

Voter Guide for Kerr County

General Election on Tuesday – November 5, 2024



League of Women Voters - Hill Country Texas

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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan civic organization and does not support or oppose any candidate or candidates or political party or parties. This Voter Guide provides voters an opportunity to read about candidates who have filed for an office. The League of Women Voters of the Hill Country Texas makes contact with each candidate in a contested election using a variety of methods to contact and invite each candidate to participate in a county voter guide. The candidate makes the decision about responding to the voter guide invitation, as participation is voluntary. All responses to questions come directly from the candidates and are not edited by League of Women Voters.

Get Ready to Vote in the General Election in Texas!

Read both the Texas State Voter Guide and the Kerr County Voter Guide

The Texas State Voter Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of Texas with information on candidates for President and US Senate, as well as state offices like Railroad Commissioner, Texas State Courts and State Board of Education. All these elections are for offices which serve every citizen in the state of Texas. This voter guide is printed in color and has a larger paper format.

The County Voter Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of the Hill Country Texas with information on candidates for state districts like US Congress House of Representatives, Texas House of Representatives, and Court of Appeals, as well as candidates for county offices. This voter guide is printed on colored paper and has letter sized paper format.

Both voter guides are available in printed form at public libraries and other locations. Voters may read and print both voter guides at the website: lwvhillcountrytexas.org.

VOTE411.org is a League website which provides the election information on the candidates: a voter enters the address on their Voter Registration card to access the information.

Deadline Dates for General Election on Tuesday – November 5, 2024			
Register to Vote/Change Address	Monday	October 7	Last day to register to vote
Voting by Mail	Friday	October 25	Last day to apply for Mail in Ballot
	Tuesday	November 5	Last day to return Mail in Ballot
Early Voting	Monday	October 21	First day to vote in-person
	Friday	November 1	Last day to vote in-person
Election Day	Tuesday	November 5	In-person at voting location

Kerr County Voting Information for 2024 General Election

Sample ballots and other Information from the Kerr County Election Department posted online:

Website: <https://kerrcountytexas.gov/voting-in-kerr-county/kerr-county-elections>

Yellow voter registration card details the eligible elections for the voter residence address.

Take a photo ID with you to the voting location.

Curb-side voting is available for Early Voting and on Election Day.

Remember: no cell phones, no texting, no photos, no campaign clothing or material, no loitering

EARLY VOTING AT TWO LOCATIONS:

Ingram West Kerr County Annex 510 College Street

Kerrville Hill Country Youth Event Center 3785 Highway 27 East

Monday October 21	Tuesday October 22	Wednesday October 23	Thursday October 24	Friday October 25	Saturday October 26
8:00am to 6:00pm	8:00am to 6:00pm	8:00am to 6:00pm	8:00am to 6:00pm	8:00am to 6:00pm	7:00am to 7:00pm
Sunday October 27	Monday October 28	Tuesday October 29	Wednesday October 30	Thursday October 31	Friday November 1
12:00pm to 6:00pm	7:00am to 7:00pm	7:00am to 7:00pm	7:00am to 7:00pm	7:00am to 7:00pm	7:00am to 7:00pm

ELECTION DAY: Tuesday - November 5

Locations open 7:00am to 7:00pm

Voter must go to the precinct location on the yellow voter registration card.

Pct	Location & Address	Pct	Location & Address
101	Southern Oaks Baptist Church 122 Valley View in Kerrville	303	Calvary Temple Church 3000 Loop 534 in Kerrville
107	Thunder Hills Biker Church 111 Camino Real in Kerrville	308	Covenant Life Fellowship - Hill Country 6650 Highway 27 in Comfort
109	Northwest Hills Community Center 200 Northwest Hills Drive in Kerrville	312	Zion Lutheran Church 624 Barnett Street in Kerrville
113	St. Paul's Methodist Church 135 Methodist Encampment in Kerrville	314 NEW	First Baptist Church 635 Washington Street in Kerrville
118 NEW	Guadalupe Basin Natural Resources Center 125 Lehmann Drive #100 in Kerrville	404	Mountain Home Fire Department 5475 Junction Highway in Mountain Home
119	Riverside Church of Christ 625 Harper Road in Kerrville	405	Hunt School Multi-Purpose Room 115 Hunt School Road in Hunt
202 NEW	Center Point Fire Department 548 Kelley Street in Center Point	406	West Kerr County Annex 510 College Street in Ingram
211	Union Church Building 101 Travis Street in Kerrville	410	Divide Chapel 121 Divide School Road in Mountain Home
215	Hosanna Lutheran Church 134 Camp Meeting Road in Kerrville	416 NEW	Cross Kingdom Church 3044 Junction Highway in Kerrville
220	Faith Christian Church 1205 Sidney Baker South in Kerrville	417	Western Hills Baptist Church 2010 Goat Creek Road in Kerrville

Kerr County 2024 General Election: State Districts

United States Congress - House of Representatives District 21

The United States House of Representatives has 435 seats and is the lower chamber of the US Congress. US House of Representatives Texas District 21 serves 10 counties: Bandera, Bexar (part), Blanco, Comal, Gillespie, Hays, Kendall, Kerr, Real, and Travis (part). The term of office is two years.

Duties: represents a specific geographic area of a state; creates, debates, and votes on bills that become law for the United States; creates and votes on a two-year budget; and oversees the administration of public policy by serving on committees.

Kristin Hook - Democrat	Bob King – Libertarian	Chip Roy - Republican
Website: www.drkristinhook.org	Website: www.BobKingforTexas-21.org	Website: no response received

What in your background and/or education do you have that would make you an effective House member?

Hook: I am not a polished politician. I grew up in a working-class family in Texas. Against all odds, I earned two degrees from UT-Austin and a PhD from Cornell. When the pandemic hit, I left my research career in reproductive biology to serve the public as a science & tech expert in our federal government (U.S. Senate, NIH, GAO). As a scientist and former teacher, I am trained to solve problems and will bring sensible leadership and compromise to Congress to help solve the critical issues we face.

