects, the need for which is based on assumed growth.

Answer 3: Water restrictions must be implemented proactively and existing water infrastructure updated and improved as funds allow. Electricity rates shouldn’t penalize conservation. I am satisfied with the direction Austin is moving with regards to waste management.

Answer 4: I am convinced that a pure single member district system is the only one that will meet moral, legal, and common sense guidelines for bringing political equity to Austin residents of every race, class, and neighborhood. Therefore I am wholeheartedly for it, politically, ethically, and out of personal interest. We want reform.

Answer 5: I support all of the recommendations of the Austin charter revision committee. A redistricting committee composed of a diverse mix of Austin residents is one of those recommendations and I believe it is absolutely essential.

Answer 6: Downtown was too expensive when my wife and I moved here. Our council must turn their attention to the affordable neighborhoods outside the city center. These are the neighborhoods where young people and young families will move as they get into whatever domestic situation seems good to them. Austin’s neighborhoods must be renewed, restored, repaired and prepared for the next generation of young Austinites. Austin is more than the core.

COUNCIL MEMBER, PLACE 6

Sheryl Cole

Answer 1: First elected in 2006, Sheryl Cole is the first African American woman elected to the Austin City Council. She was re-elected in 2009, and in 2011 she was elevated by her Council peers to Mayor Pro Tem. A resident of Austin for more than 25 years, Sheryl earned her B.A. in accounting from the University of Texas and became a Certified Public Accountant in 1986.



Answer 2: I would like to work with more public-private partnerships, especially for projects like Waller Creek. Although right now it may seem expensive, we need to go forward with investing in green energy. I am glad that we can offer this in our green choice program for people who want to pay extra for the renewable energy, but in the long run, I believe that water and energy conservation as well as diverting recyclable material out ///

Answer 3: I have been amazed at the resourcefulness of Austin residents and the commitment the community has shown to water conversation. Our Austin Water Utility customers have been able to conserve millions of gallons of water in years past and I continue to fight for even more conservation efforts through education, rebates for efficient appliances, and even considering increasing the rebates we currently offer to middle-income homeowners.

Answer 4: I have maintained that I will support putting the charter amendments up for a vote in November. The community as a whole needs to determine our system of government. I see pros and cons to an at large system and a single member system but support the work of the Charter Commission and their deliberation to offer a system that we can vote on in November.

Answer 5: I would support a non-partisan redistricting commission.

Answer 6: I want to encourage the building of more new homes in our City limits, especially in our desired development zone. Even though we are seeing an improvement in our economy we as City must still make sure that we maintain our quality of life and keep investing in infrastructure, transportation solution, and find more ways to partner with our development community to keep building.

Shaun D. Ireland

Answer 1: I’m a native Texan and the economics of a living wage has always been an issue of mine. My great-grandmother was a sharecropper, picking cotton in the field at age 8. I myself lived on food stamps as a child. Yet I am an Eagle Scout and have an Ivy League education



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with a degree in a creative field. I believe creative & abstract thinking is desperately needed in Public Service.

Answer 2: Utility rates are inflated due to an added stealth-tax. Electric bills have added fees to pay for the Economic Development Office and art and music programs. Water bills skyrocket because the City doesn't replace broken water mains that leak billions of gallons a year. Replacing old infrastructure and removing stealth taxes would instantly reduce the cost of living. My goal: put that money back into Austinites's pockets, thus helping families & small businesses.

Answer 3: To keep our water supply safe the Edward's Recharge Zone must be protected from development, but totally replacing Austin's crumbling water pipes would conserve 4 billion gallons a year. Constructing large solar arrays on top of AISD high schools. The solar panels will keep schools open and functioning during upcoming blackouts and during the summer months when the schools are not in use they will provide much needed electricity into the city's grid.

Answer 4: I support 10 single member districts. Austin has become too diverse for the At-Large System. The system is so broken that our African-American and Latino communities must rely on gentlemen's agreements and fight citywide just to have someone on the council. Our minority communities deserve to elect a Councilmember from their own unique district. As does 78704, Oak Hill, Johnson Terrace, Allandale, Woodbridge, Jester Estates, Etc. Geographic equality will be a reality.

Answer 5: I would support a citizens redistricting committee. You cannot trust politicians with maps. Look at the Texas Legislature and the Congressional re-districting debacle. We would appoint the most intelligent, honorable, and dedicated Austinites to the independent committee, which will draw the map. The council only gets to vote yes or no. This is how congressional redistricting is done in Iowa, which was very successful.

Answer 6: City Hall must cut corporate giveaways (Formula 1), stealth taxes from Electric & Water bills. Thus returning hundreds of millions of dollars back to Austin residents who will in turn spend that money in Austin and boost sales tax revenue. Allowing the Council to make serious cuts to the budget. I would like to see Austin's internal finances self sufficient enough so that we could eliminate the need for City property taxes.



American-Statesman file photo

Know who you're voting for.

For questions about voting, turn to the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area, 512-451-6710, www.lwvaustin.org

MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK! Vote on May 12. Polls are open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Question 1: What education, training, and experience qualify you for this office? (75 words or less)

Question 2: Given recent and possible future droughts, how do you propose to manage the needs of your city, such as water, wastewater, roads, and other city services and infrastructure? (75 words or less)

Question 3: What other pressing issues are facing your community, and what actions would you propose to deal with those issues? (75 words or less)

BRIARCLIFF

ALDERMAN

Kathy Crawford

Answer 1: My career after high school and 2 years of college was spent in the service industry (licensed interior designer) where



I learned to manage projects and negotiate with the public for 17 years. Moved then to the non-profit sector founding the Pedernales Valley Disaster Recovery in May of 97 then Hill Country Community Ministries for almost 2 years. Currently responsible for budget control for my dept at a private non-profit in Spicewood.

