

NONPARTISAN VOTERS GUIDE

TEXAS PRIMARY ELECTION ★ MARCH 3, 2026

U.S. Senate ★ U.S. House of Representatives ★ Governor ★ Lieutenant Governor ★ Attorney General ★ Comptroller of Public Accounts ★ Commissioner of General Land Office ★ Commissioner of Agriculture ★ Railroad Commissioner ★ Texas Supreme Court ★ Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ★ Court of Appeals ★ Texas Senate ★ Texas House of Representatives ★ County Elections

EARLY VOTING: February 17–27 ★ ELECTION DAY: March 3. Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

★ VOTING IN TEXAS

The upcoming Primary Election is extremely important for Texas!

Primary Elections: Texas has an open primary system. This means all eligible voters can take part. You do not have to sign up with a political party ahead of time. When you vote in the primary, you choose one party's primary election or convention to participate in. The Republican and Democratic parties each choose their candidates in primary elections. The Libertarian and Green parties each choose their candidates in a party convention.

This Primary Election is held on March 3. If no candidate gets enough votes, a Runoff Election is held on May 26.

Important Note: Once you vote in a party's primary election or convention, you cannot vote in another party's primary or convention. If there is a runoff election, you may vote **only in the same party's runoff**.

General Election: Voting in one party's primary election, convention or runoff election does NOT commit you to vote for a particular party or candidate in the November General Election. You can still vote for any candidate of your choice, regardless of party, in the General Election.

★ ABOUT THE VOTERS GUIDE

This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of South Central Texas. The League never supports or opposes political candidates or political parties. The League of Women Voters of South Central Texas publishes the Voters Guide to help each voter cast an informed vote. This Voters Guide contains information about the voting process and the propositions and candidates who will appear on the ballots in our South Central Texas area.

No portion of this Voters Guide may be reproduced for use in political campaigns or advertising. Other proposed uses are permitted only with advance written authorization of the League of Women Voters of South Central Texas.

★ VOTE411

The online, interactive version of the *Voters Guide* is at [VOTE411.org](https://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 will also find information on any local races.



Scan qr code to
visit vote411.org

EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

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BE A TEXAS VOTER

Your vote is your voice. Below are the ways to exercise your right to vote. Which ever way you choose to vote, be sure you are registered by checking at **VoteTexas.gov**. You must be registered before you can vote!

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.

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. You can find polling places on your county election website or at **VOTE411.org**.

VOTE IN PERSON – 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.

VOTER ID: WHAT TO TAKE TO THE POLLS

You may use one of seven forms of photo ID: 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**.

HELPFUL CONTACTS AND WEBSITES

League of Women Voters of South Central Texas
lwvsouthcentraltx.org

League of Women Voters of Texas
lwvtexas.org

Texas Secretary of State
VoteTexas.gov

Your County Election Website

Colorado: <https://www.co.colorado.tx.us/page/colorado.elections>
DeWitt: <https://www.co.dewitt.tx.us/page/dewitt.Elections>
Fayette: <https://www.co.fayette.tx.us/page/fayette.Elections>
Gonzales: <https://www.co.gonzales.tx.us/page/gonzales.elections.admin>
Lavaca: <https://www.co.lavaca.tx.us/page/Elections>

Election Protection
866OURVOTE.org

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. For races in which a candidate on the ballot has only write-in opponents, the League attempts to reach out to all candidates in that race so their responses can be published on **VOTE411.org** only (not in the printed guide).
- 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 officeholders, 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**.

VOTERS GUIDE SUPPORTERS

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We extend our sincere gratitude to the Fayette County Record staff for their ongoing support and assistance with printing. The League of Women Voters of South Central Texas also thanks the League of Women Voters of Texas for providing essential information about candidates running in statewide races in this election.

LWV OF SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS BOARD & LEADERSHIP TEAM

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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

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

Economy: What specific policies would you support to address the growing wealth gap between the highest and lowest earners, and what do you see as the appropriate role of the federal government in this issue?

Immigration: What policy changes would you propose to make the U.S. immigration system more effective and humane?

Balance of Power: The Constitution establishes a system of checks and balances among the three branches of government. As a Senator, what specific actions would you take to preserve the system so that the federal government can serve the people?

Healthcare: What role should the federal government play in promoting a healthy American population, and what steps would you take to ensure that healthcare is affordable and accessible for all Americans?



★ Jasmine Crockett (D)

Qualifications: I'm a civil rights & criminal defense multi-jurisdictional 20 year licensed attorney who served in the Texas House & in Congress as Vice Ranking Member on Oversight & a Ranker on Judiciary Committee.

Economy: I'll repeal the Trump tariffs that are hurting American consumers and reform our tax structure to ensure the ultra-wealthy pay their fair share. This will allow us to deliver relief to the middle and working class and assistance for first-time home buyers and small businesses. Costs have gone up but wages haven't, which is why I'm co-sponsoring the Raise the Wage Act to increase the minimum wage.

Immigration: I support comprehensive immigration reform that prioritizes a pathway to citizenship that's secure, timely, and easy to navigate. In Congress, I intro-

duced the CLEAR ID Act requiring ICE agents to identify themselves and co-lead the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act to limit immigration enforcement at healthcare facilities, schools, courthouses, and houses of worship.

Balance of Power: I serve on the Judiciary Committee, the Supreme Court Task Force & am a multi-jurisdictionally licensed attorney of 20 years. We need to expand the court, which has been done 7 times before, and also need ethics reform as this group of justices has revealed itself to be compromised; i.e. Presidential Immunity.

Healthcare: I'm a proud cosponsor of Medicare For All. We must fully cover preventative health care, cap out-of-pocket costs, and eliminate premiums, deductibles, and co-pays. In Congress, I've cosponsored bills to: lower drug costs, allow Medicare coverage for cancer early detection screening, and address the mental health crisis by training providers. Our health care system must center patients, not profits

Campaign Website: jasmineforus.com

★ Ahmad R. Hassan (D) No response received



★ James Talarico (D)

Qualifications: I'm a former middle school teacher, and I've served in the Texas House for eight years. As a Democrat in the Republican-controlled House, I've proven that I can fight back and win for working people.

Economy: We need a government that serves working people instead of giant corporations by: closing tax loopholes that billionaires exploit, raising the corporate tax, raising the tax on corporate stock buybacks, raising the minimum wage to \$15, and incentivizing CEOs to raise wages by creating a special tax on corporations that pay their top executives more than 250 times their median worker's salary.

Immigration: Our border should be like a front porch — a giant welcome mat out front and a lock on the door. I'd propose modernizing ports of entry to detect threats

before they enter the country, hiring more asylum judges to process cases quickly, stopping ICE abuses so they focus on deporting criminals instead of community members, passing the DREAM Act, and creating clear pathways to citizenship.

Balance of Power: I will support legislation to ban super PACs, cap campaign contributions, ban partisan gerrymandering and Congressional stock trading, expand voter access by passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and impose term limits on Supreme Court justices and hold them to higher ethical standards.

Healthcare: In the legislature, I passed laws capping insulin at \$25 and importing cheaper drugs into the US. As Senator, I'll ensure every American can access a federal healthcare option like Medicare, cap copays for additional prescription drugs, protect reproductive care, and save rural hospitals. I'll protect Medicaid, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act and fully fund the VA.

