

NONPARTISAN VOTERS GUIDE

GENERAL ELECTION ★ NOVEMBER 5, 2024

U.S. President ★ U.S. Senate ★ Railroad Commission ★ Texas Supreme Court ★
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ★ State Board of Education ★ Courts of Appeals

EARLY VOTING: Oct. 21–Nov. 1 ★ ELECTION DAY: November 5. Polls open 7
a.m. to 7 p.m.

★ VOTING IN TEXAS

In the November 2024 General Election, we get to choose who will:

- lead our country,
- represent us in Congress,
- enforce regulations that impact Texan’s health and environment,
- rule on important civil and criminal cases in Texas, and
- set the Texas school curriculum.

Please remember:

- Texas no longer has straight-ticket voting. So, voters in Texas cannot mark one box to vote for one party’s full slate of candidates. Instead, you will need to mark the box for each of your candidate choices.
- Regardless of which primary election or party convention you participated in, you can vote for the candidates of your choice regardless of party in the November General Election.

★ ABOUT THIS VOTERS GUIDE

This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas. The League never supports or opposes political parties and candidates.

EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

★ VOTERS GUIDE KEY

The following abbreviations are used throughout the *Voters Guide* to designate each candidate’s political party or candidate status:

R = Republican **D** = Democratic
L = Libertarian **G** = Green **WI** = Write-in

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BE A TEXAS VOTER!

Whichever way you choose to vote, be sure you are registered by checking at [VoteTexas.gov](https://www.vote-texas.gov)! You must be registered before you can vote! Then, vote one of the following ways:

VOTE BY MAIL

- You can vote by mail if you are:
 - 65 years or older
 - Sick or disabled
 - Out of the county during early voting and on Election Day
 - Expecting to give birth within 3 weeks before or after Election Day
 - In jail, but otherwise eligible to vote.
- To vote by mail in Texas, you must apply every year! Go to [lwvtexas.org/votebymail](https://www.lwvtexas.org/votebymail) for a vote-by-mail application and easy-to-understand instructions on voting by mail.
- Use the online tracker at [VoteTexas.gov](https://www.vote-texas.gov) to track your ballot. If there is an error in your vote-by-mail application or ballot, your county election office is required to notify you and instruct you how to fix it either by mail, in person or via the online tracker.

VOTE IN PERSON

- During early voting, you may vote at any polling place.
- On Election Day:
 - In some counties, you can vote at any polling place.
 - In other counties, you can vote only at your precinct.
- Find polling places on your county election website or at [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org).
- If you have a disability, you may request to move ahead of other voters in line.
- If in line before the poll closing time, you must be allowed to cast a ballot.

VOTE IN PERSON USING CURBSIDE VOTING

- If you are physically unable to enter the polling place without personal assistance or likelihood of injuring your health, you may park at the curbside voting parking space and call the number that is posted to ask that an election officer bring a ballot to your car.
- After you mark your ballot, give it to the election officer or hand it to a companion to deposit in the ballot box for you.

VOTE EVEN IF YOU ARE A SUSPENDED VOTER

You can still vote if your voter registration is in suspense as long as you are registered in your county! “Suspense” means that your county voter registrar needs to confirm your voting address.

VOTE A LIMITED BALLOT

If you have moved to a new county and have not registered in that county by the registration deadline, you may be eligible to vote a limited ballot in your new county. A limited ballot is one that allows you to vote on candidates and measures that are on the ballot for both your former county and your new county, such as statewide and national races.

- Note: Voting a limited ballot is only available during early voting at your county’s main early voting polling place.



VOTER ID: WHAT TO TAKE TO THE POLLS

You may use one of seven forms of photo ID, listed below.

- Texas Driver License
- Texas Election Identification Certificate
- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by the Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Handgun License issued by DPS
- US Military Identification Card containing your photograph
- US Citizenship Certificate containing your photograph
- US Passport (book or card)

Note:

- IDs may have expired up to four years.
- Persons 70 years or older may use an expired ID, regardless of expiration date.
- ID address does not have to match the voter registration address.
- The name on the photo ID should match the name on the list of registered voters or be “substantially similar”. If your name doesn’t match exactly, you can still vote but will need to sign a form stating you are the person on the list of registered voters.

If you are registered but do not have a photo ID and cannot reasonably obtain one, you may sign a form and present alternative documentation. Learn more at [lwvtexas.org/voterid](https://www.lwvtexas.org/voterid).

VOTER HARASSMENT

- Election officials cannot question a voter about the use of an ID type.
- Poll watchers may not: converse with a voter; record in the polling place; or observe a voter voting.
- If you are harassed, call or text Election Protection at 866-687-8683!



HELPFUL CONTACTS AND WEBSITES

League of Women Voters of Texas
[lwvtexas.org](https://www.lwvtexas.org)

Secretary of State
[VoteTexas.gov](https://www.vote-texas.gov)

Your County Election Website
<https://www.sos.texas.gov/elections/voter/links.shtml>
#County

Election Protection
[866OURVOTE.org](https://www.866OURVOTE.org)

Voter Hotlines!

- English: 866-OUR-VOTE or 866-687-8683
- Spanish: 888-Ve-Y-Vota or 888-839-8682
- Asian: 888-API-VOTE or 888-274-8683
- Arabic: 844-YALLA-US or 844-925-5297
- Disability Rights TX: 888-796-VOTE or 888-796-8683

Republican Party
[texasgop.org](https://www.texasgop.org)

Democratic Party
[txdemocrats.org](https://www.txdemocrats.org)

Libertarian Party
[lptexas.org](https://www.lptexas.org)

Green Party
[txgreens.org](https://www.txgreens.org)

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★ VOTE411

The online, interactive version of the *Voters Guide* is at VOTE411.org. By entering your address, you can view races and candidates on your ballot, compare candidate responses to unbiased questions posed by the League and create a print-out of your choices to take to the polls. If there is a local League in your community, you can also find information on any local races.



VOTERS GUIDE POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

- For the races covered in the *Voters Guide*, all candidates on the ballot with opponents on the ballot are invited to participate.
- Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification. The League assumes no responsibility for the content of the candidate responses.
- Negative references to opponents, including office-holders, or specific persons are not allowed.
- If a response does not meet the criteria listed in this *Voters Guide*, in place of a response or portion of a response that does not meet the criteria, the *Voters Guide* will state “Response removed; does not meet criteria” or “Portion of response removed; does not meet criteria”.
- The *Voters Guide* is organized by office, with candidates listed by party. For general elections, candidates are listed in ballot order.

For the complete LWV Texas *Voters Guide* policy, see lwvtexas.org.