King: I have a BA in Economics and an MBA in Finance, both from SMU in Dallas. I worked for 20 years in the energy finance industry, and another 15 as a nonprofit leader, board member and consultant. The financial background gives me an understanding of markets and of budgeting and accounting; the nonprofit background (plus my Christian faith) taught me that society must assist the neediest among us. I also have 40+ years experience as a taxpayer, so I know that money doesn't grow on trees.

Roy: No response received.

Regarding women's reproductive health, please state and explain your position on each of the following: abortion, contraception, IVF, and mailing of reproductive medications.

Hook: As a woman, I believe we should have the freedom to make our own reproductive healthcare decisions. I support protecting and restoring *Roe v. Wade* and expanding access to birth control, IVF, and reproductive medicines. I believe family planning decisions should be made by patients and medical experts, not politicians or government. I trust Texans to make their own reproductive health decisions and believe you and your doctor are smart enough to make the best decisions for you and your family.

King: Abortion policy should be a balancing of rights, with the presumption in favor of choice, at least until the fetus is equipped to survive outside of the womb. Therefore, abortions should be legal until the 20th week of gestation; the States should be able to regulate them if they choose ONLY after week 20. Tax dollars should NEVER be used to pay for abortions. All contraception choices and IVF should remain legal. The two parties do not seek a solution. I do. See my website for more.

Roy: No response received.

What immigration reform legislation, if any, would you support?

Hook: Growing up near the border, I'm dedicated to supporting bipartisan solutions for the border crisis and fixing our immigration system. To curb illegal crossings and address safety concerns, I support enhancing border security and enforcement, improving case processing, and addressing the root causes of migration. Additionally, I will advocate for new legal pathways to citizenship, especially for Dreamers and hardworking immigrants who contribute to our society and economy while obeying the law.

King: Border security comes first, but we need more legal immigrants. Let's (1) tighten rules for asylum, (2) grant legal status to Dreamers, (3) create a guest worker program, and (4) simplify/increase green cards granted to workers and college grads. Then, defer implementation of these liberalizations until violations of our border are under control. This approach gets both sides paddling in the same direction. The two parties do not seek a solution. I do. See my website for more.

Roy: No response received.

Do you think any changes should be made to the U.S. Supreme Court structure or practice?

Hook: When I served as a scientist at the Government Accountability Office, I took an oath of loyalty to our Constitution, which outlined a system of government with checks and balances. No branch of government should be responsible for policing itself, and no one in public service should hold a position for life. Thus, I support instituting term limits and legislation that strengthens the impartiality and ethical integrity of the federal judiciary, including a binding and enforceable code of conduct.

King: The Supreme Court is the only branch of government that defends our liberties. Congress passes laws restricting our freedom and redistributing our money; the President takes us to war without constitutional authority and regulates us to death. Only SCOTUS stands in their way. We can all argue with one ruling or another, or have our most and least favorite Justice. But we should not add more politics to the Supreme Court, it is already politicized enough. Leave it as it is.

Roy: No response received.

What changes, if any, in foreign or domestic economic policy do you support?

Hook: I grew up living paycheck to paycheck and understand the strain of rising costs. I believe to build a stronger America, we must ensure a fair economic system for all by strengthening the middle class and abolishing poverty. Thus, I support protecting Social Security, raising the minimum wage, paid family and sick leave, access to affordable childcare, tax reform so billionaires and corporations pay their fair share, empowering workers' rights to organize, and bolstering small business owners.

King: Govt is too big, spends too much money. It has created a mountain of debt for our children to pay. Deficits are generational theft and a sin. Eventually (and soon) our economy will be destroyed by it. Yet neither party wants to fix it. I will. Govt must be forced to live within its means. All departments should be cut dramatically, some eliminated, and all but a few dispersed out of DC and to the four corners of the USA. It will be painful, but it must be done. See my website for more.

Roy: No response received.

Do you think the Electoral College should remain or be replaced by a national popular vote?

Hook: I believe in fair representation and that the presidency should be decided by the candidate who receives the most nationwide votes. Under our current system, the presidency is decided by the Electoral College, which dilutes the power of voters based on where they live. I support reforms to the Electoral College that would make presidential elections more democratic. A national popular vote would help ensure that every voter counts equally and would make the U.S. a more representative democracy.

King: The Electoral College was part of the compromise that led the 13 colonies to agree to our Constitution. Without it, the USA would not exist. The EC balances the power of small and large states. There is no reason to even consider changing it unless those who seek to abolish it have something to offer in trade that pushes more authority back to the States. I have ideas on such a trade, but those who seek a national popular vote have no desire to trade -- only to take. Accordingly, no deal.

Roy: No response received.

Do you support the current legal status of semi-automatic weapons and/r bump stocks? Why or why not?

Hook: I come from a family of responsible gun owners and hunters. Like them, I support common sense gun safety laws that protect the Second Amendment. I will work across the aisle to pass evidence-based legislation that keeps Texans safe while supporting responsible gun ownership, such as expanding background checks, licensing laws, waiting periods, red flag laws; restricting bump stocks; and raising the age for gun purchases and possession.

King: The Second Amendment is clear: we have a right to defend ourselves, not just from criminals, but also from the rise of a tyrannical government. This right safeguards all of our liberties. Mass shootings are terrible. Convicted felons and the mentally ill should not be able to purchase firearms. Violent felons need to be incarcerated until they are too old to hurt anyone, or for life if necessary. But this problem should not be "solved" by taking away the rights of law-abiding Americans.

Roy: No response received.

Member, State Board of Education, District 10

The fifteen member board is elected by geographical district for four year terms. District 10 serves 27 counties.

Duties: decides curriculum, standards, student testing, special education programs, and textbooks for Texas public schools, as well as oversees the Permanent School Fund.

Raquel Saenz Ortiz - Democrat	Tom Maynard - Republican
Website: www.drsofortexas.com	Website: www.maynardfortexas.com

Qualifications: What training, experience and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Ortiz: I have a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction and currently teach future teachers. I was a secondary Social Studies teacher, as well as a guidance counselor and school administrator, in public schools.

Maynard: Served on State Board of Education since 2013. Current chair: Committee on School Finance, Permanent School Fund Corp. School board trustee. 30 years in career and tech ed. Parent to 5 in public ed.

