



# 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION ★ MARCH 3 ★ EARLY VOTING: FEB. 18-28

# VOTERS ★ GUIDE

by the League of Women Voters of Texas & League of Women Voters Austin Area

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## VOTING IN THE 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION

### Texas Voter ID Rules

#### VOTERS MAY USE ONE OF SEVEN (7) FORMS OF PHOTO ID, LISTED BELOW.

Note: IDs may be expired up to four years. For voters age 70 or older, no limit on expiration of ID. The ID address does not have to match the voter registration address.

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

Registered voters without photo ID, who cannot reasonably obtain one, may sign a Reasonable Impediment Declaration form and present the original or a copy of one of the following documents with the voter's

name and address to vote a regular (not provisional) ballot.

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

### Where to Vote

In both Travis and Williamson counties, you may vote at any polling place in your county during early voting and on election day. "Vote Here" signs mark locations. Locations are also available at the two county voter information websites:

#### Travis

[www.VoteTravis.com](http://www.VoteTravis.com)

#### Williamson

[www.wilco.org/elections](http://www.wilco.org/elections)

Locations, days, and times vary for Early Voting (Feb 18-28). All polls open

on Election Day will be open 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

When voting in person you may bring a printed *Voters Guide* into the voting booth! Use of electronic devices are prohibited.

### What Is a Primary Election?

Primaries are state-level elections that take place prior to a general election (November 3, 2020). Texas utilizes an open primary system. At the primary (March 3, 2020), a voter may choose which party primary ballot (Republican or Democratic) to vote on. Minor parties do not hold primaries; their candidates for the general election are chosen in county and state conventions.

The voter must pledge that he or she will not vote in another party's primary or convention that year. You may also vote in the primary runoff election (May 26, 2020), but it must be for the same party you chose to vote in for the primary. If you vote in one party's primary, you do not have to vote for that same party or same candidates in the general election (November 3, 2020).



## VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE/CARD

The precinct number of where you live

State Senate district

County Commissioner precinct

Justice of the Peace precinct/ Constable precinct

Congressional district

State House district

School district

School board member district

State Board of Education district

City Council district

Which city you may vote in

VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE (Certificado de Registro Electoral) TRAVIS COUNTY (Condado de Travis)

VOID (VUID) [Redacted] 1/1/2020

Year of Birth (Año de Nacimiento) [Redacted] Pres. No. (Num. Pto.) 447 thru (hasta) 12/31/2021

Name and Permanent Residence Address (Nombre y dirección residencial permanente) [Redacted]

X VOTER MUST PERSONALLY SIGN HIS/HER NAME IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT, IF ABLE (El votante debe firmar esta tarjeta personalmente al recibirla, si puede.)

U.S. REP.	U.S. SEN.	ST. REP.	COM.	J.P./CL.
35	21	48	4	3
ISO	ISO SMD	SBCE	CITY	CITY SMD
AISD	6	5	AUSFP	2

Name and Mailing Address (Nombre y dirección de correo) [Redacted]

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS *VOTERS GUIDE*

## ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas, the League of Women Voters Austin Area, and the League of Women Voters of Williamson County. We invite each and every candidate in competition for office to provide information. The names of unopposed candidates are also listed, but questionnaires were not sent to them.

Each candidate's political affiliation throughout the Guide uses these abbreviations: (R) Republican Party, (D) Democrat Party, (L) Libertarian Party, (G) Green Party, (I) Independent.

This *Voters Guide* and other educational League materials are funded by member and supporter donations. Donations may be made through the website at **LWVAustin.org**. Increased costs demand additional funds. As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, each donation is acknowledged, appreciated, and deductible to the extent allowed by law.

## VOTE411.ORG

More information about the candidates can be reviewed by visiting **VOTE411.org**, a one-stop online resource for upcoming elections made possible by the League of Women Voters Education Fund. Simply enter your address to find your polling place, build your ballot with our online *Voters Guide*, compare candidates side by side, and much more. Answers from candidates who didn't respond by the print deadline may be available online.

## HOW THE LEAGUE GATHERS CANDIDATE INFORMATION

To compile the *Voters Guide* information, the League of Women Voters Austin Area sends questions to all candidates in contested races. League members verify accurate contact information provided by the various election entities and Texas Secretary of State.

The League formulated all questions asked with some input from the public. Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification of content. Due to space restrictions, candidates are given strict word limits. The form into which they enter answers prohibits them from violating the limit. Candidates are also asked to avoid references to their opponents. Those appearing without a photo failed to submit one. Candidates must submit answers by the deadline provided in order to be included in the printed version. Answers on **VOTE411.org** may be updated after the deadline.

## YOU MAY BRING A PRINTED VOTERS GUIDE INTO THE VOTING BOOTH!

Mobile electronic devices are prohibited in the voting booth, but the law allows you to take a printed *Voters Guide* with you. You can also use the interactive version online at **VOTE411.org** to print your choices to take with you.

## ABOUT THE LEAGUE

The League of Women Voters Austin Area is a grassroots, ALL-VOLUNTEER organization promoting informed and active participation of citizens in government. Since 1919, both LWV-TX and LWV-AA have helped voters cast an informed vote when going to the polls. No League organization supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

As a nonpartisan organization, the League believes that all of us are stakeholders in making democracy work. We offer informative programs concerning important public policy issues, organize and offer voter registration efforts, engage in get-out-the-vote projects, work with local area schools and universities to promote civic participation, and conduct fair and open candidate forums.

## LWV VISION STATEMENT

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

## LWV MISSION STATEMENT

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

## ... MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU!

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## Williamson County announces the formation of a new local League: the League of Women Voters Wilco (LWV Wilco)

On September 3, 2019, LWV Texas President Grace Chimene approved the formation of a new League for an area of the greater Austin community that has experienced rapidly increasing population growth. The League's history in Texas now spans one hundred years, and its first President was Williamson County resident Jesse Daniel Ames, therefore, the history of empowerment of voters and defending democracy has come full circle in Williamson County with formation of this new League. LWV Wilco encourages anyone wishing to support this newly established league to attend one of its monthly meetings held the 3rd Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Georgetown Library located at 402 W. 8th St., Georgetown, TX 78626. Visit our website at <http://www.lwvwilco.com> for additional information and resources.

# NATIONAL U.S. PRESIDENT

For additional information on presidential candidates, go to [VOTE411.org](https://VOTE411.org).

## REPUBLICAN PARTY

- Roque “Rocky” De La Fuente Guerra (R)

Donald J. Trump (R)
- Zoltan G. Istvan (R)

Joe Walsh (R)
- Matthew John Matern (R)

Bill Weld (R)
- Bob Ely (R)

## DEMOCRATIC PARTY

- Michael Bennet (D)

Amy Klobuchar (D)
- Joseph R. Biden (D)

Deval Patrick (D)
- Michael R. Bloomberg (D)

Bernie Sanders (D)
- Cory Booker (D) (withdrawn)

Tom Steyer (D)
- Pete Buttigieg (D)

Elizabeth Warren (D)
- Julián Castro (D) (withdrawn)

Robby Wells (D)
- John K. Delaney (D) (withdrawn)

Marianne Williamson (D) (withdrawn)
- Roque “Rocky” De La Fuente (D)

Andrew Yang (D)
- Tulsi Gabbard (D)

# NATIONAL U.S. SENATOR

- Q1. What are your recommendations to improve the immigration system?

Q2. What legislation would you support to address access to and cost of healthcare?

Q3. What are your recommendations to curb gun violence in our country?

Q4. What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of Congress, and what are your positions on these issues?
- .....

### Virgil Bierschwale (R)

#### Background:

I’ve been studying the effects of Free Trade Agreements and the tidal wave of non-immigrant guest workers since it first happened to me in 2003 and I can show you why our homeless population is increasing and all of the holes in the employment/unemployment propaganda which will have an impact on your business or organization.

**Education:** 14 years Military Technical Schools Licensed Realtor

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

**Facebook:** [https://www.facebook.com/Virgil-Bierschwale-for-US-Senate-104055040948099/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/Virgil-Bierschwale-for-US-Senate-104055040948099/?modal=admin_todo_tour)

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/fXFdnbZPBDQ>



**A1.** In 2018 we had 533,557 legal immigrants. During that same year we issued 9,028,026 non-immigrant visas to take the jobs that your family needs to provide for themselves. We need legal immigrants who come to America and make America better for everybody, not just themselves. Illegal immigration is illegal, and that is all that needs to be said about that.

**A2.** I believe health care will resolve itself if we take the “Profit” out of it and make it available to everybody

**A3.** Hold people accountable for what they did Try them by a jury, and if found guilty, carry out the sentence.

**A4.** we need jobs for our citizens so that they can provide for their families. The top 3 job groups if we compare 2018 against 2010 are nurses aides, food service, and truck driving. Can you build a better future for your family if those are the only jobs you can find?

### John Anthony Castro (R)

**Background:** My current net worth is in the mid-\$20 million range. I am an OPM Fellow at Harvard Business School, and I earned two law degrees: a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Taxation with Certification in International Tax from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington DC, and a Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.) from UNM School of Law. I know what needs to be fixed.

**Education:** OPM, Harvard Business School LL.M., Georgetown University Law Center J.D., UNM School of Law B.A., Texas A&M Int’l University

**Website:** <http://www.JohnCastro.com>  
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/drjohnanthonycastro>

**A1.** Our immigration system is critical to national strategy. Are we bringing in anyone so we have a sufficient supply of low-cost labor with the risk that wages stay artificially low, or are we bringing in only the best to grow our economy with the risk that we share the limited economic pie with non-American-born immigrants? I choose a point-based merit system.



**A2.** Tackling health care requires a multi-faceted approach. The short answer is an unlimited tax credit for student loan debt for MD degrees, a government-sponsored entity (GSE) health insurance company to keep private insurers accountable to the people, and mandatory use of generic brands after patent expiration of name brands. All of this will significantly drive down costs.

**A3.** Guns are not the problem. More than 90% of all school shooting can be traced back to anti-depressants. Do the research yourself. The solution is plain and simple: if you’re prescribed anti-depressants, you’re not permitted to be in the same home as someone who owns or possesses a firearm. This would have prevented 90% of school shootings in the past 20 years.

**A4.** Expanding public education to cover Pre-K to Ph.D. Achieving energy independence with the use of GSE manufacturers and construction companies to mass produce wind turbines, solar panels, and hydroelectric dams. A new Entrepreneur Tax Credit to fuel small business growth. Expansion and more strategic use of the R&D Tax Credit. Introduction of tax-free retirement post-65.



# NATIONAL U.S. SENATOR

## John Cornyn (R)

No Response Received

## Dwayne Stovall (R)

**Background:** I'm a 54 yr old native Texan, husband, father, business owner, w/ a deep historical knowledge of the office of U.S. Senator. I'm in construction & the oilfield. I've traded construction equipment internationally since the 90s & have a solid grasp of monetary policy. I have firsthand experience of what that policy does to US Citizens as well as to other countries' economies

**Education:** Attended Kilgore Jr. College and SWTSU

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

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/texansforstovall.com>

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/fnfaFGzu-Dk>

**A1.** Build the wall in every location possible, allow the border patrol to stop and turn around illegal aliens, make employers of illegal aliens come to the table for their part in this problem, and remove any and all access to tax payer funded programs (healthcare / education / welfare of any kind).

**A2.** The Constitution of the United States offers the federal government no authority whatsoever to manage the healthcare industry, or any other industry for that matter. The only correct legislation would be to remove it from the issue altogether and allow the citizens of the individual States to manage this issue according to their will.

**A3.** The Constitution of the United States offers the federal government no authority whatsoever to be involved in the issue. As with healthcare, leave it to the citizens of the individual States to manage this issue according to their will. That is the only constitutional answer.

**A4.** The continued disregard for the constitutional limitations placed on the federal government, and the perpetual centralization of power in the hands of a few. We must - MUST - elect people who understand the authority offered them in Article III to divest power away from the federal back to the States. I understand that authority.



## Mark Yancey (R)

**Background:** Mark Yancey, a longtime Dallas resident, is a veteran of the financial services industry. He has helped build four successful investment management firms, which in turn, created hundreds of well-paying jobs. The four firms combined managed north of \$100 billion in assets for institutions and sovereign wealth funds. Mark is currently the CEO of Attacca International.

**Education:** University of Oklahoma - Finance Harvard University

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

**Facebook:** <https://facebook.com/votemarkyancey>

**Video:** <http://www.facebook.com/votemarkyancey/videos/992988377755065/>

**A1.** • Build the wall - all 500 miles. • Stop the flow of illegal drugs and find the cartels operating in the U.S. • Support our Border Patrol and ICE agents. • Immediately deport illegal immigrants who have committed crimes.

**A2.** I would abolish the affordable Health Care Act - ALL OF IT. I support private pay healthcare. The insurance companies have been gouging the American public since the inception of ACA on March 23, 2010. I would bring ALL health insurance providers before Congress and understand the disparity among high premiums and record insurance company profits.

**A3.** Enforce current laws. Guns do not kill people. Mentally ill people kill people with guns. I will filibuster any Bills Democrats introduce that Republicans perceived as a threat to Second Amendment rights, including expanded background checks.

**A4.** 1). Fiscal responsibility and accountability. Congress's spending behavior is out of control. 2). Term-Limits. Two terms and you're out.



## Chris Bell (D)

**Background:** The only candidate in this race with experience in Congress and running statewide - Served 5 years on Houston City Council (1997–2001), chairing the Ethics Committee and Customer Service and Initiatives. - Served



as US Congressman (TX-25) as a member of the Whip Team. - Earned the 2006 Democratic Nomination for Governor, coming the closest any Dem since Gov. Ann Richards

**Education:** B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin and a J.D. from South Texas College of Law

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

**Facebook:** <https://facebook.com/ChrisBellForSenate/>

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/QEz96tdOR4g>

**A1.** - Pass the DREAM Act and create a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and DREAMers. - End family separation and border detention facilities - Decriminalized unauthorized border crossings and migration. - Reform CBP and ICE in order to best protect our borders while treating immigrants with dignity and integrity.

**A2.** - Create an automatic enrollment public option, otherwise known as access to Medicare for All. - Lower prescription drug prices by making generic drugs more accessible and mandating the government to negotiate directly with pharmaceutical manufacturers. - Protect access to women's health providers. Texas is the number one state in maternal mortality. This must end.

**A3.** - I support universal background checks and red flag laws that 90% of Americans fully support. - I would close the Charleston and Gun Show Loopholes. - Would take a step further and support a ban on assault weapons and a mandatory buyback program that would allow citizens to give up their weapons of war, otherwise under civil penalties.

**A4.** - Reforming the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. We must make a more equitable tax system that requires the ultra-rich to pay their fair share. - Establish a \$15 minimum wage indexed to inflation. - Rejoin the Paris Climate Accord and enact measures to fight Climate Change. - Invest in Education and make college debt dischargeable.

## Michael Cooper (D)

No Response Received

## Amanda K. Edwards (D)

**Background:** For the last four years I have represented 2.3 million Texans as a Houston City Council Mem-



ber, where I spearheaded efforts on Hurricane Harvey recovery and technology & innovation, and oversaw a multi-billion dollar budget. Prior to public service I practiced as a municipal finance lawyer, and was involved in numerous non-profit activities. My focus is achieving results.

**Education:** B.A. Emory University, 2004 J.D. Harvard University, 2007

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

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/amandafortexas/>

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/PNSyB86wpPM>

**A1.** Comprehensive immigration reform is long overdue. We can have a secure border, treat people with dignity and respect, keep families together and reduce the years-long backlog of those waiting to lawfully enter. Enforcement should focus on serious criminal activity like drug and human trafficking, and the US should work to stabilize nations that are sources of immigration.

**A2.** Health care is a life or death issue for many. We should strengthen the ACA to cover more people. The federal government should offer an affordable public option and lower costs of premiums & prescription drugs. Texas should expand Medicaid, which would cover more than 1 million uninsured residents. Those who are satisfied with their current coverage should keep it

**A3.** Universal background checks and nationwide "red flag" laws are crucial first steps. Limiting the availability of high capacity weapons and ammunition also should be considered. While mass shootings receive a great deal of attention, most gun deaths occur in less high profile ways, and a majority are suicides. A comprehensive approach must proceed with that in mind.

**A4.** Growing income and wealth inequality are huge concerns. With Texas being number 1 for rural hospital closures and number 1 for uninsured Americans, we must ensure that sustainable wage jobs with benefits are available in urban centers, suburbs and rural communities across America. We must also make available portable job training credits for those in manufacturing.

# NATIONAL U.S. SENATOR

## Jack Daniel Foster, Jr. (D)

**Background:** Article 1, Section 3, Clause 3; States you must be 30 years of age and a nine year resident of the state you live. There is no real experience that prepares a person to be an elected official at any level, but I have waited all my life for our “experienced politicians” to come up with big ideas for us all and they have failed us. So, I ask, “What has experience did for us?”

**Education:** B.S. Clinical Laboratory Science, ASCP Master’s Degree in Finance State Certified Teacher- Secondary Ed. Economics, Biology Certified Retirement Counselor

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

**A1.** While a person awaits their asylum claim, a property-homeowners should be able to invest in immigrants, within Texas Counties, for skilled vocational trades-welding, plumbing, wind turbine technology, water technology, solar panel technology, etc. Whether asylum is granted or not, an immigrant will have the ability to take care of themselves. My economic model bears this.

**A2.** I support ACA Medicaid expansion, but I have other big ideas about access and cost. The most expensive aspect of healthcare is hospitalization; we address this by allowing counties to team up and negotiate in their regions, these are their neighbors, not Washington. I also want to use the IRS codes for exclusionary income, so people can obtain insurance for the uninsured.

**A3.** I do not want to encroach on anyone’s Second Amendment rights, I know it’s not right for criminals to be armed better than law enforcement, therefore I would press hard for manufactures to begin putting fingerprint technology on all weapons. We also need federal legislation for background checks on all purchases, assembled weapons bought on-line as well, “air tight” laws.

**A4.** The three pillars of our society are education, healthcare, and retirement; nothing will ever be more pressing than these issues in any session of Congress. My economic model addresses these issues through incentives, allowing property-homeowners to invest in people, who live in their county, for skilled vocational trades. Creating personal security is paramount for all.



## Annie ‘Mama’ Garcia (D)

**Background:** I’m not a politician. I have built 2 small businesses and a non-profit, all profitable. Our family relies on all our paychecks to live. I speak 3 languages & have lived in 3 other countries. I am a ‘fed-up mama’ with 3 small kids. I’m running because we are running out of time. I have the moral clarity, political courage & work ethic to do what no politician will.

**Education:** Rice University (Houston) University of Texas School of Law (Austin) Humboldt Universität (Berlin, Germany) Estudio Sampere (Cuenca, Ecuador) Escuela de Español Santa Barbara (Madrid, Spain)

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

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/RunAnnieRun>

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/ZnctebfrLzM>

**A1.** This is personal. My husband is a naturalized citizen, we have Cuban family & I practice immigration law. Politicians lack the courage to fix it & now we separate families & kids die in our care. The irony is that our success is a direct product of our diversity. We must rebuild the system so we honor our values & benefit our economy. More @ [www.runannierun.com](http://www.runannierun.com).

**A2.** My daughter nearly died from a heart defect. We didn’t have insurance. She lived thanks to \$1,500,000 in treatment. Here, we would be bankrupt, but she was born in Spain, where healthcare is a right. Americans deserve the same. Here it costs 2xs as much, doesn’t cover ¼ of Americans & up to 400,000 patients die annually from medical error. Read more @ [www.runannierun.com](http://www.runannierun.com).

**A3.** More Americans die every WEEK from guns than most countries experience in a YEAR. This Is Not Normal. It’s a trade-off between the GOP & NRA- GOP power for gunmaker profits, paid for yearly in the blood of 40,000. We must do it all & more. Gunowners must carry gun liability insurance, like we do for cars. Let insurance companies access risk. More @ [www.runannierun.com](http://www.runannierun.com).

**A4.** There are so many existential threats that have been made worse by this administration, I can’t pick one. Poverty. Crappy healthcare. Domestic terrorism. Climate



change. Security. Voter suppression. What I know is that we can overcome all of this, if we have the moral clarity, political courage & work ethic. Email me at [annie@runannie.run.com](mailto:annie@runannie.run.com).

## Victor Hugo Harris (D)

No Response Received

## Mary “MJ” Hegar (D)

**Background:** I’m a combat veteran and working mom who understands the challenges facing Texas families and has never backed down from standing up for what’s right. I served 3 tours in Afghanistan as a medevac pilot, receiving the Purple Heart and Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor, and built a bipartisan coalition to open hundreds of thousands of jobs to women in the military.

**Education:** B.A., University of Texas at Austin, 1999; AFROTC Detachment 825; E.M.B.A., University of Texas at Austin, 2016

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

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/MJforTexas/>

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/bIYHz6fPAGo>

**A1.** We need to permanently end child separation, ensure asylum claims are properly processed, secure the border with effective procedures and technologies instead of robbing our military and seizing land from Texans to waste billions on an ineffective wall, and build a path to citizenship for undocumented residents that reflects our core values as Americans.

**A2.** Texas has the highest uninsured rate in the nation, and that’s unacceptable. We must protect the progress made by the Affordable Care Act while making much-needed improvements, including a public option to make Medicare available for all who want it. We should also lower the cost of prescription drugs by allowing Medicare to negotiate prices with pharmaceutical companies.

**A3.** We must pass common-sense gun safety legislation to require background checks on every single gun sale, stop the sale of assault weapons, pass red flag laws and close the “boyfriend loophole” to block access to firearms for domestic abusers, and strengthen laws preventing gun trafficking. I am also



calling for state and local officials to end open carry.

**A4.** I believe climate change is the greatest threat to my children’s future, and will advocate for aggressive action and investment in new clean energy production, infrastructure and manufacturing to address the climate crisis. I will also make it a priority to protect reproductive rights and pass comprehensive campaign finance, voting rights and ethics reforms.

## Sema Hernandez (D)

**Background:** I’ve been a community advocate & organizer for over 12 years. I’m a fenceline community resident in a sacrifice zone, exposed daily to the hazards and risks posed by the fossil fuel industries. I am a co-founder of the Texas Poor People’s Campaign & co-founder of an environmental justice coalition working with local & statewide organizations to enforce regulations.

**Education:** Acute Medical Training and Certificate Program Dual Licensed Insurance Agent

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

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/SemaForTexas>

**A1.** I will introduce and/or co-sponsor legislation that will provide permanent resident status to all DACA & TPS registrants, as well as for their family members & extend permanent resident status to persons who were denied DACA status due to registration deadlines. I will introduce legislation to abolish ICE and restore immigration enforcement to the Department of Justice.

**A2.** I support Medicare For All, US Senate Bill S.1129. This is the direct way to provide full healthcare benefits for everyone and raising the standard of healthcare. The bill provides everyone with the same coverage, regardless of gender, socioeconomic status, race, religion, and other demographic status, while eliminating premiums, copays, deductibles, and the Donut Hole.

**A3.** I will use the Commerce Clause to regulate gun sales and manufacturing, introduce and/or support legislation which will require mandatory universal background checks, close gun-show loopholes, outlaw





# NATIONAL U.S. SENATOR

## Sema Hernandez (D) (continued)

the sale of assault weapons, end the manufacturing of ammunition for assault weapons, and protect the rights of gun owners, while offering voluntary buy-backs of weapons.

**A4.** Voting Rights: I will introduce legislation to create uniform requirements for voting, in order to ensure equal protection of voting rights under the laws. Indigenous Rights: Honor all treaties and tribal sovereignty. Criminal Justice Reform: I will vote to repeal the 1994 Crime Act and de-fund states which maintain sentencing mandates that were enacted in response to it.

## D. R. Hunter (D)

No Response Received

## Adrian Ocegueda (D)

**Background:** My professional background is both in local government and in private equity. The issues that we face today are exceedingly complex and an honest assessment of these issues suggests that collaboration beyond one person will be required. My candidacy places a premium on the approach to policy development rather than simply advocating for one position over another.

**Education:** Princeton University, BA- Political Economy Southern Methodist University, Masters in Business Administration

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

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/TexasReason/>

**A1.** A limited view of improving our immigration system would simply be to improve our system for processing requests for asylum. However long-term concerns should also be addressed, this requires an evaluation of our foreign policy, from support for emerging economies, to supporting international agencies eradicating corruption or addressing regional climate change impacts.

**A2.** I believe there is an opportunity to build bi-partisan support for initiatives to reduce costs, as many in both the public and private sector have come to the realization that we are at a tipping point on healthcare costs. Expanding coverage, through some form of public sponsored insurance may

help promote cost changes more swiftly, but the impacts will vary.

**A3.** Most of the discussion related to this issue has been to impose some restriction or added regulation to reduce access to & the number of weapons. I believe we can also adopt a public-health approach that seeks ways to de-couple the availability of arms from circumstances where the use of firearms leads to lethal violence, such as safety modifications & data-driven alerts.

**A4.** Two additional issues that will face our nation in future legislative cycles is the inequality of our economy and climate change. Both of these issues are highly complex, interrelated, and face trend & structural headwinds that that will require a collaborative and constructive political environment, that depresses mis-information and places a premium on facts.

## Cristina Tzintzun Ramirez (D)

**Background:** I have spent over a decade leading some of Texas' most important labor and voting rights organizations. I have helped change laws at the local and state level for workers and have traveled across the state registering and mobilizing young voters in our state, empowering them to tackle the problems that we face. I will continue to advocate for everyday Texans in the Senate.