★ SIGN UP FOR VOTING REMINDERS!



★ SUPPORT THE *VOTERS GUIDE*

Help us fund the cost of this valuable resource for Texas voters by making a secure donation online at lwvtexas.org/donate, or by mailing the payment to the League of Women Voters of Texas, 1212 Guadalupe #107, Austin, TX 78701.



TEXAS LOCAL LEAGUES

Learn more about our local Texas Leagues and how they help shape today’s important issues by visiting lwvtexas.org.

League of Women Voters of Texas Voter

Education Chair: Dorothy Marchand

League of Women Voters of Texas Executive

Director: Aileen McMurrer

Voters Guide Volunteers:

Barbara Larkin, Joyce LeBombard, Elisabeth MacNamara, Marilyn Minnaar, Janis Richardson

Production Team:

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U.S. PRESIDENT

Four-year term. The President is: the head of state of the United States of America; the Chief Executive Officer; and, the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are prescribed in the Constitution and federal law. The President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices, and federal judges, subject to Senate approval. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress. Current annual salary: \$400,000 per year.

All candidates for U.S. President who will appear on the ballot or qualified as a write-in candidate in Texas are listed below.

★ Donald J. Trump (R)

★ Jessie Cuellar (WI)

★ Kamala D. Harris (D)

★ Claudia De La Cruz (WI)

★ Chase Oliver (L)

★ Cherunda Fox (WI)

★ Jill Stein (G)

★ Peter Sonski (WI)

★ Shiva Ayyadurai (WI)

★ Cornel West (WI)

See [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org) to compare candidates for President. Candidates invited by the League of Women Voters of the United States to provide biographical information and to respond to questions were required to meet certain qualifications:

1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of their intention to run for President.
2. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds based on the most recent date publicly available on the Federal Elections Commission website.
3. The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes.

U.S. SENATOR

Six-year term. One of two members of the U.S. Senate from Texas. With the U.S. House, the Senate makes laws; raises revenues, appropriates federal funds and manages the federal debt; regulates commerce among states and with other nations; declares war and maintains and regulates the military; establishes the federal court system and defines federal crimes; and directs the census every ten years. The Senate has the exclusive power to advise and consent on presidential nominations to executive and judicial offices, to ratify U.S. treaties, and to try impeachments. Current annual salary: \$174,000

★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Democracy: What needs to be done to protect our democracy and restore faith in our institutions?

Immigration: What policy changes are needed so the U.S. immigration system is both effective and humane?

Cost of Living: What actions can Congress take to bring down the cost of living for Americans?

Reproductive Rights: What should Congress do to protect reproductive rights?

Climate Change: What measures need to be taken at the federal level to address the impacts of climate change?

Freedom of Speech: What is the role of the government in protecting freedom of speech while combating disinformation in the public sphere?

International Relations: What is the role of the U.S. in protecting democracy across the world and how do we balance that position against our economic interests?

★ Ted Cruz (R)

No response received



★ Colin Allred (D)

Democracy: Texas is sadly one of the hardest states to vote in. As a former voting rights attorney, I have seen firsthand the devastation on the faces of Americans when they are disenfranchised. I'm committed to ensuring that it is easy and safe for all eligible Americans to vote in our elections, which is why I have been a proud cosponsor of the John Lewis Freedom to Vote Act.

Immigration: My mom was raised in Brownsville where I often spent summers visiting my grandmother. I support comprehensive reform that includes securing our border, reforming our asylum process, protecting Dreamers and providing a pathway to earned citizenship and matching our immigration system to the needs of our economy. I am a cosponsor of the bipartisan Dignity Act, and the Bipartisan Border Bill.

Cost of Living: I was raised by a single mom and it wasn't always easy. I know what it is like when costs go up. I was proud to champion legislation to lower health care and energy costs and cap the cost of prescription drugs and insulin for folks on Medicare. We also must cut the cost of child care, work towards universal pre-k and establish nationwide paid family and medical leave.

Reproductive Rights: My wife and I were blessed to have two healthy boys in Dallas, and I cannot imagine if the doctor at one of those appointments had said that something was wrong with our baby but there was nothing they could do about it because of Texas' abortion ban. Among the first pieces of legislation I plan to support is the Women's Health Protection Act, which will codify Roe v. Wade as the law of the land.

Climate Change: We can address the climate crisis, lower energy costs and incentivize economic growth simultaneously. We need an all-of-the-above energy

★ Colin Allred (D) (continued)

approach that keeps costs low, creates jobs and strengthens our grid. For the last hundred years Texas has been an energy leader and I will continue to support responsible oil and gas production as well as our fast-growing wind, solar and hydrogen sectors.

Freedom of Speech: Protecting the freedom of speech is paramount, as that freedom is foundational to other freedoms. The government has a role to play in ensuring that this freedom is protected from bad actors and foreign adversaries. The rise of disinformation is incredibly concerning, and we must put in place guard-

rails and ensure our social media platforms counter harmful disinformation.

International Relations: These core values are not in tension. Smart trade policy is great diplomacy. This is one of the reasons I championed the USMCA agreement, to strengthen labor standards and grow our own economy with high-paying jobs. By creating trade agreements with other democracies, we can strengthen our own prosperity and independence while standing up to bad actors with a multilateral approach.

Campaign Website: colinallred.com



★ Ted Brown (L)

Democracy: The two party system has not served our country at all. Voters need more choices and then be willing to vote for alternative parties that will present new ideas in Washington and at the State Capitol. It's hard to have a democracy when so many voices are not heard. The only voices that most politicians listen to are big contributors and corporations. Declare your Independence! Vote Libertarian.

Immigration: Immigration is good for our country's economy and society. Immigrants just want a better life and have a much lower crime rate than native-born Americans. We need an Ellis Island-style immigration system that welcomes people who want to come to any point of entry, sign in, identify themselves, and be confirmed as not being a criminal. They should work from Day One and not be on welfare programs.

Cost of Living: The \$35 trillion national debt is unsustainable. The Federal Reserve printing money to pay the debt is what causes inflation. We need massive cuts in federal spending across the board in every department, agency, and program, including the military. I support the free market over taxes, spending, and regulation. The less government there is, the more prosperous and happy the people will be.

Reproductive Rights: 99% of abortions are performed in the 1st and 2nd trimesters, not late term, which is rare. Government should not get between women and their

doctors on a completely personal decision about their own reproductive systems. I support a federal law to protect access to abortions nationwide, since so many red states (like Texas) want to limit women's personal choices.

Climate Change: While climate change is happening, most proposals to counter it will do little or nothing to actually lower temperatures. Instead, the proposals want to damage Western economies while ignoring China's major emissions. We need a free market in energy, without government subsidies or controls. If we want less carbon emissions, we need to build more nuclear power plants, which have no emissions.