Campaign Website: jamestalarico.com

★ John O. Adefope (R) No response received

★ Virgil John Bierschwale (R)

No response received

★ Sara Canady (R)

No response received

★ Anna Bender (R) No response received

★ John Cornyn (R)

No response received

★ Wesley Hunt (R)

No response received

U.S. SENATOR

(continued)



★ **Gulrez “Gus” Khan (R)**

Qualifications: Healthcare entrepreneur, author, former pro athlete, philanthropist. Fighting for Texas—reviving 25 closed rural hospitals, economy, secure borders, term limits, Energy Dominance, Election Integrity.

Economy: I support pro-growth policies: fair reciprocal tariffs, American manufacturing incentives, and deregulation to create jobs and lift wages. The federal government’s role is to protect free markets, ensure opportunity, and remove barriers, not punish success, so all Texans—especially low- and middle-income families—can prosper.

Immigration: I support secure borders, strong enforcement of immigration laws, and ending chain migration abuses. At the same time, we should streamline legal

immigration for skilled workers and families, improve processing efficiency, and ensure the system is fair, orderly, and humane—protecting Texans while rewarding those who follow the rules.

Balance of Power: I will fight to uphold the Constitution, support term limits, and hold the executive and judiciary accountable to the law. I will oppose federal overreach, ensure Congress enacts laws that serve the people—not bureaucrats—and restore power to states, communities, and citizens while protecting individual freedoms.

Healthcare: The federal government should remove barriers, reduce bureaucracy, and empower patients and providers, not control care. I will expand access to primary care, home based and palliative care, and revive the 25 rural Texas hospitals closed in the last 20 years, ensuring affordable, accessible healthcare while letting Texans make their own decisions.

Campaign Website: www.gkhanforsenate.com

★ **Ken Paxton (R)** No response received

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Two-year term. The United States House of Representatives has 435 seats and is the lower chamber of the US Congress. Representatives serve a specific geographic area of a state; They are responsible for creating, debating, and voting on bills that become law for the United States; creating and voting on a two-year budget; and overseeing the administration of public policy by serving on committees.

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 15: The US House of Representatives Texas District 15 serves 13 counties: Bee, Brooks, **DeWitt**, Goliad, **Gonzales**, Jim Wells, **Lavaca**, Live Oak, Karnes, Refugio, San Patricio, Wilson, and part of Hidalgo.

★ **QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

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

Balance of Power: What specific policies would you support to address the growing wealth gap between the highest and lowest earners, and what do you see as the appropriate role of the federal government in this issue?

Healthcare: What policy changes would you propose to make the U.S. immigration system more effective and humane?

Issues: The Constitution establishes a system of checks and balances among the three branches of government. As a Senator, what specific actions would you take to preserve the system so that the federal government can serve the people?



★ **Ada Cuellar (D)**

Qualifications: I am an ER doctor who just recently received my law degree. I have real world experience serving my community at their most vulnerable. Running for Congress is an extension of that service.

Balance of Power: At this time Congress is abdicating their responsibilities in checking the gross executive overreach of the Trump administration. As a congresswoman, it will be my priority to reassert Congress’s rightful role as the power of the purse. I will support legislation to protect the independence of state agencies against overt politicization.

Healthcare: My priority will be to reverse the cuts to Medicare and Medicaid that

will be enacted in the Big Beautiful Bill and to keep the subsidies for the ACA intact. I will support legislation to fund more doctors and hospitals and create the foundation to move to a universal system and get rid of the middleman. I will support legislation that will allow all Americans to buy into Medicare. No politician or health insurance CEO should impact doctors and their patients. I am also the only candidate running in district 15 that will fight to codify Roe v. Wade federally. Reproductive freedom and women’s healthcare should not be left to the states.

Issues: My priorities are to fix our broken healthcare system, provide a living wage and create good paying jobs so our citizens can live a life of dignity. I will oppose the extreme agenda of the Trump administration, which has led to persistent civil rights abuses.

Campaign Website: www.drcuellarforcongress.com



★ **Bobby Pulido (D)**

Qualifications: I bring real-world experience, not a résumé built inside politics. For decades, I’ve run a small business in a demanding industry, managing teams, budgets, contracts, and high-pressure decisions where mistakes have real consequences. That experience taught me discipline, accountability, and how to lead responsibly.

I was raised in a working-class South Texas family that valued hard work, respect, and keeping your word, and those values guide how I serve. My career has required connecting with people from all backgrounds, listening, communicating clearly, and earning trust. I bring independence, common sense, and a deep respect for the process, and I’m running to represent working families with honesty, humility, and backbone.

Balance of Power: The Constitution only works when every branch respects its

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(continued)

★ Bobby Pulido (D) (continued)

limits and no one is above accountability. Congress has a responsibility to legislate, conduct oversight, and ask tough questions regardless of who holds power. That requires defending congressional authority and ensuring executive actions stay within the law. An independent judiciary is essential, and elected officials must respect court decisions and the rule of law even when it is politically uncomfortable. Transparency and open debate are critical so the public can see how decisions are made. Preserving checks and balances is not about party loyalty, it is about protecting democracy and keeping government accountable to the people.

Healthcare: The federal government has a responsibility to help ensure people can get quality care without going broke. Its role should focus on expanding access to affordable coverage, protecting people with preexisting conditions, and reducing the cost of prescription drugs and basic care. We also need stronger support for prevention,

mental health, and rural and underserved communities that are too often overlooked. Families deserve real choices, and the system should hold insurance companies and drug manufacturers accountable when costs spiral out of control. Healthcare should be centered on patients and outcomes, not corporate profit.

Issues: Across South Texas, people are asking for the basics to work again. They want costs under control, especially groceries, gas, housing, and healthcare. They want good-paying jobs and an economy that rewards work, not just insiders. Parents are concerned about schools being strong and safe, and seniors worry about retirement security and prescription drug prices. Veterans want timely care and respect for their service. Small business owners want less red tape and a fair shot to grow. Above all, people want representation that listens, shows up, and fights for the district instead of playing political games.

Campaign Website: bobbypulidofortexas.com

★ Monica De La Cruz (R) Unopposed

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 27: The US House of Representatives Texas District 27 serves 16 counties: Austin, Bastrop, Caldwell, Calhoun, Colorado, Fayette, Jackson, Matagorda, Victoria, Washington, Wharton, and part of Aransas, Hays, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, and Travis.

★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

First Amendment Rights: What is your view of a legislator's role in protecting First Amendment rights to free speech and peaceful assembly?

Tariffs: What is your position on Congress's role regarding tariffs and their potential impact on American consumers and businesses?

Energy: How would you ensure America has reliable, affordable energy while protecting the environment?

Health & Healthcare: What role should the federal government play in promoting a healthy American population, and what steps would you take to ensure that healthcare is affordable and accessible for all Americans?



★ "Stock" Castro-Mendoza (D)

Qualifications: I am a first-generation immigrant, Navy Captain (Ret.), teacher and farmer. I earned multiple degrees (B.S., M.A., M.S., and Ph.D. (ABD)) in Biology and National Security. During my three decades in uniform, I commanded sailors, managed critical operations, and navigated complex national security challenges often under extreme conditions. I was also a military

fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. I taught high school science for almost a decade. These experiences make me the ideal candidate to tackle the most complex social, cultural and economic issues of today.