**Education:** BA in Liberal Arts & Latin American Studies, The University of Texas at Austin

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

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/TzintzunCris/>

**A1.** I support extending citizenship to DREAMers, but I also believe that we need to legalize the status of the millions of hard-working immigrants that have been part of our communities for years. We need an immigration system that allows future generations to come here safely and legally, that fills our labor needs, and that empowers all immigrants to live their full lives.

**A2.** I want to ensure that Texas families are healthy. I support Medicare for All because it is the most efficient and cost effective way to make sure every American has quality

healthcare, and it will allow small businesses and entrepreneurs to accelerate their growth instead of trying to worry about how to cover the cost of healthcare for themselves and their employees.

**A3.** Every 3 hours, we lose a Texan to gun violence. I have endorsed the March for Our Lives Peace Plan and I will advocate for gun legislation that the majority of Americans support, including universal background checks, banning and buying back assault weapons like AR-15s and AK-47s, and holding the gun lobby accountable for the harm they have done to our communities.

**A4.** Climate Change: I support the Green New Deal because it will create millions of new jobs, and will support oil and gas workers as we transition from fossil fuels to cleaner energy sources. Education: I support funding our education system from kindergarten through college, and investing in our greatest asset: our people. This means universal Pre-K and free public college.

## Royce West (D)

**Background:** I have been a practicing attorney for more than 40 years and I've owned my own practice for 25 years. I know what it takes to own and operate a business. I have also served in the Texas Senate since 1993 which gives me an unmatched depth of knowledge about the legislative process.

**Education:** University of Texas at Arlington, BA, MA University of Houston, JD

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

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/RoyceWestTX/>

**A1.** First, we have to dramatically increase the number of judges available to hear asylum cases. Second, we need to pass DACA and get the Dreamers back on solid ground. Third, we need comprehensive immigration reform to simplify the process and give everyone here without citizenship a path to it if they want it.

**A2.** I would support strengthening the ACA with a public option. I do not believe nationalizing insurance is the best path forward. We need competition on standard products so that people can decide for themselves. I am looking at a number of ways of removing politics from this to stop future Administrations from gutting the ACA.

**A3.** I am for restoring the ban on assault rifles and instituting a ban on magazines that hold more than 8 rounds. I support a national background check system that closes all loopholes, even individual sales.

**A4.** I believe criminal justice reform, a woman's right to choose, equal pay for women, student debt relief, and employment non-discrimination will be key issues in the next session. I favor a multitude of criminal justice reforms, favor a woman's right to choose, support equal pay for women, support a comprehensive student debt relief program, and will vote to pass ENDA.

## JOIN THE LEAGUE—BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

Be part of a respected national, state, and local grassroots organization where individuals like you are actively engaged in creating positive change on all levels. Add your voice to more than 100,000 members and supporters across the country in Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy. Membership is open to everyone at least 16 years of age.

The Austin Area needs you as part of the solution, to help ensure our communities are strong, safe and vibrant places to live. Joining is easy online at [LWVAustin.org/join-us](http://LWVAustin.org/join-us).

# NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

- Q1.** What do you recommend to improve the immigration system?
  - Q2.** What legislation would you support to address access to and cost of healthcare?
  - Q3.** What do you recommend to curb gun violence in our country?
  - Q4.** What other issue is your highest legislative priority and what do you propose to address it?
- .....

## DISTRICT 10

### Michael McCaul (R)

Unopposed

### Pritesh Gandhi (D)

**Background:** Pritesh Gandhi is a dad, doctor, and advocate. He serves as Associate Chief medical Officers of a community health center where he treats uninsured Central Texans.

**Education:** Economics and International Studies: Tufts University; MPH: Tufts University; MD: Tufts University.

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

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

**A1.** Last year I led Tornillo’s largest rally of health care workers at the detention facility on the border - we stood for children & fought for families. First, a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients & undocumented migrants (without felony records) should be established. Second, our guest worker program must be modernized to account for year-round employment. Third, we must play the long game & partner with Central & South American nations to build durable social & political institutions.

**A2.** I serve as Associate Chief Medical Officer of an E.Austin community health center where I treat uninsured Central Texans daily - this issue is personal to me. First, we cover the uninsured in a public plan. Second, we pass legislation (HR3) to negotiate on drug prices. Third, we offer Medicare as an option to those that can’t afford deductibles & copays. We must engage social determinants of health: a child with asthma living in a rental home with mold needs a “health in all policies” approach.

**A3.** After the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting I started a group, Doctors for Gun



Safety, & organized statewide to focus on bipartisan solutions to gun violence. First, we pass universal background checks & closure of the gun show loophole. Second, extreme risk protection orders (red flag laws) need to be passed. Third, legislation should ban public ownership of weapons of war and high capacity magazines. Fourth, we end gun industry immunity. Last, we rebuild our frayed social & neighborhood fabric.

**A4.** Campaign finance reform. Money corrupts the political process & makes it virtually impossible to elect candidates that are focused on the good of the people & unencumbered by the influence of corporations & special interest groups. Our system is built to serve the wealthy & the bought, which fundamentally conflicts with both the spirit & the foundation of our democracy. We must implement caps on campaign spending to level the playing field & give marginalized communities a seat at the table.

### Shannon Hutcheson (D)

**Background:** Guided by my progressive values, I have built a successful career as a small business owner, community activist, and advocate for women and families in Texas.

**Education:** BA, Austin College, with honors (1993); JD, University of Texas, with honors (1996)

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

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

**A1.** We need more compassion, starting with electing more moms to Congress. We must protect the thousands of Dreamers who were brought to the US-the only country they have known-as children and who are valuable contributors to our communities. We also need bipartisan comprehensive



immigration reform that includes securing our borders while also providing a path to citizenship to law-abiding taxpayers, and ensuring families are kept together and treated with dignity and fairness.

**A2.** Quality, affordable healthcare is a human right. But, Texas Republicans have been trying to cut off access by invalidating the ACA. This must stop. We can and we must deliver health care for every American, pre-existing condition or not. We also have to empower Medicare to negotiate prices with drug companies. Folks like my mom, a retired public school teacher, should not have to choose between paying for the medicine they need and paying the rent. And, we must end surprise medical bills.

**A3.** As a mom, a Texan, a lawyer, a gun owner, and the wife of an ex-U.S. Marine, I am committed to common sense gun safety reform, including stopping the sale of assault weapons and high capacity magazines, strengthening background checks, closing the gun show loophole, and keeping guns from felons and domestic abusers. After the tragedies in El Paso, Midland/Odessa, Sutherland Springs and Santa Fe, we must take swift action to protect our communities, all while respecting the U.S. Constitution.

**A4.** Education is personal for me. I grew up in a working-class family. Education was the path to a better life, but my husband and I graduated with six figures in debt. Recently, I represented an Army vet who was scammed by a for-profit college in the 1980s. The U.S. sued him for 15X the amount he borrowed. Texans should have the opportunity to get a quality education without financial ruin. And, we must adopt solutions for those who are defrauded, become disabled or work in underserved areas.

### Mike Siegel (D)

#### Background:

For 21 years I’ve served the people: first, as a public school teacher and teachers’ union organizer, and more recently as a civil rights lawyer and Austin city attorney.

**Education:** B.A., Comparative Literature, Brandeis University; Teachers’ Credential,



Cal. State University-Hayward; J.D., Cornell Law School

**Website:** <http://www.siegelfortexas.org>  
**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/siegelfortexas>

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/wH5JPCul4YE>

**A1.** Let’s start with the premise that every human being deserves respect and dignity, that families belong together, and that America will fulfill the values represented by the Statue of Liberty. We must end family separation and the Trump regime’s attacks on asylum seekers. We must establish a path to citizenship for undocumented residents. And we need a dramatic overhaul of our system, so we can fairly process migrants and meet the needs of our economy while respecting human rights.

**A2.** I support Medicare for All. Medicare for All will provide comprehensive healthcare that is free at the point of service with no co-pay or deductible. Everyone will be able to select their own doctor, specialist, and hospital without worrying about “in network.” In TX-10, rural hospitals are closing, tens of thousands lack care and thousands more are at risk of bankruptcy in the event of a medical crisis. Medicare for All will keep hospitals open and families solvent while saving countless lives.

**A3.** We need a two-pronged movement to curb gun violence. First, we must demand the passage of popular, common-sense gun reforms that will save lives, including universal background checks, “red flag” laws, and an end to the sale of assault rifles. And second, we must demand major campaign finance reform, to ensure that gun manufacturers acting through the NRA cannot buy our elected officials and overrule the will of the American people. I will never accept a dime from the NRA or corporate PACs.

**A4.** Climate change may be the biggest threat to human life, and represents an issue where TX-10 can be a national leader. Here, a coal plant and fracking are poisoning the drinking water for dozens of counties, and Houston is recovering from its fifth “500 year flood” in five years. I am fighting for a Green New Deal that create millions of jobs in a sustainable economy, end reliance on fossil fuels, provide a just transition for fossil fuel workers, and remedy the legacy of environmental pollution.



# NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

## DISTRICT 17

### Ahmad Adnan (R)

**Background:** Independent-Thinker, Centrist, Country Over Party | I am a moderate. I want Republicans, conservatives, independents, Democrats, and liberals to vote for me.



**Education:** University: Texas State University Graduated in 2000, Summa Cum Laude Degree: B.B.A. - Management | High School: Round Rock High School Graduated in 1995

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

**A1.** Secure the Border, Embrace Legal Immigration; Spend more money to have more border patrol agents and to use technology like drones, cameras, etc. to help prevent illegal immigration. I do NOT believe in building a wall. Spend more money to have more judges to help process legal immigration and legal asylum cases. If their cases are good and meet the required criteria, those people should be welcomed into our society so they can start to contribute, serve, and pay taxes. No child separation.

**A2.** Medicare If-You-Want-It Plan; I believe in the free market and capitalism. However, I know that some folks may not have access to health insurance (self-employed, geography). I want them to be able to enroll in Medicare. However, I do not believe in handouts; you can't get Medicare for free; there's gonna be a premium. You have to pay the premium for Medicare, but I want you to have the choice to enroll in Medicare if you can't get good health care anywhere else (Medicare If-You-Want-It Plan).

**A3.** I would like to discuss education first. I want the starting pay for teachers to be \$80,000 a year. Our education system is falling behind other countries. We will never have the best education system if we do not attract and retain the best, highest-quality teachers, and we can only get the best if we actually pay them what they are worth. And, this will also help change the culture. In other cultures and societies, education is valued, teachers are respected. In the U.S. they're not.

**A4.** To address Economic Growth & Income Inequality, I want Infrastructure

Spending, High-Value Research, and Population Growth. To fix our Dysfunctional Political System, I want to ban money in politics, because money in politics = corruption in politics, move election day to Saturday, and ban gerrymandering. Please look at my website [ahmadforoffice.com](http://ahmadforoffice.com) to see the greatest social security solution in the history of the program! Legalize, regulate, and tax cannabis to pay for the teacher raise.

### Scott Bland (R)

**Background:** I am born and raised in Waco, Texas, former special agent in the United States Secret Service, now own the family construction company in Waco.



**Education:** Graduate of Midway High School in Waco, undergraduate degree from Baylor University.

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

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

**A1.** I want a 6 month moratorium period where people here illegally can present themselves for full background checks and employment verification. If they have a clean background and can prove employment or participation in job training programs they can be issued work visas that have to be renewed every 10 months. This is not a path to citizenship but allows us to know who is here and allows them an opportunity to contribute.

**A2.** I support the Better Care Act the Senate passed in 2017 to replace the ACA, but I would like to work towards legislation that reforms the existing insurance system to allow for a much more free market environment to help bring costs down.

**A3.** We should support funding to provide mental health training for counselors in the public-school system. I believe this will be effective because if we can identify a child at risk for mental health issues at an early age then we can provide meaningful care that can alter their path before they become too far gone. Teachers and counselors should be trained to identify mental health issues and provide parents with that information to get help for their child.

**A4.** I want to see the border issue be treated

as a national security issue and not an immigration problem. We have more people coming into this country illegally who mean to do us harm and this has to stop. My priority is to build a wall where we can, deploy the national guard to the border to augment the Border Patrol, and use drone, sensor and seismic technology to stop the flow of people through the border. We used similar technology in the Secret Service and I know it will be effective.

### George W. Hindman (R)

**Background:** George is a business owner, aerospace engineer and commercial pilot. He worked at NASA training astronauts and was the 2018 Republican



nominee for Texas State Senate (D14). **Education:** George holds a M.S. degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and a B.S. degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Virginia.

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

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

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/XOfmIaQQVmQ>

**A1.** Our immigration system is broken and three steps are needed to solve this crisis. We must secure the border by building a wall and employing better technology, reform our legal immigration visa policies and focus on dealing with the millions of illegal immigrants already in our country without granting amnesty. Border security and enforcing existing laws must be the starting points for addressing the current situation. While America has been a nation of immigrants, we are also a nation of laws.

**A2.** Congress should repeal the costly regulations of age-based community ratings, actuarial value mandates and essential health benefits. Congress should then enact meaningful reforms to allow individuals to purchase health insurance across state lines, expand Health Savings Accounts and make health care plans more flexible and portable to cover a wide range of personal situations. I also favor removing safe harbor protections under the Federal anti-kickback statute to promote better competition.

**A3.** I am a supporter of the Second Amendment and am committed to preserving the right of individuals to purchase, possess and use firearms as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Gun control advocates consistently fail to recognize that it is people, not guns, who are responsible for illegal actions. Efforts should focus on societal issues that are the root cause of violence; tightening gun laws will only take guns away from law abiding citizens and not criminals who use firearms to commit crimes.

**A4.** Our nation is at a crossroads as to how we determine our fiscal priorities. As a fiscal conservative, I believe that we need to cut spending and restrain our federal government. The best way to pay off our debt and live within our means is to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and to grow the economy. Also, our country has veered away from the values that have provided the foundation of our culture and society. As your representative in DC, I will fight to protect our freedoms.

### Todd Kent (R)

**Background:** My background includes academic, consulting, and non-profit experience. I am a higher education leader and worked in political and business consulting, and youth ministry.



**Education:** Ph.D. in Political Science, Texas A&M University; M.A. in Public Policy, Regent University; B.S. in Accounting, Utah State University

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

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

**A1.** The need for immigration reform results from poor management of our borders. We need to modernize and simplify the process for those who desire to enter the US legally and secure our borders to prevent unlawful entrance into the US. Sadly, our nation, which has been built by immigrants, has lost control of its borders. It is a critical national security problem when we do not know who is entering our country.

**A2.** Obamacare promised lower costs and affordable health insurance premiums. The truth is that costs continue to rise and are not slowing down. The average annual pre-



# NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

mium for family health insurance is almost \$20,000 and together with high deductibles, copays, and other expenses, families are feeling the financial pain. We need legislation that reduces government intervention and regulation. The more government tries to intervene, the less competition in the health marketplace.

**A3.** I am a supporter of the 2nd Amendment and the individual's right to own a weapon. A reduction in the number of guns will not curb gun violence. I would vigorously oppose government gun confiscation legislation. Reducing gun violence can only happen by expanding mental health programs and strengthening family structures.

**A4.** In America today, more people are working and the unemployment rate has reached historic lows. This is great news for families. There are two key problems. First, the purchasing power of workers' earnings has not kept up. One reason is the high cost of health care. Second, there will be future job losses from artificial intelligence and automation (robotics). Texas is very vulnerable. I will focus on reducing the costs of health care and retraining workers for new types of jobs.

## Laurie Godfrey McReynolds (R)

**Background:** Laurie is from Texas and was raised in a conservative, Christian home. She has been residing and serving the Waco Community the past 35 years. She has 30 dedicated employees,

**Education:** Arlington Lamar High School 1979; Tarleton State University 2009; Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences; Texas Real Estate License since 2011

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

**A1.** I support President Trump's efforts in building the wall. I also believe in creating an easier path for citizenship for those who qualify.

**A2.** Unfortunately, there is no legislation with the type of framework that I would support in either chamber. I would like to find a solution so that more people have access to affordable medical treatment.

**A3.** I believe everyone should be able to own a gun for their protection. If someone

poses a risk to themselves or others, they should not be allowed to have a gun.

**A4.** Education: I would like to see less government testing and allow teachers to teach.

## Jeff Oppenheim (R)

No Response Received

## Kristen Alamo Rowin (R)

No Response Received

## David Saucedo (R)

**Background:** I've known poverty most of my life. I've made mistakes I'm not proud of. I've rebuilt and dedicated to enlightening and empowering our communities! I am a Servant Leader!

**Education:** Mentor, Ministry, and Church Leadership Six years experience in manufacturing Specialist in Safety and Health (SSH)(UTA) Authorized OSHA Outreach Trainer (UTA)

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

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

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/6w0MDwATjrg>

**A1.** Support President Trump's administration by advocating for and voting in favor of all funding necessary for physical, technological, and patrol deterrents to illegal border crossings along the southern border.

Assure that contractual timeframes are practical in comparison to the private sector construction industry. Actively raise public awareness about immigrants currently here illegally, and the inhumanity associated with poor security of our borders. Fight Democrat/Media misinformation harder!

**A2.** I support efforts to return to direct to primary care in our state and in our nation. I believe we should work with experienced leaders like David Balat of the Texas Public Policy Foundation to advance the policies that best serve the citizens of Texas! <https://www.texaspolicy.com/primary-care-enhancement-act/>

**A3.** Limiting violence to one source or one type prevents us from gaining a holistic perspective on the issue of violence. A gun is no more violent than a box truck in the hands of a person intent on harming the innocent.



The violence we see in our nation is directly connected to cultural influences and social norms. I like to consider myself a student of today's culture and a builder of tomorrow's. The video link above is our push back against the anti-law enforcement narrative.

**A4.** Reducing the size, complexity, and power of the federal government by raising public awareness and pressuring fellow lawmakers to support legislative advancements that push political power back to the states and the people. I will work diligently, prayerfully, and creatively to break political and social barriers as we show President Trump's policies in action in CD-17. Promote the local control of education! Promote Made In America! Promote Wealth-fare rather than welfare! Represent CD17 Well!

## Pete Sessions (R)

**Background:** Born and raised in Waco Eagle Scout Lifetime member, NRA Member, First United Methodist Church U.S. Congressman, 1996–2018 Chairman, National Republic Congressional Committee

**Education:** Graduate, Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas 1978

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

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

**A1.** Increase border security funding; Crack down on criminal illegal aliens in sanctuary cities;

Establish mandatory minimum sentencing for criminal illegal aliens; Protect communities from criminal illegal aliens; and require U.S. employers to use E-verify in hiring.

**A2.** Please see my bill from 2017 HR 1275 the World's Greatest Healthcare Plan. *[Portion of response removed; does not meet criteria.]*

**A3.** I support funding for training and school safety programs, and also for providing resources and training to protect students and prevent violence on school campuses.

**A4.** Pete Sessions will strongly oppose the Socialist Democrats who want more control of our lives. I am a strong defender of our second amendment freedom, and will protect our gun rights. A faithful Christian, I will defend religious freedom. When in Congress, I led the campaign for Republicans to take over the House and remove Nancy Pe-

losi as Speaker, and want to work to restore the Republican majority in Congress once again. Finally, I have a proven record of supporting President Donald Trump.

## Trent Sutton (R)

**Background:** Retired Marine Corps Master Sergeant with 21 years of active duty service. Completed five deployments supporting operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Education:** Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (summa cum laude) from Texas A&M. Master of International Affairs from the Bush School of Government and Public Service.

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

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

**A1.** First, we must stop the flow of illegal immigration. Second, we must address those who are here already. A more robust merit-based guest-worker program is vital to ensuring American farming and manufacturing have the labor forces they need to operate. At the same time, e-Verify must be implemented nationwide to ensure employers are not hiring undocumented workers and to prevent visa overstays. This will allow us to maintain a thriving economy while accounting for all entrants.

**A2.** Socialized medicine is not the answer. Without competition, the quality of care suffers and prices skyrocket. Block granting Medicaid payments will allow states to determine their best course of action. Incentives for providers and pharmaceutical companies must be changed so free-market forces can reduce drug prices and healthcare costs while increasing their effectiveness. The "ever-greening" drug patent loopholes which allow manufactures to stifle and dominate competition must be closed.

**A3.** Gun violence is not a gun problem; it is a personal responsibility problem. We have strayed from the foundations of faith, family, and freedom which have made this country great since our founding. We must promote legislation that strengthens the family unit, protects religious freedom, and promotes educational and economic opportunities.



# NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

## DISTRICT 17

### Trent Sutton (R) (continued)

**A4.** Our \$23,000,000,000,000 National Debt is one of the least discussed, yet greatest threats to our national security. Our current spending levels are unsustainable and must be reduced. The size and scope of the Federal Government have extended far beyond their Constitutionally mandated responsibilities. The elimination of unnecessary and burdensome government programs, regulations, and wasteful earmark spending must occur.

### Renee Swann (R)

No Response Received

### Elianor Vessali (R)

No Response Received

### William Foster III (D)

**Background:** Education/  
Business Owner

**Education:** Math/Physics/guidance/computer science/mid-management/  
Public Administration

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

**A1.** first, we should abide by the 14th Amendment section 1 which states that all persons born in the United States are citizens of the United States. when this is violated at any point, the constitution has been violated and laws should be strengthened to uphold the constitutional rights of those being violated. Persons entering the country improperly should be held accountable and dealt with in a proper process. We should employ more border patrol and hold foreign governments financially responsible

**A2.** There should be legislation to provide building of more self-sustainable hospitals designed especially for those who cannot gain access to proper care in traditional care units We know not enough income and other reasons create these problems This concept also will create more jobs in the medical field

A line item tax on persons with great amounts of discretionary funds will pay into this designed piece of legislation. It includes payment for the destitute and it will lower the cost of medicine



**A3.** Technology and new laws to adopt restricted areas where weapons will be highly detected. Those who break these laws will be jailed. One must if traveling into the restricted area, alert the police that they are so doing. Technology will play a major roll in this methodology.

I would recommend more education to be mandated for all gun owners. with a better, highly technical program in place and present laws strengthen we can curb gun violence by 65 to 75 percent.

**A4.** sustainable housing for low to middle-income persons. Better and more affordable housing provided for our elderly. Needed services should also be address when it comes to our elderly individuals. we should utilize programs that are already in place and improve on their execution.

### David Jaramillo (D)

**Background:** Marine Corps veteran, received a Top Secret Yankee White Clearance. Presidential Service Badge. Served in Iraq. Former VA employee, Union Steward.

**Education:** Bachelor of Science Psychology, Minor in Criminal Justice at Tarleton State University.

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

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

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/Z3UAMOf74b4>

**A1.** We need to close for profit detainment centers. We need to double the number of immigration judges to speed up the process for asylum applications. Asylum seekers should not be turned away at the border. Rather, they should be issued temporary visas until their case can be heard. We need to provide a faster pathway to citizenship by hiring more federal employees. All DACA recipients should be granted the citizenship they have long been owed.

**A2.** We need a system that allows everyone to see a doctor. People are waiting until it's too late to seek medical care due to the high cost of healthcare. By covering everyone, we would drastically cut costs, thus improving the proliferation of healthcare. We need to implement Medicare for All in stages in



order to have a safety net for the American people, thus making it harder to dismantle should political opponents attempt that in the future. We need a low cost standard across all avenues.

**A3.** We must stop the sale of assault-style weapons. We need background checks to keep weapons out of the hands of people who want to do harm. Furthermore, we should hire more security for schools to protect our children. This will keep schools safer and create jobs. People who are convicted of domestic violence charges should be permanently barred from obtaining weapons. All gun owners should be required to pass a licensure course similar to that administered to those who wish to concealed carry.

**A4.** We need V.A. healthcare and benefits reform. We need to hire more doctors at the V.A. in order to stay within a manageable doctor to patient ratio. We need to contract with doctors out of school for a seven-year contract that will allow for full student loan forgiveness. This will increase the doctors we have on hand at the V.A., as well as help new doctors gain experience in their field. Bringing more doctors into the V.A. will make it possible to open more clinics in rural areas.

### Rick Kennedy (D)

**Background:** A software engineer for more than three decades, Rick Kennedy proudly claims a STEM background. His son attends Baylor and his two daughters go to Round Rock public schools.

**Education:** Rick graduated from Burlington (MA) High School in 1980. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from The Pennsylvania State University in 1984.

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

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

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/Ec8ROAKkqrM>

**A1.** We must stop political posturing and devise a broad revision of our immigration system that meets our economic needs, addresses security, and reflects our values.



Such a plan starts by treating asylum seekers with respect and processing claims in a timely manner. We also must secure our borders and ports of entry with technology and human resource-based solutions. Finally, we need a path to citizenship for undocumented residents who have lived here for 10+ years that focuses on security.

**A2.** I support the Medicare for America Act of 2019. It is the appropriate next step in health care because it achieves universal coverage, especially important in rural areas where the uninsured rate is high. It will not eliminate private insurance. It provides relief from the threat of medical bill-induced bankruptcy - the leading cause of personal bankruptcy in the US. At the same time, it addresses uncompensated care for hospitals. Lastly, it empowers Medicare to negotiate drug prices.

**A3.** Saving American lives should not be an issue subjected to partisan bickering. I am happy to see that Congress recently appropriated funds for gun violence research. As an engineer, I want to implement policy based on facts. I support better background checks (as do 90% of voters) and banning gun ownership for convicted domestic abusers. I also support the Second Amendment. My goal is to reduce gun violence without infringing on Second Amendment rights of lawful gun owners.