Freedom of Speech: I am a 1st Amendment free speech absolutist and oppose any government attempts to limit free speech. Government should never decide what information is accurate or true, since they are likely covering up their own misdeeds. Both my opponents want to ban Tik Tok. I say no to censorship. The solution to bad speech is more speech. We also have to protect Section 230 from any more attacks.

International Relations: I believe we should engage with every nation in free trade, diplomacy, and travel, but not militarily. I believe in a non-interventionist foreign policy where we are not involved in foreign conflicts. We interfere in every war (and cause a few) and sell or give weapons to various sides, leading to untold death and destruction around the world. Our economic interests are served by free trade.

Campaign Website: www.tedbrown.org



★ Tracy Andrus (WI)

Democracy: To protect our democracy, we need to be more transparent and reduce racism and bigotry. America is a great nation but some people

like are turning America into a rogue nation by trying to overthrow the government. There are some Justices who are acting like puppets and seem to be scared to interpret the law if it offends certain party members. We have work to do to restore faith in our institutions

Immigration: Let the immigrants into America, give them legal status and let them pay taxes like everyone else. It is hypocrisy to act like we don't need the hispanics who come into this country. These people perform jobs that no one else wants to do. We let them into our country and give them individual tax identification numbers and then cry foul! Implement comprehensive immigration reform and keep it moving.

Cost of Living: Hire more people and produce more products! We have more consumers and less producers. Over 117,000 illegal immigrants crossed the border in May 2024. These people need food, medicine, houses, schools etc. If we are allowing these many people to cross the border each month of course we will have a problem with supply and demand.

Reproductive Rights: Codify Roe Vs. Wade and make it federal law so states cannot restrict a woman's

right to make decisions regarding their bodies. I also believe that women should be responsible and accountable. If a woman has sex without using contraceptives and gets pregnant, I believe that they should have the baby even if they give the baby up for adoption.

Climate Change: We need to continue to research renewable and green energy while phasing out the use of fossil fuels. Our ozone layer has thinned and we see the collateral consequences it has had on our weather patterns. The last three years have been the hottest years on record. This is no coincidence. We've had more tornadoes and hurricanes than ever! All of this is a result of climate change!

Freedom of Speech: The government should protect free speech but not hate speech or speech that misinform the public. With the advent of AI and social media, it is more important than ever that we protect free speech! Public information can be lethal. America must combat disinformation in the public sphere.

International Relations: The United States is not the World's Police! I believe that we should work to preserve democracy all over the world but we must not meddle in international affairs that do not threaten our way of life. We must balance and be good stewards of our resources in America.

Campaign Website: www.tracyandrusforsenate.com

★ Analisa Roche (WI)

Democracy: We need to elect people of integrity who we trust to work together in solidarity for the common good, regardless of which way they lean politically.

Immigration: All policies must respect the infinite dignity of the life of every human being. Comprehensive reform is needed that both preserves border security and treats people humanely. Undocumented immigrants need workable pathways to citizenship. Family unification should be a top priority, as should protection of refugees and asylum seekers.

Cost of Living: Congress can require workers be paid a living wage. Congress can also pass funding and tax

incentives for affordable housing programs. It should consider rent control in some areas. Universal healthcare and other healthcare reform measures that reduce out-of-pocket costs for health should be passed. Social safety nets should be expanded and strengthened. The tax system should be reformed.

Reproductive Rights: This question assumes that reproductive rights should be protected. I believe the inherent dignity of all human life should be protected, from the unborn child to the mother carrying it. Congress should expand support for those expecting children in the forms of assistance with healthcare, education, child care, and housing. I believe we can create a society where abortion is not necessary.

★ **Analisa Roche (WI) *(continued)***

Climate Change: Development of renewable energy needs to be funded. A carbon pricing system could reduce carbon footprints. Green infrastructure projects need to be invested in & sustainable agriculture needs to be promoted. Large-scale reforestation and protection of biodiversity is essential. The US should lead international climate agreements. Marginalized & vulnerable communities should receive particular aid

Freedom of Speech: Freedom of speech is a fundamental human right essential for democracy. Government must protect it. Censorship should only ever be

used cautiously. Government must promote truth by fostering a culture of truthfulness and critical thinking. Election of people with integrity will go a long way towards this effort. Encouraging media literacy and education will also help.

International Relations: The US has a responsibility to support human rights and democratic values worldwide; we should, however, be cautious about military intervention. Foreign aid is our best tool for promoting human rights and democracy. Work with international organizations such as the UN is important. Fair trade agreements must protect labor rights and environmental standards. Targeted economic sanctions are a tool.

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

Six-year term. The Railroad Commissioner is one of the three-member Texas Railroad Commission. The commission regulates the oil and gas industry, gas utilities, pipeline safety, safety in the liquefied petroleum gas industry and surface coal and uranium mining. It has no regulatory authority concerning railroads. Current annual salary: \$140,937

★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Oil and Gas Wells: What can the Railroad Commission do to mitigate the harm to the health of people and animals and to land caused by producing and abandoned oil and gas wells?

Emissions: What should the Railroad Commission do to reduce the amount of flared gas from oil and gas wells in Texas?

Carbon Capture: Should the Railroad Commission be granted authority to regulate wells and underground storage facilities in Texas that trap and store carbon dioxide? Why or why not?

Seismic Activity: How can the Railroad Commission reduce the risk of seismic activity or earthquakes caused by liquids disposal from oil and gas activities?

Ethics: Since candidates for Railroad Commission often raise money and receive income from the oil and gas industry, how can citizens be assured that those donations and income will not influence how commissioners regulate the industry?

★ Christi Craddick (R)

No response received



★ Katherine Culbert (D)

Qualifications: I am a Process Safety Engineer who helps Oil & Gas companies operate safely to protect communities and workers and follow regulations. I care about my fellow Texans and want everyone to thrive here.

Oil and Gas Wells: The RRC needs to continue to monitor plugged and abandoned wells in perpetuity. They need to take responsibility for all old wells in the state, whether they were drilled for production or water and they need to hold the companies that drilled the wells responsible for continuing to monitor and confirm the integrity of the well plugs and repair leaking or damaged wells to protect our communities.

Emissions: Flaring releases methane (natural gas)

and other hazardous air pollutants and contributes to ground-level ozone. RRC needs to update Rule 32 to define when a flaring permit should be granted, remove flaring applications from the consent agenda, and hold companies accountable for the environmental damage they are doing to all of us. They have only denied 44 out of >8000 permits since May '21.