First Amendment Rights: Our First Amendment rights to free speech and peaceful assembly are foundational to our democratic way of life. Without the protections guaranteed to all by the First Amendment, our democracy crumbles. We must protect those rights with courage and integrity, even under threat from a want-to-be king. We must use the courts, and the power vested in the legislative branch to thwart any threat to our freedom of speech and expression. I have participated in peaceful protests in support of Black Lives Matter and No Kings. As a legislator, I would sacrifice my career to protect our freedoms.

Tariffs: Tariffs are a tax paid by importers who pass those costs to consumers. While the president can impose tariffs under certain national security conditions, Congress has the expressed responsibility to regulate commerce and levy taxes under Article 1 of the Constitution. Today, consumers are being hurt by the indiscriminate and whimsical use of tariffs by president Trump. Without clear policy goals, businesses, especially small businesses, are in jeopardy of losing markets that are no

longer available to import the goods they sell and depend on. Farmers, too, are losing markets for their goods.

Energy: We must continue to develop new energy sources while expanding clean wind and solar energy, and to a lesser degree, nuclear power. We must promote scientific research to develop more efficient storage batteries and other sources of energy production such as hydrogen fuels, and hydrogen engines. We must move away from dirty coal and greenhouse gas producing oil, and rescind drilling permits for sensitive environments such as in public lands, offshore drilling and the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. Climate change is real and it is imperative that we quickly cut greenhouse gas emissions.

Health & Healthcare: The federal government should promote the use of existing vaccines and fund research for new vaccines and medicines to cure diseases such as cancer. It must immediately restore CDC funding and bring back competent leadership within the CDC, and fund medical science at universities throughout the country. The federal government should establish a "Council of Health Education" to educate the public about the ills of unhealthy living habits that promote such diseases as diabetes. The US Surgeon General should lead this effort. Healthcare for all should be the goal of policy makers in Washington.

Campaign Website: stockforcongress.com



★ Tanya Lloyd (D)

Qualifications: I bring more than 20 years of public service as a teacher in a Title I school, where I've worked with families navigating education, healthcare, and other challenges that come with living in this area. I was born, raised, and still live in this district, and my family's roots here shaped my understanding of service and responsibility. My experience has required leadership, collaboration, and accountability, and it has given me a practical understanding of how federal policy decisions affect our communities every day. I am ready to fight every single day for my neighbors in TX-27.

First Amendment Rights: All legislators have a duty to uphold and defend the Constitution, including the rights to free speech and peaceful assembly. At the federal level, that responsibility includes writing and voting for laws that respect constitutional limits, overseeing federal agencies and funding to ensure rights are protected, and safeguarding due process. As your next congresswoman, I will ensure these freedoms are applied fairly and consistently for everyone.

Tariffs: We must ensure that our trade policy supports American workers, farmers, businesses, and consumers. Tariffs can be useful when applied strategically to address unfair trade practices, but they should be used carefully to avoid raising costs

for families and small businesses. It's time to put American agriculture first by ensuring trade policies support family farmers and ranchers, strengthen rural economies, and prevent imported goods from undercutting domestic producers who play by the rules. Trade policy should strengthen supply chains and domestic industries—not put Texans out of business.

Energy: America needs a diversified energy portfolio that prioritizes reliability and affordability. I will invest in infrastructure, work to modernize the electric grid, and support the innovation that has made Texas the Energy Capital of the World. Energy policy should protect the men and women who power our economy while responsibly stewarding Texas's land, air, and water so future generations can live and work here too.

Health & Healthcare: The federal government plays a key role in ensuring access to affordable, quality healthcare. I will work to strengthen existing programs, lower prescription drug costs, support rural and community healthcare providers, and protect access to preventive and reproductive care. That includes addressing hospital closures, provider shortages, and long travel distances that leave rural families without timely care and put lives at risk. Affordable healthcare is essential to individual well-being, workforce stability, and long-term economic health.

Campaign Website: www.tanyafortexas.com



★ Wayne Raasch (D)

Qualifications: Eagle Scout, Teacher, Texas Aggie, USAF vet, defender of Jeffersonian Democracy, our children - forward thinker [A portion of the candidate's response is not included because it does not meet the criteria listed in this Voters Guide]

First Amendment Rights: Jeffersonian Democracy - it's in the

constitution, Madison & Monroe wrote the constitution

Tariffs: Against tariffs - Joe Biden didn't do tariffs.

Energy: To keep our environment clean, but yet energy should be used cleanly, no pollution

Health & Healthcare: I'm vegetarian, I've seen too many people die from fat laden meals, seeds grains, nuts, eat like an elephant (135 years) what Joe Biden stood for.

★ Michael Cloud (R) No response received



★ Chris Hatley (R)

Qualifications: My father instilled in me a strong sense of duty and honor. Duty, honor, and country continue to drive me to service. Attending the United States Military Academy at West Point and serving in the military have given me a unique perspective on the roles of the instruments of national power. I swore an oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic,

and I take that oath seriously. Serving in Congress is required of me because that oath remains in effect.

First Amendment Rights: Amendment I: "Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech ... or the right of the people to peaceably assemble" Congress cannot make laws that abridge freedom of speech; exceptions include incitement, defamation, obscenity, and child pornography. Peaceable assembly is protected, but rioting and lawlessness are not and are subject to applicable laws. In general, Congress must exercise great care to ensure that the First Amendment rights of all Americans are protected.

Tariffs: Article I, Section 8, gives Congress the authority to impose tariffs. However, Congress delegated some authority to the president. Many of the current tariffs on foreign goods are to counter protectionist tariffs. This can mean higher prices for consumers, but it may also mean lower federal income taxes. U.S. businesses will begin manufacturing products, which can lead to economic growth and jobs in the United States. Finally, tariffs may be necessary for national security.

Energy: Our plan must be pragmatic and reduce regulations and permitting requirements so that producers can invest in more efficient energy sources. Natural resources of oil, gas, and coal will allow the U.S. to produce energy until other energy sources become more efficient and cost-effective. Nuclear power is another efficient energy producer that should be integrated into an overall energy plan. Government subsidies for inefficient renewables must be reduced because America must cut spending. Finally, everything we do must require responsible stewardship of our environment.

Health & Healthcare: HHS is removing harmful additives from our food supply. We must also remove petroleum-based and synthetic food dyes from our food supply. The Affordable Care Act is not fiscally feasible without significant government subsidies. These subsidies went to insurance companies regardless of whether insured Americans used their insurance. However, Congress recently passed legislation to improve the viability of government-provided healthcare. While we make adjustments to our healthcare system, we must ensure that the most vulnerable have access to quality healthcare.

Campaign Website: www.cloudforcongress.com

GOVERNOR

Four-year term. The governor is the chief executive of the state. The governor appoints members to boards and commissions; appoints statewide executive officials, and, when vacancies occur, state judges and district attorneys; delivers the State of the State address; provides guidance to the legislature; calls special sessions of the legislature and sets the agenda. The governor can veto legislation (including a line-item veto on appropriations), sign legislation, or allow it to become law without their signature. Current salary: \$153,750

★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Healthcare: What changes need to be made to Texas abortion laws to ensure women have access to proper medical care in the event of pregnancy complications?

Education: Share your thoughts on the role of state and local government in public education.



★ Patricia Abrego (D)

Qualifications: Since I was six years old, I have been training for this position. I have been a Doctor (DC) for 15 years and retired for 13 years. I am honest, knowledgeable, and kind.

Healthcare: In the event of pregnancy complications, we need to ensure that the mother is safe. Texas abortion laws need to change to ensure that the mother has a chance to live.