Answer 2: Living in an area that recently ran out of water and working for a company that relies on water to remain successful, water conservation is a very high priority. Using as many resources as available concerning the drought and educating others with long term commitment is imperative to protecting this resource. I am assigned to sit on the Long Term Planning Committee for our homeowners

association in Briarcliff working on infrastructure, roads and grounds.

Answer 3: Growth in Western Travis County where Briarcliff is, remains a concern as municipality leaders develop a plan to compensate and still protect property values and rights for all citizens. Staying actively involved with the Property Owner's Association and marketing the meetings for better attendance as well as education of all residents is one of the goals I have set. Lack of knowledge and interest regarding home owners is a definite issue to overcome.

Steven Autrey

No response received.

Paul Eagan

No response received.

Kelly Patterson

Answer 1: I was a residential real estate broker for over 10 years in growing Seminole County Florida. I



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CEDAR PARK, LAKEWAY

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participated in planning and zoning processes for both individuals and builders of Planned Unit Developments. I actively campaigned for Candidates seeking public office and canvassed for polls on local political concerns. I have been an administrator for independently owned businesses specializing in bookkeeping and business management.

Answer 2: Our community is lakefront, so we are keenly aware of the importance of water conservation and education. Continuing water restrictions and promoting public education programs are a good start. Though small, the Village of Briarcliff is fortunate to have some services already in place such as water, fire, and police. Continued long range planning and educating our community will be the best ways to manage the infrastructure needs that come with future growth.

Answer 3: The Village of Briarcliff and surrounding Spicewood area are growing. I strongly believe that growth management must reflect the needs of the residents. I hope to contribute my skills and perspective to achieve a balance between the rights of property owners and the necessary change needed to support our growth.

Jean Dowdy

No response received.

CEDAR PARK

MAYOR

Matt Powell

Answer 1: I have served for seven years as a Cedar Park City Councilmember, balancing the



community's desire for small town values with managing the city's tremendous growth. I am active in the Cedar Park and Austin Chambers of Commerce, have previously served as a Leander ISD Community Champion, was named Best Elected Official by a local newspaper, and was awarded the Fire Chief's Commendation Ribbon for community service. I will complete my MBA in December.

Answer 2: I often classify city-related items as either "needs" and "wants". The "needs" are our core services – water, wastewater, roads, public safety, and so on. Before we do anything else, these services must be delivered, and with quality. Our recent city budgets reflect the Council's strong commitment to these items. We must remain budget-conscious, continue to seek cost-saving partnerships, and utilize proven conservation models when considering water and energy.

Answer 3: As Cedar Park approaches build-out, we must be more focused than ever on preserving space for commercial activities. By growing and expanding our business community, we not only diversify our tax base and reduce our dependence on residential property taxes, but we also create a vibrant environment for raising our families and improving our quality of life.

Eddie Hurst

Answer 1: Through my experience as a member of the Construction Advisory Committee in Austin, as a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission in Cedar Park, and as a private business owner in the engineering and architectural industry, I have a combined 11 years experience dealing with land use and providing work for local businesses in the public sector.



Answer 2: With the proposed budget of seventeen million for utilities to improve sewage, storm drains and roads, I would work to make sure local companies do more of this work or that they team with larger firms to get these done. I think present preservation policies shall be maintained, but we should utilize the water that is treated from the Running Brushy Water Treatment Facility.

Answer 3: When cities grow as fast as Cedar Park has, their transportation-planning infrastructure lags far behind the needs of the city. I shall lead with the implementation of the Cedar Park shuttle to provide transportation from border to border of the city. I shall pay for this with proceeds from the recent selling of our old City Hall. This transportation system shall also incubate jobs for the city.

Wayne Ruark

Answer 1: I have spent the last seventeen years working in the customer service business and dealing with people of all walks of life directly during that time, many of it in supervisor positions. I served on the Cedar Park Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for three years, eighteen months of which I was Vice Chairman of the board.



Answer 2: I believe that we have a good plan looking forward for our water needs for Cedar Park, however we do need to start focusing on the rebuilding of more roads such as Bell Blvd. I would impose mandatory burn bans and water restrictions much more quickly and severely at the first signs of a prolonged drought.

Answer 3: Rising debt, wasteful spending, and poor small business support. I propose that we reduce our spending and promote small businesses in the community with a Community Business Center and that we always use local suppliers for our city's needs and services.

PLACE 1

Stephen Thomas

Unopposed.

PLACE 2

Mitch Fuller

Unopposed.

PLACE 4

Lowell Moore

Unopposed.

PLACE 6

Don Tracy

Unopposed.