History Education: As the developer of Texas public school curriculum, how would you ensure students are taught a comprehensive and accurate history of our state and country?

Ortiz: Many states have moved away from standards that focus heavily on specific historic events to focus more on social studies skills and analytic abilities. I believe it is important to look at these models, which often have a more inclusive view of U.S. and world history to include the stories of various communities, which I would advocate for, along with centering analytic skills.

Maynard: The State Board of Education creates curriculum standards from which curriculum, instructional material and assessments are based. The board has a robust, transparent process that engages content experts, classroom practitioners from the field and stakeholders through our public comment and testimony.

Religion in Public Schools: Should Christian or any other religious beliefs be incorporated into the public school curriculum? Explain your position.

Ortiz: Separation of church and state has been a foundational part of the United States government and is upheld by the first amendment to the constitution. The first amendment prohibits the establishment of a national religion. It is clear that the promotion of a single religion within public schools would be unconstitutional. Religions can be taught in a historical context, but not in a moral context.

Maynard: There are a number of faith traditions that are embedded in our common language and traditions. We cannot erase the impact of the Judeo-Christian tradition from our nation's founding, values and culture. For example, the common term "good Samaritan" originates from the Christian Bible's New Testament. Why wouldn't we want students to understand the origin and the associated moral lesson?

Teacher Certification: Should teachers who are not certified be allowed to teach in Texas classrooms? Why or why not?

Ortiz: I believe that all teachers should have to be certified in order to teach. Certification programs provide essential training in child development and pedagogy, which is necessary for becoming an effective educator. I do believe that emergency licensure should continue in allowing teachers temporary certification while they are completing any necessary requirement for a certification program.

Maynard: The State Board of Education implements laws created by the Legislature. Currently law provides some flexibility for school districts, particularly in the area of career and technical education and for those pursuing alternative certifications. The SBOE will work with the Legislature and the State Board for Educator Certification to ensure Texas classrooms have the most effective teachers available.

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be the most pressing for the State Board of Education?

Ortiz: I believe another key area that is important within the State Board of Education is ensuring that charter schools are held to a high standard, particularly in ensuring that they are able to meet the needs of students with IEPs and 504s, along with emerging bilingual students.

Maynard: Continue the development of the Permanent School Fund as a freestanding governmental corporation, maximizing returns for Texas public schools and continue saving taxpayers more than \$400 million annually by guaranteeing school district debt. Continue efforts to ensure high quality instructional material to classrooms through the IMRA process. Work with legislature and schools to protect students.

Texas Legislature - House of Representatives District 53

The Texas House of Representatives has 150 seats and is the lower chamber of the Texas Legislature. Texas House District 53 serves 16 counties: Bandera, Crane, Crockett, Edwards, Kerr, Kimble, Llano, Mason, McCulloch, Medina, Menard, Pecos, Real, Schleicher, Sutton, and Upton. The term of office is two years.

Duties: passes bills on public policy that become the law for the State of Texas; sets levels for state spending by passing a two-year budget; votes to raise and lower taxes for the state; and votes to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes of bills.

Joe P. Herrera - Democrat	B. W. Holk – Libertarian	Wes Virdell - Republican
Email: joefortexas53@gmail.com	Email: bwholk@gmail.com	Website: virdellfortexas.com

What in your background qualifies you to serve the as a state representative in Texas?

Herrera: I have been a resident of HD 53 since 2004, I have traveled the district over the years both in a personal and professional manner, and I know the challenges facing people in the district firsthand. I am not a lawyer; I am just an average citizen who wants to represent everyone in the district.

Holk: I've retired after working 40 years in the construction of oil & gas and power plant projects, living in Llano county for over 20 years. When Ron Paul first ran for President in 1988 as a Libertarian I worked on his campaign and have voted Libertarian ever since. Being generally fed up with government incompetence I decided the voters deserved a real alternative.

Virdell: I have been considered by many as a renaissance man. I have a wide range of skills and experiences that will play an important role for creating and passing good legislation. In addition to that... integrity, passion, and a strong conviction to make life better for residents and business owners. I have been involved and effective at passing good legislation for over a decade and I continue to get even better at doing so. My bio is available at VirdellforTexas.com for more information.

What are the most pressing issues facing the next session of the Texas Legislature?

Herrera: Finding a way to work together in a very divided state. Ensuring that members are working for the people in Texas and not trying to just score political points. Finding a way to create solutions for the folks of Texas, while staying within our budget, and finding ways to reduce property taxes.

Holk: The most pressing issues facing Texans are border security, energy reliability and property tax elimination. Grid security is a must, solar and wind are as unreliable as the legislature, go back to natural gas and coal. Put back up generators in every substation.. Going weeks without power after a storm is inexcusable.

Virdell: Ensuring we have better leadership in the Texas House
Reducing or eliminating property taxes
Reforming the Texas public education system

What are your three top priorities for the next session of the Legislature?

Herrera: Protecting our Texas Public Schools, stopping the school voucher program that will hurt our rural school districts. Restoring Women's reproductive freedoms. Addressing the rising cost of homeownership, finding ways to bring affordable housing to rural Texas communities so they can attract top talent teachers and medical professional.

Holk: My top 3 priorities are to eliminate property tax completely, secure the Texas grid, and support a TEXIT referendum. Texas should use the 9th & 10th amendments to resist and curtail unconstitutional federal overreach especially in regard to the 1st and 2nd amendments.

Virdell: Stopping federal overreach
Protecting resources in my district from external interest
Strengthening the rights of gun owners from an abusive federal government

What are your priorities in the next session of the Legislature for ensuring that there are adequate water resources in the future for agriculture and for humans?

Herrera: Working with local water boards/district to ensure they have the resources need to address aging pipes or leaks. Working with local manufacturers to find effective ways to reduce wasteful water practices in the production process. Working with folks like The Friends of Hondo Creek, groups like this are working to protect drinking and recreation water sources across rural Texas.