**A4.** Our current political environment is a symptom of the corrupting influence of money in our politics. I've rejected corporate PAC contributions to my campaign, and in Washington I'll support H.R. 1 to overturn Citizens United and end corporate PAC contributions to federal candidates. I believe it is the best way to restore honor and leadership to Washington and the US Congress.

## DISTRICT 21

### Chip Roy (R)

Unopposed

### Wendy R. Davis (D)

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

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/wendydavistexas/](http://www.facebook.com/wendydavistexas/)





# NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

## DISTRICT 21

### Wendy R. Davis (D) (continued)

**A1.** Everyone agrees that we must keep our borders secure. But our approach to border security should not exclude common sense approaches to immigration policy. Congress needs to take up and pass comprehensive immigration reform so that people who are fleeing violence, who want to work hard and contribute to our economy and want to be part of the fabric of this state and this country, can come out of the shadows.

**A2.** Creating access to affordable healthcare, including prescription drugs, is my top priority. I believe that healthcare is a human right and that every Texan deserves access to affordable healthcare. We must expand Medicaid and create the ability for those not covered by private insurance or Medicaid to access Medicare or some other public option for care as was originally envisioned under the Affordable Care Act. A healthy Texas population leads to a healthier Texas economy.

**A3.** As a congressperson, I will do everything I can to create a safer climate for our communities and our children through the passage and enactment of common-sense gun safety laws. I respect the 2nd amendment and like the vast majority of Americans, including NRA members, I support red flag laws and universal background checks, which includes closing the boyfriend loophole, so that persons with a violent history or who demonstrate a threat of harm to themselves or others cannot own a firearm.

**A4.** As the grandmother of 1 and 3-year-old granddaughters, I am deeply concerned about my generation's responsibility to assure that they inherit a planet capable of sustaining life. We must take seriously our country's shared role within the global community to do our part to address climate change. That includes working to achieve a net-zero carbon emissions plan by 2050. Using incentives, Texas should continue to lead the way in the creation of clean energy and the jobs that serve that sector.

### Jennie Lou Leeder (D)

No Response Received

## DISTRICT 25

### Keith Neuendorff (R)

**Background:** -Dedicated husband and father - Small town / family business roots - Texas A&M graduate - Software engineer for over 25 years - Committed to serving and improving our country

**Education:** Texas A&M University - BS in Electrical Engineering; Texas A&M University - MBA

**Website:** <http://neuendorff2020.com/>

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

**A1.** We need to enhance border security measures such as electronic monitoring and detection and a focus on ports of entry where the vast majority of illegal crossings and drug smuggling occurs. We also need a comprehensive immigration reform program that includes a meaningful guest worker program that allow certain labor groups (such as farm workers) to work in our country legally.

**A2.** We need to maintain the principle of no pre-existing conditions on private and public insurance programs. We should also allow for existing government programs to negotiate prices for drugs and services in a real open market to allow for lowering costs in those programs. Additionally, we need to explore changing the foundations of how we pay for healthcare (publicly and privately) to move away from a pay-for-service model and toward a pay-for-outcomes model that rewards better health results.

**A3.** I am a supporter of responsible gun ownership under the 2nd Amendment. I grew up hunting and understand the place of guns for sport and personal protection. To curb gun violence we should more strictly enforce the current laws on who should be able to purchase guns and enhance those laws by broadening the restrictions for mental illness, people on terror watch-lists, and closing loopholes in the law. We should also not be afraid to gather basic data on gun violence to inform decision making.

**A4.** Education is my highest priority because the quality of education we provide touches every aspect of private and public life. Even after putting aside moral and



equality issues, a strong education system is still one of the most important investments that we can make as a country. Access to a quality education allows individuals to lead productive, independent lives, contribute their knowledge and skills to society, and helps us to maintain our leading positions in trade and defense.

### Roger Williams (R)

No Response Received

### Julie Oliver (D)

**Background:** Former teen Medicaid mom who put herself through college and law school; made a career in taxation and healthcare finance before running 100% PAC-free campaign for Congress.

**Education:** B.B.A., University of Texas at Arlington (Summa Cum Laude); J.D., University of Texas Austin

**Website:** <http://twitter.com/JulieOliverTX>

**OliverTX**

**Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/JulieForTexas>

**JulieForTexas**

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/FqZcpwknUo8>

**A1.** We need to fundamentally reform our immigration system so that it reflects who we want to be — a country where our fellow human beings are treated with dignity & respect, regardless of immigration status. My commitments: Make Dreamers & TPS recipients citizens; Build a viable path to citizenship for undocumented people; Increase capacity in our asylum claims system; Reverse Trump's Muslim ban; End family detention & prohibit CBP from contracting with private prison corps; Address root causes.

**A2.** Every single American should have high-quality healthcare, be able to see a doctor, and be able to afford prescriptions—no matter if they're rich or poor, young or old, or have pre-existing conditions or not. I have 20 years of experience in healthcare finance and serve on the board of Central Health. Ensuring that we achieve universal single-payer health care in this country by expanding Medicare for all Americans is my top priority. Please read more at [julieoliver.org/issues/healthcare](http://julieoliver.org/issues/healthcare).

**A3.** There are concrete solutions to the pub-



lic health crisis of gun violence in America. My commitments: Universal background checks and universal licensing requirements at all points of purchase; Strong red flag laws & Extreme Risk Protection Orders to disarm abusers; Ensure that the FBI & DOJ prioritize white supremacist violence; Oppose concealed carry reciprocity; Ban the civilian sale of assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, & other weapons of war; End the corrupting influence of the NRA.

**A4.** We have to get corporations and big money out of Congress and our elections, once and for all. With healthcare, it's my top priority, and it's why I don't take a single dime from any PAC. We could address all of our legislative priorities — gun violence, the climate crisis, mass incarceration, voting rights, repro health — by ending the corrupting influence of money in our politics. Please see platform - the most aggressive anti-corruption platform of any candidate in Texas: [julieoliver.org](http://julieoliver.org)

### Heidi Sloan (D)

**Background:** After teaching children with disabilities in public school and farming alongside the formerly homeless, I turned to organizing and won huge campaigns alongside my community.

**Education:** I have a Philosophy degree from Baylor University, but it is the people I've organized alongside of who have taught me the most - people of all education levels & backgrounds.

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

**Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/heidisloanfortx>

**Video:** [https://youtu.be/OmmKpiRdt\\_c](https://youtu.be/OmmKpiRdt_c)

**A1.** We must rebuild the many pathways to citizenship & permanent residency that have been dismantled. We must abolish ICE and end police involvement with immigration, stop locking people in cages for crossing borders, win amnesty for undocumented people, and demand fair wages & safe working conditions for all workers including immigrants. But we must also fight the root causes of mass migration, including US trade & foreign policy destabilizing regions and corporate polluters damaging environments.





# NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

## DISTRICT 25

### Heidi Sloan (D) (continued)

**A2.** I've been fighting for Medicare For All which will provide healthcare to every person rich or poor by ending the for-profit insurance industry and providing a just transition for insurance workers. This program will create complete coverage including vision, dental, mental health, & reproductive health and will eliminate copays, deductibles, & premiums. We will drive down costs in a single payer system bargaining as a single unit with the full collective buying power of the American people.

**A3.** Many politicians have made gun owners the enemy in the gun debate when the real enemies are the arms manufacturers who profit from bad gun policy and whose money blocks even the most basic gun reforms. The gun safety movement must build power across the working class to reach greater consensus so we can achieve universal background checks, a ban on assault weapon distribution, and a real economic and mental health safety net to end mass shootings & curb the 2/3 of gun deaths that are suicides.

**A4.** Climate change is the greatest threat facing humanity, but it's also our generation's greatest opportunity. With a Green New Deal, we can democratize our economy and create millions of good-paying, safe union jobs rebuilding America's crumbling

infrastructure, creating beautiful public housing & transit, and investing in small & sustainable agriculture. We will drive up wages with a federal jobs guarantee, transition from fossil fuels by 2030, and create a democratically-controlled energy grid.

## DISTRICT 31

### John Carter (R)

No Response Received

### Abhiram Garapati (R)

No Response Received

### Christopher Wall (R)

No Response Received

### Mike Williams (R)

**Background:** 39 year fire service, 18 year Community College Adjunct Faculty, 25 year Scout volunteer, Parent - Grandparent  
**Education:** Business degree. Several advanced professional certifications (listed on website)

**Website:** <http://mikewilliams31ctx.com>

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/mikewilliams31ctx>

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/imUmVlr1ATo>

**A1.** Secure the Borders, enact legislation that will disincentivize illegal immigration while encouraging merit-based immigration. Eliminate chain migration and visa lottery, enhance tracking and enforcement of visa overstay.

**A2.** Measures that bring free market forces to bear on health care cost and remove burdensome regulation that drive costs up. Pricing transparency is a large part of this effort along with enhancing customer choice.

**A3.** Strong penalties for gun involved crime.

**A4.** Civil Liberties protection: legislation requiring the DOJ to pursue as a top priority civil liberty/civil rights violations at all levels of government and violators in the private sector.

FISA reform that will reduce as significantly as possible the likelihood of any abuses that have recently occurred from happening again.

Parental Rights Act that secures the parents right to determine Constitutionally

enumerated moral and ethical values for their children.

### Michael Grimes (D)

**Background:** I have lived and practiced law in Round Rock, Texas since 1971. I am married to Sharon Grimes. We have 3 adult sons and 5 grandchildren.

**Education:** High School: Dallas, Bryan Adams 1964; College: Colgate University 1968; Law School: University of Texas 1971  
**Website:** <http://www.mikegrimesforcongress.com>

**A1.** We need a more compassionate government! Every country needs borders and border security, but we are a nation of immigrants. We must never forget that. Congress must come together and provide more money and resources to deal with the immigration crises. These people are risking their lives and the lives of their families seeking shelter in a country that they believe will offer them safety and freedom. America should offer these folks shelter and a fair hearing, not prison.

**A2.** I support universal health care. No one in America should die because they can't afford medical insurance. I believe the best pathway to universal health care is to repair, fix and improve the Affordable Care Act. We can control the cost of prescription medication, if we elect folks who will represent the American public rather than the Pharmaceutical Industry. Legislation controlling the pricing and sale of prescription medication can and will drastically reduce their cost.

**A3.** I would support laws that ban the sale of assault rifles, bump stocks and extended magazine clips. The sale of guns should require a universal background check of potential buyers, without exception. Local gun shows should not be exempted. Guns should be regulated and registered, just like a vehicle.

**A4.** State laws that result in voter suppression seem to be a growing problem on a national level. I will support federal legislation that makes it easier for voters to cast a ballot on election day. That would include increased access to mail in ballots, shorter registration periods and even elec-



tion day registration. Additionally, I support the availability of extended voting periods, which precede the election date.

### Eric Hanke (D)

**Background:** Everyday I work to help working-class Texans prepare for retirement. The concerns I hear in their stories are not being addressed by Congress. I'm running to be their voice.

**Education:** Southwestern University, 2001  
**Website:** <http://www.hankefortexas.com>  
**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/HankeforTexas>

**Video:** [https://youtu.be/JdbUzdVe\\_7o](https://youtu.be/JdbUzdVe_7o)

**A1.** Let's start with a simple premise: no human is illegal. Our immigration system must uphold the values of our nation while also serving the interests of our economy and society. In Congress, I will work to pass the Dream Act, create a pathway for undocumented immigrants, and reform the current pathway for legal immigration that leaves families in limbo for decades and does not serve our current economic needs.

**A2.** In spite of living with a free market, the current system prevents us from having the freedom of choice and access. If people's current insurance works for them, they should be allowed to keep it. For those who want an alternative, I believe that Medicare should be open to anyone who wants to participate - consumers and employers alike. I firmly believe that health care is a basic human right and that reliable, timely access to care should be guaranteed for all in our country.

**A3.** I believe in sensible gun legislation that would allow the CDC to study gun violence, establish red-flag laws, expand background checks & close loopholes, reinstate the assault weapons ban, & a voluntary buy-back program. Our churches, schools, concerts, & other public settings are under constant threat of terror due to gun violence while Congress expresses little more than thoughts and prayers. I am a person of faith and I pray, but that is not enough to prevent the next mass shooting.

**A4.** I will work to ensure that climate change is treated as the emergency that scientists, economists, & national security



## STUDENT VOTERS

Students may use either their parents' address or their college address for voter registration, whichever they consider to be their permanent address. Students cannot be registered in both places. Those who will be away from the address they chose on Election Day and during early voting may request a ballot by mail. Student voters should also know that college or university student photo IDs are not accepted at the polls and be aware of the general ID requirements.

# NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

## DISTRICT 31

### Eric Hanke (D) (continued)

experts say it is by making record investments in renewable energy & research/development for storage capacity, leveraging responsible regulatory options such as fuel-efficiency standards, and recommitting to the Paris Accords. This effort must include support to ensure the workforce - and communities - supported by the fossil fuel economy aren't left behind in the transition.

### Donna Imam (D)

**Background:** NW Austin TX31 resident for almost 14 years. 18+ year career in tech and business. Former president of 4000+ member non-profit that provides free training and education.



**Education:** Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering, Purdue University; State of Indiana Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, Trine University, State of Indiana

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

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

**Video:** [https://youtu.be/QQuR9htI6\\_o](https://youtu.be/QQuR9htI6_o)

**A1.** Humane treatment of all refugees and asylum seekers. End the child separation policy and close the detention camps. Fair and swift resolution of all immigration cases including employment and family based cases. Immediate path to citizenship for Dreamers and DACA recipients. Provide legal path for undocumented immigrants to come out of the shadows. Require employers to pay immigrants the same wages as U.S. citizens to prevent abuse of low-wage immigrants and discrimination of American workers.

**A2.** End private insurance and adopt a single payer healthcare system that covers the millions of un/underinsured. Accelerate coverage by scaling the healthcare infrastructure. Add more providers, nurses, and primary care physicians to catch issues early instead of at the ER. Negotiate lower prescription drug prices. These policies lower the cost of healthcare drastically, give everyone coverage, generate hundreds of thou-

sands of jobs, keep providers private, and eliminate private insurance waste.

**A3.** Handguns account for the majority of all gun violence. Majority of all gun-related deaths are suicides. Mandate universal background checks for all gun sales and close all loopholes. Require periodic mental health checks. Require registration and training for owners of all semi-automatic weapons. Registration will be enforceable at the point of sale of any firearm, ammo, or accessory. This will keep gun owners accountable, promote safety, and save lives.

**A4.** Education for All proposes debt-free education for trade school, college, or any higher education. It launches a program similar to the GI bill that reimburses graduates pursuing in-demand fields such as teaching, social-work, mental health, technology and family medicine. It also reimburses graduates that make a commitment to serve in rural or under-served communities. It puts an immediate halt to the student-loan crisis by giving people the ability to reduce or eliminate their student loans.

### Dan Janjigian (D)

**Background:** Recently, I just completed my 15th year in healthcare working directly with families for protection and claims. I've also been a professional athlete, Olympian and actor.



**Education:** I have my bachelors degree in Business and Marketing from California Polytechnic, San Luis Obispo

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

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

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/X5f-GbHuqdA>

**A1.** There has to be a path to immigration that takes work, but is fair. For immigrants escaping genocide, or other atrocities, there should additionally be a faster path, that ensures our national security, but gives them the respect they deserve to have a better life, just as most our grandparents were afforded. Most immigrants looking to enter legally have proven to be coming to the US for the right reasons, and this idea of opportunity and the "American Dream," is what we were founded upon.

**A2.** I believe in a single payer system, sim-

ilar to Bernie Sanders idea of Medicare for all. My only change is that as we transition to a truly "one-payer" system, that I believe will one day be in force, people should be able to bridge that time by being allowed to maintain their current plans if they wish to do so. For the average citizen, this new system would allow them to have access to at least a basic level of health care, just as their kids have access to private schools.

**A3.** First, guns should be classified, and military style legal weapons need to require greater background checks, AND licensing in some cases (much like a drivers license). Additionally, any gun owner should accept 100% responsibility on the use of that gun, until that gun is sold. Gun sales should always require the same process privately as is legally required through a store. If a gun is not locked up properly or unlawfully used, the gun owner would be liable, causing great care in storage, etc.

**A4.** Climate Change is the biggest issue at stake in our world today. The US is still one of the leaders in CO2 emissions, and it's our responsibility to make massive changes immediately. The irony is that making an effort to address these changes creates jobs, builds infrastructure, and will ultimately create new avenues for tax dollars that can be used to further encourage "green" initiatives. Change is not easy, but it's coming, and if we don't change now, the results will be catastrophic.

### Christine Eady Mann (D)

**Background:** I'm a physician in Cedar Park, TX with 30 years in health-care. I'm the daughter and granddaughter of veterans; a wife; mother; and was a small business owner for 11 years.



**Education:** I attended the University of Texas-Arlington for Microbiology. As a single mom, I attended the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine at the University of North Texas HSC.

**Website:** <http://christine4congress.com/>

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/Christine4Congress>

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/79KIdgHNIic>

**A1.** We must begin any discussions of immigration by acknowledging the human be-

ings involved. We must change the immigration system so we don't create obstacles of oppression but efficient pathways to citizenship for all; passing the Dream and Promise Act for Dreamers, those under TPS/Deferred Enforced Departure; ending the dishonorable practice of deporting U.S. Armed Forces veterans & allowing all to return; ensuring the right to counsel for unaccompanied minors; and more.

**A2.** Access to healthcare is a human right. To ensure access & lower prescription drug costs, we must enact Universal Coverage as quickly as possible. I've advocated for this system since 2009, with a transitional approach that minimizes harm to the economy & workforce while rapidly bringing coverage to those most at risk. This would include lowering the Medicare eligibility age to 55; automatically enrolling all newborns; then lowering Medicare eligibility incrementally so all Americans are covered.

**A3.** As a gun owner, I support the Second Amendment and understand many Americans have a need and right to own firearms. But it is past time for us to act. We need universal background checks on all gun transfers, restoration of the assault weapons ban, close loopholes that allow non-spousal domestic abusers to obtain weapons and outlaw bump stocks; repeal the Dickey Amendment and restore full funding to the CDC for study of this public health crisis to enact additional measures to protect lives.

**A4.** Our criminal justice system is broken, and is home to the world's largest prison population. My priority is to reform this system to provide all citizens equity and justice. That means ending our reliance on private, for-profit prisons; legalizing marijuana/expunging the records of those previously & currently incarcerated; investigating all fatal police shootings with transparency to ensure accountability, and diverting mental health emergencies to mental health first-responders, not police.

### Tammy Young (D)

**Background:** Born and raised Texan, mother, grandmother, former public school teacher and advocate for children with special needs. Proud to





# NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

## DISTRICT 31

### Tammy Young (D) (continued)

serve on Round Rock City Council since 2017.

**Education:** Graduated with a degree in Special Education from the University of New Mexico and will earn a Master's in Law from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law in May 2020.

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

**Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/TammyYoungforCongress>

**A1.** We need to get serious about comprehensive immigration reform to finally fix our broken immigration system. We need a pathway to citizenship for the millions of undocumented immigrants who are paying taxes, following the law, and contributing to their communities. We need to seriously increase the capacity of our asylum courts and immigration judges so that we can process applications quickly and humanely. We have to end the separation of children from their families at the border immediately.

**A2.** I've spent more of my life uninsured than insured. Every American needs access to affordable, quality health care. That's my bottom line. I think the best way to do it is to provide a public option, a medicare plan that people can buy in to if they don't have access to private insurance or don't like their current plan. We need to crack down on Big Pharma and demand lower costs for prescription drugs, particularly for programs like Medicare which should be able to negotiate lower drug prices.

**A3.** Like far too many Americans, I have experienced gun violence firsthand. Gun violence is happening in our communities, our schools, and our homes. Failure to act now endangers the lives of our children everyday. I will advocate for expanded background checks, waiting periods that cannot be circumvented at gun shows, red flag laws, and ending the boyfriend loophole that endangers the lives of women every day.

**A4.** Whether you are a business owner or employee, good paying jobs and a workforce to fill those jobs is essential. The single most important thing we can do is create and support workforce development programs for people of all ages to gain the skills that lead

to high wage jobs, without crippling debt. We must support local businesses, the heartbeat of our communities, by training a robust workforce, providing economic development incentives, and enforcing strong anti-trust laws.

## DISTRICT 35

### "Guillermo" William Hayward (R)

**Background:** Working and Travel Overseas supporting our US Soldiers through supplies and services. Stopping Impeachment of Donald J. Trump.

**Education:** Masters Degree in Leadership, [gcu.edu](http://gcu.edu); Masters of Electronics Engineering [asu.edu](http://asu.edu); Start Masters in Christian Leadership [gcu.edu](http://gcu.edu)

**Website:** <http://haywardforcongress.wordpress.com/>

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/28thDistrictofTexas/>

**A1.** 1. Finish Building the Border wall. 2. Round up all criminal illegal-migrants. 3. Once the border is secure and no more illegal entries then give Dreamers pathway to citizenship. 4. All illegals must register with US immigrations for background Checks and pathways for a green card. 5. Anyone found not registered or comes to the USA after Border wall is finished must be fingerprinted deported. 6. Remove cross Border Birthrights. 7. Change Amistety Laws, use a merit system

**A2.** Amy Healthcare system must be a capitalistic based system. Not Socialistic, Communist, or US Government Controlled. Insurance Companies must be able to compete with each other to get the best prices. I can not be mandatory. SS and Medicare provide should also be able to compete.

Allow for Healthcare saving accounts. SS should be for retirement; Medicare for old, unemployment, poor people who can not work, Health for retired, sick people; Should be a cap on SS and Medicare payments

**A3.** We have a 2nd Amendment Right to Bear Arms. Gun Violence is a social issue because of our society losing moral values. Only a medical doctor not the Government can determine your mental health. We need to open-up Mental institutions for the



metal ill. No Islamic or radical group that wants to kill Americans should carry a Gun. We need to find a legal way to stop and frisk criminals.

We need to make it easier for Law Abiding citizens to carry arms and citizen arrests. Education of Firearms.

**A4.** Support Donald J. Trumps Agenda; Get the Border Wall Finished. Finish import/export deals for other countries. Make Easer immigration for people with BS and above degrees to enter the USA.

See that Persecuted Christians get an Immigration priority to the USA. Change the Immigration policies to meet Donald Trumps Agenda. After Border secured with no illegal immigration, Process all illegals in the USA; Change the Health Care System to make it competitive.

### Nick Moutos (R)

**Background:** I am a Native Texan and a Veteran of the Navy & Army with over 30 years of service. I am a career prosecutor, licensed in Texas and Arizona.

**Education:** BA Texas Tech University 1996; JD Texas Tech University School of Law 1999

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

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/nick.moutos.186>

**Video:** [https://youtu.be/eafZFk6\\_hrg](https://youtu.be/eafZFk6_hrg)

**A1.** Secure the borders, detain and deport those who've had asylum denied or committed additional crimes. Expand the number of immigration courts/judges to hear asylum claims or adjudicate any other cognizable justifications for remaining in the US. Statutorily end chain migration and diversity visa lottery. Pass S. 354 RAISE Act Introduced by Sen. Cotton. Get back to the principles of our founders and legally admit those who can contribute to our community and will assimilate and become Americans.

**A2.** 1. Personal, "portable" health insurance (job to job, in & out of labor market). 2. Around the clock communication (phone, email, skype, facetime, etc). 3. Telemedicine, avoiding traffic, long waits, unnecessary ER visits, etc. 4. Centers that special-



ize in chronic health conditions (including pre-existing) and actively compete for patients. 5. Accounts owned and controlled by patients who are willing to manage their own care (including chronic and routine surgery).

**A3.** The 2 greatest factors that must be addressed are untreated mental health conditions and broken, fatherless homes. Up to 66% of all mass shooters likely suffered from a serious mental illness prior to their attacks, and often displayed clear signs of delusional thinking, paranoia, or irrational feelings of oppression associated with conditions such as schizophrenia and bipolar-related psychosis. Among the 25 most-cited school shooters since Columbine, 75% were reared in broken homes.

**A4.** The restoration of traditional values is at the heart of everything that made American the land of the free and the home of the brave. The family is the core unit in our society, and as the family goes, society goes. As values have been diluted and vanquished, families have disintegrated and moral decay flourishes. Our national character has suffered by lowering our standards under the guise of "tolerance" and "acceptance." Restoring Traditional Values is a must.

### Jenny Garcia Sharon (R)

No Response Received

### Rafael Alcoser III (D)

**Background:** Born in Germany while parents stationed overseas. Raised in the historic Southside of San Antonio. 18 yrs Licensed Insurance Agent Leadership in various Dem./Civic orgs.

**Education:** St Phillips College Graduate (HBCU in TX-35); The International School of The Americas – 1998; Harlandale ISD - Grades 1–9

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

**A1.** I will work to pass bipartisan legislation to bring home our deported veterans, who served honorably, only to have their government turn our back on them.

I will work to decriminalize illegal entry and return it to the civil offense it once





# NATIONAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

## DISTRICT 35

### Rafael Alcoser III (D) (continued)

was. We do not need to immediately label as “criminals” these immigrants that only seek a better future in our great nation.

**A2.** American healthcare is in shambles. I will work tirelessly to lower the cost of prescription drugs, and work to lower Healthcare cost, especially at publicly funded hospitals and emergency rooms. Universal Healthcare must be a part of the solution, and we must have congressional oversight on which insurance carriers can continue to operate off Federal Tax dollars, i.e. Medicare. I will also work towards tax incentives so that every employer can provide paid sick leave.