LAKEWAY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEMBER

DeeAnn Burns-Farrell

Answer 1: I am a Graduate of University of Houston, degree in Business Administration. I have taken several courses in City Government and Marketing. I have retired from a 20 year banking career. During my career I was Vice President in charge of marketing and Business Development. I was later also placed in charge of acquisitions and mergers. I have served on the following Commissions for the City of Lakeway: Zoning and Planning, Arts and Beautification, Heritage ///



Answer 2: Lakeway City Council is in the process of extensive Beautifications projects. The new landscaping will not require any water. We have put limits on the residents regarding watering their lawns. Three years ago the Lakeway Council approved another water tower which holds 20 million gallons of stored water. This added to the water towers that we already have will help the residents with the water supply. We as a City Government stress conserving water where ///

Answer 3: We are managing the development in a fast growing community. We have a proposal of \$12.4 Million in Capital improvements. We are taking care of our infrastructure by maintaining our parks and trails. We have added a Walking trail of concrete which will go down Lakeway Blvd. and connect with Rough Hollow. Our roads are in the finishing process of being repaired. We will be expanding our Police Facilities and Fire Department along with the ///

Bruce Harris

Answer 1: BA Marketing / Management, Florida Atlantic University, 1970. Naval Aviator,



8yrs. Active Duty, 12 yrs. US Navy Reserve. Retired Airline Captain, 28 yrs. Lakeway Parks and Recreation Commission, 8 yrs, 2yrs. as Chairman. Lakeway City Council 4 yrs., 1yr. as Mayor Pro Tem. Served as Council Liaison to the following Commissions and Committees: Parks and Recreation, Zoning and Planning, Building and Development, Ethics, Heritage, Deer Management.

Answer 2: Lakeway does not provide water to our businesses and households, Lakeway MUD handles that task. The City has taken steps to convert much of our landscaping to Xeriscape. We use gray water to irrigate road medians and golf courses within the City. We ensure the Public Works Department monitors irrigation systems closely to minimize waste. Lakeway participates in a coalition of Highland Lakes cities and businesses that work with the LCRA to manage and conserve ///

Answer 3: The biggest issue facing our City is managing development and growth. We must continue to closely monitor commercial development to make sure future businesses bring value to us without changing the small town character and feel that attracted our residents to Lakeway in the first place. We must also work closely with TXDOT to manage the increased traffic on RR 620.

Dave Taylor

No response received.

Anita Cokins

Answer 1: My family and I have lived in our community for 30 years. We know Lakeway and we love the life in this area. I have a strong business background having served as financial officer in our corporations. I served our community as a member of Lakeway Board of Ethics and was elected to the Lake Travis School Board for two terms, so I am no stranger to public service.



Answer 2: For environmental issues we have a wealth of citizens who are experienced and focused in urban issues pertinent to a community like Lakeway. I would facilitate committees of expert local citizens-get their inputs and formulate the plans with rest of the City Council. To my knowledge, none of us, who are on or running for City Council are experts in such important matters.

Answer 3: There has been tremendous growth around Lake Travis and there will be a lot more, but the way we preserve the special life that we have come to expect in Greater Lakeway is not by sacrificing our rights to a progressive, and increasingly autocratic city government. The way to preserve this wonderful life is to stay the course, defending proper land use restrictions and property rights.

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Kay Sconci

No response received.

LEANDER MAYOR

John D. Cowman

Answer 1: I have been mayor of my city since May 2003. I have represented Leander with Capital Metro (6 years), the Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority (BCRUA) (4 years), Envision Central Texas (2 years) Alliance for Public Transportation (2 years), Lonestar Rail District (2 years) Leander Library Board (4 years), the Mayors Committee on People with Disabilities and various committees throughout the region.



Answer 2: The time to fix the roof is when it is not raining, and that is what we have done here in Leander. We are acting regionally and responsibly. We have reserved 24,000 acre feet of water (a 50 year water supply) with LCRA and joined Round Rock and Cedar Park to form the BCRUA. We promote conservation measures for all single-family dwellings as well as commercial, and are currently looking at measures to keep ///

Answer 3: Our goal is to have residents here in Leander morning, noon and night. Attracting companies which create jobs in our city will then attract restaurants and other business. Keeping youth and senior activities is also important. Our ultimate goal is to live, work, play, learn, shop and stay in Leander. Enticing business to come here is a priority which will help with our goals. We have incentive programs in place to accomplish said goals.

Chris Fielder

Answer 1: I have served on City Council since 2007 and as the Mayor Pro Tem for three and a half years. Being the Pro Tem allowed me to actually sit as the Acting Mayor on several occasions to get the insight needed to fill this role. I also serve as the Vice President of the BCRUA (Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority) and as a board member on the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center.



Answer 2: Water is life, if elected I will be the Mayor and President of the BCRUA at the same time. This will allow me to work diligently on the water and infrastructure issues. I want to start looking at alternate water sources in addition to more reclaim and reuse. By keeping Leander Competitive we can obtain growth leading to a stronger tax base giving us the ability to keep up with City Services and infrastructure.

Answer 3: I don't believe people move to Leander to pay higher taxes. Maintaining

our tax rate is top priority along with transparency and information to the public. I will be forming a Citizens Advisory Group and Economic Development Group to work with me and staff to "push" information to truly serve the people of Leander. I need the Citizens input and they need to know what is going on with their City. I am their Representative.

Bob Hanson

Answer 1: I have been owner operator of a successful contracting business since 1979. I have been closely connected to the Leander city government and was a member of the Center of Leander Planning Committee. I have college behind me and years in the military as a Military Policeman with overseas duty. I worked with the local governments to establish walk patrols in entertainment districts.

Answer 2: Leander will have no problem greater than the rest of central Texas. If the drought continues the rice crop will not be irrigated and the extreme conservation methods will be instituted. There are aquifers that may be tapped as a measure of last resort and LCRA will be petitioned for a deeper pickp in the Colorado River basin.

Answer 3: Our community government based its infrastructure obligations on 25% growth. That growth did not materialize and we are paying for a water distribution system designed for a population twice our size. During this time the city instituted restrictive zoning demanding successful corporate business models comply with our fantasies. They declined. Since we need these businesses to share the cost of infrastructure and create jobs we will have to be more inviting and adaptable.

