

LWW VOTERS GUIDE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND

NOVEMBER 8, 2016 • GENERAL ELECTION • POLLS OPEN 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M.

Index

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

President of the United States2-3
 United States Representative4-7
 Railroad Commissioner8
 Texas Supreme Court.....9-11
 Court of Criminal Appeals.....11-12
 State Board of Education13
 State Senator14
 State Representative14-20
 Court of Appeals.....20-22
 District Court Judges23-35
 District Attorney.....35
 County Civil Court at Law36
 County Criminal Court36-37
 County Attorney37
 Sheriff.....38
 County Tax Assessor-Collector.....38-39
 County School Trustee39
 County Commissioner.....40
 Justice of the Peace40-42
 Constable42-44
 Houston ISD Board of Education.....45
 Ballot Propositions45

GENERAL INFORMATION

Useful Telephone Numbers & Websites5
 Sample Ballot.....46
 Early Voting Locations & Schedule47
 Membership Application48
 Donors48

About This Voters Guide

This *Voters Guide* lists candidates in contested races who are on the November 8, 2016, General Election ballot and provides their answers to policy questions posed by the League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund.

Additional information can be accessed online at www.VOTE411.org, where voters can enter an address and review races and ballot initiatives specific to that address. Texas law does not allow voters to access information or personal notes using electronic devices (such as mobile phones or tablets) while at the polling place. However, you may take printed or handwritten notes into the voting booth, including a printed copy of this *Guide*.

This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund. We are a 501(c)(3) charitable trust, dedicated to encouraging informed and active participation in government. The League of Women Voters never endorses or opposes any candidate or political party. Questionnaires are sent to candidates in races that are contested. Candidate replies are reproduced exactly as submitted, without editing or verification.

Voter Identification: What to Take to the Polls

NOTICE OF REQUIRED IDENTIFICATION • PRESCRIBED BY TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE

A voter must show one of the following forms of acceptable photo identification at the polling location before the voter may be accepted for voting, unless the voter has a reasonable impediment to obtaining one of these forms of acceptable photo identification or the voter qualifies for one of the other exemptions identified below:

- Texas Driver’s License issued by the Department of Public Safety (“DPS”)
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS;
- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS;
- Texas Handgun License issued by DPS;
- United States Military Identification Card containing the person’s photograph;
- United States Citizenship Certificate containing the person’s photograph; or
- United States Passport.

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the identification must be current or have expired no more than 4 years before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place.

If a voter does not possess one of the forms of acceptable photo identification listed above, and the voter cannot reasonably obtain such identification, the voter has the right to execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration and present one of the following supporting documents:

- valid voter registration certificate;
- certified birth certificate (must be an original);
- copy of or original current utility bill;
- copy of or original bank statement;
- copy of or original government check;
- copy of or original paycheck; or
- copy of or original other government document that displays your name and an address (though an original is required if it contains a photograph).

View the full text from the Texas Secretary of State [here](#).



METRO offers free rides to the polls!



LOCAL BUS, METRO RAIL and METRO LIFT will take you to the polls at no charge on these days:

- Saturday, October 29 (during the early voting period)
- Friday, November 4 (last day of early voting)
- Tuesday, November 8 (Election Day)

Please phone 713-635-4000 for more information.



Throughout the online *Voters Guide*, you will see active hyperlinks in [this color](#). Simply click for a direct link to the website or email address.

GENERAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 8, 2016 RACES & CANDIDATES

League of Women Voters Education Fund Ground Rules for Presidential Candidate Responses

- All qualified presidential candidates were invited to provide biographical information and responses to five specific questions. Candidates qualified if they met the following criteria: 1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for her/his Party's nomination for President; 2. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the FEC website; and, 3) The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes.
- Responses were limited to 400 characters and were truncated thereafter.
- If a candidate did not respond by the date of publication, "Candidate has not responded." is printed.

Approved Write-In Candidates for State of Texas

- A listing of write-in candidates formally approved by the Texas Secretary of State in accordance with the Texas Election Code is available at www.VOTE411.org and <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/2016-writein-presidential-certifications.pdf>.

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Education Fund

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The following candidates qualified for the Texas ballot according to the Secretary of State.

Salary: \$400,000 per year | Term: Four years. Limit of two terms.

How Elected: Every four years, political parties nominate candidates to run for President of the United States in a general election that is held on the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in November. Although all parties use conventions to nominate their candidates, in most states the Democratic and Republican parties also run state-wide primary elections or caucuses. The results of the primary influence how the delegates to their respective party's convention will cast ballots for candidates for President. The degree to which the result of the primary influences the votes of delegates at conventions varies from state to state.

Duties: The President is the head of state of the United States of America and is the Chief Executive Officer and the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are described in the Constitution and federal law. Subject to Senate approval, the President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices and federal judges. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress.

Questions to Candidates: Candidates provided a PERSONAL STATEMENT.
Candidates listed their TOP THREE GOALS.

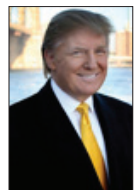
ECONOMY: What will you do to support a vibrant economy across the U.S.?

PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP: What, if any, actions will you support to create a pathway to citizenship?

PUBLIC EDUCATION: What should government do to provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?

INTERESTS ABROAD: What actions would you support the U.S. undertake to protect its interests abroad?

SOCIAL & RACIAL JUSTICE: What kinds of policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice for all Americans?



DONALD TRUMP • REP

PERSONAL STATEMENT: The government of the US should be focused on serving the people of this great nation, not special interests. The government now rules rather than governs. The American people want their government back and together we will make America great again.

TOP THREE GOALS: Secure our nation by restoring our leadership in the world; restore economic growth thru tax, trade, immigration, & energy reform; restore Constitutional limits on government.

ECONOMY: I have proposed tax, trade, energy and immigration reforms that will bring trillions of dollars and millions of jobs back to the United States. Through immigration reform, we will restore wage growth and reduce the related fiscal burdens on state and local governments. These reforms will help lift wages and will create opportunities for millions of Americans to get back in the workforce.

PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP: We must re-establish the rule of law in this country. Criminal illegal immigrants will be deported. No one should be given the gift of U.S. citizenship based on illegal behavior.

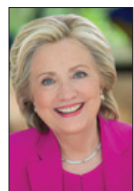
PUBLIC EDUCATION: My administration will provide states with incentives to increase school choice options for parents and local school districts. Allowing the entrenched Washington education establishment and federal bureaucrats to

leverage federal funds to dictate educational practices, curriculum and outcomes must be stopped. Control of K-12 education must be returned to parents and citizens locally.

INTERESTS ABROAD: We are the leader of the free world - whether we like it or not - and we must ensure we seek partners willing to make sure our national interests are defended. We only gain this respect from both adversaries and allies by having a strong military, being clear about defeating radical Islam, & stopping rogue nations from attacking/threatening our citizens, economic interests, resources and allies.

SOCIAL & RACIAL JUSTICE: The best way to ensure social & racial justice is to return Constitutional limits on government & appoint Supreme Court Justices who will defend the Constitution, not rewrite it. The President must provide leadership & make sure the government works for the people. We must ensure low income & minority children learn to read at grade level & not trap them in failing schools based on zip code.

PHONE: (646) 736-1779
EMAIL: info@donaldtrump.com
WEBSITE: <http://www.donaldjtrump.com/>



HILLARY CLINTON • DEM

PERSONAL STATEMENT: I'm running for President to make a difference in the lives of all Americans. I'll build an economy that works for everyone, continue my fight for children and families, and work to keep our country safe. And I'll unite Americans to take on all the challenges we face—because we're stronger together.

TOP THREE GOALS: 1. Grow and strengthen our economy. 2. Curb the outsized influence of big money in American politics. 3. Ensure we have the partnerships to keep our country safe.

ECONOMY: My first priority will be to grow and strengthen our economy. I will invest in good-paying jobs, expand access to higher education, encourage companies to follow policies that put families first, and fight so that everyone pays their fair share. Every American deserves a good job, a successful career, and a productive life. Together, these efforts will work to make that a reality.

PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP: In my first 100 days, I will introduce comprehensive immigration reform with a path to citizenship. An estimated nine million lawful permanent residents are eligible to become U.S. citizens. As President, I will work to expand fee waivers and enhance outreach, so that more of the working poor can assume the full rights and responsibilities of becoming U.S. citizens.

PUBLIC EDUCATION: Every child deserves a high-quality education. I will double our investments in Early Head Start programs and ensure every 4-year old has

access to high-quality preschool. I will do more to support our teachers, modernize our classrooms, and support STEM programs so that all public school students can learn computer science. We must give children the foundation to succeed, from pre-K to grade 12.

INTERESTS ABROAD: The U.S. needs to exercise leadership and shape global events rather than be shaped by them. So many of our interests—our security, our economy, and our fight against climate change—require cooperation with our friends and allies, and with countries we may agree with on some things, and disagree with on others. As President, I'll ensure our country remains a source of leadership around the world.

SOCIAL & RACIAL JUSTICE: Too many Americans still face discrimination and mistreatment. I will fight to break down barriers and build ladders of opportunity. We will reform our criminal justice system, protect transgender individuals, defend voting rights, fight environmental injustice, fight for comprehensive immigration reform, end the epidemic of gun violence, and ensure the citizens of Puerto Rico are treated equally.

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PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, continued on next page

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Questions to Candidates: Candidates provided a **PERSONAL STATEMENT**. Candidates listed their **TOP THREE GOALS**.

ECONOMY: What will you do to support a vibrant economy across the U.S.?

PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP: What, if any, actions will you support to create a pathway to citizenship?

PUBLIC EDUCATION: What should government do to provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?

INTERESTS ABROAD: What actions would you support the U.S. undertake to protect its interests abroad?

SOCIAL & RACIAL JUSTICE: What kinds of policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice for all Americans?

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES



GARY JOHNSON • LIB

PERSONAL STATEMENT: I am Governor Gary Johnson and along with my running mate Governor William Weld we are honored to accept the invitation of the League of Women Voters to participate in their efforts to inform the voting American public of all options available to them during this Presidential election year.

TOP THREE GOALS: Provide Congress a balanced budget within the first 100 days of office; Reduce (and in some cases eliminate) our military footprint abroad; Liberalize trade and economic activity.

ECONOMY: Submit to Congress a balanced budget to provide a template to stop unsustainable growth of the national debt, debt that weighs on employers, entrepreneurs and the economy. Support a simpler, fairer tax code that won't penalize productivity or investment. Fight to provide certainty in spending, taxes, and regulation so employers, entrepreneurs and investors make decisions that put people to work.

PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP: Ensure a pathway to citizenship for deserving immigrants by first establishing a way for non-criminal undocumented immigrants to achieve documented status. After that crucial first step, the pathway to citizenship will be the same as it is for all immigrants. No cutting the line. No unfair advantages. Just a legal status that allows immigrants to pursue the traditional path to becoming a citizen.

PUBLIC EDUCATION: Education works best when decentralized. Since President Carter created the Dept. of Education, test scores have stagnated despite any new

initiatives or spending programs. Parents and teachers make the best decisions for students, not bureaucrats at the DoE. Education is traditionally a state and local responsibility, and should remain so for innovation, best practices and even competition.

INTERESTS ABROAD: Above all, we must maintain a national defense that is second to none. Government's first responsibility is to protect us from threats abroad. If attacked, we respond. Our greatest assets are economy and culture. Blue jeans and computers did more to win the Cold War than stockpiled warheads. I will pursue vigorous diplomacy based on our economic might, not idle threats and military interventions.

SOCIAL & RACIAL JUSTICE: I would do everything in the Presidency's power to end the militarization of the police. I would end the failed drug war, which unfairly targets communities of color. I would use the powers of the Federal Government to protect the civil liberties of all Americans, aggressively enforcing 14th Amendment protections. I would continue the work to help all Americans to achieve equality of opportunity.

PHONE: (801) 303-8922
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WEBSITE: http://www.johnsonweld.com



JILL STEIN • GRN

PERSONAL STATEMENT: After a career in clinical medicine, I am now practicing political medicine, running for President to help heal our ailing nation. Your vote for me sends a clear signal that you want a new, principled politics that puts people, planet and peace over profit.

TOP THREE GOALS: 1. Green job-creation to fight climate change. 2. A fair economy that eliminates unemployment 3. Justice, true democracy, and respect for all human beings.

ECONOMY: • Eliminate unemployment by creating a job for every American who needs work. • Repeal NAFTA and other trade agreements that export our jobs overseas and create immigration surges. • Create 20 million green jobs to stimulate the economy improving our health by cleaning up our land, air, and water. • Protect consumers and small businesses from big banks and Wall Street predators.

PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP: First, end the massive deportation schemes that have torn families apart. I would also end the so-called Secure Communities program that has led to abuse of both citizens and non-citizens. End the misguided free trade agreements and regime change wars that have forced people to emigrate for their own survival. Finally, provide a welcoming and legal path to citizenship for current immigrants.

PUBLIC EDUCATION: 1) Protect our public schools from privatization schemes that will inevitably undermine the American dream of quality public education for all. 2) Increase federal funding of public schools to make sure all school districts have the financial resources they need to provide quality education. 3) Ensure that kids come to school ready to learn: healthy, nourished, and secure.

INTERESTS ABROAD: Forge a new foreign policy based solidly on diplomacy, international law, respect for human rights, and consistent nonviolent support for democratic movements around the world. End the misguided policies of militarism that have produced terrorist organizations, refugee crises, failed states, and a bloated military that we can no longer afford.

SOCIAL & RACIAL JUSTICE: My plan to end unemployment will transform the economic life of low income communities that are now struggling with unemployment rates two or three times the national average. Coupled with my commitment to quality public schools and community empowerment, we can not just lessen racial disparity, but bring it to an end.

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Voters Guide Key

These abbreviations are used throughout the *Voters Guide* to designate candidate political party affiliation.

- REP • REPUBLICAN PARTY
- DEM • DEMOCRATIC PARTY
- LIB • LIBERTARIAN PARTY
- GRN • GREEN PARTY

A NOTE FROM THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDUCATION FUND

This *Voters' Guide* is published by the League of Women Voters. The League has a long tradition of publishing the verbatim responses of candidates to questions important to voters. The League offers this *Voters' Guide* to assist citizens in their decision making process as they prepare for participation in the general election. The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

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UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

Advocates for home district. The House of Representatives has equal legislative functions and powers with the Senate; however, only the House may originate revenue and appropriation bills. Shares power with the Senate to levy taxes, borrow money, regulate interstate commerce and declare war. 2-year term; Salary: \$174,000.

Questions to Candidates: What are your top two legislative priorities?

Identify three issues that directly affect the people in your district and explain how, if elected, you plan to address these issues.

For the U.S. economy to be competitive and to ensure the safety and comfort of all citizens, we need a first class infrastructure system. What specific steps should Congress take to address this issue?

TED POE • REP No Response Received



PAT BRYAN • DEM

Campaign Finance Reform and Voters' Rights. Raising the Minimum Wage.

I want to obtain funding to complete US Army Corps of Engineers flood control projects in Harris County. I want to get Zika virus research and prevention funded with no strings. I want to work toward Health Care for all. If this is obstructed by the State, I want to get funding support for the Harris Health system.

As much as it is anathema to propose the government borrow more money, interest rates may never be lower. Debt service on money borrowed now is almost nonexistent. Now is the time for bond issues to repair, maintain and build new highways, bridges, streets and communication systems.

» No Photograph Submitted

JAMES B. VEASAW • LIB

It is my opinion that the incumbent representative on May 6, 2011 violated his oath of office. 1) Corruption - Corruption robs everyone especially from our future generations. 2) Cronyism - In 2000 I caught the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission giving away and/or selling jobs to a regulatory agency. SOME OF THESE JOBS PAID as much \$125,000 each and WERE NOT POSTED FOR EASY ACCESS BY PUBLIC. This CORRUPTION and CRONYISM ignored by the U.S. Supreme Court, the CONGRESSMAN from TEXAS.

1) Federal Reserve -Inflation is a Tax everyone pays, and is reflected in our stores as products with smaller packaging and/or higher prices. Begin with an AUDIT the Federal Reserve. Only after this AUDIT could we even comprehend what decades of BLIND TRUST has given us. 2) Cronyism - ALL FEDERAL JOBS (by law) ARE TO BE OPEN TO ALL, and NOT ONLY TO THOSE with CONNECTIONS. I would make sure that the laws are enforced and the Courts are Working to see that justice is served. I would also be tempted for every employee working for the federal government justify their job and have each to reapply for their jobs (during an organized discretionary period). When Only Donor to political campaigns and/or Family / Family Friends are the only people who can gain federal employment, we are setting up a multiple class society (The HAVES and HAVE NOTS). 3) Corruption - THIS IS THE RATS NEST. First would identify where the graft is taking place.

Infrastructure - When your infrastructure fails, you are ripe for failure. Without it, you are no longer a super power. Our infrastructure should have been, and always be our top priority. Congress need to stop all frivolous (selfish) spending and concentrate on where the problems lay. THIS IS A NATIONAL SECURITY EVENT. One the highest problems that exist today is the San Andreas fault line in California. Approximately ever 145-161 Yrs. the San Andreas Fault shifts, the last time this happened was back in the 1850's (1857) and the time before that 1700. This may be difficult for Texans to understand, but within weeks of this so called BIG California Quake, the effects of the California economy being offline will be rippling throughout the rest of the states. It is my opinion California emptied their treasury knowing that this quake is going to shift soon (within years). Knowing that, it was their intentions to hand the bill for the BIG EARTHQUAKE to the all the American people, and this I disagree with. Every State has a duty to maintain infrastructure within their state, especially if it falls under their jurisdiction (state, county, or city), and maintain their own rainy day fund, like we do here in Texas. California should not be able to be irresponsible and endanger the security of neighboring states. There needs to be some kind a fire wall to isolate the effects of their decisions on other states. This is a prime example where this problem with our infrastructure has been ignore by the federal government to such a point it hinders security for all.

JOSHUA DARR • GRN No Response Received

» No Photograph Submitted

JOHN CULBERSON • REP

Protect the Texas economy & our oil and gas industry from the damaging overreach of the Obama Administration's aggressive regulators & tax collectors. Enforce our immigration laws & secure our border using the power of the purse - using this approach I have persuaded the Dept of Justice to start cutting off federal law enforcement grant money to sanctuary cities beginning with San Francisco, New York City, Chicago, Miami & California & Connecticut unless they repeal their sanctuary laws.

Protect our successful Texas economy & our oil & gas industry from overzealous regulators & tax collectors. Protect our neighborhoods from flooding by leading a unified state, local and federal effort to build more retention areas and improving our bayous to move more water more rapidly to the Bay. Restore NASA to the glory days of Apollo by ensuring they have enough funding to preserve American leadership in space exploration, returning our astronauts to the moon and searching for life on other worlds beginning with Jupiter's ocean moon Europa.

I proudly spearheaded the expansion of the Katy Freeway in less than six years with no new federal money bcz I persuaded the US Dept of Transportation to approve the nations first & so far only interstate freeway with locally operated toll lanes in the middle. The Katy Freeway combines expanded free lanes with new toll lanes, HOV lanes & a very successful commuter bus system. Congress needs to make it much easier to recreate combination freeways like this in congested urban areas.



JAMES CARGAS • DEM

Passage of the DREAM Act, which has been pending for 15 years, as part of comprehensive immigration reform that provides a path to citizenship. The Greater Houston Partnership and the vast majority of Texans support this. Immediately raise minimum wage to \$10.10 to stimulate the economy and allow working people their first raise in 17 years. There are so many areas being neglected by our do-nothing Congress. This would be a modest start.

(1) Flood Control. Pass HR 5025 to give US Army Corps of Engineers the funding it lacks to finish Harris County projects. I will also conduct oversight of why their Brays Bayou Project is 8 years behind schedule, and repair Barker and Addicks Dams, which have been in extremely critical condition since 2009. (2) Light Rail. Stop blocking our gas tax dollars from going to METRO so the Galleria and our two airports can be connected to safe and efficient public transportation. This district has the worst traffic in Texas. Widening the roads, which are already the widest in America, is not the only solution. (3) Fully fund biomedical research at pre-2003 levels to benefit our Texas Medical Center and maintain America's lead in science and research. Not only will this save lives, cure terrible diseases, and advance our understanding of medicine, but it will also generate \$2.49 of economic development for every dollar invested.

Having a first class infrastructure system means expanding it to meet the growing needs of a growing nation, but also maintaining the existing infrastructure. Paying for it has been a challenge for a long time. Our more fuel-efficient vehicles now result in less federal gasoline tax revenue generated to maintain our highways and bridges. The current gas tax is becoming more outdated and irrelevant as more electric vehicles take to the road. The Tea Party Congress has failed to take action. Congress must redesign this funding mechanism for the new economy so we can afford to replace crumbling bridges and infrastructure, and meet future needs. Also, America's electricity grid needs to be re-calibrated, rebuilt and expanded for use of renewable energy, storage (including batteries), and traditional peaker-plants to work seamlessly together. Texas is the largest wind producer in the world, is experiencing a boom in solar power, and has its own successful grid. The rest of America is not as fortunate. Finally, I will be committed to keeping the Port of Houston one of the top destinations for commerce in the world. This includes securing funds for homeland security requirements and regular dredging.

DISTRICT 2

DISTRICT 7

Advocates for home district. The House of Representatives has equal legislative functions and powers with the Senate; however, only the House may originate revenue and appropriation bills. Shares power with the Senate to levy taxes, borrow money, regulate interstate commerce and declare war. 2-year term; Salary: \$174,000.

Questions to Candidates: What are your top two legislative priorities?

Identify three issues that directly affect the people in your district and explain how, if elected, you plan to address these issues.

For the U.S. economy to be competitive and to ensure the safety and comfort of all citizens, we need a first class infrastructure system. What specific steps should Congress take to address this issue?

DISTRICT 8 KEVIN BRADY • REP Running Unopposed

DISTRICT 9 JEFF MARTIN • REP No Response Received

AL GREEN • DEM No Response Received

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL • REP No Response Received



TAWANA W. CADIEEN • DEM

Safety and Security for Americans is pivotal. This includes financial safety. As I travel throughout the district, I've heard concerns of many women of all generations who are worried about their financial future. Today, 80% of women currently at retirement age, are statically impoverished. The current Congressman voted against Equal Pay for women, thus adding to the list of impoverished women. Women need an advocate in Congress. I will advocate for seniors and veterans who have given so much.

Security for our children is of utmost importance. Our children are indeed our future. We have an obligation to provide them with educational resources as well as safety precautions. From cyber security to investing in additional safeguards to combat child sex trafficking in Harris County, it our responsibility to assure the safety of all children. Houston is the number one hub for child sex trafficking. Not enough has been done on a federal level to combat this horrific business. I want your children to be safe. I have a longstanding record of advocating for children. I will, in the U. S. Congress, advocate for and initiate bills that will assure the highest level of safety measures for the sake of all children. Disabled children and seniors need representation that values them and will fight for them for therapy, bathroom accomodations, and respite care. Job creation and better paying jobs also extremely important to the district. I will work to enhance job growth.

Regarding the US economy and the need for a first class Infrastructure. A large-scale, efficient infrastructure is a must-have for any economy to function competitively. And that infrastructure needs to be maintained and even updated if a country wants its economy to run smoothly. However, over the last few years since financial crisis, the infrastructure quality deteriorated in many developed countries, including the US, Germany, France, and other countries. As a result, we are not leading the way in terms of infrastructure quality. As a country, we need improve our railroad infrastructure, air transportation, and port infrastructure. In the top 20 countries worldwide for best infrastructure, the US are only 15th for railroad infrastructure and 14th for quality of roads, and was 9th best overall for available airline seats. We need to get Washington to take our Infrastructure problem serious. We need to revamp the Highway Trust Fund, empower state and local governments.

DISTRICT 10



BILL KELSEY • LIB

I will do everything in my power to disengage from foreign entanglements, withdraw from all wars - known and unknown, and bring home our armed forces. I will work to simplify the application process for visas to the United States, and expand the welcome to refugees from conflicts abroad.

I am part of a process in which the citizens will become less dependent on the Federal government and the Federal government in turn will not be collecting as much revenue from the citizens. To that end I will use each and every opportunity to vote against any bill which would increase either expenditures or taxation. I would like to leave the citizens of Texas alone.

I would like to end the financing of highways by the Federal government which amounts to a lavish subsidy for the auto industry, leading to dependence on automobiles and the neglect of mass transit. Such highways as now exist should be maintained and funded by user fees levied on gasoline sales. I welcome the growth of mass transit and its implementation by private industry. Likewise I look forward to the development of alternative energy through private initiatives which are neither subsidized nor impeded by the Federal government.



Useful Telephone Numbers & Websites

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, HOUSTON AREA
www.lwvhouston.org • 713.784.2923

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, ELECTIONS DIVISION
www.justice.gov/crt/about/vot • 800.253.3931

STATE OF TEXAS, ELECTIONS DIVISION
www.votetexas.gov/register-to-vote • 800.252.8683

TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE
SMART PHONE APP FOR VOTERS
www.votetexas.gov/app

HARRIS COUNTY VOTER REGISTRAR
www.hcvoter.net • 713.274.8683

HARRIS COUNTY CLERK, ELECTIONS DIVISION
www.harrisvotes.com • 713.755.6411

CITY OF HOUSTON
www.houstontx.gov • 713.837.0311

HARRIS COUNTY
www.co.harris.tx.us • 713.755.5000

DEMOCRATIC PARTY HARRIS COUNTY
www.hcdp.org • 713.802.0085

DEMOCRATIC PARTY TEXAS
www.txdemocrats.org • 512.478.9800

GREEN PARTY HARRIS COUNTY
www.hcgotxgreens.org • 713.866.6285

GREEN PARTY TEXAS
www.txgreens.org • 713.866.6285

LIBERTARIAN PARTY HARRIS COUNTY
www.harrislp.org • 713.467.2989

LIBERTARIAN PARTY TEXAS
www.lptexas.org • 800.422.1776

REFORM PARTY HARRIS COUNTY
www.harriscountyrp.org • 972.275.9297

REFORM PARTY TEXAS
www.texasreformparty.org • 281.852.2928

REPUBLICAN PARTY HARRIS COUNTY
www.harriscountygop.com • 713.838.7900

REPUBLICAN PARTY TEXAS
www.texasgop.org • 512.477.9821

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Advocates for home district. The House of Representatives has equal legislative functions and powers with the Senate; however, only the House may originate revenue and appropriation bills. Shares power with the Senate to levy taxes, borrow money, regulate interstate commerce and declare war. 2-year term; Salary: \$174,000.

Questions to Candidates: What are your top two legislative priorities?

Identify three issues that directly affect the people in your district and explain how, if elected, you plan to address these issues.

For the U.S. economy to be competitive and to ensure the safety and comfort of all citizens, we need a first class infrastructure system. What specific steps should Congress take to address this issue?

DISTRICT 18



LORI BARTLEY • REP

I included (3) three, because addressing the first two (2) requires addressing the third (3) simultaneously 1. Jobs/Economy (illegal immigration, promoting entrepreneurship, neighborhood restoration/clean-up) 2. National/Local Security (local crime, boarder security, building healthy relationships between communities and law enforcement) 3. Healthcare (Mental Illness, VA Reform, Homelessness, Social Security)

Issues: 1. Jobs/Economy (decreasing poverty, entrepreneurship, neighborhood beautification) 2. National/Local Security (local crime, national security, illegal immigration) 3. Healthcare (Mental Illness, VA Reform, Homelessness, Social Security) The corner stone of every civilized society is individualized empowerment and by addressing the aforementioned issues and finding permanent solutions, we do just that. Reforming programs that are already in existence so that they are empowering, supportive of the nuclear family and self-reliance. Making information easily accessible, as well as, re-writing and reforming current legislation so that it creates empowerment rather than governmental dependency. One also needs to stop funding programs that were put in place to be temporary until a permanent program was established and direct those funds to our military and social security funding. This would only be the beginning, but a strong one.

We need to stop "stuffing pork" into legislation that has nothing to do with a particular issue (i.e. an infrastructure bill has no need for a resolution to reopen a strip mall to be attached to it.) Delegate to States the ability to address their specific infrastructure needs and limit the power of government oversight. Different States and different Municipalities have different infrastructure needs, so that is an issue where State, Local and Municipal Government should have first right of "say" and Congress can oversee their needs and work with them on a limited level. Therefore, cutting red tape and allowing needs to be addressed faster and more comprehensively, because it is being done on a local level. Stepping back and letting the States step-up, would be one of the best things Congress could do to address this issue and many like it. Putting power back into the hands of the people, rather than taking their taxes and telling them what they need, whether they agree or not, is unacceptable. All government is local government, in my opinion, only you know what you need to succeed. I am working to serve the people's needs and not my own. Vote in like minded individuals and we will be the greatest Country on Earth!



SHEILA JACKSON LEE • DEM

Having served as the ranking member of the Criminal Justice Committee on the Judiciary Committee, I have addressed major criminal justice reform issues focusing on sentencing, prison & juvenile justice reform. As the senior member on the Cyber-Security Committee, I have introduced major legislation to protect the private & public sector from the scourge of "hacking". I have continued to work on solutions to stop flooding in Houston as well as to strengthen social security programs for seniors.

(1) Because flooding has continued to be a major problem in our regional area, I've met with decision makers, community leaders, and the Corps of Engineers to discuss the need for a comprehensive study of the regional and surrounding bayous in order to create a Master Plan to alleviate our catastrophic flooding issue. (2) It is important that we continue to work towards full employment in our nation; I've worked on securing a number of amendments that help with outreach to providing jobs at a number of industries which help the constituents in the district. We've added funding to the airport which provides training and additional jobs at H.C.C. I'm also a member of the Full Employment Caucus in the U. S. Congress. (3) I'm a strong supporter of providing adequate health care for all along with quality health care services available in our neighborhoods. (4) We need to bring additional funding to provide homeland security institutes in our immediate area which will provide jobs.

Congress should immediately pass an Infrastructure Restoration Bill which will provide much needed funding for our nation's highway systems, bridges, dams & water systems and much of the interstate transportation. I believe the best tool to accomplish this infrastructure restoration is the creation of an Infrastructure Bank where the public/private funds are utilized to rebuild the system. Also, Congress should continue to fund the Transportation Mobility systems like METRO which eases the heavy burden of traffic in our urban areas like Houston. Cities with efficient transit systems continue to be economically attractive to more businesses and industries when they consider relocation. We should also insure the improvement of the nation's airports with a "next generation" air traffic control system, improved runways at airports across our nation. Finally we should have a secure Homeland Security system safeguarding our borders while recognizing the importance of comprehensive immigration reform.



THOMAS KLEVEN • GRN

First, to work for legislation that will guarantee a job at a living wage to every American who is ready, willing and able to work. In a society as rich as ours, there is no excuse for unemployment and poverty. Second, to work for legislation under which the federal government will fund public education at the elementary and secondary levels, while leaving the running public education to state and local governments. This will help equalize educational opportunity in America.

First, many people in my district are unemployed or underemployed. This is incompatible with what it means to be a democracy. We could easily guarantee a job at a living wage to all who want and need work. I will work to make that happen. Second, because we spend more money educating the children of the well-off than the less-well-off, many children in my district enter adult life at a disadvantage. The purpose of public education is to level the playing field. My proposal to have the federal government finance public education in America will help do so. Third, I favor and will propose legislation requiring everyone to vote. One of the civic duties of citizens in a democracy is to participate in the political process. The fact that many people do not vote has allowed moneyed interests to dominate and to disempower every day people. Requiring everyone to vote will help restore power to the people.

We have allowed the infrastructure of our society to deteriorate. The federal government should finance and organize a public works program to repair and continuously maintain our infrastructure. This is one of the jobs to be included in my proposal for a guaranteed job at a living wage for every American who is ready, willing and able to work. The Constitution requires Congress to promote the general welfare. The general welfare requires employment for all. Truly full employment is essential to a competitive economy that ensures the safety and comfort of all. In Congress I will work to make that happen.

PETE OLSON • REP No Response Received

DISTRICT 22



MARK GIBSON • DEM

My two top legislative priorities are to support women causes and small business initiatives. Specifically, I would support health initiatives that allow full disclosure of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in food products that can directly affect women's health or labeling of products that are produced in countries outside of the US (something that my opponent opposed) and secondly, I would support grant monies for small business startups, which help women-owned businesses.

I plan to address three issues facing District 22. (1) Safety – ensure those who should not have a weapon and avoid background checks, do have them so our schools, churches and way of life is improved from gun violence. (2) Small Business Grants – I want to boost the number of entrepreneurs by providing grant monies through the SBA after meeting certain qualifications and more small business loans without barriers for startups. (3) Healthcare – I want to expand the Affordable Healthcare for small businesses/startups by removing penalties and replace with incentives to allow small businesses to provide healthcare for themselves and their workers.

I would push for a balance between imports and exports, provide incentives to small businesses that create and maintain jobs in the United States, reduce corporate welfare and remove tax incentives to large corporations that shift jobs overseas, and provide more infrastructure dollars for flood control, roads & bridges to local municipalities, but spread the dollars to all small business owners – not just a special few.

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Questions to Candidates: What are your top two legislative priorities?

Identify three issues that directly affect the people in your district and explain how, if elected, you plan to address these issues.

For the U.S. economy to be competitive and to ensure the safety and comfort of all citizens, we need a first class infrastructure system. What specific steps should Congress take to address this issue?

DISTRICT 29 JULIO GARZA • REP No Response Received

GENE GREEN • DEM No Response Received

N. RUBEN PEREZ • LIB No Response Received

JAMES PARTSCH-GALVAN • GRN No Response Received

BRIAN BABIN • REP No Response Received

HAL J. RIDLEY JR. • GRN

» No Photograph Submitted

My priorities are larger than legislation or the election, I believe we need more than cosmetic change, we need metamorphous change. That's caterpillar to butterfly, we are in the cocoon and it's up to us to set us free. I believe in cutting national defense to pay for national health care for all, collage educational assistance by need, infrastructure programs to create good jobs. I believe in borders, ending the drug war, legalize marijuana, end corporate personhood. Equality justice peace.

First I won't be elected but just because you don't have a chance doesn't mean you don't take it. I'm no politician, I don't beg for money. I may be under an overpass with a cardboard sign some day but not yet. The problems we face are larger than the people of this district, yes address local issues but we have a planetary problem, taxes are too high but we are facing a mass extinction and we are the mass. People won't believe this could happen to us but the last extinction 12,000 years ago the cave bear went extinct a 12 ft. high 3,000 lbs. carnivore, big and bad didn't help. Invention and innovation are all we have to pull up from this rapidly descending spiral, we better improvise some wings, quickly. Tragically many solutions we desperately need are here now, they are being ignored, suppressed, or repressed by powerful economic interests vested in the status-quo, these forces are not here to bring change but to stop it. Change isn't what you drop in the cup of the homeless.

Congress does not address issues, they duck, dodge, they run the other way, politicians live in fear, so they lead from the rear. The approval rate of congress is about 10%, I wonder who are the 10%, they must be the congress and the 1% and all their minions and those who would profit from their actions or non-actions. Competition will not ensure safety or comfort but for the winner, what we need is cooperation. Cooperation will beat competition. A cooperative system ensures more equality and justice and peace. A competitive system give us what we have, a ruthless, rapacious, oligarchic kleptocracy - a government of thieves ruled by a powerful few. We do need a 1st. class infrastructure. Rebuilding roads, bridges, mass transit, rail and high speed internet would bring jobs, safety and comfort but most all of the gains in the economy in the last 35 years has risen to the top like cream. Trickle down not so much. Congress is not likely to address the large systemic problems we face as they are at times unable to keep the government functioning. Shutting down the government will not pass for governing. Refusing to carryout Constitutional duties is grounds for being fired. When a Senator or a small group of Congressmen can stop the whole train, that should be addressed, too many with veto power means it doesn't work, which is the reason for the congressional rules that now makes a majority 60%. Thomas Jefferson believed we should have a Constitutional Convention ever so often to bring the government back on track, well it's been 240 years and there is no track left. We and Congress should call for a Constitutional Convention to exclusively and solely strengthen, broaden, and apply The Bill of Rights to every human citizen, to deny corporate personhood and money as speech. Mitt Romney said "corporations are people my friend" he was wrong on both counts. Repo's don't believe corporations are people, they believe corporations are gods and that guy wasn't his friend.

DISTRICT 36

Notice of Required Identification



13-1
Prescribed by Secretary of State
Section 63.0012, Texas Election Code;
U.S.D.C. S.D.Tex.
Civil Action No. 2:13-CV-00193
(Docket No. 895) 9/2016

A voter must show one of the following forms of acceptable photo identification at the polling location before the voter may be accepted for voting, unless the voter has a reasonable impediment to obtaining one of these forms of acceptable photo identification or the voter qualifies for one of the other exemptions identified below:

- Texas Driver's License issued by the Department of Public Safety ("DPS")
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS;
- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS;
- Texas Handgun License issued by DPS;
- United States Military Identification Card containing the person's photograph;
- United States Citizenship Certificate containing the person's photograph; or
- United States Passport.

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the identification must be current or have expired no more than 4 years before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place.

If a voter does not possess one of the forms of acceptable photo identification listed above, and the voter cannot reasonably obtain such identification, the voter has the right to execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration and present one of the following supporting documents: • valid voter registration certificate; • certified birth certificate (must be an original); • copy of or original current utility bill; • copy of or original bank statement; • copy of or original government check; • copy of or original paycheck; or • copy of or original other government document that displays your name and an address (though an original is required if it contains a photograph).

Exemptions: Voters with a disability may apply with the county voter registrar for a permanent exemption to showing an acceptable form of photo identification at the polls. Voters with a religious objection to being photographed or voters who cannot present an acceptable form of photo identification due to certain natural disasters may apply for a temporary exemption to showing an acceptable form of photo identification at the polls. Please contact your voter registrar for more details.