Education: The Department of Education has been downsized to a point where



★ Chris Bell (D)

Qualifications: Served on Houston City Council and in the U.S. House. Worked on laws, oversight, and constituent services. Journalist-turned-lawyer who values careful judgment, ethics, and practical innovation.

Healthcare: Texas abortion laws must be rewritten to give doctors clear authority to act when a patient's health is at risk — without fear of criminal or civil penalties. Vague laws interfere with medical judgment and delay care. The law should also clearly allow abortion early in pregnancy, typically the first trimester, when most issues are identified and treated.

Education: Public education works best when the state provides stable funding and

★ Bobby Cole (D)

Qualifications: I'm a retired firefighter and working rancher, trained to lead under pressure and serve others. I understand real Texas challenges because I live them, not because I study them.

Healthcare: Texas needs clear protections so doctors can provide medically necessary care without fear of legal penalties, and women should be able to get appropriate treatment for pregnancy complications from their own doctors. As governor, I'll restore reproductive freedom so decisions are made by patients and doctors not politicians to ensure proper care in emergencies.

Education: I believe state government must fully fund and support high-quality public education, set fair standards, and ensure resources go to students and teachers not diverted into vouchers that weaken public schools. Local communities and educators



★ Carlton Hart (D)

Qualifications: For decades, I've worked in public service in the school system, and among other positions, as a minister, I've listened to Hope's fears and dreams empathy. God is my policy. My ordination reflects a

Immigration: How would you address immigration issues affecting our state while ensuring all individuals within our borders have access to due process protections?

National Guard: Share your position on when it is appropriate for the Federal government to deploy the National Guard in Texas cities.

state and local governments have to figure out public education on their own. I went to elementary, middle and high school at public schools. Families cannot afford to pay for their children's education, especially at the elementary level.

Immigration: My mother was born in Mexico, and my father was born in San Antonio, Texas. I have the experience of making sure that my mother was protected. She became a US citizen, got her GED, and became a CNA nurse. Everyone in Texas should have the right to his/her own individual immigration protection.

National Guard: The Texas governor can deploy the National Guard in Texas cities. The federal government should go through the Texas governor for this situation.

supports teachers, while local school boards make daily decisions and encourage parental engagement. Our schools are still structured for another century, so we need thoughtful modernization to better serve students beyond the classroom, support teachers professionally, and meet evolving community needs.

Immigration: Community stability, economic health, due process for all, a secure border, and a fair, functional immigration system — all are essential. My administration's approach would pair enforcement with due process protections while working to provide clear, accessible pathways to legal status and citizenship.

National Guard: Rarely if ever. Deployments should prioritize public safety and respect local authority during true emergencies. The National Guard is meant to assist, not to score political points.

Campaign Website: ChrisBellTexas.com

should have the flexibility to serve their students, with the state ensuring equity and accountability.

Immigration: I believe immigration is primarily a federal issue, and Texas needs practical solutions that improve our legal system rather than "performative theatrics." We should stop villainizing people and work to create a legal process that works for Texans and our economy, while ensuring due process protections for everyone in our borders.

National Guard: I believe the National Guard should be used only when there is a real emergency that directly affects Texans such as natural disasters, public safety crises, or other disasters where military support is needed and state and local officials request help. Decisions about federal deployment should respect state autonomy and clear necessity, not be used for political theater.

Campaign Website: www.coleforgovernor.com

Healthcare: I believe that women should have the right to make decisions about their own bodies, including an abortion. Laws should support the ability for women to make informed choices based on their circumstances, values and health without unnecessary government interference.

Education: I believe we should focus on balancing state level, visions funding standards, accountability with local control, curriculum implementation, commu-

★ **Carlton Hart (D)** (continued)

nity needs, emphasize and workforce readiness, teacher support parental choice and equitable funding, while promoting innovation and career pathways to meet economic goals, and let's not forget accountability for student outcomes.

★ **Gina Hinojosa (D)**

Qualifications: I have spent the last nine years serving in the Texas House, working tirelessly to advance bipartisan legislation and fight for working Texans on public education, health care, and affordability.

Healthcare: Right now, Texas women are dying because they cannot obtain access to life-saving medical care. This status quo is intolerable. Texans deserve safe and legal access to abortion care when they need it, and Texas doctors should not fear that they will be thrown in prison for following basic standards of care.

Education: Public education was so important to our founders that it's enshrined in the Texas Constitution. Attempts to sell off and privatize our kids' schools is a direct attack on their path to success. I fought hard against Greg Abbott's school voucher scam, and as governor, will route that money toward teacher pay raises and smaller classroom

Immigration: The standard of the law foreign and domestic should be implemented by the law of the land.

National Guard: In critical and unruly disturbance. The National Guard should be called in an extremely emergency weather. Weather related our crowd control not just for the standard of normal practice.

sizes to ensure every child has access to a good education.

Immigration: Every Texan wants to live in a safe community. When border security presents a risk to keeping our communities safe, it's important we address that. But what is currently happening—deporting children and breaking up American families—is doing nothing to make us safer. We need an immigration system that provides a pathway to legal status for hard-working and tax-paying fixtures of our communities.

National Guard: The Texas National Guard exists to serve our community and should only be deployed in times of genuine emergency. I do not believe sending National Guard troops to other states who have not asked for help when we have pressing needs at home is a good use of resources. Likewise, deploying the National Guard to local communities who do not need or want their help is ineffective and wasteful.

Campaign Website: www.ginafortexas.com

★ **Jose Navarro Balbuena (D)**

Qualifications: Tax Strategist, Engineer, Insurance agent Dad with the will and a plan to implement "Early College" across the state of Texas, with will to feed our kids, Hot School Lunch with a Farm to School model.

Healthcare: Focus on clemency, directing state agencies, ensuring consistent standards across state laws, Promote (EMTALA)/SB-31, 1. Issue Pardons for Providers/Aids, directing agencies to clarify exceptions for life/health 2. Executive orders to interpret existing laws with leniency, EMTALA/SB-31 orders to weaken SB8/HB7 until full Full Repeal 3. Elevate Community Members as Legislatures "To Move Needle"

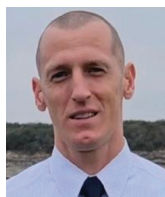
Education: Education is the universal equalizer. States must have continual investments in software and infrastructure. Schools must adapt software that assists teachers in teaching for mastery of subjects, not grades. Texas will serve our kids Hot School Lunches, before any super intendants receives bonuses or raises. Create a registry for

school HVAC repairs, no child should be wearing layered clothing

Immigration: Partner with "consulados" to ensure everyone has registered address ID and Passport. Passports are tied to IRS Individual Tax Ident. Number (pay taxes). Paying taxes is what opens the opportunity for my Texas 2 year ITIN ID - Pilot Program. IRS ITIN and Previous 2 years of Tax transcripts are the requirements for a Texas ITIN ID. Providing everyone with a proper Identity helps ensure habeas corpus

National Guard: The national guard should focus on natural disasters and Oil Gas Post Seismic Response (Permian Basin/DFW) not to assist ICE in civil immigration enforcement. The Guard will provide crucial aid after quakes, offering rapid deployment for: Search and Rescue, Logistics (shelters/distribution), Security, Infrastructure, Damage Assessment, working with Bureau of Economic Geology and TX Railroad Comm.