Carbon Capture: No, CCUS presents new risks to drinking water from harmful materials like lead, arsenic, and strong acids. The RRC is not funded to allow adequate oversight of this new technology, which is not fully developed, adding more complexity. The RRC is unable to control the oil, gas, and injection wells that are already under its control, we should not add more to further put our communities at risk.

Seismic Activity: The limits the RRC are putting on the injection wells are not working. We need to further

★ Katherine Culbert (D) *(continued)*

limit the number of injection wells and the locations by not injecting disposal water near natural fault lines. Additionally, we need to hold the companies accountable for treating the water so it is not toxic and can be reused elsewhere.

Ethics: There is a difference between receiving income from working in an industry and making windfall prof-

its from corporate investments with the companies you are regulating, having your actions directly increase your profits. Many agencies prohibit investments in companies that are affected by agency actions and Texas needs to implement the same rules. Industry experience is an asset for regulators.

Campaign Website: www.katherine4texas.com



★ Hawk Dunlap (L)

Qualifications: 30+ years domestic and international oil and gas experience specializing in well control(well fires and blowouts) critical well integ-

egrity and risk management.

Oil and Gas Wells: Strictly enforce statewide rules, hold oil and gas operators accountable, and aggressively change the way we plug wells.

Emissions: Ensure there is more gas take away capacity and storage as well as push for new markets for our resources.

Carbon Capture: Not with the way the agency is currently operating presently. Texas needs to deal with the over injection of produced water before taking on a serious risk like ccus.

Seismic Activity: Produced water recycling and a reduction in produced water injection will need to be addressed. Furthermore a reduction in ground water use for oil and gas operations will be required.

Ethics: I am not raising money for this campaign.

Campaign Website: Hawk4texas.com



★ Eddie Espinoza (G)

Qualifications: Eddie Espinoza is not a politician or oil-industry insider. He's an Army veteran, retired elementary teacher, and climate activist. Eddie

wants to lower your electric bill with renewable energy.

Oil and Gas Wells: Eddie Espinoza wants the Railroad Commission to regulate the oil and gas industry effectively and enable our transition to cheap, clean renewable energy. Eddie is the only center/left choice in this race. His opponents all get income from the oil and gas industry, and the "Democratic" challenger for Railroad Commissioner is actually a Republican – she has voted in Republican primaries for years.

Emissions: Gas flaring and venting should be banned. Period. Scientists report that communities within 60 miles of flaring have increased rates of hospitalization

for respiratory issues. Gas flaring and venting is a significant cause of global warming. We must stop releasing methane into the atmosphere.

Carbon Capture: The Railroad Commission should ban carbon capture schemes, because carbon capture is NOT a real climate solution. Carbon capture will cost billions of dollars and raise energy bills for consumers, but will barely contribute to global warming mitigation. The only climate solution is to transition away from fossil fuels to clean renewables like wind, solar, and utility-scale batteries.

Seismic Activity: Ban fracking. Ban injection wells. Oil and gas extraction contaminates enormous amounts of water, which is then disposed of by injecting the toxic water underground, harming freshwater sources and causing earthquakes. Cheap, clean renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and utility-scale batteries don't cause earthquakes or contaminate our soil, water, and air.

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER | *(continued)*

★ Eddie Espinoza (G) *(continued)*

Ethics: Candidates who say fundraising and income don't influence them are lying! Eddie Espinoza hasn't taken any oil and gas industry donations, and he never will – unlike his opponents. Eddie Espinoza receives no

oil and gas industry income, and he never will – unlike his opponents. You can trust Eddie Espinoza to work for you, not for the oil and gas industry, as Railroad Commissioner.

Campaign Website: espinoza4tx.com



★ Richard McKibbin (WI)

Qualifications: I am the American Solidarity Party candidate for Texas Railroad Commissioner. I live in Ector, Tx with my wife and daughter. I at-

tended the University of Ulster and Grayson County College.

Oil and Gas Wells: I strongly believe in the polluter pays principle and that those who leave wells posing a health hazard to local communities must be financially responsible for cleaning them up. I also believe our inspectors need to be more proactive in identifying such wells. Additionally, I would increase the surety bonds on wells from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Emissions: I believe we should explore ways to turn flared gas into something useful, such as liquefied natural gas or compressed natural gas.

Carbon Capture: I believe there is more research to be conducted in the area of carbon capture with regard to the regulation of carbon capture and the safety to local communities.

Seismic Activity: I believe the Railroad Commission could conduct a thorough survey of the state to identify areas with the highest risk of seismic activity and pinpoint fault lines. Additionally, I believe that those wishing to drill within 50 miles of a fault line should pay a premium surety bond.

Ethics: Being a member of a very small, environmentally aware party, I have no donors with corporate links to the oil and natural gas industry. I believe such donations could constitute a conflict of interest and should not be allowed for campaigns for this position.

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089249035314&mibextid=LQQJ4d

JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

Six-year term. The Texas Supreme Court is the court of last resort for civil matters in Texas. This Court includes a Chief Justice and eight justices, each of which is elected by voters of the entire state. This court issues final decisions on civil and juvenile appeals; issues certain orders to governmental officials to act and individuals to appear before the court; and has jurisdiction over orders or judgments of trial courts if the Supreme Court determines them important to the Texas legal system. Current annual salary range: \$168,000 to \$201,600

★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

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 review lower court decisions?

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

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

Other Issues: What issues do you believe will be the most pressing for the Texas Supreme Court?

★ PLACE 2

★ Jimmy Blacklock (R)

No response received



★ DaSean Jones (D)

Qualifications: Judge DaSean Jones is a decorated combat veteran, district judge, and former civil rights attorney with broad voter support. His legal and military experience uniquely qualify him to defend the U.S. a

Ethics: Judge DaSean Jones, with 23+ years of service, assures voters that his rulings are based solely on the law, not influenced by campaign donations. His deep commitment to loyalty, duty, and fairness ensures impartial decisions, rooted in the ethical standards he has consistently upheld throughout his career as a decorated Army veteran and district judge.

Equity: Judge DaSean Jones believes improving access to justice starts with eliminating barriers and ensuring fair treatment for all, especially underserved communities. He advocates for expanding legal resources, increasing public legal education, and fostering inclusivity in the justice system. By addressing systemic inequi-

ties, Judge Jones is committed to ensuring everyone has equal access to justice.

Judicial Elections: Nonpartisan judicial races could potentially enhance justice if party influence is fully removed. Without party labels, judges might focus more on the law, leading to what could be perceived as fairer decisions. However, if party influence continues through endorsements or funding, the effort may be hollow. Some judges may bravely maintain impartiality, while others might still lean towards party.