Holk: One of my top priorities will be to ensure an adequate supply of safe water for our future. I realize that the Texas ledge cannot create any water, they can only allocate resources they don't own in violation of private property rights while making water scarcer and more expensive.

Virdell: Water is a shared resource and penalties for abuse need to be strengthened. Keeping industries that participate in green energy subsidies out of my district. They are not welcome here and they are utilizing our resources for their financial benefit. In my opinion, it is one of the biggest wealth transfer schemes in our history.

What are the citizens in your district telling you about issues?

Herrera: They are telling me that they do not support the School Voucher program, that they want more funding for their rural school districts. They are concerned about access to healthcare. And the good folks at Frontera Healthcare are about the lack of affordable housing, and rising cost that make it hard for their staff and patients. Folks are concerned that the retirement of Representative Andrew Murr will create a leadership, and integrity gap in HD 53. I am running to fill that gap; I am a moderate Democrat who will work for everyone.

Holk: In my district we are concerned about being taxed out of our homes by ever increasing property taxes.

Virdell: Federal subsidies for green energy are the biggest conversation in my district. Many people are unhappy. A friend of mine had a lithium battery storage facility placed 10 yards from his home and now he cannot sell it. No one wants to buy it and he is stuck with it. I believe these companies do not care about being good neighbors and they only see the opportunity to put your tax dollars into their pockets and will likely pass it on to foreign investors.

Texas 4th Court of Appeals

The 4th Court of Appeals is one of 14 state courts and has jurisdiction in a 32-county region of the state. This court has a Chief Justice and six other justices, who are elected at-large for a term of six years.

Duties: receives appeals in civil and criminal cases from district and county courts; has intermediate appellate jurisdiction of both civil and criminal cases appealed from lower courts; in civil cases where judgment rendered exceeds \$250, exclusive of costs, and other civil proceedings as provided by law; and in criminal cases except in post-conviction writs of habeas corpus and where the death penalty has been imposed.

Justice, Place 2: Velia J. Meza - Democrat (name on ballot and unopposed)

Justice, Place 3

Cynthia Marie Chapa - Democrat	Todd McCray - Republican
Website: www.JudgeCynthiaChapa.com	Website: www.mccrayforjudge.com

Background: What characteristics and experience qualify you to serve as a justice?

Chapa: I am a sitting trial court judge serving my second term. I have a proven record of following the law and handling each case before me with impartiality, respect, compassion, and fairness.

McCray: 34 years representing low-income individuals and as a State prosecutor. Tried 100+ jury trials and 50+ appeals for the State of Texas and individuals since 1990. Board Certified by TBLS since 1997.

Ethics: Since judicial candidates solicit donations and raise money to be elected, how can voters be assured that campaign donations will not impact how judges interpret the law and/or review lower court decisions?

Chapa: As a trial judge, I took an oath to uphold the Constitution, follow the law, and rule fairly. Bound by strict ethics, I ensure campaign donations never influence my rulings. I've upheld my oath with integrity and impartiality on the trial court. As a justice, I will do the same. Justice will always be served without bias because justice is and should always be blind.

McCray: Our judicial system should be independent, fair and impartial. Candidate should refrain from financial dealings that reflect adversely on impartiality. Although the Code of Judicial Conduct does not prohibit candidates from soliciting funds for appropriate expenses, in order to uphold judicial integrity, candidates should adhere to the ethics Code and personally observe those standards.

Judicial Selection: How would the administration of justice be impacted if judges ran in nonpartisan races?

Chapa: Nonpartisan elections wouldn't significantly change the administration of justice. A judge's qualifications, experience, and character remain constant. Our current system of partisan elections doesn't alter a judge's duty to uphold justice fairly and impartially. Each case is decided on merit, not political labels. A person's party preference is not something that is ever considered in my cases.

McCray: Justice is based upon a fair, impartial and competent judiciary. Elections should be based upon qualifications, experience and legal competence rather than political affiliation. Judges should decide cases based upon the rule of law relying only upon the facts and the law. Nonpartisan races would encourage voters to base their decisions upon qualifications rather than political affiliation.

Equity: What can be done to improve access to justice for all, including persons or groups who may be underserved?

Chapa: Improving access to justice requires more resources for litigants, expanded outreach and education programs, and better use of technology to make legal services accessible. Increasing funding for legal aid, supporting pro bono work, and enhancing resources for self-represented litigants will ensure fair treatment and representation for underserved groups. Justice must be accessible to everyone.

McCray: I have 34 years of experience representing the rights of low income and underserved individuals before trial and appeal courts throughout Texas. Board Certification was established by the Texas Supreme Court to "promote the availability, accessibility and quality of services of attorneys to the public." Advocacy for access to justice improves equity for all Texans.

Court System: What effect will the new business court and statewide court of appeals have on the administration of justice in Texas?

Chapa: The new business courts and statewide court of appeals may streamline cases they've been created to handle, but they raise concerns about access to justice for all businesses based on the required filings fee. While intended to enhance efficiency, their true impact remains to be seen. We must all monitor whether they serve all Texans fairly and improve the administration of justice.

McCray: Texans will benefit from the new specialized business law courts. Judges in these courts should have the experience and expertise to fairly and efficiently resolve cases. Courts with more specialized caseloads, like these courts, should operate more effectively. The new business appeals court should alleviate caseloads in the appeal courts and administrative burdens on the Supreme Court.

Justice, Place 4

Lori Mase Brissette - Republican	Luz Elena Chapa - Democrat
Website: www.lmbforthe4th.com	Website: www.justicechapa.com

Background: What characteristics and experience qualify you to serve as a justice?

Brissette: I have been an attorney for 30+ years, began as a briefing attorney for the Texas Supreme Court, and was a top litigator/board certified in Civil Appellate Law before becoming a District Judge.

Chapa: I have served almost twelve years on the Fourth Court of Appeals. I have authored 1,400 opinions with only three reversals by a higher court, which is one of the lowest reversal rates in Texas.

Ethics: Since judicial candidates solicit donations and raise money to be elected, how can voters be assured that campaign donations will not impact how judges interpret the law and/or review lower court decisions?