Provisional Voting: If (a) a voter does not possess one of the seven (7) acceptable forms of photo identification, which is not expired for more than four years, and the voter can reasonably obtain one of these forms of identification or (b) if a voter possesses, but did not bring to the polling place, one of the seven forms of acceptable photo identification, which is not expired for more than four years, or (c) if the voter does not possess one of the seven forms of acceptable photo identification, which is not expired for more than four years, could otherwise not obtain one due to a reasonable impediment, but did not bring a supporting form of identification to the polling place, the voter may cast a provisional ballot at the polls and will have six (6) calendar days after election day to present an acceptable form of photo identification, which is not expired for more than four years, in the presence of the county voter registrar.

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

6-year term. Must be at least 25 years old, a Texas resident, and a registered voter. Regulates the oil & gas industry, gas utilities, pipeline safety, safety in the liquefied petroleum gas industry, & surface coal and uranium mining in Texas.

Questions to Candidates: **BACKGROUND:** What training and experience qualify you for this position?

NAME & JURISDICTION: What are your opinions about the Sunset Advisory Commission recommendations regarding (a) changing the name to the Texas Energy Resource Commission and (b) transferring administrative hearings and utility rate settings to other state agencies?

BALANCING INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS: How can the agency move forward with the challenges of regulating energy resources in an environment of continued urbanization, water concerns, and seismic activity?

OTHER ISSUES: Aside from the issues above, what are other serious issues the Railroad Commission will face, and how would you address them?



WAYNE CHRISTIAN • REP

BACKGROUND: During my time in the Texas House, I served as Vice-Chair of Regulated Industries and as a member of the Energy Resource Committee. I am the only candidate in this race with experience in doing what the railroad commission actually does — create an environment that protects our communities while promoting responsible oil and natural gas production.

NAME & JURISDICTION: (a) A name change would provide clarity for the public as to what the Railroad Commission does, however it would also be costly and potentially open the agency up to further regulation from the Federal Government. The Railroad Commission has no authority to change its own name, that responsibility belongs to the democratically elected Texas Legislature. My hope is that if they decide to change the name, they do so through a Constitutional Amendment and not through the Sunset legislation. (b) I am against moving functions of the Democratically elected Railroad Commission to other state agencies that are not accountable to the voters.

BALANCING INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS: Whether the production is happening in urban or rural areas, we must ensure that all energy production is done in a way that is safe and responsible.

OTHER ISSUES: Ensuring we settle the Sunset Review this session is the biggest immediate challenge. If elected, I intend to spend a lot of time in the legislature visiting with legislators about the importance of getting this done this session to ensure certainty for the oil and natural gas industry safety of the public. Continued IT improvements is a necessity, increased transparency of how contested cases are managed, and ensuring the Commission properly identifies permanently orphaned wells as compared to temporarily abandoned wells. These are essential to maintain public confidence in agency oversight. Also, qualified personnel are being lost to other state agencies and other opportunities due to lower pay. This should be reviewed and a plan drafted to preserve qualified personnel.

EDUCATION: BBA in General Business Stephen F. Austin University

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GRADY YARBROUGH • DEM

BACKGROUND: My training in the field of Education, dealing with difficult human problems, qualifies me to deal with varied, and complex issues.

NAME & JURISDICTION: a) The sunset recommendation on name change, I would support. Its the people who sit on the commission that makes critical decisions, not the name itself, however to relieve any confusion about the commission, I would support a name change. b) I would support transferring administration hearing, and utility rate settings to other state agencies. This would, in my judgement, remove the opportunity for commissioners to be tempted into graft, greed, and bribery.

BALANCING INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS: A process of moving forward would be to adapt to the changing demographics of our environment. New practices, and procedures must be adapted in order to meet the growing challenges we face, as a growing state, to meet our Environmental, Educational, and Economical needs going forward. a) As for water concerns, there is a great danger that our drinking supply could become contaminated from refuse water

stored below the surface in caseins. These Storage facilities could shatter with a strong enough earthquake. Therefore, I recommend that Fracking, which leads to Earthquakes, should not be conducted in sensitive areas, such as School playgrounds, and classrooms, Hospitals, Churches, as well as senior citizens residents. The risk is too great for our most vulnerable people.

OTHER ISSUES: The commission has lost confidence with the public, as an honest and transparent agency. I would insist that no commissioner accept any contribution from companies doing business before it. Each commissioner would be expected to sign a pledge, not to accept any moneys, only their regular salaries.

EDUCATION: Obtained a Bachelors degree in Business Education. Also, obtained a Master of Education in Guidance, Counseling, as well as Certification in Public school administration.

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MARK MILLER • LIB

BACKGROUND: 44+ years as a practicing petroleum engineer, 18 of which were spent on the petroleum engineering faculty at UT Austin. Before retiring, had a worldwide consulting practice and was CEO/CTO of a small company that provided software to the oil and gas industry.

NAME & JURISDICTION: I support the Sunset Commission staff recommendations. The Legislature should change the Commission's misleading name in the interest of transparency and good government. Separating judicial proceedings from rule making and regulatory enforcement removes a clear conflict of interest. Whether such conflicts are imagined or real, removing such conflicts will increase public trust.

BALANCING INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS: These issues, which will continue as shale resources continue being developed, should be given top priority. To respond to these and other issues and to improve public trust, the Commission should: a) disavow its role as industry champion, b) continuously sunset review all rules and regulations, c) increase its focus on surface property rights, and d) improve its technical expertise by utilizing outside technical resources.

OTHER ISSUES: The orphaned well program needs increased funding. I will make recommendations to the Legislature to ensure the backlog is quickly eliminated. Voters are increasingly suspicious and distrustful of its Commission. As shale development increases, so will distrust. I will address this by making sure that the Commission: a) increases its technical competency, b) serves all Texans not just a few, and c) has increased public visibility.

EDUCATION: BS Engineering Harvey Mudd College 1972; PhD Petroleum Engineering Stanford University 1983

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MARTINA SALINAS • GRN

BACKGROUND: I have spent the last ten (10) years in the construction industry in both private and public sectors involved in heavy civil projects. To clarify, I am not an industry insider nor am I a career politician. I am just an ordinary citizen, who believes the commission has willing become tone deaf to the concerns of Texas citizens. As an industry outsider, I want to stand for and with my fellow citizens and ensure the commission stops holding private industry profits over the private property rights of Texas Citizens.

NAME & JURISDICTION: I agree with the Sunset Advisory Commission recommendations: A) A name change for the Railroad Commission is long over-due. The proposed name adds further clarity to an otherwise confusing title. B) Other agencies are better equipped to handle the administrative hearings and setting of utility rates.

BALANCING INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS: I believe the state needs to become stricter with what energy companies we allow to work in our beautiful state. We cannot allow subpar operations in this state. I, also, see a need for preoperative assessments to be submitted to the state i.e. the Railroad Commission before any operations are allowed to proceed. Pre-existing conditions such as air quality, water quality, and fault line locations need to be documented and submitted throughout all

operations. In the reality, the agency needs funding to hire more well site inspectors. But in all honesty, all these problems will be avoided when Texas transitions to a sustainable clean energy source such as; wind, water, solar, geothermal, and hydroelectric.

OTHER ISSUES: The oil and gas industry has a long and proud history in Texas, but the boom and bust cycles of fossil fuel development are devastating to many local economies. Texas needs to develop a sustainable energy plan. The Commission should become the prompter and facilitator for renewable energy development and usage. Texas needs to become an international renewable energy innovative leader. In recent months, the commission has once again shown they do not hold the public interest as their priority. As has been reported, the commission for the past 30 years has allowed the oil industry to inject industry wastewater without the necessary permits required. It has failed to track that wastewater and allow it to possibly contaminate our aquifers in which we rely on for 60% of our water use.

EDUCATION: Bachelor's of Civil Technology in Construction Management-University of Houston

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6-year term. Must be age 35-74 years, a U.S. Citizen, a Texas resident, licensed to practice law in Texas, a registered voter, & have at least 10 years experience as a lawyer or judge. Hears final appeals of decisions on civil cases & attorney discipline, issuing writs of mandamus/habeas corpus, & conducting proceedings for removal of judges.

Questions to Candidates: **BACKGROUND:** What training and experience qualify you for this position?
IMPARTIALITY: How do you maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns?

PUBLIC PROTECTION: The Texas Supreme Court has administrative control over the State Bar of Texas, licenses at-torneys, and appoints members to the Board of Law Examiners. What rules or procedures are needed to provide protections for the public?

OTHER ISSUES: What are the most important issues facing a Supreme Court Justice, and how would you address them?



DEBRA LEHRMANN • REP

BACKGROUND: With a total of 28 years judicial experience, I have served on this Court for over 6 years and have written on a vast number of complex legal matters including oil and gas, contract interpretation, commercial, corporate and securities law, tax, torts, family and probate law, civil procedure & evidence.

IMPARTIALITY: The importance of judicial independence—that is, the duty to apply the law equally and neutrally to all parties—cannot be overstated. It is imperative that judges serve with humility, that they exercise restraint, and that they fairly and neutrally apply the law equally to all litigants. I am bound by the Code of Judicial Conduct to apply these principles across the board, and never waiver in my obligation to do so.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: I have the honor of serving as the Court's liaison to the Board of Disciplinary Appeals and the Commission for Lawyer Discipline. In this capacity, I have devoted many hours to ensuring that complaints are handled in an efficient and just manner. The recently enacted Civility Oath is an example of the Court's ongoing concern that lawyers conduct themselves with utmost professionalism at all times.

OTHER ISSUES: I will continue to work with my colleagues to ensure our caseloads are handled in a proper, yet timely manner so we do not have backlogs of unresolved cases. On the administrative side, I will also remain active with the Access to Justice Commission which performs a vital role in helping all Texans get quality legal representation regardless of their ability to pay.

EDUCATION: A member of Phi Beta Kappa, I graduated with high honors from The University of Texas in 1979 and The University of Texas School of Law in 1982; I am a candidate for an L.L.M. in Judicial Studies from Duke University School of Law.

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MIKE WESTERGRENN • DEM

BACKGROUND: More than 30 years of broad judicial experience, civil, family law, and criminal. I received the award of Outstanding District Court in 1995. My first elected office was Justice of the Peace. After one term, I was elected Nueces County Attorney for two term. Appointed District Judge in 1984 and was subsequently elected until retirement at the end of 2000.

IMPARTIALITY: Contributions to my campaign are capped at \$50 per donor.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: The legal system has become so expensive that as a practical matter, it is only available to the very wealthy. Effort should be made to make legal services more available to more people. See next response.

OTHER ISSUES: A judge is not allowed to comment on how he or she will rule in a particular matter, but as a general matter the Court must devote more attention to making legal services available to more citizens of Texas. The major way that this can be done is by simplifying the law. Much of the complexity of the law is unnecessary and should be make more simple and understandable.

EDUCATION: Juris Doctorate, University of Texas School of Law, 1970; Bachelor of Arts, University of Texas at Austin, 1967; Associates of Arts, Del Mar College, 1965

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KATHIE GLASS • LIB

BACKGROUND: I have over 30 years experience as a practicing trial and appellate lawyer. I have worked in small, medium, and large firms, and headed my own law firm. I have no ties to any industry, labor union, corporation, or special interest. Cronyism has corrupted the two party system including our courts. I am not a Republican, not a Democrat, and -- definitely -- not a crony. We need justices who will adhere to the United States and Texas Constitutions and the Rule of Law.

IMPARTIALITY: I have no ties to any industry, labor union, corporation, or special interest. I am not a crony. I have raised no funds from any of those entities. I have only raised funds from myself and other liberty-minded individuals. My three top donors are me, myself, and I. Texas voters can be assured that I will adhere to the United States and Texas Constitutions and the Rule of Law and refuse to do the bidding of the cronies.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: A free people need a functioning legal system. The Supreme Court must protect our Texas Constitutional right to a jury trial. Rules of Civil Procedure, which the Court oversees, must make jury trials easier, cheaper, and faster, and less subject to attack on appeal. A court of discretionary review, the Court must take more cases where a jury trial was denied in order to give teeth to these Rules. It must issue more written opinions so the public knows the Rule of Law is being followed and decisions based on well-known principles, and not decided ad hoc to benefit favored persons or groups.

OTHER ISSUES: A free people need a functioning legal system. Our Texas Supreme Court is the highest court regarding Texas law but acts as if it is subservient to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court must nullify unconstitutional opinions by the U.S. Supreme Court by refusing to treat them as binding precedent. Slavish adherence to wrongly decided precedent has gutted the protections of both our federal and Texas Constitutions. Texas justices must honor their oath to enforce both Constitutions. I will honor my oath even if I stand alone on the Court and the U.S. Supreme Court has wrongly ruled otherwise.

EDUCATION: University of Georgia, B.A., English 1974 University of Georgia, J.D. 1977

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RODOLFO RIVERA MUNOZ • GRN

BACKGROUND: Born an "Indian" in Texas on 1945, I came to realize Invader-Americans were falsely claiming to be the "Ultimate Sovereign" from here. Litigation has established this putative state was fraudulently established and has no jurisdiction over me because the rule of law permits only "the people" to establish such and it does not here exist. I am the only candidate who knows and understands this and therefore the only candidate qualified to work to establish a government under the rule of law here!

IMPARTIALITY: By presenting my case myself, I continue to work with others only for message dissemination understanding that the responsibility for truth and also for the consequences is strictly mine. I accept no corporate donations and while I expect to raise funds to get the word out, my focus will remain to disclose the truth by not engaging in the deception of the Americans in the past but in getting the truth before the voters so they can make up their own mind. Humanity must recognize and acknowledge that "Indians" are human right imbued even if Americans have never so recognized and acknowledged.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: The best protection for the public is genuine and sincere adherence to the rule of law. The U.S. Constitution is a marvelous document but it continues to be availed off to deceive my People and the world as well as posterity. We must apply the rule of law. Amendment of the Constitution must be fairly pursued after all People are told the truth and permitted a reasonable opportunity to prepare for all necessary redress and renewed and/or revised articulation of the law. The ultimate objective must be to allow the Autochthonous to have a completely fair and equal input into all future law.

OTHER ISSUES: It is impossible to go back and try to "re-invent the wheel" but we must pursue a society which accords all within its borders, equal justice under law. It is therefore imperative that the System in place continue to function as it presently does so that the Texas Supreme Court works towards formal recognition and acknowledgement of the truth but also adheres, in all future articulations, to the established precedent so long as fully consistent with the rule of law. The Court must officially recognize and commit itself to making today's society what it should have had historically become!

EDUCATION: University Of California, Los Angeles, School Of Law, J.D. Dec. 10, 1976. University Of California, Los Angeles, Bachelor Of Arts, Political Science, Sept. 7, 1973. Moorpark College, Moorpark California, Associate of Arts; Sept. 1971. Never attended High School - became educated about rule of law

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6-year term. Must be age 35-74 years, a U.S. Citizen, a Texas resident, licensed to practice law in Texas, a registered voter, & have at least 10 years experience as a lawyer or judge. Hears final appeals of decisions on civil cases & attorney discipline, issuing writs of mandamus/habeas corpus, & conducting proceedings for removal of judges.

Questions to Candidates: **BACKGROUND:** What training and experience qualify you for this position?
IMPARTIALITY: How do you maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns?

PUBLIC PROTECTION: The Texas Supreme Court has administrative control over the State Bar of Texas, licenses at-torneys, and appoints members to the Board of Law Examiners. What rules or procedures are needed to provide protections for the public?
OTHER ISSUES: What are the most important issues facing a Supreme Court Justice, and how would you address them?

PAUL GREEN • REP No Response Received



DORI CONTRERAS GARZA • DEM

BACKGROUND: I am in my fourteenth year of service on the 13th Court of Appeals. I have authored over seventeen hundred opinions, and I have participated in more than five thousand cases as a panel member. I have exhibited the strong work ethic and even-handed temperament that is necessary in an appellate judge.

IMPARTIALITY: I maintain impartiality by disregarding the identities of the parties, lawyers and judges that are involved in each case. I make my decision based on the law and the facts of each case, and nothing else. I firmly believe that voters and campaign contributors want, first and foremost, to have a jurist on the court who will treat them fairly and impartially, and who will apply the law accordingly.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: Currently, there are adequate rules in place for the protection of the public; in particular, the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct. At this time, I do not believe additional rules are necessary. However, enforcement of the rules must be strengthened. Too often, attorneys and judges engage in misconduct that causes

unfair results to litigants who are then left with little recourse.

OTHER ISSUES: The most important issue, and a central theme of my campaign, is the need to restore balance to the Court. For more than twenty years, the Court's nine justices have all been of the same party and judicial philosophy. Many Texans have lost faith in the Court because these justices have consistently favored big business and big government, at the expense of individual litigants and consumers. I will provide a perspective that is lacking.

EDUCATION: Pharr San Juan Alamo High School – May 1976; University of Texas at Austin – BBA in Accounting, December 1980; University of Houston Law Center – Juris Doctorate, May 1990.

PHONE: (956) 655-9206

EMAIL: justicedori@gmail.com

WEBSITE: <http://justicedori.com>

PLACE 5



TOM OXFORD • LIB

BACKGROUND: I have practiced law for over thirty years. My practice has included successfully arguing cases before both the Texas Supreme Court and the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

IMPARTIALITY: Not a serious problem since I neither seek nor accept contributions. Any candidate who accepts money and doesn't acknowledge it will have some influence on their decisions isn't being honest with us.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: The system is reasonably effective as it currently exist. We need to continue to encourage non lawyer participation in the grievance system.

OTHER ISSUES: The most important issue is the preservation of our right to a Jury

trial in civil matters. The Texas Supreme Court has, over the past 20 years, steadily eroded that fundamental element of our judicial system. In case after case the Court has rejected the well thought and rational decision of a jury and replaced it with the Court's view of the facts. Curiously this almost always results in a decision against the "little guy" and in favor of big business or big government.

EDUCATION: University of Texas, Political Science University of Houston, Doctor of Jurisprudence

PHONE: (409) 363-4988

EMAIL: oxford@waldmansmallwood.com



CHARLES E. WATERBURY • GRN

BACKGROUND: I have been practicing for almost 25 years on behalf of people who otherwise would have no legal representation. I have seen first hand how having a Texas Supreme Court run by insurance companies has destroyed hundreds of years of Texas Common Law in the pursuit of increasing insurance companies' profits.

IMPARTIALITY: I do not raise funds nor accept donations.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: The proper protections are theoretically in place however the implementation and enforcement no longer occurs.

OTHER ISSUES: After thirty years of precedent destruction, the challenges are

almost infinite. But I believe that should the Texas Supreme Court be returned to the people of Texas rather than moneyed interests then the immense challenges can be met and over come.

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science Texas Christian University 1989 Cum Laude Juris Doctor Baylor University 1992

PHONE: (214) 630-4554

EMAIL: charles@waterburylawpc.com

WEBSITE: <http://www.waterburylawpc.com>

PLACE 9



EVA GUZMAN • REP

BACKGROUND: As a sitting Texas Supreme Court Justice and a former intermediate appellate court and trial court judge, I have presided over hundreds of cases and ruled on thousands of civil and criminal appeals. I bring to my daily work, a conservative judicial philosophy, a strong work ethic, superior credentials and a firm commitment to excellence. Leaders in the legal community have given me high marks for my performance on the bench. These accolades attest to my strong track record of service.

IMPARTIALITY: As judicial candidates, we have an obligation to inform the public about our qualifications and the issues in judicial races. Under the present system, funding for judicial races comes from many sources, including lawyers. But, importantly, the many Texans that have supported my campaign expect and ask only one thing: that I perform my duties with the dignity, honor, honesty and integrity that is expected of the office -- it is a request that I am proud to uphold each and every day.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: As a Court, we best serve the public when we promulgate rules that protect the public and that are fair to all stakeholders in our system of justice. The present rules are imperfect and should be revisited to address changes made necessary by new technologies, 21st century practice models, and other

substantive areas that may allow potentially unethical conduct to go unsanctioned. An effective rule-making process will include input from the public and the Bar and should be a priority for the Court.

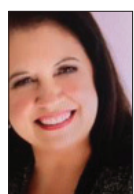
OTHER ISSUES: We must all be introspective and continue to evaluate how well we do our jobs. I believe the Court must continue to improve transparency so the public's confidence in our system of justice is strengthened. We must work to manage our docket as efficiently as possible. We should also continue to improve access to the courts by poor Texans and expand Veterans and Drug courts. There are many Texans with incomes at or below the poverty level who cannot afford to hire a lawyer. As a justice on our State Supreme Court, I am committed to the work of the Court's Access to Justice Commission.

EDUCATION: Duke University School of Law, L.L.M. Judicial Studies South Texas College of Law, Juris Doctor University of Houston, B.B.A.

PHONE: (512) 637-4223

EMAIL: info@evaguzman.com

WEBSITE: <http://www.evaguzman.com>



SAVANNAH ROBINSON • DEM

BACKGROUND: 32 years of trial and appellate practice.

IMPARTIALITY: I haven't raised funds.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: I'd like the Texas Supreme Court to be more pro-active in assisting pro se (self represented) parties. This has been started. The TxSCT has forms for simple divorces on its website. That could be clearer, more streamlined, and possibly with a "wizard" to help people fill them out. I also think procedures for small estates, or simple estates, could be streamlined, made less confusing, and forms provided. I am also concerned with the lack of good interpreters, especially in South Texas.

OTHER ISSUES: Voting rights. I don't know how I would address them - the case is not before me.

EDUCATION: High School - College Station ISD College - Rice University Law School - University of Texas Law School

PHONE: (979) 922-8825

EMAIL: savannahrobinson@aol.com

6-year term. Must be age 35-74 years, a U.S. Citizen, a Texas resident, licensed to practice law in Texas, a registered voter, & have at least 10 years experience as a lawyer or judge. Hears final appeals of decisions on civil cases & attorney discipline, issuing writs of mandamus/habeas corpus, & conducting proceedings for removal of judges.

Questions to Candidates: **BACKGROUND:** What training and experience qualify you for this position?
IMPARTIALITY: How do you maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns?

PUBLIC PROTECTION: The Texas Supreme Court has administrative control over the State Bar of Texas, licenses attorneys, and appoints members to the Board of Law Examiners. What rules or procedures are needed to provide protections for the public?
OTHER ISSUES: What are the most important issues facing a Supreme Court Justice, and how would you address them?

TEXAS SUPREME COURT, JUSTICE, PLACE 9, continued from previous page

PLACE 9



DON FULTON • LIB

BACKGROUND: I have experience in the following courts: The US Supreme Court, The US Court of Appeals 5th Cir., United States Dept. of Justice, Board of Immigration Appeals, Texas Supreme Court, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Texas Courts of Appeals, at Fort Worth, Dallas, and Waco. Trial courts: US District Court, US Bankruptcy Court, US Immigration Court, State Courts in Tarrant, Dallas and 33 other counties. Tengo experiencia en todos los tribunales mencionados

IMPARTIALITY: I do not solicit or accept campaign contributions. I do not run charities or other shams to hide influence peddling. I have not been groomed by a big firm, former employer, who has continuing business before the court. I rely heavily on the free social media and do not accept the premise that I need to raise funds. Yo no solicitar ni aceptar las contribuciones de campaña. No puedo ejecutar obras benéficas u otros shams para ocultar el tráfico de influencias. No he sido arreglados por una gran empresa, ex empresario, quien ha continuado las actividades ante la corte. Confio mucho en la libertad

PUBLIC PROTECTION: The Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure should be amended to prevent any justice of an appellate court from seeing or learning the name of the lawyer of law firm filing a request for relief That info being kept solely in the clerk's office. This would do more to get campaign contributions out of the decision making process than all the other laws. The Court should recommend a Texas Rule of Ethics to prohibit an attorney from accepting employment in a case where the judge is a former partner or one to whom the attorney have given over \$250 in campaign funds. I have more suggestions than space.

OTHER ISSUES: See my recommendations above as to campaign finance. The Court should also undo the damage is had done with its amendments to the Rules of Civil Procedure for Justice of the Peace Courts. The 2013 amendments were very favorable to debt collection companies and creditors other than the original creditor. These amendments have the "appearance of impropriety". Por favor, debe ver mis recomendaciones anteriores en cuanto a la financiación de la campaña. El Tribunal también debe deshacer el daño que se ha hecho con sus enmiendas a las Reglas de Procedimiento Civil de los Juzgados de Paz.

EDUCATION: Arlington High School, 1968 (honors) University of Texas at Arlington, 1972 B.A. Economics, (Honors) Army ROTC Distinguished Military Student, Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, Commissioned in Army 1972; S.M.U. Law School, Juris Doctor, 1976

PHONE: (817) 296-5015

EMAIL: donfulton@lawyersline.com

JIM CHISHOLM • GRN No Response Received

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS • JUDGE

6-year term. Must be age 35-74 years, a U.S. citizen, a Texas resident, licensed to practice law in Texas, a registered voter, & have at least 10 years experience as a lawyer or judge. Reviews all death penalty cases & applications for habeas corpus in felony cases, hears final appeals on criminal cases, & administers publicly funded judicial and attorney education.

Questions to Candidates: **BACKGROUND:** What training and experience qualify you for this position?
IMPARTIALITY: How do you maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns?

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: What, if any problems, exist with the current methods for appealing the death penalty? Additionally, when should the death penalty be sustained or overturned?

OTHER ISSUES: What are the most important issues facing your court, and how would you address them?

PLACE 2



MARY LOU KEEL • REP

BACKGROUND: I have served as a felony trial court judge for over 21 years. Before that I served as a trial and appellate prosecutor, and my first job after law school was as a briefing attorney at the First Court of Appeals. I have been board certified in criminal law since 1990. My career has focused on criminal law and has combined felony trial and criminal appellate experience making me uniquely qualified to serve on the Court of Criminal Appeals.

IMPARTIALITY: I maintain impartiality by making rulings based on the law and the evidence.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: The biggest problem is delay, but that is largely due to the federal writ process, which is out of the hands of the State of Texas. The death penalty should be sustained or overruled in a particular case depending on whether (1) the evidence supported the conviction and sentence and (2) the proceedings were administered fairly and in accordance with the law.

OTHER ISSUES: I would like to see the Court of Criminal Appeals issue more decisive opinions that are clearly written and that delineate bright line rules for the administration of criminal justice in the trial courts of Texas. I would address these issues by writing clear opinions and sticking to them when possible, consistent with the pursuit of justice.

EDUCATION: JD, University of Houston, 1985; BA, University of Texas, 1982.

PHONE: (713) 755-6778

EMAIL: judgemlkeel@gmail.com

WEBSITE: http://www.maryloukeel.com

LAWRENCE "LARRY" MEYERS • DEM No Response Received



MARK ASH • LIB

BACKGROUND: Twenty-three years as a solo and small-firm lawyer representing persons charged with crimes in both state and federal courts. Also, I have represented numerous indigent persons through the court appointment system.

IMPARTIALITY: I do not accept campaign contributions. Judges must be impartial and must recuse themselves in any case in which their impartiality may be questioned. I will honor my oath to impartially, follow the law and not participate in any case where my impartiality is questioned.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: The death penalty is not a penalty per se. Executions are state-sanctioned killings. The alleged offender's life is shortened for the primary purpose of providing retribution to members of the victim's family. Life without the possibility of parole is usually a more reasonable alternative to the death penalty and should be sustained whenever possible.

OTHER ISSUES: A Court of Criminal Appeals judge's most important duty is to be loyal to the letter and spirit of the United States and Texas Constitution. Decisions of appellate courts must be well-reasoned, logical and most importantly, follow existing laws including constitutional laws.

EDUCATION: BS in Medical Technology, UT/EI Paso; 1985 JD, South Texas College of Law, 1992

PHONE: (713) 571-1603

EMAIL: markashlawyer@yahoo.com

ADAM KING BLACKWELL REPOSA • GRN No Response Received

6-year term. Must be age 35-74 years, a U.S. citizen, a Texas resident, licensed to practice law in Texas, a registered voter, & have at least 10 years experience as a lawyer or judge. Reviews all death penalty cases & applications for habeas corpus in felony cases, hears final appeals on criminal cases, & administers publicly funded judicial and attorney education.

Questions to Candidates: **BACKGROUND:** What training and experience qualify you for this position?
IMPARTIALITY: How do you maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns?

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: What, if any problems, exist with the current methods for appealing the death penalty? Additionally, when should the death penalty be sustained or overturned?

OTHER ISSUES: What are the most important issues facing your court, and how would you address them?

PLACE 5

» No Photograph Submitted

SCOTT WALKER • REP

BACKGROUND: No Response
IMPARTIALITY: No Response
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: No Response
OTHER ISSUES: No Response

EDUCATION: Graduated with honors from Dallas Baptist University. Juris Doctorate from Baylor School of Law.
PHONE: (817) 478-9999
EMAIL: scott@lawyerwalker.com
WEBSITE: http://scottwalkerforjudge.com

BETSY JOHNSON • DEM No Response Received

WILLIAM BRYAN STRANGE, III • LIB No Response Received

» No Photograph Submitted

JUDITH SANDERS-CASTRO • GRN

BACKGROUND: Practicing attorney for 35 years.
IMPARTIALITY: Have accepted and do not iNo
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: I do not support the death penalty, period. All evidence concerning the convicted person's background through out childhood should be considered by a panel of experts and submitted to the judge and/or jury before sentencing..Juries consideration should be limited. When a person s found to have limited ability to understand the sentencing, the death penalty should be overturned.

OTHER ISSUES: The lack of understanding of the public of the court and its responsibilities. No term limits.

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Fine Arts; Doctorate of Jurisprudence
PHONE: (210) 643-5732
EMAIL: jscaastro49@gmail.com

PLACE 6



MICHAEL E. KEASLER • REP

BACKGROUND: 48 years criminal law experience --- 2 years private practice, 12 years prosecutor, 17 years trial judge, 17 years on State's highest criminal court; leadership positions at every phase of career; clarity, consistency, and common-sense of judicial opinions; demonstrated work ethic; national reputation for judicial teaching and scholarship.
IMPARTIALITY: I have not received donations from lawyers who practice before our court. The appearance of impropriety in fundraising is terrible, but I believe that the vast majority of judges are fair and impartial despite appearances. Regrettably, few people outside the legal profession are knowledgeable and interested enough in judicial races to contribute money.
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: The current methods of appealing death penalty cases are generally thorough and comprehensive. Both direct and collateral (habeas corpus) review are routinely conducted, and scores of state and federal trial and

appellate judges examine each death penalty imposed in Texas. Cases should be overturned when new evidence casts doubt on the accused's guilt, mitigates his or her punishment, or when due process has been denied.

OTHER ISSUES: New developments in DNA mixed-sample protocols. Our Court is currently addressing these issues by funding judicial, prosecutorial, defense attorney, and law enforcement training as well as monitoring recent Harris County public defender efforts to identify inmate cases that warrant DNA retesting.

EDUCATION: B.A. University of Texas at Austin, 1964 L.L.B. University of Texas School of Law, 1967
PHONE: (512) 633-5508
EMAIL: mekeasler@yahoo.com
WEBSITE: http://judgekeasler.com



ROBERT BURNS • DEM

BACKGROUND: No Response
IMPARTIALITY: No Response
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: No Response
OTHER ISSUES: No Response

EDUCATION: 1990 Juris Doctor, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas 1986 Bachelor of Arts, Austin College, Sherman, Texas 1982 graduate of Richardson High School, Richardson, Texas
PHONE: (214) 653-5902
EMAIL: rburns@dallascounty.org

MARK W. BENNETT • LIB No Response Received

What is Provisional Voting?

The Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 provides for provisional voting if a voter's name does not appear on the list of registered voters due to an administrative error. If your name is not on the rolls of registered voters in your precinct, but you believe you are registered, the election judge will attempt to determine if you are registered somewhere in your county. If your registration cannot be found, you may cast a provisional vote by filling out an affidavit and a paper ballot. This ballot is kept separate from the regular ballots, and the case will be reviewed by the provisional voting ballot board. The ballot will be counted only if the voter is determined to be a registered voter in that precinct. Provisional voters will receive a notice in the mail by the tenth day after the local canvass advising them if their provisional ballots were counted and, if they were not counted, the reason why.

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4-year term. Must be 26 years old or older, a U.S. Citizen, a Texas resident, and a registered voter. Oversees curriculum standards, instructional materials, graduation requirements, new charter school applications, and the Texas Permanent School Fund; appoints board members to military reservation/special school districts.

Questions to Candidates: **BACKGROUND:** What training and experience qualify you for this position?

LONG RANGE PLAN: The SBOE is selecting a facilitator to assist with planning and preparation of a long range plan for education. What is your vision for public education to identify core values that will guide Texas education into the future?

EDUCATION FUNDING: What is your opinion about the Texas Supreme Court decision that Texas education funding is Constitutional but inadequate and inefficient?

OTHER ISSUES: What are the most important issues facing the SBOE, and how would you address them?



DONNA BAHORICH • REP

BACKGROUND: I have served on the SBOE for four years and was appointed by the governor as the SBOE chair. With Mountain Bell, I worked as a contract negotiator responsible for contracts totaling millions of dollars. I served as the district director for my state senator managing constituent issues and working closely with district school superintendents on education issues at a state level. I have also worked in Austin during a legislative session on state education issues to support the role of vice chair of senate education. In addition, my experience at planning and teaching curriculum for 13 years for my own sons and other children gives me valuable insight into the difficult, demanding task of educators. I bring a broad background in business, education and legislation to the work of the Board.

LONG RANGE PLAN: We need to specify and then align the system to support the desired profile of the learner and educator. Strong alignment & support will change TX education. We must fundamentally begin with how to better attract, train, support & retain our teaching force. Certifications, whether from 4-year or alternative programs, must mean that teachers are classroom-ready with clinical experience to teach our demanding curriculum standards & work with students of varied needs & at varied levels. At a state level, we must ensure that we are making exemplar, just-in-time resources available to support high quality classroom teaching for all educators to take advantage of, incredibly important considering the wide range of experience & local district support levels. Better, more aligned teacher support is vital. For students, we must define & then determine success by embracing a broader view of student achievement than reliance on a 1-day test, while holding common expectations for all TX students.

EDUCATION FUNDING: The Supreme Court decision made clear that the legislature has the duty to evaluate and correct the overly complicated school funding formula that is to ensure equity in supporting our public schools. I certainly hope they take up the charge to do so. For the Board's part, we take very seriously our fiduciary

responsibility over the Permanent School Fund, providing funding for instructional materials (IMs) for all TX classrooms. My background in financial management has been extremely valuable for this, our only constitutional role. The PSF stands at \$35.7 billion and has become the largest educational endowment in the country, surpassing Harvard two years ago. Another vote will be taken in November, but strong managerial direction and performance will enable us to increase support for IMs from \$196/student to about \$218/student for the upcoming biennium.

OTHER ISSUES: It is important to discuss what I've done since the voters entrusted me to represent them on the Board. Highlights: 1) launched a series of statewide community conversations & an online survey (27,000+) to involve educators, parents & business leaders to help shape the future of state testing & accountability; 2) ensured that curriculum standards are online during revision to engage educators & experts; 3) required publishers to now provide a public portal enabling broad feedback during textbook reviews; 4) initiated series of roundtables, titled "Educating the Digital Generation" & "Educating the Children of Poverty," to discuss critical issues in TX education, bringing together national & state experts & practitioners to support policy makers & education leaders; 5) spearheaded rules requiring districts provide computer coding class opportunities to all high school students. I will work to continue advancing processes to increase transparency, improve standards & textbook quality.

EDUCATION: 1977 BS Financial Management-Virginia Tech, 1990 MA Counseling-Liberty University

PHONE: (832) 303-9091

EMAIL: donna@donna4texas.com

WEBSITE: http://donna4texas.com

DISTRICT 6



R. DAKOTA CARTER • DEM

BACKGROUND: I have actual experience working in public schools before becoming trained in child development/learning through my MD--my clinical practice helps kids that struggle in our school system and puts me in contact with families every day. I currently teach at UTHealth and in the community, and I continue to develop curriculum and texts with my second doctorate in education I am working on. I want to take the experiences I have as a teacher in public school, my experiences developing curriculum and texts, and the everyday clinical practice I have in helping children struggling in our schools to bring an educator's voice to represent our district. This board should be run by educators and parents seeking to bring their experiences in public education to make the best decisions for our children.

LONG RANGE PLAN: We must get politics and cronyism out of our classrooms. Our children are being politicized and are no longer becoming critical thinkers. We must have a curriculum that is based in fact and research and is developmentally appropriate--meaning students are not being measured to know material that they are not cognitively/developmentally ready for. We must get away from high-stakes testing and ensure that our teachers are able to do their job and not teach to an exam that is based on flawed standards, lacks empirical research, and penalizes our kids based on a snapshot of their achievement. Teachers must be supported, we must help our students that struggle the most--special needs, English Language Learners, low socioeconomic--and allow experts to be involved with the creation of texts and curriculum. The board needs more educators making decisions that have classroom experience that are not focused on political battles, privatizing education, or taking money from our public schools.

EDUCATION FUNDING: It's a complicated, flawed system. I wish the court had ruled that the funding system was unconstitutional. Anyone that has been in public education has seen the struggles our school districts have and understand that the convoluted financing of our schools makes educating difficult. The State Board, itself, is over \$36 billion that few people know about, and fewer understand. I would

like the public to understand more about the Texas Permanent Fund and would make that a goal, if elected. Our legislature cut billions from the budget years ago, and our schools continue to struggle. We must make financing our public schools a priority and alter our current system to offer adequate funding, especially to our poorer districts that so often lack resources and the ability to adequately compensate seasoned teachers and administrators. We must also stop advocating for private school vouchers and ensure that tax dollars stay with our public schools to help our students and teachers.

OTHER ISSUES: 1) Political agendas on the board must be stopped. Our curriculum/textbooks should be based in facts, evidence, and research and appropriate for developmental level. Experts should be required to sit on review panels to ensure the highest quality of education materials are approved. 2) Our standards drive the STAAR exam, and we must change our focus on high-stakes testing. Changing the curriculum to be more developmentally appropriate would aid in this problem while also advocating as a board member against this exam that is focused more on profit than education. 3) More teachers/families involved in this process and less politicians with no ties to education. I would advocate for decisions to be made after talking to educators. 4) Helping our struggling students (poverty, special needs, English Language learners, etc.) through additional resources. 5) Increase opportunities for vocational training and options for students not pursuing college. GEDs should also be more affordable.