Other Issues: The Texas Supreme Court's similar backgrounds raise concerns about adequately representing the state's diverse population. As Texas diversifies, the Court must ensure its rulings address all communities. Without broader representation, public trust and the Court's legitimacy could continue to decline. Diverse perspectives are essential for delivering impartial and equitable decisions for all Texan

Campaign Website: www.daseanfortexas.com

JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

(continued)

★ PLACE 4

★ John Devine (R)

No response received



★ Christine Vinh Weems (D)

Qualifications: I have been a civil district judge in Harris County since January 1, 2019. I am double-board certified in civil trial law and personal injury trial law. I practice judicial discretion and equity.

Ethics: It is standard for lawyers who practice in courts to donate and support judicial races. They just want good judges who will make decisions either way and let them try their case. Even after 5 1/2 years on the bench, ruling for and against these lawyers, I am honored to still have their support because they know I am just doing my job and will be fair. It will be the same on the Supreme Court.

Equity: There needs to be greater efforts made to educate the public about the numerous services available. Between non-profit organizations, pro-bono legal services, legal clinics at the law schools, there are so many opportunities for free or low-cost legal assistance that

most citizens do not know about. There needs to be an investment made to publicize the efforts of these organizations to citizens.

Judicial Elections: The judicial canons prohibit candidates and judges from talking about their position on crucial issues the voters want to know about. For example, I can't tell you my position on abortion or election reform because those kind of cases come before the Court. But I can tell you that I'm a democrat and that gives the voters some guidance as to my values and what I believe.

Other Issues: The Texas Supreme Court routinely considers so many issues that affect all Texans, like women's reproductive health, voting rights, the constitutionality of state laws. I think the most pressing issue is recusal. Judges are supposed to recuse themselves from a case if there is even the appearance of a conflict of interest and that is not happening. It erodes confidence and trust in the Court.

★ PLACE 6



★ Jane Bland (R)

Qualifications: I have served as a judge for 25 years at three levels of the state judiciary (5 on the Court). Board certified in trial and appellate law. I

study the facts and faithfully apply the law in each case.

Ethics: I work hard to act with honesty, integrity, and respect toward all who come before the Court. Judges promise to fairly apply the constitution and laws to the

facts. This oath requires that we set aside any outside influence and follow the law. It is a solemn responsibility. I have been honored for my professionalism and integrity throughout my career.

Equity: We must reduce the cost of legal help with innovation, secure legal aid for those in need, and remind the public that access to justice for all Texans is essential. Recently, our Court launched a licensing program for paralegals and court access assistants to help underserved people. I represented people in need and served

JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

(continued)

★ PLACE 6

★ Jane Bland (R) (continued)

on a legal aid board. It is the obligation we have as lawyers.

Judicial Elections: The work of the Court would not change, but it may change public perception of the judiciary. No change can happen without the support of voters and their elected representatives. The Governor and the Legislature formed a bipartisan commission that has made recommendations to them about judicial selection. I support this process and efforts to improve public trust and confidence in the judiciary.



★ Bonnie Lee Goldstein (D)

Qualifications: A 33 year varied civil and municipal law practice; 20 years judicial experience: 11 years as a municipal judge, 6 years as a civil district trial

judge and 3.8 years as intermediate appellate justice.

Ethics: Transparency through the Campaign Finance Reports detailed disclosure requirements, updated periodically according to the reporting schedule, along with stringent limitations imposed upon campaign contributions for judicial races, help safeguard against the appearance of impropriety and protect the integrity and independence of the judiciary.

Equity: Prioritize continued vigilance to identify the underserved, and the resources necessary to improve access to justice. Update and adapt pandemic-tested solutions for improved access through increased use of technology, virtual platforms and hybrid proceedings, as well as the development of user-friendly informa-

Other Issues: Increasing access to justice is a top priority. Also: improving outcomes for children and those with mental health needs who appear in court, increasing transparency in court operations, and fostering innovation. Responsiveness to the challenges facing Texans who are parties to a dispute and respect for all who encounter our courts will help maintain public trust and confidence in our judiciary.

Campaign Website: www.justicejanebland.com

tional or instructional materials to help navigate the judicial system.

Judicial Elections: The Canons prohibit a judge from being swayed by partisan interests. Politicizing the judiciary by party affiliation or ideology has had a negative impact on public opinion of our system of justice. Public perception of the administration of justice may be best served by nonpartisan judicial races that will further preserve, protect and promote the independence and integrity of the judiciary.

Other Issues: As a judicial candidate for the Texas Supreme Court, I cannot comment on issues that may come before me. The Canons prohibit a judge from being “swayed by partisan interests, public clamor, or fear of criticism” therefore transparency in judgment, clarity and consistency of opinions, are critical to preserve and protect the constitution, the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary.

Campaign Website: justicegoldstein.com

JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

(continued)

★ PLACE 6 (continued)



★ J. David Roberson (L)

Qualifications: I have been practicing complex civil litigation and business tax law advisory for nearly fourteen (14) years, with clients from individuals to Fortune 50 companies. This requires circumspect

review.

Ethics: Judges must hold themselves to strong ethics and behavior. However, making donations public and presented would serve as an outside check on ethical behavior.

Equity: Our system does a poor job of properly funding public defender offices throughout Texas. It would behoove those in the Judiciary to consider supporting legislative allocation of funding towards improving the courthouse access and proper representation for all.

Judicial Elections: Given the average voter's level of political awareness, I would expect that a non-partisan race may cause either confusion or inquisitiveness - to determine which candidate is their choice. As to the administration of justice, I would expect any person elected would comport themselves under the law, with some deference to personal positions that the record would quickly reveal.

Other Issues: Two pressing social issues that will generate litigation are exceptions to abortion restrictions, and the I-35 corridor construction through Austin. I expect those issues to rise to the Supreme Court's attention rapidly, and it behooves the Court to consider the impact of their decisions on individual Texans when considering these cases.

Campaign Website: www.roberson4texas.com



VOTING FOR JUDGES IN TEXAS



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

Judges make decisions about fundamental issues impacting family life, education, health care, housing, employment, finances, discrimination, civil rights, public safety, and government actions.

The Texas court system is made up of a statewide network of trial courts and courts of appeal. 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 a court of appeal 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/about-texas-courts/> for more information.

JUDGE, TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

Six-year term. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals is Texas' highest court for criminal cases. The Court includes a Presiding Judge and eight Judges, each of which is elected by voters of the entire state. The court must review all cases in which the death penalty is assessed. It also exercises discretionary review in other criminal cases and issues rulings about wrongful imprisonment. Current annual salary range: \$168,000 to \$201,600

★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Qualifications: What characteristics and experience qualify you to serve as a judge?