Brissette: I'm proud of the fact that I have support from plaintiff and defense attorneys, from Republicans and Democrats, from business and proponents of individual rights. People support me, not to win favor, but because they know I'll be fair and follow the law. But, if I get a donation from a party who has a case before me, I choose to return the check to avoid any appearance of impropriety.

Chapa: While fundraising unfortunately politicizes the election process, it is necessary in order to reach voters across the 32 counties in the Fourth Court's district. I strictly adhere to the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act and have done so in my previous races. I maintain a strict policy of not accepting contributions from anyone with a case at the Fourth Court before a panel that includes me.

Judicial Selection: How would the administration of justice be impacted if judges ran in nonpartisan races?

Brissette: I would prefer nonpartisan judicial races. We have too many judges today that run on political positions and then use their bench as bully pulpits to advance their own political agenda rather than follow the law. We need judges who honor and protect the institution they serve as the only independent branch of our government.

Chapa: Nonpartisan races have the potential to prevent the politicization of judicial races. Less partisanship in elections would likely lead voters to focus on each candidate's experience and record, rather than voting on the basis of party affiliations. What is most important and vital to the preservation of our democracy, is that the judiciary remain an independent branch of government.

Equity: What can be done to improve access to justice for all, including persons or groups who may be underserved?

Brissette: I believe the effort underway to allow paraprofessionals to handle certain simple/uncontested cases is a step in the right direction. Law school clinics, which allow supervised law students to handle matters, should be in every school. I would support a bar requirement of mandatory hours in a pro bono clinic or pro bono representation. And, we should fund organizations seeking to help.

Chapa: Judges at all levels need more bias training. Studies have shown, as humans, judges have the potential to subconsciously allow implicit bias affect their decision making and the manner in which they treat lawyers and litigants who identify with a marginalized group. Bias training allows judges to remain mindful of how their implicit biases can impact outcomes in the courtroom.

Court System: What effect will the new business court and statewide court of appeals have on the administration of justice in Texas?

Brissette: The intent is to create a body of law that is more consistent so that businesses have confidence in the ability of the Texas legal system to handle complex matters. It should encourage businesses to come and stay in Texas, something that supports the state economy. It will also alleviate clogged dockets so judges can focus on families, individuals and small business matters.

Chapa: It is simply too early to tell what effect the new business courts and statewide court of appeals will have on the administration of justice in Texas. Opponents of the legislation establishing these courts have argued that these courts are unconstitutional and place an unnecessary burden on litigants. Some are of the opinion that these courts are a form of activism designed to ensure outcomes.

Justice, Place 5

Liza A. Rodriguez - Democrat	Adrian Spears - Republican
Website: www.vote4liza.com	Website: www.votespears.com

Background: What characteristics and experience qualify you to serve as a justice?

Rodriguez: I have been a licensed attorney for almost 30 years. As a former prosecutor, defense attorney, family law attorney, elected trial court and appellate court judge, I am uniquely suited for the job.

Spears: 10 years judicial experience as Presiding Municipal Court Judge; 17 years as an Appellate lawyer and litigator; 10 years as a municipal prosecutor; Tried over 100 Jury trials; Former City Attorney.

Ethics: Since judicial candidates solicit donations and raise money to be elected, how can voters be assured that campaign donations will not impact how judges interpret the law and/or review lower court decisions?

Rodriguez: Voters place their trust in elected officials to be committed to ethical practices and to uphold their oath to follow the law. Fundraising ensures that everyone has an opportunity to run for elected office and that it is not limited to persons who are independently wealthy. Campaign finance reports also assist in assuring transparency.

Spears: My driving philosophy is a strict adherence to the Constitution, the protection of personal liberties and the understanding that government exists to serve the people. Judges must follow the law no matter their political or personal beliefs.

Judicial Selection: How would the administration of justice be impacted if judges ran in nonpartisan races?

Rodriguez: Allowing judicial races to be non-partisan would remove party affiliation as a factor in a voter's decision-making process. It could eliminate the "waves" of judicial replacement every election cycle which have proven costly to both litigants and tax payers. More importantly, it could help prevent the loss of experienced and qualified judges.

Spears: Judges should be elected based on qualifications and experience. Judges must follow the law without regard to political affiliation or personal beliefs. Judges must not legislate from the bench.

Equity: What can be done to improve access to justice for all, including persons or groups who may be underserved?

Rodriguez: This is a very complex question, with an equally complex answer. Access to justice encompasses not only the procedural aspects of a case as it weaves its way through the system, but also practical considerations like the impact it has on the parties, which include employment, family, and housing considerations to name just a few. The formation of various committees to include non-lawyers can help.

Spears: We need to make access to the courts easy and provide opportunities for underserved litigants to have their day in court with proper legal assistance. This can be accomplished by improved access to staff attorneys and/or encouraging attorneys to volunteer more hours with incentives such as additional CLE hours and reduction or exemption of occupational taxes.

Court System: What effect will the new business court and statewide court of appeals have on the administration of justice in Texas?

Rodriguez: The creation of the business court along with the respective appellate court is intended to create predictability and efficiency in the resolution of certain business disputes. Its effects on the administration of justice pertain to businesses and remain to be seen in the coming years. Interestingly, unlike other elected judicial positions, these judges will be appointed by the governor.

Spears: The new business court will greatly assist the administration of justice. Business litigation is complex and involves intensive discovery as well as financial experts and accounting principles. The business court will greatly reduce backlog of the other civil courts. This in turn improves efficiency in regard to business as well as other areas of law such as family law and other civil matters.

Justice, Place 7: Lori I. Valenzuela - Republican (name on ballot and unopposed)

Kerr County 2024 General Election: County

The following candidates are on the ballot and are unopposed.