EDUCATION: 2014-Present, UTHealth, Dept. of Psychiatry, Adult/Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; 2015-Present, University of Houston, Ed.D in Curriculum, Leadership and Instruction; 2010 - 2014, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, M.D.; 2006 - 2010, University of North Texas, Bachelor of Arts

PHONE: (806) 216-0109

EMAIL: dakotafortx@gmail.com

WEBSITE: http://dakotafortx.com

WHITNEY BILYEU • LIB No Response Received

DISTRICT 8 BARBARA CARGILL Running Unopposed

**Get it right:
Think Blue & White!**

Your current Voter Registration Certificate (VRC) is blue and white. It contains the most up-to-date information about your precinct number and representative jurisdictions.

STATE SENATOR

Member of upper house in Texas Legislature. Advocates for home district. With Texas House of Representatives legislates, confirms gubernatorial appointments to administrative and judicial posts, participates in the initiation of proposals for constitutional amendments, and tries officials impeached by the Texas House. 4-year term.

Questions to Candidates: What programs will you prioritize as essential for funding?

Texas has an uninsured rate of 17.1%, 2.2% higher than the next highest state. How can Texas increase the availability of health care coverage for Texans?

What can the Texas Legislature do to ensure that all Texas children, including children with special needs, get a quality education?

DISTRICT 4 BRANDON CREIGHTON • REP No Response Received

JENN WEST • LIB No Response Received

DISTRICT 6 SYLVIA R. GARCIA • DEM Running Unopposed

DISTRICT 11 LARRY TAYLOR • REP Running Unopposed

BORRIS L. MILES • DEM No Response Received

JOSHUA ROHN • LIB



I think the bigger question is, "what should be the role of government in our lives?" I believe some of the biggest issues facing this state are police abuse, mass incarceration, and the war on drugs. We need to hold all agents of the state, especially police and prosecutors, to a higher standard of conduct. We need to end civil forfeiture, the death penalty, and minimum mandatory sentences. Furthermore, we need to legalize marijuana, and treat other drug offenses as a health issue, not a criminal issue.

Because of the Affordable Care Act, this issue has mostly been taken out of state's hands. The question is, does a federal approach or local approach work best for providing lower income groups healthcare? I believe it is the later. What works for California, where the medium income is much higher, might not work for Texas. We need to take a hard look at this issue from a non-partisan position, and figure out a better plan for Texans.

Our public school system is broken. It is especially failing children in lower-income areas. As an educator, I've seen the effects our public school bureaucracy has on our kids' education. I believe we should give agency back to the parents to decide what's best for their children's education. School vouchers have worked wonders in other areas, and I believe they should be given a chance here in Texas.

DISTRICT 13

DISTRICT 18 LOIS W. KOLKHORST • REP No Response Received

KATHIE L. STONE • LIB No Response Received

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Member of the Texas Legislature. Advocates for home district. Originates all bills for revenue and appropriation of funds for operation of state government. Working with State Senate legislates, initiates proposals for constitutional amendments, brings any charges of impeachment for trial in the Senate. 2-year term.

Questions to Candidates: What programs will you prioritize as essential for funding?

In order to ensure the integrity and accuracy of elections, do you favor the development and adoption of a fully secure online voting system for Texas? Please tell us why or why not.

Texas has an uninsured rate of 17.1%, 2.2% higher than the next highest state. How can Texas increase the availability of health care coverage for Texans?



KEVIN ROBERTS • REP

I will prioritize the following programs:

- Child Protective Services and Foster Care
- Mental Health
- Border Security
- Public Education
- Infrastructure

I oppose the implementation of an online voting system primarily on the basis of security. Currently, we do not have the capability to create a "fully secure" system that cannot be breached and manipulated by those with malicious intent. While there will always be potential for voter fraud, creating an online system where the identity of the user cannot be confirmed increases that potential immensely.

I believe that the best way to increase the availability of health care coverage for Texans is to focus on improving the current health care delivering system. This can be achieved by utilizing the free market and allowing private health care organizations to compete versus the Government playing the central role in the delivery of care to the indigent and uninsured population.



JOY DAWSON-THOMAS • DEM

I will work on school funding because I believe education is the key to a successful career and better quality of life. While working as a police officer, I learned that a lot of society's issues stem from a lack of a good education to provide better opportunities. Texas ranks 43rd nation-wide in K-12 education. I will not stop fighting to change that low ranking, and I'll work hard to secure the funding needed to invest into our children's futures.

Electronic online voting technology reduces the cost of setting up an election, provides improved accessibility for disabled voters and will increase overall turnout. However, we must make sure that we have a good transition and sustain polling locations for people who are unfamiliar with online voting technology.

We have time and time again allowed political grandstanding to turn away billions of dollars paid through our income taxes. By refusing these funds that could be utilized for health care, our current leaders are willfully denying adequate health care to millions of Texans. Ultimately, leaving Texans who are affected the most no choice but to resort to public hospital emergency rooms for care, which in turn has increased our local property taxes and gave way to higher insurance premiums to cover the cost of that care.

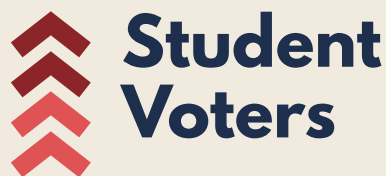
» No Photograph Submitted

ERIC B. MOQUIN • LIB

My first and foremost priority is to ascertain which programs should be cut. Beyond that, what programs I look to fund would be those in which my specific constituency tells me to, as long as those programs are consistent with constitutionality.

I am hesitant to support any digital voting system, as it opens the voting system up to corruption.

Texas should pressure insurance companies to lower the costs of insurance plans in our state. Texas should also audit healthcare providers and pressure them to lower those costs. Texas should apply pressure to those two industries to decrease paperwork as well.. we should also scrutinize lawsuits and throw out those which are obviously fraudulent.



Students may use either the family address or school residence address for voter registration. They must vote in accordance with that registration.

All voters, including students, who will be away from their voter registration address on Election Day and during Early Voting may request a paper mail ballot by visiting the Harris County Clerk's office at www.harrisvotes.com or phoning 713-755-6965. The last day to request a mail ballot is Friday, October 28, 2016.

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In order to ensure the integrity and accuracy of elections, do you favor the development and adoption of a fully secure online voting system for Texas? Please tell us why or why not.

Texas has an uninsured rate of 17.1%, 2.2% higher than the next highest state. How can Texas increase the availability of health care coverage for Texans?

DISTRICT 127

DAN HUBERTY • REP No Response Received



SCOTT FORD • LIB

As a teacher myself, I want to see our schools get the proper funding. However, this doesn't mean we increase budgets. I have seen first hand too many times schools receive big bumps in funding only to spend the money top down. This still requires our teachers to spend ridiculous amounts out of their own pockets. Instead, I want to see bottom-up spending. Classrooms are fully funded first then move up to district offices. No teacher should have to count their photocopies while administrators get car and cost of living allowances.

My M.Ed. from Texas A&M is in Educational Technology. I am also a geek at heart and enjoy new technologies. In regards to this particular issue, I believe this is something that we will need to figure out soon. However, when we still have questions regarding voting integrity with our current system it is an issue that must be resolved first. I would however fully support the E-voting system as presented by David Bismark in his TED talk (http://www.ted.com/talks/david_bismark_e_voting_without_fraud)

Free-market is the answer. We need to end the mountains of needless regulations and allow health insurance companies bid for our business. The more competition that we have in the marketplace the better the coverage and the lower the cost.



JOSEPH MCELLIGOTT • GRN

The state of Texas receives the most of its funding from the sales tax, federal funding, severance tax and the franchise tax. The Texas legislature has continually cut taxes for the 1% over the last decade and it is evident in the K-12 classrooms. Because of the educational formula funding and corporate appraisal loopholes my goal will be to convert the state gold depository into a state public bank similar to North Dakota's to fund healthcare and education. Last but not least, medicaid expansion is a top priority for my campaign and the people of Texas. The Texas legislature has cut \$5 billion in Taxes for corporations and it would only cost roughly \$2 billion to expand medicaid in Texas. For Texas to be competitive in a 21st century global economy we need medicaid expansion, free community college and a state-wide paid parental leave insurance program

I fully support a non-partisan idea like online voter registration in the state of Texas. The Texas legislature proposed online voter registration in 2015 when 20 states were using this form of voter registration only to have it blocked by partisan-politicians like state representative Mike Schofield (Katy) and Harris County Tax Assessor Collector Mike Sullivan (Houston). In the last 2 years roughly 11 states have created online voter registration programs. Currently 31 states use online voter registration saving taxpayers money, streamlining voter registration and bringing voting systems into the 21st century. I will continue using my campaign and state representative office to expand voting rights for all Texas.

Medicaid expansion is currently the easiest and best solution for expanding healthcare for millions of children and families while saving Texans money in their property taxes. It would cost Texas roughly less than 2% of our annual budget to expand medicaid. There are roughly 5-6 ways to finance medicaid expansion in the state of Texas: close commercial appraisal loopholes, close sales tax loopholes, create a state public bank, replace the franchise tax with a simpler corporate income tax similar to 42 other states, use a portion of the state rainy day fund and tie certain taxes to CPI to keep up with inflation.

DISTRICT 128



BRISCOE CAIN • REP

The State of Texas is charged with funding a few very basic items. Recently, government has grown too large to properly manage their basic priorities. I believe that the state should re-prioritize our budget by ensuring that the biggest items, such as water, infrastructure, transportation, and education are properly funded.

Voting is one of the most sacred acts in a Democratic-Republic. Therefore, my priority is protecting the integrity of each vote by re-instating voter ID laws and ensuring ballot-counting is performed in a transparent and fair way. It is foolish to expand methods of voting before first making sure our current process is honest, accurate, and fair.

Unfortunately, regulations have crippled businesses and stifled economic growth even in Texas. I would like to lift uninsured people out of poverty by ensuring Texas has a fair and competitive business environment free of burdensome and unnecessary regulations.

KEN LOWDER • LIB No Response Received

DISTRICT 129 DENNIS PAUL • REP Running Unopposed

DISTRICT 130 TOM OLIVERSON • REP Running Unopposed

DISTRICT 131 ALMA A. ALLEN • DEM Running Unopposed

DISTRICT 132 MIKE SCHOFIELD • REP No Response Received

PHIL KURTZ • LIB No Response Received

DISTRICT 133 JIM MURPHY • REP Running Unopposed

Military & Overseas Voter Eligibility

Harris County registered voters can cast their ballots even if they are temporarily living abroad. If any of these categories apply to you, visit www.harrisvotes.com or phone 713-755-6965 for more information.

- A member of the U.S. Armed Forces, their spouse or a dependent;
- A member of the U.S. Merchant Marines, their spouse or a dependent;
- A U.S. citizen domiciled in Harris County Texas but temporarily living outside the territorial limits of the United States.

Information courtesy of www.harrisvotes.com

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DISTRICT 134



SARAH DAVIS • REP

Public education, graduate medical education, child protective services, mental and women’s healthcare, and working with various agencies to speed up flood control efforts along Brays Bayou. However, legislators will have to make some difficult decisions in order to balance the next state budget. The decline in oil prices has impacted state revenues to such an extent that Gov. Abbott, Lt. Gov. Patrick, and Speaker Straus have asked state agencies to cut their budget requests by 4% for the next budget cycle.

I’m opposed to online voting over the Internet. It is not secure from fraud or manipulation. We’re seeing examples of that every day even in systems that are classified or “hacker” proof. I support expanding the number of early vote locations and maintaining a convenient voter ID program as the best option. I also support ways to easily register new voters.

The state should continue cost effective programs to encourage early treatment in order to avoid costly hospitalizations later on. We need to work with the federal government to fix the mess they created and allow Texas to develop a system that works for our state. Our doctors and hospitals need less red tape and regulation so they can help fill gaps in coverage. Most importantly, the state needs to address the physician shortage. Insurance is of no consequence if there are no providers.



BEN ROSE • DEM

Many of my positions, like effective equal pay laws, common sense gun laws or supporting a woman’s right to choose, require no funding yet can make a profound difference in the state. My top budgetary priority is funding our schools. Early education programs are vital to our communities, so I support creating an affordable pre-k program for working families. In order to properly fund schools, we need to restructure the school finance system so that funding is no longer taken from HISD and given to wealthier school districts. Furthermore, I pledge not to support any cuts to our education system. Representative Davis voted for the largest single public education cut in the history of the state of Texas. Over her time in the legislature, she has consistently supported Tea Party measures to slash school funding and increase classroom size. We deserve better. Our children deserve better.

Yes, Texas should adopt a fully secure online voting system. We trust the internet with everything from our emails to our bank account information. Implementing such a system would make voting especially more accessible to working parents, college students and the disabled. If a proposal comes forward to implement an online voting system, with no chance of voter fraud, I will support it.

I support measures to expand Medicaid using federal funds. Rep. Davis and Dan Patrick led the charge to reject the federally funded Medicaid expansion last year- declining \$100 billion over the next decade while also forcing Texans to foot the bill for the \$5.5 billion in annual costs for treating uninsured people. That was not a fiscally responsible decision. Over 1 million eligible Texans will remain uninsured. To make matters worse, insured Texans will see their premiums increase as the system compensates for this lack of funding. The Houston Chronicle explained Rep. Davis’ stance on Planned Parenthood, “She last year backed banning Planned Parenthood clinics from the health program because of their affiliation to those who perform abortions, although the clinics themselves don’t provide abortions.” My stance on this issue is clear: I will always fight back against attempts to defund Planned Parenthood. The work they do saves lives. I’m proud to stand with Planned Parenthood.

GILBERTO “GIL” VELASQUEZ JR. • LIB No Response Received

GARY ELKINS • REP No Response Received

DISTRICT 135



JESSE A. YBANEZ • DEM

In 2011 the legislature removed \$5.4 billion from the education budget. As a result, thousands of teacher positions were lost. Pre-kindergarten was, for the most part, eliminated. School funding: While school funding was increased in 2013, Texas must increase the amount of money that public schools receive to account for the increasing number of students that have enrolled in schools since the budget cuts in 2011. Texas must fund public schools, at a minimum, at per student funding equal to the national average. However, Texas should fund the public schools at a per student funding higher than the national average. Pre-Kinder funding: Continues to be under funded. Texas must increase the amount of money that public schools receive for special programs such as Pre-Kindergarten. Pre-kindergartens focus on building a child’s social, physical, emotional, and cognitive development. All a must before entering first grade. Teacher pay must be considered.

In some instances yes. In some instances no. Yes: Currently, there is online voting at some colleges, universities, corporations and organizations. These online voting systems are limited in scope and reach and are not generally subject to unauthorized access to voter database. No: In the case of state and national online voting system, according to the FBI and CIA, currently there is no system available that will prevent unauthorized access to voter database. There is no time frame for such a system to be available. Acceptable, individual online identification would need to be developed as part of the system. Additionally, state laws would have to be amended and/or changed in order to allow online voting.

Texas should accept the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and expand Medicaid. Texas is leaving \$10 billion on the table each year ACA is not accepted. Approximately \$5 billion is lost by hospitals due to uninsured people going to emergency rooms. As a result, Texans pay an average of \$1800 a year more in health care insurance. Accepting ACA will not only help those who qualify for Medicaid; it will also lower health care insurance cost for everyone.

It’s in the Details.



Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, 2016

On Election Day, Harris County voters must vote in their precinct of residence. We encourage everyone to check out your polling location before you head to the polls. You can find information about your precinct number and your Election Day voting location by visiting the Harris County Clerk’s website at www.harrisvotes.com or phone 713-755-6965.

Early Voting and Ballots by Mail

The dates for in-person Early Voting are Monday, October 24 through Friday, November 4. Early voting polling locations and hours can be found on page xx of this Voters Guide. Any registered Harris County voter may cast an early ballot at any early voting location in Harris County.

Some voters may qualify to vote by mail. The request for a mail ballot must be received by the Harris County Clerk no later than Friday, October 28. Please visit www.harrisvotes.com or phone 713-755-6965 for complete information.

Poll Watchers

Various groups or campaigns may qualify to send poll watchers to polling places. Poll watchers must wear a form of identification prescribed by the Secretary of State of Texas and may not attempt to communicate with, impede or intimidate a voter in any way.

Early Voting and Ballots by Mail

Should you encounter any problems casting a ballot, remember that you can always ask for a Provisional Ballot. You may also contact the Harris County Clerk at 713-755-6411, the Texas Secretary of State Election Division at 800-252-8683 or the United States Department of Justice at 800-253-3931.

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KENDALL L. BAKER • REP

Education (especially language immersion programs and STEM teaching), public safety programs, active work-source client training, transportation, border security, infrastructure, health care and criminal justice reform initiatives.

Professionals are not convinced that there is such thing as a "fully secure" online voting system. Even if a "fully secure" system was created, I would then worry about both voter fraud and voter disenfranchisement. It is better to keep our elections open and honest for all Texans.

Texas must work especially hard to bring power back from Washington and let more Texans make decisions for themselves. Our system is set up to reward innovation, and incentives allow us to search out the best solutions, provide higher levels of care, and do it at lower costs for all Texans. When Texas allows Washington to call the shots, we are then beholden to quotas and mandates established by people who do not understand our unique environment. The current system run by Washington D.C., does not reward innovation and best practices, it only rewards compliance and enrollment numbers. Demanding that Texas make our own health care decisions and develop our own innovative solutions will allow us to provide more available coverage options to those currently uninsured. Waiting for Washington to tell us what to do, will not insure more Texans.

DISTRICT 137



GENE WU • DEM

Texas must prioritize the funding of programs that ensure a bright future for all children: Public Education, Child Protective Services, and Juvenile Probation. First, Texas has yet to fully restore education funding from the draconian cuts made by the 2011 Legislature. Our state spending per student consistently ranks near the lowest among all states; and this shows in our graduation rates and achievement levels. The largest problem for the Texas economy is not a lack of jobs, but a lack of educated and trained workers. If we want a stronger economy and we believe that education is key, then we must make education funding a priority. Second, we must adequately fund the agency that is tasked with protecting abused, neglected, and trafficked children. Lastly, we must modernize the way we treat juvenile delinquents and help them find a better future. While there are other important state programs, protecting our children is my highest priority.

Absolutely. I believe both that our democracy is strongest when more of our citizens are engaged, and that our electoral process must join the rest of the nation in the 21 century. As a society, we have used email and the internet for over two decades now. We trust our electronic systems to manage our health, our savings, and the most personal details of our lives. We live in an age of unparalleled technological advancement in all other aspects of our lives. But, right now, registering to vote properly in Texas depends on whether an administrator can read your hand-writing on the card that you mailed through the post office. As your state representative, I have supported legislation to modernize our state's election system. I continue to believe that we have the ability and the technology to make electronic registration and voting secure and reliable for all citizens. Our democracy will be stronger for it.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has helped reduce the number of Texans who are uninsured, but, because we have not adopted a key provision of the law, a significant number of Texans with the lowest income levels still remain uninsured. Many other states have done more to lower their uninsured rates by adopting this provision and expanding Medicaid. Texas, meanwhile, has slid even further from national insured rates. About 1 million Texans fall into this "coverage gap" because they make too much money to qualify for traditional Medicaid, but too little to qualify for subsidies; they must simply endure without the protection of health insurance. By not expanding Medicaid, the burden of providing healthcare to the uninsured falls on the individual counties and local taxpayers. We should expand Medicaid so people can keep working, but still enable them to finally obtain health insurance.

DAN BIGGS • LIB Unable to Contact

DISTRICT 138 DWAYNE BOHAC • REP Running Unopposed

DISTRICT 139 JARVIS D. JOHNSON • DEM Running Unopposed

DISTRICT 140 ARMANDO LUCIO WALLE • DEM Running Unopposed

DISTRICT 141 SENFRONIA THOMPSON • DEM Running Unopposed

DISTRICT 142 HAROLD V. DUTTON, JR. • DEM Running Unopposed

DISTRICT 143 ANA HERNANDEZ • DEM Running Unopposed

Registering to Vote

Tuesday, October 11, 2016 was the last day to register to vote in this election for first-time Harris County voters or to update your registration name or address. You can confirm your registration at www.hcvoter.net or by phoning 713-274-8000.

WHO CAN REGISTER?

To register to vote, you must be

- a citizen of the United States,
- a resident of the county, and
- at least 18 years old on Election Day.

You must not have been declared mentally incapacitated by a court of law. If you have been convicted of a felony, you may register to vote only after you have completed the punishment phase of your conviction, including any terms of incarceration, parole, supervision, or period of probation ordered by the court.

WHERE DO I REGISTER?

You can register

- in person at the voter registration office in your county, or
- fill out an application that can be mailed (or faxed with follow-up by mail) or returned in person to the voter registrar in your county of residence.

Please visit www.hcvoter.net or phone 713-274-8000 for more information.



**Friend us.
Trend with us.
Be social with us.**

Find the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area on social media sites! You can find us on Facebook at [FACEBOOK.COM/LWVHOUSTON](https://www.facebook.com/LWVHOUSTON) or on Twitter at [TWITTER.COM/LWV](https://twitter.com/LWV).

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DISTRICT 144



GILBERT PENA • REP

1. Education; I will work on education reform so that parents can have better chose for their children future.
2. Health; over 28% of the people in my district live below the poverty level and need afford health care.
3. Taxes; residents in the district are complaining that their taxes are to high, so I will continue to work on cutting Taxes.
4. Jobs; I will work on getting rid of the franchise tax which could help on creating more jobs.

I will not favor an online voting system until we can get rid of voter fraud. There are people who register under different names and voter ID had stop some of that fraud. With online voting what to keep me from registering my wife under her maiden name and marriage name, she can then vote twice. This is why some kind of photo ID is needed to vote.

If Texas wants to increase the availability of health care; then we must get rid of Obamacare.



MARY ANN PEREZ • DEM

I will prioritize expanded pre-k funding, as well as funding for Early College High School (ECHS) initiatives. Additionally, I will also prioritize funding for workforce development programs to ensure that school-to-job pipelines are strengthened and our economy remains competitive in the international market.

Texas must adopt a voting system that is both secure and accessible to all eligible Texas voters. Already, so much of our daily economic activity occurs securely online, so it stands to reason that our electoral process should adapt to modern technology as well. There is no reason why a safe platform for online voting should not be pursued. It is for these reasons that I support the development of an online voting system for Texas.

Texas continues to stubbornly refuse billions in federal dollars to fund Medicaid expansion. This is poor public policy, as those dollars are already appropriated by the federal government, and our state is simply giving away its fair share of Medicaid funds to other states, in the process turning down a financial resource that could lower our uninsured rate without having to raise a single cent in state taxes. For these reasons, I support the adoption of full Medicaid expansion.

DISTRICT 145 CAROL ALVARADO • DEM Running Unopposed



SHAWN THIERRY • DEM

Although the Texas Education Agency is currently one of the most well funded agencies in the state, it is evident that our local school systems have infrastructures with largely unmet needs. The Texas Education Agency is currently in the bottom third from all 50 states in per student spending. A Texas Education Agency analysis two years ago found that schools with the highest student performance ratings were generally those that spent more on their students. Clearly, Texas needs to make a better effort to ensure that the budget takes into account the social capital of our communities and in that respect, their educational needs. In addition to this, ensuring that our communities have the appropriate health and human services and programs who support the welfare and increasing transportation needs of our growing cities is crucial.

After Texas' regressive, and exclusionary voter ID law was considered discriminatory against minority voters by the Texas 5th Circuit of Appeals earlier this year, issues with voting standards and regulations across the state became much more apparent. Developing and adopting a fully secure online voting system for Texas should ensure the integrity and accuracy of elections. By doing this, our state should be capable of guaranteeing precise voting results.

Texas continues to have the highest rate of children and adults without health insurance. With Republicans like Gov. Abbott filing lawsuits against the U.S. government and the Affordable Care Act, Texans continue to feel the burden of not having medical insurance. According to the Texas Medical Association, Texas' 28 largest cities, including Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, and Austin, had a greater percentage of their population without insurance than the collective United States. During this upcoming TX Legislative Session, we must fight to break the stigma created by Republicans of the Affordable Care Act by informing Texans of its many benefits, and to push for the implementation of the Act by having strong legislative champions working toward the common goal of ensuring that the population of Texans with health care coverage increases.

DISTRICT 146

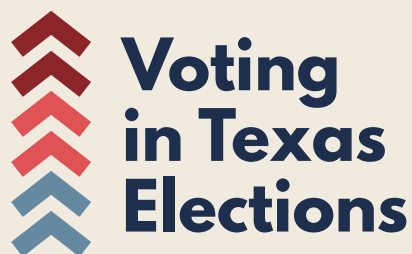


ROY OWENS • DEM Write-In Candidate

1 Education is my highest priority. The education of our citizens dictates the future of Texas. Our national education rank fell to 43 in the 2016 U.S. national report. According to 2016 Dallas Morning News in May of this year, Texas spends less than \$9,600 per student, in comparison to the \$12,200 national average. There is a direct correlation between investment and product. Our kids are worth the investment, as are our displaced workers. 2 We must invest in the infrastructure of Texas. By rebuilding we can stimulate local neighborhood economies and local businesses. 3 We must bringing diverse industries to Texas to avoid statewide economic dependency on oil prices. Through diversification, our state budget will be less dependent on oil industry revenue.

I am in favor of adopting fully secured online voting system for Texas and the Nation. Voting is not only a right, but a privilege. Statisticbrain.com reports in the 2012 Presidential election, fewer than 58% of registered voters cast ballots. We must make every attempt to capture the will of the people who will be governed. According to a January 2016 survey, by GOBankingRates, 43% of Americans file taxes online. The IRS has proven that serious business can be transacted online. It's time for voting to step into the 21st century.

Our medical centers are the envy of many nations. We must provide Texans the best health care available. By cutting red tape in Austin, federal dollars designated for subsidizing the cost of insurance and prescription drugs will enable more Texans to have access to top quality health care.



In the General Election in November, you can vote for any candidate you wish, regardless of whether you voted in a party primary or runoff or participated in a party convention. All candidates from all parties are on the same ballot.

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MATT MURPHY • REP

Our communities are the core of our strength as a city and state. I believe that if we know our neighbors name, including those that choose to protect us, then we are obligated to look after them regardless of our differences. However, several factors including the misappropriation of our funding away from programs that strengthen our communities has diminished the strength of our core strength. We need be investing in local communities now to bring people together and be a catalyst for lasting change. Keeping spending and taxes low is the best path for Texans to achieve more prosperity. I propose that we adopt a second consecutive Conservative Texas Budget, increase the 2018-2019 total budget by less than the estimated increase in the rate of population gross plus inflation based on actual data for fiscal years 2015-2016, and increase transparency in our budget processes. Finally we need to eliminate any programs and funding that focus on giving a "hand out" instead of a hand up.

One of our greatest problems that we face in Texas is voter apathy. Historically, there have been several factors that have prevented or discouraged voters from going to the polls and casting their vote for the candidates they believe will truly represent their voice. Majority of eligible voters feel that their vote does not matter. My belief is that if you don't vote, then you don't matter, yet you are still held accountable to the decisions that are made on your behalf by elected officials. Before we can consider alternative ways to vote in the State of Texas, we need to provide better ballot security to make sure that all votes are counted correctly and are from eligible and verified voters. We need to be able to provide a stronger sense of transparency and accountability to the current voting system to prevent voter fraud. Let's fix the source of the problem before finding alternative ways to attack the surface of the problem.

In recent years, state lawmakers have experienced pressure to expand socialized health care under the Affordable Care Act. Health care expansion has been proven ineffective in other states because it did not reduce uncompensated care cost, but instead increased cost for coverage. According to the Congressional Budget Office, federal spending on Medicaid alone will more than double over the next decade, increasing from \$265 million to \$572 million. We are losing physicians because nearly 70% will not accept Medicaid patients, thus forcing them to seek primary care in hospital emergency rooms or forgo needed treatment altogether because the demand far exceeds the supply. We need to resist calls to expand Medicaid and the ACA and instead focus on improving the existing program. I am skeptical of the "Texas Solution" or similar proposals for expansion as they are typically disguised as Medicaid reform. I also believe we should balance the demand with greater free market competition.



GARNET F. COLEMAN • DEM

Healthcare, Public Education, and Higher Education. The funding for these three essential state services have yet to recover from the funding cuts of the 82nd (2011) Legislative session. With Healthcare we need to ensure that the Medicaid reimbursement rates in Texas are sufficient enough to allow providers to stay in business and continue to accept new Medicaid patients. Medicaid Expansion would greatly increase the federal funding available to Texas to ensure that more Texans would have access to healthcare. Increased funding for Public Education is also needed because, it shouldn't matter where you go to school in Texas. Because all public schools should have the funding available to provide their students with the resources and teaching to ensure each student reaches their full potential. More funding needs to be given to support Higher Education as well with the goal of making college more affordable.

Yes, however my focus right now when it comes to voting is to remove the barriers currently preventing people from voting. Such as allowing people to register online, instead of having to print out their registration and send it in. Also allowing for day of registration. Increasing the days of early voting. Crafting language to ensure all registered individuals can vote, after the striking down of Texas' Voter ID law.

Texas should do Medicaid Expansion. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services over 1 million more Texans would gain coverage, if Texas was to do Medicaid Expansion. Expanding Medicaid is the easiest and best thing Texas could do to lower the uninsured rate. In addition to Medicaid Expansion, Texas also needs to do more to educate people that insurance can be purchased on the Marketplace with the help of federal premium tax credits, that they may qualify for coverage under Medicaid, and that coverage may be available for their children under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).



BRIAN M. HARRISON • GRN

All working Texans should be able to support their families. I will prioritize a living wage for state workers while fighting for a \$15 minimum wage for all Texans. Education spending per pupil in Texas is too low. We must ensure that our professional educators have the resources they need to teach effectively. Texas should provide pre-k to all students, and tuition-free university or technical schooling to all students. For political reasons, Texas does not receive its fair share of federal Medicaid money. While fighting for a single payer plan covering all Texans, we must expand Medicaid to increase access to healthcare. To encourage recycling of bottles and cans, I would prioritize any needed start-up funds for a container deposit program. I support a special prosecutor, funded by the state and working with local review boards, to prosecute police violence. County prosecutors are too close to police departments and an independent office should handle this vital public function.

I support greater popular involvement in government and politics more broadly. Politicians can ignore important working and middle class issues when our participation is low. We must increase voter turnout to create a healthy and participatory politics. I support same-day voter registration to ensure every Texan can vote. I oppose any law requiring proof of a voter's identity, as these restrictions are politically motivated and disproportionately affect people of color and people with lower income. I support any method that would increase citizens' access to the ballot box, whether by expanding early voting, voting on Saturdays, voting by mail, or online voting. To maintain confidence in the result, any online voting method must be secure from tampering or fraud. In addition, online voting should not replace more traditional forms of voting, but should expand citizens' options and the availability of the ballot.

Healthcare is a human right. It is morally wrong that a person should suffer or die due to lack of healthcare in a city with a world-class medical center. Furthermore, rising premiums squeeze insured Texans and people go without care as deductibles and out of pocket costs go higher. Meanwhile health insurance companies make a profit, pay their executives excessive salaries, and costs spiral out of control. We need a single-payer, universal healthcare system. While such a system would be best at the national level, Texas should not let the federal government hold us back. We can have a state-based system, as is being explored in other states. We must use any federal programs currently available to increase access, such as expanding Medicaid, while fighting at the state and federal level for a single-payer system.

DISTRICT 148 JESSICA CRISTINA FARRAR • DEM Running Unopposed



In this General Election edition of the *Voters Guide*, the candidates are listed in ballot order.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • Continued

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DISTRICT 149



BRYAN CHU • REP

Education and Child Protective Services have already been given priority in the next session by the Speaker. I agree, because Education is my top priority and because the DFPS is in shambles and costing lives. Part of my funding priority is to broaden school choice and to increase funding for skilled trade training to help more Texans leave minimum wages jobs and get into more "middle" jobs and make Texas more competitive.

With the hackings and other actions that are taking place on the internet, I do not at this time. I think that the "ballot box" should be an isolated and untouchable by outside forces. I do favor the electronic ballots and other new technology now in use, but the risk of putting it one the internet at this time is too great.

Better coordination between Hospital Districts, non-profits/charity clinics and other healthcare providers can help to cut costs and the expensive and unneeded overuse of emergency rooms for non-critical care. The administrative paperwork burden causes too many "Mom & Pop" and tradesman employers to forgo coverage. If we could reduce or transfer some of that, I feel more small employers would provide coverage. As a Dentist, I see consistent waste that allows some assistance recipients receive comparably lavish benefits while working families receive none, causing them to skip needed primary care.



HUBERT VO • DEM

Adequate and equitable funding for public schools is the first priority.

I would support online voting but only if we can ensure it is accurate and secure. Voting online will bring voting into the 21st century by allowing people who are busy with family and work to participate in elections more easily.

Texas needs to expand Medicaid coverage to take advantage of federal funding. We should not allow our tax dollars to be given to other states.

DISTRICT 150



VALOREE SWANSON • REP

Education, roads and highways, safety and law enforcement, and border security are all top priorities for funding.

I support technological advancements in secure voting and favor voter photo ID.

I favor fewer regulations in healthcare coverage, thereby increasing competition and lowering free market prices.

MICHAEL SHAWN KELLY • DEM No Response Received

COURT OF APPEALS

6-year term. Must be age 35-74 years, a U.S. citizen, a Texas resident, licensed to practice law in Texas, a registered voter, & have at least 10 years experience as a lawyer or judge. Reviews all death penalty cases & applications for habeas corpus in felony cases, hears final appeals on criminal cases, & administers publicly funded judicial & attorney education.

Questions to Candidates: **BACKGROUND:** What training and experience qualify you for this position?
IMPARTIALITY: How do you maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns?

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: What, if any problems, exist with the current methods for appealing the death penalty? Additionally, when should the death penalty be sustained or overturned?

OTHER ISSUES: What are the most important issues facing your court, and how would you address them?

CHIEF JUSTICE • 1ST COURT OF APPEALS



SHERRY RADACK • REP

BACKGROUND: I have 17 years 8 months judicial experience dealing with civil, criminal, family, probate, and juvenile law. For 3 years, I served as Judge of the 55th District Court presiding over civil cases. I have served on the 1st Court of Appeals for 14 years 8 months with 13 years 8 months as the Chief Justice. As Chief Justice, I have many administrative duties and experience working with the Texas Legislature. Working with state officials in Austin, I have been able to obtain the funds necessary to retain quality attorneys and staff to promote the efficient, prompt, and accurate disposition of cases.

IMPARTIALITY: I simply follow the law when I write my legal opinions.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: The Texas intermediate Courts of Appeal do not review death penalty cases. Anyone convicted and given the death penalty has an

automatic appeal to the State's highest criminal court, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin.

OTHER ISSUES: Ensuring prompt, efficient, and accurate disposition of cases. I have exhibited my ability to work with the Texas Legislature to ensure that adequate funding is provided to the Court to allow for stable retention of quality lawyers and staff. Such retention allows for all parties involved to be assured of efficient, prompt, and accurate disposition of their cases.

EDUCATION: B.A., Rice University, 1974 J.D., University of Houston School of Law, 1991

PHONE: (713) 248-7818

EMAIL: sherry@radack.com



JIM PEACOCK • DEM

BACKGROUND: With over 35 years of experience I have tried hundreds of trials and many appeals. I represented plaintiffs that were injured by others, but I also represented corporations and other business entities at trial on commercial issues. I have been both a prosecutor and defense attorney on criminal cases. Some of my cases were very complex and took years of preparation. I tried civil juries as long as 5 weeks in trial, and criminal trials that lasted months. My cases were in such diverse areas as commercial torts, contract disputes, fraud, slander, libel, usury, medical malpractice, civil rights violations, disability discrimination, racial discrimination, sexual harassment, premises liability, DWI, assault and murder. I have supervised and trained other attorneys and support staff.

IMPARTIALITY: With 35 years of experience I anticipate wide, diverse support. Having spent my career building a reputation as an honest attorney that thinks and acts independently, I am not beholden to any person or group. No campaign contribution can buy my ruling. All people have biases, but jurists are bound to follow the law and rule impartially regardless of personal bias. My reputation, and history of good moral character insure impartiality. Honor is proven by conduct, and Integrity cannot be bought.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: Unreasonable delay. "Justice delayed is justice denied" is still true. The expense of capital appeals is extreme. There are many reasons for the costs and delay. Compounding these problems is inadequate representation. If lawyering is inadequate, by the State or Defense, then justice is not served, precedential value is erroneous, and costs and delay are inevitable. Therefore,

the critical issue is to ensure quality counsel, on both sides. Better lawyers should obtain a more efficient, honest and just system. Although paying for better attorneys and support services would initially cost more, the benefits could eventually reduce delay, cost and injustice. The death penalty should be sustained when it is based on the truth and is just, and overturned in all other instances.

OTHER ISSUES: Our system of justice is for everyone, not just the powerful and wealthy. Access to the courts must be protected and we should assure the right of all people to seek redress in the courts. Denial of trial by jury should be scrupulously scrutinized to protect our 7th Amendment rights. Our system must be honest and fair with the ultimate goal to provide justice. The appearance of judicial activism, favoritism and bias must end. The judicial process should not be to pick a winner and then shoehorn the facts into the law to compel a fit. A system that favors either side is, by definition, unfair. I would assiduously defend the 7th Amendment. I would also seek to make representation available to all regardless of wealth or status. My rulings will be based on facts and law and not bias.

EDUCATION: Texas Tech University School of Law: Doctor of Jurisprudence, May 1981, Board of Barristers. Best Advocate Award. Rice University: B.A., Biology & Behavioral Science 1977, President's Honor Roll, Varsity Basketball. Lamar High School: Honors Graduate. Lanier Junior High and Poe Elementary School

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WEBSITE: http://peacockforjustice.com

6-year term. Must be age 35-74 years, a U.S. citizen, a Texas resident, licensed to practice law in Texas, a registered voter, & have at least 10 years experience as a lawyer or judge. Reviews all death penalty cases & applications for habeas corpus in felony cases, hears final appeals on criminal cases, & administers publicly funded judicial & attorney education.

Questions to Candidates: **BACKGROUND:** What training and experience qualify you for this position?
IMPARTIALITY: How do you maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns?