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 review lower court decisions?

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

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

Philosophy: What is your judicial philosophy?

★ PRESIDING JUDGE



★ David J. Schenck (R)

Qualifications: I served for 8 years as an appellate justice, chaired the state's judicial conduct commission and have specialized in appellate work for 30

years. I served also as Deputy Att'y General

Ethics: Please see my website and my 2005 U.S. Supreme Court brief in Dimick. This has been a core concern of mine for 2 decades and why I have called for reforms, including limits on contributions, immediate disclosure when made during a case and mandatory recusals depending on the amounts and timing.

Judicial Elections: We would have judges selected with the assent of far fewer voters and perhaps (but by

no means certainly) less allegiance to the parties. Municipal elections are non-partisan and yet people still figure out which mayoral candidate is aligned with which party. Local (county wide) judicial races might be different, but statewide races will always attract heavy attention/spending, etc..

Equity: I think the issue here is more about quality of access than quantity; people, esp. the wealthy and very poor) can get to court on their own or via programs to provide counsel but everyone (not just the underserved) need meaningful access. It's the middle class that is really under served here. In civil cases, we have rules to expedite cases but few judges are aware of or adhere to them.

Philosophy: Simple: follow the law, don't make it up and treat everyone fairly.



★ Holly Taylor (D)

Qualifications: I have practiced criminal law for over 25 years as a prosecutor and as an attorney for the Court of Criminal Appeals. I have been an ad-

junct law professor and I worked to remedy wrongful convictions.

Ethics: Our Code of Judicial Conduct requires judges to perform their "judicial duties without bias or prejudice" and avoid "the appearance of impropriety." Judges should recuse themselves in cases where their

JUDGE, TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

(continued)

★ PRESIDING JUDGE

★ Holly Taylor (D) (continued)

“impartiality might reasonably be questioned.” I will recuse myself in any case that I worked on as a prosecutor and in any case where they could be an appearance of impropriety.

Judicial Elections: The Code of Judicial Conduct bars judges from taking a position on political issues. Commentators have said that nonpartisan judicial elections would allow judicial candidates to maintain the appearance of impartiality. Others have insisted that voters should have the right to know the party affiliations of judicial candidates. This is an issue for the Legislature.

Equity: Appellate courts can prioritize working toward an impartial and fair justice system, free of bias or prejudice based upon race, sex, religion, national

origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or any unconstitutional ground; fostering a government that serves all the people and treats all human beings with dignity and respect.

Philosophy: Courts should give full and fair consideration to the text of constitutional and statutory law.

I support an impartial and fair justice system that is:

- free of bias based on race, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or any unconstitutional ground;
- founded in the rule of law, with due consideration given to the doctrine of stare decisis.

Campaign Website: hollytforjudge.com

★ JUDGE, PLACE 7



★ Gina Parker (R)

Qualifications: My experience as both a prosecutor and criminal defense attorney qualifies me to serve. Also, I served as Commissioner and Chair-

man of TDLR and heard thousands of administrative law appeals.

Ethics: In my opinion, this is an issue that definitely should be addressed by the legislature. On a personal level, I believe that my faith in God and my commitment to justice are anchors that will ensure that my decisions are not influenced by donors.

Judicial Elections: I do not favor this approach.

Equity: There has been progress in this area through the pro bono efforts of the State Bar of Texas. Also, if someone is indigent in a criminal case, they may request a court-appointed attorney. We should continue to pursue these endeavors to ensure access to justice, especially in criminal cases.

Philosophy: My commitment is to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Texas and to never legislate from the bench and thereby undermine the will of the voters. I will not betray the trust of the voters.

Campaign Website: www.ginaparkercampaign.com

★ Nancy Mulder (D)

No response received

JUDGE, TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

(continued)

★ JUDGE, PLACE 8

★ Lee Finley (R)

No response received



★ Chika Anyiam (D)

Qualifications: I am the Presiding Judge of a State Criminal District Court hearing serious felony cases. I am Board Certified in Criminal law, fair, impartial

with 20 years of prior criminal law trial experience.

Ethics: Judicial candidates should file their campaign finance reports timely, publish all campaign donations, donor names and be transparent to the public and parties appearing before the judge. I am not influenced by donations to my campaign. The Texas Code of Judicial Conduct ensures that judges who break campaign finance laws are sanctioned by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Judicial Elections: Unlike appellate judges trial judges have a discretion to order rehabilitative/mental health services for defendants in need, and punitive prison sentences for violent dangerous criminals. Democratic judges are known to strike a healthy balance between rehabilitation and punishment, unlike their con-

servative counterparts. For this reason, voters need to know a trial judge's political affiliation.

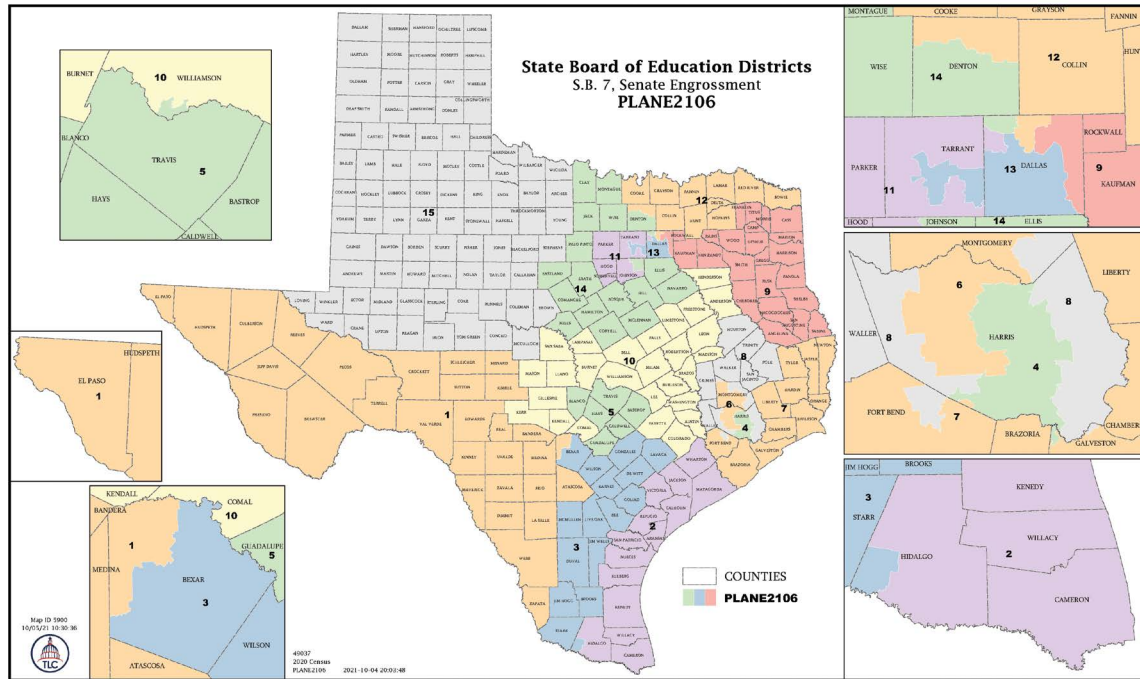
Equity: Judges should come to work timely, appoint competent attorneys to indigent defendants and translators for non-English speakers. Low level offenders should be released quickly with low or PR bonds and only come to court when their case is set for disposition. Cases should not be set far out to ensure timely justice. Probationers should report to nearer offices and conditions that help them succeed.