**A3.** Education is key to curbing gun violence. Just today, less than 5 miles from home, a young boy 7 yr. old accidentally shot and killed himself. A simple gun lock and or storing ammunition separately may have prevented this incident. Universal background checks and gun safety courses should be a requirement before anyone is allowed to purchase a weapon,

whether from a retailer or the secondary market. The 2nd amendment grants the right to bare arms, not the right to bare arms ignorantly.

**A4.** Putting back the \$1.6 Billion that was stolen from Social Security and protecting our small business owners. Americans worked for their Social Security, we need to make sure they will have it when they need it. As a small business owner, I feel it is crucial that every entrepreneur have the same shot at success on the local, national, and international market. We need to expand resources and equity to make it more accessible to every veteran, minority and woman owned small business.

**Lloyd Doggett (D)**

**Background:** A life-long Texan, I have served in the TX State Senate (1973–85), TX State Supreme Court (1989–94) and U.S. House of Representatives (1995–present)

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



**Website:** <http://www.votedoggett.com>  
**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/LloydDoggettTX/>

**A1.** Instead of building walls, build bridges. Comprehensive immigration reform & strong protections for families with pathway to citizenship, including Dreamers will grow our economy with more small business startups, more student graduates. Cruelly tearing families asunder, caging children, is wrong. Reverse Remain in Mexico policy violating asylum seeker rights. Stop cruel public charge rule. America must remain beacon of hope for those fleeing violence, oppression, while safeguarding families.

**A2.** As Health Subcommittee Chair, I am leading with bills on better Medicare for more Americans, including dental, hearing, vision coverage; stopping prescription drug price gouging and surprise billing on unexpected medical bills from out-of-network providers. Resisting Trump assault on pre-existing medical condition protection, while seeking major ACA improvement. AARP has twice honored my health legislative leadership. Working to end So-

cial Security disability benefits waiting period.

**A3.** Replace short memorial moments of silence with genuine action to prevent repeated tragedies. House has acted, Senate must approve Violence Against Women Act; Universal background checks, eliminating gun show/internet loopholes neither inconsistent with Second Amendment. Even gun owners know to keep safety on. Ban military-style assault weapons, designed solely to kill humans quickly. Continue working with Moms Demand Action, Texas Gun Sense and others seeking responsible changes.

**A4.** Secret, corporate money is polluting our democracy; overcome wrongly decided Citizens United ruling. Global warming crisis is existential threat—already erratic weather, disease, flooding. Support renewable energy. Promote educational opportunity and public schools. Ensure veterans receive earned benefits. Increase minimum wage. Secure our right to vote from foreign and domestic interference. Challenge dangerous Trump agenda in every nonviolent way including my vote to impeach Trump.

# STATE RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

- Q1.** What are your recommendations relating to regulation of pipelines?
- Q2.** How do you plan to balance oil, gas, and mining interests with protection of natural resources?
- Q3.** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Railroad Commission?
- .....

### Ryan Sitton (R)

No Response Received

### James ‘Jim’ Wright (R)

**Background:** I own five businesses and am associated with 14 other businesses that deal with environmental and transport issues in a wide range of industries, including the oil and gas business. I have been involved in these businesses since 1986. I am also a rancher.

**Education:** Calallen High School in Corpus Christi



**Website:** <http://www.wrightfortexas.com>  
**Facebook:** <https://imwrightfortexas>

**A1.** — Increased automated leak detection systems. — More pipelines developed as part of our state’s infrastructure to deliver our natural resources in a safer and more economically feasible method . . .

**A2.** Implementation of better rules and the way that waste byproducts are handled currently are crucial to balancing the public interests and the economic needs of our citizens. The Railroad Commission needs to be more involved in using the volume of resources that are available under today’s technology.

**A3.** — Implement and use proven technology for better communication with citizens and members of the oil and gas industry. — Stronger self-policing actions and reporting by Natural Resource producers. — Life cycle analysis and development to ensure that future generations are reliant on best environmental management practices by the Industry.

**Roberto R. “Beto” Alonzo (D)**

**Background:** As a former State Representative, I know the law, legislative and the budget process which funds the RRC and other state agencies. As an experienced litigator, I can rule on appeals regarding oil and gas, pipeline, utility and environmental issues before the RRC an. Originally from Crystal City, I know the oil and gas



issues impacting both rural and urban communities.

**Education:** University of Texas at Austin Thurgood Marshall School of Law

**Website:** <http://alonzo4txrr.com/commissioner.com/>

**A1.** The Legislature should enact laws to ensure that regulation of pipelines is meaningful. An application for a permit should require comprehensive information regarding routes , economic, environmental and historical impact, and not based on a simple form. The exercise of Eminent Domain should be fair to all . Monitor compliance with rules and regulations by industry.

**A2.** Review and update provisions to allow development, reduction of waste while protecting the environment. Ensure that the public has notice of development and impactful changes in their area and opportunity to submit input on the proposals. Study cost effective methods to reduce flaring in

# STATE RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

## Roberto Alonzo (D) (continued)

order to reduce waste and increase access to pipelines.

**A3.** Monitor the relationship between drilling and seismicity and support innovation in drilling processes including the use of water in fracking. Encourage the use of alternative fuels. Review agency processes for award of contracts, compliance with HUB and diversity in hiring at all levels. Monitor practices in the field to increase worker safety.

## Chrysta Castaneda (D)

**Background:** I am an engineer, oil and gas attorney, community organizer and mom, with over 30 years of experience working in and around the oil and gas industry. I know both the law and the business of oil and gas and will work tirelessly to get the Railroad Commission back on track in enforcing our environmental protections and safety regulations.

**Education:** SMU Dedman School of Law, J.D. cum laude, 1991 Kansas State University, B.S. Industrial Engineering, 1985 Harvard College, Applied Math major, 1981–1983

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

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ChrystaForTexas/>

**Video:** [https://youtu.be/ikCIa\\_v3Gew](https://youtu.be/ikCIa_v3Gew)

**A1.** The Commission oversees pipeline safety for intrastate pipelines and we need to update those regulations to meet today's standards. Laying new pipelines creates challenges beyond the Commission's powers, and addressing those challenges will require the Legislature to act. I'll use my expertise to press for a framework that includes transparency and public input.

**A2.** We must enforce existing laws prohibiting flaring, the harmful practice of burning natural gas. It wastes our natural resources, takes revenues away from our state and causes environmental and health concerns. I will use my expertise to deploy alternative technologies that will reduce the amount of flaring, convert it to usable electricity and clean up our air.

**A3.** We need to reduce harmful methane emissions. Methane escapes through leakage, aging equipment, and intentional vent-

ing, which is against the law. I will improve the detection and enforcement programs. We can use drones equipped with infrared cameras to detect leaks. Education can improve prevention and we will need to better enforce existing laws.

## Kelly Stone (D)

**Background:** As an educator, I've implemented harm reduction strategies to improve health, taught capstone college courses regarding policies, laws, & regs affecting individuals & families at local, state, & fed levels. As an environmental activist, I've worked to clean up litter & pollution, encourage waste consciousness, change consumer behavior, & advocated for environmental policy.

**Education:** HS Diploma—Aldine Senior High School (8th in class); BS in Family and Consumer Sciences—Texas State University (formerly Southwest Texas State University) GPA=3.55; MA in Health Education/Health Promotion—The University of Texas at Austin GPA=4.0

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

**Facebook:** <https://Facebook.com/votekstone>

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/I4V7o5x7mbA>

**A1.** Kinder Morgan & Whitewater Midstream & all pipeline companies must conduct environmental impact studies first. Construction & Operation of these pipelines could impact health at Jacob's Well, Cypress Creek, Blanco River, Barton Springs, San Marcos River and Pecos, Dimmit, Kenedy, Maverick, La Salle, Duval, Jim Wells, Nueces, Gillespie, Blanco, Hays & Caldwell counties.

**A2.** Balancing interests vs. protections? The RRC's protection of oil & gas interests have far outweighed that of our natural resources. In order to find balance, I'd increase protections of natural resources by denying permits for flaring & committing to the initiatives of the GND, transitioning to healthy outcomes & full employment as we eliminate crude oil export by 2040.

**A3.** We must change the name of the Railroad Commission. Comprised of 3-statewide elected officials, the RRC has nothing to do with railroads & everything to

do with oil, gas, & pipelines. Until it becomes more transparent to voters, the intentionally confusing name continues to allow the tyranny of Big Oil, regulating itself w/o regard for the climate crisis or our environment

## Mark Watson (D)

**Background:** I have directly participated in drilling oil and gas wells in Texas. I have worked for Exxon, J. Ray McDermott, and the EPA. In the last



twenty years I have watched the growing influence of the energy industry on the RRC. Texas has a proud history of protecting her natural resources. I will promote smart energy production to help hardworking men and women of Texas.

**Education:** JD, Tulane University BA, Tulane University

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

**A1.** Safety first. Pipelines account for 70% of oil transport in the US. I will ensure that companies regularly inspect and maintain

## VOTING FOR JUDGES IN TEXAS

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

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

### What should voters look for when electing judges?

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

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

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

### How is the Texas court system organized?

The Texas court system is made up of a statewide network of trial courts and appellate courts. In trial courts, judges and/or juries evaluate the facts and the law and make a decision in a civil or criminal legal dispute. When decisions in most trial courts are appealed, they are sent to an appellate court where judges consider what happened at the trial court, evaluate legal arguments, and then decide if a mistake was made. See <https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1444966/court-structure-chart-october-2019.pdf> for a chart of the Texas court structure.

Learn more <https://www.txcourts.gov/about-texas-courts/>.

# STATE RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

**Mark Watson (D)**

pipelines to prevent environmental hazards. Care must be taken to protect property owners from abusive use of eminent domain. Pipelines are absolutely essential to the Texas Oil Economy. Adopt newest pipeline technology and materials.

**A2.** Protecting Texas energy resources and the environment is a primary objective of the RRC. The intelligent and safe production of energy resources overlaps with best practices in the oil patch. I will err on protecting the environment and the health of Texas energy resources. The

RRC will ensure that smart energy practices take priority in the Texas Oil and Gas Industry.  
**A3.** We need smart energy practices. Flaring is the practice of burning unused gas from oil wells causing air pollution in beautiful West Texas skies and elsewhere. Coal

mining reclamation decisions by RRC allow mining companies to leave behind toxic material, destroying value and causing dangerous contamination. Today's RRC favors big business over hardworking Texans.

# STATE TEXAS SUPREME COURT

**CHIEF JUSTICE**

- Q1.** Texas is one of a few states that elects judges. What changes in the judicial selection process would you recommend, if any?
- Q2.** What changes, if any, are needed to provide better protection to the public regarding rules and standards for the legal profession?
- Q3.** Which responsibility of a Texas Supreme Court justice is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?
- Q4.** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Supreme Court?

**Nathan Hecht (R)**

Unopposed

**Amy Clark Meachum (D)**

**Background:** For almost a decade, I have presided over thousands of proceedings and trials in the types of cases for which the Texas Supreme Court has jurisdiction: civil, family and administrative appeals. I am a guest lecturer with the Texas Center for Legal Ethics, a member of the Administrative Law Council, and before taking the bench, practiced at two of the best firms in Texas.



**Education:** University of Texas School of Law, J.D. with honors (2000), Texas Law Review. Southern Methodist University, magna cum laude (1997) B.A. Journalism, B.A. Political Science. Lorena High School (1993).

**Website:** <http://amymeachum.com>  
**Facebook:** <https://facebook.com/JudgeAmyforChiefJustice/>

**A1.** The State should help voters by sending an information packet to each voter and providing that information at polling locations. The packet should contain background information, qualifications, and a statement of

judicial philosophy for each candidate. That information would assist voters to make an informed selection and would reduce campaign costs for candidates.

**A2.** Texas should increase public membership and participation on the Committee on Disciplinary Rules and Referenda, which reviews and recommends proposed changes in Texas lawyer-ethics rules. Currently, under the Texas Government Code, just 2 of 9 are public members. Also, persons who file grievances against lawyers should be allowed to participate throughout the process.

**A3.** The Code of Judicial Conduct requires a judge to perform duties "impartially and diligently" and to be "faithful to the law." We need to restore a balanced judiciary on the Texas Supreme Court. I am committed to deciding all cases fairly and impartially, rather than on a result-oriented, partisan basis that favors special interests. Texans—and the law—deserve no less.

**A4.** The ethics rules governing Texas lawyers are 30 years out of date. That's because the rule-making process overseen by the Texas Supreme Court has failed repeatedly. Texas last adopted major rule changes in 1989. By contrast, the American Bar Association has amended the Model Rules of Pro-

fessional Conduct almost 100 times since then. The Court must do a better job.

**Jerry Zimmerer (D)**

**Background:** I have a broad legal and business background. BA-Houston Baptist University, JD-South Texas College of Law Houston, LLM. International Law-UofH, LLM.



Health Law-UofH. Ethics Internship-MD Anderson Cancer Center, Advisory Board - UofH Health Law & Policy Institute, Law firm with broad litigation experience. What others are saying <http://tinyurl.com/wJerryZimmererYouTube>

**Education:** BA – Houston Baptist University JD – South Texas College of Law Houston LL.M. International Law – UofH LL.M. Health Law – UofH Ethics Internship: MD Anderson Advisory Board: UofH Health Law & Policy Institute Led law firm with real litigation exp.

**Website:** <http://www.JerryForJustice.com>  
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/JerryForJustice>

**A1.** Texans want balance on the courts. Our founding fathers did not trust lawyers, judges or politicians. The only way to keep judges responsive is to make them accountable to the voters. Today, as Democrats start winning elections, Republicans are seeking to change the selection process to keep themselves in office. I believe Texans see this for what it is.

**A2.** The Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct are constantly undergoing changes, including some amendments earlier this year. The intent is to increase protections for the public. As Chief Justice, I will support efforts to protect the public from unscrupulous acts by members of the legal profession.

**A3.** The highest responsibility of the Supreme Court is to ensure fairness and balance in the interpretation and application of law. For far too many years, only Republicans, most appointed by Governor Abbott or Perry, sit on the Texas Supreme Court as this guardian. I will help bring balance to the Texas Supreme Court.

**A4.** I believe gerrymandering and public education may come before the Texas Supreme Court.

Please call one of these nonpartisan hotlines if you have any issues at your polling location:

**ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINES**

ENGLISH	866-OUR-VOTE	866-867-8683
SPANISH	888-VE-Y-VOTA	888-839-8682
ASIAN LANGUAGES	888-API-VOTE	888-274-8683
ARABIC	866-YALLA-US	866-925-5287



# STATE TEXAS SUPREME COURT

## JUSTICE

- Q1.** Texas is one of a few states that elects judges. What changes in the judicial selection process would you recommend, if any?
- Q2.** What changes, if any, are needed to provide better protection to the public regarding rules and standards for the legal profession?
- Q3.** Which responsibility of a Texas Supreme Court justice is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?
- Q4.** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Supreme Court?
- .....

## PLACE 6

### Jane Bland (R)

Unopposed

### Kathy Cheng (D)

**Background:** For over nineteen years, I represented clients in complex commercial litigation matters, contested divorce and probate cases, tax matters and real estate cases, which are some of the potential types of cases that the Texas Supreme Court hears. I also served as adjudication officer for the City of Houston for the past six years.



**Education:** Juris Doctor from South Texas College of Law Houston (2000); Bachelor of Science-Biology from Louisiana State University-Shreveport (1995)

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

**Facebook:** <https://chengforjustice>

**A1.** The beauty of democracy is that citizens can vote for individuals who they believe reflect their values, which in the State of Texas includes the election of judges. If that choice turns out to be a bad choice, being able to vote elected officials out of office is a mechanism to hold said officials accountable. As such, I see no need for change at the present time.

**A2.** As time evolves, the means of disseminating the rules and standards for the legal profession shall also evolve. With the ease of digital accessibility, there should be more educational information available to the general public by digital means of the rules and standards governing said profession so that the general population are better informed as to their rights.

**A3.** Being an efficient, fair justice who up-

holds the law and educate our citizens of the significance of the judicial system are my top priorities. By understanding and practicing the true meaning of the phrase, “justice for all” so justice is truly afforded to all regardless of ethnicity, race, gender, faith, age, sexual orientation, etc., I am achieving those priorities.

**A4.** With the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision to refrain from hearing challenges of partisan gerrymandering, partisan gerrymandering cases will now go before the Texas Supreme Court, which is an example of how this Court impacts its citizens even though the citizens themselves may never go before this Court.

### Larry Praeger (D)

**Background:** I have been practicing law for more than 30 years. I have extensive trial experience and have argued before every civil court in the state. I am A-V rated by Martindale-Hubbell and Board Certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. I represented individuals and small business. I have served five years on the grievance committee of the State Bar.



**Education:** Simon’s Rock College, BA South Texas College of Law Houston, J.D., May 1981

**Website:** <http://www.larrysc6.com/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/larrysc6/>

**A1.** In the small counties, the current system works well with the voluntary restrictions on campaigns. In the larger counties, where much more money is needed, the current system does not work well. I would recommend that the state publish a listing of all the statewide judicial candidates, their back-

ground, and experience, and send it to each registered voter.

**A2.** My experience tells me that there should be additional investigative and legal staff to serve the committee. This would shorten the time between when a citizen files a complaint against an attorney and the time that it is adjudicated. I would recommend that the state commission on judicial conduct remove the category of “private reprimand.”

**A3.** All of the duties of the Supreme Court Justice are important. The overriding duty of the Supreme Court Justice, however, is to see that an individual trial has been conducted fairly in accordance with the rules and constitutional protections. A Supreme Court Justice is the ultimate guardian of the trial process, and the protector of an individual’s liberties.

**A4.** The Supreme Court also has the duty to establish and amend rules governing trial procedure in the trial in appellate courts and the rules of evidence. I would use my experience and familiarity with the trial courts to emphasize pre-trial practice and request that trial judges rule on admissibility of exhibits prior to a jury being empaneled.

## PLACE 7

### Jeff Boyd (R)

Unopposed

### Brandy Voss (D)

**Background:** I have practiced appellate law for seventeen years. I have been board certified in civil appellate law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization for ten years. I spent five years working as a staff attorney at the Texas Supreme Court and at the Thirteenth Court of Appeals. I estimate that I have participated in nearly 1,000 appellate proceedings during my career.



**Education:** Baylor University School of Law, J.D., magna cum laude, 2002; Texas A&M University, B.A., Anthropology 1999

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

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/BrandyVossforTexas/>

**A1.** I believe there is no perfect system for

selecting judges. I support a thorough exploration of various methods and the benefits and drawbacks of each before any change to the judicial selection process is made. I do trust our voting public to make the correct choice if that remains as the Texas method for selecting judges.

**A2.** Juries are the voice of our communities in the courtroom, and the Constitutional right to a jury trial is the public’s last defense against governmental oppression. While I believe the ethical rules prohibit me from speaking publicly about specific proposed rule changes, I believe any rule changes must be geared toward protecting the right to a jury trial.

**A3.** In today’s toxic political environment, public confidence in all our civic institutions is falling. I will prioritize strengthening judicial independence—courts should be free from political attacks and intimidation. Also, our state’s highest court needs more debate, more diversity, and more dissent before overturning the decisions of juries performing their civic duty.

**A4.** The need to fund legal services to ensure our courts are accessible to all, especially the most vulnerable, has been advocated by both parties’ jurists and political leaders. This call to action requires a greater sense of urgency, or our courts risk being even further removed from the most vulnerable and undermining trust in the principle of justice of justice for all.

### Staci Williams (D)

**Background:** I am in my second term as a trial court Judge in the 101st District Court. I have served as an arbitrator for DART, USPS, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, NASD/FINRA, and the Washington Metropolitan Airport Board. My experience includes in-house corporate counsel positions in multiple industries, as well as a trial attorney and administrative judge for the EEOC.

**Education:** The Hockaday School; Smith College, BA; Georgetown University Law Center, JD



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

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/JudgeStaci/>

# STATE TEXAS SUPREME COURT

## PLACE 7

### Staci Williams (D) (continued)

- A1.** Ideally, I would like to see the money come out of judicial races and have the State send out materials to registered voters detailing the experience and qualifications of candidates for judicial positions.
- A2.** Before proposing any changes it is important that we first identify what the perceived problems are, whether existing rules and standards will address the issue and, if they don't, formulate rules that are narrowly tailored to address the issues.
- A3.** To impartially apply the law to cases that come before the Court, in a way that delivers real justice.
- A4.** There are a number of them, but I do not wish to violate the Canon of Judicial Ethics by taking a position on any particular issue.

## PLACE 8

### Brett Busby (R)

Unopposed

### Peter Kelly (D)

No Response Received

### Gisela D. Triana (D)

**Background:** For over 24 years, I have served as a judge in Texas. I worked my way up from Municipal Court to Justice of the Peace, to County Court, to District Court, and most recently, to the Appellate Court. If elected, I will be the only person on the TX Supreme Court who has served at every level of the judiciary. Most of my 31-year legal career has been devoted to public service



**Education:** University of Texas School of Law, J.D., 1988; University of Texas at San Antonio, B.A. in Political Science, magna cum laude, 1985

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

**Facebook:** <https://JudgeTriana.com>

- A1.** A legitimate discussion, if there was a nonpartisan way to select judges that Texans could trust. The problem is the timing: after the party that has been in power for decades (and the beneficiary of partisan elections of judges) begins to lose that power, it makes the concern seem self-interested. Texans have clearly shown a preference for electing judges, I support that.
- A2.** I believe the legal profession should emulate the medical profession and prohibit lawyers from becoming romantically involved with their clients while their case is active. There is great risk for conflict of

interests and the parties are not in equal positions.

**A3.** Being just and fair. Opinions should be based on the Rule of Law, not on personal or political bias. Texans deserve a level playing field, to be treated equally and to have their constitutional rights protected regardless of race, religion, nationality, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability or economic status. I have striven to do this for 24 year and will continue.

**A4.** Restoring balance to the Court. Currently, all members are Republican. 7 of the 9, were initially political appointments by a Republican Governor. Our founders were wise to create a jury system that brought people from different walks of life, with different experiences to judge a case. We need diversity of thought on the Court, as well. It makes for better jurisprudence.

# STATE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

## JUDGE

- Q1.** How should the Court of Criminal Appeals address mental health issues of those who come before the court?
- Q2.** What opportunities are there, if any, to improve the state's indigent defense system in criminal cases?
- Q3.** Which responsibility of a Court of Criminal Appeals judge is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?
- Q4.** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Court of Criminal Appeals?

## PLACE 3

### Gina Parker (R)

**Background:** Over 30 years handling felony, misdemeanor, & juvenile cases. Private practice since 1991. Also, served as City Attorney, Assistant CA, Assistant DA. As TDLR Commissioner & Chair, a quasi-judicial capacity, ruled on over a 1000 administrative appeals.

**Education:** Baylor School of Law, 1986 BBA, Baylor University, 1983

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



**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/GinaParkerCampaign/>

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/VACHjYsPWzA>

- A1.** The Judicial Committee on Mental Health assesses the resources available; recommends ways to improve communication between the courts, attorneys, clients, and mental health providers; provides training to judges; and continues to make recommendations for improvement of the current system. Unquestionably, these efforts should continue.
- A2.** The rule of law is undermined when defendants cannot afford counsel. The Fair Defense Act was established to administer ap-

propriations and policies to help counties with indigent defense programs. Also, transparency and accountability at the local level will ensure fairness, eliminate conflicts of interest and cronyism. Pro bono work is a way to provide counsel.

- A3.** Above all other duties, judges should uphold the rule of law. Additionally, they should be independent and impartial, and they should demonstrate appropriate temperament by respecting all parties to a case and should have good character.
- A4.** Keep pace with the ever-changing challenges of technology in order to appropriately address DNA issues. Also, make sure the Michael Morton law is properly enforced, so the right persons are charged for criminal offenses.

### Bert Richardson (R)

**Background:** 1) I have practiced criminal law full-time for over 31 years. 2) Former State and Federal prosecutor with substantial trial and appellate experience. 3) Board Cer-



tified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. 4) Judge for over 20 years and appointed by Gov. Bush. 6) Adjunct Law Professor 12+ years. 6) Distinguished 2015 Law Graduate StMU.

**Education:** BYU, B.S., August 1982 St. Mary's University School of Law, J.D. 1987

**Website:** <http://www.electjudge-richardson.com/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/JudgeBertRichardson/>

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/9sXRzRpPDgs>

- A1.** Early intervention is critical in cases dealing with mental health issues, as such, trial courts are in a better position to assist the immediate needs of citizens in those cases. The Court of Criminal Appeals and Texas Supreme Court are part of a joint commission that provide training to professionals assisting those with mental illnesses.
- A2.** The TCCA oversees funding to train those organizations that represent indigent defendants. That is a starting point. However, in order to improve the system, both counties and the State must commit to providing the financial resources necessary to staff offices in counties with lawyers that

# STATE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

## PLACE 3

### Bert Richardson (R) (continued)

have substantial experience in the criminal justice system. Putting defense lawyers on the same pay scale as prosecutors would encourage more to apply for those positions. Other opportunities from the legislature, such as passing procedural and discovery rules, as they accomplished in recent sessions would contribute to improving the system.

**A3.** The TCCA is the busiest appellate court in our country reviewing all death penalty cases, post conviction writs (including claims of actual innocence) and appeals from 14 intermediate appellate courts across the State. The total number of cases in any given year is in the thousands. Timely disposing of these cases for all parties is my highest priority.