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: What, if any problems, exist with the current methods for appealing the death penalty? Additionally, when should the death penalty be sustained or overturned?

OTHER ISSUES: What are the most important issues facing your court, and how would you address them?

JUSTICE • 1ST COURT OF APPEALS • PLACE 4



EVELYN KEYES • REP

BACKGROUND: 14 years complex civil litigation: assoc., partner Clements, O'Neill, Pierce & Nickens; Special Ass't Att'y Gen'l; Amr. Law Inst.: Adviser, Ethics Project, Consultant Sexual Assaults and Election Projects; Nat'l Center for State Cts. Ethics Comm; State Bar Jud. Sec. Board: Ethics Chair, Bylaws Chair; Amr., Tex., & Hous. Bar Fdns.; Tex. Bar College; legal publications, presentations; distinguished lecturer, Rice; Rice judicial internship program co-founder.

IMPARTIALITY: I use a professional fundraiser and raise funds broadly to assure integrity. I try to give back knowledge of the law and impartiality that does justice to the parties while maintaining the integrity and functionality of the law. I also try to be in touch with the community and am happy to speak on why I think maintaining the rule of law is so important and how courts do that.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: Intermediate appellate judges do not hear appeals in cases where death is assessed. Speaking generally, I believe the greatest problem is potential arbitrariness. The death penalty should be sustained when it is supported beyond a reasonable doubt by the Constitution, facts, and applicable law. Not when there is any arbitrariness or reasonable doubt as to guilt on the facts or the law, or attorney competence, due process, or any other constitutional question.

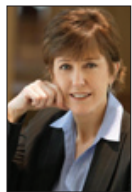
OTHER ISSUES: Court oversight of children in state custody, requiring continuing legal reform; over-reliance on reading and writing on-line by lawyers and judges, causing loss of important details and context; poor lawyering due to poor training in writing and critical, analytical, and grammatical skills, which should be priorities for undergraduate and law schools, law firms, and courts.

EDUCATION: B.A., magna cum laude, honors in English, Sophie Newcomb College, Tulane; M.A., Ph.D. English, Univ. Texas; Woodrow Wilson Fellow, University Fellow; M.A., Ph.D Philosophy, Rice Univ.; J.D., Univ. Houston Law Center, cum laude, Order of the Coif, Order of Barons, Distinguished Service Award, Wall Street Journal Award.

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WEBSITE: <http://justiceevelynkeyes.com>



BARBARA GARDNER • DEM

BACKGROUND: I have tried cases for 30+ years with great success. I know from experience that juries are vital to our justice system. Juries seek to find the truth. Current appellate courts are taking away jury verdicts. The job of an appellate judge is to review for any legal error by the trial judge, but appellate judges overstep their authority when they cancel a jury's decision. That is contrary to the 7th Amendment. As shown by my achievements in law school and numerous legal victories, I am smart, good in legal research, and know the law. Also, clerking for a federal judge gave me the same everyday experience as being a judge. Additionally, I represent both companies and individuals. With that perspective, I can apply the law fairly and equally, which the appeals courts are not doing.

IMPARTIALITY: I have not actively solicited any contributions in this election. Rather, I have depended on my hard work, getting out to know people, making lots of phone calls, and persuading people to go vote. In this day of email and Internet, we can communicate in a positive way to many people. I post articles that are informative and truthful. If people want to read them and become more informed, I have made progress. Also, I was taught from early childhood that fairness and truth are much stronger in the long run than winning by an unfair advantage. That applies in all walks of life, and especially in being a good judge. I thank my parents for those valuable lessons, and I apply them in everything I do, including being the best, fairest judge possible, with no regard to donations or who made them.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: As a Justice of the 1st Court of Appeals, I would not rule on a death penalty case. Appellate courts do not review those cases, only the Court of Criminal Appeals do. Texas canons prohibit judicial candidates from giving an opinion. Our job is to apply the existing law, whether we agree with it or not, and to apply it fairly. When I clerked for the federal judge, I did review appeals

from prisoners and I have some experience in this regard. I recall that there were many more prisoner cases filed by minorities, probably because there are many more minorities in the Texas prison population than White. Also, I have read many reports of DNA testing that proves a person 100% innocent. Death is such a finality, and after execution DNA testing would not help that person if he/she were innocent.

OTHER ISSUES: Unfairness in applying the law and favoring large corporations are two critical problems in my experience. Politics has gotten in the way of fairness. Incumbent judges do not want to lose their jobs, and some of them "sell their soul." I read opinions every day written by appellate judges that take away verdicts from the average working people, handing decisions to large corporations. My opponent took a jury verdict from a lady who had always paid her mortgage payments, but the bank made clerical errors. Without giving the lady any warning, the bank foreclosed and took her house. My opponent ruled for the bank. This trend started in the 1990's, and it has only gotten worse. The average person or small company almost always loses in the higher courts. We need a change.

EDUCATION: I graduated #1 in my law school class, and I am board certified in labor and employment law. I have two undergraduate degrees, psychology and music. Also, I have one year of graduate work in psychology. After law school, I clerked for a federal judge, similar to a postdoctorate fellowship.

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WEBSITE: <http://www.GardnerForJustice.com>

JUSTICE • 14TH COURT OF APPEALS • PLACE 2



KEVIN JEWELL • REP

BACKGROUND: 23 years as a lawyer specializing in litigating and appearing in state and federal appellate courts. Board Certified in Civil Appellate Law since 1998. Equity shareholder in nationally recognized law firm. Texas Super Lawyer since 2005. Presented over 120 oral arguments in all Texas appellate courts, including the Supreme Court of Texas, and several federal appellate courts. Frequent speaker on appellate topics for continuing education programs.

IMPARTIALITY: Integrity and impartiality are absolutely essential to the proper function of an appellate court. Those who know me and support my campaign for the bench know that I would not allow contributions to influence my decisions. The outcome of appeals must depend on the facts and law applicable to each case, not other influences.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: No Response

OTHER ISSUES: Fair and equal access to the court system. All litigants have the right to appellate review and I would like to see greater volunteer involvement by counsel at all levels to assist litigants who lack resources in obtaining meaningful and substantive review of trial court orders.

EDUCATION: University of Houston Law Center, J.D., 1993 University of Texas at Austin, B.B.A., 1990

PHONE: (713) 654-9620

EMAIL: kevin.jewell@chamberlainlaw.com

WEBSITE: <http://www.jewellforjustice.com>



CANDANCE WHITE • DEM

BACKGROUND: I have served as a Judge on the City of Houston Municipal Court where I handled over 300 cases every hour. I have managed a large document, issued judgments, and handled courtroom issues. I have worked on appellate briefs and made decisions regarding whether to file an appeal in the area of family law and child welfare issues. I have practiced criminal defense, civil litigation, family law, and child welfare law. This court hears both civil and criminal cases. I have experience in all of these areas of law and, if elected, would be the only justice on the court with child welfare/family law experience. I have my Master in Law and have practiced for over 25 years

IMPARTIALITY: A member of the judiciary must apply and interpret the law fairly and without bias. Raising campaign funds will not impact that judicial duty. Every member of society is looking to the judicial official to uphold their duty to apply the law fairly and equitably. I believe that all people are entitled to a fair application of the law to the facts without bias or being outcome/results driven. Justice should be equally accessed by all and it is a part of the judiciary's responsibility to maintain the integrity of the court and the legal system. I will do so.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: As a candidate for the judiciary I am not able to give an opinion on any matter that may come before me. In addition, the Court of Appeals does not handle death penalty cases.

OTHER ISSUES: One of the most important issues is the response time for an appeal opinion. This is an issues across almost all systems. I will work to do all I can to ensure improved response times as much as is realistically possible. In addition, I think an important issue facing the court is that a large portion of the community does not understand what purpose the court serves. I will work to ensure that the larger scale community understands the purpose of the appeals court.

EDUCATION: The University of Houston Law Center Masters of Law (LLM), August 2001 Thesis: The Clean Air Act and Environmental Justice The University of Texas School of Law Doctor of Jurisprudence- May 1993 Texas A&M University Bachelor of Science, Sociology- May 1988

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WEBSITE: <http://VoteCandanceWhiteforJudge.com>

6-year term. Must be age 35-74 years, a U.S. citizen, a Texas resident, licensed to practice law in Texas, a registered voter, & have at least 10 years experience as a lawyer or judge. Reviews all death penalty cases & applications for habeas corpus in felony cases, hears final appeals on criminal cases, & administers publicly funded judicial & attorney education.

Questions to Candidates: **BACKGROUND:** What training and experience qualify you for this position?
IMPARTIALITY: How do you maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns?

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: What, if any problems, exist with the current methods for appealing the death penalty? Additionally, when should the death penalty be sustained or overturned?

OTHER ISSUES: What are the most important issues facing your court, and how would you address them?

JUSTICE • 14TH COURT OF APPEALS • PLACE 9



TRACY ELIZABETH CHRISTOPHER • REP

BACKGROUND: I am fair, impartial and experienced with 13 years in private practice, 15 years as a trial judge and 7 years on this appellate court. I was named both Trial Judge of the Year and Appellate Judge of the Year by the Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists. I was named Outstanding Judge of the year by the Texas Bar Foundation, an honor given to a judge that has an outstanding reputation for competency, efficiency and integrity. I believe that I earned that recognition by working hard in the courtroom, through committee work and by volunteering in our community. I am also highly rated by members of the Houston Bar Association.

IMPARTIALITY: Our Texas Constitution provides the right to elect our judges. In order to provide information to the voters about my qualifications, I must raise funds. I maintain impartiality by limiting all of my donations. I comply with the voluntary limits set by the legislature in the Texas Judicial Campaign Fairness Act.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: Death penalty appeals do not come to the 14th Court of Appeals, instead they are heard by the Court of Criminal Appeals. I think additional qualified lawyers at both the trial and appellate level will increase public confidence in the decision of juries that impose the death penalty. In addition, any mitigating evidence must be presented in the trial court for the jury to hear. The death penalty should be sustained when the defendant is guilty and has received an adequate defense under the principles of the Texas and United States Constitution.

OTHER ISSUES: Two problems facing the judicial system are the high cost of legal services and delay in resolving cases. There are appointed counsel in criminal cases but not in a civil lawsuit, or in a divorce or probate case. In my committee work I have suggested ideas to help make the system easier to understand for those people who represent themselves in a legal matter, including creating forms, approved by the Texas Supreme Court for some simple legal matters. I have also worked hard to cut the time for deciding cases.

EDUCATION: I earned my law degree from the University of Texas School of Law in 1981 with honors; I earned a B.A. in economics from the University of Notre Dame in 1978, with honors. I am Board Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in both Civil Trial and Personal Injury Trial Law. I have been married for 35 years, have three children and two grandchildren.

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WEBSITE: <http://www.justicetracychristopher.com>



PETER M. KELLY • DEM

BACKGROUND: Twenty six years of practicing law, more than 16 focused exclusively on appeals primarily in Texas state courts. Involvement in many professional activities, including serving as a member of the Texas Supreme Court Advisory Committee, that have informed me of the many complex issues facing Texas's judiciary.

IMPARTIALITY: As required by the judicial canons, I will avoid even the appearance of impropriety, and beyond that will not hesitate to recuse myself if I sense that my familiarity with either a party or counsel might cloud my impartiality.

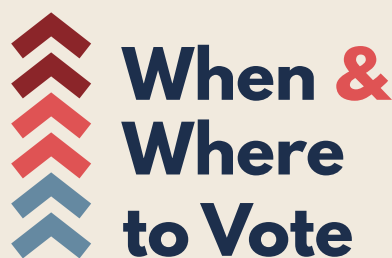
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: Appeals of death penalty verdicts go directly to the Court of Criminal Appeals, bypassing the intermediate courts of appeals such as the Fourteenth. Any views I hold on the subject would thus be immaterial to my qualifications for the position.

OTHER ISSUES: 1. Equal access to justice for all members of society. I would work with the Texas Supreme Court in its initiatives to ensure that the courthouse doors are not closed to anyone. 2. Deference to jury verdicts. The constitutions of both the United States and the State of Texas both guarantee the right to a jury trial; they also sharply limit the review on appeal of the facts found by the jury. I will work to ensure that jury verdicts are given proper respect, and will not substitute my opinion for the jury's findings.

EDUCATION: A.B. cum laude, Harvard 1985 J.D., university of Texas, 1990

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EARLY VOTING: Early Voting will take place from Monday, October 24, 2016 through Friday, November 4, 2016. During this time, all Harris County registered voters may vote at any early voting location in Harris County. See [page 47](#) of this *Voters Guide* for more information.

ELECTION DAY VOTING: On Election Day you must vote at the specific polling place for your precinct of residence. Your precinct is listed on your registration card, or you may find out where to vote by calling the Harris County Clerk at 713-755-6965 or visiting www.harrisvotes.com.

BALLOT-BY-MAIL VOTING: You may request a ballot by mail if you

- will be away from your county on Election Day and during early voting.
- are sick or disabled.
- are 65 years of age or older on Election Day.
- are confined to jail.

The deadline for requesting a mail ballot is Friday, October 28, 2016. For details please call the Harris County Clerk at 713-755-6965 or visiting www.harrisvotes.com.

DISTRICT COURT • JUDGE

District Courts are designated as either Civil or Criminal. See the designator beneath each candidate's photograph to determine which type of court they are running for, and which question set they were given.

Criminal District Court Judge: Presides over one of the 22 courts in this division with jurisdiction in all criminal actions involving felonies punishable by imprisonment or death and in misdemeanor cases involving official misconduct. 4-year term.

Civil District Court Judge: Presides over civil action trials including workmen's compensation, breach of contract, personal injury, damages and contested elections. This includes Family and Juvenile Courts. 4-year term.

**CRIMINAL
» COURT**
Questions to
Candidates:

Do you support regular usage of no-cost personal recognizance bonds and the services of the Harris County Pretrial Services Department? Why or why not.

What criteria will you use when making the final decision about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants? Please discuss selecting attorneys from the Public Defender's Office vs. the selection of private attorneys.

Should defendants in all capital cases where the State contemplates asking for the death penalty receive additional publicly-funded assistance to ensure that they are adequately represented by experienced legal counsel? Why or why not?

**» CIVIL
COURT**
Questions to
Candidates:

What training, experience, and attributes qualify you for this position?

How will you ensure impartiality in your court given the current system of financing judicial campaigns, which allows donations from those who may later bring cases before your court?

What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the District Courts and how would you address them?



**» CIVIL
COURT**

KEVIN FULTON • REP

My life of service started in the Army, including combat duty in Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Operation Provide Comfort protecting Kurdish Refugees. Once home, I began my goal of practicing law. In law school, I volunteered in the community which resulted in me not only learning numerous areas of law, but also giving me an understanding of the legal barriers that exist for many in our society. I graduated and became a Hearing Officer adjudicating thousands of cases for a government entity. I protected those who came before me from any unlawful government taking of benefits. Seven years ago I started the Fulton Law Group with a focus on protecting client's legal rights in areas as diverse as discrimination to fighting for clients losing their property unlawfully in Tax Court. I also made it a point to hire attorneys from nontraditional law schools who understand the plight of our clients. My varied legal and life experiences make me uniquely qualified to serve on the bench.

As your Judge, ensuring impartiality would be one the most important aspects of my job; however, the perception of impropriety must also not exist in the court. I have drastically limited the attorneys that I will accept donations from; those that I do accept donations from understand the importance I place on ethics. As your Judge I will also recuse myself to avoid perception of bias when necessary. I feel strongly about making sure that everyone who comes before the court is heard and treated equally regardless of donations. It is this dedication to ensuring equal access and removing clouds of favoritism that is one of the reasons I have earned such wide ranging support across political party lines. This support resulted in endorsements from such diverse ideological groups as the Houston Chronicle, The "C" Club, Houston Realty Business Coalition, Baptist Ministers of Houston and vicinity, Church of God In Christ (COGIC) PAC, and the Mexican American Bar Association of Houston

Three issues hang over the courts in my view: 1) The District Courts must do more to decrease the cost of litigation through unnecessary docket calls and not respecting the time of the litigants by the Judge. 2) The Judges must protect the Constitutional Rights of those who appear and not be swayed by special interest groups who try to use Judges to bypass the will of the voters. 3) The District Courts must also make a point to open up access and break down barriers in communities that feel left out of the legal system. I plan to hold regular community meetings to talk about the court and the procedures. I have already begun speaking to various groups about the importance of participating in the jury system. Some remedies suggested like just changing court hours, shows a lack of understanding of the true barriers to participation; I would like to work on closing those barriers. Judges must dedicate themselves to actually speaking to those in the community they wish to serve.

EDUCATION: Juris Doctor Degree with a notation for Distinguished Public Service | PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: Owner of the Fulton Law Group PLLC, a civil law firm with a staff of 8 and approximately 15 contract attorneys. The firm was built on the idea of protecting the interest of those most in need of representation. | COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Established legal clinics in low income areas; Founder/President of MLK Assoc. of Texas a non-profit; Volunteer legal counsel for a battered women's shelter and outreach non-profit; Volunteer legal counsel for an at-risk kids non-profit | WEBSITE: fultonforjudge.com | EMAIL: kfulton@fultonlg.com



**» CIVIL
COURT**

KRISTEN HAWKINS • DEM

I have practiced for 17 years, all of them in Texas, and have five years of judicial experience. In 2010 I was appointed as one of the Harris County Tax Masters and presided over Tax Court once a week. I managed a docket of approximately 6,000 cases. I am active in both the Texas and Houston Bar Associations, and I frequently present classes on topics ranging from Social Security Disability, property tax law, courtroom procedures, technology, and establishing a small firm. During my 5 years on the bench, I learned how to be efficient while allowing litigants to have their day in court and to have their voice heard. This experience also gave me insight into some of the administrative changes that judicial candidates and judges may want to consider when deciding how to engage more citizens in the judicial process.

As an attorney who has practiced my entire career in Texas and active in the local bar associations, I have friendships and relationships with many different attorneys and law firms. Moreover, as Tax Master I saw the same attorneys on a regular basis. Regardless of how often they came to court, I treated all persons with dignity and afforded them an opportunity to be heard and directed my staff to do the same. I will continue to do this on the 11th District Court and will weigh the legal and factual issues in each case--not by campaign donations or relationships. I conducted my court in accordance with my personal belief that all citizens should be treated fairly and respectfully and in accordance with the Judicial Canons.

The justice system must find administrative remedies to increase diversity and efficiency in the jury system. It also must look for administrative remedies to increase access to justice and to find ways to restore the public's confidence in the jury system. Due process can always be improved upon. I would implement some of the due process changes I made in Tax Court, such as providing notice of trial to defaulting parties, to the 11th District Court as well. I have also written an op-ed on increasing diversity in jury service: <http://bit.ly/KristenOpEd>

EDUCATION: Alief Hastings High School, 1992; University of Texas at Austin, BA, 1996; Houston College of Law, JD, 1999 | PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: Brauchle Law Firm, PLLC, Founder; Harris County Tax Master, 2010-2015 | COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Houston Bar Association; Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, Houston-Galveston Board Member; Center for Houston's Future Fall 2015 Leadership Class; Garland Walker Inns of Court; Roberts Elementary, PTO Member | WEBSITE: kristenhawkinsforjudge.com | EMAIL: kristen@kristenhawkinsforjudge.com

How is the Texas court system organized?



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

The state's two highest courts, the Texas Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals, have both administrative and appellate responsibilities. The Supreme Court is the final court of appeals within Texas for both civil and juvenile cases. The Court of Criminal Appeals hears criminal cases that are appealed from one of the 14 Courts of Appeals and death penalty cases that by law go straight to the Court of Criminal Appeals.

All members of each court are elected for six-year terms, with three elected every two years. Any vacancies are filled by gubernatorial appointment until the next general election.

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District Courts are designated as either Civil or Criminal. See the designator beneath each candidate's photograph to determine which type of court they are running for, and which question set they were given.

Civil District Court Judge: Presides over civil action trials including workmen's compensation, breach of contract, personal injury, damages and contested elections. This includes Family and Juvenile Courts. 4-year term.

» CIVIL COURT

Questions to Candidates:

What training, experience, and attributes qualify you for this position?

How will you ensure impartiality in your court given the current system of financing judicial campaigns, which allows donations from those who may later bring cases before your court?

What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the District Courts and how would you address them?

61ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT



» CIVIL COURT

ERIN ELIZABETH LUNCEFORD • REP

I was a practicing trial lawyer for 26 years prior to my appointment in July 2015 by Governor Abbott. In that role I tried 33 jury trials and handled over 38 appeals, including arguing successfully to the Texas Supreme Court. I also was trained and appointed by numerous judges as a Guardian Ad Litem in over 50 cases in the last 10 years. I understand the rules of evidence and trial practice and procedure, which is absolutely necessary to be a good trial judge. I also have a amicable demeanor and do not get upset easily, which makes going to trial in my Court very pleasant. I am a very friendly and welcoming judge in the courtroom. I am also very efficient with my docket. In my 14 months on the bench we have tried 25 jury trials and cleared the docket of many old cases. I currently am second in number of jury trials among all civil district courts and my clearance rate is one of the highest, which means I am effectively managing my docket.

I do not keep track of whether the lawyers appearing in my court have donated to my campaign, as that does not matter in the Courtroom. I treat everyone with the same respect and consideration, regardless of personal relationships or campaign contributions. My job as a judge is to treat everyone fairly and to call balls and strikes, no matter who is representing the parties.

I believe that we must elect experienced trial lawyers as judges so that they understand what it takes to handle a jury trial. It is not fair to the litigants and lawyers to have to "train" their judges on the job. It is also necessary to be fair to all parties, including those who represent themselves, and to make everyone follow the rules. I think that timely disposition of motions and cases is the hallmark of a good judge, which is always my goal. Parties should not have to wait for the judge to rule on outstanding motions or to bring a case to trial.



» CIVIL COURT

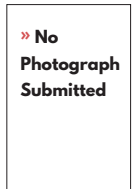
FREDERICKA PHILLIPS • DEM

I have been a civil litigator for over 16 years. I have practiced before every level state court from justice courts up to the Texas Supreme Court and before federal courts including the US Fifth Circuit. I have trial experience in the district courts. 80% of my practice is in the district courts in Harris and surrounding counties. I am on the only candidate with a broad range of experience representing clients in every type of matter that could come before the court from personal injury on both defense and plaintiff side, to real property issues, to complex business disputes, employment, toxic tort, collections, tax disputes, and more. My broad experience makes me ideally suited to be fair and impartial to all sides because I have represented all sides and will not have any unconscious bias towards one side. I intend to bring fairness to our courts. I also intend to bring diversity to our courts. Lastly, I intend to bring more efficiency to the courts.

Because I have experience in every type of civil matter, I have interactions with lawyers in many practice areas. My supporters have come from every level from solos to big firms. My broad base of support and my broad experience ensure that I can be fair and objective in every matter coming before the courts.

My goal is to ensure that our courts reflect the diversity of our community, operate as efficiently as possible, and ensure everyone coming before the courts has equal access to fair and impartial justice. Electing more minorities and women like myself will make our courts more diverse. Embracing modern cloud technology will help in making the process more efficient. Examining and improving our accessibility options such as tools for hearing impaired persons will help as well.

80TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



» No Photograph Submitted

» CIVIL COURT

WILL ARCHER • REP

I bring over 25 years of practice as a Civil Litigator to the bench. Personally handled over 6,000 cases of various types and matters. Have given over 500 hours in legal assistance to the poor or those with a reduced ability to pay. Have undertaken and managed a law practice containing extremely difficult legal issues. Have received cases or have been referred cases from other attorneys and law firms. The range of cases include civil cases from both Federal Courts and State Courts.

I will not accept campaign contributions from attorneys or their clients with cases pending in the court. Problem is if the contributor is an attorney they may have cases that may appear in the future in the court. This should be disclosed as a court record to all appearing in the court.

Maintaining the docket, which is moving cases along. Effective Judicial Administration, which is ruling timely on all contested issues presented to the court. Demanding Professionalism, which is requiring the Attorneys to conduct themselves in a proper manner. Being Knowledgeable, reading the pleadings and being familiar with the issues before taking the bench. Being Fair and Impartial, following the law and not being an activist.



» CIVIL COURT

LARRY WEIMAN • DEM

Judge of the 80th District Court (Civil), elected in 2008 and re-elected in '12'. I lead all district courts with 407 Trials, including a leading 241 Jury Trials, 166 Bench Trials and resolving 12,000+ cases! This has allowed for prompt resolution of cases and reduced the cost and stress of litigation for individuals, businesses, governmental agencies and the taxpayers of Harris County. Licensed Texas litigation attorney for over 25 years and a mediator. Law Degree from Houston College of Law and a Degree in Business Management from Boston University. Broad civil litigation experience, including complex cases, in every area of law that comes before a district court. Kept my campaign promises from 2008 to improve the efficiency and productivity of the 80th District Court, QUADRUPLED the number of jury trials. I remain committed to: following the law, being patient, impartial and fair, and to ensure that all are treated with courtesy, respect, dignity, compassion and equality.

The current campaign finance system in Texas actually allows judges to accept donations from those who have cases CURRENTLY pending in their courts! I have taken the lead in judicial campaign finance reform since my first race, by not soliciting or accepting contributions from attorneys/litigants with active cases pending in my court. Unfortunately, such practice is currently legal and common in Texas. Judges should avoid even the appearance of impropriety, partiality or even the possible perception that "Justice is for Sale." Since I don't accept those contributions, any donations that I have been able to accept under my drastically more restrictive policy than the law allows, are farther removed from potential cases that a donor may later have in my court, which is 1 of 24 civil district courts. A potential donor would have no reason to think that any case they might file would be in the 80th since new cases are randomly assigned to the courts. Impartiality is my #1 priority!

1) Establish programs to increase voluntary Jury Service participation including all segments of the Harris County Community. 2) Due to the dramatic growth of Harris County, the 10 Family Law Courts' dockets have become overloaded. I will continue to facilitate more coordination between the Civil District Courts themselves and with the Family Courts, so more cases that cannot be reached for trial in either the Civil or Family Court in which they are pending because that court is already in another trial, can be transferred to a court that is available to try that case. When cases are tried promptly, there is a benefit to all concerned and to the taxpayers of Harris County! Since the 80th District Court has tried the most cases, many cases settle with the certainty of a trial date and the requirement that the parties mediate their case prior to that. As a result, this creates an opportunity for my court to help other Civil and Family Courts by trying cases for them without a re-set!

District Courts are designated as either Civil or Criminal. See the designator beneath each candidate's photograph to determine which type of court they are running for, and which question set they were given.

Civil District Court Judge: Presides over civil action trials including workmen's compensation, breach of contract, personal injury, damages and contested elections. This includes Family and Juvenile Courts. 4-year term.

» CIVIL COURT

Questions to Candidates:

What training, experience, and attributes qualify you for this position?

How will you ensure impartiality in your court given the current system of financing judicial campaigns, which allows donations from those who may later bring cases before your court?

What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the District Courts and how would you address them?

125TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



» CIVIL COURT

SHARON HEMPHILL • REP

20+ years of trial and litigation experience in all areas of the law, ie, in trial courts, appellate courts, and the Supreme Court of Texas. In addition to a juris doctorate, JD, a master's degree in law, LL.M. board certification in law, and each year more than about 5 times the required continuing legal education credit for legal education courses in a broad variety of areas of law, taught legal courses and seminars, legal seminar presenter, served as an arbitrator for many years involving securities issues, including presiding over the largest and longest arbitration in the history of securities at that time, created and implemented training programs to educate attorneys in alternative dispute resolution techniques to aid the public in saving resources and building relationships in lieu of litigation, including focus on mediation. Educated, and trained attorney mediators; however, I have a deep understanding that not all issues are appropriate for mediation and must be litigated..

Justice must be fair and impartial to be respected. Some of the most important attributes for a judge is to first of all, know the law and then follow the law to help all attorneys. Judges must be fair and respectful to all and I intend to try to ensure lack of bias. All lawyers and no judge should never allow partiality based on donations to interfere with justice. I intend to ensure impartiality by following the law with explanations based on the law, to always try to eliminate any appearance of partiality.

Some of the issues which may be important include: efficiency within the courts system and administration, to try to ensure that all people have their rights protected, to try to ensure the safety of the public, and promote respect. I believe in trying to make my court more efficient and accessible, including by incorporating email messaging for various requests and/or notices including but not limited to: attorney late calls, hearing requests, etc. incorporating court calls to make it easier for attorney's to appear by phone thereby trying to help save their clients the time and expense, and to try to save the public in general excessive attorney's fees, costs and expenses and other resources. Other issues include educating the public, and being of service to the community and to attorneys hosting periodic updates on the law.



» CIVIL COURT

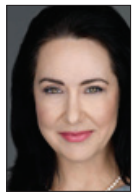
KYLE CARTER • DEM

I am honored to have served as Judge of the 125th District Court for the last 8 years. I treat everyone who comes before me with dignity fairness and respect. During my tenure as Judge I have presided over thousands of cases to disposition, including hundreds of jury and bench trials, all while going the extra mile to save Harris County's hard-earned tax dollars. Through the uses of modern technology I have been able to reduce costs to all litigants. Also, I have used my time on the bench to give back to the community by creating a judicial outreach program called Judges at Work in Schools. I am married to my wife Melanie of 14 years, and we have 3 children Kylie, Caleb, and Colton. I am the son of a trial lawyer father and a Methodist minister mother, and I have decided to serve my community through the law. I am a native Houstonian, graduate of Strake Jesuit, the University of Texas, and South Texas College of Law.

Although in some states judges are appointed, most judges in Texas are elected. My job requires that I stand for election every four years. Part of that process is informing the public about my qualifications and the relevant issues involved in judicial races. This requires some funding. Under the current system, donations can come from many sources, including lawyers. However, it should be noted that many my contributors do so because they know me to be fair, honest, and impartial, and want me to continue as judge of the 125th District Court. Having served as a judge for the past eight years, I recognize the trust that the public has placed in me, and I will not violate that trust.

One of the most pressing issues in District Courts is access to justice. Specifically, the costs associated with litigation are a barrier to court access to many. While we all have right to access the courts, guaranteed by the Constitution, it is very difficult for a person to be able to shoulder financial costs associated with a lawsuit. I believe in equal access to justice for all people and recognize that everyone is entitled to their day in court. That is why I treat everyone with fairness dignity and respect, and maintain patience and a good temperament. Also, I encourage attorneys to provide more pro bono representation. Finally, we need to ensure that courts are accessible to our non-english speaking neighbors. While I speak some Spanish, I have always maintained a diverse court staff so that if necessary we can help those that may speak other languages and be a reflection of the community that we serve.

127TH DISTRICT COURT



» CIVIL COURT

SARAHJANE SWANSON • REP

More than 14 years of practicing law, trying civil lawsuits and appeals, plus 15 years of high-level business experience. I've represented plaintiffs & defendants in hundreds of lawsuits and all aspects of pretrial, trial, and appellate work, and have actually tried 20 lawsuits to verdict/decision. I've worked on almost every kind of civil case including real estate disputes, water/land use rights, construction defects, building code/zoning/deed restriction issues, insurance claims, fire/hazard losses, contract/commercial/business disputes, employment law, partnership splits, DTPA/consumer protection, professional malpractice, personal injury, products liability, subrogation, etc. Before law school, I held management positions in 2 large energy companies' gas transportation & marketing, and U.S. & international asset management & project development divisions. I was also the company's point person in major litigation, seeing the effect of judges who did/did not follow the law.

Personal integrity, and a deep and unwavering respect for the separation of powers and obligation of the third branch of government to follow the law, regardless of who the parties or the lawyers are who bring the cases to the Court. I also agreed to comply and abide by the voluntary limitations imposed by the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act which limit the amount of campaign contributions a judge or judicial candidate may receive from individuals, law firms, and political action committees, as well as the amount of campaign expenditures allowed in an election.

The most pressing issues affecting our District Courts are some activist judges that do not follow the law, but instead try to change the law by "legislating from the bench". When judges don't follow the procedural rules, or the law that is set out by our U.S. and Texas Constitutions or hashed out and made into law by our duly elected Legislature - justice is not had. When judges aren't fair or impartial, or show favoritism to parties or attorneys or positions - justice is not had. When judges won't give parties a fair hearing (or a hearing at all) or proceedings or relief that the law allows - justice is not had. These issues are addressed by electing qualified candidates, like me, who: have actual experience in the area the court encompasses (substantial civil litigation experience and have really tried cases vs less than 4 years' practice); are knowledgeable in the law; & are committed to the rule of law & the limited role of the judicial branch to follow the law - not make it.



» CIVIL COURT

R. K. SANDILL • DEM

I have served as Judge of the 127th District Court since 2009. I have tried over 200 cases and disposed of more than 12,000 matters. I have experience with docket management, jury relations, and have worked hard to meet the needs of those who appear in my court. I consistently earn high marks from attorneys in the Houston Bar Association, and I have garnered endorsements from a broad range of organizations, including the Association of Women Attorneys, the Mexican American Bar Association, Houston Lawyer's Association, the GLBT Political Caucus and the Houston Chronicle. Further, I have a varied professional and personal background that serves me well. I am a former commercial litigator and employment lawyer, who represented both plaintiffs and defendants, and I was a briefing attorney for the Texas First Court of Appeals. As a husband of a lawyer, a father, a cancer survivor, and the first judge of South Asian descent elected in Texas, I bring a unique perspective to the bench.

I am committed to deciding matters based solely on established Texas law. It is important to remember that the campaign finance system in Texas disallows contributions for a vast majority of each 4-year judicial term. Contributions are only permitted during a prescribed 18-month period surrounding an election, and the vast majority of lawyers practicing in the civil courts are not campaign contributors. I believe firmly that the hallmark of a good jurist is fairness toward all. I decide all courtroom matters with that principle in mind, and without any reference whatsoever to the political affiliation or contribution history of any person appearing before me. I believe that the positive ratings I have received each year from the Houston Bar Association, including on questions about impartiality, demonstrate that I have been successful in operating an open and impartial courtroom.

The judicial system works best when it is open and timely. Our founders created a dispute resolution system second to none, and trial judges play an important role in ensuring that the system works as intended. I am prepared every day and for every hearing and every trial. This allows me to quickly decide issues, move cases to trial where appropriate, and ensure efficiency. In addition, I use technology to facilitate courtroom access. For example, I was one of the first judges in Texas to permit (and later require) the electronic filing of documents. I also allow videoconferencing for hearings. Both of these innovations help to save litigants time and costs, by reducing trips to the courthouse. I am also extremely mindful of jurors' time and resources. I require the lawyers trying cases in my courtroom to adhere to agreed time limits that I track by the clock. Again, this promotes efficiency and ensures that the wheels of justice keep turning.

DISTRICT COURT • JUDGE • Continued

District Courts are designated as either Civil or Criminal. See the designator beneath each candidate's photograph to determine which type of court they are running for, and which question set they were given.

Civil District Court Judge: Presides over civil action trials including workmen's compensation, breach of contract, personal injury, damages and contested elections. This includes Family and Juvenile Courts. 4-year term.

» CIVIL COURT

Questions to Candidates:

What training, experience, and attributes qualify you for this position?

How will you ensure impartiality in your court given the current system of financing judicial campaigns, which allows donations from those who may later bring cases before your court?

What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the District Courts and how would you address them?



» CIVIL COURT

SOPHIA MAFRIGE • REP

My 28-year legal career has delved into all levels of litigation, transactional and real estate/property matters. Areas of practice have included commercial/contract litigation, family law, condemnation, personal injury law, consumer law, ad valorem tax collection and defense, appraisal district protests for property owners, probate, immigration, real estate title disputes, civil mediations, collections and transactional work such as wills, business sales and real estate matters. I have represented individuals, corporations and small businesses in these various areas of law, on both sides of the docket and in transactions, involving amounts ranging from hundreds of dollars to millions of dollars. Additionally, in 2008 the Mayor of Houston appointed me to the City of Houston Police Officers' Civil Service Commission, and I have served as Chairman of the Commission since that time. The Commission hears disciplinary appeals/disputes for HPD officers.

Having a broad range of litigation experience over decades has allowed me to witness the impact of judges who were not impartial. There will always be issues that might impact impartiality, but I can only say that personally, the law and rules of civil procedure will guide me, not whether a contribution has been made.

The efficiency of the Court in ruling on matters expeditiously, and conducting hearings and trials, are of utmost importance to the parties and attorneys who will appear before the Court. The citizens of Harris County are best served by judges who will follow the law, and, manage dockets so as to reduce time expended and fees for all who are involved in litigation matters. If elected, a review of the active cases will help me formulate a plan. I would like to structure motion dockets based on the parties' time estimates, and consider having multiple dockets set for different matters, i.e. discovery disputes, summary judgments, minor settlements, etc.... It can be costly and frustrating for clients and attorneys to sit through hours of hearings if not necessary. I will assess issues upon taking office, reviewing the court's pending cases and docket, and conferring with the staff.



» CIVIL COURT

MICHAEL GOMEZ • DEM

If you believe in accessibility, efficiency, and good judgement in a well-run court, I am asking for your vote. For the past eight years, as judge of the 129th District Court, I have been committed to justice, fairness and respect for everyone. I am a native Texan and lifelong resident of Houston who cares deeply about our community. After I took office, I organized our hearing docket to make it more convenient and efficient thereby saving everyone time and money. I was also one of the first district courts to embrace electronic filing which cut costs for litigants. While I enjoy helping parties resolve disputes on the bench, I understand that your time is valuable, so I have worked hard to streamline jury service to make it a positive experience that respects your time. I was humbled to recently be honored as Trial Judge of the Year and to receive a resolution from members of the Texas House of Representatives acknowledging my commitment to our community and profession.

Our judges are tasked with being neutral arbiters of disputes. We expect our judges to be fair and impartial and to follow the law, without bias, prejudice, or favor. This is an obligation I take to heart. As someone who comes from a modest background, I understand the importance of a level playing field especially between those of means and those without. As such, my decisions are guided only by the law, common sense, and fairness.

One of the most pressing issues in our courts is the cost of litigation and the burden it places on everyone involved. As a district court judge, I address these issues everyday by setting clear limits and deadlines, allowing counsel to appear by telephone as needed, encouraging the use of technology like Skype, supporting mediation, and getting parties to trial as soon as practicable. With the help of my great staff, we have brought about the disposition of thousands of cases during my eight years in office. If re-elected to a third term, I will continue to work hard for you everyday.