Campaign Website: tx22.net

★ **Zach Vance (D)**

Qualifications: My character, compassion, and my ability to relate to and understand people and their problems. I genuinely care about all people, and I just want to make their lives better.

Healthcare: Texans should have the right to choose when to become a parent and that means we must repeal the heartbeat bill and the ban on mifepristone. If I am Governor, I will enact an executive order that allows doctors to provide abortions in any case where the mother's life has the potential to be at risk, not waiting until their life is actually at risk.

Education: Texans deserve high quality public education and deserve a governor who cares more about public education than cares about private education. The state needs to take more of the cost of public education off of local governments than they do now. The state needs to not focus so much on test scores and figure out a way to

rate students on different abilities than just being able to take a test.

Immigration: I believe we should have a strong border but the accomplishment of that goal should not fall on the state itself. Texas has spent billions securing the border when we could have used that money to significantly improve the lives of Texans. Immigration is a very important issue, but it is a less significant issue when people are losing their homes due to taxes and dying due to lack of healthcare.

National Guard: Only when the state asks for it or when the state is failing significantly in protecting people or promoting the common good or welfare. The National Guard does not need to be an occupying force in the streets acting as police officers if the state has not specifically ask for it or had worked out an arrangement with the governor of the state. There should also be a time limit.

Campaign Website: www.4abettertexas.com

★ **Angela "Tia Angie" Villescaz (D)** No response received★ **Andrew White (D)** Withdrawn

★ Greg Abbott (R) No response received



★ R.F. "Bob" Achgill (R)

Qualifications: 67-year-old Texas A&M mechanical engineer with experience in chem. plants and the Space Shuttle program. I focus on protecting Texas water, power, and self-governance from long-term financial pressure

Healthcare: Watching the birth of our first daughter, I could not see the doctor's fear as he skillfully balanced life and death as both mother and child faltered. I owe him 38 years of blessing! I cannot imagine a world without my daughter—or my daughter without her mother. Over half of maternal deaths occur after birth, often postpartum, when care fades but risk remains. Thyroid, Thyroid, Thyroid.

Education: We assume earlier generations lacked wisdom, writing by candlelight. That illusion breaks when reading the U.S. Constitution—an unprecedented document that

still endures. The family once grounded education, because more is caught than taught. As moral foundations faded, have our outcomes improved—or declined? And will early adoption of AI hasten that decline?

Immigration: Texas should enforce worker-verification laws consistently and lawfully, removing incentives for illegal hiring and increase enforcement through whistleblowing. I have seen legal labor work: employers who recruit seasonal workers on visas, train and house them, and send them home to their families. This approach respects due process, protects families, and avoids shifting social costs onto Texas.

National Guard: Texas has a long history of guarding its resources from excessive federal control. Today, federal pushes for massive data centers, untested nuclear projects, and space privatization are accelerating the depletion of Texas water security and straining power and governance. These efforts should pause until risks are understood and economic fairness for all Texans.

Campaign Website: www.hishandsreader.org/bob.html

★ Evelyn Brooks (R)

Qualifications: I have experience teaching and service on the Texas SBOE delivering Texans with the results they deserve. I have a strong moral compass with vision, effective communication, and people skills.

Healthcare: Protecting women is crucial and they should be kept safe with life-saving care in event of pregnancy complications. Texas abortion laws must require simplification to ensure this care is provided without legal ambiguity for doctors and patients. Medical ethics recognizes a woman's fundamental right to life, which means her well-being is not secondary to the baby when faced with severe risks.

Education: The state's role should be limited as seen in provisions like (TEC) Section 7.003, which reserves powers to districts. Texas public education has shifted away from local control and community-driven schools and universities to state centralization through unconstitutional mandates. Public education must

be restored back to traditional teaching and pedagogy practices where the focus is academics.

Immigration: I would limit state cooperation with federal enforcement that threatens to take away the Constitutional rights, liberty, and privacy from Texans and state sovereignty. Due Process must be given to all within our borders. I would support clear and reasonable enforcement actions and assess our state's vulnerabilities to make swift solutions to restore and maintain our statewide security.

National Guard: My position is to follow U.S. and Texas State Constitutions for the deployment of the National Guard in Texas cities. By using this dual system I hope to avoid the federal Posse Comitatus Act to limit federal military involvement in domestic law enforcement. My goal would be to keep the Federal government separate from policing duties in Texas cities unless a clear legal exception applies.

Campaign Website: brooksfortexasgovernor.com

★ Pete "Doc" Chambers (R) No response received



★ Charles Andrew Crouch (R)

Qualifications: A bible believing son of God. Ex-Navy SEAL who understands the threat of Islam. A Business owner who understand the economy. An Author on the subject of Godly Leadership which is what Texas needs.

Healthcare: No changes to the law need to be made. Our current healthcare system does a great job keeping women safe in the event of pregnancy complications.

Education: This issue is one of my top 3 issues. Our current education system is a joke and viewed by most a simply a daycare system for parents to hold full time jobs. Our current education system does not prepare kids for life. And when people throw

more money at the problem, the problems only grow. That's because it's not a money problem, its a culture problem. Please view my stance on education!!!

Immigration: Immigration legally is a celebrated event. I love our state and I love it when people who love those same values come here as well. Due process is reserved for those who follow the law. People here illegally will be deported. . . and deported quickly. At the same time, I know what it's like to be on the front lines. As governor, I am prepared to allow our BP to enforce strict laws.

National Guard: It is appropriate under the Insurrection Act of . This usually requires the governor to declared that help is needed. As your future Governor, we need all the help we can get and I will be accepting all the help offered for the time being. Long term, my leadership will develop a self sufficient Texas without any help needed.

★ Arturo Espinosa (R)

Qualifications: The true statement begins with either verb intransitive or verb transitive in the present tense. Am Father Arturo Espinosa Professional Chemical Engineer (CH 5954). Am a truthful man: Am homosexual

Healthcare: Equate English adjective true to Greek adjective αληθής. Change, and

define the Greek word αληθής: Utter the truth to each woman and to each man at every site. Ask the doctor to be one hundred percent truthful in every part of the pregnancy to ensure every woman has safe medical care.

Education: Teach to state and local government personnel that partial or complete money dependence and partial or complete money reliance is evil, wrong, abusive,

★ Arturo Espinosa (R) (continued)

and destructive: Know complete woman and complete man dependence and reliance is good and healthy, is necessary to exist and live in happiness, is necessary to live and exist in joy, and is necessary to live and exist in complete freedom.



★ Mark V. Goloby (R)

Qualifications: Have been active in activism all my life. I founded and run TC Technologies that delivers the Internet of Things wireless solutions.

Healthcare: Key in my campaign is adoption and foster care. Here is a link to my website. <https://markgolobyfortexas.com>

/adoption%2Ffoster-care IT would be more appropriate for women's health to be directed to the medical procedures as outlined as complications. Most complications do not require aborting the pregnancy. In the case of miscarriages, there are prescribed DNC procedures going back decades.

Education: Going back to Texas 2nd President of Texas, Lamar Texas has declared the importance of an educated electorate. Texas has a significant role, unfortunately the current Governor and his appointed Commissioner has let our public education

Immigration: Announce one earth, one nation, one people, one constitution one truthful woman or one truthful man leading and teaching 8.2 billion people.