**A4.** Post conviction writs (including actual innocence claims) constitute the largest number of cases the TCCA reviews. Given the changes in modern day science and technology that can be used in the courtroom, it is imperative that our court keep up with these changes and recognize those that can have both negative and positive impacts on cases before the TCCA.

### William Pieratt Demond (D)

**Background:** One of three 2019 Texas Super Lawyers in constitutional law; established constitutional rights in *Turner v. Driver*, 848 F.3d 678 (5th Cir. 2017) (recording police) and *Zadeh v. Robinson*, 928 F.3d 457 (5th Cir. 2019) (pre-compliance review of subpoenas to doctors); filed 19-676 at the Supreme Court; pierced grand jury secrecy; & CLE instructor regarding constitutional law. **Education:** B.A., Asian Studies, Furman University; J.D. (international law concentration) and M.A., Diplomacy and International Relations, Seton Hall University. **Website:** <http://williamdemond.com> **Facebook:** <https://facebook.com/williamforjustice>



**A1.** The Court should dispense with its unconstitutional “adaptive functioning analysis” in death penalty cases involving mental health issues, follow the medical commu-

nity’s adaptive-functioning inquiry on adaptive deficits, and voluntarily honor U.S. Supreme Court jurisprudence concerning the death penalty (rather than being repeatedly reversed because it refuses to do so).

**A2.** Monitoring appointments to ensure caseloads do not render appointed counsel ineffective, establishing public defenders’ offices in counties that do not have them (thereby facilitating additional training to the indigent defense community), and providing reliable resources for investigators, scientific testing, and mental health evaluations.

**A3.** Protecting the People’s constitutional rights (especially in death penalty cases and for unrepresented inmates in habeas corpus proceedings); by retraining (or replacing) my staff, by prohibiting the closure of the courthouse to those seeking emergency relief, and by adjusting technological policies to facilitate communication when emergency relief is sought.

**A4.** Actual innocence standards, the Court’s 2010 elimination of factual sufficiency review (despite its existence under Texas law since 1837), death penalty jurisprudence, and ineffective assistance of counsel.

### Elizabeth Davis Frizell (D)

**Background:** • Criminal District Court 7, Presiding Judge, Dallas County, Texas, Felony Court; • County Criminal Court 11, Presiding Judge, Dallas County, Texas, Family Violence Court; • City of Dallas, Associate Municipal Court Judge; • City of Princeton, Municipal Court Judge; • City of Lucas, Municipal Court Judge; • City of Balch Springs, Municipal Court Judge; • The Frizell Firm **Education:** Prairie View A&M University-B.A. Thurgood Marshall School of Law- J.D. **Website:** <http://www.Frizell4Judge.com> **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/frizell4txjudge>

**A1.** The Court of Criminal Appeals should ensure that trial courts examine mentally ill defendants for their capacity to know the difference between right and wrong as well as whether a mental illness affected their



judgement and was properly asserted and applied for sentencing purposes.

**A2.** We should require internships similar to internships in the medical field where newly licensed attorneys work for government agencies, firms and solo practitioners doing trial work and appellate work for at least one year prior to becoming licensed. This will give non-profit and pro bono agencies more attorneys to handle an increased case load, while giving indigent defendants and civil respondents much needed legal representation.

**A3.** Death Penalty Cases. My priority is to ensure defendants sentenced to capital punishment, have cases reviewed regardless of the date the death penalty is scheduled to be implemented. Rather than implementing Stays of execution, the sentence should be commuted to life imprisonment until the appellate process is complete.

**A4.** Wrongful convictions. We should examine the case law premise that there are many trials which occur at the state court level that have errors, but frequently the errors are not considered to be reversible error. This prevents many defendants from receiving a fair trial.

### Dan Wood (D)

No Response Received

## PLACE 4

### Kevin Patrick Yeary (R)

Unopposed

### Tina Clinton (D)

**Background:** I am currently the presiding felony state district judge of the oldest Criminal District Court in the State of Texas, the Criminal District Court, located in Dallas County. I have been a misdemeanor county court judge, a municipal court judge, a criminal defense attorney and a prosecutor specializing in criminal cases in Texas. I have experience with over 400 trials. **Education:** Juris Doctorate from SMU School of Law; Bachelors of Art in Philosophy from University of Texas at Austin



**Facebook:** <https://facebook.com/JudgeTinaClinton>

**A1.** The Court of Criminal Appeals is an appellate court so issues of mental health raised on appeal are the issues that may be addressed. The Court of Criminal Appeals also funds education programs and grants for judges, lawyers and prosecutors. I believe that expanding that funding for increased mental health education in law would make a vast difference.

**A2.** I believe there are two avenues of improvement. First, to review cases of ineffective assistance closely and with a critical eye. One consideration might be outright ineffective assistance for not doing one’s job. The other can possible be because attorneys are carrying too high of a caseload based on assignments. Both instances should be reviewed carefully. Second, the Court of Criminal Appeals funds education, programs and grants for judges, lawyers who work in indigent defense and prosecutors as well as court personnel. I think the administering of these grants, programs and education liberally and requesting more funding from the legislature so we can robustly tackle education throughout the system would improve the state’s criminal justice system on indigent defense.

**A3.** (1) Speak to the Legislature about their attempts at bail reform laws. (2) I believe the Court receives 5000 habeas writs plus per year. This work is tasked to staff attorneys. These cases raise issues of actual innocence, ineffective assistance, and other reviews. We should review the need to increase staff so each case may be given full consideration. **A4.** One of the tasks of the Court is to help provide (1) grants for technical assistance projects to judges and court personnel, and (2) grants for innocence training programs. I believe these areas needs to be aggressively administered and expanded to help access to justice throughout the State. Many areas do not have funds for technical assistance or education otherwise.

### Steven Miears (D)

**Background:** I am Board Certified in Criminal Law and Criminal Appellate Law. For 7 years I have been named a “Super Law-





# STATE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

## PLACE 4

### Steven Miears (D) (continued)

yer” in criminal law by Texas Monthly. I have handled over 125 cases as lead counsel on appeal. I have represented persons at trial and on appeal in many death penalty cases. My website has a link to watch an oral argument I did, and opinions of my cases on appeal.

**Education:** I graduated Madison High School in Houston, Texas. I received a B.A. with honors from Austin College. I have a doctorate of jurisprudence from Texas Tech University School of Law.

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

**Facebook:** <https://SteveMiearsForJudge>

**A1.** The Court must address how to define intellectual disability for purposes of the death penalty. It has failed to do this even though directed to by the Supreme Court. The Court fails to make sure that indigent inmates with mental illness are appointed lawyers at every stage of the writ of habeas corpus process. Many of these inmates have no access to attorneys.

**A2.** The Texas Indigent Defense Commission has no authority to sanction counties which have failed to implement or follow a proper indigent defense plan. While each county must have a plan, there is no enforcement authority to police these plans. The good ol’ boy system still encourages trial judges to not follow a wheel system for appointments of competent lawyers, especially in death penalty cases. The creation of state-

wide standards for the appointment of attorneys in felony cases would assure competent representation and development of competent criminal defense lawyers. A plan’s use of flat fees paid to appointed attorneys and investigators encourages and rewards ineffective assistance of counsel. The development everywhere of online portals for appointed lawyers to access the court’s file and DA discovery is needed. And ability to talk to inmates on webcams would assist communication.

**A3.** The highest priority of a CCA judge is to review cases where the death penalty has been given. This occurs on direct appeal from the trial and on writs of habeas corpus. I will not leave this duty to clerks. I will personally read every record. I will not “go along to get along” with other judges on the

CCA who refuse to examine the death penalty under current laws.

**A4.** The most pressing issue for the CCA will be processing writs of habeas corpus filed by inmates. Last year the CCA handled over 3,500 writs. Each of these writs deserves personal attention from the Judge it is assigned to. These writs continue to bring to the attention of the CCA pervasive incompetence by appointed lawyers, prosecutorial misconduct, and bad forensic experts

## PLACE 9

### David Newell (R)

Unopposed

### Brandon Birmingham (D)

Unopposed

# STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Q1.** What would you recommend to better prepare students for their civic responsibilities?
  - Q2.** What is your position on issues related to student testing?
  - Q3.** What is your opinion about the Texas Supreme Court decision that Texas education funding is Constitutional but inadequate and inefficient?
  - Q4.** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the State Board of Education?
- .....

## DISTRICT 5

### Inga Cotton (R)

**Background:** When our family began looking at schools for our children, one of whom has a disability, we were apprehensive. I was able to find a public school nearby that worked for our children. During my research I heard from parents across the state who were not as lucky. I made the choice at that time to be a voice for parents and students, advocating for stronger Texas schools.

**Education:** B.A. in History from Trinity University (1996) and J.D. from The University of Texas School of Law (1999)

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

**Facebook:** <https://facebook.com/ingafor schools>

**A1.** Effective civics education requires both rigorous instruction in history and hands-



on experiences about government in action. Students who gain a deep knowledge of United States history-both the failures and the triumphs-should develop a strong sense of patriotism and a love of liberty, freedom, and the rule of law.

**A2.** We need to reform standardized testing practices and support policies that promote greater competition and accountability in our schools. Schools should not teach to the test, and students should not fear the tests.

**A3.** In its 2016 decision, the Texas Supreme Court correctly gave deference to the legislature as the policy making branch of government. During the 2019 session, the legislators listened to voters and passed HB3, making changes to outdated funding formulas and appropriating \$11.6 billion to public education.

**A4.** Adoption of curriculum standards is one of the most important duties of the State Board of Education. Providing students with knowledge-rich classrooms is a powerful

way to close achievement gaps. As the parent of a child with special needs, I understand the importance of providing resources for students with disabilities so they can reach their full potential.

### Robert Morrow (R)

**Background:** The Republican party has come the cult of an authoritarian lunatic. I do not think GOP or Democrats should be supporting political criminals who had close associations with a mega child molester [Portion of response removed; does not meet criteria]. I oppose any politician who is a Russian or Zionist stooge & traitor to the USA. I am against criminals in both parties.

**Education:** Tuscaloosa Academy 1983 Princeton - A.B. History 1987 Univ. of Texas - MBA - 1990

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Robert.Morrow.888>

**A1.** Every Texas high school student should read Roger Stone’s book “The Man Who Killed Kennedy: The Case Against LBJ” as well as Daniel Hopsicker’s “Barry and the Boys” which is about the murder of CIA drug smuggler Barry Seal by GHW Bush and Oliver North. Also, I would make Nick



Bryant’s book The Franklin Scandal mandatory reading for all high school seniors.

**A2.** Mandatory statewide testing should be eliminated. Let local school districts decide how they want to test student.

**A3.** It is a complete joke. The taxpayer is being screwed over yet again by judges acting like legislators. I am for ending Robin Hood and replacing it with nothing. Poor school districts can put up GoFundMe accounts.

**A4.** I think that high school students should be offered elective classes on the safe use of AR-15s. I think all high school senior girls should be offered spring semester elective classes on pole dancing and twerking. I say only girls for those classes because it would too homo for the boys. They need to be playing sports and learning team work.

### Lani Popp (R)

No Response Received

### Rebecca Bell-Metereau (D)

**Background:** I taught as a Peace Corps volunteer in Chad, interpreter US Air Force grain flights, Assistant to Director of First Year Studies at Indiana University, training new



# STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## DISTRICT 5

### Rebecca Bell-Metereau (D) (continued)

instructors. At TX State, I've led teacher training, developed & direct Media Studies Minor, chaired Environment & Sustainability, Faculty Senator. San Marcos Planning & Zoning, Bond, and Recycling Commissions

**Education:** BA, MA, PhD, degrees in English, Indiana University, specializations in film, rhetoric and composition, pedagogy. Dissertation published by Columbia University Press as Hollywood Androgyny

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

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/voterebecca/>

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/3oIUQkiAak4>

**A1.** Historical context helps students value citizen responsibilities and privileges, with curriculum including practical lessons in how government works, and how to research and vote in city, county, state, and national elections. Let's teach how local, state, and national governments function, with non-partisan information on voting practices ranging from local to worldwide.

**A2.** Studies indicate high-stakes testing is not only ineffective, but actually detrimental to student learning. Responsible teachers use various measures of student knowledge and skills and avoid teaching to the test. Nationally-normed tests, sparingly administered every other year can offer reliable comparative and longitudinal data, used for formative, not punitive purposes.

**A3.** Hailed by some as a small step in the right direction for acknowledging the inadequacy of our state funding, this ruling says it's constitutional, putting the responsibility with the legislature, which has been reducing its support steadily over the years. The legislature needs to increase funding by at least 50%. One representative rightly criticized the state for "neglecting its responsibilities, failing to pick up its fair share of the school finance tab, and pushing the costs down to overburdened local taxpayers." Abbott's decision to support quality pre-K education is a wise investment, but the legislature must also allocate adequate funds to educate the other 12 grades and plan for a future that diversifies funding for public education from a mix of resources. We must see education as an investment rather than

a cost, since it produces an educated workforce, contributes to a stable economy, and improves the health and well-being of all citizens. For those who wish to abandon public education in favor of for-profit systems for education, health, and prisons, this may seem like a just ruling, but those who see an educated citizenry as the bedrock of democracy view it as sidestepping a responsibility that will have unfortunate consequences in the future. Inadequate funding of special needs students may lose Texas up to \$223 million in federal funding. SBOE oversees \$41.44 billion, but only about \$2.5 billion was released in 2019–20. SBOE can tell our leaders to do better.

**A4.** SBOE needs to provide guidance to districts that participate or merge with charters under SB 1882, passed in the 85th session. It's unclear who is responsible for schools at the local level after a charter contract is executed, affecting 13 districts and 609 campuses. Let's update literacy in statistics, civil discourse, coding, finance, sustainability, health life skills.

### Letti Bresnahan (D)

**Background:** I have lived in San Antonio for 35 years and obtained my MBA from UTSA. Our children graduated from public schools where I spent 25 years volunteering. I

served as PTA and Booster Club President. I was elected to the NEISD Board of Trustees - 2008–2016, serving as VP and President. I am a Board Member for Texas' Region 20 ESC. I work in medical education at UT Health SA.

**Education:** Bachelor of Arts - Spanish Bachelor of Science - Business St. Louis University - 1982 Masters of Business Administration University of Texas at San Antonio - 1988

**Website:** <http://letti4sboe.com>

**Facebook:** <https://letti4sboe>

**A1.** Civic responsibilities must be taught to our students from the beginning and reinforced and built upon throughout their schooling. Learning formats should be engaging, hands on, and enhanced with modern technology. Real world classroom civic engagement such as meeting with public of-

ficials, and participating in legislative activities helps our students understand civics.

**A2.** Student testing is critical as a diagnostic tool and to provide feedback to our parents/teachers about what our students know. Testing can serve as a tool for teachers/administrators to review and reassess their instruction. However, testing should not be excessive or used for punitive purposes. Testing should not serve as the sole measure of student performance.

**A3.** The role of the legislature is to pass laws that benefit its citizens, thus the responsibility to adequately fund public schools belongs to the legislature. However, I disagree with the Texas Supreme Court's ruling that the states portion of funding for education is constitutional. The legislature's \$5.4 billion cut in public school funding should have been ruled as unconstitutional because it was unreasonable.

**A4.** We must prepare all students with the knowledge and skills to succeed in our communities. Curriculum must be factual, objective, and supported with high quality instructional materials. Educators must be skilled and trained to meet the needs of all students. Oversight of the permanent school fund and charter school applications is critical.

## DISTRICT 10

### Tom Maynard (R)

Unopposed

### Marsha Burnett-Webster (D)

**Background:** I am a native Texan and a career educator. I have worked as a teacher and an administrator in middle schools, high schools, and colleges across the United States.

I have seen what happens when we give our students the best we have to offer. And I have seen what happens when we neglect their educational needs. Our student deserve the best. Help me make that possible.

**Education:** Doctor of Education, California Coast University; Master of Education, Prairie View A&M University; Bachelor of Science in Industrial Arts, Prairie View A&M University

**Website:** <http://www.webstertxsboe10.com/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Dr-Marsha-Burnett-Webster-for-Texas-State-Board-of-Education-District-10-111737920309467/>

**A1.** Civic responsibility begins in the home; schools have a responsibility as well. Primary grade school students are coached on sharing, which is a civic responsibility. Secondary school students must take civics classes for graduation. Additionally, I believe students should complete mandatory community service projects.

**A2.** Standardized testing should be used only as a diagnostic tool to guide the stu-



## WHEN DO YOU NEED TO UPDATE YOUR REGISTRATION?

Your registration will remain in effect until you move or change your name. Otherwise, a new certificate will be sent to you every two years without further application on your part. If you move, it is important to update your registration because unlike your other mail, your voter registration certificate cannot be forwarded to your new address. If it gets returned twice due to an incorrect address, your voter registration goes into a suspense status. If a suspense status voter shows up to the poll, they can fill out a statement of residence and will be permitted to vote. If a suspense status voter fails to vote in two general elections for state and county officers, the voter registrar is required by state law to remove the voter's registration from the voter roll. If you move within the same county or change your name, you must notify the county voter registrar in writing or complete a new registration card indicating a change of address as the reason. **If you move to another county or state, you must re-register by completing a new registration form for the county you will be voting in. See also the "Student Voters" box on page 12.**

# STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## DISTRICT 10

### Marsha Burnett-Webster (D) (cont.)

dent learning process - a process that should take into account that not all students learn the same way. That is not how these biased tests are used today, however. Instead, they are largely being used to drive student graduation requirements, assess teacher abilities, and school performance.

**A3.** I wholeheartedly agree that public education funding is 'inadequate and inefficient.' The Texas Supreme Court did not and does not write or amend the Texas Constitu-

tion. Only the Texas Legislature can initiate that. If we want to fix our broken education funding problem and provide the best possible education for students, then we must elect candidates (irrespective of party) who will fix this problem - and not candidates who will make it worse.

**A4.** The SBOE must be involved in designing instructional materials (vocational programs), teacher retention and salary improvements (as well as healthcare for retired teachers), special needs programs, safe and healthy schools, review and adoption of textbooks, and establishment of regional educa-

tion service centers. Each is predicated on adequate and efficient funding.

### Stephen Wyman (D)

**Background:** Raised by Secondary School Teachers; Bachelors degree; Substitute Teacher; School Bus Driver...

**Education:** BA, Indiana University, 1979  
**Website:** <http://blueboomerhd.blogspot.com/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/stephen.wyman.507>

**A1.** Perhaps Civics could replace/supplement Social Studies.

**A2.** Texas Schools do way too much testing; over utilize test scores for over simplified ratings of schools and their success/lack thereof.

**A3.** It is a reasonably correct assessment of Texas education funding... Is it Constitutional?

**A4.** Text books and curriculum based on academic/professional academic's assessment... Review/audit of Texas Permanent School Fund management.

# STATE 3RD COURT OF APPEALS

## CHIEF JUSTICE

**Q1.** Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

**Q2.** Access to Justice: What recent technological developments provide opportunities to improve the state's indigent defense system in civil and criminal cases?

**Q3.** Mental Health: How should the Court of Appeals address mental health issues of those who come before the court?

**Q4.** Responsibility: Which responsibility of a Court of Appeals justice is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?

**Q5.** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Court of Appeals?

.....

### Jeff Rose (R)

Unopposed

### Darlene Byrne (D)

**Education:** University of Houston Law Center, magna cum laude

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

**Facebook:** <https://darlenebyrneforjudge>

**A1.** I have served as a Travis County District Court judge for the past 19 years, and before that practiced civil litigation in governmental and private practice for 13 years. I have presided over or represented clients in thousands of matters involving the full spectrum of civil litigation. I have led a national judicial organization as its president and as a board member.

**A2.** In Travis County, we have a robust system automating the appointment of counsel for indigent civil litigants who qualify



within 24 hours. Our system is automated, randomized and regularly reported to the Office of Court Administration to ensure transparency. Our payment of counsel system is also automated to assist with retention of appointed counsel on the list.

**A3.** For attorneys who come before the Court for whom concerns are identified, the Court would make a confidential referral to the Texas Lawyers Assistance Program ("TLAP"), which will follow up with the lawyer to determine appropriate services. For clients, the Appeals Court role is more limited and depends on the legal issues brought before it from the trial court.

**A4.** The highest priority of the Court is to dispense justice efficiently, consistent with the law, and cognizant of the human beings whose rights and lives are affected by the case. I will bring the same work ethic to this position that I have brought to bear for my

19 years on the trial court bench. I love this work and have learned that justice is urgent.

**A5.** I believe that I will bring a thirst for the law, a sense of urgency for justice and a work ethic to do the work for those who come before the Court. I push myself to serve both on and off the bench and I believe that the Third Court of Appeals justices can bring so much more to the people of 24 counties of Central Texas than ever before by having a heart for service.

### Keith S. Hampton (D)

**Education:** B.A., University of Texas at Austin, 1984 J.D., St. Mary's University School of Law, San Antonio, Texas, 1989 Board Certified in Criminal Appellate Law (conferred 2005) Board Certified in Criminal Law (conferred 1995) Clerk, Judge Sam Houston Clinton

**Website:** <http://hampton2020.com>  
**Video:** <https://youtu.be/ZYZ2er2O000>

**A1.** With over 30 years' experience, I have appeared before all courts of appeals, the state's highest courts and the U.S. Supreme Court. My appellate practice has included winning life commutations for death row inmates from two governors and exonerations for wrongfully convicted innocent persons. I have twice won Lawyer of the Year and am listed in Best Lawyers in America.

**A2.** I was instrumental in the passage of the



Fair Defense Act that created the Indigent Defense Commission. The Constitution guarantees that indigent persons receive the effective assistance of counsel. Today, case-loads and adequate compensation can be tracked with precision, giving policymakers a better picture of indigent defense so that these rights can be vindicated.

**A3.** I served the National Alliance on Mental Illness (Texas) and the Task Force for the Rewrite of the Incompetency and Insanity Statutes. I have ensured incompetent persons be delivered from jail to the hospital promptly in hundreds of cases. Judges are best when they are most informed, up to date, and empathetic on the nature of mental illness whenever that issue arises.

**A4.** The rule of law is strengthened only when judges act with integrity and under the guiding principle that justice is an essential feature of a democratic civil society. My highest priority: ensure that the rule of law prevails and remains inextricably bound to the ideals of justice. To that end, I will write opinions that are thoughtful, honest, clear and fearless.

**A5.** The Senate, dominated by ideology, has already appointed so many federal judges to life appointments that there is little that can be done to moderate that ideology for at least a generation in federal courts. This reality leaves state courts as the bulwark against ideology itself. Independently minded state judges are thus crucial to our American system of justice.



# STATE TEXAS SENATE

## DISTRICT 21

**Frank Pomeroy (R)**

Unopposed

**Judith Zaffirini (D)**

Unopposed

## DISTRICT 24

**Dawn Buckingham (R)**

Unopposed

**Clayton Tucker (D)**

Unopposed

## DONATE!

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# STATE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- Q1.** What changes do you support, if any, to ensure fair and impartial redistricting?
  - Q2.** What legislation would you support to address access to and cost of healthcare?
  - Q3.** What do you recommend to curb gun violence in our state?
  - Q4.** What other issue is your highest legislative priority and what do you propose to address it?
- .....

## DISTRICT 20

**Terry M. Wilson (R)**

Unopposed

**Jessica Tiedt (D)**

Unopposed

## DISTRICT 46

**Sheryl Cole (D)**

Unopposed

## DISTRICT 47

**Justin Berry (R)**

**Background:** Highly decorated with 13 years of law enforcement experience as a front line officer and current Vice President of the Austin Police Association and former PAC Board member.

**Education:** B.A. in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University; M.S. in Leadership & Management from Sam Houston State University; Master Peace Officer  
**Website:** <http://www.berryfortexas.com>  
**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/Berry4TheHouse>

**A1.** We are a representative democracy, and I believe our citizens should be able to par-



ticipate in this process. I support full transparency in our redistricting process. Our Legislative leaders should allow citizens to comment on the process. Our Legislators have a duty to create fair maps that best represent all Texans.  
**A2.** I would support full transparency in medical and prescription costs. I would support voluntary health coops that assist the uninsured in a truly affordable and health care system. I would also help in passing legislation in preventive health education in schools. Lastly, placing stipulations for tax payer funded medical research and technologies that do not allow for the over inflated prices to be passed on to insurance companies or patients.  
**A3.** I do not believe that focusing on JUST gun violence is the solution, rather the greatest impact to curb violence in general is to focus on restoring the morals and values we once held. One such value was the respect and value of life. Schools no longer properly address disruptive behavior from students. Courts have failed to uphold the laws related to violent and habitual offenders. Until we, as a society address the root issue, violent and deadly behavior will continue regardless of the weapon  
**A4.** I want to focus on lowering our property tax burden. Texans on fixed incomes should not fear being taxed out of their home. Lowering property taxes will help

renters in my district by reducing their year-over-year rent increases. Most importantly, we need to make sure our property tax money is adequately funding our schools, and preparing our students for the future. Under the current property tax system, Texans are being taxed out of their homes and our school are failing. That is not Texan.