PLACE 2

Kirsten Lynch

Unopposed.

PLACE 4

Michell Cantwell

Answer 1: I've served on the Leander City Council since 2003 and have been presented some unique challenges, including five years of double digit growth. My education includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government with a minor in Business Administration from The University of Texas at Austin. I also bring over thirty years of work experience, including fifteen years of management, in the financial and healthcare industries.



Answer 2: I'll work closely with regional partners, to manage all aspects of our water programs from water capture and storage to treatment and delivery to customer use and recovery. The key elements of the program that I'll emphasize include encouraging water conservation,

water reuse and reclamation. I believe it's imperative that we continue to have a wide range of resources available for our fire fighting capabilities especially during these times of extreme drought.

Answer 3: First, I believe that responsible debt management is crucial in order to maintain or possibly reduce current property tax rates and spur increased economic development. Second, I think the aggressive pursuit of economic development will directly translate into growth of sales tax revenue and additional job opportunities. Finally, the continued development of key sections of the city, including the Transit Oriented Development, will provide housing and business opportunities which will benefit the citizens of Leander.

Jerry Perez

Answer 1: I have worked with the multi family industry for 25 years, as a maintenance supervisor and as us army reservist. I worked with an engineering battalion both are challenging fields that require staying in budget, meeting deadlines and communicating with builders and investors. I have also being doing volunteer work through out the community and beyond which will equal to be your public servant.



Answer 2: Facing drought for the next several years as predicted is a big concern to Leander residents. At the same time Leander will continue to grow. We must find ways to conserve water voluntarily or mandatory. Leander has already planned ahead for reserved water.

Answer 3: Leander is currently hitting a growth spur we need to focus on our families, friends, neighbors and newcomers such as bringing place to go things to do; new businesses, restaurants and community activities that will benefit all ages which will also bring revenue into our city. Transportation solutions need to be addressed as well.

PLACE 5 SPECIAL ELECTION

John F. Perez

Answer 1: High School Grad, 2 years at ACC, 1 year at UT, Austin. Gov. Affairs. Co-chair committee to incorporate Leander 1977. Leander Vol Fire Dept 20 years fire fighter to Fire Chief, Board of Directors on LUFU - Secretary 4 years. Every officer on the Board - from member to President. Blue-Bonnet Bond Committee, first bond for city of Leander. 1st charter commission for 3 years. 8 yrs on City Council Place 3 - 2003-2010.

Answer 2: We must manage our water resources. We encourage the city to seek water from LCRA. But our main source is Brazos Authority. We must

put a permanent ordinance for water conservation. In previous years the County offered to build roads for us at no cost. The City Council at the time refused. Now we are behind in roads, wastewater and water. We have to plan for the future. We need to be real conservative so tht there is no cost overrun.

Answer 3: Until last election, we had 6 of 7 Council members from same neighborhood. We need districts in Leander now. But we must first get our house in order. When I was last time on the council, we past a ord that was never put into effect. This ordinance would have given the citizens a 12% discount, but it was not put into effect. It was a discount for all residents and businesses.

Jason Dishongh

Answer 1: During my last 6 years in the Cedar Park/Leander area, I have gained an understanding of the needs of our community by serving on the boards of the following organizations; the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Leander Chamber Board, the Vice Chairman of Way off Broadway, the Vice Chairman for Hill Country Community Ministries and currently serving on the Leander Parks and Recreation board.



Answer 2: The City of Leander secured a 50 year supply of water through the development of the BCRUA. Although this will provide the city with a great resource it will be advantageous for the residents and businesses to moderate their use. We will need to manage this process on a very proactive and mindful manner to ensure the effectiveness of the entire water and waste water project.

Answer 3: The most pressing issue for our city is the debt that will be coming due from the BCRUA. This debt will allow for the city of Leander to provide a 50 year supply of water, however, at an extreme cost to our current residents. We will need to focus on deferring repayment of the debt or attracting new development to the city to absorb the additional cost.

Sid Sokol

Answer 1: I have a Bachelor's degree in History and Political Science from Butler University. I am retired from a twenty-year career as a financial advisor. I have served as a Director for MUD 255 in Houston (2004-2006). I was elected Voting Representative for The Fairways at Crystal Falls. I currently sit on the Leander Planning and Zoning Commission as well as the City of Leander Community Impact Fee Advisory Committee.



Answer 2: I sit on both the Community Impact Fee Advisory Committee which addresses water and wastewater issues

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LEANDER, ROLLINGWOOD

Continued from previous page

and the Roadway Impact Fee Advisory Committee which advises City Council on Water issues and Infrastructure issues. I am for managed and responsible growth but not at the expense of the rate payers. I believe that these issues must be addressed and that the cost should fall on the Developers, not the citizens through higher rates or taxes.

Answer 3: Other issues are (1) attracting more and higher-paying jobs, and (2) managing the City's debt. I would raise expectations and accountability for business development with emphasis on seeking out technology and manufacturing employers to locate in Leander. I would work closely with the City Manager's office to find ways to lower the City's debt service, such as refunding. I would vote to hold taxes where they are and seek to broaden the tax base.

PLACE 6

David Siebold

Answer 1: During my 13 years on City Council I have helped guide Leander's growth from a population of 7,500 to over 30,000. This



experience is critical as we continue to move forward. I have served on several regional boards and commissions in the Central Texas Region that have been focused on Land Use and Transportation. My involvement with local and national Planning Organizations gives me the necessary background to plan our city for future growth.