National Guard: Reject the National Guard in any Texas city.

decline. First step is to have the Texas Public Education Commissioner elected not appointed. It is time to put the I back in Independent School District

Immigration: Governors have the Constitutional authority to enforce the state's borders to protect the citizens, their livelihoods and property. That the Texas border and the US border are the same is a matter of geography not sovereignty. Because someone inhabits Texas does not avail them the same protections as natural born or naturalized US Citizens. Justice requires their rights not be disregarded.

National Guard: The national guards are state functions. The Federalization of these troops was wrong. If an overwhelming need to bring force to bear, it is the Governor's role to be first to respond, then determine adequacy. But local cities have a responsibility to maintain safe healthy communities. Too many cities are doing anything but serve the law abiding citizens creating a situation in need of force.

Campaign Website: markgolobyfortexas.com

★ Kenneth Hyde (R) No response received

★ Stephen Samuelson (R)

Qualifications: Military service, leadership experience, policy research, and hands-on work translating complex laws into plain English. Independent thinker focused on accountability, problem-solving, and serving Tex

Healthcare: Texas should clarify medical exceptions so doctors can act immediately in emergencies, protect physician judgment, and ensure timely care. At the same time, address root causes of abortion through better prenatal care, maternal health access, economic support, and family stability so fewer women face those choices.

Education: State government should set clear academic standards, protect funding fairness, and ensure transparency. Local control matters, but it must stay focused

on education, not political or ideological agendas. Parents and communities deserve schools centered on learning, skills, and student success.

Immigration: Texas should secure the border by restoring order, verifying identities, and reducing trafficking and cartel influence, while ensuring due process through clear screening, lawful procedures, and cooperation with federal authorities. Safety, fairness, and the rule of law must apply to everyone in Texas.

National Guard: Federal deployment of the National Guard should be limited to true emergencies, natural disasters, or when state and local authorities request support. Texas should lead its own response, with federal involvement as a last resort.

Campaign Website: www.texanresilience.net



★ Ronnie Tullios (R)

Qualifications: Police captain, project manager, State Guard member, and Shriners Chief of Staff with proven leadership over large teams and strong service to Texans.

Healthcare: I am pro-life but believe women must receive emergency care. I support clear laws and better education so doctors confidently treat complications while protecting both mother and unborn life.

Education: I believe parents not politicians or activists should direct their children's education. State & local government should support schools, ensure transparency, & keep politics, DEI agendas, & ideological content out of the classroom. I support returning to traditional, biblically grounded values, strong academics, & empowering parents to make decisions for their children.

Immigration: I believe prior federal policies strengthened border security and that immigration enforcement is first a federal responsibility: secure the border and enforce laws on the books. Texas should cooperate to locate and process those here illegally, while every person is treated humanely and given due process. If you broke the law, you broke the law—but it must be applied fairly.

National Guard: I believe the Governor, not Washington, should deploy the National Guard to protect Texas communities. Federal involvement should be rare and only at the state's request. If the federal government must step in without Texas asking, it means the Governor failed to lead and did not fulfill his duty to keep Texans safe.

Campaign Website: www.ronnietulliosfortexas.com

★ Nathaniel Welch (R) No response received

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Four-year term. The lieutenant governor is powerful because of their position as president of the Texas Senate, where they appoint the chairs and vice-chairs of committees; appoint senators to committees; assign bills to committees; and control the Senate's agenda. The lieutenant governor is also a member of several commissions and boards, and serves as governor in the governor's absence. The salary is that of a State Senator when serving as President of the Texas Senate and that of the Governor when serving in that capacity.

★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Women's Health: What changes need to be made to Texas abortion laws to ensure women have access to proper medical care in the event of pregnancy complications?

Healthcare: What role should the state government play in promoting a healthy

Texas population, and what steps would you take to ensure that healthcare is affordable and accessible for all Texans?

Cannabis Legislation: What legislation would you support regarding cannabis?

Water: What legislation would you recommend to ensure that Texans and Texas businesses have enough water for the future?



★ Vikki Goodwin (D)

Qualifications: I'm serving my 4th term in the TX Legislature; have been able to pass meaningful laws. I'm the owner of Goodwin & Goodwin Real Estate, involved community leader, graduate of UT & the LBJ School.

Women's Health: We did not go far enough with the "Life of the Mother Act" that passed in 2025. The way to guarantee the best health outcomes for pregnant women is to allow women to make their own personal, private health care decisions in consultation with their doctors. Women who have adverse health conditions should have all options available for putting their own health before that of the fetus.

Healthcare: A healthy population is essential. The state should ensure no one falls through the cracks; focus on prevention and transparency. Programs that have proven records of success should be expanded, including Medicaid. Mobile health clinics that

provide low-cost diagnostic tests and checkups can help reach areas where there is a lack of doctors. Keeping people out of emergency rooms will lower costs.

Cannabis Legislation: I support treating cannabis like alcohol with regulations: must be 21 years of age to purchase, can't be sold next door to schools, can't be marketed to kids, labels must clearly indicate the contents and strength. We don't need a nanny state. People with cancer, PTSD, and all types of ailments should be able to continue buying a product that has helped them without the broken TCUP.

Water: We should pass the TX Stewardship Amendment to ensure our water isn't polluted. We must update and improve our Texas Water Plan using the latest science. Now it includes plans for many reservoirs that aren't feasible, and not enough emphasis on re-use. We need to ensure we aren't developing the most expensive water. Desalination of ocean water is expensive, while storing rainwater is less costly.

Campaign Website: Goodwin4Texas.com



★ Courtney Head (D)

Qualifications: My legal expertise, negotiation experience, budget oversight, and policy analysis make me qualified to serve as Lt. Gov and effectively lead the Senate for Texas.

Women's Health: Texas must repeal its abortion ban so doctors can provide urgent, evidence-based care during pregnancy complications without fear of prosecution. We must also expand healthcare access in minority and rural communities, where maternal mortality is highest. Every woman deserves timely, safe medical treatment when pregnancy becomes dangerous.

Healthcare: The state must invest in public health if we want a thriving Texas. Affordable healthcare strengthens families, communities, and our economy. Expanding Medicaid is just the start, I support a Massachusetts-style model that ensures

universal, affordable coverage so every Texan can access the care they need.

Cannabis Legislation: I support full legalization and regulation of cannabis in Texas. Legalizing it would reduce black-market activity, strengthen public safety, generate new tax revenue, and create a sustainable, transparent economy for Texans. A regulated system also ensures product safety, supports farmers and small businesses, and allows law enforcement to focus on serious crime.

Water: Texas must modernize its water laws to protect long-term supply. I support strict regulation of high-consumption industries, especially data centers, and stronger limits on corporate groundwater use. We need updated statewide conservation standards, incentives for recycling and reuse, and investment in sustainable infrastructure so Texans and Texas businesses have reliable water for generations.

Campaign Website: www.texas4alltexans.com

★ Marcos Isaias Velez (D) No response received



★ Timothy Mabry (R)

Qualifications: Former fire lieutenant, Navy veteran, and small business owner. Proven under pressure, mission-focused, and skilled at bringing people with different views together to solve complex problems.

Women's Health: I believe life begins at conception. Medical treatment for ectopic pregnancies or non-viable pregnancies should never be classified as abortion or delayed, as it can endanger a woman's life. Elective abortion is not a right.

Healthcare: Texas must lower healthcare costs through price transparency and

reasonable caps on hospital charges. ER visits should result in one clear, fair bill, not layers of inflated fees so care is affordable and accessible.