Philosophy: I believe our laws should be interpreted strictly according to the legislative intent, not colored by the judge's individual biases or prejudices. Everyone has a right to equal justice, fair and impartial treatment and true and timey justice. In trial courts where the judge has the discretion, I believe in drug and mental health treatment for low level offenders and prison for violent criminals.

Campaign Website: judgechikaanyiam.com

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Four-year term. The fifteen-member board decides curriculum, standards, student testing, special education programs, and textbooks for Texas public schools. It also oversees the Permanent School Fund. Current annual salary: Members of the Board do not receive pay, but are reimbursed for expenses to attend meetings.



★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

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?

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

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

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

★ DISTRICT 1



★ **Michael (Travis) Stevens (R)**

Qualifications: I have 14 years of education experience at the secondary and adult education levels. During that time

I have worked as an ELA teacher, ESL teacher, Instructional Coach, Academic Dean and a Principal.

History Education: I would ensure that social studies curriculum provided students with historical facts from varying perspectives of all of those who were involved

★ DISTRICT 1 (continued)

★ Michael (Travis) Stevens (R)

in a particular moment in time. This would allow students to see the point of view from multiple worldviews and not just that of one group, or culture. Students deserve to know both sides of the story in order to truly understand history.

Religion in Public Schools: No, religious beliefs should not be incorporated into the public school curriculum. Public schools are institutions of learning for all children, not just one group. Learning should be based on unbiased curriculum free from outside influences.

Teacher Certification: No, teachers who are not cer-

tified should not be allowed to teach in Texas classrooms. Certified teachers are highly qualified and trained individuals who provide students with a quality level of education. Uncertified teachers simply can not bring the same level of academic rigor, because they lack the pedagogical skills that are acquired through the teacher certification process.

Other Issues: I believe that STAAR testing, in its current format, will be one of the most pressing issues faced by the SBOE. I feel that the board will need to consider removing STAAR as a graduation requirement and as a primary means of assessing campus performance.

Campaign Website: stevensforsboe1.com



★ Gustavo Reveles (D)

Qualifications: For nearly 30 years, I have been involved in public education — the first 15 years as an education reporter for two major Texas newspapers and since 2010 as an administrator serving two districts.

History Education: We must make sure the history of all Texans is reflected in our text books and that any attempt to belittle or ignore important but difficult aspects of our education are not ignored. Current SBOE majority members continue to dilute the impact minorities have made on our state and country.

Religion in Public Schools: While we should respect the right of students express and practice their re-

ligion freely, the push to infringe on the rights of religious minorities or non-religious Texans should be fought. A clear separation of church and state should be a guiding principle.

Teacher Certification: In some cases, yes. Districts should have the option to rely on non-certified educators for hard-to-fill subjects — with the condition that an emergency certification should be followed by proper certification within a certain amount of time.

Other Issues: We must fight efforts to privatize public education and to divert state resources to private schools.

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/share/g/KwRPowMk3J3Th53i/?mibextid=K35XfP

★ DISTRICT 3

★ Marisa Perez-Diaz (D)

Unopposed

★ DISTRICT 4

★ Staci Childs (D)

Unopposed

★ DISTRICT 10



★ Tom Maynard (R)

Qualifications: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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.

Campaign Website: www.maynardfortexas.com



★ Raquel Saenz Ortiz (D)

Qualifications: 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.

History Education: 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.

Religion in Public Schools: 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.

Teacher Certification: 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.

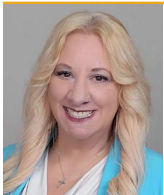
Other Issues: I believe another key area that is important within the State Board of Education is ensuring that charter schools are held to a high standard, particularly in ensuring that they are able to meet the needs of students with IEPs and 504s, along with emerging bilingual students.

Campaign Website: drsfortexas.com

★ DISTRICT 11

★ Brandon Hall (R)

No response received



★ Rayna Glasser (D)

Qualifications: Veteran educator with 17 years experience in public education
Written district assessments & curriculum for 14 years
Master's Degree in Teacher

Leadership with an emphasis on curriculum & instruction

History Education: My Master's Degree focused on curriculum development and instructional resources. I would be committed to reviewing materials brought before the board and properly vetting those materials for historical accuracy and ensuring they were comprehensive through research and collaboration with experts and teachers in that field before any curriculum could be approved for adoption.

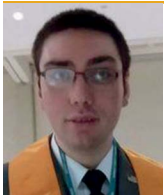
Religion in Public Schools: Religion should not be taught in public schools. If we open the door to allow Christianity to be taught in our schools then to be inclusive, we would have to allow all religions to be taught, including Satanism, Atheism, Catholicism, Bud-

dhism, Hinduism, Scientology, etc. I believe that is what the church is for, and as a parent, I could choose to send my child to a religious school.

Teacher Certification: I think it depends on what they are wanting to teach and if they can pass the certification exam required for the subject they want to teach. If they want to teach a specific trade that they have work experience in, I believe they could teach the content with some on-the-job pedagogy support. If they want to teach a core subject, I believe they need to be certified in that content area.

Other Issues: I think it's time to revisit graduation requirements in the State of Texas and eliminate the STAAR test as a requirement for graduation. I believe we need to create graduation pathways. Students should be able to choose a military pathway, trade pathway, higher education pathway, or traditional pathway. We need to normalize pathways other than college for our students.

Campaign Website: raynaforsboe11.com/



★ Hunter Crow (G)

Qualifications: AAS Library Technician TCCD 2023 BA History from UT Arlington will graduate in spring 2025
History of Technology and Science minor UT

Arlington 2025 Law and legal studies minor UT Arlington

History Education: I would encourage Texas Public Schools to teach about the History of Technology and Science (HoTS). I think this would provides students an an opportunity to explore how technological development and scientific innovation have shaped societies, cultures, and institutions across time and place. I think this could be very enjoyable and comprehensive which focus US History in a different way.