» CIVIL COURT

CINDY BENNETT SMITH • REP

My combination of judicial experience and legal practice has prepared me to serve. My litigation experience has encompassed most issues and challenges that come before a District Court. I have litigated on behalf of plaintiffs, defendants, members of class actions, minors and defendants in mass tort claims. I have also handled over a dozen appeals in state and federal courts. Having the opportunity to appear in front of so many judges has given me insight into what makes an effective judge. As a judge, I ensure that all who come before me are treated with respect and allowed to fully address their case. This is true regardless of whether there is a pro se litigant or a party represented by an attorney. I am always prepared for docket and ensure that proceedings move efficiently.

I fully comply with the Code of Judicial Ethics and the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act. Campaign contributions have no place in the courtroom and will not be taken into consideration in any of my proceedings or rulings. Rather, as the impartial "referee" in matters before me, I will make all decisions based solely on the evidence and facts presented by the parties. It is imperative that a judge maintains objectivity in all matters, and I will do just that.

Ensuring that each party has a timely resolution to their case. I will be fully prepared for each day in my courtroom. I will have read the motions and materials prior to docket and will be familiar with the law that is applicable. This will allow proceedings to move faster and parties to get on with their day. I will not shy away from making tough rulings, even if it means that a party might appeal the decision. Parties must have resolution to prevent further expense and time in litigation.



» CIVIL COURT

JACLANEL MCFARLAND • DEM

I had an outstanding education at Baylor, Oxford, and Baylor Law School. For thirty one years I was an active litigator. I handled cases in 19 counties in Texas. Just in the District Courts in Harris County I handled 452 cases before I was elected the Judge of the 133rd District Court. Last year I tried more trials than any other Civil District Judge in Harris County. " With 30 years' legal experience under her belt, Democratic incumbent Judge Jaclanel McFarland was a strong candidate when first elected in 2008. But with a life story that ranges from a cotton farm in north Texas to studying at Oxford University and serving on the Baylor University Board of Regents, she was also a prime candidate to be a uniquely Texan judge. Over the past four years, Judge McFarland has not let us down, proving that she has the work ethic and dedication that we like to see on the bench with a good measure of small-town friendliness." Houston Chronicle- 9/20/2012 I have gotten all 2016 endorsements.

Justice is not for sale in the 133rd District Court. I do not know what any person or law firm has or has not given to my campaign. I do not look that information up before any hearing or trial. If anyone thinks it is an issue they just need to bring it to my attention and if necessary and I will recuse myself.

The most pressing issue in District Courts is the cost of a trial. I try to get cases to trial as soon as possible so that the cost may be kept to a minimum and justice may be swift, fair, and merciful.

129TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

133RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

District Courts are designated as either Civil or Criminal. See the designator beneath each candidate's photograph to determine which type of court they are running for, and which question set they were given.

Civil District Court Judge: Presides over civil action trials including workmen's compensation, breach of contract, personal injury, damages and contested elections. This includes Family and Juvenile Courts. 4-year term.

» CIVIL COURT

Questions to Candidates:

What training, experience, and attributes qualify you for this position?

How will you ensure impartiality in your court given the current system of financing judicial campaigns, which allows donations from those who may later bring cases before your court?

What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the District Courts and how would you address them?

151ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT



» CIVIL COURT

JEFF HASTINGS • REP

I graduated in the top 5% of my class from Law School and made the top grades in courses dealing with court procedure. I have 25 years of experience. I have tried cases in both State and Federal Courts. I have handled a wide variety of civil matters including negligence, wrongful death, products liability, business litigation, Real Estate, Employment and federal causes of action. I have been on the plaintiff's side some times, mostly on the defense side and I have also been appointed as a Guardian Ad Litem, meaning I acted as an advisor to the Court. I have been listed in the Best Lawyers of America, Best Lawyers in Texas and a Top Lawyer in Houston for Business and Civil litigation. I also have a certificate from the A.A. White Dispute Resolution. I have the actual courtroom experience to do the job as a fair and impartial District Judge.

I do not accept campaign contributions from lawyers with cases pending in the 151st Judicial District Court. I do not have a steering committee of lawyers. For over 15 years I have been AV Preeminent rated by Martindale Hubbell, which means my clients and peers have rated me to have the highest legal knowledge and the highest ethical standards. I will ensure impartiality by holding fast to my faith as a follower of my Lord Jesus Christ and by living by the standards he gave us. He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8 NASB

I believe the most pressing issue in the District Courts, as well as in most elected officials, is the lack of integrity. You must do what you say. You must follow the law as written. You must be fair to all. You must give equal access and treatment to all, not just to those that give you campaign money. A District Court must be beyond reproach, giving no reason to question his impartiality. I promise I will follow the law, including Texas Election Laws. I promise I will not use my position as a District Judge to advance my own political agenda or the agenda of my political party. I promise that I will not take campaign contributions from attorneys with cases pending in my court. I promise that I will not use campaign contributions to fund organizations, such as Planned Parenthood, that many in our community find offensive. In my opinion, my opponent has failed to keep these promises.



» CIVIL COURT

MIKE ENGELHART • DEM

Before taking the bench 8 years ago, I was a litigator for 13 years. I tried many cases to a jury, and handled all aspects of hundreds of lawsuits, representing thousands of Texans across the state in trials and appeals, mediations, arbitrations, and administrative hearings. I am Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law - something only a few percent of all Texas lawyers can say. As the sitting Judge, I have tried hundreds of cases, and ruled on thousands of motions. I have one of the 3 lowest case inventories of all 24 civil district judges because I work my files and try my cases. I have been voted "well qualified" by the Houston Bar Association's members by a rate of 6.5 to 1 over my opponent. I have been endorsed for re-election by every endorsing organization, including the C Club and the Houston Realty Business Coalition, the Houston Chronicle, the Mexican American Bar Assoc., the Association of Women Attorneys, the GLBT Caucus, Constable Alan Rosen and the AFL-CIO.

This is a potentially difficult issue as a matter of appearance only. In our current system, Judges have to run as a member of a political party. I wish this weren't so. I will continue to apply the facts of the case to Texas law to make my decisions on that basis alone. I believe that my Houston Bar Association ratings and all of the endorsements I have received from conservative and liberal groups, as well as lawyer groups, speak well of my commitment to doing so.

The most pressing issue in my next term will be maintaining randomized jury pools. Harris County citizens must report for jury duty when they are summoned to ensure that juries are representative of our diverse county and that all perspectives are represented well on juries. I will continue to work to raise juror pay and make jury duty more user friendly and pleasant. If this is not done, people's day in court will be less meaningful and fair.

152ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT



» CIVIL COURT

DON SELF • REP No Response Received

ROBERT K. SCHAFFER • DEM

I was a trial lawyer for 24 years and mediator for 16 years before I became a judge. Since becoming a judge I have tried very hard to create an environment in which the parties and their lawyers could prepare and try their cases in an efficient and expeditious manner. I am a very patient person who treats everyone who comes to this court with courtesy, dignity and respect. In October of 2013, I was elected by the Harris County District Court judges as Local Administrative Judge for the Harris County District Courts and was subsequently elected to a full two year term (2014-2015) and re-elected to a second two year term (2016-2017). Prior to serving as Local Administrative Judge, I served as the Administrative Judge for the Civil Trial division from 2012 to 2013. In 2014 I was selected as the Trial Judge of the Year by the Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists and Distinguished Alum for the South Texas College of Law (NKA Houston College of Law).

I have received support from all segments of the bar that practice in the district courts. With that support comes the responsibility to ensure that not one gets any special treatment because of whatever support they have provided. I believe I have done a good job of not playing favorites. I am conscious of the issue and I work very hard to ensure that decisions are made based on the law and the strength of the lawyers argument rather than because of the size of any donation to a campaign.

We need to ensure that parties to lawsuits have a fair and reasonable opportunity to pursue and/or defend claims on a level playing field without concern for the resources one party may have. Parties need to know that when they come into the courtroom they will be treated with courtesy, dignity and respect.

Thank you to our partner organizations.



» LWV-Texas Education Fund Provides Candidate Information for Statewide Races

Our thanks to our state organization, the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund, for providing information on candidates running in statewide contested elections. LWV-Texas contacted all candidates for Railroad Commissioner, Texas Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals and Courts of Appeals. We have reproduced information and responses from these candidates exactly as provided by LWV-Texas.

» LWV-US Education Fund Provides Candidate Information for Presidential Race

Our thanks to the League of Women Voters of the United States Education Fund for providing information on candidates running for President of the United States. More information on how the LWV-US Education Fund contacted presidential candidates is provided on pages 2 & 3 of this Guide. We have reproduced information and responses from these candidates exactly as provided by LWV-US Education Fund.

District Courts are designated as either Civil or Criminal. See the designator beneath each candidate's photograph to determine which type of court they are running for, and which question set they were given.

Civil District Court Judge: Presides over civil action trials including workmen's compensation, breach of contract, personal injury, damages and contested elections. This includes Family and Juvenile Courts. 4-year term.

» CIVIL COURT

Questions to Candidates:

What training, experience, and attributes qualify you for this position?

How will you ensure impartiality in your court given the current system of financing judicial campaigns, which allows donations from those who may later bring cases before your court?

What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the District Courts and how would you address them?

164TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



BRUCE BAIN • REP

November marks 32 years of trial experience and over seven years as a mediator. I have also served as special commissioner on condemnation panels. The Texas Supreme Court appointed me as a District Chair for the Unauthorized Practice of Law to protect the public. My cases range from simple to very complex and cover multiple areas of the law. My clients have been individuals, small businesses and Fortune 500 companies, and I have represented both plaintiffs and defendants. I have practiced before every level of trial court including state and federal district courts, county courts, and appellate courts. This background will enable me to grasp issues and make timely decisions.

I strictly apply the law to all cases fairly and impartially regardless of who the parties are, who the attorneys are, and who has or has not contributed to my campaign. My duty is to resolve cases with honesty and integrity. I merely give the parties a fair opportunity to present their case and apply the law when appropriate regardless of my personal beliefs. My role as a judge will be like that of an umpire calling a ball a ball, a strike a strike - regardless of any campaign contributions.

Justice delayed is justice denied. That has been my mantra. Every attorney knows how important it is that a judge rule swiftly, decisively, be impartial and be prepared. Waiting at the courthouse is expensive and disrespectful to attorneys and litigants. Staggering hearings so multiple cases are not set at the same time, scheduling hearings by telephone, and allowing out of town counsel to appear by telephone, or teleconference for non-evidentiary hearings can greatly reduce the cost of litigation. Periodic status conferences, enforcing scheduling orders, and holding litigants and attorneys accountable are all important steps. I am committed to being active as manager of the court's time. Advances in technology have greatly expanded the volume of information involved in discovery. I will monitor discovery to ensure it is fair and reasonable.

» CIVIL COURT



ALEXANDRA SMOOTS-HOGAN • DEM

Prior to taking the bench, I was an active litigator in the District Courts. I spent 4 years in the litigation section of Brown McCarroll. I then moved to a series of smaller firms, before opening my own firm in September 2007. I had experience trying all types of cases, including breach of contract case, personal injury case, and malpractice cases. Since taking the bench in 2009, I have presided over approximately 150 jury trials. I run one of the most active civil dockets at the Courthouse. I am also one of the few judges who handles her own tax cases. The tax docket involves hearing everyday citizens' issues with paying their property taxes and resolving those cases in a timely productive manner for all parties involved. I have been endorsed by The Houston Chronicle, The Houston Lawyers Association, The Mexican American Bar Association of Houston, The Houston LGBT Caucus and a host of other local organizations.

I have earned a reputation on the bench for being firm, yet fair. I pride myself on hearing both sides of the issues and letting the case law lead my decision. I show no favoritism based on relationship and/or campaign contributions. At the end of the day, a judge must never forget that he/she serves all the people. My rulings are and will continue to be deeply rooted and based in the laws of this State.

We have had budgetary issues plaguing the effectiveness and access to justice for years. We need additional upgrades to the electronic systems in the Courthouse to meet the needs of our tech savvy lawyers and litigants. We need the capability to allow litigants to appear by Skype and other electronic means. We need the capability to be truly paperless in all aspects of the courtroom, from exhibits to pleadings. We need more access, for indigent litigants and solo practitioners, to the requisite technology and software to have their cases and pleadings properly filed. Essentially, we need to better meet the needs of our technologically advanced society.

» CIVIL COURT

165TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



DEBRA IBARRA MAYFIELD • REP

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in the elected judiciary for nearly five years. I bring tested judicial experience, as well relevant trial and appellate experience to the bench. I came to serve you as Judge of the 165th District Court when Governor Abbott appointed me last year, and I was humbled to have been unanimously confirmed by the bi-partisan Texas Senate. Previously, I served you as Judge of County Civil Court at Law No. 1, and I thank you for re-electing me twice. Before serving you in the judiciary, I was a shareholder in a mid-sized defense firm, and I bring relevant, statewide trial and appellate experience to the bench. I initially became devoted to the rule of law when I began my career as a briefing attorney at the Fourteenth Court of Appeals, and I continue this devotion through teaching as an adjunct professor at the UH Law Center. I ask you to re-hire me, as I would be honored to continue my service to you through the administration of justice.

One of the bedrock principles in our democracy is that you will receive a fair trial regardless of who you are, where you come from, or your circumstances before the court. I believe in equal access to the courts without regard to anything other than application of the law to the facts of each case. More specifically, I have not given, and I will continue not to give any consideration to campaign contributions in abiding by the oath I took to serve you as judge of the 165th District Court.

I want to continue to address two primary issues before the district courts: ensuring equal access to justice and promoting fair and effective case resolution. First, I bring a unique perspective of access to justice after having served in two different levels of the trial courts. Thus, I hope to continue to ensure that both sides have equal access to the courts regardless of whether they appear with or without counsel, without regard to background or language proficiency, and regardless of the circumstances before the court. Second, I believe it is important to run an efficient court and promote fair and efficient case resolutions in every matter. As a result, I will continue to work hard to offer you precise and timely rulings, access to alternative dispute resolution when appropriate, efficient trial settings, and preparedness through a thorough understanding of the facts and the law in every case.

» CIVIL COURT



URSULA A. HALL • DEM

My legal knowledge, judicial experience, intellectual integrity and demonstrated servant-leadership qualify me for this position. For more than a decade, I have presided over trials and adjudicated thousands of cases, in one of the country's largest and most diverse court systems. And in each instance, I have presided with one guiding principal: fairness. During my time on the bench, I have earned a good reputation among citizens and court staff for my exceptional judicial demeanor, which includes common sense, compassion, decisiveness, firmness, humility, open-mindedness, patience, tact and understanding. Over two decades of law practice, I have developed intellectual integrity, including the virtues of honesty, courage, fairness, sensitivity, perceptiveness and insightfulness, humility, perseverance, adaptability and communicativeness. In my work as a judge, I have learned to strike a balance between decisiveness and deliberation, impartiality and openness to the views of others.

I promise to interpret the law to the best of my ability without acting upon fear or favor. And, I will respond with speed and sensitivity to any litigant, acting in good faith, who reasonably seeks recusal. Most importantly, I care to be vigilantly mindful that an impartial judicial decision is one in which consideration of campaign donations has no meaningful influence.

The most critical administration of justice issue facing the courts is fairness (followed by access to justice; expedition and timeliness; independence and accountability; equality and integrity; public trust and confidence). This is best addressed by electing qualified judges who are also humble, fair, and diligent. I intend to remain humble, fair and diligent.

» CIVIL COURT

District Courts are designated as either Civil or Criminal. See the designator beneath each candidate's photograph to determine which type of court they are running for, and which question set they were given.

Criminal District Court Judge: Presides over one of the 22 courts in this division with jurisdiction in all criminal actions involving felonies punishable by imprisonment or death and in misdemeanor cases involving official misconduct. 4-year term.

CRIMINAL
» COURT
Questions to
Candidates:

Do you support regular usage of no-cost personal recognizance bonds and the services of the Harris County Pretrial Services Department? Why or why not.

What criteria will you use when making the final decision about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants? Please discuss selecting attorneys from the Public Defender's Office vs. the selection of private attorneys.

Should defendants in all capital cases where the State contemplates asking for the death penalty receive additional publicly-funded assistance to ensure that they are adequately represented by experienced legal counsel? Why or why not?

174TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



KATHERINE MCDANIEL • REP

I absolutely support the usage of personal recognizance bonds in appropriate situations. The seat I seek is a felony district court bench and the range of offenses the Court handles is vast, from small amounts of drugs to capital murder. Personal recognizance bonds can assist with reducing the jail population of pretrial non-violent offenders in many cases. Bonds should consider the type of offense, future safety of the victim and community, but bonds must not be used prohibitively. Additionally, bonds should not be used as an oppressive or coercive tool. Each case and each defendant must be evaluated individually, within the context of these overall goals. I support the use of Harris County Pretrial Services and their ability to monitor accused persons and secure their attendance in court.

In selecting attorneys to represent indigent accused persons, it is important to choose competent, responsive, hard-working, and efficient counsel. Under the Fair Defense Act, a random list of attorneys is provided to the courts, and within this list, I will make every effort to select the most qualified lawyers available. Harris County is lucky to have a recognized Public Defenders' Office as well as a well-respected collection of private attorneys available for appointment. Private attorneys that are appointed to represent indigent defendants have been vetted by taking a qualifications exam administered by the courts. In addition, I will make every effort to provide attorneys in the native language in which the accused is accustomed. I believe firmly in an attorney's duty to uphold rights of the accused and I am committed to complying with the Fair Defense Act.

Those accused of capital crimes must be afforded highly-qualified, capital certified representation. The highest charged offense in our State demands safeguards. In my opinion, that includes, but is not limited to, dual counsel, investigators, and mitigation experts. The United States Supreme Court mandates that mitigation be investigated in cases in which the State seeks the death penalty. I believe in these in the interest of fairness, justice, and the law.

CRIMINAL
» COURT



HAZEL B. JONES • DEM

Yes, I support the use of no-cost Personal Recognizance bonds when appropriate. In a typical case, the defendant is required to deposit money to assure the judge he will return to court. A PR bond only requires the defendant's word that he will return. As such, knowing whether the person is accused of a low-level, nonviolent crime, is a first time offender, has ties to the community are important. I believe, on a regular basis, each case should be evaluated to determine if such a bond is appropriate. I believe Pre-trial Services may or may not be needed in handling supervision of a defendant who is on bond. Pre-trial Services, among other things, helps monitor the defendant while on bond via frequent personal contact, by testing for drugs/alcohol, and by providing instruction from the court of conditions of supervision. Some defendants may or may not need such supervision by Pre-trial Services.

The criteria used to make the final decision to assign an attorney is based on experience, skills, professional & ethical conduct, preparedness, zealous advocacy, and the "rec-test", that is, would I recommend the attorney to represent a friend/family member if they were similarly situated. The judge has the ability to select the Public Defender's Office to represent a particular defendant, but the judge is not involved in the process of selecting which Assistant Public Defender will be assigned to the case. The PDO is an organization that represents indigent defendants. As such, they have the resources to obtain and retain experienced, skilled attorneys and to also, train young attorneys to be excellent trial lawyers. On the other hand, the judge can choose private attorneys from a list of pre-qualified attorneys. With this method, the judge has the ability to choose an attorney based on her personal knowledge of the attorney's skill level and efficacy as a trial lawyer.

In any death penalty case, for an indigent defendant, there has to be at least two pre-qualified attorneys representing the defendant. These attorneys should also be attorneys that the judge can determine are, in fact, qualified based on their current skill level. Any funds required to effectively and zealously represent a defendant should always be viewed as reasonable and necessary for a just defense. Obviously, no price should be pre-set on justice especially in a case that will ultimately decide whether someone lives or dies.

CRIMINAL
» COURT

176TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



STACEY W. BOND • REP

I support the use of PR Bonds. I meet with each defendant personally when they are assigned to my court and listen to the probable cause that led to their arrest. I learn about their prior criminal history. If the defendant is charged with a non-violent offense, has ties to the community and does not have the means to post a bond then they are considered for a PR Bond. In 2016, more defendants were granted PR bonds out of my court (the 176th) than any other criminal district court in Harris County.

Qualification is the single most important criteria to me when selecting attorneys to represent indigent defendants who are requesting counsel. I review the list of attorneys generated by our Fair Defense Act Management System (FDAMS) and choose those attorneys I know who: 1) are highly skilled in trying criminal cases, 2) have experience and expertise in the particular area that the defendant is charged with, and 3) will handle the case professionally and treat their client with respect. If the case looks to be complicated or needing a great deal of investigation or resources, I will look to the PD's office if they appear on the list generated by FDAMS. Also, I select the PD's office when I know there are multiple co-defendants who will need multiple lawyers to avoid potential conflicts.

In my court (the 176th), defendant's facing Capital Murder charges receive adequate funding. The lawyers who represent these particular defendants are extremely well qualified and have many years of experience. They routinely request and receive funding for investigators, mitigation specialists, and expert witnesses. I serve on the committee that annually reviews and approves the list of attorneys who may receive appointments on Capital cases in Harris County. The list, in my opinion, is comprised of excellent attorneys. These attorneys must demonstrate, in addition to their years of experience as trial lawyers, that they are receiving continuing legal education each year specifically in the area of Capital litigation. Of course, the level of funding must continue and we must regularly evaluate compensation to ensure that Harris County meets or comes close to the amounts paid by the Federal System and surrounding Counties in terms of funding compensation for qualified counsel.

CRIMINAL
» COURT



NIKITA "NIKI" HARMON • DEM

Responding to rising detention rates and shrinking governmental budgets, many states employ personal bonds for low flight-risk defendants. I will support the use of no-cost personal recognizance bonds for non-violent offenders. The use of no cost bonds will help alleviate jail overcrowding, for first time non-violent offenders, who simply cannot afford to bond out of jail. The use of these type bonds would be decided on a case-by-case basis in accordance with applicable guidelines.

The administration of justice seeks to guarantee competent legal representation and services to every accused person whose lack of funds prevents him or her from providing for their own defense. I too will seek the same, so that the scales of justice weigh truth, not legal fees. I will select the most qualified attorney, one who has demonstrated legal aptitude, training and professionalism to do the job competently. The public should have faith in our criminal court system. The District Attorney's office hire attorneys they consider qualified, likewise the attorneys appointed to represent indigent defendants in my court will also be the best qualified.

The role of a judge who is also an officer of the court, is the pursuit of justice. In that pursuit, it is the judge's duty to ensure best practices in providing cost-effective representation and services in death penalty cases and to spend its funds wisely. Assessing the death penalty against a defendant is a human endeavor subject to the risk of error and if completed is not remediable.

CRIMINAL
» COURT

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Criminal District Court Judge: Presides over one of the 22 courts in this division with jurisdiction in all criminal actions involving felonies punishable by imprisonment or death and in misdemeanor cases involving official misconduct. 4-year term.

**CRIMINAL
» COURT**
Questions to
Candidates:

Do you support regular usage of no-cost personal recognizance bonds and the services of the Harris County Pretrial Services Department? Why or why not.

What criteria will you use when making the final decision about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants? Please discuss selecting attorneys from the Public Defender's Office vs. the selection of private attorneys.

Should defendants in all capital cases where the State contemplates asking for the death penalty receive additional publicly-funded assistance to ensure that they are adequately represented by experienced legal counsel? Why or why not?

177TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



RYAN PATRICK • REP

I support the use of personal recognizance bonds and use them often in my court. From a financial perspective, it saves tax payer money. It is far cheaper to have someone on supervision outside the jail, particularly non-violent offenders, than sitting in the jail. Particularly, for defendants who plea to a probation, they may have to wait weeks to be evaluated by the probation department. I regularly grant personal bonds to these folks so they can get back to their life, have their evaluation appointment with probation, and then come back to complete their sentencing. They have an incentive to reappear for sentencing, otherwise I may not be bound to the plea bargain. These are defendants who are already going to be released on probation, and having them sit in jail awaiting to see what type of programs and treatment they may or may not need makes sense.

We have a tremendous system of appointed attorneys in Harris County. After more than four years on the bench, and trying over 100 cases to a jury, the feedback I get from the juries is always interesting. Most juries want to know if the lawyer was hired or appointed and they almost always get it wrong! I use the Fair Defense Act Management System to appoint counsel. The PDs office appears on that list just like other qualified lawyers. The same rules apply to appellate appointments. After working in the courthouse for the past 10 years, i have gotten to know which defense lawyers do a good job and are trustworthy. Those are the lawyers I appoint, those who I believe will do a great job zealously representing their client.

All defendants charged with capital murder in my court are assigned two capital qualified appointed attorneys. Many courts only appoint two capital attorneys when the District Attorney will seek the death penalty. I appoint two capital attorneys on all cases, even when death is not being sought. Additionally, any reasonable request for investigation, independent testing of evidence, and other forensic work is pre-approved in these cases. In practice, I make no distinction for the allocation of resources between cases where death will or will not be sought.

**CRIMINAL
» COURT**

**» No
Photograph
Submitted**

ROBERT JOHNSON • DEM

I do support usage of more Personal Recognizance Bonds under the correct set of facts and circumstances. Prior to giving a PR Bond, an assessment needs to be done to make sure the person is not a flight risk.

Attorneys receiving criminal court appointments shall provide effective representation. Effective representation is required by our constitution. The Public Defender's Office primarily focuses on Mental Health Cases and private attorneys are appointed on the remainder.

NO, an individual charged with capital murder does have the right to hire their own attorney and the Court should only appoint qualified attorneys on capital murder cases (approved list). These cases are normally looked at by the Appellate Courts.

**CRIMINAL
» COURT**

178TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



PHIL GOMMELS • REP

Yes. Personal recognizance ("PR") bonds are one tool established in Art. 17 of the Tex. Code of Crim. Procedure for ensuring appearance of the accused for court proceedings. The legislature has indicated that particular caution should be exercised when a district court judge considers granting such a bond to a person accused of a number of dangerous offenses such as Capital Murder, Aggravated Kidnapping, and Trafficking of Persons. Besides that, the code provides five specific criterion that every judge must take into consideration when fixing the amount of bail--whether free (as a PR bond) or some dollar amount. (See Tex. Code Crim. P. Art. 17.15). Having practiced both as a prosecutor and a criminal defense attorney, I have seen both the cost of pretrial incarceration to the Harris County taxpayer (between \$45 and \$285 a day) as well as the human toll that it takes on the accused and their families. Where appropriate, I will grant pretrial bonds to persons accused.

I will follow the criteria laid out in the Fair Defense Act Rule 24.11 (available at [http://www.ccl.hctx.net/attorneys/FDA/Rule%2024%20\(Alternative%20Plan\)%20-%202016.pdf](http://www.ccl.hctx.net/attorneys/FDA/Rule%2024%20(Alternative%20Plan)%20-%202016.pdf)). The Act states that "each assignment shall be randomly and impartially distributed among the list of attorneys eligible for appointment," (regardless of whether the eligible attorney practices privately (as I do presently) or is employed by the Public Defender's Office), "based upon the needs of the courts, an individual attorney's qualifications, and willingness and availability to work during an assignment period." I will make assignments randomly and impartially. Note, however, if I discover that a lawyer is failing to provide effective assistance of counsel, I will not appoint him or her.

All defendants in death penalty cases must, under the Constitution, receive public funding for assistance if they can't afford the needed resources (such as investigators and experts) on their own. In fact, the same is true in all cases. See Ake v. Oklahoma, 470 U.S. 68 (1986). As an attorney representing persons accused of crimes, I regularly submit motions to courts for such funds--even when I've been retained. I've seen that money is zero-sum, and sometimes a family bands together and spends all of their money on bond, and hiring an effective advocate--leaving no more money for other needed resources like investigators and experts. At no time is it more important that we get it right than in a case where a person's life is in jeopardy. The integrity of the death penalty relies upon it. Under those circumstances, it's particularly important, when a defendant has been found indigent, to grant public funding for resources his counsel represents to the court to be necessary.

**CRIMINAL
» COURT**



KELLI JOHNSON • DEM

Absolutely. Bonds should not be punitive. A person can lose their home, their job and their family if they are in jail awaiting trial. If a person is charged with a nonviolent offense, they should be granted a PR bond so their lives aren't adversely affected and we as citizens are not saddled with the expenses of housing them. Additionally, by keeping a person in jail, he or she may feel pressured to plead to a felony conviction in order to get out of jail faster. This in turn affects their ability to rent an apartment, home, buy a car, ability to vote, qualify for certain jobs etc. This is NOT what the spirit of the law is and should not be. The point of a bond is for their appearance in court and safety to the community. That is the utmost responsibility of a judge to remember.

An indigent person is a person who, at the time need is determined, does not have sufficient assets, credit, or other means to provide payment of an attorney and all other necessary expenses of representation without depriving he/she's family of food, clothing, or shelter. Age, financial dependence and whether or not he/she has a home should also be considered. First, I do not agree with our current appointment system. I believe that the appointment of a lawyer should be done at the first appearance and not by a judge where the case is assigned. There should be a complete absence of any appearance of bias. This system should be changed. If the current system remains, I would use the Public Defender's Office when possible. Additionally, if there are other cases, we have many outstanding private attorneys who are qualified on the appointment list.

Absolutely. All citizens who are accused of the highest crime deserve the best representation possible to adequately defend their cases. I have tried over 100 Capital Murders alone and know that both sides need well trained experts to critically evaluate the evidence and mitigation issues. These are very serious cases with serious consequences. Our resources should be used equally among all citizens charged.

**CRIMINAL
» COURT**

Get a {Free} Ride.



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- Saturday, October 29 (during the early voting period)
- Friday, November 4 (last day of early voting)
- Tuesday, November 8 (Election Day)

Please phone 713-635-4000 for more information.

DISTRICT COURT • JUDGE • Continued

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Criminal District Court Judge: Presides over one of the 22 courts in this division with jurisdiction in all criminal actions involving felonies punishable by imprisonment or death and in misdemeanor cases involving official misconduct. 4-year term.

Civil District Court Judge: Presides over civil action trials including workmen's compensation, breach of contract, personal injury, damages and contested elections. This includes Family and Juvenile Courts. 4-year term.

**CRIMINAL
» COURT**
Questions to
Candidates:

Do you support regular usage of no-cost personal recognizance bonds and the services of the Harris County Pretrial Services Department? Why or why not.

What criteria will you use when making the final decision about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants? Please discuss selecting attorneys from the Public Defender's Office vs. the selection of private attorneys.

Should defendants in all capital cases where the State contemplates asking for the death penalty receive additional publicly-funded assistance to ensure that they are adequately represented by experienced legal counsel? Why or why not?

**» CIVIL
COURT**
Questions to
Candidates:

What training, experience, and attributes qualify you for this position?

How will you ensure impartiality in your court given the current system of financing judicial campaigns, which allows donations from those who may later bring cases before your court?

What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the District Courts and how would you address them?

179TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



**CRIMINAL
» COURT**

KRISTIN M. GUINEY • REP

Since taking the bench, I have greatly increased the number of personal recognizance bonds granted in the court. I routinely grant these no cost bonds for citizens accused of low level drug crimes and non-violent offenses. The purpose of any bond is to secure a person's appearance in court. I rely on assessments completed by the Harris County Pretrial Services Department to assist in my decisions about granting these types of bonds.

I always appoint very experienced and competent attorneys. I use attorneys from the private defense bar as well as attorneys from the Public Defender's Office. I expect every attorney to zealously represent their client. The system of justice demands that every citizen accused of a crime, whether indigent or not, be afforded counsel who is well versed in the law and meets the highest ethical standards. I expect that all attorneys in my court will adhere to this mandate.

Death penalty cases are the most serious cases in our legal system. These are cases where the stakes are the highest and where everything needs to be done the right way the first time. It is unfair to the victims, the accused, and society when errors on the part of the defense counsel in death penalty cases lead to a case having to be litigated a second time. This is a horrific strain on already overtaxed resources. Along those lines, I provide far more than the base level of resources to the attorneys in death penalty cases. This ensures that the defendant receives excellent representation, and ensures that the case is tried the right way the first time so that no one has to retry the case if the jury returns a death verdict.



**CRIMINAL
» COURT**

RANDY ROLL • DEM

YES, MOST HEARTILY. WHEN ELECTED IN 2008 I WAS THE FIRST JUDGE TO AUTOMATICALLY GIVE AND INSTRUCT MY PROBABLE CAUSE JUDGE TO GIVE PR BONDS TO FIRST TIME OFFENDERS IN NON-VIOLENT AND NON-INVASIVE CRIMES. THE NEW DEMOCRATIC JUDGES REDUCED OVER CROWDING IN THE JAIL SIGNIFICANTLY BY USING PR BONDS. THE PRESENT REPUBLICAN JUDGES VERY SELDOM GIVE THE KIND OF PR BONDS AS WE DID. CONVERSELY, THE JAILS ARE OVER-CROWDED AND UNDER SCRUTINY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AT TIMES. GIVING A PR BOND, ALLOWS NON-VIOLENT LOW LEVEL DEFENDANTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO FIGHT THEIR CASE FROM OUTSIDE OF JAIL AND NOT FEEL COMPELLED TO PLEAD GUILTY TO EVENTUALLY GET OUT OF JAIL. THE JUDGES AND PRETRIAL SERVICES HAS STARTED A NEW PROGRAM TO INTERVIEW EVERY POSSIBLE PROBATIONER TO SEE IF THEY ARE GOOD CANDIDATES FOR PROBATION. NO ONE CAN GET PROBATION W/O THIS INTERVIEW. PEOPLE SIT IN JAIL FOR WEEKS WAITING FOR THIS INTERVIEW (TRAS). THIS MUST BE APPLIED MORE EFFICIENTLY THAN AT PRESENT.

I VERY MUCH SUPPORT THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE. AS JUDGE I USED IT DAILY BUT THEIR CAPACITY IS PRESENTLY LIMITED AND SHOULD BE EXPANDED. AFTER I AND 8 OTHER DEMOCRATS (THE 1ST TO BE ELECTED IN MORE THAN 20 YRS) WERE ELECTED JUDGES, WE FORCED THROUGH THE PUBLIC DEFENDERS OFFICE. THE REPUBLICANS PREVIOUSLY HAD ALWAYS OPOSED THIS SYSTEM. PRESENTLY THE PD OFFICE IS TAKING ONLY 10% OF THE CASES BECAUSE OF BUDGET CONSTRAINTS FROM THE REPUBLICAN CONTROLLED COMMISSIONERS COURT. WE HAVE A CADRE OF MORE THAN 400 SEASONED AND EXPERIENCED LAWYERS WHO HAVE BEEN VETTED AND PLACED ON THE APPOINTMENT LIST AND THEN JUDGED AS TO THE LEVEL OF CASES THEY CAN RECEIVE BY APPOINTMENT. THEY ARE APPOINTED TO EITHER 1ST, 2ND, OR 3RD & SJF DEGREE LEVELS. JUDGES FOLLOW THE PROCEDURES WHEN 5 NAMES COME UP FOR A CASE APPOINTMENT WHEN THE COMPUTER AUTOMATICALLY SUGGESTS 5 QUALIFIED ATTYS, THEN THE JUDGE CHOOSES 1 OF THOSE 5. RECORDS OF ALL APPOINTMENTS ARE ASSIDUOUSLY MAINTAINED AND REVIEWABLE.

THAT IS A GOOD SUGGESTION. NOW TRY AND PRY THAT OUT OF A REPUBLICAN CONTROLLED COMMISSIONERS COURT WHO HAS STRONGLY RESISTED ALL PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS AT THIS. THE DEATH PENALTY IS DECISIVE AND THERE IS NO APPEAL FROM THAT IF IT IS CARRIED OUT. TO RECEIVE APPOINTMENTS TO CAPITAL MURDER CASES, THE REQUIREMENTS ARE STRINGENT AND EXACTING. ONLY THE MOST EXPERIENCED LAWYERS ARE ON THIS SHORT LIST. SOMEWHAT FEWER THAN 45 LAWYERS OUT OF A COUNTY WITH 10,000 ARE QUALIFIED BY THE COURTS TO BE ON THIS LIST. THE PD OFFICE SHOULD ACT AS A SUPPORTING AGENCY IN DEATH PENALTY CASES, USING THEIR RESOURCES JUST AS THE PROSECUTOR HAS THE RESOURCES OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE I.E. LIBRARY, INVESTIGATORS, COMPUTER ACCESS TO NATIONAL DATA BASES.

215TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



**» CIVIL
COURT**

FRED SHUCHART • REP

I have over 30 years of experience in commercial and personal injury litigation. I have tried cases on both sides of the docket throughout the State of Texas. I have also handled appeals throughout the State and Federal systems. My extensive legal experience has prepared me for the duties of a sitting judge. My experience coaching little league for ten years and teaching at the Law School have given me the patience and temperament to listen to all sides and decide fairly. My experience has also taught me organizational skills which will greatly assist in the efficient operation of the Court.

The fundamental premise of the United States is that we are a country of laws not man. A reverence for that principle is why I decided to run for judge. As an active judge rather than an activist judge, I would seek to apply the law as written instead of rewriting it from the bench. Impartiality relies on basing all judgement on the text of the law. Finally, our public servants who enforce the law all must recognize that we have a duty to the public to avoid both the appearance of impropriety as much as impropriety itself. Recusal from the process is crucial when doing otherwise would potentially impact public confidence in our legal system.

The most pressing issue is the lack of respect for the jurors and parties' time. As Judge, I will ensure that jurors do not have to sit around waiting for the Court or attorneys to proceed. I will have smaller but more frequent dockets so that clients and attorneys do not have to sit around for hours waiting to have a 5 minute hearing. The second most pressing issue is the delay in getting rulings from the Court. Justice delayed is justice denied and therefore I will be prepared to rule in a timely fashion.



**» CIVIL
COURT**

ELAINE PALMER • DEM

Prior to coming to the bench, I was an Attorney in Private Practice for 14 years. I had a General Practice with an emphasis on Civil and Family Law. My clients came from all walks of life they were business owners and laborers. My areas of practice included setting up business structures, automobile accidents, divorce, child custody and support, debtor-creditor, immigration, business disputes, real estate and probate matters post divorce. These experiences prepared me to be fair but firm and to treat all persons with dignity and respect. I also worked with Houston Volunteer Lawyers assisting litigants with Bankruptcy and Family cases.