Cannabis Legislation: I support regulating, not criminalizing cannabis. Industrial, medical, and recreational uses must be clearly separated. Medical access should allow low-potency products without excessive barriers. Recreational use should be treated like alcohol, with strict age limits and impairment testing, not mere presence.

Water: Water policy must prioritize people, agriculture, then business. We should limit excessive water use by data centers, require recycling, expand rain capture, reservoirs, and explore desalination and infrastructure to protect Texas' future supply.

Campaign Website: mabryfortexas.com

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

(continued)



★ Perla Muñoz Hopkins (R)

Qualifications: Perla serves as policy & ed advocate. She's a USAF Veteran. In 2010 Gen Rice presented her the Inaugural AETC Key Spouse of the Year Award, San Antonio. Perla has collaborated w/ legislators since '19.

Women's Health: Perla protects women and children. She is a mother of 3 adult children. More education, funding, and services (ultrasounds) need to be allocated to women pregnancy centers to ensure that every woman, unborn child, and family has the opportunity to thrive and achieve the American Dream. It is a detriment to witness any efforts to deny a mother-to-be, the joy of God's most precious gift, a child.

Healthcare: We must ensure that TX Families have the best access to nutritious foods and real beef. Perla promotes improved measures for TX farmers and ranchers.

She plans to begin the ban on bio-engineered foods, such as meat. Make Texas Healthy Again is a priority for Perla. TX is served by some of the world's most renowned professionals & she's proposed a med LT Gov Task Force(s) for improved healthcare.

Cannabis Legislation: Many populations rely on medicinal products, including our U.S. veterans and patients with chronic pain. Texas should consider medical subject matter experts, studies, research, findings, and the most recent schedule policy, as well as federal regulations when drafting and/or implementing this form of legislation.

Water: The LT Gov & Texas Senate must do everything possible to continue working w/everyday Texans on Water Conservation legislation and measures. We must be forward thinking and tackle Data Center water consumption implications and improve water recycling and irrigation. Citizens are concerned, and with good reason, over well limitations or lack thereof. NO Texan should be forced to leave their home.

Campaign Website: perlahopkins.com

★ Dan Patrick (R) No response received



★ Esala Wueschner (R)

Qualifications: 1: I helped uncover the Investigation into Act-Blue democratic money laundering scheme 2023. 2: Defended Free Speech and exercised my Freedom of Speech as a Pro-Se against the Judo-Christian Zionist.

Women's Health: This scientific evidence proves that life begins at the moment of conception according to Buddhism. When a sperm enters an egg at the moment of conception, it produces a "Light" called "zinc spark,". This Bio-chemical event release creates a visible burst of light resembling tiny fireworks. I will look into the existing bill proposals and do my best to protect women's pregnancy complications.

Healthcare: I will look into making Texas Hospitals and Insurance companies "non-profit" in order to reduce healthcare costs.

Cannabis Legislation: Legalize cannabis in order to help Texans to be able to grow their spirituality and help point them in the direction of their spiritual growth that we need in order to compete with A.I like we used to be over 6,000 years ago based on Buddhism and Hellenistic Paganism before Monotheism, before Abraham.

Water: I will look into sanctioning California and the northern states that are diverting their rain water which runs down the Colorado river to the ocean instead of the proper aquifers.

Campaign Website: www.wueuniversal.com

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Four-year term. The attorney general is the chief law enforcement officer of the state; represents the state and state officials in legal matters; issues opinions; oversees collection of child support; administers the crime victims compensation fund; enforces the open records/open meetings acts; approves public bond issues; and enforces consumer regulations. Current salary: \$153,750

★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Elections: How would you protect Texans' freedom to vote while maintaining safe and secure elections?

Immigration: How would you address immigration issues affecting our state while

ensuring all individuals within our borders have access to due process protections?

Priorities: How would you identify, evaluate, and prioritize which state legal cases to pursue?

Leadership: What specific improvements or reforms do you envision for the Texas Attorney General's office in the coming years?

★ Anthony "Tony" Box (D) No response received



★ Joe Jaworski (D)

Qualifications: Courageous fighter in courtroom and public square. 8 years as Galveston mayor/councilmember; 35 years as Texas trial lawyer/mediator; loyal husband to Rebecca for 35 years; proud Dad to my two kids.

Elections: I will staff a voter expansion division in the Texas OAG which will daily focus on removing the stain of voter suppression from Texas law. I will be known as the Attorney General who finally enforced the law which re-

quires Principals to offer registration to all high school seniors. I, with local District Attorneys, will personally prosecute offenders who intentionally break our voting laws.

Immigration: I will lead Texas on immigration issues by reminding voters that immigration and criminal justice are two very different American institutions. I will demand that Congress perform its Constitutional duty to reform our immigration laws. I will support asylum as a proper tool of legal immigration, I will support Texas Dreamers who seek in-state college tuition to better themselves and our state.

Priorities: I will create/staff a Division of Affordability within the Texas OAG; it will

ATTORNEY GENERAL

(continued)

★ Joe Jaworski (D) (continued)

use the power of government to reduce the cost of living in Texas for all 32 million residents of the state. I will measure performance and announce results. The OAG will expressly focus on helping young adult Texans to achieve the American Dream - affordable home ownership, debt free education, and starting a family.



★ Nathan Johnson (D)

Qualifications: Eight years as a state senator: passing > 100 bills, killing and shaping bills, building coalitions, making government work, exercising independence, leadership, and political judgment; law practice.

Elections: We have good laws to keep elections secure, provided that enforcement and audits are fair and consistent. As AG, I will work with DAs around the state to ensure security. As a Senator, I filed bills to protect election workers from harassment (safe and secure), allow voter registration online and same-day, enable citizen ballot initiatives, and move redistricting to an independent commission.

Immigration: Work with the federal government to speed processing of asylum claims and treat applicants humanely, intercept and deter trafficking of drugs and people, revise Texas' ill-conceived 287(g) agreement, vastly expand guest worker program,

Leadership: End persecution of vulnerable citizens. Reform Child Support Division: promptly collect/disburse child support and assist payor and payee to collect correct amounts. Assist school principals to register every 18 year old senior to vote. Remain widely accessible to the public, rather than reclusive or partisan only. Focus political and legal decisions on affordability for everyday working Texans.

Campaign Website: JaworskiForTexas.com

work with other nations to stem the flow of migrants. The U.S. Constitution grants due process to everyone in the United States, including undocumented immigrants.

Priorities: I would ask three questions: whether there are actions that are harming Texans, whether the actions are illegal, and whether I can prove it. I would emphasize blocking federal overreach, promoting competition in markets, protecting people against violence and commercial scams, and rooting out political corruption. I would end the practice of using the office for personal and political purposes.

Leadership: Better leadership is needed more than structural reform. I'll recruit great staff, including attorneys, who are committed to serving the public over serving an ideology. I'll devote resources to performing the work of the office rather than the work of a political machine. There may be administrative changes and laws yet to pass or change, which we'll address in concert with the Legislature.

Campaign Website: www.nathanfortexas.com

★ Joan Huffman (R) No response received



★ Aaron Reitz (R)

Qualifications: Endorsed successor to AG Ken Paxton. U.S. Marine officer. Senior Trump DOJ official. Deputy Texas AG. Chief of Staff to Sen. Ted Cruz. Texas Supreme Court law clerk. Winning legal record.