**Jennifer Fleck (R)**

**Background:** 5th generation Texan, Married 23 years, 3 children, civil litigator for 15 years, General Counsel for oil & gas services co for 5 years, involved in parental rights since 2012

**Education:** 1994 BA in Accounting UT Arlington; 2001 South Texas College of Law  
**Website:** <http://flecktexasstrong.com>  
**Facebook:** <http://JenniferFleckTexasStrong>

**A1.** I would support grouping communities with common characteristics and concerns. I would support drawing boundaries that don't look clearly gerrymandered. I would support a third party voice on demographics and population.  
**A2.** I would support reduced healthcare and pharmaceutical costs.  
**A3.** Gun safety classes. Looking at common trends in shooters, i.e. fatherless homes and considering how state law has possibly contributed.  
**A4.** My highest legislative priority would be to stop the indoctrination and degradation in the public schools and return to academics. I would prohibit graphic sex education and gender confusion and pornography



in the schools and create enforcement provisions in the law that hold school districts accountable to parents and the law.

**Aaron Reitz (R)**

**Background:** Christian, husband, father, Marine, Afghanistan War veteran, Texas Supreme Court clerk, Cub Scouts Cubmaster, wannabe dog trainer  
**Education:** B.S., Texas A&M University (magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Corps of Cadets); J.D., University of Texas School of Law (Federalist Society, Texas Review of Law & Politics)  
**Website:** <http://www.ReitzForTexas.com>  
**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/ReitzForTexas>



**A1.** I want to ensure that the legislature-the body elected by and accountable to the people-is responsible for drawing lines. Ceding this core political function (SCOTUS recently held that redistricting was \*political\*, not judicial or administrative) to "independent commissions" reduces transparency and accountability. In states that have adopted an independent commission model for redistricting, studies show that politics remain, but simply becomes more difficult to do anything about.  
**A2.** First and foremost, I will work with federal officials to expand health care choice and encourage a market-based, competitive, across-state-lines, transparent system. These measures have the greatest positive effect on access to and cost of healthcare. What's more, I'll ensure that the government cannot mandate specific medical procedures, fight for "right to try" legislation, and work to create a Texas Health Savings Account

# STATE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## DISTRICT 47

### Aaron Reitz (R) *(continued)*

option. And I'll oppose the expansion of Medicaid in Texas.

**A3.** At the heart of American gun violence are broken families. We need to fix that more than anything. Beyond that, first, I want to empower law-abiding citizens to arm themselves. Second, I want to strengthen the school marshal program. Third, I'd like to enable school officials who are willing and able to arm themselves to do so, but only after they go through rigorous training and it can be ensured that they will not disrupt the day-to-day teaching environment or endanger students.

**A4.** A theme of my campaign is reining in big cities that are taking Texas down the path LA and SF took California down years ago. Most of my policies fall under this theme: I want to strengthen property tax caps, introduce real property tax relief, enact a statewide ban on Austin-style homeless ordinances, require audits on local spending, end taxpayer-funded lobbying, ensure cities can't interfere in private employer-employee contracts, and hold cities accountable when they flout state laws.

### Jenny Roan Forgey (R)

**Background:** Former small business owner, native of Austin, Texas. Worked on Capitol Hill, worked on redistricting in 2001, worked in political consulting in Texas during the 2001 cycle.



**Education:** J.D., Baylor Law School; B.S.F.S., Georgetown University

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

**Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/jennyroanforgey>

**A1.** A fair and impartial redistricting process is vital to a functioning, healthy democracy that is by the people, for the people. For that reason, I believe redistricting needs to stay in the hands of elected officials. While it is tempting to believe that an "independent" commission could do a better job, all folks will bring their bias to the table, whether they are appointed or elected. By leaving it

in the hands of those elected by the voters, we maintain accountability to the voters.

**A2.** I have personal experience with the very real struggles we experience when health-care costs are unclear, full of surprises, and seemingly arbitrary. As the mom of two children and the wife of a husband with chronic conditions, healthcare is a top priority for me. I strongly believe we need to restore the primacy of the doctor-patient relationship, that true competition (which must include price transparency) will achieve that goal, and that we also need to maintain a functioning safety net.

**A3.** Education and public-private programs that address the root of the violence. I grew up in a time when Texans brought their guns to high school in their pick-ups before the weekend hunt. Guns are not the problem. Misconceptions about guns are part of the problem. We need to train people on safety, but we also need to address what leads people to resort to violence. It's past time for non-polarizing, data-driven conversations about what leads people to shoot others and what we can do about it.

**A4.** Transportation tops my list because it matters most to my constituents. We need to make sure roads can be built quickly and efficiently by streamlining the contracting process and shortening the environment review period. Public-private partnerships are key. Administrative law is also an important priority for me because of how it can hinder businesses. Finally, I want to take a hard look at our property tax system to ensure that taxes are fair, transparent, and as low as possible.

### Don Zimmerman (R)

**Background:** Fifth generation Texan from San Antonio; Former Austin Councilmember and MUD Pres. Over 30 years in professional software work, and instrument rated pilot. Husband and father.

**Education:** Texas A&M, B.S. and M.S. in Mechanical Engineering; Texas Tech University UTSA; Highlands High School in southeast S.A.

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



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

**A1.** There is no such thing as "fair and impartial redistricting", which mostly explains why we've had Gerrymandering under both Democrats and Republicans.

**A2.** Healthcare is NOT a "right", and federal meddling is problematic. I support terminating certain federal mandates, opposing taxpayer subsidized healthcare benefits for illegal aliens, and prohibiting more government bureaucratic power as Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) proposed. I support removing regulatory barriers at the FDA to streamline generic drug approval processes, and insurance competition across state lines. Choice, competition and price disclosure are required, and complex.

**A3.** Texas needs "constitutional carry" and easier access to firearms training for law abiding Texans. Mexico imposes gun control, resulting in countless millions of law abiding citizens being terrorized by well armed criminal cartels and corrupt police, and innumerable unsolved gun murders. "Gun free zones" should be eliminated where possible, and government school districts which demand unarmed schools must offer choices to those who disagree. Blaming guns for the evil of murder is foolish.

**A4.** Vehicle traffic congestion in western traffic country is not just inconvenient - it is now dangerous in terms of accidents, fatalities, grossly inadequate emergency response time and lack of evacuation routes; for HD-47 I'm proposing a new freeway connection from SH-45 at Lakeline Mall to SH-45 in southwest Travis. The \$100s of millions required should come from existing Cap-Metro taxes, and I will promote a voter referendum to dedicate 50% of existing Cap-Metro taxes to congestion relief.

### Vikki Goodwin (D)

Unopposed

## DISTRICT 48

### Bill Strieber (R)

Unopposed

### Donna Howard (D)

Unopposed

## DISTRICT 49

### Jenai Aragona-Hales (R)

#### Background:

Jenai grew up in Jacksonville, North Carolina and has lived in Texas for 32 years. She has owned several businesses in Texas and is now a Realtor in Austin, Texas.



**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Biology

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

**A1.** We need to work to keep communities of interest together and draw districts as compact as possible ensure that communities get to vote for the candidate of their choice.

**A2.** At the state level, we can start by focusing on decreasing medicaid fraud and continue to push for price transparency from hospitals and insurers. I will also support additional prescriptive authority agreements in rural areas to increase the scope of practice for certain health care providers, giving them incentive to expand. Furthermore, I support increased accessibility within healthcare care by utilizing practices such as telemedicine.

**A3.** The statistics on gun violence have shown that it has not increased in the state of Texas for years. I believe that changing gun laws to adjust the accessibility to purchase firearms does not focus on the issue at hand and will not decrease gun violence over time. What we can do to help curb gun violence is incorporate red flag laws that would allow the local government or family members to order the temporary removal of a firearm from someone who poses a threat to themselves or others.

**A4.** Homelessness in Austin is one of the main issues I will be focusing on within my platform. I believe this is, first and foremost, a mental health crisis. I'd like to create a system that builds partnerships with mental health care providers to promote more integrated care teams that respond to homeless calls, incorporate a state version of the Job Training Partnership Act, and support partnering with organizations like Mobile Loaves and Fishes to engage the homeless as working citizens.

# STATE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## DISTRICT 49 (continued)

### Charles Allan Meyer (R)

**Background:** Military Service and Information Technology

**A1.** Begin now by utilizing Esri Redistricting: Software for Redistricting Process thereby facilitating complete transparency for online citizen involvement and media participation.

**A2.** Health insurance rates should be set through free-market forces.

**A3.** An armed citizenry is a defended nation.

**A4.** I have three interrelated highest-level priorities. First, focus on our homeless brothers and sisters who are up and down our streets and in our neighborhoods. Second, focus on our refugee brothers and sisters who are up and down our borders and in our wildernesses. Third, focus on our human trafficked brothers and sisters all around us. Solutions and preventions are a community effort.



### Gina Hinojosa (D)

Unopposed

## DISTRICT 50

### Larry Delarose (R)

Unopposed

### Celia Israel (D)

Unopposed

## DISTRICT 51

### Robert Reynolds (R)

Unopposed

### Eddie Rodriguez (D)

**Background:** State Rep. Eddie Rodriguez, a first-generation college graduate from McAllen, has represented District 51 in the Texas House of Representatives since 2003.

**Education:** B.A., University of Texas at Austin - 1995 J.D., UT Austin School of Law - 2008

**Website:** <http://EddieforTexas.com>  
**Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/eddiefortexas>

**A1.** I believe that our electoral system must empower voters to choose their elected officials, not the other way around. I support efforts to replace Texas's current system with an independent, bipartisan redistricting commission such as would have been accomplished by State Rep. Donna Howard's HB 369 (86-R) if it were passed and voters approved the enabling constitutional amendment (HJR 32).

**A2.** 1) Expanding Medicaid; 2) Doing more



to retain doctors who earned their education in Texas and recruit them to serve in communities across the state after they've finished their degrees; 3) Cost of living adjustment for retired teachers; 4) Allowing highly trained nurse practitioners to provide certain common forms of care; 5) Expanding access to telemedicine services; 6) Shoring up regulation of freestanding emergency rooms and the insurance industry to protect consumers; 7) Undoing TRAP laws

**A3.** 1) Ensuring that local/county law enforcement agencies/courts have the resources they need to accurately report information that is required to be incorporated into NICS; 2) Requiring gun owners to report the loss or theft of any firearms they own; 3) Making it easier for gun owners who are no longer allowed to possess them to surrender them to the authorities; 4) Passing a "red flag law"; 5) Universal background checks; 6) Assault weapons/high-capacity magazine ban; 7) Safe storage education campaign

**A4.** Affordability: I passed the Homestead Preservation Act in 2003 and I intend on updating the statute in the 87th Legislative Session to restore Austin's ability to use the powerful tools the HPA provides to local governments for helping people stay in their homes, preserving existing affordable housing and investing in increasing the stock of affordable housing. I am also committed to fighting against source of income discrimination and providing Texans with equitable property tax relief.

nation and providing Texans with equitable property tax relief.

### Joshua Sanchez (D)

No Response Received

## DISTRICT 52

### Lucio Valdez (R)

Unopposed

### James Talarico (D)

Unopposed

## DISTRICT 136

### Mike Guevara (R)

Unopposed

### John Bucy (D)

Unopposed

## RUNOFF ELECTION

If a runoff election becomes necessary, it will be on May 26, 2020, with early voting May 18–22. To participate, citizens must be registered voters by April 27, 2020. Voting locations will be announced prior to the early voting period.

# LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

## CIVIL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

- Q1.** What would be your greatest strengths as a judge?
- Q2.** Explain how this office is important to your constituents and provide details of your plans for improvement.
- Q3.** How would you ensure that all individuals who enter your court receive equal opportunities for justice?

## 53RD CIVIL DISTRICT

### Maria Cantú Hexsel (D)

**Background:** Civil litigation attorney who gives back to the community through service. Wife and mom of two young daughters,



who both attend local AISD public schools.

**Education:** Doctor of Jurisprudence from Texas Tech University School of Law (1995); Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies from Our Lady of the Lake University (1992)

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

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

**A1.** I'm the only candidate with real trial experience, giving me a first-hand knowledge on how rules are applied, and the balance between defending your client while respecting the rights of the other side. I'm proud my support comes from both sides of the bar, including the former president of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association, alongside senior partners in major defense firms. Trial experience is the foundation to judicial demeanor, the trust that the legal process will treat all sides fairly.

**A2.** Civil courts matter, from fighting for systemic change, to protecting children, to

businesses, big and small, in contract disputes. But to overcome obstacles of both time and money that prevent many from seeking justice, we need engaged judges who are informed, accessible and establish clear pre-trial processes. Discovery motions should be ruled on quickly, continuances should be a rarity, and systems and staff should focus on ensuring our courts are accessible, welcoming and efficient.

**A3.** Equal access to justice requires a cultural and systemic change. I will continue to advocate for legal aid, support non-profits that promote pro-bono work, and promote technology that lower costs and increases access. I've long volunteered with the His-



# LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

## 53RD CIVIL DISTRICT

### Maria Cantú Hexsel (D) (continued)

panic Bar Association to mentor young students of color seeking a career in the law, because a greater diversity of lawyers is necessary to advocate for those who face economic and cultural obstacles to our justice system.

### Kennon Wooten (D)

**Background:** I am a fifth-generation Texan, first-generation lawyer, and longtime Austinite. My daughter attends Travis Heights Elementary School, where my husband works as a school nurse.

**Education:** I have a B.A. in Psychology, with highest honors, and a Business Foundations Program certificate, from UT Austin. I also have a J.D. from the UT School of Law.

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

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

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/wHEXfzxUBns>

**A1.** First, I have an in-depth knowledge of governing procedures, stemming from my service as the Rules Attorney for the Texas Supreme Court, my involvement with rule-drafting committees, and my publications of books and articles about discovery procedures. Second, I have experience handling litigation and appeals covering a broad range of subject matters, which is helpful for the bench at hand. Third, I have a strong worth ethic. Fourth, I am patient and committed to fostering a culture of kindness.

**A2.** Civil judges make rulings with tremendous impacts on peoples' lives and livelihoods. For example, their rulings can terminate parental rights, dissolve marriages, dissolve business relationships, and require the payment of large (and sometimes crippling) sums of money. Judges do not represent anyone when presiding over legal disputes; they serve everyone, and they're ethically bound to do so impartially. If elected, I will handle all cases with care and be fair to all parties in my court.

**A3.** As a lawyer, I have strived to increase access to justice by doing pro bono work



and by serving on the Board of Directors for the Texas Legal Services Center and on the Texas Commission to Expand Civil Legal Services. As a judge, I would strive to ensure equal opportunities for justice by (1) giving all people a fair shake, regardless of whether they are represented by counsel; (2) informing people of low- and pro-bono options; and (3) directing people to self-representation tools, like forms.

## 98TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

### Rhonda Hurley (D)

Unopposed

## 126TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

### Aurora Martinez Jones (D)

Unopposed

## 200TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

### Maggie Ellis (D)

**Background:** Administrative Law Judge, Child Welfare and Juvenile Law Prosecutor, Child Welfare Board, State Bar Juvenile Section Board, Supreme Court Children's Comm. Dual Task Force.

**Education:** AAS Spanish, Austin Community College; BS Education, University of Texas at Austin; JD, Baylor Law School

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

**Facebook:** [http://www.facebook.com/maggieforjudge/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](http://www.facebook.com/maggieforjudge/?modal=admin_todo_tour)

**A1.** I overcame a childhood marked by transience, homelessness, and educational deprivation to become the only one of my eight siblings to graduate from college. I understand adversity and have incredible compassion and empathy. As an attorney and judge who has worked to improve the lives of hundreds of children and families in the courtroom and in the community, and as the only woman in TX nationally certified in child welfare and specialized in juvenile law, I also bring experience and expertise.

**A2.** One-family, one-judge is considered a national best practice for cases involving children and families. Although this bench



currently hears a variety of civil cases, according to the TX OCA, the majority of cases involve children and families. My hope is to create an efficient, dedicated family court that follows national best practices with judges who are specialized, passionate and focused exclusively on families. It is important because judges make decisions that can affect children for life.

**A3.** One of the reasons I decided to run was to bring my personal and professional understanding of issues surrounding poverty to the bench. With about 15% of the Travis County population living below the federal poverty line and 25% representing themselves in family cases, access to justice is critical. I have been recognized and awarded for my work helping our most vulnerable populations have access to and be successful in the court system, and I would continue to do so as a district judge.

### Jessica Mangrum (D)

**Background:** I grew up in the small town of West, Texas. My dad practiced law helping people in a variety of cases. My mom worked as a secretary and later became a teacher.

**Education:** I graduated from West High School in my hometown. I have a BA in government from UT and a law degree from UT School of Law. I'm a member of the Texas Bar College.

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

**Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/jessica4judge>

**A1.** My greatest strengths as a trial judge would be my 17 years of very active trial practice in Travis County and others across the state; my willingness to be patient, a good listener, and respectful to all who come into court regardless of background; and my intention to see that information and assistance is readily available to all those who cannot afford to hire an attorney.

**A2.** The 200th District Court is very important because it is a court of "of general jurisdiction" under the Texas Constitution, hearing almost all types of cases that are important to citizens. I have plans to implement procedures to expedite cases when



possible, direct pro se litigants to available resources in the community, and make the Court open for hearings without unnecessary procedural requirements. I will work hard to ensure that my decisions are handed down in a timely manner.

**A3.** Everyone who comes into the 200th District Court will have equal consideration, regardless of whether they have an attorney, and I will ensure that litigants without attorneys are aware of the pro bono and reduced fee resources available to them. A person's constitutional rights exist, whether or not they have an attorney, and rights should be recognized and enforced by this and all courts.

## 345TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

### Jan Soifer (D)

Unopposed

## 353RD CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

### Madeleine Connor (D)

No Response Received

### Tim Sulak (D)

**Background:** District Judge 9 yrs, practicing lawyer 32 yrs prior. Past President Austin Bar Association, past Chair Texas Bar Foundation, Professionalism Award-Texas Ctr for Legal Ethics

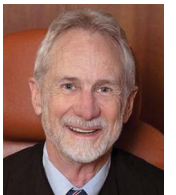
**Education:** University of Texas, Austin: B.A. Government 1975; U.T. School of Law: J.D. 1978

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

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

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/0TXrwwtz0kU>

**A1.** I have deep roots in this community and experience inside and outside the courtroom. I've been a judge for 9 years and am the Local Administrative Judge. I've received more ratings of "Excellent" for the last 6 years than any other judge in Travis County by Austin Bar Ass'n members in all categories: Hard Work, Impartiality, Correct Application of the Law, Temperament, and Overall. I am Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law and attended con-



# LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

## 353RD CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

### Tim Sulak (D) (continued)

tinuing education for judges annually since 2011.

**A2.** Who we elect as District Court Judge matters and has community-wide effects. District courts hear all manner of dis-

putes. Because Austin is the capital, the district courts of Travis County have jurisdiction over cases involving the state government. All litigants are entitled to due process through a dedicated, knowledgeable, fair and impartial judge. I will work to preserve access to, and understanding of, the rule of law through educational

outreach and assistance to underserved populations.

**A3.** Everyone deserves equal access to justice. I attempt to determine each party's understanding of courtroom procedures, making sure everyone's voice is heard by allowing a full presentation of disputed positions. I endeavor to maintain civility

through adherence to standards of decency and respect for alternative viewpoints. I encourage lawyer participation in volunteer programs for underserved populations, and I advocate for increased resources for the judicial branch to better serve the public.

## CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

- Q1.** What would be your greatest strengths as a judge?
- Q2.** Explain how this office is important to your constituents and provide details of your plans for improvement.
- Q3.** How would you ensure that all individuals who enter your court receive equal opportunities for justice?
- Q4.** What steps, if any, would you take to reduce the rates of incarceration and recidivism?
- .....

## 167TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

### Dayna Blazey (D)

**Background:** 30+ yrs fighting for justice. Felony prosecutor investigating abuse of our children, protecting survivors of sexual assaults & violent crimes, & leading diversion programs.

**Education:** B.A. Government, The University of Texas at Austin; J.D. South Texas College of Law

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

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

**A1.** Over my 30 plus year career practicing law exclusively in courts like the 167th, I've built a reputation as a fair and honest attorney who is open and accessible. I believe that each person who comes before the court should be considered as an individual and that it's important to listen to each side of a case without prejudgment. I also have a proven track record of working with advocates, community groups, and nonprofits to improve our criminal justice system in ways that work for real people.

**A2.** Felony criminal cases, like those heard in the 167th, are serious matters for the victims and their families, for defendants, and



for our entire community. We must ensure that individual rights are protected while keeping our community safe. I will expand evidence-based best practices to divert low-level, non-violent offenders to treatment or social and mental health services instead of jail, improve indigent defense, and personally review personal bonds that have been denied.

**A3.** The right to a fair trial is a pillar of our justice system. We must reduce the disparity between people who cannot afford a lawyer and those who can afford to retain an attorney. We can improve indigent defense with a fully-funded public defenders office as well as increased access to investigators and expert witnesses (allocated by judges). In addition, I would follow best practices around witness examination such as allowing children to be accompanied by a therapy dog when testifying.

**A4.** As Director over Diversion Programs I have worked to make these programs more accessible and affordable in order to get low-level, non-violent defendants treatment and services instead of putting them in jail. This includes proactively reaching out to eligible defendants as well as waiving court costs and program fees. As judge, I would like to continue this work as well as create a mental health docket to address recidivism among affected persons by providing more access to services.

### David Wahlberg (D)

**Background:** Elected 2012; Private Practice - State & Fed Jury Trials & Appeals (Crim Def) '76-'12; Board Certified/Crim Law ('88); Austinite since 1959; US Army '71-'73

**Education:** JD, UT Law '76; BA TLU '70

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

**Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/wahlbergforjudge/>

**A1.** Experience, empathy, thoughtfulness, progressive outlook, and efficiency.

**A2.** Criminal District Courts handle felony offenses from minor drug charges through capital murder. It's important to our community that our courts faithfully follow the constitution and laws to ensure that every individual is heard. Outcomes should reflect our community values while protecting our safety. I handle approximately 1,000 cases per year and have approximately 1,200 individuals on probation. I will continue to seek local treatment for drug offenses and family violence offenses.

**A3.** I am committed to providing every defendant with effective representation and the tools necessary for their defense. I regularly monitor attorneys' performance and take appropriate corrective action where necessary. I support both our CAPDS and new Public Defender's Office and will work with them to provide legal education and mentoring.

**A4.** I favor community-based treatment and supervision rather than incarceration because the evidence demonstrates that it is more effective in reducing recidivism and is more cost-efficient. I continue to work with individual defendants to assist in their reintegration into the community through my supervision of our SAFFP Re-Entry



Court, which is designed to assist individuals with substance abuse issues who are returning from a treatment program in the penitentiary.

## 390TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

### Albert Amado (D)

**Background:** I first called Austin home in the 1960's. I have experience in criminal and civil law, and a strong passion for criminal justice reform. I am bilingual, bicultural, and gay.

**Education:** My BBA and LLM graduate law degree, with focuses on international law, Latin American studies, and conflict resolution, are from UT Austin and my JD is from Emory University.

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

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

**A1.** Compassion, empathy and understanding for victims and defendants. The goal should be to restore lives, and my diverse experience in criminal defense, dispute resolution, combating transnational crime, and cross-cultural communication qualifies me to do that. I lived over 5 years in Latin America working on treatment programs and justice reform. In Ecuador, I helped to develop the first drug diversion program and revamp sexual assault and domestic violence investigation practices.

**A2.** The criminal justice system touches us all, but it doesn't treat everyone fairly. It's stacked against people of color and those with the least money. Outdated models of punishment and incarceration only perpetuate cycles of crime and broken lives. But we



# LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

## 390TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

### Albert Amado (D) (continued)

can fix these problems and restore hope and dignity to people and our system. I'll end money bail, push for more social services for victims and offenders alike, and strengthen programs that prevent and address the root causes of crime.

**A3.** Listening and understanding are key tools. My cultural and professional diversity give me the skill and perspective to apply them and be impartial. Failure to effectively track statistics and outcomes contributes to unequal justice. We must identify and solve these gaps to create the justice system that best serves our community. Bold ideas, like sanctions against officers and prosecutors with a history of disciplinary issues or Brady violations will help ensure equal opportunities for justice.

**A4.** Currently, an individual's wealth largely determines the justice that will be served. For those with the least money, entry into the criminal justice system places them at risk of job loss, family separation, pretrial detention due to inability to pay bail, or agreeing to a plea deal even when they are not guilty. Ending money bail, strong diversion and treatment programs, robust indigent defense, and comprehensive social services lead to lower incarceration and break the cycle of recidivism.

### Julie Kocurek (D)

**Background:** Elected Felony District Judge for 20 years. Board Certified in Criminal Law. Advocate for Judicial Courthouse Security nationwide. Wife and mom to twins.



**Education:** Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from St. Mary's School of Law and a Bachelor of Art in Economics from the University of Texas

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

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

**A1.** I hope to continue implementing progressive criminal justice reform programs and standing up for the rule of law. Four

years ago, I was attacked by a defendant at my home. After only a couple of months, I returned to the bench to ensure that defendant and victims would have their day in court. Even though I was attacked, I believe every person deserves equal access to justice, treatment over incarceration for non-violent crimes, and compassion.

**A2.** The criminal justice system is important to the fabric of our community because it affects the lives of so many people and offers the chance for a second chance. We are working to improve our bond system so non-violent offenders are promptly released on personal bond. I supported the creation of the Public Defender Program and increased funding for individuals who cannot afford legal services on their own. I believe indigent defense deserves additional funding to ensure a level playing field.

**A3.** If someone enters into a plea agreement in my court, I confirm the person fully understands the ramifications of the plea. I work extremely hard to treat every single person who enters my court equally. Through the years, I have worked to improve the court's indigent legal services because I believe every person, whether they have retained or court appointed counsel, should receive quality legal advice and defense.