Our Civil Justice Court is a tool for righting wrongs, equalizing the disparities between the rich and the poor, leveling the playing field between the powerful and the powerless, and achieving social justice. I understand that our civil courts are often the last resort for those who have suffered physical, mental and/or economic harm, discrimination, wrongful termination, or deprivation of their civil and human rights. It is currently and if re-elect, it will be my job everyday to ensure that my courtroom is a place where people are treated with dignity, respect and a sense of urgency. I know that we can do better and I am committed to being a part of that change.

Disciplined scheduling - in an effort to not waste lawyers or litigants time, I have implemented initial case management this allows the attorneys and parties to manage their case and after this consultation with the parties about their expectations and particularized discovery needs I set trials and the parties enter an Agreed Docket Control Order. Also, upon scheduling Motion hearings lawyers/litigants are required to give a time estimate so that they are allowed the necessary time to make their arguments and this prevents large dockets with lawyers sitting around for hours wasting time watching the judge call case after case ahead of theirs. Use of Technology - the citizens of Harris County paid for cutting edge technology when they built the Civil courthouse. Every litigant, every counsel, (both local and out of town) will be able to attend hearings in person or via telephone or via videoconference.

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Civil District Court Judge: Presides over civil action trials including workmen's compensation, breach of contract, personal injury, damages and contested elections. This includes Family and Juvenile Courts. 4-year term.

» CIVIL COURT

Questions to Candidates:

What training, experience, and attributes qualify you for this position?

How will you ensure impartiality in your court given the current system of financing judicial campaigns, which allows donations from those who may later bring cases before your court?

What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the District Courts and how would you address them?

333RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT



» CIVIL COURT

JOSEPH "TAD" HALBACH • REP

I have been the judge of this court for more than 21 years. Prior to the bench, I had more than 13 years in an active trial and appellate practice covering a wide range of complex business, commercial, insurance and tort disputes. I also became certified as a mediator and mediated approximately 50 cases, with a 90 percent success rate. I am Board Certified in Civil Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and a frequent writer and speaker at various CLE (Continuing Legal Education) programs. I am also an Adjunct Professor at the University Of Houston School Of Law, teaching Trial Advocacy. Throughout my career, the members of the Houston Bar Association have consistently rated me as one of the best judges in Harris County. In 2013, I was selected as the Trial Judge of the Year by the Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists ("TACTAS"). Since 1995, I have disposed of thousands of matters and tried hundreds of cases, substantially reducing the docket.

I strictly avoid any appearance of impropriety at all times. Cases and rulings are not decided on the basis of any financial support. To the contrary, all parties and lawyers are treated equally, no matter their political party, no matter whether they have contributed funds to me or my opponent. Further, as a rule, I do not accept contributions from directly from the parties themselves who appear before me or who may appear before me in the future.

The most pressing issue facing the District Courts is Access to Justice - Accessibility to the Courts. It has become too expensive and too difficult for ordinary citizens to obtain justice. We must reduce the cost of litigation and the time it takes to resolve disputes. I have addressed this by making the Court more "user friendly," principally by increasing the use of technology and being flexible in court scheduling. I have made court records accessible on line and conducted video and telephone conferencing whenever asked. I also provide a list of resources for ordinary citizens to obtain affordable and often free legal assistance, when appropriate. The second most pressing issue is participation in the jury system. We must encourage more citizens to respond and participate in jury service to ensure fairness to all. I treat jurors courteously and professionally, with a particular emphasis in using time wisely.



» CIVIL COURT

DARYL MOORE • DEM

I have 26 years experience in civil trials and appeals in state and federal courts, handling almost every type of case that the 333rd hears. I have represented plaintiffs and defendants, individuals and corporations, injured workers and product manufacturers. By handling all types of cases, on both sides of the docket, I have learned that the trial judge's most important role is to guarantee that the courtroom is a level playing field for all litigants, without regard to whether they are a plaintiff or a defendant, an economically disadvantaged individual or a large corporation. My experience has taught me that the best way to maintain a level playing field is to respect the right-to-trial-by-jury system enshrined in our Constitution; to let the parties have their day in court; to let the parties' lawyers try their clients' cases without undue interference by the trial-court judge; and to respect the jurors who serve and the verdicts they reach.

I would maintain a list of those who had contributed to my campaign and would voluntarily provide that list of contributors to any person/party who appeared before me. Additionally, I would recuse myself from cases in which a party, a party's lawyer, or a party's law firm had contributed substantial and disproportionate support to my campaign, as is proper under United States Supreme Court authority.

Equal access to justice is one of the most pressing issues facing our entire court system. Too many individuals and small businesses find themselves in the court system without counsel, and without the financial resources to retain counsel. I would maintain a list of resources for those who do not have counsel; keep the rules of civil procedure and evidence available for those who are pro se to access; and create and distribute courtroom operating procedures so those without lawyers can better understand the judicial process. Without these types of safeguards, many have access to justice, but not access to equal justice.

334TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



» CIVIL COURT

GRANT DORFMAN • REP

I have served as an attorney & Judge in Houston for over 23 years, with a strong academic education in law and government. In the almost 10 years now that I have served the people of Harris County as a Judge, I have developed a public record of fairness, impartiality, compassion, hard work and commitment to following the law. I have consistently received top marks for these qualities in polls conducted of the membership of the Houston Bar Association (available at www.hba.org/judicial-poll-results/) -- who are the people who know first-hand which judges are working hard at the Courthouse and can get the job done. In addition, I have received the Houston Chronicle's endorsement this year AND every time that I have run for a contested office (2002, 2008, 2014 and 2016), and the endorsements of a varied, bipartisan group of organizations -- among them the Association of Women Attorneys, the Mexican American Bar Association of Houston, the C Club and the Houston Realty Breakfast Club.

I do not accept contributions from litigants who have cases pending before my Court, and I have always and will continue to make my decisions based on the law and the merits of the evidence and arguments that are presented to me. My record in almost 10 years of service on the bench -- and my strong reputation for fairness within the Houston legal community -- are demonstrated by my consistently high marks in the Houston Bar Association Judicial Polls (available online at www.hba.org/judicial-poll-results/). I received "Well Qualified" ratings from over 72% of poll respondents, and over 91% rated me "Well Qualified" or "Qualified" -- the 2 highest rankings available. Top scores like that are not given to judges who are perceived as being influenced by campaign contributions or as making their decisions based upon favoritism rather than the law.

The most pressing issue in our civil courts is that the average person has been priced out of obtaining effective legal representation, due to the high hourly rates charged by attorneys and the fact that in civil court -- unlike in our criminal courts -- there is no provision for the appointment of attorneys to represent private parties at taxpayer expense. That would be prohibitively expensive to do, but I have and will continue to encourage private attorneys and Bar Associations to provide more of their time in free legal services (called pro bono work, from a Latin phrase) to those who have good cases or defenses to lawsuits that have been brought against them, but cannot afford to hire an attorney to help them navigate the Court system. It is important that our Courts be open to the public, and that they not be perceived as only available to wealthy persons or corporations that can afford to pay attorneys. It is a far better way to settle disputes, compared to the alternatives.



» CIVIL COURT

STEVEN KIRKLAND • DEM

I have 12 years of judicial experience, 24 years of legal experience and over thirty years of community service to the people of Houston and Harris County. I have represented you, the taxpayer, international oil companies and individual homeowners. I have been on all sides of the courtroom and have the legal and life experiences to serve you fairly, efficiently and with compassion.

Politics has absolutely no place in the courthouse. As a former judge with 12 years' experience, I zealously guarded against signs of bias in my courtroom. My campaign adheres to the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act that limits campaign contributions.

The courthouse must be open to all people, who should feel they have a fair and equal chance to be heard. That's why I have fought to expand access to justice for all people and communities and increase transparency and accountability in our courts.

District Courts are designated as either Civil or Criminal. See the designator beneath each candidate's photograph to determine which type of court they are running for, and which question set they were given.

Criminal District Court Judge: Presides over one of the 22 courts in this division with jurisdiction in all criminal actions involving felonies punishable by imprisonment or death and in misdemeanor cases involving official misconduct. 4-year term.

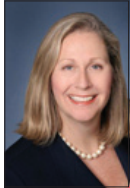
CRIMINAL
» COURT
Questions to
Candidates:

Do you support regular usage of no-cost personal recognizance bonds and the services of the Harris County Pretrial Services Department? Why or why not.

What criteria will you use when making the final decision about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants? Please discuss selecting attorneys from the Public Defender's Office vs. the selection of private attorneys.

Should defendants in all capital cases where the State contemplates asking for the death penalty receive additional publicly-funded assistance to ensure that they are adequately represented by experienced legal counsel? Why or why not?

337TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



RENEE MAGEE • REP

Yes. For first offender and low-risk offenders the personal recognizance bond helps to keep our jail population down and allows defendants the opportunity to better assist their lawyers with their defense.

I use the following criteria in assigning attorneys: type of case, complexity of the case, experience of the attorney, whether the attorney is on the prequalified appointment list, and availability of the attorney. Depending on the circumstances, I utilize both the Public Defender's Office and a large selection of available and qualified private attorneys, with the end goal being the assignment of qualified and available counsel to the defendant for a timely handling of the case.

Yes. I appoint two and sometimes three attorneys on a death penalty case. I also authorize funds for mitigation experts, lab testing and additional investigator services. Harris County maintains an appointment list of experienced and competent attorneys for death penalty cases and I utilize this list in making my appointments.

CRIMINAL
» COURT



HERB RITCHIE • DEM

For non-violent, first time offenders, who have close ties to Harris County, the use of personal bonds may be appropriate. For other non-violent offenders who have previous non-violent criminal histories, and do not pose a flight risk, a Pretrial Services bond may be appropriate. As a former judge, I often used Pretrial Services in appropriate cases.

Just as when formerly a judge, I will use the Public Defender's office since it has resources comparable to the D.A.'s office. Otherwise, I will follow standards set out by the Texas Fair Defense Act and the Harris County Criminal District Courts in appointing competent, qualified attorneys. I prefer for Spanish speakers to have Spanish speaking lawyers.

Yes, because the best legal counsel tend not to want to accept serious capital cases because of the time consuming nature of these cases. It is important to ensure the best possible representation in cases where an accused can forfeit his or her life to the State.

CRIMINAL
» COURT

338TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



BROCK THOMAS • REP

I do support the usage of PR bonds when appropriate. Decisions as whether to grant PR's bonds are made on a case by case basis after considering and weighing the provisions as set out by the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure regarding the fixing of bail. These include the nature and circumstances of the offense, ties to the community, criminal history or lack thereof, and the ability to make bail. I also support the services of the Harris County Pretrial Services Department and the work they do. In the near future, the Harris County Pretrial Services Department will begin to utilize a new and updated risk-assessment tool which will aid in the assessment of decisions of whether to grant PR bonds in particular and bail decisions in general. This is one of many steps that can be taken to continue to improve the administration of justice.

My primary consideration in assigning counsel to represent indigent defendants is making sure that qualified counsel is appointed. Attorneys are selected from a list of attorneys who have met the qualification standards for the offense level of the appointment being made. This list includes private attorneys as well as the Public Defender's Office when their caseload allows. I use a combination of private attorneys and the Public Defender's Office in assigning qualified counsel. The type and complexity of the case, as well as the expertise and experience of counsel, are factors considered in making sure that qualified counsel is appointed. In addition to my duties as Judge of the 338th, I also preside over one of our Harris County Felony Mental Health Courts. In this Felony Mental Health Court, the Public Defender's Office is appointed to provide legal counsel to program participants.

Yes. Defendants in cases where the State is considering seeking the death penalty are entitled to effective assistance of counsel and a fair trial. This includes funding for experienced legal counsel and expert assistance to ensure a fair trial. While this is true with any type of criminal case, it is especially critical in capital cases. Because of the stakes involved in these cases, I have and will continue to make sure that defendants in capital cases where the State is considering seeking the death penalty are provided with resources necessary so that they receive qualified, experienced legal counsel as well as expert assistance and investigative resources to ensure that they receive a fair trial.

CRIMINAL
» COURT



RAMONA FRANKLIN • DEM

As a judge I will consider all ranges of bonding options and all services offered through the Harris County Pretrial Services Department. I am NOT a proponent of debtor's court. Through my years of experience as a former Harris County Assistant District Attorney and Criminal Defense Attorney I have witnessed too many people denied justice because they could not afford to bond out of jail. During my 14 years of practicing criminal law, I have witnessed too many people pleading guilty because it was not in their best interest or their families best interest to sit in jail awaiting their lengthy trial dates and miss out on employment opportunities. It is imperative that we revamp our broken bonding system. The erosion of justice has been placed and targeted on the backs of those who are not able to afford a bond and counsel. Our criminal justice system works better when everyone is afforded the same equal rights and opportunity to zealously litigate their criminal case(s).

It is my opinion that the caliber of attorney's in the Public Defender's Office and Private Court Appointed Attorneys are equal in terms of competency, professionalism, knowledge and experience. As a result of my opinion, I would ensure that there will be equal case distributions amongst Private Court Appointed Attorneys and Attorneys at the Public Defender's Office. Additionally, I will use random selections of Private Court Appointed Attorney's. The Court Appointed Attorney system is flawed because too many Private Court Appointed Attorneys are inundated with too many cases. The 2015 Harris County Indigent Defense Attorney Caseload showed that approximately 89+ attorneys represented over 150+ felony criminal cases. This number is disturbing because the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards holds that a lawyer that is guided by their standards should be given up to 150 felony cases per year. As judge I would focus on ensuring manageable attorney caseloads.

I think it is essential that the scales of justice are equal and balanced for each side represented in a capital criminal case. Defense attorneys that have been entrusted with the enormous responsibility of representing a client that has been charged in a capital case should be able to zealously advocate for their client's case without being concerned about an inept and insufficient budget. Capital cases on an average cost the state more money because capital cases require more attorneys, more time, more experts and mitigation specialists. It would be completely egregious on behalf of a judge to demand an attorney who is handling a capital case to a time-frame of several months versus the traditional time frame of several years to prepare for a capital case in order to save the county money. Additionally, providing defendants with the essential tools needed to litigate their cases in their initial trial settings could potentially save the county money on the appellate process.

CRIMINAL
» COURT

Why are judicial elections important?

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

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Criminal District Court Judge: Presides over one of the 22 courts in this division with jurisdiction in all criminal actions involving felonies punishable by imprisonment or death and in misdemeanor cases involving official misconduct. 4-year term.

**CRIMINAL
» COURT**
Questions to
Candidates:

Do you support regular usage of no-cost personal recognizance bonds and the services of the Harris County Pretrial Services Department? Why or why not.

What criteria will you use when making the final decision about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants? Please discuss selecting attorneys from the Public Defender's Office vs. the selection of private attorneys.

Should defendants in all capital cases where the State contemplates asking for the death penalty receive additional publicly-funded assistance to ensure that they are adequately represented by experienced legal counsel? Why or why not?

339TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



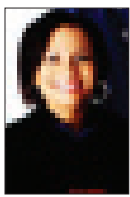
MARY MCFADEN • REP

I support the regular use of no-cost personal recognizance (PR) bonds for lower level offenses and non violent offenders. PR bonds guarantee due process to individuals who might otherwise not be able to make a low, reasonable bond. To determine the appropriateness of a PR bond, the court should consider factors including the type of offense, the defendant's ties to the community, whether any violence is associated with the offense, and the safety of the victim and the community. The Harris County Pretrial Services Department is an excellent resource to provide the court with information pertaining to the defendant and the situation surrounding the defendant and his or her resources.

The criteria I would use when making the final decision about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants is the type/level of offense and the resources necessary to defend the individual charged with a crime. The Public Defender's Office is a valuable resource for the citizens of Harris County. However, a Public Defender is limited in the number of cases in which he or she can carry at time and over a year. As such, I would reserve appointment of a Public Defender to the more complex and difficult cases that would require the type of resources that are available to the Public Defender's Office.

All defendants in capital cases in which the State contemplates the death penalty deserve the best representation possible and as such, should receive all assistance that is available to ensure that they are adequately represented by experienced legal counsel. Experienced legal counsel is the most important thing that a defendant can receive to ensure that his or her rights are protected, the appropriate discovery is conducted for both the case charged and possible punishment mitigation.

**CRIMINAL
» COURT**



MARIA T. (TERRI) JACKSON • DEM

Yes I do support PR bonds and the use of Pretrial services for the non violent low level offenders. I am a State District Judge and I preside over serious felony offenses. The types of cases that I preside over run the gamut of less than a gram all the way to Capital Murder offenses. I weigh all of the factors in considering PR bonds I review cases on an individual basis for example a defendant charged with a serious felony that is a danger to society I would not issue a PR bond in that case because I am also here to protect the community.

I use the bifurcated method. I use the Public Defenders Office quite frequently and I also appoint qualified attorneys to represent indigent defendants. The attorneys that are appointed on both sides are very qualified. My goal is to ensure that the defendant receives effective assistance of counsel during all of the stages of the criminal proceedings.

Yes I do agree that when the State is seeking the death penalty the criminal defendant should receive the funds necessary to ensure that the defendant receives adequate representation by experienced legal counsel. The United States Constitution provides criminal defendants with many constitutional rights and I believe in the constitution.

**CRIMINAL
» COURT**

351ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT



MARK KENT ELLIS • REP

Yes, in the appropriate case. There are a number of factors I have to consider in whether to grant a personal pretrial release bond. I look at the nature of the offense, the criminal history, the ties to the community, how release will affect the victim of the crime if there is one, whether the defendant is indigent or not and whether the information the defendant provided to The Harris County Pretrial Services Department is accurate and verifiable. I use pretrial bonds often, especially with mentally ill defendants who are stable on medication. I also work with Pretrial Services and the State and the Defense to set appropriate conditions of bond.

First and foremost, I appoint attorneys who are capable, experienced trial lawyers. Since 2001 the Harris County District Courts have followed the guidelines of the Texas Fair Defense Act to appoint lawyers for indigent defendants. The Act requires attorneys to meet criteria that includes legal experience in criminal law, criminal trial experience and legal education and training in criminal law. In addition, all applicants are required to pass a certification exam to get on the list to do criminal appointments. The Fair Defense Act Management System randomly provides a list of private attorneys and public defenders who qualify by training and experience to handle the cases on each day's docket. This process insures that I appoint the best lawyer for the job.

Funding capital cases in Harris County is not a problem. Over the years I have presided over 12 capital murder trials where the State of Texas sought the death penalty. I have granted every defense request for attorney fees, expert testimony, investigative fees, mitigation investigative fees and the Harris County Auditor's Office has paid every request for payment. The attorneys who are appointed to represent capital defendants in Harris County are experienced, professional, prepared and committed to the vigorous representation of their clients. In addition, the appellate lawyers appointed on capital cases are equally well qualified. I cannot speak to what other judges do on capital cases. But, no one charged with capital murder in the 351st District Court is going to be tried for their life without having the very best lawyers I can find and the most thorough investigation of every last detail of their life and the case. That is my duty and my commitment.

**CRIMINAL
» COURT**



GEORGE POWELL • DEM

Yes. A great number of defendants who qualify for personal recognizance bonds (never been arrested before; are not flight risks; are not violent and are not a danger to themselves or others) could and should be granted personal recognizance bonds. Defendants are also people. Like anyone else, those defendants have families. They have jobs. Some go to school. They are eligible, qualified and deserving of PR bonds.

Once the defendant has filled out the proper forms and been qualified as indigent, I will appoint him or her an attorney. I will first consider the Public Defender's Office because I know that, through the hiring process, attorneys for the PDO have been qualified. Outside of the PDO, attorneys handling appointed cases may not be as easy to screen for competence - which could result in poor defendants being treated less favorably than non-indigent defendants, and which defeats the purpose of seeking to provide good indigent defense counsel.

Due to the seriousness of those cases, and the limited rights of appeal in those and any other criminal case, Defendants in capital cases where the state is seeking death should be afforded every reasonable form of public assistance available. It is important to be sure the defense counsel is experienced and gives the defendant the best opportunity for acquittal, so that an innocent person is not wrongfully put to death.

**CRIMINAL
» COURT**



**Voting for
Judges in
Texas**

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

Voting Decisions in judicial races are among the most important that a Texas voter makes.

DISTRICT COURT • JUDGE • Continued

District Courts are designated as either Civil or Criminal. See the designator beneath each candidate's photograph to determine which type of court they are running for, and which question set they were given.

Civil District Court Judge: Presides over civil action trials including workmen's compensation, breach of contract, personal injury, damages and contested elections. This includes Family and Juvenile Courts. 4-year term.

» CIVIL COURT

Questions to Candidates:



» CIVIL COURT

ALYSSA LEMKUIL • REP

I have been a licensed attorney for 24 years, including 4 years as a judge (3+ years as associate judge and 9 months as judge of this court). I have a proven track record and reputation for fairness and knowledge of the law. I have received very positive feedback from the attorneys who have practiced before me (see www.JudgeLemkuil.com/testimonials and HBA bar poll results). My broad experience in family law – including prosecution and defense of enforcement cases, representing parties in family law cases in trial courts, courts of appeals, and the Texas Supreme Court, mediating numerous family law cases, and speaking at many continuing legal education seminars – gives me a unique perspective to serve as a judge. I also have life experience that helps me to be a good judge. I have put together a great team in the 507th and we love what we do! The court is run very efficiently and all attorneys and parties are treated with courtesy and respect.

How will you ensure impartiality in your court given the current system of financing judicial campaigns, which allows donations from those who may later bring cases before your court?

Judges in Texas must run for election and that means we must educate citizens about the candidates, the issues, and the courts. Running a judicial campaign in Harris County can be a very expensive endeavor. As such, lawyers often contribute funds to defray these costs. The only thing they expect from me is that I continue to be fair and impartial, and I am committed to these principles. Please see www.JudgeLemkuil.com/testimonials to see what people who know me say about my impartiality.

What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the District Courts and how would you address them?

The most pressing issues facing the family courts are: 1) access to the courts by people with limited financial resources, including pro se parties, 2) cases involving children in the CPS system, 3) efficient processing of the large dockets while serving the best interest of children and avoiding unnecessary delays, and 4) encouraging parties to work together to avoid future litigation. We have a separate trial docket for pro se parties - this saves lawyers time (because they are not waiting while we handle pro se cases) and allows us to devote the time necessary to the pro se parties. We should encourage more participation by the bar to provide pro-bono or low cost legal services. We encourage relative placements, rather than foster care, in CPS cases. We require mediation in most cases, in which parents can learn to cooperate and make orders that will work for their family.



» CIVIL COURT

JULIA MALDONADO • DEM

My 18 years of legal experience, my training in mediations and family law mediations, and being Board Certified in Family Law qualify me for this position. I have handled a vast majority of cases ranging from waiver divorces to complex family law jury trials with substantive property and/or children issues. I have also handled various appeals to the Court of Appeals and the Texas Supreme Court. Because of my mediation training, I have handled a numerous amount of family law mediations. I am fluent in Spanish.

I will ensure that my rulings will not be based on donations but the facts of the case and the applicable law. The proper role of the judicial branch within the Texas system of government is to interpret the law consistent with the Constitution of the State of Texas and the U.S. Constitution. The judicial branch should not seek to make law, but to simply apply the law consistent with the Constitution. Therefore, the donations made by anyone will not be considered when making rulings in this court.

We appoint amicus attorneys to liberally thereby preventing litigants from truly bringing their cases before the courts. I would only appoint amicus attorneys after thoroughly reviewing and assessing whether there is truly a need and if the parties can afford such appointments. In several instances, amicus are appointed but never paid because the parties cannot afford it. Another issue is hearing notices here in Harris County. I would like to see some type of uniformity on how attorneys obtain hearing dates and provide notice of them with new e-filing system. Attorneys need a better way of notifying courts when they have multiple settings. As it is now, attorneys try to contact the court and most of the time, no one answers the phone. There should be some type of automated way for attorneys to let the court know.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Represents the State of Texas in criminal cases pending in Harris County Criminal District Courts and in all inferior courts of the county. Screens all cases and advises police and citizens on criminal justice matters. 4-year term.

Questions to Candidates:



DEVON ANDERSON • REP

Yes I do support the use of personal recognizance bonds for those defendants charged with non-violent crimes and who assess at low to moderate risk. I have asked the interim pretrial director, Dennis Potts, to send a list of those defendants who are in the Harris County Jail who fit that criteria each morning to the chief prosecutors in each court. I have instructed the prosecutors to look at the list and review their file to see which defendants they would support being out on pretrial bond. They are then to bring it to the court's attention. I am the chair of the Harris County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, the group that sought and won the MacArthur Safety+Justice Challenge grant. As part of our strategy to safely reduce the jail population by 21% in 3 years, we will be implementing the Arnold Foundation's Public Safety Assessment tool to assess each defendant booked into the jail for eligibility for a PR bond. This coupled with the recent hiring of a new pretrial dir (///)

How can criminal prosecutors' time be best spent given the high number of violent and non-violent crime cases?

I have aggressively worked to streamline the flow of cases to our line prosecutors in both the misdemeanor and felony courts. We are diverting many of the nonviolent offenders into programs to reduce recidivism and criminal history building. Since I've been in office, we have initiated six different pretrial diversion programs: the First Chance Intervention Program for marijuana cases, Retail Theft, Veteran's Court (a misdemeanor diversion program), SAFE Court for prostitutes, Possession of less than 1 gram Pretrial Intervention for felony level defendants and New Start for mentally ill felony offenders. By diverting these offenders early in the process, we are able to expend more time and resources on the incarceration of the violent offender.

How will you address the issues surrounding the sentencing of nonviolent offenders in order to ensure that the penalty appropriately reflects the severity of offense?

The message from me to the prosecutors is to evaluate each case based on the evidence that we have, the severity of the offense and the individual defendant. I learned in Drug Court that in working with non violent offenders, a "cookie cutter" approach does not work. I have encouraged prosecutors to stop offering county jail time on low level possession cases and instead offer opportunities for individualized treatment so we can end the revolving door experience of an addict in the criminal justice system. I have created six new diversion programs targeted at non-violent offenders and am also involved in the planning and implementation of the new Reintegration Court which will open on October 17th. In addition to assuring a more uniform, evidence-based approach to bond decisions, sentencing practices, and probation conditions, this non-trial court will involve a recovery coordinator and peer support mentors at the front end to encourage and support diversion choices.



KIM OGG • DEM

Yes. We are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars every day in Harris County to detain people pre-trial, many of whom have been determined low risk by Pretrial Services. Meanwhile, the most dangerous defendants can return to the community so long as they have the resources to afford the bail. The bail schedule disproportionately affects minorities and the poorest citizens; it is unconstitutional, and moreover it is unfair. As DA, I would instruct prosecutors to agree to PR bond on any case recommended by Pretrial Services, unless they had especially good cause to oppose it.

We must prioritize violent and dangerous crime over non-violent and drug related offenses. Right now in Harris County, almost a quarter of the cases filed are drug-related. Another large percentage are related to alcohol, gaming, prostitution, and false identification. These are crimes that must be addressed, but the focus of law enforcement resources is disproportionate to the social effect of these crimes. Meanwhile, serious crimes like sexual assault, robbery, and burglary make up a tiny fraction of cases filed. Harris County will be safer when we prioritize spending on investigation and prosecution of serious offenses, especially those gangs of organized criminals who commit the majority of crimes in Harris County. That is what I will do as District Attorney.

I will divert all misdemeanor marijuana cases into community service programs instead of jail. Depending on the impact of that program, it may be possible to expand that to other non-violent, "victimless" misdemeanor crimes. On the other hand, some crimes that are technically non-violent are very serious, such as robbery, burglary (which can turn deadly in a moment), organized crime, environmental pollution, animal cruelty, and major financial crimes. The sentence should always fit the crime, but violence is not the only consideration. These kinds of crime have a terrible social impact. We must keep our families safe, and that means punishing even non-violent offenders who put us in danger.

COUNTY CIVIL COURT AT LAW • JUDGE

Presides over original and appellate county civil cases; exclusive jurisdiction over eminent domain proceedings. Decides title issues on real/personal property. Hears suits to recover damages for slander/defamation of character; enforcement of liens on real property valued at \$200 or more; corporate charter forfeitures; and recovery of real property. 4-year term.

Questions to Candidates: What are the most critical administration of justice issues facing the court for which you seek election as judge?

How will you ensure impartiality in your court given the current system of financing judicial campaigns, which allows donations from those who may later bring cases before your court?

What will you do to ensure that all parties involved in cases before the court have an opportunity to have their interests adequately represented and considered in a timely manner?



CLYDE RAYMOND LEUCHTAG • REP

The county civil courts have a unique mix of multi-million dollar condemnation cases and many smaller dollar cases where many people represent themselves without attorneys (e.g., evictions, credit card defaults, etc.). Therefore, to be effective, the judge must have a combination of compassion, legal intelligence, and dedication to following the law (please see the Houston Chronicle endorsement). I have a Proven Track Record and reputation of judicial effectiveness, including * the ability to understand and follow the law, * fairness, courtesy and respect for everyone who enters the courtroom, and * a Judicial Temperament and heart for serving and helping others.

The method I have successfully used to ensure impartiality in the court is by being aware of my human nature AND reminding myself daily that I am answerable (and must account for my actions) to a higher authority. As a judge, I MUST be fair to all, not being harsher to the rich or the poor because of their financial status (Lev 19:15). In addition, I plan to join civil district Judge Larry Weiman in significantly restricting donations from attorneys who have current cases in the court.

I will continue to vigorously guard the due process rights of people who are sued (please see the court's procedures at www.CountyCivilCourt1.com) and continue to allow all parties to be heard and have their day in court, including self-represented parties who do not have an attorney. We will continue to provide resource guides and helpful forms for litigants and their attorneys. In addition, our court team is continually making improvements to court operations, including * more customer friendly procedures and rules, * more efficient and less costly procedures to save litigant and tax-payer money, * creation of new template forms to assist litigants reach agreement before trial, and * continually soliciting online feedback (www.CountyCivilCourt1.org) from attorneys and litigants on ways to improve procedures and forms. Finally, we will find innovative ways to help parties not procrastinate on their routine litigation tasks -- so that cases will not be unnecessarily delayed.



GEORGE BARNSTONE • DEM

Harris County Civil Court at Law # 1 is one of four county civil courts that frequently hears non-probate cases with less than \$200,000 in controversy (usually credit card cases), and appeals from J.P. courts (usually evictions cases). This court is one of the courts that you are most likely to find yourself in. Judges in these courts need to have compassion and understanding, as the consequences of these cases can have deep and long-lasting effects on individual lives. Evicting someone from their residence is a life-changing event that should only be allowed if there are no other alternatives. Issuing a judgment against a credit card holder who is late in paying debt instead of working with the individual to pay off the debt, hurts the consumer and the economy. Our economy is based largely on credit. A judgment against you affects everything from credit card interest rates to employment. As judge I will attempt to resolve the cases with the least harm possible to all parties.

If either a party or an attorney in a case before me has contributed to my campaign, I will notify the other party/attorney, and I will offer to recuse myself from the case.

If a party to a case can't afford an attorney, I will provide the individual with information on free legal services, and I will continue/delay the hearing until the party is represented by a lawyer. If one of the parties doesn't speak English, I will make sure that an interpreter is provided. There is too much at stake, and the legal system is too complex to pit consumers against attorneys familiar with debtor-creditor law. I will issue opinions on the same day that I hear a case.

COURT NO. 1 • UNEXPIRED TERM

COURT NO. 16

COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT • JUDGE

Exclusive original jurisdiction over misdemeanors where the fine allowed exceeds \$500 or confinement in the county jail does not exceed one year. Decisions from the municipal and justice of the peace courts may be appealed to County Criminal Courts at Law. 4-year term.

Questions to Candidates: Do you support regular usage of no-cost personal recognizance bonds and the services of the Harris County Pretrial Services Department? Why or why not.

What criteria will you use when making the final decision about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants? Please discuss selecting attorneys from the Public Defender's Office vs. the selection of private attorneys.

Should defendants in all capital cases where the State contemplates asking for the death penalty receive additional publicly-funded assistance to ensure that they adequately represented by experienced legal counsel? Why or why not?



LINDA GARCIA • REP

I regularly grant personal (PR) bonds and use the services of the Harris County Pretrial Services Department, especially for low-risk defendants charged with non-violent offenses. I am very excited that next week we will begin the implementation of the Arnold Public Safety Assessment (PSA) tool to improve the information provided to judges making these important decisions. This instrument will give a score for each defendant on their risk to reoffend and to appear in court, as well as identify where a danger to the community is indicated. I am confident that this validated risk assessment will greatly assist me in making fair release decisions and imposing appropriate conditions where necessary. Finally, lawyers in my court that represent a defendant in custody know to bring their client to my attention if there is any chance at all for release on a PR bond so Pretrial Services can be contacted and I can determine if release, with or without conditions, is warranted.

In misdemeanor criminal court, the Public Defender's Office is automatically assigned for certain mentally ill defendants and for indigent appeals. For all other cases, lawyers are selected for court appointments through the Fair Defense Act Management System. Lawyers must qualify to be placed in FMDAMS based on meeting the qualifications set by the sixteen (16) county court judges, which include their legal experience and passing a certification test. From the approved lawyers, a random list is generated for each court when an assignment for lawyers representing indigent defendants is needed.

As judge of Harris County Criminal Court at Law No. 16, I preside over cases where defendants are charged with Class A and Class B misdemeanors. We do not handle capital cases where the State is contemplating asking for the death penalty.

COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT, JUDGE, COURT NO. 16, continued on next page

More Info.



For additional information, to view your personal ballot and to confirm your Election Day polling place location, please visit the Office of the Harris County Clerk at www.harrisvotes.com or phone 713-755-6965.

COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT • JUDGE • Continued

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COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT, JUDGE, COURT NO. 16, continued from previous page

COURT NO. 16



DARRELL WILLIAM JORDAN • DEM

Yes, I support the usage of no-cost personal recognizance bonds. I believe a person charged with a crime should be convicted only after the district attorney has proven the person's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Our current system allows those with the best means to bond out of jail and fight their case. While on bond they can take mitigating measures to ensure a better outcome of their case and they can also apply for diversionary programs. Whereas those who are poor are forced to stay in jail and fight their case. While fighting their case from behind bars, they often lose their job and are evicted from their home. In order to avoid becoming jobless and homeless, the accused often plead guilty in order to return home to their job and family. We must have a system where people are not punished for being poor.

I want attorneys in my courtroom who will fight for their clients. This means they are communicating with their clients and using experts as well as private investigators. All defendants deserve a great defense just as the citizens of Harris County deserve great prosecutors who will fighting for justice. The Public Defender's office is doing a great job and the court appointed attorneys selected in my courtroom will be great as well. There will be only one standard, so I will feel confident no matter where the attorneys are pulled from.

Yes, defendants should receive additional resources when facing the death penalty. There is no cost too high to ensure a person has a great defense when their life is on the line.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Represents State, County, Flood Control District, their officers and employees in all civil matters in court. Provides legal advice to elected and appointed officers regarding their official duties. Operates law enforcement program to protect consumers, public health and environment. Provides revenue enforcement services. 4-year term.

Questions to Candidates: What are the three most important issues this office needs to address and why?

How can your office work to ensure that Harris County elections are conducted in compliance with state and federal law?

Is there more that can be done to prevent or stop consumer scam activity, including via the internet, in Harris County?

COUNTY ATTORNEY



JIM LEITNER • REP

FIRST, THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE NEEDS TO GO BACK TO THE BASICS OF REPRESENTING THE COUNTY AS A WHOLE AS OPPOSED TO CATERING TO SPECIAL INTERESTS. WHEN ELECTED, I WILL SERVE AS THE DEFENDER FOR HARRIS COUNTY BUT REMAIN A LOYAL SERVANT TO THE PEOPLE. TO THIS END, I WILL CREATE A PORTAL FOR HARRIS COUNTY RESIDENTS TO USE AS A GATEWAY TO MY OFFICE SO THEY CAN SEND ME COMMENTS AND/OR COMPLAINTS CONCERNING MATTERS IMPORTANT TO THEM THAT MAY IMPACT THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE. THIS PORTAL WILL SERVE AS MY INVITATION TO THE COMMUNITY TO JOIN ME IN MAKING HARRIS COUNTY SAFE AND SECURE FOR ALL. SECOND, THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE NEEDS TO PROTECT THE COUNTY'S FISCAL INTERESTS. UNDER MY ADMINISTRATION, THERE WILL BE NO MORE HIRING OF OUTSIDE FIRMS, AT EXORBITANT RATES, TO DO COUNTY BUSINESS THAT SHOULD BE HANDLED BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE. AS A SEASONED LITIGATOR, I AM NOT AFRAID TO WALK INTO COURT AND TRY A CASE UNLIKE MY OPPONENT. WHEN ELECTED, MY OFFICE WILL CONSIST OF SEASONED LITIGATORS FROM THE TOP DOWN WHO WILL GO TO TRIAL TO PROTECT THE COUNTY'S FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE. THIRD, GIVEN THE RECENT DESTRUCTION OF EVIDENCE, IT IS APPARENT THAT THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE HAS DONE NOTHING TO PROPERLY EDUCATE COUNTY EMPLOYEES IN THE PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT OR RETENTION LAWS. IF ELECTED, MY ADMINISTRATION WILL TRAIN COUNTY EMPLOYEES TO RETAIN RECORDS IN A MANNER WHICH WILL NOT VIOLATE CITIZEN'S RIGHTS. MY ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT BE AFRAID TO SEEK REMOVAL OF A COUNTY OFFICIAL OR OTHER EMPLOYEE FROM PUBLIC SERVICE FOR VIOLATING THE LAW.