District Judge, 216th Judicial District: Albert "Pat" D. Pattillo III - Republican
(Gillespie County and Kerr County)

District Attorney, 198th Judicial District: Stephen Harpold - Republican
(Bandera county and Kerr County)

District Attorney, 216th Judicial District: Lucy Wilke - Republican
(Gillespie County and Kerr County)

County Attorney: Heather Stebbins - Republican

County Clerk – Unexpired Term: Ian Collum - Republican

NOTE: Write In Candidate for County Clerk - Daniel Wayne Holcomb

Sheriff: Larry L. Leitha Jr - Republican

County Tax Assessor/Collector: Bob Reeves - Republican

County Commissioner Precinct 1: Tom Jones - Republican

County Commissioner Precinct 3: Jeff Holt - Republican

Constable Precinct 1: Tommy Rodriguez - Republican

Constable Precinct 2: Kyle Schneider - Republican

Constable Precinct 3: Paul A. Gonzales - Republican

Constable Precinct 4: Brad Rider - Republican

Center Point ISD Board of Trustees

NOTE: School board elections are nonpartisan and candidates do not declare a political party preference.

Residents of Kerr County Voting Precincts 202 and 308 who reside in the Center Point School District are eligible to vote. Check the boxes on your voter registration card or consult the State of Texas website: votetexas.gov and follow instructions to check your voter registration status.

The Center Point ISD Board of Trustees consists of seven members elected by eligible voters. Each trustee serves in an at-large position for the term and represents the entire school district. Elections are held in November of even numbered years. The term of office is four years.

Duties: adopt goals and priorities and monitor success; adopt policies and review for effectiveness; hire and evaluate the superintendent; adopt a budget and set a tax rate; and communicate with the community.

The election is for four at-large positions on the Center Point ISD Board of Trustees. The four candidates with the highest number of votes will be declared as elected.

NOTE: School board elections are nonpartisan and candidates do not declare a political party preference.

Rene Aguirre	Kimberly Bolin	Charles Holt
Email: reneaguirre64@icloud.com	Facebook: Kim Bolin	Phone: 830-377-2420

Allen Kaiser	Scott Turner	Joshua Whitworth
Phone: 830-377-4648	Email: scott.turner412@gmail.com	NA

What in your background qualifies you to serve as a trustee on the Center Point ISD School Board?

Aguirre: I have been a Center Point resident since 1992. Graduated from Center Point in 1996. I was also President of the Center Point Athletic Booster Club for 9 years. Met my Wife Tammy in High School and both of our boys will graduate from Center Point ISD. I want nothing more than to see our students as well as our community flourish.

Bolin: I have lived in Center Point for over 50 years and graduated from CPISD. My husband and two children are also graduates of CPISD. I was in the public education field for 39 years and was employed by CPISD for 28 years as a classroom teacher, Special Education Director and Educational Diagnostician. I feel that my many years in the public school system have given me knowledge of the district's policies and procedures. I would like to continue being an advocate for the teachers, students, parents and community members in this district.

Holt: I believe I have several relevant qualifications that make me well-suited to serve on the CPISD Board of Trustees. Over the years, I have successfully managed two businesses and dedicated a total of 18 years to serving on the Center Point Volunteer Fire Department, currently fulfilling the role of Fire Chief for the past six years. Additionally, I have been an active member of the Safety Security Board for three years. As a lifelong resident of Center Point and an alumnus of CPISD, I am confident in my ability to contribute effectively to the CPISD Board of Trustees.

Kaiser: I attended Center Point schools from grades 1-12. Since 1976, I have been involved on the school district as either a teacher or board member. This has provided me with an understanding of district operations at both the classroom and administrative levels.

Turner: I have 8 years' experience as a school board member. Prior to that I served 20 years as a principal, teacher, and Executive Director of Student Services for the district. So, I have experience in virtually every aspect of this district. I also have "real world" experience. Prior to being an educator, I spent 15 years in the water well industry. Owning and operating the business for many years. I hold a master's degree in education administration, and I'm certified in math, business, mid management and hold a superintendent certificate. And I am dedicated to the success of CPISD.

Whitworth: I have been a home owner in Center Point since 2008 and I also have 2 children enrolled in CPISD. I am an Alumni graduate of 2002 and have never lost my love for CPISD. I want nothing more than to see CPISD strive to get kids the best education they can get.

What are the most pressing issues facing the Center Point ISD School Board?

Aguirre: I believe we have some facilities that need some updates. As well as some educational needs that would help get us more students. And would also help the current students be more successful after High School whether it be College, Military or the work force.

Bolin: The most pressing issue facing any board of trustees is budget. CPISD is entrusted with preparing our students for the future, and to do that, the board of trustees must ensure that the tax dollars are spent wisely and efficiently.

Holt: In my opinion, the most urgent challenge before the CPISD Board of Trustees is to find ways to challenge our students in a manner that raises their performance to higher standards. While I acknowledge that Center Point ISD is a great school, it is important to recognize that there is always room for improvement and progress in every school.

Kaiser: School safety, hiring and retaining a quality staff, improving facilities, and providing quality instructional programs for all students. These issues must be addressed and satisfied while maintaining a conservative oversight of district monies.

Turner: First and foremost, providing a quality education for our students. Providing academic as well as vocational opportunities to prepare students for life beyond high school. Recruiting, training, and retaining quality teachers. Providing adequate facilities for learning, both academic as well as vocational. Maintaining a balanced budget that does not place an undue hardship on our taxpayers.

Whitworth: The decline of enrollment in CPISD and being understaffed.

What are the citizens and parents telling you about school district issues?

Aguirre: That there is definitely some room for improvement. And that they would also like to see our little school get all the success that they deserve. That education is of the utmost importance.

Bolin: Community members, parents and teachers have expressed the importance of transparency and accountability from within the district. My goal as a board member will be to continue providing a safe place for students to learn and providing a variety of opportunities which can help the students of Center Point ISD become productive members of society.

Holt: The primary concern raised by parents and citizens is the need for additional programs that will challenge our students to achieve their highest potential. They have expressed a desire for programs such as automotive and ag mechanics, among other areas. Additionally, an identified issue is the lack of open communication channels.

Kaiser: It would be accurate to say that conversations with citizens and parents would include the issues listed in question number 2. School safety is, and should be, a major concern.

Turner: The need to work together with the community, encouraging involvement from parents as well as community members. Maintain and improve facilities as needed. Continue to provide vocational opportunities that teach "real world" skills.

Whitworth: They want more opportunities for their kids in all campuses.