Answer 2: Managing the growth of Leander's infrastructure is our most important issue. Water, wastewater and roads (all modes of transportation) must be dealt with on a regional basis. Leander is working with Cedar Park and Round Rock to build joint use facilities for water and wastewater. The region's transportation issues need to be addressed as a region working together to solve the problems. Greater focus on water conservation must become a focus with future developments.

Answer 3: One of our key issues facing Leander is expanding our tax base. Bringing jobs to Leander will continue to be a focus of our economic development team. We work closely with the state to identify and follow up with potential employers. We will continue to focus on bringing additional retail to our city to meet the citizen's needs for shopping and dining. Expanding our police and fire departments must remain consistent with our growth.

Randy Caldwell

Answer 1: Working in the transportation industry for over 35 years, the past eight years for the Texas Department of Transportation, I know the subject matter and have expert skills in addressing

transportation issues affecting the city. My experience of governmental rules, regulations, and effectively dealing with governmental red-tape make me a ready candidate to hit the ground running. I know how to get things done; I can and will be an effective Councilman from day ///



Answer 2: The number one priority of the city council is its responsibility to the citizens for public safety. It is essential to ensure that our police department, fire department and other emergency services have the necessary resources to continue their outstanding service as our community growth continues. I would push for an increased focus in balancing the maintenance of existing roads with that of new road initiatives. A balanced approach would achieve deserving road standards citywide.

Answer 3: A review of the city's Comprehensive Plan and Smart Code initiatives needs to be examined as to why stagnation has occurred. Right now more than ever Leander needs fresh ideas to carry us on the path if new growth is to be expected. I know I can add energy and innovative ideas that will work with Leander, using creative ways to solve issues and challenges. I have a realistic balanced vision of growth for Leander.

ROLLINGWOOD

MAYOR

Bill Hamilton

Answer 1: received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Austin College in Government and Economics in 1971, and a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs in 1973. I retired from Texas state government in 2002 with approximately 30 years experience, including the governor's office, comptroller's office, and courts, in fiscal management and strategic planning. This background is important to the leadership challenges facing any small city mayor.

Answer 2: As Mayor since 2010, we have an aggressive planning program updating city infrastructure, especially a 60 year old water system with fire protection priority. We buy our water from Austin who gets its water from the LCRA lakes and are working on better water management practices which emphasize water conservation. We have a city bond election in May 2012 to approve city purchase of our wastewater system from LCRA and have phased street repaving.

Answer 3: Rollingwood has historically been a great place to raise a family and a neighbor friendly community in a great location within the greater Austin area.



Our challenge is to continue to provide a city government which provides low cost, high quality public services while providing open government which invites and encourages citizen participation. It is this legacy of quality of life factors which makes Rollingwood special, to which, as Mayor, I will remain committed.

Barry Bone

No response received.

ALDERWOMAN / ALDERMAN

Sara Hutson

Answer 1: I am a nearly 20 year resident of Rollingwood and the only candidate currently serving on City Council, so I have a thorough understanding of the issues facing the city. I have a degree in Civil Engineering from UT where I focused on water and wastewater, which are both areas of high importance for the city. I am a small business owner which provides me many insights into the operation of a small city.

Answer 2: The city is working towards purchase of our wastewater system from LCRA and we are proceeding with additional water projects to help ensure adequate fire protection for all homes in the city. Because our contract with Austin limits the volume of water we can purchase additional work needs to be done to encourage conservation, effective use of our supply, and creative alternatives such as rainwater harvesting and grey water use.

Answer 3: We need to take a comprehensive look at the needs of the city including water, wastewater, drainage issues, street maintenance, and staffing for city services along with the limitations of city resources (money, time, personnel). We then need to create a plan to prioritize and schedule infrastructure improvements and maintenance to be sure we are spending our resources wisely into the future.



Pam Opieala

Answer 1: I have a Master's degree in Architecture from UT Austin, I am a licensed architect, I have worked in city planning, and I serve on our Planning and Zoning Commission and with other organizations. But more importantly, I have shown through my past service to the community that I will take the time and have the energy to diligently investigate and understand the facts and work with our citizens to find solutions.

Answer 2: The City of Rollingwood must take control of its water and wastewater situation. The City is presently discussing a purchase of the wastewater system from LCRA. The resolution of this issue



could drastically affect the City's residents and property values for years. The City needs the best possible management and legal and expert advise to secure the best possible resolution of this issue for Rollingwood. We must also set rational water and waste water rates.

Answer 3: Maintaining low tax rates, street safety, addressing drainage problems, and better fiscal oversight of public funds are some of the issues we continue to face, and they are essential in keeping a high quality of life in our city. We can work harder on transparency in our government. In addition, we must work on better communications with our citizens, including many of our residents who are directly affected by actions the City takes.

Shelly Bain

Answer 1: I have lived in Rollingwood for the past seven years. I am a graduate of the Eanes school district, from kindergarten through high school. I received my B.A. and M.A. from UT-Austin. I have worked as a congressional staff assistant in Washington D.C., a grants writer for Austin Museum of Art, and most recently as an assistant adjunct professor in the Visual Communication Department at Austin Community College. I also serve on numerous ///

Answer 2: Water is a precious commodity as was made evident by our recent drought. If the proposed bond election passes in Rollingwood, I would assist in a smooth transition of ownership of our wastewater system from LCRA to City of Rollingwood. I also support a speedy and precise resolution to our water and wastewater lines, and will work to ensure improved fire hydrant efficiency.