THE RIGHT TO VOTE IS A SACRED ONE AND THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SHOULD ENFORCE VOTER ID LAWS IN ORDER TO PREVENT FRAUD ON OUR DEMOCRACY. VOTERS SHOULD BRING SB14-COMPLIANT ID. IF VOTERS ARE UNABLE TO DO SO AS A RESULT OF A LEGITIMATE REASONABLE IMPEDIMENT SUCH AS FINANCIAL HARDSHIP IN OBTAINING SUCH ID'S THEN THE REASONABLE IMPEDIMENT DECLARATION MAY BE AVAILABLE TO THEM. SUCH DECLARATION CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT BE USED IN SITUATIONS WHERE THE VOTER HAS FORGOTTEN TO BRING HIS/HER ID OR PROVIDES SOME OTHER UNREASONABLE EXCUSE. AS COUNTY ATTORNEY, MY OFFICE WILL FACILITATE THE RIGHT OF ALL PERSONS LEGALLY ELIGIBLE TO VOTE, BUT I WILL NOT TURN A BLIND EYE TO VOTER FRAUD. IF SUCH ABUSE OCCURS, MY ADMINISTRATION WILL ENFORCE STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS AS APPROPRIATE TO SECURE THE SANCTITY OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS.

THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SHOULD UTILIZE DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES ACT ("DTPA") LAW AND ANY OTHER CONSUMER PROTECTION STATUTE AVAILABLE TO PROSECUTE SCAMMERS IN HARRIS COUNTY. OUR OFFICE SHOULD ALSO JOIN FORCES WITH THE AG'S OFFICE TO FILE DTPA SUITS AGAINST TEXAS BUSINESSES THAT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR CITIZENS, IN PARTICULAR THE ELDERLY POPULATION, IN MATTERS INVOLVING CONSUMER TRANSACTIONS. LASTLY, EDUCATION IS KEY. THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SHOULD PROVIDE EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO CONSUMERS TO PREVENT SCAM ACTIVITY BEFORE IT IMPACTS THEIR POCKET BOOK.



VINCE RYAN • DEM

(1) The Harris County Attorney's Office as the "civil attorney" for virtually all of Harris County government must constantly assure the people of Harris County that the decisions and actions of Harris County's elected and appointed officials are in conformance with the applicable law. (2) The Harris County Attorney's Office must constantly strive to provide the highest quality legal services in all matters in order to serve the residents of Harris County. (3) The Harris County Attorney's Office must continue our efforts to protect children, the environment, neighborhoods and consumers to assure Harris County and its people have the highest possible quality of life for all.

The Harris County Attorney's Office is in constant communication with officials at the local, state and federal levels on key issues such as voter identification and election integrity. For example, our election strike teams composed of attorneys and investigators are available to visit precinct voting locations and consult on-site with election officials and voters when issues arise during the election.

Yes, more can and should be done, especially scams that target our seniors. Our office is very aggressively enforcing consumer protection laws and has stopped scams that play on people's fears and lack of understanding. For example, we recently stopped an internet company from selling phony forms to supposedly "help" people obtain refunds from the County. We have also used the Texas Deceptive Trade Practice Act to stop the sale of Kush (synthetic marijuana) and obtain money penalties against enterprises that market these dangerous drugs to our children and adults.

SHERIFF

Principal law enforcement officer for Harris County. Maintains custody of persons committed to jail and supervises jail system. Furnishes court bailiffs and warrant officers, detective and investigation services and, in unincorporated areas, patrol officers. Provides on-site liaison at the Office of Emergency Management. 4-year term.

Questions to Candidates: What changes, if any, are needed in the handling of juveniles, veterans, and persons with mental health or special medical needs, who are incarcerated in the county jail system?

How can the relationship between law enforcement officials and the community be strengthened? Are officers adequately trained in de-escalation techniques?

How would you respond to concerns of abuse, racial profiling, or discrimination by Sheriff Deputies?



RON HICKMAN • REP

There are a number of changes necessary when it comes to these issues. We've created a Stars & Stripes Program specifically to help our veterans re-enter society with the tools to deal with critical issues like PTSD. Our recidivism rate for these programs boasts a very successful re-entry rate. Mental health is an even bigger challenge. This is made more difficult when the State nor federal government does not subsidize treatment or Pharmaceuticals for these inmates. The County taxpayer is the default provider for this healthcare and the State legislature should be looking harder at ways to strengthen support for these issues and shoulder a larger portion of this responsibility. The jail is clearly not the place to resolve problems for those with mental health and special needs issues. The County taxpayer currently provides 22 million a year in support for mental health care inside the Harris County Jail. Another 40 million goes to provide health care for inmates. We can do better.

We continue to train in verbal judo and other deescalation techniques. That effort is supported by a continuing program of increased dialog with the community through civic events, town hall meetings, and support from within cultural leadership. There is always room for improvement and when so much of the country seems to be powder keg, many wonder why we don't have such issues here and how can we continue to find ways keep dialog open. In a county as large and culturally diverse as Harris County, we encompass one of the largest and most culturally rich communities in this state, if not the region. We have already begun to create a Cultural Advisory Board so that we have individuals who can provide us a voice in various communities.

I would have to say that we have a pretty good track record when it comes to responding to our community and when we have an incident that requires a stern response, we react to it, and when necessary, we investigate and take appropriate action up to and including indictments on our own personnel. None of us is perfect, but we should be able to assure the public that if one of our personnel steps across the line, those issues will be addressed. The challenge is doing so within a timeline that meets expectations. Ultimately our reputation with the community rests on it.



ED GONZALEZ • DEM

The Harris County Jail is the largest mental health facility in Texas. I am very concerned by the failure of the current sheriff to comply with basic laws like the Prison Rape Elimination Act, which protects incarcerated minors from predators. Recently, a sexual assault survivor was misclassified by jail staff as a potential rapist instead of a victim – leading to 27 days of horrific treatment, including the unlawful denial of mental health services. As sheriff, I will appoint a professional to manage the jail and improve how we address mental health needs. I will work with medical professionals, nonprofits, local government and community leaders to stabilize the mental health community so we can prevent people affected with an illness from ending up behind bars. I have experience as a city council member working with HPD, the health department and the Mental Health & Mental Retardation Authority to help individuals with serious mental illnesses reduce law enforcement encounters.

Our next sheriff must make it a priority to rebuild trust between law enforcement and the community – particularly communities of color. As a veteran Houston police officer, I know everyone is safer when our residents are working collaboratively with law enforcement to keep our neighborhoods safe and when police officers and deputy sheriffs are well-trained and understand the communities in which they work. Unfortunately, our current sheriff has made the problem worse, by defending deputies who ordered an illegal, roadside body cavity search of a young African American woman who had been pulled over for traffic stop, and by making racially insensitive remarks in public. As sheriff, I will use the best practices of community policing to rebuild trust between officers and the community, increase training in de-escalation and use of force and restore transparency and accountability in the sheriff's office.

Leadership starts at the top. That's why it was so disappointing when Sheriff Hickman actually defended two deputies who had been indicted by a grand jury for pulling over a young African American woman for a traffic violation and then ordering her to undergo a warrantless body cavity search on the side of the road. The sheriff's office needs a top-to-bottom review of policies, procedures and required training – including recognizing and addressing implicit bias. Violations of those policies and procedures should be dealt with swiftly following a complete investigation. On a broader level, a good leader sets the tone for the entire agency. If I am sheriff, every deputy will know that we treat everyone with respect and dignity and treat everyone equally under the law.

COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

Collects property taxes, the hotel-motel tax, and contracts with other taxing jurisdictions to collect their taxes. Issues motor vehicle licenses and titles. Voter Registrar for the County. 4-year term.

Questions to Candidates: If elected, what do you hope to accomplish during your term in office?

How will you ensure that all taxes under your area of responsibility are collected and disbursed on a timely basis?

How can you improve the process of voter registration in Harris County? Please address additional precautions Harris County can take to protect the integrity of the voter registration process.



MIKE SULLIVAN • REP

As the incumbent Tax Assessor-Collector, I continue to deliver on my promises to improve customer service, advocate for the taxpayer, and embrace technology. Prior to my election, the office only accepted credit cards for property taxes. We now take credit cards for all transactions, resulting in more than 100,000 card swipes in 36 months and the processing of over \$125,000,000 in transactions. I also conducted a full technical refresh of the office with new computers and software, while still maintaining an annual budget surplus of more than \$1,000,000. I will build on these successes when reelected.

As the incumbent Tax Assessor-Collector, I point to my record of collecting more than 99% of all taxes due. Additionally, I publish a list of the Top 10 Delinquent Tax Accounts, which always results in an increase of payments. I also moved the monthly delinquent tax sale from the courthouse to a new venue. Tax sale revenues have increased 15% year over year ever since, and more bidders participate. This not only improves tax collections, it returns property to the tax rolls and helps clean up neighborhoods. Lastly, I have a record of working with jurisdictions to ensure they have the most timely information possible. Disbursement of taxes is the responsibility of the Harris County Treasurer's office.

I am proud to have set new records for the total number of registered voters every year since I was elected. We conduct voter registration drives year round, partner with multiple groups in registering voters and have conducted more VDVR (volunteer deputy voter registrar) trainings than ever before. In this cycle, we have conducted more than 400 VDVR sessions throughout the county, resulting in more than 4,000 volunteer deputies. I also attend the monthly Naturalization Ceremonies where candidates become naturalized U. S. citizens. For the last 2 years, I partnered with the Houston Apartment Association to place postage paid voter applications in nearly 500 different complexes throughout the county. Also, when new residents come to any of my 16 branch offices to register their vehicles, we provide at least 2 blank voter applications and encourage them to register to vote. I pledge to continue this aggressive outreach to fulfill my responsibilities as the Voter Registrar.

COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR, continued on next page

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COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR, continued from previous page

COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR



ANN HARRIS BENNETT • DEM

I want the Harris County Tax Assessor Collector & Voter Registrar's Office to become a state-of-the-art office for the assessment and collection of taxes and for voter registration. The appropriate use of technology will be a greater service to taxpayers and taxing units. I will administer an office that is efficient, customer service friendly, and information driven. The Harris County Tax Assessor Collector & Voter Registrar's Office is a "service organization" not a "political organization". I will end the questionable practices of current and past administrators in this office. The taxpayers in Harris County have been burdened with the costs of litigation associated with questionable behavior of past administrations. I will save the taxpayers dollars by bringing integrity, transparency, accountability, efficiency and accessibility in the voter registration process, and end the culture of corruption, political cronyism, disenfranchisement, voter suppression and oppression.

I will review the collection statistics, auditor reports, and legal requirements for the Harris County Tax Assessor Collector's Office and compare them with comparable offices to look for ways to improve services to the taxing units.

The voter registration process can be improved by implementing online voter registration a proven secure and cost effective way to register every eligible citizen. I have and will continue advocating for online voter registration, monitoring and enforcing the registration of 18 year old high school students. I will establish partnerships with local high schools, businesses, college and universities, communities and organizations in countywide outreach for voter registration drives, recruitment of volunteer deputy voter registrars, and civic engagement projects. I will put an end to current and past practices of disenfranchisement, illegal purging of voter rolls, current and past inefficiencies in the processing of voter registration applications, scare tactics in deputy voter registrar training, and other forms of voter suppression. The integrity of the voter registration process can be protected by following the laws governing voter registration.

COUNTY SCHOOL TRUSTEE

The Board of Trustees acts to establish policies governing the operation of Harris County Department of Education. As a governmental body, it can take action only by majority vote at a legally called public meeting. The Board elects the County Superintendent as its chief executive officer to administer the organization. 4-year term.

Questions to Candidates: If elected, what do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

In your opinion, what are the three most valuable services currently being provided by the County Board of Education?

How will you make sure children of all backgrounds and socioeconomic status are supported in their neighborhood schools?

POSITION 1 • PRECINCT 2



GEORGE MOORE • REP No Response Received

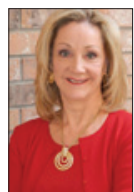
SHERRIE L. MATULA • DEM

As a county school board trustee, my responsibilities to the constituents and the school districts are varied. First and foremost, with my background of 35 years in the classroom, I plan to lend my expertise into making sure the policies and direction of Harris County Department of Education serve the children of Harris County. I'm very interested in moving HCDE forward into developing mentoring services for first and second year teachers in the school districts in Harris County. As a former school board member of Clear Creek ISD, I possess in depth knowledge on school financing and budgets. I plan to work tirelessly to make sure the tax dollars spent in HCDE are tracked and verified. HCDE provides top quality services to school districts in the county and I hope to make sure the quality remains high and consistent. I look forward to serving the constituents of Precinct 2 to the best of my abilities.

First, the early childhood and Head Start programs. As an educator with early childhood certification I know the importance of working with each child early in life. An investment in early childhood programs guarantees a better experience for the children in their subsequent education all the way to graduation. Second, the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids. These programs are needed to provide children opportunities for education exploration that are critical for their success as they progress through their education experiences. HCDE is connected with many community partners through CASE. Third, the school-based therapy services. HCDE provides top notch therapy services to all school districts in Harris County. Their therapists are the best and they are dedicated to the children.

My entire background as an educator has been dedicated to children from all backgrounds and socioeconomic status. First, in Clear Creek ISD at Stewart Elementary, then as a school board trustee in CCISD, then in Pasadena ISD at Mae Smythe Elementary, and for the last ten years as an educational consultant taking on low performing schools in science and math across multiple school districts from El Paso ISD, to Houston ISD, to Dickinson ISD, to Temple ISD. My career as an educator in public schools spanning 35 years has brought me to this challenge of serving the constituents of Precinct 2 representing the children, the parents, the educators, and the taxpayers. I have the qualifications, the knowledge, the expertise, and the passion for the County School Trustee position.

POSITION 2 • PRECINCT 4



ERIC DICK • REP No Response Received

MARILYN BURGESS • DEM

In the course of campaigning for this position, I have learned that many Harris County citizens are not even aware of the existence of the Harris County Department of Education. I have been so impressed with the scope and quality of services HCDE offers to all the ISDs in Harris County and the value they bring to the table for public education in our county. One of my main goals will be to make citizens aware of what HCDE offers and how valuable they are as a partner in providing a quality education to our children. Additionally, I would like to work to remove the partisanship from among the trustees and work to create an environment where we all work together to improve educational opportunities for all our children as opposed to furthering a political agenda.

1. The first has to be the four special schools operated by HCDE for all the ISDs in the county. Two which provide services for approximately 200 students with intellectual or behavioral disabilities and two for approximately 1000 students who have been expelled from their home campuses for disciplinary reasons. These schools offer a highly structured learning environment with a low student to teacher ratio. Running these at the county level is both a cost effective and quality solution. 2. School based therapy services to over 5000 students at their home campuses. With over 140 therapists on staff ISDs can contract for services including physical, occupational, and music therapy for students struggling with autism, intellectual disabilities and other challenges. 3. Adult education for workforce development, GED preparation, or English as a second language at more than 65 locations county wide. Increasing adults with a GED is critically important to our future economic prosperity.

I believe passionately in the right of all children, no matter their circumstances, to a free and quality education. I believe funding should be equalized so the quality of your school is not based upon the socio-economics of the neighborhood you live in. According to the most recent data released by the National Education Agency, Texas ranks 45th in funding per student. Our average teacher salaries rank 30th in the nation. We need to do better than this. If we are to improve the quality of our public education system and thereby our future economic prosperity, we have to adequately fund our public schools and competitively compensate our teachers. Additionally, I believe the single most important ingredient to a successful school experience is parent involvement and I want to work to further encouragement of and opportunities for such involvement.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Member of Commissioners Court: controls courthouses and jails; appoints/employs personnel, determines county tax rates, adopts budget, calls bond elections, sets voting precinct boundaries, lets contracts, and builds/maintains roads, bridges, libraries and parks. Within own precinct directly responsible for administration and parks, road and bridge programs. 4-year term.

Questions to Candidates: **Flooding is a major concern for our city, what will you do to help secure funds for our current dams and what additional measures will you consider to address flood control?**

What steps do you believe must be taken to ensure that the Harris County Hospital District can continue to fulfill its mission of providing health care services to the indigent and uninsured in a manner that is both compassionate and cost effective?

What steps should the County take to improve mobility in both the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county? Please address both roads and public transportation options.

PRECINCT 1 **RODNEY ELLIS • DEM** Running Unopposed



STEVE RADACK • REP

The federal government owns and operates the reservoir system that was built decades ago to help protect Harris County and the Houston area, and is instrumental in helping with major flood control projects within the County. I will continue to support the Harris County Flood Control Department's budget and its partnering with the federal government by providing matching funds to continue our flood control efforts. I will continue to support our partnering with local governments to provide water detention facilities, enforce rules and regulations and the permitting of new developments. It is vital our residents understand the tremendous challenge of attempting to prevent flooding in a county that is relatively flat and over 1700 square miles. I believe the citizens of Harris County must recognize this challenge, be conscious of it and vocal in reference to the billions of additional dollars that will be necessary to spend in the fight against flooding.

Obama care has been a disaster for the Harris County Hospital District (Harris Health). The budget of the District is \$1.3 billion, and we will continue to work with the federal government to provide necessary funding for healthcare for the indigent and the uninsured. State leaders have not accepted Medicaid expansion dollars which seriously handicaps healthcare in Harris County and in Texas. I will continue to support some type of Medicaid expansion that will leverage additional federal tax dollars for Harris County and ease the burden on local tax payers.

Harris County will continue to try and improve mobility by building, improving and maintaining our roads. We will encourage carpooling and mass transit. I.e. support the expansion of bus service routes into areas not previously covered in Precinct Three.

PRECINCT 3



JENIFER RENE POOL • DEM

Flood control is the most important issue for our county and the cities. There has been a lack of focused attention on flood control and the protection of the existing dams that protect our communities. There have been plans for west and northwest Harris county since 1940 that have never been funded for flood control. We must reevaluate our priorities for the all people of Harris County. Development without prior proper flood mitigation and detention to protect new and existing communities. I will redirect additional budget funds to the work of flood control and ask State and Federal government agencies to provide funds to protect our communities from flooding. I will work to have drainage improvements complete before new development will be allowed to be approved. Such as the Upper Langham Creek expansion project before local development.

I will work to accept the Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act to help fund our healthcare needs. Increase the yearly allocation the funds from the general budget to improve delivery of quality healthcare to all communities.

Complete the current road expansion projects. I want to have more community input into the planning and expansion of roads and the areas of community importance. I want to increase Harris County cooperation and partnership with cities and communities to resolve public transportation issues. Greater cooperation will create an atmosphere of goodwill and let all communities know that Harris County is their partner. I am in favor of greater use of HOV lanes and expansion of the rail system. I believe an expanded rail system should be able to pick and deliver people to where they work, shop, and live.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Has jurisdiction over criminal misdemeanor cases punishable by fine only, e.g. assault, bail jumping, criminal mischief, bad check writing, public intoxication, theft. Hears civil cases involving up to \$10,000. Handles miscellaneous complaints, performs marriages, issues commitment papers for the mentally ill, issues search and arrest warrants. Judges are elected to a four-year term.

Questions to Candidates: **The JP courts are frequently described as "The Peoples' Courts." As Justice of the Peace how would you ensure that this role is fulfilled in your court?**

The Justice of the Peace is charged with many responsibilities, what steps do you believe need to be taken to ensure that the JP Courts are adequately funded and staffed to do their job appropriately?

What changes, if any, are needed in the handling of juveniles, veterans, and persons with mental health or special medical needs, who are incarcerated in the county jail system?

SARAJANE MILLIGAN • REP No Response Received



ERIC WILLIAM CARTER • DEM

The Justice Court is a part of the very fabric of the community, and the Justice of the Peace is a vital community position. After all, the every-day citizen is more likely to come in contact with their JP than any other judicial position. In addition to maintaining a fair and open forum for people to resolve their disputes, I believe a JP should also be a dedicated community leader and supporter. The most interesting and exciting aspect of this community position is that you are truly on the ground floor, working daily with your neighbors, many of whom represent themselves in their cases. I pledge to maintain the office with honor, dedication to justice, and respect for all our citizens. Most of all, I promise to be a fair Judge that will listen patiently to every person. Outside of the courthouse, I intend to invest in the improvement of our community through judicial outreach programs, such as my "Teen Court", which is designed to educate and empower our next generation.

This Court is, for many, the only place people can go to seek relief and justice. The Judge must be someone who will work hard to "get it right" the first time, because many of our citizens may not have the financial means to pursue their claims on appeal. Additionally, this particular Justice Court is one of the busiest in Texas. It is vitally important that the Court have the funds and staff to efficiently manage the large case load. Future funding is often determined on performance. Therefore, to ensure this JP Court is adequately funded and staffed, the next JP must be ready to perform on Day 1. I have the experience, the training, and I have prepared extensively in anticipation of taking office in January. I am ready to hit the ground running for the Court and the Community.

Often times, a juvenile, veteran, or other person with mental health or special medical needs may leave incarceration in worse health than when they arrived. Without question, those that need treatment for mental health issues or other special medical needs should be provided access to prompt and adequate care.

PRECINCT 1 • PLACE 1

PRECINCT 2 • PLACE 1 **JO ANN DELGADO • DEM** Running Unopposed

Has jurisdiction over criminal misdemeanor cases punishable by fine only, e.g. assault, bail jumping, criminal mischief, bad check writing, public intoxication, theft. Hears civil cases involving up to \$10,000. Handles miscellaneous complaints, performs marriages, issues commitment papers for the mentally ill, issues search and arrest warrants. Judges are elected to a four-year term.

Questions to Candidates:

The JP courts are frequently described as “The Peoples’ Courts.” As Justice of the Peace how would you ensure that this role is fulfilled in your court?

The Justice of the Peace is charged with many responsibilities, what steps do you believe need to be taken to ensure that the JP Courts are adequately funded and staffed to do their job appropriately?

What changes, if any, are needed in the handling of juveniles, veterans, and persons with mental health or special medical needs, who are incarcerated in the county jail system?

PRECINCT 3 • PLACE 1



TOM ZAKES • REP

I will invite volunteer mediators from the Dispute Resolution Center to provide mediation services to help settle cases. I will continue the teen court program to introduce members of the community to the legal process. In bench trials, I will see to it that litigants are able to present their cases even if they are not intricately familiar with the rules of evidence and procedure. I will review forms provided by the court to the public to ensure that they are not in “legalese.” In keeping with the rules of civil procedure, I will not elevate form over substance. I will always have an open door to take suggestions from the community and bar to make sure that the ends of justice are being met.

I will work with Commissioners’ Court to make sure needs are met. I will meet regularly with staff to ensure that they are not assigned unnecessary tasks. I will take suggestions from the public and the bar to implement more helpful procedures.

This court generally does not handle cases of people in jail. We will continue to handle juveniles separately outside of school days and hours. We will be mindful of veterans and people with special medical needs to comply with the A.D.A. and resolve their cases quickly, while ensuring that justice is served.



JOE STEPHENS • DEM

I will ensure that my court remains the “Peoples’ Court” by making sure each and every citizen that enters the court has a voice and leave knowing they were heard. Often times litigants in JP courts are Pro Se and want a judge to hear their claim and know when they leave they were treated fairly and impartially. I also understand the importance of surrounding myself with a staff that echo’s these same sentiments.

The first step in this process is maintaining adequate records so as a JP you understand the budgetary needs to adequately operate the court. This will allow JP’s to report to the commissioners court what we see in order to ensure the courts are adequately funded and staffed. It is my opinion that by doing this we will not only ensure the courts are adequately funded and staffed but that those that enter the court will have an efficient 1st class experience.

I can better answer this question once on the job. There are different needs for different people and as a JP I want to make sure that we have adequate resources to serve each and every citizen that walks through our doors.

PRECINCT 4 • PLACE 1



LINCOLN GOODWIN • REP

I have a heart to give people faith in the justice system. The justice courts truly are “The Peoples’ Courts.” Nearly 90% of people in our community will come to this court- whether as jurors, to handle a ticket, to deal with a child in trouble, or to resolve a dispute with a neighbor. It’s often one’s only exposure to the justice system. People need to have faith in their justice system. Sadly, we’ve seen what can happen in this country when they don’t trust it. The justice courts truly provide the foundation of that trust. I treat all people fairly and with respect. Justice Courts also handle the most diverse dockets of any court in Harris County. I have extensive experience in both civil and criminal law. In fact, Justice Court judges must have knowledge of the TEXAS PENAL CODE, PROPERTY CODE, TRANSPORTATION CODE, ALCOHOL & BEV. CODE, CIVIL PRACTICE AND REMEDIES CODE and the RULES OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE . I have experience handling all of these areas of law.

While the Court’s primary function is the fair administration of justice, I operate the Court using sound business principles. The most important initiative we started was to cross-train all clerks in the various departments and specialties (civil, criminal, traffic windows, courtroom, etc.). When one department has a high volume of cases, we can pull from other departments to assist. This plan also allows for one clerk to replace another in the case of illness, vacation, etc. even if they work in separate departments. The workload that might have taken 40+ clerks can be done with approximately 30. Ultimately, this gives the taxpayer a much better value. I will also continue to hire quality staff over quantity. I am in constant communication with the County Commissioners Court to ensure proper funding of the Justice Courts. Finally, my staff leadership has taken advantage of numerous free leadership courses and will continue to do so.

JP Courts generally do not handle violent offenses, so there’s a tremendous opportunity to steer people in the right direction before they might commit a more serious offense, especially juvenile offenders. A major reason I decided to become a Justice of the Peace is because I am passionate about helping young kids who are on the razor’s edge of life. Given the right encouragement, structure, and discipline, a young man or woman can be directed down a path toward a fruitful life. As a former prosecutor, including time spent as a juvenile prosecutor, I have seen the tragic consequences when nothing is done. As a condition of their sentence, I have had young offenders perform community service, join Boy Scout troops, clean school busses, attend family counseling, and participate in tough love programs. I remind each juvenile that their success in any program depends on them and that they will be held accountable. Often, parents also participate in the programs with their children.



VICKY PRINTERS REYNOLDS • DEM

Extend better hours for citizens, allow technology for appearances so citizens don’t have to miss work, have tutorials and free classes for citizens on how to present a small claims or eviction case in the community, utilize mediation and arbitration by submission and employ other dispute resolution measures which would help in lowering appeals, and expedite resolution of cases in a few months. The Judge must be present more in court to hear cases. Everytime I’ve been by the JP courthouse in the last few years, no one has been in that courtroom. I can hear cases day and night.

Make flexible hours for staff knowing that many have family obligations. Invite the business community to provide community service opportunities and resources to defray the cost to our taxpayers. The County needs to update their technology which will defray the cost of adding staff and allow citizens quick and inexpensive access to the JP courts.

As a psychology minor, I know people can recover from mental health issues. I’ve been the legal guardian for a person with mental health issues who was restored. I think we should have volunteer professionals on call to assist when needed in court as well as mental health, veterans, juveniles and special needs resource lists available for the family of individuals who need assistance. There is already a boot camp type program for juveniles, mental health organizations to help in legal matters and those having special needs and other effective organizations for veterans. The courts need to make the public aware and not just treat these people like other inmates.

PRECINCT 5 • PLACE 1



RUSS RIDGWAY • REP

Many litigants in Justice Court Precinct 5 Place 1 are not represented by an attorney when presenting their civil claims, and defending their criminal charges. As the Chair of the Harris County Justices of the Peace Technology Committee, I have overseen the development of the Harris County Justice Courts’ Web Site which offers information to all citizens about Court procedures, provides suggested forms, instructions, and fee schedules among other things. This site allows applications for driving safety course dismissal and payment of fines and court costs, and provides case information and court dates. I have worked tirelessly throughout the years to eliminate any backlog of cases, to increase efficiency among the court staff to reduce lines, to schedule trials and pre-trial hearings at the earliest possible dates, and overall, fairly and impartially to provide speedy justice to all citizens in Harris County.

Funding and staffing of the Harris County Justice Courts, including Justice Court Precinct 5 Place 1, are ultimately the responsibility of the Harris County Commissioners. During my tenure as Justice of the Peace, while serving as the Presiding Judge, I encouraged all of the Harris County Justices of the Peace to come together to establish the Justice Courts’ initiatives for the fiscal year, presenting same to Commissioners in a single budget document. In Justice Court Precinct 5 Place 1, I have developed detailed reports covering case filings and dispositions as well as Court business in general. Justice Court Precinct 5 Place 1 is able to participate in the budget process by presenting accurate statistics for staffing and case processing, and its needs relative to security, equipment, supplies, maintenance of an aging facility, and the overall operation of the Court.

Justice Courts have little contact with jailed defendants. Hearing Officers make immediate disposition of Class C misdemeanor cases. Jailed defendants with mental health or special medical needs are cared for by the Sheriff or referred to a court with jurisdiction to confine the defendant to address these needs. The Justice Courts were recently designated Truancy Courts with jurisdiction over truant conduct. The procedures are cumbersome, making it difficult to secure the appearance of parents. It is my hope that the Legislature or the Supreme Court will make changes or additions to the law to allow the Truancy Court to be more effective in encouraging the child’s attendance at school. This Court is sensitive to issues involving veterans, and uses community programs designed to meet veteran’s needs in its sentencing practices.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 5, PLACE 1, continued on next page

Has jurisdiction over criminal misdemeanor cases punishable by fine only, e.g. assault, bail jumping, criminal mischief, bad check writing, public intoxication, theft. Hears civil cases involving up to \$10,000. Handles miscellaneous complaints, performs marriages, issues commitment papers for the mentally ill, issues search and arrest warrants. Judges are elected to a four-year term.

Questions to Candidates: The JP courts are frequently described as “The Peoples’ Courts.” As Justice of the Peace how would you ensure that this role is fulfilled in your court?

The Justice of the Peace is charged with many responsibilities, what steps do you believe need to be taken to ensure that the JP Courts are adequately funded and staffed to do their job appropriately?

What changes, if any, are needed in the handling of juveniles, veterans, and persons with mental health or special medical needs, who are incarcerated in the county jail system?

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 5, PLACE 1, continued from previous page

PRECINCT 5 • PLACE 1



WILLIAM “BILL” MCLEOD • DEM

As a lawyer I have firsthand knowledge of courtroom procedure and the administration of justice in the courtroom. Being in court can be an anxiety-producing experience for anyone, where unfamiliar rules of formality govern and important decisions are made. Justice should be available to all people. I would make sure the courtroom has signs conveying sufficient and accurate information to make the people feel comfortable with the procedures of the court. I would make sure all people coming into the courthouse are treated with dignity, respect, and are given meaningful access to justice. I would implement the rules of evidence and civil procedure to make the court fair and just on every single case.

Maintaining adequate funding and staffing is a process, but there is no single formula to calculate the answers to this question. The budget should be visited often to keep it closely aligned with actual costs, because saving money in one area will allow flexibility in other areas. I want the JP Court to have the right staff, with the right skills, in the right place at the right time. I want to provide a supportive environment where staff are able to provide efficient quality assistance to the people.

I believe that the most important responsibility of any judge handling cases involving juveniles, veterans, persons with mental health issues and special medical needs is to make sure that each individual has fair and competent representation that is tailored to the needs of the individual. Make sure each individual is treated with respect and is provided with a legal ruling that is based on the law and the facts of the case. For more information about my position please visit my web site at www.mcleodforjustice.com

PRECINCT 6 • PLACE 1 **RICHARD C. VARA • DEM** Running Unopposed

PRECINCT 7 • PLACE 1 **HILARY H. GREEN • DEM** Running Unopposed

PRECINCT 8 • PLACE 1 **HOLLY WILLIAMSON • REP** Running Unopposed

CONSTABLE

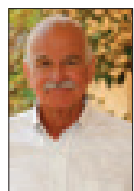
Serves civil process issued by courts, such as suits for debts, divorce, eviction writs, foreclosure papers and summons; criminal warrants issued through Justice of the Peace courts and provides bailiffs for these courts; and mental warrants. Has patrol personnel and may provide contract subdivision patrol. 4-year term.

Questions to Candidates: What do you hope to accomplish during your term of office? Please address what more the Constable Office can do to prevent crime?

How can the relationship between law enforcement officials and the community be strengthened? Are officers adequately trained in de-escalation techniques?

Is there more that can be done to prevent or stop consumer scam activity, including via the internet, in Harris County?

PRECINCT 1



JOE DANNA • REP

Create a police bond & transparent relationship between the office and the community. This will keep the community involved with our police services we offer but also including many other services that are not law enforcement related. Police presence both visible and under-cover, will play a part of our plan to reduce crime. We will utilize tools available in the social media area such as Twitter and it’s “Real Time” advantage to report criminal activities directly to our dispatch. Proactive policing is a must and will keep the bad guys on notice to beware of your Constables Office in Precinct One. One final thought on reducing crime, we will make decisions based on Common Sense and not Politics. This plays such an important role in reducing crime that the public is not aware of.

We will form a Citizens Advisory Committee to ensure the public has both input and insight into the agency’s operations, in order to keep the department transparent in regards to the bad as well as the good. We will meet quarterly to ensure we are listening and fulfilling the commitment to Protect & Serve the community. The officers will not only complete mandated training hours but will attend meetings and courses to insure all interactions with the general public is carried out in a professional and courteous manner. The safety of the officers and public will always remain a high priority.

Yes there is and that will be the role of our Reserve Division to meet and educate the public on a variety of public services, not just related to law enforcement. We will meet with groups such as the adult & senior citizens, parents and juveniles on a monthly basis to educate about current scams offered on the internet, by mail and door to door solicitations. The Reserve Division is a team of unpaid commissioned Deputies that will stay connected with the community at No Charge to the taxpayers. There will be a required minimum hours of participation by the Deputy in order to maintain a commission with the Department. These Deputies will work in the same capacity of full time paid Deputies in duties such as school zone enforcement and traffic control in highly traveled roadways in Precinct One.



ALAN ROSEN • DEM

In my second four-year term I will enhance the tremendous public improvements we have made in public safety and accountability. The public will continue to get more crime-fighting and more financial savings. I will make sure Precinct 1 continues to be innovative and pro-active in the ways that have already led Mothers Against Drunk Driving to name Precinct 1 its Harris County Law Enforcement Agency of the year TWICE in my first term. We will do this by leveraging new technology to fight crime; continuing with our community policing techniques that, among other things, require deputies to engage with the public every day in a positive manner in addition to regular interactions that come with responding to crimes; refining our pioneering community engagement programs such as our annual Teen Summit with criminal justice officials and community activists; and saving money for taxpayers using the business acumen I developed in the private sector.

The relationship between law enforcement and the public is improved one interaction at time. That is why I created programs such as our annual youth sports tournament and annual Teen Summit (Building Bridges between law enforcement & youth): The program to date has conducted over 900 community outreach projects. This enables us to deepen the sense of mutual respect between the two worlds through honest, up-close exchanges of ideas, questions and answers. We also strengthen the bonds by boosting accountability through the use of patrol car cameras and body cameras, which make our deputies’ work more transparent. Also, I have provided ethics training to all employees and made it clear I expect top-notch conduct because we are public servants. We perform sensitivity training and verbal judo as ways to de-escalate high tension situations.

Precinct 1 led the way on this months ago when we broadcast warnings through our social media accounts such as nextdoor.com and I assigned an investigator to glean information from victims about the perpetrators. Prevention comes through continuing to communicate to the public through news media and directly through social media with warnings about the scams. I am working with the FBI, Houston Police Department and the District Clerk’s Office and others to track down these scammers. Education is the key to prevent citizens from being scammed by these con artist and we constantly notifying the public when one occurs.

Serves civil process issued by courts, such as suits for debts, divorce, eviction writs, foreclosure papers and summons; criminal warrants issued through Justice of the Peace courts and provides bailiffs for these courts; and mental warrants. Has patrol personnel and may provide contract subdivision patrol. 4-year term.

Questions to Candidates:

What do you hope to accomplish during your term of office? Please address what more the Constable Office can do to prevent crime?

How can the relationship between law enforcement officials and the community be strengthened? Are officers adequately trained in de-escalation techniques?

Is there more that can be done to prevent or stop consumer scam activity, including via the internet, in Harris County?

PRECINCT 2



DANIEL VELA • REP

Increase police presence

Community communication

Yes community awareness

CHRISTOPHER (CHRIS) DIAZ • DEM No Response Received

DAN WEBB • REP No Response Received

PRECINCT 3



SHERMAN EAGLETON • DEM

The agency is in dire need of reorganization and updating of policies and procedures for the benefit of the community. I will place more boots on the ground at no taxpayers' expense. The current system is based on random patrol which is ineffective for the current society demands. I will establish a system of directed patrol based on crime analysis and intelligence where staff can be directed to prevent crime by being proactive in the areas of need than just responding after the fact. I will create a position of a Problem Oriented Policing Officer who will work with our Community Policing Officers to evaluate crime data and geographical generated reports with crime areas and develop plans to suppress crime before it occurs.

The current staff of Harris County Precinct Three Constables is professional and ethical while dealing with the community but in light of current events all law enforcement agencies must evaluate their current status. Officers throughout the nation must receive additional training in the area of crisis intervention, mental health critical response to avoid use of force, and de-escalation techniques. I plan to immediately upon taking office to send our training staff to acquire specialized training in tactical disengagement, learning new strategies to de-escalate volatile situations, and limitation of use of force for mentally ill persons. The training will then be brought back to our agency to be disseminated to the deputies in department wide training. The program will be evaluated and monitored to assure success and community safety.

I Sherman Eagleton as your elected Constable will make it my mission through my Community Policing officers to deliver the education to the people we serve which is the best defense against these con-artists. We currently have a number of scams in place that are evolving into multi-million dollar losses. The people we serve are falling prey to identity theft, email phishing, tech support scams, mobile phone dumps, public Wi-Fi intrusions, hacked emails, romance scams, loan scams, craigslist and back-page scams, and not to count the numerous sexual predators online attempting to abuse our children. I will create a partnership with Greater Houston Regional Computer Forensic Laboratory, A partnership with national and local cyber-crime units to maintain a forefront to evolving trends and deliver the information to the community before they are victimized through our community

PRECINCT 4



MARK HERMAN • REP

Some of my first priorities as your Constable is the safety and protection to our citizens and the community. My goal is to continue police initiatives to control crime and make our communities safer. Through my 31 years at the Pct 4 Constable's Office, I started as a deputy and have worked my way through experience and education to the departments # 1 Leadership position. The vast knowledge I have obtained during my tenor it is a proven fact I can accomplish making Pct 4 a safer place to live for families. Law Enforcement is a big part of Pct 4 and with the knowledge and experience I have achieved we at the Constable's Office will have continued success fighting crime. In addition, I know and understand the 100s of communities we currently serve and their needs daily from our department.