Harper ISD Board of Trustees

NOTE: School board elections are nonpartisan and candidates do not declare a political party preference.

Residents of Kerr County Voting Precinct 404 who reside in the Harper School District are eligible to vote. Check the boxes on your voter registration card or consult the State of Texas website: votetexas.gov and follow instructions to check your voter registration status.

The Harper ISD Board of Trustees consists of seven members elected by eligible voters. Each trustee serves in an at-large position for the term and represents the entire school district. Elections are held in November of even numbered years. Harper ISD includes portions of three counties: Gillespie, Kerr, and Kimble. The term of office is four years.

Duties: adopt goals and priorities and monitor success; adopt policies and review for effectiveness; hire and evaluate the superintendent; adopt a budget and set a tax rate; and communicate with the community.

The election is for three at-large positions on the Harper ISD Board of Trustees. The three candidates with the highest number of votes will be declared as elected.

Paige Berger Email: paigeparkerberger@gmail.com	Trey Garrett Email: trueblueamerican81@gmail.com
Robert Baiza Rodriguez Email: realrrr79@gmail.com	Erin Eskew Worrell Email: worrellerin@gmail.com

What in your background qualifies you to serve as a trustee on the Harper ISD School Board?

Berger: I spent the majority of my career helping write contract bids for integrators on a state and federal level. While focusing on cyber security and healthcare, I developed a real passion in assisting former military men and women obtaining/retaining jobs while transitioning into civilian life. Understanding policy, job retention, fiscal responsibility and recruiting is a huge part of what I would like to bring to HISD. Additionally, I have sat in classrooms across the hill country for years. I have developed relationships with kids and teachers, and I truly have seen perspectives that many current board members haven't.

Garrett: I have served for the past four years as a board member and recently became the board secretary. Both of my children attend or attended HISD therefore I have a vested interest for the school and its success. I am the owner of Garrett Realty & Auction and have just relocated the business to Harper where I am also a resident. I bring a common sense and conservative mind set to the board that reflects the way I operate my business.

Rodriguez: I am the President of an HOA Board. I have a leadership position at work.

Worrell: I care deeply about the staff and students at Harper ISD and have served on the Harper ISD Board of Trustees since 2016. As a parent of two students, I am acutely aware of the opportunities available in our district. As the daughter of an educator, I have seen the value of parent-community-school relationships on positive outcomes for students. I have applied my professional experiences in collaboration, communication and management to work with a diverse set of board members and will continue to work closely with school administrators to prepare our students for success.

What are the most pressing issues facing the Harper ISD School Board?

Berger: 1: Accountability. Frequently, community members have questions and concerns about academics, finances & personnel. They deserve answers. 2: Transparency. The best means of communicating when upcoming board meeting are, shouldn't only be through taped notes on the admin office door or buried on the school website. Also, agendas should be more informative regarding what is going to be discussed and/or voted upon. This way, the public can decide to give their input via public commentary or through general attendance. 3: Community connection. There is a lapse in teacher-student-parent relationships. We have to bridge the gap & unify.

Garrett: Teacher pay is always at the forefront of improvement. The board along with the leadership of our Superintendent strive to do as much as we can to improve teacher pay and benefits. School safety is another issue these days and I am proud to say that Harper ISD is one of the leading schools in our area when it comes to school safety and everything involved.

Rodriguez: Appropriating funds, child safety, Utilizing the school facilities to attract more business for our town and showcase our small business owners, listening to the Residents, Staff, Teachers, Parents and Students, implementing policies, procedures and practices that reflect Harpers wishes while reasonably adhering to bylaws!

Worrell: Budget and safety continue to be at the forefront of discussions for our board. School finance in Texas is broken and our district must do more with less every year. It is important to work through these challenges to provide the best environment possible for our students and staff to excel. Creating a school police department and arming our staff were tough decisions for our district but were necessary resources for the safety of our students and staff. The long-term fiscal soundness and safety in our district is a priority so our staff can focus on educating our students.

What are the citizens and parents telling you about school district issues?

Berger: Community comments have ranged vastly in specific issues, but the overall problem seems to reside in the opinion that people don't receive answers, aren't heard in the first place or feel like there are rules for some but not all. Lastly, citizens have repetitively said they wish to have some new "out of district" hires in some of our leadership positions.

Garrett: First of all we are so blessed to live in the Harper community. There isn't a lot that comes to mind. Looking back to the past year one major issue was whether or not to transition to a 4-day school week. This was an effort to incentivize teachers to come to work in Harper. There was a lot of different opinions on this decision and we ended up finding middle ground and settled on a modified calendar that gave teachers more time off yet wasn't a straight up 4-day school week.

Rodriguez: Ongoing feuds getting in the way of progress, teacher retention, disciplinary reprimands for petty violations, allowing individuality (clear backpacks), Constant Friday teacher in-service days straining parents to find daycare or house sitters for their children, allowing home school children to participate in public school extracurricular activities, such as Ag, sports, etc. The lack of attention attracting more traffic to the town to support our small businesses.

Worrell: I continuously hear that safety and preserving the small-school environment are important to our families. Likewise, fiscal responsibility is important to our community as we face inflation and a legislature that has not increased our basic allotment to support rising costs or pay increases. If re-elected I'll continue to work with our administrators to ensure a safe environment for our students, preserve the values that reflect our community and address budget shortfalls to account for the long-term fiscal viability of our district.

Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District

NOTE: This election is non-partisan. Candidates do not declare a political party preference.

All registered voters in Kerr County can vote for the Director, At-Large. Voters in Precinct 1 and in Precinct 3 can also vote for a candidate in their county precinct. Check the boxes on your voter registration card or consult the State of Texas website: votetexas.gov and follow instructions to check your precinct number.

The Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District has four directors and each director is elected by one of the four Kerr County precincts, and one director at-large, elected county-wide. The five directors have staggered terms with an election held every two years in the general elections that select the President of the United States and the Governor of Texas. The term of office is four years.

The mission of the Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District (HGCD) is to develop, promote, and implement water conservation, augmentation, and management strategies to protect the water resources of the district as a sustainable resource for the benefit of its citizens, economy, and environment.