Answer 3: Besides the aforementioned water and wastewater issues, I think it is important to explore the possibility of hiring a city administrator. This would benefit the residents, staff and city government. Along the same lines, I would also like to see more efficient and effective city council meetings, with greater public transparency in the council.



Mark Welker

Answer 1: My qualifications for Rollingwood Alderman are; Rollingwood resident for over 13 years, Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, Masters of Science in Electrical Engineering, Masters of Business Administration, Currently the Director, Solutions and Infrastructure Applications, Storage, at Dell Inc., Served on Board of Directors for two high tech consortiums, Volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, Austin Science fair, River City Pops, and Austin Summer Musical for



Continued on next page

SUNSET VALLEY, WEST LAKE HILLS

Continued from previous page

Children, Eagle scout recipient.

Answer 2: The City Council is pursuing ordinances to address the water, waste water, and road issues in Rollingwood with community input. As an example, at the March 21st City Council meeting many citizens expressed their concerns on the proposed water rates. The council decided to readjust the rates and follow up with a special meeting the next week to vote on the water rates. I propose to continue the City Council's effort for the community.

Answer 3: I know that the City Council is addressing the pressing issues of; water, waste water, roads, drainage, flooding, traffic, and bicycle safety. I would incorporate conservation and sustainable solutions into these issues. I welcome the opportunity to hear what other issues the community of Rollingwood feel the City Council needs to address and work to achieve a solution that will be in the best interest of our community.

SUNSET VALLEY

MAYOR

Rose Cardona

No response received.

Barbara Wilson

No response received.

COUNCILMEMBER

Jeff Burdett

Answer 1: For the past five years, I have been the Director of Government Relations for the Texas Cable Association. Prior to this, I worked at the Texas Capitol for a decade, serving on staff for two Representatives and a Senator. I serve on the statewide Board of the Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, where I chair the Public Policy Committee. And, I currently sit on Sunset Valley's Public Safety Committee.



Answer 2: We need to manage our resources so we can continue to provide the kind of services that residents have come to expect, while at the same time providing fiscal responsibility for all taxpayers. It is important to plan for the future water needs of our city in the most economical way but also to retain some control over our resources so that we are not totally dependent on the COA and future rate increases.

Answer 3: I will work to retain and attract businesses in our area. I am committed to keeping property taxes low for our residents. I will make sure Sunset Valley is a fiscally responsible city, and I am a strong advocate for private property rights.



American-Statesman file photo

Zubair Hamir

No response received.

Walter Jenkins

No response received.

WEST LAKE HILLS

Dave Clauch

Unopposed.

Taylor Holcomb

Unopposed.

Jean Goehring

Unopposed.

PLACE 5

Lyn Weingarten

Answer 1: Living in West Lake Hills for almost twenty years, I understand the unique qualities of the area. I have served on city fire safety and planning committees, have a BS in Education, an MS in Information Science and have worked in advertising, publishing, hospitality and information industries. City Council is about relationships with



constituents and fellow Council working together to solve problems. I bring the female perspective of a political outsider to the job.

Answer 2: Drought impacts West Lake Hills through the way we handle fire safety issues. Our community is heavily forested with challenging terrain and narrow roads. We must strike a balance between preservation of rural beauty and safety of our residents. Council must encourage dead brush removal, community based fire safety education, evacuation preparedness and general evidence based approaches to fire safety.

Answer 3: West Lake Hills is a rural, residential city; a sanctuary surrounded by increasing urbanization. As a Council member, there will be increasing pressure to relax ordinances that may superficially seem too strict. But these ordinances protect our vegetation, privacy and property values, the reasons most of us moved here. I will strive to strike a balance between protecting our natural beauty while respecting individual property rights.

David Moore

Answer 1: Resident of Central Texas since 1975, earning Eagle Scout and graduating from Round Rock HS then UT with BS Architectural Engineering. Eight years experience in



EARLY VOTING BY MAIL

Only specific reasons entitle a person to vote early by mail (no longer called absentee voting). You may request a ballot by mail if you will be away from your county on election day and during the hours of early voting, are sick or disabled, are 65 or older on election day or are confined to jail.

REQUEST AN APPLICATION FOR BALLOT BY MAIL

(ABBM) from the early voting clerk in the county where you are registered, or download the form from Secretary of State website: www.sos.state.tx.us. The completed form must be received by mail or fax by May 1, 2012 (postmarks don't count). County election addresses and fax numbers are also available at the SOS website. A ballot will be mailed to you and you must return your completed ballot to your county elections department by 7 p.m. on Election Day (May 12, 2012). The ballot must be received, not just postmarked, by the deadline, and no faxes are allowed.

project management for several different design build engineering companies after graduation including partnership serving clients such as Maytag, Pratt & Whitney, JI Case, etc. Over twenty years of business management experience and founder of Moorespeed, world renowned performance shop. Four years experience to date Commissioner WLH Zoning and Planning Commission.

Answer 2: Serving on ZAPCO has given me real world experience interacting with our residents. Their biggest fear is the threat of wildfire. However, some believe it's futile to prepare for wildfire, but I disagree. There are many things that can be done proactively to help reduce the risk of catastrophic fire, including reasonable Forest Management without sacrificing the unique beauty of West Lake Hills' special Urban Forest Community. This will be one of my top priorities.