**A4.** We must prioritize treatment over incarceration. I preside over cases where people who are ready to make a change in their life, but do not have the necessary personal infrastructure or familial support. As Judge, I will continue to advocate for additional resources to be prioritized for treatment options, counseling, and medical help because people affected by drug addiction or mental health crises do not belong in jail.

## 427TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

### Tamara Needles (D)

Unopposed

## 450TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

### Brad Urrutia (D)

Unopposed

## 460TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

### Geoffrey Puryear (R)

Unopposed

### Selena Alvarenga (D)

**Background:** I've defended the indigent and at-risk juveniles for 23 yrs. I'll bring my experience and my perspective as a gay immigrant to run a fair court and promote safety and justice.

**Education:** Worked my way through community college, earned a BBA from Our Lady of the Lake and a JD from St. Mary's in San Antonio. I also obtained my citizenship while in law school.

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

**Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/selenaforjudge>

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/1fGAZcqISR0>

**A1.** Experience, Knowledge, and Empathy. I've been a trial attorney my whole career. I have hands-on experience with what works and what doesn't in our criminal justice system. I will examine each case individually to help set victims and offenders on a path to rehabilitation and restoration, instead of being trapped in a system that doesn't work for them. My goal is to work with both the defense and the prosecution to find the best outcome for the individuals involved and the community as a whole.

**A2.** What happens in the courtroom affects all of us, whether you or someone you know has been in the criminal justice system or the victim of a crime, or if you're a taxpayer. I believe our community wants our courts to reflect our values - that means responding to threats to community safety, while taking a long-term approach to solving the cycles of abuse, violence, and poverty. Mass incarceration has proven wasteful and cruel, and together, we will change the system for the better.

**A3.** Every individual who sets foot in the courtroom deserves to be listened to and understood, not judged based on race, wealth, or identity - that is how I will run my courtroom. I also believe that Judges should start



playing a role as advocates for measures that improve equity and accessibility in our local justice system, like indigent defense, diversion, bail reform, and victim support. Without a level playing field, no Judge can truly be impartial and guarantee equal opportunities for justice.

**A4.** End the school to prison pipeline, don't use jail/prison as makeshift clinics and shelters, and don't detain people just because they can't afford bail. Incarceration is for those who pose a safety threat - it does not heal the damage done by crime. The fact is a majority of offenders are eventually released. If they don't have a chance to reenter society productively, many will go on to reoffend. Prioritize real solutions to these challenges, and incarceration and recidivism rates will go down.

### Amy Meredith (D)

**Background:** Fought for progressive causes for 20 years in the courtroom and in our community; I am a community leader and will bring my extensive courtroom experience to the bench.

**Education:** Bachelor's Social Work, Southwest Texas State University, J.D University of Denver College of Law

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

**Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/amymeredithforjudge>

**A1.** I have worked in all aspects of our criminal justice system, as a victim counselor, a staff attorney, a defense attorney and as a prosecutor. I will bring my extensive trial experience, and my social work background to focus on victims, to hold law enforcement to community expectations, to prioritize violent offenses and to deliver justice as swiftly as possible to defendants and our community.

**A2.** This court presides over capital murders to low level drug cases. I will focus on justice by instituting efficiencies to the court docket and prioritizing violent offenders. I have been a chief prosecutor in this exact type of court for almost 8 years and will bring that experience to this bench.

**A3.** I will ensure that an equal opportu-





# LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

## 460TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

### Amy Meredith (D) (continued)

nity justice is afforded by making it a priority in my courtroom. Dignity and respect is a nec-

essary cornerstone of criminal justice. I will treat everyone with the respect they deserve, whether they are lawyers, defendants or victims. I will hold law enforcement accountable and I will do everything in my power to make sure defendants get quality representation.

**A4.** My social work background gives me a unique perspective on the need for resources for a permanent transition out of the criminal justice system. Those experiencing addictions, homelessness or a mental health crisis need programs to strengthen

their chances of not returning. Not only will I continue to emphasize diversion programs, I will partner with others to facilitate new programs and to provide additional resources, like the local unions to promote job placement or apprenticeships.

## COUNTY COMMISSIONER

- Q1.** Explain how this office is important to your constituents and provide details of your plans for improvement.
- Q2.** What strategies will you use to ensure open communication between the county government and residents?
- Q3.** What are your top environmental and land development concerns and how do you plan to address them?
- Q4.** How will you address future transportation needs in the county?
- .....

## PRECINCT 1

### Solomon Arcoven (R)

Unopposed

### Jeff Travillion (D)

Unopposed

## PRECINCT 3

### Becky Bray (R)

Unopposed

### Valinda Bolton (D)

**Background:** Two term Texas state representative - HD47, nationally recognized advocate for prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault, rape crisis counselor and lifelong Democrat



**Education:** I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Baylor and Master of Science in Human Development and Family Studies from Texas Tech

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

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/ValindaBoltonforTravisCC3>

**A1.** The wide range of services the county provides are essential to health and wellness. The next commissioner will face a difficult budget w/ the tax revenue caps imposed by the legislature. I will work to make sure we

continue to provide all of our essential services, protect vulnerable citizens and county workers' pay and working conditions. We must do more with less, reform our criminal justice system, conserve land and water, and fix our utterly dysfunctional transportation system.

**A2.** When I was in the legislature I put a premium on constituent services, which I felt was as important as any part of my legislative agenda. I will bring that same commitment to my role as County Commissioner. I will keep an open door policy to make sure that I am accessible at all times. I believe that having input from stakeholders who would be affected by commissioner's court decisions is a good way to keep constituents happy and is also the best way to make those decisions correctly.

**A3.** The pressures of growth threaten long term water security and exacerbate dangers from flood, fire and drought - inevitable considering our climate crisis. While pursuing affordability we must conserve entire watersheds & increase public lands. The County is insufficiently prepared for disaster - isolated developments are not capable of being evacuated safely. To increase our capacity for land use planning I would support Travis County pursuing county land use authority in our legislative agenda.

**A4.** Travis County roadways are operating beyond their capacity causing gridlock, human misery and death. We must act deci-

sively to decrease traffic congestion by alleviating choke points and by reducing total vehicles using our roads. We must participate in regional transit planning and invest heavily in shuttles, park and ride, and a multi-modal trail system for Travis County (a transportation system other metro counties in Texas have.) We can leverage toll funds to invest in trails and transit.

### Ann Howard (D)

**Background:** I served as Executive Director of the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO), an alliance of over 50 governmental and non-profit groups dedicated to homelessness.



**Education:** I entered the University of Texas in 1981, where I earned a Bachelor of Arts, a Master's of Public Affairs degree, and Juris Doctorate from the Texas Law School.

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

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

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/jbNWOT21CAE>

**A1.** I decided to run because Travis County deserves a leader who is an innovator and a collaborator. The 3.5% revenue cap imposed on counties by the state, unfortunately, doesn't lower taxes in a meaningful way. Instead, it reduces the quality of essential services voters depend on and blocks our ability to manage growth effectively. I will work to ensure our priorities are not compromised. My top priorities for Precinct 3: transportation and safety, climate change, and criminal justice reform.

**A2.** Effective two-way constituent communication will be critical to my office. To provide proactive opportunities for constituents to engage, I will use multiple strategies, including constituent management soft-

ware, constituent meetings, correspondence protocols, community forums, and various media and social media programs.

**A3.** As Commissioner, I will protect our open spaces and water resources. The Colorado River is the sole source of water for many. I will take a leadership role in state water-supply planning efforts. Travis County has a history of flooding - and the frequency is increasing, thanks to climate change. Travis County must adequately engage in flood mitigation planning. Great work has been done through the use of conservation easements to protect our lands - and more should be done.

**A4.** We must play a leadership role at regional planning entities to leverage our strengths at the state and federal levels. Too many of our roads continue to be dangerous, and it takes too long to get to places we need to go. Roads will play a vital part in protecting our communities as people move into the Wildland-Urban Interface, placing more homes at risk of wildfire than ever before. We need to make sure that in the event of an emergency, we can move people out of neighborhoods to safety.

### Shiloh Newman (D)

**Background:** Proud to have been raised in Austin. Small business owner since 1995. Loving husband and father. President of LTYA. Numerous non-profits. Love my city. Hate the traffic.



**Education:** Bachelor of Business Administration Texas State University

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

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

**A1.** Austin is a wonderful place to live but an awful city for commuting to work or anywhere for that matter. I have spent my life in Austin watching one public transporta-

# LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

## PRECINCT 3

### Shiloh Newman (D) (continued)

tion disaster after another. We need to address the problem of workers getting to work. I have spent a lot of time learning how to work within a budget to create my solution. This tool will have great value to the citizens of Travis county as we spend hard earned tax dollars to improve roads and public transportation.

**A2.** I believe in having an open line of communication between local government and residents. This is extremely important but currently neglected. Town hall meetings are a thing of the past. I believe we should bring them back these meetings on quarterly schedule and stop blasting our political rants on facebook which seems to create a lot of hate. We should learn to speak to one another face to face with respect as our parents did.

**A3.** I am an outdoors person and spend most of my days working or playing outside. I am passionate about keeping the world clean and safe for my kid's children. We can't stop the growth of Austin nor should we. A city is like a person. You are green and grow-

ing or ripe and rotten. We need to grow responsibly but keep taxes in line or we will all be looking for somewhere else to live as good people will be forced out of the Austin area. Affordable housing is at crisis level in western Travis county.

**A4.** Blow up all the roads and highways and start over. Kidding, sort of. Could there be a bigger problem facing Travis county right now? I don't have the answer to this issue yet. It is one that will consume me night and day should I represent the voters in office. I can tell you that I will not allow billions of dollars be wasted on another Capitol Metro plan which seems to be a skipping record for the last 25 years. Strategic planning and proper scrutiny is needed when dealing with mass transit.

### Sheri Soltes (D)

**Background:** I am running to make our roads safe, guard our green spaces and support first responders. I have 24 years of federal, state and municipal legislative advocacy experience.



**Education:** University of Texas School of Law, JD with Honors, 1984 University of Texas at Austin, BA Plan II Honors Program with High Honors, 1981 Spanish, American Sign Language

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

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

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/YXYnLOKMFUE>

**A1.** The county builds half the roads and bridges, manages the jail, courts, and elections. In Pct 3, people want safe roads, clean water and green spaces, first responders equipped to save life & property. I base this on the 3500 homes that I've canvassed personally. In office, I'll be 20% of the vote on all county-wide issues. Food justice, fair elections, criminal justice reform and sustainable energy all are compelling issues. Tools: forensic budget audit, prioritizing safety and inclusiveness.

**A2.** I will have a staff member dedicated as community liaison, office hours dedicated to meeting with and responding to constituents and monthly town halls. I will also post

weekly videos explaining what the county is doing and upcoming issues.

**A3.** Hamilton Pool Preserve - I testified at Commissioners Court 12/17/19 against the plat exceptions for an RV development that threatens the preserve and the safety of area residents. I will continue to work with "Save Hamilton Pool Preserve" and others to protect the Preserve. Requiring developers to be responsible for infrastructure, e.g. roads, lighting, green spaces. Enforcing restrictions on development. Converting county vehicles to electric, installing solar panels on county buildings.

**A4.** Continue to work with the A&M Texas Transportation Institute (<https://tti.tamu.edu/>) on all facets of transportation. I will prioritize budgeting for increased law enforcement to enforce speed limits and address reckless driving, esp by commercial vehicles. I will continue to coordinate with the City of Austin to repair roads deemed "unsatisfactory", e.g. Old Bee Caves Rd, Travis Cook Rd. Supporting protected left turns, center turn lanes, reduced speed limit.

## JUDGE, COUNTY COURT AT LAW

**Q1.** What would be your greatest strengths as a judge?

**Q2.** Explain how this office is important to your constituents and provide details of your plans for improvement.

**Q3.** How would you ensure that all individuals who enter your court receive equal opportunities for justice?

.....

## COURT AT LAW NO. 4

### Margaret Chen Kercher (D)

**Background:** Criminal defense attorney protecting the rights of the accused with a focus on helping those who cannot afford a lawyer. DWI Court & Phoenix Court attorney. Proud mom of 3.

**Education:** J.D. from Baylor Law School. Notes and Comments Editor, Baylor Law Review. B.A. in Government and Philoso-



phy with high honors from the University of Texas at Austin.

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

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

**A1.** I've dedicated the last decade of my career to breaking the cycle of incarceration and ensuring my clients, many of whom cannot afford a lawyer on their own, receive equal access to justice. I have extensive experience practicing in this court on family violence, protective orders, and other matters that regularly come before it. I will use

my experience to eliminate the backlog of cases in Court #4 and prioritize rehabilitation and treatment options for drug, alcohol, or mental health cases.

**A2.** This court has the largest backlog of cases of any misdemeanor court, preventing justice from being served. Lack of a speedy trial impacts employment, housing, and safety concerns. We need a more productive pre-trial process and to uphold current law around timelines for each side to be ready for trial. I will also work to systematically transfer all non-intimate cases to the other courts and advocate to make treatment and counseling more financially accessible.

**A3.** As the daughter of immigrants and an attorney for indigent clients, I understand the barriers that exist in the justice system and the need for systemic change. I've demonstrated a commitment to justice through my work as a criminal defense attorney and by volunteering to help immigrants in detention centers. County court judges deal

with misdemeanor offenders, who often need treatment and services rather than incarceration. I would work to break the cycles of abuse and recidivism.

### Tanisa Jeffers (D)

**Background:** I am the only candidate that has practiced both family and criminal law in Travis and the surrounding contiguous counties, with an emphasis on representing the mentally ill.

**Education:** B.J. in Journalism University of Texas, 1992 B.A. in History, University of Texas, 1992 MBA Clark Atlanta University, 1995 JD University of Texas 1999

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

**Facebook:** [http://www.facebook.com/judgejeffersforcountycourt4/?tn-str=k\\*F](http://www.facebook.com/judgejeffersforcountycourt4/?tn-str=k*F)

**A1.** I am passionate about indigent defense. It is for my community, that I enjoy my role



# LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

## COURT AT LAW NO. 4

### Tanisa Jeffers (D) (continued)

in providing justice as both a practicing Attorney and as Associate Judge. I believe in second chances and I believe that given the right set of rehabilitative circumstances, the most down and out, can overcome their past and become a contributing member of society. In ‘opportunity court’ together we have the ‘opportunity’ to resolve any underlying issues they may have.

**A2.** In my experience as a Magistrate Judge, a large majority of misdemeanor cases filed in Travis County involve assault family violence cases. County Court 4 needs a judge who will 1) seek to rehabilitate offenders who suffer from drug addiction and mental health issues; who will 2) implement a diversionary court for first-time offenders, siblings, roommates, parent-child cases, those with a mental illness, and cases involving drugs and alcohol.

**A3.** I believe in compassion, collaboration and community. I would provide much-

needed perspective as the only African American judicial candidate in this race who has handled both family and criminal cases for twenty years. Though, the African American population is only 7% in Travis County, African Americans are disproportionately represented as they account for 33% of the misdemeanor cases filed in Travis County, yet there are no African American criminal misdemeanor judges at the county level.

### Dimple Malhotra (D)

**Background:** I have worked in the field of family violence for 20 years as an advocate, staff attorney at a shelter, and chief prosecutor of the family violence unit at the DA’s office.

**Education:** In 1994, I graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in Sociology and Government. In 1997, I graduated from the University of Texas School of Law.

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



**Facebook:** [http://www.facebook.com/Judge-Dimple-Malhotra-County-Court-at-Law-4-107098254062936/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](http://www.facebook.com/Judge-Dimple-Malhotra-County-Court-at-Law-4-107098254062936/?modal=admin_todo_tour)

**Video:** [https://youtu.be/HU2\\_1WD4oAs](https://youtu.be/HU2_1WD4oAs)

**A1.** County Court 4 is a domestic violence court. I understand the complexities of these cases and the dynamics involved. I have the tools necessary to identify cases in which the risk of lethality is high, thereby enabling me to make accurate determinations about bond amounts and bond conditions. My trial experience has given me extensive knowledge of statutes and laws directly relevant to DV issues. Most importantly, I understand that DV is an epidemic that affects every member of our community.

**A2.** Approximately 4,000 misdemeanor family violence cases are filed in County Court at Law 4 every year. It is important that the docket move efficiently but not at the expense of justice. I have already implemented changes in this court to reduce the backlog of cases. I have started the process of transferring all non intimate partner cases

out of this court to other county trial courts. I have also added additional jury dockets so that more cases are able to be tried in a timely manner.

**A3.** I believe a judge is the front line of justice. Everyone impacted by domestic violence, including the accused, deserves a judge who has been in the trenches, who understands the complexity of these cases, who embraces that justice can take many forms, and who can balance passion with the necessary impartiality demanded by fairness. As a judge, it is imperative that I evaluate each case independently and fairly, and that cases are heard without unnecessary delay.

## COURT AT LAW NO. 8

### Carlos Berrera (D)

Unopposed

## COURT AT LAW NO. 9

### Kim Williams (D)

Unopposed

## DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**Q1.** Explain how this office is important to your constituents and provide details of your plans for improvement.

**Q2.** How will you manage your office in a way that will promote fairness and efficiency?

**Q3.** How can you improve the relationship between your office and law enforcement, victims, and other stakeholders?

.....

### Martin Harry (R)

Unopposed

### José Garza (D)

**Background:** I started my career as a Public Defender, served in the Obama Administration, and currently serve as the Executive Director of the Workers Defense Project.

**Education:** JD from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., 2005; Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Texas at Austin, 2001.



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

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

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/TJkrvmRE2Nk>

**A1.** The job of the District Attorney is to keep our community safe and protect our most vulnerable. In Travis Co., our most vulnerable include survivors of sexual assault, people struggling with substance abuse, and working people who are only sitting in our jail because they can’t afford to pay bail. When I am elected DA, we will build a system that lifts up working people and people of color, where substance abuse is treated like the public health crisis that it is, and where women are believed.

**A2.** As District Attorney, my office will prioritize transparency. Providing clear, consistent, and reliable data will enable our office to work with the Travis Co. community and ensure that our criminal justice system works for everyone. Right now, our system weighs most heavily against working class people and people of color. It doesn’t have to be that way. Providing clear, consistent, and reliable data to the public will promote a criminal justice system that is fair and efficient.

**A3.** Right here in Travis Co., our criminal justice system is broken. It weighs most heavily against working class people and people of color and for too long, it has ignored the needs of crime survivors. That has eroded the relationship between law enforcement, victims, and other stakeholders. When I am elected DA, we will improve these relationships by using our resources to investigate and prosecute powerful actors who have harmed the public and by prioritizing the needs of crime survivors.

### Erin Martinson (D)

**Background:** For 20 years, I have developed an expertise and provided training on holistic legal services for victims of crime. I am also an Adjunct Professor at UT, School of Law.

**Education:** University of Incarnate Word, Bachelor of Arts, 1996; University of Texas, School of Law, Juris Doctor, 1999.

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

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

**A1.** The DA’s office prosecutes felonies, juveniles and civil cases filed by the Child Protective Services. When elected, I commit to creating victim-centered sexual assault, family violence and child abuse divisions and dedicating the resources necessary to prosecuting these cases. I commit to being accountable to and transparent with my community and I will seek transformative solutions to cases that address the root cause





# LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

## Erin Martinson (D) (continued)

of criminal behavior rather than contribute to mass incarceration.

**A2.** I will value diversity in hiring and promoting to ensure that my staff better represent the communities and individuals interfacing with the justice system. I commit to maintaining a community-centered office and seek more humane ways of addressing crime. Understanding that the majority of individuals in the justice system have experienced trauma, I believe we need to address this trauma and provide tools and resources in order to help individuals heal and break free from the system.

**A3.** By setting a tone that values kindness, dignity and respect for everyone who interfaces with the office, I will set an example for others to follow. In Travis county, I have

been a leader in our long-standing community collaborations aimed at improving our response to crime. As a result, I have built relationships and trust across disciplines and, when elected, I will continue to work alongside these partners to ensure that everyone in our community is safe and feels valued.

## Margaret Moore (D)

**Background:** Former Travis Co. Juvenile Public Defender; Asst. D.A.; elected County Attorney; County Commissioner Pct. 3; Asst. Attorney General for State of Texas

**Education:** BBA UT Austin 1970 major in Accounting; JD UT School of Law 1972

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



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

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/rUHWl4vqStc>

**A1.** From Day One my mission was to reform the Criminal Justice System in Travis County. We've created new Diversion Programs; the County's first Adult Sexual Assault Unit to increase prosecution and better help survivors; the Family Violence Unit to crack down on domestic abuse, and formed the first Civil Rights Division to address police violence and discrimination in the criminal justice system. We are building on those reforms and expanding those efforts.

**A2.** As part of my reform program, I have established good management that efficiently uses tax dollars to focus on high priority violent crimes, captures data to demonstrate the effectiveness of our programs,

increases diversity within our office, and examines the fairness of our case handling and dispositions. I created a Director of Diversity & Community Engagement to work on projects such as an Expunction Expo to give people a second chance by expunging their criminal records.

**A3.** I am deeply committed to reforming these relationships. We have established and participated in numerous groups with those goals: the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee, the Interagency Sexual Assault Team, the Reentry Roundtable, Psychiatric Stakeholders, Behavioral Health Advisory Group, the DA's Civil Rights Advisory Council, the Jail Population Management Group, Center for Child Protection Board, Child Fatality Review Team, Victim Services Council, Central Texas Crisis Mgt. Team etc

## COUNTY ATTORNEY

**Q1.** What do you see as the most important function of the Office of the County Attorney?

**Q2.** What three areas in the County Attorney's office need improvement and how will you address these issues?

## Mike Denton (D)

**Background:** U.S Army Officer (1973–1979); Associate Attorney Austin, TX (1984–1986); Assistant County Attorney, Travis County, TX (1986–1998); Judge, County Court-at-Law #4 (1999–2019)

**Education:** Graduate of United States Military Academy, West Point, NY. (Class of 1973) Graduate of the University of Texas at Austin School of Law, Austin, TX. (Class of 1984)

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

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

**A1.** Aggressively enforcing Travis County laws and ensuring that our community is defended from corporate polluters, meddling by a Republican Governor or Legislature and ensuring freedom and equality for all under the law.



**A2.** 1) Closer coordination and cooperation being the law enforcement and civilian leadership of the office. 2) Reexamination and possible changes to procedures the office follows as it respects to criminal and civil cases. 3) Greater communication from the office to the community to ensure those we serve are aware of what we are doing and why and to allow them an opportunity to speak directly to myself and everyone else who works in the office.

## Laurie Eiserloh (D)

**Background:** 1st Chair Trial Lawyer, hundreds of cases; restored AIDS funding in TX; sued Greg Abbott over SB4; wrote laws against hate crimes; won same-sex benefits for City employees.

**Education:** J.D., UT School of Law, 1990; Board Certified by TX Board Legal Special-



ization in Personal Injury Trial, and Labor & Employment Law; B.A. with Highest Honors, UT Austin, 1986

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

**Facebook:** <http://electlaurie.com>

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/rTP1gKpXUYc>

**A1.** The County Attorney supervises 230 lawyers & staff on thousands of cases; advises Travis County elected officials regarding duties; obtains protective orders for domestic violence victims; & obtains involuntary commitments for the mentally ill. I'm a Progressive Democrat, & I'll use my experience as an attorney & reformer to protect workers; stop the backlog of domestic violence cases in Family Court; sue big corporations causing climate change; & reform the criminal justice system.

**A2.** Travis County has made progress using Diversion Courts to give people a 2nd chance & has reduced the use of cash bail. But there's more to do: establish a Mental Health Diversion Center; stop the backlog of domestic violence cases in Family Court; expand diversion & specialty courts; reject cases with police bias at the outset; have representation for defendants 24-7; make expunction available to all who qualify; separate bond review from plea agreements; continue to reform cash bail; and more.

## Delia Garza (D)

**Background:** I am the first Latina elected to the Austin City Council. I'm a mom, a former Austin firefighter, a former Assistant Attorney General, and an occasional runner.

**Education:** I'm the proud product of K-12 public schools. I received my undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University and my J.D. from Gonzaga University School of Law.

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

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

**A1.** The County Attorney has several important functions. First, she is charged with the prosecution of misdemeanor-level offenses, with a focus on positive outcomes, rehabilitation, protecting victims, and equitable compassionate practices. Other important functions include protecting our natural resources by requiring compliance with environmental regulations, and advising and empowering Travis County elected officials to fight state overreach and to more fully address our affordability challenges.

**A2.** We must address racial disparities in



# LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

## COUNTY ATTORNEY

### Delia Garza (D) (continued)

our system with reform efforts that include declining to charge marijuana offenses and offenses that are usually a byproduct of poverty like food theft. Archaic and failed policies throughout the system have distracted us from what is really a public and mental health crisis. I commit to better collaboration with mental health organizations and the Sobering Center. We need bold leadership willing to fight state overreach like voter suppression tactics.

### Dominic Selvera (D)

**Background:** I'm a criminal defense attorney. Most of my docket involves representing indigent clients who can't afford to hire private counsel. I'm licensed in state and federal court.