Duties: primary responsibilities of the HGCD include registering and permitting wells drilled in Kerr County and investigating the aquifers to determine appropriate plans for future development

Director - At - Large

John Elliott	Jerry Wolfe
Email: jrelliott43@gmail.com	Email: jerrytex@usa.net

What experience and knowledge qualifies you to serve as the At Large Director on the Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District Board?

Elliott: Served on the HGCD Board of Directors in many capacities from 2004 to the present. John Elliott has an extensive background in groundwater issues including an appointment by former Governor Rick Perry to serve on the Western States Water Council from 2005-2015.

Wolfe: I graduated with honors from St. Mary's University with a B.A. in mathematics. For 40+ years I was employed in oilfield related industries in IT software design for petroleum and chemical engineers, geologists, and geophysicists, retiring from Tenneco Oil Company in Houston. I was also involved in domestic and international software sales and marketing. Most recently I worked as an independent land man for several different oil companies. My experience and expertise in contract analysis and research would be a valuable asset to the HGCD Board.

What are the pressing issues facing the Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District?

Elliott: Some of the most pressing issues the HGCD faces are discovery of new aquifers that produce and sustain water availability for all citizens for years to come. To make certain citizens of Kerr County understand that property rights are theirs alone including the ground water beneath their said property, limited to only HGCD conservation rules.

Wolfe: In my opinion there are four main issues: Assuring water availability for all Kerr County residents, determining and enforcing HGCD regulations and compliance, educating the citizens, and encouraging intergovernmental cooperation. The responsibility of HGCD is to protect and preserve our aquifers, not support economic development. I moved to Kerr County 14 years ago to enjoy family and the beauty of the Hill Country. As drought conditions have increased, I felt led to do extensive research related to water use and availability, including attending city, county, and HGCD meetings. If elected, I intend to promote public participation and education.

What are the citizens who live in Kerr County telling you about their water issue?

Elliott: The citizens of Kerr County are mostly concerned regarding quality, availability and sustainability of our ground water resources while practicing common sense conservation.

Wolfe: Having listened to citizens concerns during HGCD meetings, and having spoken with several of them personally, I believe citizens of Kerr County have real concerns about their personal wells being depleted or going dry, which is a huge inconvenience, and potentially a great expense. I believe some feel there is unequal regulation of water usage within Kerr County. While some citizens of Kerr County were being forced to transport water to their homes, others were enjoying green lawns and limited restrictions on water usage. Declining aquifer levels are a real concern.

Director - Precinct 1

Mario Garcia	Jeff Wendling
Email: mario@garciaprojects.com	Email: wendling.j@gmail.com

What experience and knowledge qualifies you to serve as the Director for Precinct 1 on the Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District Board?

Garcia: The Director of (HGCD) should view citizens as equals with valuable perspectives. This role demands analysis of current and historical data to make informed decisions for Kerr County. Ideally, the Director should have strong community ties and a commitment to its future. As a third-generation resident and Navy veteran, I'm dedicated to making impactful choices for future generations. My experience as a local businessman gives me insight into community needs, enabling a pragmatic approach to groundwater management. The Director must advocate for property owners' rights, guiding their decision-making. I encourage Precinct 1 citizens to consider these qualities when voting.

Wendling: As a Precinct 1 resident since 2005, I am concerned as all are about our water supply. I have 50 years of experience dealing with government mandates. I look forward to working with the board on the future of our water policies to conserve, preserve, protect, recharge, and prevent waste of groundwater resources on behalf of all residential, agricultural, and commercial water users. I have extensive budget management and strategic planning experience and years of experience working with Boards of Directors on their goals, mandates, and responsibilities. Additionally, I have a Bachelor's degree and am a Certified Public Manager.

What are the pressing issues facing the Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District?

Garcia: The Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District (HGCD) faces a significant communications challenge regarding Texas's historical drought vulnerability and current conditions. With Texas's rapid population growth, educating residents—both new and longstanding—about Kerr County's past droughts and urgent water conservation needs is essential. This effort should include practical strategies like efficient irrigation methods, native grasses, and water-capturing techniques. Information should also reach local businesses and municipalities for a comprehensive approach. By effectively communicating current water levels and historical context, the HGCD can foster a more informed, resilient community, encouraging responsible water usage among all residents.

Wendling: A primary responsibility is monitoring wells and to record the levels in both the Trinity-Edwards and Trinity aquifers; and the most recently discovered Ellenberger Aquifer below the Trinity. This has been particularly crucial in the last 3 years during these drought conditions. It is extremely important that HGCD policy continue to protect these precious water resources that impact the economy countywide.

What are the citizens who live in Precinct 1 of HGCD telling you about their water issue?

Garcia: Kerr County citizens express confusion about water availability due to differing messages from the Kerrville and HGCD. HGCD focuses on county-wide water supply and conservation, emphasizing long-term strategies and drought awareness. In contrast, Kerrville addresses local needs, prioritizing immediate water availability, infrastructure, and public health. The city also has access to surface water, impacting its availability models. While both entities aim for sustainable water management, better collaboration in messaging is essential for clearer communication and planning for all Kerr County residents. When elected, I plan to implement a collaborative model between HGCD and the city of Kerrville.

Wendling: Overarching concern is that groundwater management be accomplished in a sensible manner. That supply side strategy be explained to the District's constituents so support can be developed for the District's policy and guidance. That the subject of groundwater and surface water supply be kept separated in these discussions.

Director - Precinct 3: Kenneth Wilke (name on ballot and unopposed)

League of Women Voters - Hill Country Texas

For forty-five years this League has served Kerr County and now serves six counties in the Texas Hill Country: Bandera, Blanco, Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, and Llano. Members of this League live in all six counties. Both men and women over the age of 16 are members of the League and there are various membership levels with annual dues as a part of the membership. Visit the website to join: lvvhillcountrytexas.org.

If reading this Voter Guide has helped you to be informed and vote, please consider a donation, in any amount, to help the Hill Country Texas League continue to offer this service to voters. Donations are accepted via mail to the post office box on the front page OR the website: lvvhillcountrytexas.org.