Answer 3: Currently we are negotiating with LCRA to buy our Waste Water System or not. I will work with residents and council for the best solution for the community while pledging to keep the costs at a minimum. As our community grows, Water Conservation as well as Traffic Safety measures will need fresh ideas as solutions can be difficult with our unique urban forest. I have heard many suggestions from residents and will continue to listen.

Question 1:
What education, training, and experience qualify you for this office? (50-word limit)

Question 2:
What strategies would you use to stretch your school district's funding to maintain educational quality? (75-word limit)

Question 3: What issues would you advocate to the 2013 legislature to improve or assist your school district? (75-word limit)

Question 4: What do you see as your responsibilities for ensuring the educational success of every student? (75-word limit)

DEL VALLE ISD

SMD 4

Ricardo Rendon

Answer 1: I have served the children of Del Valle ISD for the past 4 years, completing 104 hours of continuing education classes with TASB and NASB. Understanding the budget process and the limitations of future funding that is available to DVISD is valuable during these troubled times with school finance.

Answer 2: Del Valle ISD's carefulness with our tax dollars is evident by our \$28,000,000.00 fund balance. I would continue to balance the financial security for taxpayers so that our children can attain an excellent education. DVHS was recognized by TEA Commissioner Scott as one of four high schools using the "High School Allotment" to improve "College Readiness." I will continue to ensure that our staff and board work together to provide our students with quality educations.

Answer 3: I would ask that we find a better formula to help properly fund our "At-Risk" students. This includes our "Economically Depressed," LEAP, and Special Ed. These students require more services to achieve their potential. It is our mission to ensure all students receive an excellent education regardless of these conditions. I would thus advocate for the limitation of state-required standardized testing, since students spend too great a deal of time preparing for those tests.

Answer 4: It is the School Board's responsibility to provide the "Vision" and "Goals", for the district and ensure that the district is properly utilizing district funds. The purpose of the board is not to decide day to day instruction methods or curricula that are being taught in the schools. Most of the curriculum guidelines and books are given by the state. The best districts have the Board and Administration working collectively toward the same goal.

Jerry Banda

Answer 1: Del Valle graduate, with kids at Del Valle. Current St. Edwards University student with a fresh current perspective of college readiness needs. I am a former Marine with leadership skills, and experience includes being auto dealer finance manager, owning my own business, handling the books for a multi-million dollar company.

Answer 2: Taking a hard look at district expenditures, and how the district uses the funds it receives. Ensuring education dollars received are primarily used for



education and less on administrative costs. Reinstating booster clubs at DVISD, which other school districts use to assist them in their fund raising activities, which studies have shown that extra curriculum activities such as music, art, athletics, lead to higher test scores and better well rounded students.

Answer 3: The fundamental advocacy issue is to remove testing as the basis for forming the curriculum. A great portion of children are not able to successfully complete the test, and our passing rates are inflated. Testing is a big business that puts pressure on districts on how funding is used to increase test scores while needlessly pressuring kids, and instead our focus should be how to use those dollars to increase the quality of student education.

Answer 4: The preparation for life after graduation, with real critical thinking skills, math skills, and reading skills, that would allow everyone to pass a college entrance exam. These skills will help so that every child will become a productive member of society. To increase the amount of children entering college, with the understanding that some students will enter vocational employment such as plumbers, electricians, etc. All students should have an opportunity to have the American Dream.

SMD 6

Edward Johnson No photo

Answer 1: I received a Bachelor's degree from Sam Houston State University with a major in communications and minor in leadership. Additionally, I have over 15 years of leadership in corporate America as a Manager of people. Also, I am a veteran having served in the US Army in the officer ranks.

Answer 2: The Del Valle School district has done an excellent job at managing the budget. Additionally, there are other opportunities to stretch the budget such as electronic books and more use of electronic instructions

Answer 3: Although there are many issues that we need to advocate to the 2013 legislature to continue to improve an already good Del Valle School district, the top issue that I'd raise is an overhaul of school finance funding.

Answer 4: To put education first. The educational success of every student is the top priority of any school district. It requires the hard work, and input of not only me and the dedicated teachers but also the parents, bus drivers, coaches, cafeteria workers and anyone that affects our children through the school years.

Rebecca A. Birch

No response received

SMD 2

Debbie Russell

Unopposed

MANOR ISD

TWO AT-LARGE POSITIONS

Vote for none, one or two

Adriana Gutierrez

Answer 1: I have an advanced degree in General Dentistry from New York University and an undergraduate degree in Accounting.

In addition, I have participated in MISD committees and a Board Member of the Manor Education Foundation.

Answer 2: As a business owner, I understand how to maximize a dollar. Recruiting volunteer talent from our pool of thousands of parents.

Answer 3: Advocate maximizing technology integration into the classroom. Advocate creative ways to enhance students' learning, such as creating Study Camps or purchasing engaging educational software. Advocate expansion of the Performing and Visual Arts which has a positive and lasting effect on our student's learning and outlook on life.

Answer 4: I see my responsibility as a Manor ISD Trustee to always be an advocate for our students and their families. Also, to ensure the best educational experience for all students and to support choices which prepare our children for life and the work force.



Marlin D. Thomas

Answer 1: As a Graduate of Texas State University with 10 plus years of engineering and project management experience, I have develop as skill set that will easily transition into this office. I have volunteered and served on numerous committees within the district and city wide.

Answer 2: By expanding on green practices and energy conservation initiatives, this will drive down operational costs of facilities and services. The district can then begin to utilize those funds for more strategic purposes. The budget in its entirety should be revisited for other cost saving opportunities as well. These cost saving opportunities can then be evaluated and prioritized by importance and impact.