**Education:** Bachelor of Arts, Management, May 2002, Concordia University Austin; Juris Doctor, May 2016, St. Mary's University School of Law

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



**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/dominicselvera2020/>

**A1.** The most important function of the Travis County Attorney's Office is to set policy for the prosecution of misdemeanor offenses. Misdemeanor offenses make up the majority of criminal charges filed in Travis County. Our misdemeanor policy affects victims of crime, defendants, family members, and our community. It's important that the policies of the County Attorney's Office reflect the values of our progressive community. It's my priority to focus on programs that make Travis County safer.

**A2.** 1) We will end the unjust cash bail system, 2) full decriminalization of marijuana cases less than 4 oz, and 3) fix the backlog of domestic violence cases that are funneled into County Court 4. Our new policy will recommend the presumption of release for misdemeanor cases with conditions added when appropriate. We will dismiss all marijuana cases and decline to prosecute future cases. We will advocate to move domestic violence cases to all county courts and offer a restorative justice option.

## SHERIFF

**Q1.** Explain how this office is important to your constituents and provide details of your plans for improvement.

**Q2.** How would you improve community trust in your office?

**Q3.** Describe how your office would improve interactions with people suffering a mental health crisis.

### Raul Vargas (R)

Unopposed

### Liz Donegan (D)

**Background:** Army Veteran, Travis County Sheriff Office Corrections Officer, Senior Sergeant Austin Police Department (RET), Intl' subject matter expert on violence against women.



**Education:** BS Social Psychology, Park University (magna cum laude) West Point / UT Leadership Academy Master Peace Officer and Trainer

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

**Facebook:** <http://Lizforsheriff>

**A1.** As a long-time law enforcement officer and nationally recognized expert in the area of sexual violence, I bring the knowledge and expertise required to successfully execute on our most important initiatives. I will bring best practices to key areas of the Travis County Sheriff's Office, including response to and investigations of sexual assault, ongoing challenges with the women's

jail and incarceration, alternative programs for those afflicted with mental health issues or addiction.

**A2.** We must begin by reaching out to marginalized communities and having conversations of substance. Implementing practice and policy that focuses on community collaboration and de-escalation techniques. Looking at the judicial system with eyes toward progressive approaches that are trauma informed and heavily focused on diversion programs that will end the door of generational incarceration. Education, communication and collaboration are keys to success in changing the culture within TCSO.

**A3.** I will introduce an evidence-based, progressive approach to help end the revolving door of incarceration for those afflicted with mental illness and addiction. We will work with community leaders and implement effective programs that address the root causes, such as trauma, and provide a path out of repeat incarcerations to a productive and fulfilling life. Through my leadership, and new policy and practice we will ensure that every community members are treated with dignity and respect.

### Sally Hernandez (D)

**Background:** Elected Sheriff (2017–Current). Elected Constable, Precinct 3 (2013–2016). Chief of Investigations for the Travis County District Attorney's Office (2005–2012).

**Education:** B.S. Criminal Justice from St. Edward's University. Master Peace Officer Certification.

**Website:** <http://www.vote4sally.com>

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/Vote4Sally>

**A1.** I'll continue to reform the criminal justice system, establish strong partnerships within the community, and ensure deputies and corrections officers are trained and equipped to serve the needs of Travis County. I have nearly 40 years of law enforcement experience and am the only candidate in this race who has led three law enforcement agencies. I've been a chief executive since 2005, balanced county agency budgets, and have a proven record of leadership and earning trust.

**A2.** I'll build trust with the community by continuing and expanding upon the initiatives we implemented over the last three years that are achieving great results. These include, but are not limited to Building Bridges Town Hall meetings, crime initiatives that respond to citizen reports and statistical trends, a robust community outreach team, involvement in our schools and



alliances with organizations to decriminalize mental illness and connect families to resources.

**A3.** We're already making a positive impact in this arena. We've partnered with several local organizations including NAMI of Central Texas and Integral Care. Our deputies and corrections officers are receiving specialized training designed to help them de-escalate a mental health crisis and divert the patient to care rather than jail. We also offer classes to the families of inmates with mental illness that teach them how to get help in a crisis and avoid situations that can lead to arrest.

### John Loughran (D)

No Response Received

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# LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

## COUNTY CONSTABLE

- Q1.** Explain how this office is important to your constituents and provide details of your plans for improvement.
- Q2.** How would you improve community trust in your office?
- Q3.** How can your office improve the efficiency of the court system?
- .....

### PRECINCT 1

#### Michael Carter (D)

**Background:** Retired police officer. Retired Code Compliance Officer. Texas Army National Guard. 12 years. Past Community Resources officer. Member of the E.S.D. board. Volunteer various

**Education:** Master police officer certificate. Graduate Old Anderson High School. Attended various Colleges with over 100 hours of college credits. Over 3000 hours of police training.

**Facebook:** <http://michaelcartercampaign@yahoo.com>

**A1.** This office has built the trust of the community, Officers of this unity have been and will have a support for the community as provided by its leader. The elected constable must have support from all of its officers who will get better training of community, values, responsibilities, vision, self awareness of community needs and keeping all citizens safe. As a leader i must understand the importance of being seen as a person who cares about the citizens, by doing the right thing.

**A2.** Trust must always be obtained by honesty and integrity. Truthfully communication will build greater good for the community. Regarding the office, law enforcement is critical to our community but it can be a partnership. We need to be in the community more. I'd like to see a youth leadership program with the schools so students who may be interested in the field learn about law enforcement. More information to community organizations and churches about our services and invite community leaders.

**A3.** Improvement can only be achieved with some changes in the law as it deals with communication from the different court systems, municipal, county and Justice of the Peace. There needs to be a study into the Truancy court systems, to find out the root causes as to why kids are not in school.

#### Sam Holt (D)

No Response Received

#### Tonya Nixon (D)

**Background:** Native (44yrs old) of Austin, TX. Mother of one son. 15 years law enforcement exp. TJCTC Education Comm., Member ILEETA Assc., Eastern Travis County Colony Park Advisory Comm

**Education:** Austin Community College, Virginia College, and Colorado Tech. Extensive training Advanced Tcole Cert and Civil Process Proficiency Certification

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

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

**A1.** In addition to our primary function of executing civil process, we provide protection, enforce laws, and participate in community outreach services. We are licensed peace officers and we must exercise due diligence while being courteous and mindful at all times. I plan to revisit policies to ensure the constable's office is providing the best service possible. I will lead the effort to create a Crisis Intervention Team and ensure all deputies have their Mental Health Certification.

**A2.** The only way to effectively serve your community is by having a direct connection without an official request or directive. Have presence. I want to bring peace of mind to those frightened by police through community education, awareness, and involvement. By being transparent, increasing patrols in residential areas, and working alongside citizens in activities with housing developments and neighborhood associations, we can achieve a safer and more-informed community while building trust.

**A3.** Constables are the chief process servers for the Justice of Peace Court. Having a



healthy relationship with the Judge and staff helps the office operate efficiently. I plan to continue to maintain a strong working relationship with the court as we work to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline and provide the citizens of Travis County the best customer service.

#### Janie Serna (D)

**Background:** I want to earn your support in my race to become the next Constable of Precinct 1. I'm a life-long Democrat and long-time resident of Precinct 1. I'm a career public servant.

**Education:** Associates Degree, Criminal Justice; Associates Degree, Corrections

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

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/votejaniepc1>

**A1.** Since Constable's offices are not "call driven," there is a genuine opportunity to develop police-community partnerships, a foundation for communities that are safer and [ultimately] more caring places to live. We will focus on issues important to the community, including investing in our children. Estimates show that children are 1/3 of our population; they are 100% of our future. I will create a Constable's Veterans Advisory Board, providing a bridge for veterans needing assistance.

**A2.** The community expects that all law enforcement officers: 1. be knowledgeable in their job, 2. exercise compassion in the performance of their duties - treating every person they encounter with the respect and dignity that they deserve, 3. use common sense when working. I will ensure that these expectations are met. We, as a department, will ACT - accountability, collaboration, and transparency - in a way that the community does not doubt us. *[Portion of response removed; does not meet criteria.]*

**A3.** The first step to fixing a problem is identifying the problem, so, to fix any problems, elect me. Once elected, I will meet with the existing team, find out our equipment needs - are the computers old and slow, for example. Team engagement is key. I will meet with the JP, find out if there is a delay in de-



living papers and/or a failure to properly research locations resulting in invalid attempts. I need to evaluate processes, determine whether processes are duplicated or can be streamlined.

### PRECINCT 2

#### Adan Ballesteros (D)

**Background:** I am a Certified Master Peace Officer with 41 years of Law Enforcement experience. 21 of those years in the Constables Office, 12 of those years as Constable of Precinct 2

**Education:** Attended Del Mar College - Corpus Christi and UT - Austin Graduated from Texas DPS Law Enforcement Academy. Many Various Certifications including LEMIT Leadership Course

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

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/TCCConstablePct2/>

**A1.** My office provides a necessary service in that our mandated duty is to serve civil process and we serve it with compassion and respect to all parties affected. My plan for improvement is to continue to provide increased training to my Deputies to ensure they are knowledgeable to new or revised procedures. With the population exploding exponentially in Travis County, I am also planning to allocate more resources towards our Civil Department to keep up with the increasing amount of civil process.

**A2.** Outreach is very important to me and I believe that is the main building block towards achieving the trust of the community. We participate in many community events in our precinct, providing visible safety and security for our citizens. I have also instituted an outreach program that provides benefits to our youth, elderly, homeless, and military veterans. I am also planning to bring back my Constable's Board of Citizens that will bring together members of the community to discuss issues.

**A3.** We have improved our efficiency by moving towards being mostly paperless in our office. We have also introduced a new





# LOCAL TRAVIS COUNTY

## PRECINCT 2

### Adan Ballesteros (D) *(continued)*

entry program called CivilServe that allows our staff the ability to enter a civil paper and assign it to a Deputy in seconds. CivilServe also provides real-time updates that is accessible to anyone wanting to know the status of civil process on a particular case. We are working towards the goal of completing the entire process of entering, serving, and filing in 48 hours.

### Deke Pierce (D)

**Background:** I am offering over 30 years of solid military, correctional and law enforcement experience; of which just over 22 years have been as a dedicated and proactive law enforcement.



**Education:** 2019 Graduate FBI/LEEDA Trilogy 2005 Graduate with Honors - Associate of Applied Science Degree in Business Administration. 1992 Graduate of the East Texas Police Academy

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

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

**A1.** I am here before asking for your support and vote for Travis County Pct. 2 Constable. The constable's office does not write laws, nor does it interrupt laws. The constable is elected to a constitutionally created office for a four-year term within each justice precinct. The constable is an authorized peace officer and is the chief process server of the precinct. Plans for improvement consist of treating the people and employees with the dignity and respect they deserve.

**A2.** Public trust is extremely important, you must trust your law enforcement to do their job and do the right thing. With nearly

three decades in law enforcement, I can say that I have always been very proud of my career choice. Law enforcement is a profession few can understand if they are not actually a part of it. It is a career I chose because I wanted a job that I enjoyed and one that I felt would make a difference. To do the right thing all of the time not just when people are watching.

**A3.** By being a good steward of taxpayer dollars and working with the courts to better serve each of their offices will only enhance the performance of the court systems and will better serve the people of Travis County. It's about building relationships and working collaboratively with others for the good of the people.

## PRECINCT 3

### Stacy Suits (D)

Unopposed

## PRECINCT 4

### George Morales (D)

Unopposed

## PRECINCT 5

### Carlos B. Lopez (D)

Unopposed

## COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

### Marilyn Jackson (R)

Unopposed

### Bruce Elfant (D)

Unopposed

# LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

## DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

### 26TH DISTRICT

#### Donna King (R)

Unopposed

#### Brian McConnell (D)

Unopposed

### 395TH DISTRICT

#### Ryan Larson (R)

Unopposed

#### Lucio Del Toro (D)

Unopposed

### 425TH DISTRICT

#### Betsy F. Lambeth (R)

Unopposed

## DISTRICT ATTORNEY

### 26TH DISTRICT

#### Shawn Dick (R)

Unopposed

## COUNTY ATTORNEY

#### Dee Hobbs (R)

Unopposed

#### Stan O. Springerly (D)

Unopposed

## COUNTY COMMISSIONER

### PRECINCT 1

#### Nikki Gonzales (R)

Unopposed

#### Terry Cook (D)

Unopposed

### PRECINCT 3

#### Valerie Covey (R)

Unopposed

#### Sharon Cummings (D)

Unopposed

## SHERIFF

#### Robert Chody (R)

Unopposed

#### Mike Gleason (D)

Unopposed

## SAVE TIME— USE OUR INTERACTIVE VOTERS GUIDE . . .

At [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org), find your personal ballot and *Voters Guide* information for the candidates. Don't see a question that meets your burning need? Candidate campaign websites on [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) make it easy to delve deeper too. Make your decisions, then print them out to take with you to the polling place. Remember, no mobile devices are allowed in the voting booth, but printed *Voters Guide* info is.

# LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

## COUNTY CONSTABLE

- Q1.** Explain how this office is important to your constituents and provide details of your plans for improvement.
- Q2.** How would you improve community trust in your office?
- Q3.** How can your office improve the efficiency of the court system?
- .....

## PRECINCT 1

**Vinnie Cherrone (R)**

Unopposed

**Mickey Chance (D)**

Unopposed

## PRECINCT 2

**Jeff Anderson (R)**

**Background:** I am a business owner, and a real estate agent. I am also retired from the Travis County Sheriff's Office, and the retired from the US Air Force Reserves.



**Education:** College studies: Community College of the Air Force, Liberty University, and American Military University. Master Peace Officer, Master Corrections Officer, Training Instructor.

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

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

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/kEJ3ajFNIXA>

**A1.** My plan is, create increased visibility for both the courts and citizens. I want to make sure the deputies are fully equipped and staffed so they can work in school zones, and other high traffic areas needing attention. I also understand Integrity within Precinct 2 Constables office is of major importance. We as an office cannot gain the trust of the community for which we serve if we do not serve the highest moral and ethical standards. Integrity within our organization is paramount.

**A2.** Leading with transparency, experience, and integrity. We don't want to forget about accessibility. We want an office where citizen's voices can be heard. Meeting with citizens and citizens groups to share with them what we do, and empower them to collaboratively work with us to make our community united as a whole. We do not want to be good, we strive to be great. We must be initiative driven, striving to cultivate a safer and stronger community.

**A3.** A problem seen within the court system is the number of defendants that fail to show up for scheduled court appearances. When this happens, it not only disrupts the court docket, but it also contributes to additional court actions such as failure to appear or contempt of court proceedings. The Constable's Office assists the court system by helping the court locate persons whose presence in court is required. More personnel added to the constables as the county grows is vital to help with this.

**Renee Harrell (R)**

**Background:** I've been a licensed Texas peace officer since 1994, working in dispatch, jail, patrol, tactical/undercover operations, narcotics investigations, criminal and civil law.



**Education:** 1989 graduate of Copperas Cove High School; 1994 graduate of Central Texas College 60th Regional Police Academy. Hold a Master peace officer license.

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

**Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/reneeHarrellforconstable2>

**A1.** Constables are peace officers that serve civil process, enforce environmental laws, conduct traffic initiatives, respond to calls when requested or when a crime is observed and perform all related law enforcement duties. As constable, I will work to provide a mentor program in area schools and ensure immediate access to area schools in the event of a critical incident. I will ensure deputies receive advanced training in response to active threats and dealing with those in mental health crisis.

**A2.** Through mentor programs in area schools and by serving the community with honesty, integrity and accountability. Getting involved in community activities and interacting with citizens is important for them to see that we are them and they are us. I will be transparent and available to the citizens.

**A3.** Our office is involved with every level of the court system and is responsible for effectively communicating with private attorneys, prosecutors, court clerks, plaintiffs and defendants. Our job requires a clear understanding of what must transpire with each document.

Communication and a strong working relationship with the courts, clerks, attorneys, and parties involved increases efficiency. This ensures court process is dealt with in a timely manner and to the satisfaction of all parties.

**Gregory Papst (D)**

**Background:** As a resident in the Williamson/Travis County area for 49 years, I have served as a deputy constable for over 25 years.



**Education:** Graduate of Round Rock High School in 1981 and subsequent graduate of the police academy in 1989

**Facebook:** <http://Papst2020>

**A1.** Having lived and served this community since 1969 along with my 25 years of experience with the service of civil process, warrant service, juvenile law and apprehension and community policing, I believe in taking my many years of knowledge and working with you, the community, to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the public. The best way is to get into our com-

## VOTING BY MAIL

Any registered voter may vote by mail for the March 3, 2020 election if they meet at least one of the following eligibility requirements:

- Are 65 years of age or older; or are sick or disabled (eligible for mail ballots for an entire calendar year, all others must apply before each election)
- Expect to be absent from the county during the entire early voting period including Election Day, AND provide an out-of-county address where the ballot can be mailed, AND include dates they can receive mail at the out-of-county address\*
- Confined in jail, but otherwise eligible to vote

\*Voters who are absent from the county because they are active duty military or because they reside overseas should complete a Federal Post Card Application. Information and forms are available from the counties or state office.

The procedure:

1. Request the application from the county, which is available for download from the county elections or secretary of state websites, or by calling or emailing the appropriate office. The application is known as an ABBM (application for a ballot by mail).
2. **IMPORTANT**—The application **MUST** be completed and **received** by the early voting clerk in Travis or Williamson County Elections Division office **by February 21, 2020. NOTE:** If you submit an Application for a Ballot by Mail by fax or email, it must also be submitted by mail and received in our office within four business days of your electronic submission.
3. Once received, the mail ballot **MUST** be completed and **received back by the appropriate early voting clerk no later than Election Day, March 3, 2020, or postmarked on March 3 and received by March 4, or by March 9 if mailed outside the US.**

# LOCAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY

## PRECINCT 2

### Gregory Papst (D) (continued)

munity and continue to work together as a team, with an open mind.

**A2.** Our team will be a positive contribution to Williamson County by maintaining an open mind and transparent communication. We will provide mental health training for all officers to include de-escalation training to keep all parties involved safe. Our officers will be proactive while in your neighborhoods serving civil process always watching and willing to help a community member, working traffic in school zones or stopping to talk to a parent or homeowner about their concerns.

**A3.** Our mission is to provide a professional and knowledgeable Constable's office. We will ensure proficiency for our deputies in the service of civil process, state laws and community contact and policing. We vow to provide exceptional service through the use

of new technology to receive, serve and return all civil process. This will ensure efficient use of tax payer dollars.

### Robert Tijerina (D)

No Response Received

## PRECINCT 3

### Kevin Stofle (R)

Unopposed

## PRECINCT 4

### Paul Leal (R)

Unopposed

### Hoby Smith (D)

**Background:** Retired peace officer with 30 years experience.

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



**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/HobyforConstablePct4>

**A1.** The constable's office performs duties related to civil law and process which are constitutional requirements set out in the Texas Constitution. Constable's and deputies commissioned under the office are certified peace officers and licensed by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and derive their authority from the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

**A2.** Hoby believes in a "WE" mindset when it comes to public service. Elected officials are in office to serve the community they are elected to represent. Hoby believes communication and collaboration is the key to solving problems. Hoby will be accessible to those he is elected to serve and will provide an ear to listen and collaborate with the community to solve problems and will communicate effectively with all constituents.

**A3.** The constable's office can improve the court system by providing effective and ef-

ficient service of civil process. When defendants, witnesses, and plaintiffs are in court for their proceedings it is more likely to be settled and the case disposed making room for new cases to move forward on the docket.

### Perry Travis (D)

No Response Received

## COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

### Larry Gaddes (R)

Unopposed



## NEW VOTING SYSTEM

There is a new voting system in place for Travis County and Williamson County elections. Both counties are now using an ExpressVote Ballot Marking Device (BMD), which uses touch-screen technology but produces a paper-based ballot for tabulation. It's modern, secure, and allows you to verify your selections before casting your vote.

For more information, please visit:

<http://traviscountyclerk.org/ecclerk>

[/Content.do?code=meet-your-new](http://Content.do?code=meet-your-new-voting-system)

[-voting-system](http://Content.do?code=meet-your-new-voting-system)

or

[www.wilco.org/wilcovotes](http://www.wilco.org/wilcovotes)



## VOTE

At check-in you will receive a blank ballot. Insert this ballot into any ExpressVote BMD. Follow instructions on the screen for making your selections. Poll workers will be available if you need assistance.

## REVIEW

When prompted, print your ballot. Carefully review all the selections printed on the card to be sure it accurately reflects your choices.



## SCAN

You MUST then scan your ballot into the DS200 to cast your vote. Do NOT leave the polling location with your ballot.





# CENSUS AND REDISTRICTING

## THE 2020 CENSUS IMPACTS REDISTRICTING IN TEXAS!

### What is the Census, and how does it impact you?

- **The Census is a count of all persons living in the U.S.** It is conducted every 10 years by the federal government, and it is mandated by the Constitution.
- **Resources for the Community:** We track changes in our population in order to know where to send resources and federal services. Census data is used to distribute over \$800 billion in federal funds annually. States use this money to pay for services and programs that are absolutely vital to the community, such as healthcare, highway funding, and education. Each person counted in your community means additional federal dollars in your community.
- **Basis for Representation:** These population changes also have an affect on our democracy. The Census count is used to determine how many seats each state gets in Congress and how district lines are drawn at every level of government.
- **Community Development:** Census data impacts planning and development in your community. It guides decisions on where to build businesses, subdivisions, schools, and roads. It is used by healthcare officials to plan resources and appropriate care for the surrounding population.

### When will the Census be conducted?

Starts: March 2020  
Ends: July 2020

### How can people complete the Census questionnaire?

- Online
- Over the phone
- The paper form
- Or, by responding to a Census worker at your home

### What the Census will send you in the mail

On or between	You'll receive
March 12–20	An invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census. (Some households will also receive paper questionnaires.)
March 16–24	A reminder letter. <b>If you haven't responded yet:</b>
March 26–April 3	A reminder postcard.
April 8–16	A reminder letter and paper questionnaire.
April 20–27	A final reminder postcard before the Census follows up in person.

### Are Census Responses Confidential? Yes.

- All Census data are protected by federal law to be kept confidential for 72 years.
- The Census Bureau cannot share data with any other federal agency.
- All Census Bureau employees swear to a lifetime oath to protect respondent information and will be fined \$250,000 and/or face up to 5 years imprisonment for wrongful disclosure.

“It is your right to be counted! Filling out the form is fast, easy, and secure.”  
—GRACE CHIMENE, PRESIDENT, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

For more information about the 2020 Census: <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2019/comm/2020-everyone.html>



## REDISTRICTING—NEW DISTRICT MAPS TO BE DRAWN AFTER 2020 CENSUS

Once we know how many people live in Texas, the state legislature will start the redistricting process and redraw the boundaries of the state legislative and congressional districts so that they are equal in population. These election maps will be used for the next decade.

Because of partisan gerrymandering, the way the district boundaries are drawn determine the power of your vote. The boundaries determine how you are represented, which other communities are included in your district, and ultimately, who will be elected to represent you. Those elected officials then go on to make important decisions that impact you and your family on a daily basis, such as the quality of the air you breathe, the quality of your child's school, and how much you pay in taxes.

### What Can You Do to Influence the New District Maps?

The Legislature has already begun the process for the 2021 redrawing of state and federal legislative districts. In the fall of 2019, the Texas House Redistricting Committee started holding **Public Input Hearings** for the 2021 redistricting. The Texas Senate Redistricting Committee will begin holding hearings in March of 2020. (Schedules can be found below.)

Public comments at the committee hearings will be used to assist the Legislature when it draws district boundaries.

### Public Input Hearings Schedule

You are invited to attend a local public hearing to let your state legislators know your concerns, where your community is located and encourage them to conduct a transparent process. You can find guidance for how to testify on the League webpage, see below.

If you are unable to attend a hearing and would still like to provide testimony, you may email or call legislators on the Redistricting Committee. A list of committee member information can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2KrYk0N>

The League of Women Voters of Texas, working with Fair Maps Texas, is providing training in advance of many of the hearings.

### More Information:

**The League of Women Voters of Texas:** <https://my.lwv.org/texas/advocacy-issues/redistrictingcensus>

**Fair Maps Texas:** <https://www.fairmapstexas.org/>

**The Texas Legislative Council:** <https://redistricting.capitol.texas.gov>

**Texas Legislature's website:** <https://capitol.texas.gov>



## Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Founded by suffragists in 1919, The League of Women Voters of the Austin Area is a nonpartisan, all-volunteer, political organization striving to **Make Democracy Work**.

### Join Us

Membership is open to **everyone at least 16 years or older**. Annual dues are \$60 per person, \$90 for two people in the same household, and only \$5 for high school and college students.

Become a Sustaining Household for \$150 or Sustaining Individual for \$100.

For more information, please visit <https://LWVAustin.org/join-us/>

### Volunteer

Our exciting group is on the front lines of voter engagement. LWV-AA **volunteer deputy registrars (VDRs)** and others promote voter registration and work on getting people to the polls. We conduct **candidate forums**. We develop voter education campaigns and materials. Most importantly, we produce the **Voters Guide** for Travis and Williamson counties.

## Donate to the League

Because we are an all-volunteer organization, your support goes a long way in helping us to

- **Register** eligible voters
- **Produce a nonpartisan Voters Guide** every election season
- **Host informative Candidate Forums** and promote voter education
- **Fund programs like First Vote!** offering high school students voter registration and civic education
- **Advocate** at the local level to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy

LWV-AA is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations to LWV-AA are tax-deductable to the extent permitted by law.

For more information, please visit <https://LWVAustin.org/donate/>

# YOUR VOTE MATTERS