Community based policing which enables our department to interact with our citizens makes our bonds very strong with our constituents. Our citizens see Pct 4 has part of their neighborhood, families and over all community, and that is a large part of our success, and the reason we are the largest Constable agency in the United States ! Our deputies are all trained in less lethal techniques and currently all carry department issued tasers which all carry certifications. Our deputies maintain TCOLE mandated training in family violence and a combination of other course to de-escalate police situations.

There are a number of methods, first we currently reach out to our citizens by educating them on trends and techniques of scammers. Our department website currently has Crime Prevention suggestions on all types of crimes we know to be preventable with citizen support and cooperation. In cases where citizens become victims, we investigate and follow through with the filing of criminal charges. We have Hi-Tech detectives that currently aid patrol deputies in these investigations. Internet Crimes are on the rise and it is important that we in law enforcement stay out in front of the issue and keep our citizens informed.



JEFF MCGOWEN • DEM

I hope the voters would give me the opportunity to bring leadership, dignity and respect back to the Harris County Precinct 4 Constable's Office. The Constable's Office has 263 deputies assigned to neighborhoods throughout Precinct 4, few if any have the basic crime prevention training and none are members of the Texas Crime Prevention Association. It starts with proper training and accountability. Train the deputies on what to look for to prevent or reduce the likelihood of crime ever happening. Then train the deputies how to educate the residence. Informing the residence through press releases, social media and other platforms on how to prevent crime in areas where a rise in property and personal crimes may exist. Ensure the department is active in self-defense training programs such as R.A.D (Rape Aggression Defense), and self-preservation like Neighborhood Watch to be out partners in preventing crime in the communities we serve.

Trust is needed when strengthening the relationship between the law enforcement and the local community. That relationship of trust must be built long before someone calls 911. A lot of communities see law enforcement as a drive-by service and not putting in the work needed to address issues in certain neighborhoods. The first step is to assign community engagement deputies to high crime or so called problem areas who will be tasked with meeting with community leaders, teachers, principals, activist, to ensure the plan to solve crime and other issues will have the support of the community. Some communities are policed with guns instead of the dialogue needed to solve many of the problems of the community. De-escalation training is a relatively new term in law enforcement in my opinion. So I do not believe there is enough training in this field. Some agencies have started the process and this will be a focus when elected to the office.

Scams especially for our most vulnerable aging population is a high priority for me. I believe it starts with education and training. I have instructed several classes to our seasoned population and will ensure the deputies are properly trained in prevention techniques for this segment of our population. Giving potential victims the tools needed to just hang up the phone or not give personal information. I will never tell a potential victim that scams are too good to be true since I know if that were true we would not have so many victims. We know these criminals can enter the homes of the victim without ever entering the home. Education, Education, Education!

PRECINCT 5 **TED HEAP • REP** Running Unopposed

Serves civil process issued by courts, such as suits for debts, divorce, eviction writs, foreclosure papers and summons; criminal warrants issued through Justice of the Peace courts and provides bailiffs for these courts; and mental warrants. Has patrol personnel and may provide contract subdivision patrol. 4-year term.

Questions to Candidates: What do you hope to accomplish during your term of office? Please address what more the Constable Office can do to prevent crime?

How can the relationship between law enforcement officials and the community be strengthened? Are officers adequately trained in de-escalation techniques?

Is there more that can be done to prevent or stop consumer scam activity, including via the internet, in Harris County?

PRECINCT 6



RICHARD "RICK" GONZALES • REP

I intend to change the image of the Precinct 6 Constable's Office to a positive police agency that is respected and trusted by the citizens, business owners and other entities who work within the precinct 6 community. With my vast amount of experience working in all aspects of the community; the deputies will receive the training necessary to be effective and confident in serving the community. We will have the same vision of the community so that we can work together to make our precinct a safer and better place in which to live and work.

Law enforcement officials must allow the deputies to interact with citizens throughout their tour of duty. Proactive policing and community policing places deputies inside the neighborhoods and builds positive relations with the citizens of the community. Deputies will constantly be encouraged to receive more training in methods and skills to de-escalate stressful situations. I would also educate the public to obey the officer's commands at all times. It is always wise not to escalate a situation.

Absolutely, I would implement a Financial Crimes Unit to target swindlers and identity theft predators. Not enough is being done to protect identify theft victims. Consumer scams are on the rise and people do not report it as much as they should.



SILVIA TREVINO • DEM

I want to make Precinct 6 the safest Precinct in Harris County. I want to improve the relationship between the Community and the Police, I want to increase the Training of Police Officers, I want to provide body cameras for every police officer on Patrol, I want to reinstate our Reserve Deputies and Reserve Motorcycle Deputies who volunteer hundreds of hours of Patrol at a savings of hundreds of thousands of dollars to our tax payers, I want to assign an Environmental Deputy to identify Abandoned vehicles, Abandoned homes and Abandoned Buildings that bring rise to Crime, I want to reinstate Our Neighborhood Watch Program, I want to create a Senior Citizen Watch Program. I want to take a proactive approach toward issues and concerns facing our communities (Our kids staying in school, Domestic Violence Awareness, Mental Health Awareness, Gun Violence, and Crime in our community). I want our office to be as open and transparent as the law allows.

There is definitely room for improvement, and a more sensitive program should include members of the community so their input can be evaluated regarding the process. The Shoot Don't Shoot Program should definitely be eliminated and a verbal de-escalation training, when appropriate, should be implemented. We should build partnerships with our churches and our schools, and our officers should be assigned to the schools to serve as a support for the family and teachers, therefore, providing an opportunity for improving the relation between the police and the community. The body camera must be a mandatory resource that every police department is equipped with. The community must be insured that the police department is open and transparent in releasing public information. Deadly force is the last resort!

Yes. We, as public servants, should implement an ongoing informative training that would insist that no one negotiates an online agreement until they contact their local law enforcement agency and/or better business bureau to validate the authenticity and record of that business's activity. Reporting of scam activity, including via the internet should be encouraged. We, as public servants, should provide an ongoing informative communication with our senior citizens, that they NOT provide any confidential and personal information, via the telephone and/or internet regarding their social security and/or account numbers of any source. Senior Citizens should be advised to take a name and phone number to confirm the caller's credibility. Our department will work closely with other agencies to ensure prosecution of internet crimes.

WRITE-IN CANDIDATE: _____

PRECINCT 7 MAY WALKER • DEM Running Unopposed

PRECINCT 8



PHIL SANDLIN • REP

In a second term as Constable of Precinct 8, I plan to continue building upon many of the programs and policies that I have put into place over the last 4 years. I have worked hard to open the lines of communication between my office and the community and we have had much success as a result. I believe strongly in a community policing approach and feel a crucial aspect of that is a strong partnership between law enforcement and the citizens. I have and will continue to place a strong emphasis on high visibility patrols in the neighborhoods throughout the precinct. This, coupled with the very open communication we have with the public, has shown to prevent and reduce crime. I do not miss an opportunity to stress the importance of "see something; say something" and we have seen countless examples of how this kind of partnership yields results. I am fortunate to serve a community that shows overwhelming support for my office and I am proud of the results we have accomplished together.

Community relations is an ongoing priority of mine as stated above. People want and expect their law enforcement officials to be accessible to them and I for one have an open door policy for any citizen who wants to meet with me. It is not uncommon for me to personally greet and help someone who walks into the office. That's the kind of leader I am. I do not close myself off and I think that is what people who know me would tell you. Regarding training, I have and will continue to increase the amount of training my staff receives across the board. De-escalation techniques is just part of that. Since becoming Constable, Precinct 8 employees are receiving more training on an annual basis than ever in the history of the Department. I am also very particular in the caliber of people I hire and I think the reputation of our Department reflects that. The public knows Precinct 8 is made up of some of the most professional and well trained law enforcement officers in our area.

Absolutely. The more we can publicize and educate the public about consumer scams the better. Already, my office routinely attends community gatherings, HOA meetings and other functions to educate and provide materials against various types of scams. This is especially important among the senior population who sadly, are commonly the focus of predators of this nature. We also put crime related information out through our Facebook and Nextdoor accounts to try and reach as many people as possible. I think overall, Harris County does a good job in getting information out about potential scams as they are uncovered. People have to remember though that criminals are constantly trying to come up with ways to commit their crimes. We as law enforcement must be equally as vigilant in combating these types of people and we can always improve on that.

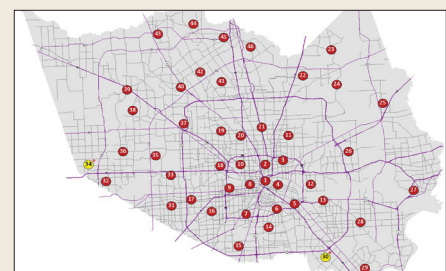
HEATHER PERRY • DEM No Response Received

Early Voting Information



View early voting locations, times, and information on [page 47](#) of this *Voters Guide*.

For more information on this topic, visit www.harrisvotes.com or call (713) 755-6965.



HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (HISD) BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Houston Independent School District (HISD) Board of Education is HISD's governing body. Duties include establishing HISD policy & appointing the school superintendent. The nine board members are elected from single geographic districts for staggered 4-year terms with no term limits & serve without pay.

Questions to Candidates: What criteria should be used to identify under-performing schools and what will you do to ensure that these schools are given the tools and support they need to be successful?

How will you make sure children of all backgrounds and socioeconomic status are supported in their neighborhood schools?

What is the current role and success rate of charter schools in Houston? Going forward what role should charter schools play in addressing the educational needs of students in Houston?



JOHN LUMAN

Every HISD student has a vital role to play in our economic future, and we must make sure we leave no stone unturned to bring opportunity to them. Testing needs to be re-evaluated so that we do not have too many HISD mandated tests. However, I will hold the superintendent accountable for student achievement results on standardized assessment measures. I believe this is important because we must make sure students each year in pre-k-12 have the skills and competencies they need to be successful at the next grade level. If they don't, we need to provide interventions throughout the year. Additionally, I will look at the number of students enrolled in the school and whether more families are asking for transfers out of the school than are enrolled. I will work with our business leaders, as well as leaders of nonprofit organizations, to make sure HISD is a good partner for bringing all the opportunities available in Houston to HISD efficiently.

As the largest school district in the state, HISD is responsible for producing a skilled workforce and educating our students so that they have good job possibilities. HISD is a huge district, and we know top-down, one-size-fits-all-mandates don't work. I will support policies that empower principals and teachers to make decisions. Within the school system, multiple studies have shown that the teacher is the most important factor in the schooling process. HISD must be positioned to compete effectively for top teacher and principal talent by ensuring HISD has the best salaries and working conditions in our area. I will work to get more dollars to the school level, and out of the central office, and empower those closest to the students to make the decisions, which maximize student achievement.

In the Houston area, over 61,000 students are enrolled in charter schools according to Children At Risk. Clearly, a large number of parents believe these public schools serve their children better than the traditional public ISDs. Charter success rate varies depending on which charter it is, just as HISD's success rate varies depending on which school. The state has moved decisively in the last several years to close low performing charters, and I support that. Going forward, HISD should coordinate and cooperate with high performing charters to ensure there are more seats in high performing schools for our children. HISD needs to work to create more seats in high performing schools such as their recent effort at Baylor College of Medicine Academy at Ryan. Parents want seats in high performing schools, and as an HISD trustee, it's my duty to see they have more. Competition works, and charter schools are key to raising standards, as well as outcomes of individual student achievement.



VICTORIA BRYANT

The most important factors in deciding to close school are: efficiency in per pupil spending, student performance on testing, and status of enrollment figures. I treat school closures and reopenings the same way I would a business. There must be better customer service (teaching), better value (more efficient use of taxpayer dollars), and better programming (improved curriculum tailored to community needs, i.e. vocational training, provide social economic resources to students such as food programs, clothing, shelter, mental health).

Schools should provide expanded mentoring and after school programming - from intramural sports to competitive debate programs to specific subject tutoring to longer library hours. Having a committed teacher can make all the difference. If a teacher cares about a student's progress, and the student believes there is an adult counting on him or her, this can inspire the student to transform themselves from the limitations of their environment. Whether we like it or not many times it's taking care of their personal needs that will support them to come to school. These things may include working with neighborhood grandparents to provide after school lunch sack, washing machines at school, tutoring programs to help kids understand and grasp learning concepts and in subject areas that may be challenging such as ESL.

Charter schools provide alternatives to regular public schools and serve as catalysts for educational innovation. HISD can borrow many new ideas for classroom learning from charter schools. This added source of competition can only make HISD teachers and students better and smarter. Partnerships with charter schools provide added benefits to students especially in areas where school closing is eminent or where more education innovations are needed to keep students motivated in schools and prevent early drop outs.



ANNE SUNG

Struggling schools can be identified by criteria including achievement test data, SAT and AP scores (in high schools), graduation rates, college enrollment and graduation rates, changes in student mobility rates, teacher turnover rates, community engagement, and discipline referrals. I will work to improve under-performing schools by supporting professional development for principals and teachers in proven strategies, including literacy strategies, enabling teachers of all subjects to promote strong reading and writing, and positive discipline and socio-emotional learning, so that students can develop the soft skills and discipline they need to succeed academically and in life. I will support strategic partnerships that enable schools to provide social services, so that students can come to school ready to learn and teachers can focus on teaching. I will support partnerships between strong and under-performing schools, so under-performing schools can improve.

To support the success of every child in HISD, I will work for neighborhood schools to offer: (1) a rich, engaging curriculum that challenges students and includes services for ELL, special ed, and G/T students, (2) high quality teaching to prepare students for the future, whether they are pursuing a college degree or a workforce certificate, not just high-stakes testing, (3) wrap-around supports and opportunities, supported by well-organized community partnerships, (4) training for principals and teachers in socio-emotional learning and a positive school climate, and (5) authentic parent and community engagement. As a former Teacher of the Year, I understand how with the right supports and opportunities, all children can learn and succeed in life. As Chief Strategy Officer at Project GRAD, I would bring to the HISD Board experience building the strategic partnerships with higher ed, nonprofits, and businesses that can help students in neighborhood schools not just survive but thrive.

Charter schools serve approximately 10% of students in Houston. A 2015 study by Stanford's Center for Research on Educational Outcomes found academic outcomes for students enrolled in Houston charter schools are largely similar to those of local traditional public schools, with roughly a third of charters delivering significantly better results and roughly a quarter of charters delivering significantly worse results. I am impressed by many innovations in Houston charters, including wrap-around services, strong arts and language curricula, and rigorous college and career preparation. However, I am concerned about the many charter schools that do worse than traditional public schools. Going forward, my commitment as an HISD trustee would be to learn from successful innovations from all schools, including charters, and to strengthen HISD public schools, ensuring they remain stable anchors of Houston communities.

DANIELLE PAULUS Unable to Contact

BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

CHECK YOUR CHOICE IN THE BOX BY EACH PROPOSED AMENDMENT IN THIS VOTERS GUIDE TO SAVE TIME WHEN YOU ARE CASTING YOUR BALLOT. IT IS LEGAL FOR YOU TO TAKE A PRINTED COPY OF THIS VOTERS GUIDE INTO THE POLLING PLACE.

CITY OF HOUSTON » PROPOSITION NO. 1

(Relating to the area formerly known as the City of Houston Heights as it existed on February 19, 1918.)
The legal sale of beer and wine for off-premise consumption only.

FOR AGAINST

HOUSTON I.S.D. (HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT) » PROPOSITION 1

Authorizing the board of trustees of Houston Independent School District to purchase attendance credits from the state with local tax revenues.

FOR AGAINST

NOVEMBER 8, 2016 • GENERAL ELECTION
SAMPLE BALLOT

SAMPLE BALLOT

General and Special Elections
Harris County, Texas
 November 8, 2016

BOLETA DE MUESTRA

Elecciones Generales y Especiales
Condado de Harris, Texas
 8 de noviembre de 2016

LÁ PHIẾU MẪU

Các Cuộc Tổng Tuyển Cử và Bầu
 Cử Đặc Biệt
Quận Harris, Texas
 Ngày 8 Tháng 11, 2016

選票樣本

普選與特別選舉
Harris 縣, Texas
 2016 年 11 月 8 日

TO VOTE: Mark the ballot by placing an "X" in the square beside the candidate of your choice. To vote "FOR" or "AGAINST" a proposition on the ballot, mark the ballot by placing an "X" in the square indicating the way you wish to vote. You may vote straight-party (that is, cast a vote for all the candidates of one party), by placing an "X" by the party of your choice. Voting straight-party automatically cast a vote for all of that party's candidates. If you change a vote to an opposing party candidate, your vote for the opposing party candidate will be counted as well as your vote for all the other candidates for which the party of the straight-party vote was cast. You may vote for a write-in candidate by placing an "X" in the square beside the write-in choice and writing the name of the write-in candidate of your choice. Vote for None or 1 unless indicated in the contest.

Para Votar: Marque la boleta con una equis "X" en el cuadro al lado del candidato que prefiere. Para votar A FAVOR o EN CONTRA de una proposición en la boleta, marque su boleta con una equis "X" en el cuadro indicando como desea votar. Usted puede votar por "un solo partido" (es decir, votar para todos los candidatos de un solo partido), marcando una equis "X" en el cuadro al lado del partido que prefiere. Cuando usted vota por un solo partido automáticamente ha votado por los candidatos de ese partido. Si usted cambia un voto para un candidato del partido opuesto será contado al igual que su voto para el resto de los candidatos del partido por cual votó usando la opción "un solo partido". Usted puede votar por un candidato inscrito marcando una "X" al lado del cuadro de la opción "voto escrito" y escribiendo el nombre de su candidato. Vote por ninguno o uno a menos que esté indicado en el concurso electoral.

BỘ PHIẾU: Điền lá phiếu bằng cách đánh dấu "X" vào ô vuông bên cạnh tên ứng cử viên mà quý vị lựa chọn. Để bỏ phiếu "THUẬN" hoặc "CHÔNG" cho một kế hoạch đề nghị ghi trên lá phiếu hãy đánh dấu lá phiếu bằng cách đặt chữ "X" ở ô vuông bên cạnh câu chỉ cách bạn muốn bỏ phiếu. Quý vị có thể bỏ phiếu bầu cho một đảng [nghĩa là, bầu cho tất cả ứng cử viên của cùng một đảng] bằng cách đánh dấu "X" vào ô vuông bên cạnh tên của đảng mà quý vị muốn bầu chọn. Bỏ phiếu theo cách bầu đảng thì tất cả các ứng cử viên của đảng đó sẽ đương nhiên được bầu. Nếu quý vị đổi để bỏ phiếu cho đối thủ của một ứng cử viên của đảng đó, lá phiếu bầu cho đối thủ kia sẽ được tính cũng như lá phiếu bầu cho tất cả các ứng cử viên khác của đảng mà quý vị bầu chọn. Quý vị có thể bỏ phiếu cho một ứng cử viên ghi thêm bằng cách đánh dấu "X" vào ô vuông bên cạnh lựa chọn ghi thêm và ghi vào tên của ứng cử viên mà quý vị muốn bầu chọn. Bỏ cho Không hoặc Một ngoại trừ được chỉ dẫn cách khác trong mỗi vòng tranh cử.

投票時:在您所屬意的候選人選項旁的方格內以"X"記號來標選您的選票。在選票上議案的贊成或反對選項旁的方格內以"X"記號來標選您的選擇。您可以直接地投票給一個政黨(即為一次性投票予同一個政黨的所有候選人)。在您所屬意的政黨選項旁的方格內以"X"記號來標明您的選擇。投票給單一政黨的同時即投票給該黨的所有候選人。如果您改變您的選擇而針對某個選項投票給不同政黨的候選人,該項投票仍將列入計票。同時您投票給單一政黨的其他所有候選人亦列入計票。您可以選擇「自填」候選人,在「自填」候選人選項旁的方格內以"X"記號來標選,並且填寫您所屬意的自填候選人的姓名。可選擇不投或投1個選項,除非另有指示。

GENERAL ELECTION
ELECCIÓN GENERAL
CUỘC TỔNG TUYỂN CỬ
 普選

Straight Party
 Un solo Partido

Bỏ phiếu cho các ứng cử viên của cùng một đảng
 全部投給同一政黨

Republican Party - *Republican Party Partido*
 Republicano Đảng Cộng Hòa 共和黨

Democratic Party - *Democratic Party Partido*
 Democrático Đảng Dân Chủ 民主黨

Libertarian Party - *Libertarian Party Partido*
 Libertario Đảng Tự Do 自由黨

Green Party - *Green Party Partido Verde Đảng*
 Xanh 綠黨

President and Vice President

Presidente y Vice Presidente
 Tổng Thống và Phó Tổng Thống
 總統和副總統

Donald J. Trump / Mike Pence - *Republican Party Partido Republicano Đảng Cộng Hòa 共和黨*

Hillary Clinton / Tim Kaine - *Democratic Party Partido Democrático Đảng Dân Chủ 民主黨*

Gary Johnson / William Weld - *Libertarian Party Partido Libertario Đảng Tự Do 自由黨*

Jill Stein / Ajamu Baraka - *Green Party Partido Verde Đảng Xanh 綠黨*

Write-In - *Write-in Voto escrito Ứng Cử Viên Ghi Thêm 附加候選人*

United States Representative, District 2
 Representante de los Estados Unidos, Distrito Núm. 2
 Dân Biểu Hoa Kỳ, Khu vực số 2
 美國眾議員, 第 2 區

Ted Poe - *Republican Party Partido Republicano Đảng Cộng Hòa 共和黨*

Pat Bryan - *Democratic Party Partido Democrático Đảng Dân Chủ 民主黨*

James B. Veasaw - *Libertarian Party Partido Libertario Đảng Tự Do 自由黨*

Joshua Darr - *Green Party Partido Verde Đảng Xanh 綠黨*

United States Representative, District 7
 Representante de los Estados Unidos, Distrito Núm. 7
 Dân Biểu Hoa Kỳ, Khu vực số 7
 美國眾議員, 第 7 區

John Culberson - *Republican Party Partido Republicano Đảng Cộng Hòa 共和黨*

James Cargas - *Democratic Party Partido Democrático Đảng Dân Chủ 民主黨*

United States Representative, District 8
 Representante de los Estados Unidos, Distrito Núm. 8
 Dân Biểu Hoa Kỳ, Khu vực số 8
 美國眾議員, 第 8 區

Kevin Brady - *Republican Party Partido Republicano Đảng Cộng Hòa 共和黨*

United States Representative, District 9
 Representante de los Estados Unidos, Distrito Núm. 9
 Dân Biểu Hoa Kỳ, Khu vực số 9
 美國眾議員, 第 9 區

Jeff Martin - *Republican Party Partido Republicano Đảng Cộng Hòa 共和黨*

Al Green - *Democratic Party Partido Democrático Đảng Dân Chủ 民主黨*

United States Representative, District 10
 Representante de los Estados Unidos, Distrito Núm. 10
 Dân Biểu Hoa Kỳ, Khu vực số 10
 美國眾議員, 第 10 區

Michael T. McCaul - *Republican Party Partido Republicano Đảng Cộng Hòa 共和黨*

Tawana W. Cadien - *Democratic Party Partido Democrático Đảng Dân Chủ 民主黨*

Bill Kelsey - *Libertarian Party Partido Libertario Đảng Tự Do 自由黨*

United States Representative, District 18
 Representante de los Estados Unidos, Distrito Núm. 18
 Dân Biểu Hoa Kỳ, Khu vực số 18
 美國眾議員, 第 18 區

Lori Bartley - *Republican Party Partido Republicano Đảng Cộng Hòa 共和黨*

Sheila Jackson Lee - *Democratic Party Partido Democrático Đảng Dân Chủ 民主黨*

Thomas Kleven - *Green Party Partido Verde Đảng Xanh 綠黨*

United States Representative, District 22
 Representante de los Estados Unidos, Distrito Núm. 22
 Dân Biểu Hoa Kỳ, Khu vực số 22
 美國眾議員, 第 22 區

Pete Olson - *Republican Party Partido Republicano Đảng Cộng Hòa 共和黨*

Mark Gibson - *Democratic Party Partido Democrático Đảng Dân Chủ 民主黨*

United States Representative, District 29
 Representante de los Estados Unidos, Distrito Núm. 29
 Dân Biểu Hoa Kỳ, Khu vực số 29
 美國眾議員, 第 29 區

Julio Garza - *Republican Party Partido Republicano Đảng Cộng Hòa 共和黨*

Gene Green - *Democratic Party Partido Democrático Đảng Dân Chủ 民主黨*

N. Ruben Perez - *Libertarian Party Partido Libertario Đảng Tự Do 自由黨*

James Partsch-Galvan - *Green Party Partido Verde Đảng Xanh 綠黨*

United States Representative, District 36
 Representante de los Estados Unidos, Distrito Núm. 36
 Dân Biểu Hoa Kỳ, Khu vực số 36
 美國眾議員, 第 36 區

Brian Babin - *Republican Party Partido Republicano Đảng Cộng Hòa 共和黨*

Hal J. Ridley Jr. - *Green Party Partido Verde Đảng Xanh 綠黨*

Railroad Commissioner
 Comisionado de Ferrocarriles
 Ủy Viên Ngành Hỏa Xa
 州油氣礦廳長

Wayne Christian - *Republican Party Partido Republicano Đảng Cộng Hòa 共和黨*

Grady Yarbrough - *Democratic Party Partido Democrático Đảng Dân Chủ 民主黨*

Mark Miller - *Libertarian Party Partido Libertario Đảng Tự Do 自由黨*

Martina Salinas - *Green Party Partido Verde Đảng Xanh 綠黨*

Click Here

to view the entire General Election sample ballot.

This page of the Harris County Sample Ballot is shown for illustration only. To view the entire sample ballot, or to see your specific sample ballot, please visit

www.harrisvotes.com.

PLEASE NOTE

You may take printed or handwritten material, including a Sample Ballot and a printed copy of this Voters Guide, into the voting booth for your own personal use. You may not use any electronic devices (including mobile phones, smart watches, or tablet devices) to access your personal notes or other information at the polling place.



NOVEMBER 8, 2016 • GENERAL ELECTION
EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS & SCHEDULE

IMPORTANT!

THESE LOCATIONS ARE FOR

EARLY VOTING ONLY.

ON ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016, YOU MUST VOTE IN THE POLLING LOCATION DESIGNATED FOR YOUR PRECINCT OF RESIDENCE.

During the Early Voting Period, October 24 - November 4, 2016, you may vote at any of the designated Early Voting Locations.

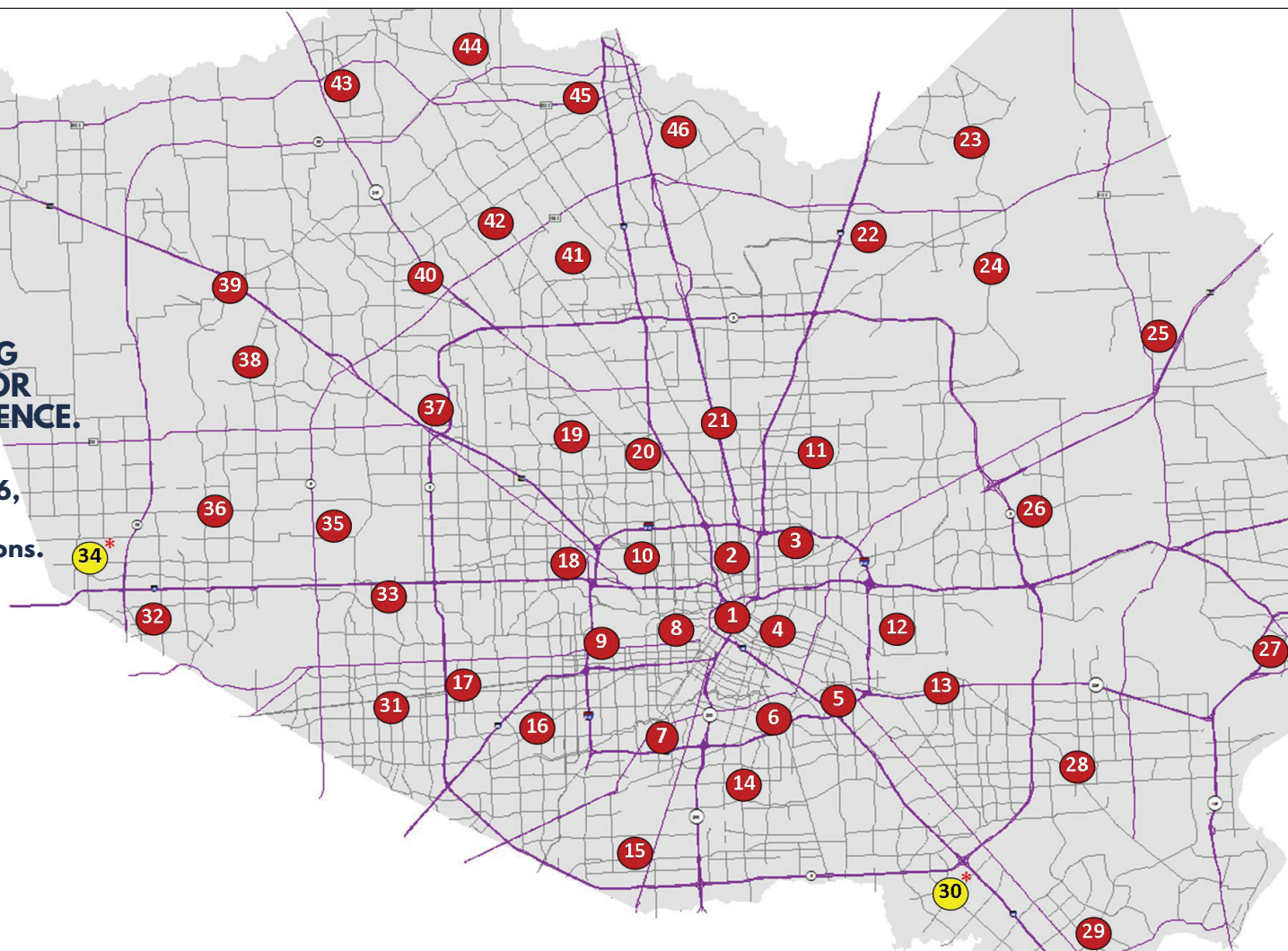
EARLY VOTING HOURS OF OPERATION

**OCTOBER 24TH - 28TH
 8 AM TO 6 PM**

**OCTOBER 29TH
 7 AM TO 7 PM**

**OCTOBER 30TH
 1 PM TO 6 PM**

**OCTOBER 31ST - NOVEMBER 4TH
 7 AM TO 7 PM**



INSIDE LOOP 610

OUTSIDE LOOP 610

OUTSIDE BELTWAY 8

OUTSIDE BELTWAY 8

- | | | | | | |
|----|--|---|----|---|---|
| 1 | MAIN OFFICE: Harris County Administration Building | 1001 Preston St., 1st Floor, Houston, 77002 | 26 | WALLISVILLE ROAD: North Channel Branch Library | 15741 Wallisville Rd., Houston, 77049 |
| 2 | MOODY PARK: Moody Park Community Center | 3725 Fulton St., Houston, 77009 | 27 | BAYTOWN: Baytown Community Center | 2407 Market St., Baytown, 77520 |
| 3 | KASHMERE: Kashmere Multi-Service Center | 4802 Lockwood Dr., Houston, 77026 | 28 | PASADENA: Kyle Chapman Activity Center | 7430 Spencer Highway, Pasadena, 77505 |
| 4 | DOWNTOWN-EAST: Ripley House Neighborhood Center | 4410 Navigation Blvd., Houston, 77011 | 29 | CLEAR LAKE: Freeman Branch Library | 16616 Diana Lane, Houston, 77062 |
| 5 | SOUTHEAST HOUSTON: H.C.C.S Southeast College | 6960 Rustic St., Parking Garage, Houston, 77087 | 30 | »SCARSDALE: Scarsdale County Annex | 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., Houston, 77089 |
| 6 | PALM CENTER: Justice of the Peace Entry | 5300 Griggs Rd., Houston, 77021 | 31 | ALIEF: Alief ISD Administration Building | 4250 Cook Rd., Houston 77072 (Entrance on High Star - South Entrance) |
| 7 | ASTRODOME AREA: Fiesta Mart | 8130 Kirby Dr., Houston, 77054 | 32 | FAR WEST: Harris County MUD 81 | 805 Hidden Canyon Rd., Katy, 77450 |
| 8 | NEAR TOWN: Metropolitan Multi-Service Center | 1475 W. Gray St., Houston, 77019 | 33 | WEST HOUSTON: Nottingham Park | 926 Country Place Dr., Houston, 77079 |
| 9 | GALLERIA: Harris County Public Health | 2223 West Loop South Fwy, 1st Floor Houston, 77027 | 34 | »KATY: Katy Branch Library | 5414 Franz Rd., Katy, 77493 |
| 10 | THE HEIGHTS: SPJST Lodge #88 | 1435 Beall St., Houston, 77008 | 35 | BEAR CREEK: Bear Creek Park Community Center | 3055 Bear Creek Dr., Houston, 77084 (At Patterson Road) |
| 11 | NORTHEAST HOUSTON: Northeast Multi-Service Center | 9720 Spaulding St., Bldg #4, Houston, 77016 | 36 | NORTH KATY: Lone Star College-Cypress Center | 19710 Clay Rd., Katy, 77449 |
| 12 | GALENA PARK: Alvin D. Baggett Community Center | 1302 Keene St., Galena Park, 77547 | 37 | JERSEY VILLAGE: City of Jersey Village - City Hall | 16327 Lakeview Dr., Jersey Village, 77040 |
| 13 | HOBBY AREA: John Phelps Courthouse | 101 S. Richey St., Pasadena, 77506 | 38 | SOUTH CYPRESS: Richard & Meg Weekley Community Center | 8440 Greenhouse Rd., Cypress, 77433 |
| 14 | SUNNYSIDE: Sunnyside Multi-Purpose Center | 9314 Cullen Blvd., Houston, 77051 | 39 | CYPRESS: Juergen's Hall Community Center | 26026 Hempstead Highway, Cypress, 77429 |
| 15 | SOUTH HOUSTON: Hiram Clarke Multi-Service Center | 3810 W. Fuqua St., Houston, 77045 | 40 | NORTHWEST: Prairie View A&M University - Northwest | 9449 Grant Rd., Houston, 77070 |
| 16 | SW. HOUSTON: Bayland Park Community Center | 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston 77074 (Near Hillcroft) | 41 | FALLBROOK: Fallbrook Church | 12512 Walters Rd., Houston, 77014 |
| 17 | NEAR WEST SIDE: Tracy Gee Community Center | 3599 Westcenter Dr., Houston, 77042 (One block East of Sam Houston Tollway) | 42 | CYPRESS CREEK: Champion Forest Baptist Church/Multi-Purpose Bldg. | 4840 Strack Rd., Houston, 77069 |
| 18 | SPRING BRANCH: Trini Mendenhall Community Center | 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, 77055 | 43 | TOMBALL: Tomball Public Works Building | 501B James St., Tomball, 77375 |
| 19 | VICTORY CENTER: Lone Star College - Victory Center | 4141 Victory Dr., Houston, 77088 | 44 | FAR NORTH: Lone Star College - Creekside Center | 8747 West New Harmony Trail, Tomball, 77375 |
| 20 | ACRES HOMES: Acres Homes Multi-Service Center | 6719 W. Montgomery Rd., Houston, 77091 | 45 | NORTH: Champion Life Centre | 3031 FM 2920 Rd., Spring, 77388 |
| 21 | NORTH: Hardy Senior Center | 11901 West Hardy Rd., Houston, 77076 | 46 | MERCER PARK: Baldwin Boettcher Branch Library | 22248 Aldine Westfield Rd., Humble, 77338 |
| 22 | HUMBLE: Octavia Fields Branch Library | 1503 South Houston Ave., Humble, 77338 | | | |
| 23 | KINGWOOD: Kingwood Branch Library | 4400 Bens View Lane, Kingwood, 77345 | | | |
| 24 | ATASCOCITA: Lone Star College - Atascocita Center | 15903 W. Lake Houston Parkway Houston, 77044 | | | |
| 25 | CROSBY: Crosby Branch Library | 135 Hare Rd., Crosby, 77532 | | | |

»Designates new voting locations.

For more information: www.harrisvotes.com • (713) 755-6965

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND
**GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE
 GENEROUS SUPPORT THAT
 MAKES OUR VOTERS GUIDE POSSIBLE.**



at&t



Harris County Judge
ED EMMETT



UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON
 HOBBY CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

Cunningham
 Engineering Co.

Joan & Bert
 GOLDING

Houston Apartment Association



Neighborhood
 Centers, Inc.



Texas Children's
 Hospital



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated
 Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter

Friedman
 Foundation

- JACQUELINE A. ALFRED
- MADELEINE APPEL
- JOHN R. BEHRMAN
- ANNIE BENIFIELD
- TOM BERG
- CHARLOTTE & KEITH BOWERS
- MARY LEE BURRUS
- LINDA CANTU
- JOHNNA CARLSON
- JENNIFER CHAR
- LINDA COHN
- JULIE COUNTISS
- ADA EDWARDS
- EVE FRANCE
- JOHN & LORI HATHAWAY
- REDA HICKS
- JUDY HOLLINGER

- BEVERLY KAUFMAN
- KNUDSON & ASSOCIATES LP
- MIKE LASTER
- MARY LUCKEY
- MATILDA MELNICK
- PHILIP MORABITO
- LINDSAY MUNOZ
- LAUREN OWENS
- PLANNED PARENTHOOD GULF COAST
- FAISAL POONAWALA
- RPS KLOTZ ASSOCIATES
- BRENDA STARDIG
- LESLIE COPELAND TAYLOR
- SOPHIA TOMJANOVICH
- AIMEE MOBLEY TURNEY
- LIZ VALLETTE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The League of Women Voters

HOUSTON AREA

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization founded in 1920. We encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in all aspects of government. The League of Women Voters never endorses or opposes any candidate or political party. For more information call the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area at 713.784.2923, visit our [website](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), or friend us on [Facebook](#).



**We Welcome
 New Members.**
 You can submit your
 membership application [here](#).