Answer 3: Evaluating unfunded mandates should always remain a top priority during legislative session. I am a strong advocate for funding and



implementing cutting edge technology which will help ensure that we are positioned as a state and district for the 21st Century advancement.

Answer 4: It is important to understand that each student learns and retains knowledge in many different ways. We must evaluate the programs that are deployed, and ensure that each of them add value to the needs of our student body. It's important that we evaluate programs in a fiscally responsible manner and prioritize the needs of our students, because the challenge will continue to be decreasing budgets.

Tracy Reyes Medearis

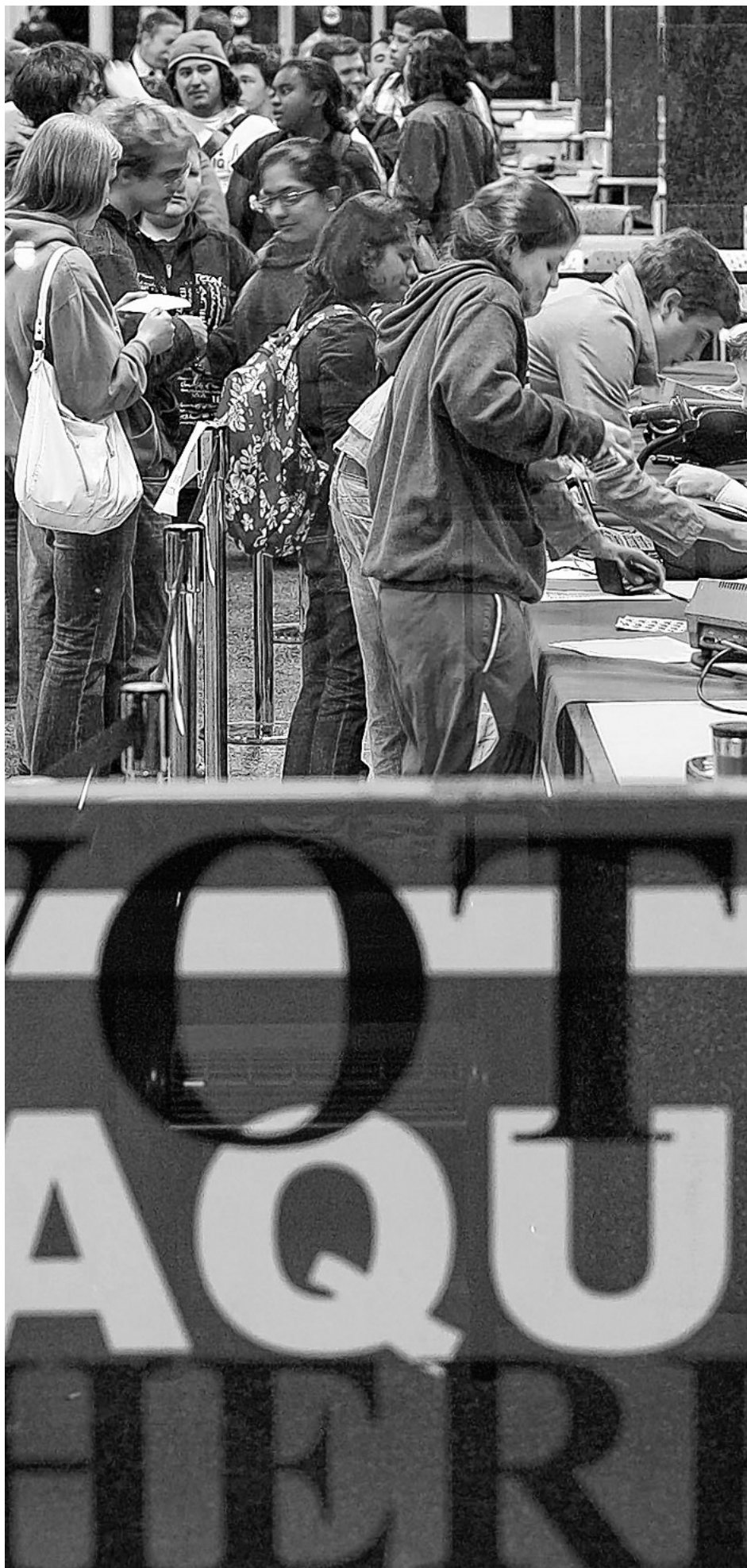
Answer 1: My employment history has provided me with business and communication experience in both the non-profit and private industries. My relationships with customers and volunteers have given me valuable insight into the success of an organization and the expectations of board members and the personnel who drive that success.



Answer 2: I would begin by evaluating the districts expendable costs as a primary focus to eliminate unnecessary spending. Eliminating inefficient expenditures to invest in the value of our teachers is a benefit to the districts report card. Providing quality education consists of the districts investment in quality educators. Secondly, examination of the current budget to identify areas where reduction, deletion or reallocation of monies could possibly increase the value in other essential departments.

Answer 3: The weight that standardized testing carries on a district (and the student). The testing, and preparation for, has added undue stress to families and personnel alike. The rigor and complexities of the tests have "bullied" and intimidated families into looking at other options such as charter or home schooling. Also of importance, are budget cuts ultimately resulting in layoffs or attrition of valuable instructors and their effects on the districts overall performance.

Answer 4: Student population is on the rise within the district, the board needs to ensure proper funding is in place to eliminate maximum capacity classrooms with minimum attention to course instruction. Along with the district's growth, discipline among students needs to be addressed to eliminate classroom disruption. The district needs more accountability on behalf of students and parents.



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