Religion in Public Schools: I support religious education so long it does not favor one religion over another. I think the teaching of region can be a very valuable skill if it taught right.

Teacher Certification: I do think that teachers certification is a huge barrier for those who are interested in teaching, Also the exams can be very hard. I would like to point out that college professors typically do not require a teaching certification. I do think that if you already have graduate degree such as masters or doctoral degree in your area of expertise. I do think that you should be able to teach.

Other Issues: I would like to mention the book ban and chronic absenteeism in s school comes to mind.

★ DISTRICT 12



★ Pam Little (R)

Qualifications: I have served for 6 years on the State Board of Education the last 4 of those as the Vice-Chair.

Prior to that I worked with educational publishing companies and the SBOE to develop textbooks.

History Education: Students should be taught what has happened in history. History courses should work on developing critical thinking skills so that students can determine their own thoughts about the past. Coming up for the SBOE is an update of the social studies standards and the critical piece that needs to be determined is the framework for what will be taught at each grade level.

Religion in Public Schools: I think the Golden Rule and Good Samaritan could be taught in the concept of kindness to one another but not so far as to incor-

porate Bible verses. If we start putting religious beliefs from one religion that will cause problems from other religions. In the US we have freedom of religion. I am against preaching vs teaching.

Teacher Certification: I like to see certified teachers in our classrooms. Unfortunately, in these times there maybe the necessity of using alternative certifications. In the career and technology areas it maybe that the teacher's job experience offsets a certification.

Other Issues: Two pressing issues coming up or the review of the Math TEKS and the Social Studies TEKS. It is very concerning that the math scores are so low and we need to figure out what is causing this problem. Is it the TEKS not preparing students for the test, is it the test not following the TEKS, is it the instructional materials not adequately preparing students for jobs.

Campaign Website: pamlittle.com



★ George King (D)

Qualifications: I served 40 years in public education as a classroom teacher and campus principal. During that time, I developed a depth and breadth

of expertise with curriculum development and learning materials.

History Education: Curriculum decisions by the SBOE should be based exclusively on standards of accuracy and comprehensiveness to the TEKS. The SBOE must safeguard against the influence of ideology in these decisions. As a member of the SBOE, I will lead efforts to uphold this ideal with other members in the decisions we make.

Religion in Public Schools: While providing students with a broad understanding of all religions is an important curriculum standard, the overemphasis of Christianity, or any other religion, creates exclusion for students raised in different faiths. If students feel excluded, they cannot achieve.

Teacher Certification: Alternative certification candidates experience a higher rate of turnover and produce lower rates of student achievement than traditional certification candidates. Traditional certification teachers experience a rigorous and comprehensive training in every facet of student development. For these reasons, we must evolve towards a model that strengthens traditional certification participation.

Other Issues: It is imperative that we achieve an accurate and comprehensive revision of the social studies curriculum K-12 scheduled for 2025. Instructional material and textbook approval must be liberated from ideological considerations. In addition, we should enhance collaboration with SBEC and other agencies to increase participation in traditional certification pathways including a residency pathway.

Campaign Website: georgekingforeducation.com

★ DISTRICT 13 (UNEXPIRED TERM)

★ Tiffany Clark (D)

Unopposed

★ DISTRICT 15

★ Aaron Kinsey (R)

No response received



★ Morgan Kirkpatrick (D)

Qualifications: After 14 years of teaching in middle school, I understand the disconnect between those making decisions at the state level and those in

the classroom. I will advocate for Texas students and teachers.

History Education: I would ensure a comprehensive and accurate history by collaborating with diverse experts, emphasizing primary sources and critical thinking, regularly updating the curriculum, providing professional development for teachers, and ensuring balanced representation of all communities. It's crucial that students are allowed to learn from the past in order to be prepared for the future.

Religion in Public Schools: No, religious beliefs should not be incorporated into the public school curriculum. Public schools serve a diverse population with various religious and non-religious backgrounds. Incorporating specific religious beliefs could alienate students and infringe on their rights. Instead, schools should fo-

cus on teaching about religions in an academic, non-devotional manner without emphasis on one.

Teacher Certification: No, teachers who are not certified should not be allowed to teach in Texas classrooms, except in extraordinary circumstances and only if they are willing to become certified. Certification ensures that teachers have the necessary training and knowledge to provide quality education. Allowing uncertified teachers can compromise educational standards and student outcomes.

Other Issues: There are many issues but not all are completely under the purview of the SBOE: 1. Addressing budget challenges due to inflation, historic underfunding, and unfunded mandates. 2. Increasing state funding to raise teacher salaries / improve retention. 3. Reviewing / approving new charter schools 4. Promoting equitable access to quality education for all students, regardless of their background

Campaign Website: morgankirkpatrickforsboel15.com



★ Jack B. Westbrook (L)

Qualifications: DMin.(h.c.) with 60 post-graduate hours in human development, ministry, and education. BS in business administration. 11 years substi-

tute teaching. ISD school board member. Mbr on 3 non-profit boards

History Education: One of the reasons that I'm running for this position is because I believe religious and government powers are attempting to dictate what history is taught. Truth should prevail. Therefore, curricu-

★ DISTRICT 15

★ Jack B. Westbrook (L) (continued)

lum audits must seek to root out any biased influences in education.

Religion in Public Schools: Yes. A comprehensive understanding of how religion has influenced our world and literature is important. It is important for a student to also know how these different world views compare.

Teacher Certification: As a Libertarian, I am against licensing in all forms. However, school districts should be able to determine their own qualifications. A small

school district might need a math teacher and a retired engineer might be available, even though he or she has no certification.

Other Issues: When I asked a student, the answer was, “Change the food!” A close friend of mine works for a school, and she has described it as awful. Standards have been set, and schools seek to meet the minimum standard the cheapest way possible.

Campaign Website: westbrook4liberty.com

CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEALS

Six-year term. There are 14 Courts of Appeals in Texas located in 14 cities throughout the state. Each of these Courts includes a Chief Justice and at least two other Justices. These Courts hear appeals on civil and criminal cases from lower courts in their districts. Current annual salary range: \$154,000 to \$187,800

See VOTE411.org to compare Court of Appeal candidates in your district.



EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

The LWV is a nonpartisan political organization and is one of America’s most trusted grassroots organizations! We aim to:

- Achieve a free and fair democracy
- Increase participation in government
- Expand voter participation in Texas
- Create a League that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive.



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