Elections: Secure elections are essential to liberty and self-government. As AG, I will aggressively enforce the Texas Election Code, protect lawful voters, prosecute fraud, and stop Left-wing efforts to weaken and steal elections, enhance ballot security, and restore public confidence in election outcomes.

Immigration: I will work hand-in-glove with President Trump and Texas law enforcement to reverse the Biden-era invasion of aliens and remove those here illegally. The rule of law and sovereignty must be restored. Illegal aliens are entitled only to

★ Mayes Middleton (R) No response received

swift identification, detention, and deportation—not endless delays and meddling by anti-American, pro-alien leftist organizations.

Priorities: I will prioritize cases by fidelity to the U.S. and Texas Constitutions and the law as written. I will aggressively litigate, investigate, sue, defend, and appeal to protect Texans' sovereignty, liberty, and public safety, and to defeat the forces of the Left that threaten everything we hold dear—just as my record shows I've done throughout my career.

Leadership: I will build on AG Paxton's legacy with even greater speed, strength, and resolve. With senior Trump DOJ experience, I will fully align Texas with the Administration to deliver uncompromising law enforcement, border security, and an America First Law and Order Agenda without apology.

Campaign Website: AaronReitz.com



★ Chip Roy (R)

Qualifications: I have courtroom and prosecutorial experience as a US Attorney, a nationally recognized conservative voting record in Congress, and senior leadership experience as First Assistant Attorney General.

Elections: As Attorney General, I will rigorously enforce Texas election law so that every eligible voter is protected and every unlawful ballot is prevented. This includes prosecuting election fraud, defending voter ID and citizenship verification requirements, and resisting federal attempts to undermine Texas's election safeguards.

Immigration: Texas must use every lawful tool available to defend itself: litigation against unlawful federal policies, support for state and local enforcement efforts, aggressive action against cartel networks, and NGOs that facilitate illegal activity, and prosecution of crimes tied to human trafficking. As Attorney General, I will treat border security as a top priority and have a record of doing so.

Priorities: As a former First Assistant Attorney General, I understand how the office functions day to day and how to align its work with clear strategic priorities. I would

prioritize defending Texas sovereignty against federal overreach, aggressively prosecuting human trafficking, cartel activity, election fraud, and corporate cronyism and misconduct; and protecting Texans' constitutional liberties.

Leadership: As First Assistant Attorney General, I effectively served as the chief operating officer of the office overseeing daily operations, coordinating across divisions, managing personnel, and ensuring the Attorney General's priorities were executed. My goal is an office that is feared by criminals, respected by the courts, trusted by law enforcement, and dedicated to serving the people of Texas.

Campaign Website: chiproy.com

COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Four-year term. The comptroller is the chief financial officer of the state; collects state taxes and fees; pays the state's bills; provides revenue estimates to the legislature; certifies the budget; reports the condition of the state's finances; and provides economic development assistance to local governments and private businesses. Current annual salary: \$153,750

★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Rainy Day Fund: How do you think Texas should use its Rainy Day Fund?

Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs): What oversight measures will you support to ensure that ESAs are funded and administered transparently?

Budget Management: How will you ensure budget transparency so taxpayers can easily see how their money is allocated and spent?

Priorities: What do you see as your greatest challenge as Comptroller over the next four years, and how will you address it?

★ Sarah Eckhardt (D)

Qualifications: Lawyer; Master in Public Affairs; State Senator; Travis County Judge; etc - two decades of experience on and managing professional teams, budgets, tax rates, purchasing and contracts.

Rainy Day Fund: The Rainy Day Fund is projected to hit \$28B. I would tap the fund immediately to assist low income Texans with health insurance costs in the first year after loss of ACA tax credits. I would also advise the Legislature on the cost avoidance and economic benefits of 1-time Fund investments in water infrastructure, statewide extreme weather communications, and rural public hospital capacity.

Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs): I will honestly measure & report the distribution of benefits from the ESA subsidy by family type, educational entity type (public, private, or home school), and region. I will vigorously pursue performance data under the \$50M Odyssey contract to administer the program, and seek to rebid or break

administration into smaller contracts if Odyssey fails to honestly measure and report.

Budget Management: I will maintain a web-based dashboard providing easy-to-navigate categories of revenue and expenditures with textual and graphic explanations, linked to current and historic reports and analyses on how public funds are and have been invested, who is benefitting most/least today and in the past, and suggestions under discussion for investments to improve the economic outlook for all Texans.

Priorities: As the 2nd richest state in the world's richest nation, Texas can afford to meet its obligations to a growing population. The challenges will be honestly estimating the cost of its obligations & bravely pursuing funding to meet them, e.g. the cost of necessary water infrastructure is at least \$154B over the next 50 years but the state has pursued funding to meet less than half of this need.

Campaign Website: saraheckhardt.com



★ Michael Lange (D)

Qualifications: 40 Years experience as a Finance Professional. 30 years as a Senior Executive in Multi-Billion dollars companies in Texas, US and worldwide. 10 years in small business space. Ready Day One.

Rainy Day Fund: State emergencies, weather emergencies, healthcare emergency shortages, water emergencies, education shortage emergencies

Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs): Believe this money belongs to Texans. Will support 100% transparency not only on funds spent but also how expenses are incurred. Six month audits with results made public. End of Year Review of Impact with all results made public each year. Full Transparency.

Budget Management: Show Texans the financial reports and extra-ordinary, "Emergency" reports. Make information publicly available in a timely matter. Hold meetings in person around Texas at least 12 times per year to explain Texas Financial situation. Not Sit in Austin all year but travel around the state every month to ensure accuracy with strong audit back up. Make sure people are competent.

Priorities: Ensuring Transparency of Financial information. Ensure the economy of Texas moves forward positively so Texans get value for their Hard-Earned Money. Make Texas financially more efficient but also get Texas economically Future-ready. Grow Small business, Rural and Urban. Deal now with Water, Electricity and School Voucher issues. Bottom Line is People of Texas are safer and better off.

Campaign Website: TexansforLange.com

★ Savant Moore (D)

Qualifications: Howard University graduate, former Army Ranger and minister known for integrity, discipline, and service. Business owner and investor, elected HISD Trustee overseeing a \$2.5B budget and on boards.

Rainy Day Fund: The Rainy Day Fund should be used quickly after disasters to help Texans recover while federal aid is delayed. It should also be used, when appropriate, to increase the basic student allotment for public education, focusing on real emergencies, protecting taxpayers, and maintaining long term fiscal stability.

Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs): ESAs are school vouchers that use public dollars for private education costs. If used, they must have strict audits, full transparency, and an exit clause for companies that fail. Oversight should be Texas based or clearly

qualified to protect taxpayers and students.

Budget Management: I will require audits of all state agencies at the start of my term and modernize transparency tools using my experience in tech as a software engineer. Texans should be able to easily see where their money goes without needing to understand Austin politics.

Priorities: The greatest challenge is restoring trust and making government work for everyday Texans. I will focus on restoring the Texas HUB program, expanding broadband statewide, influencing full funding for public education, and supporting policies that keep Texas affordable while protecting its economy.

Campaign Website: savantmoore.com



★ Michael Berlanga (R)

Qualifications: I am the only certified public accountant on the ballot and would make Texas history as such if elected. In addition, I am also licensed as a senior property tax consultant and real estate broker.

Rainy Day Fund: The Texas Rainy Day Fund should be used for one-time emergencies, like natural disasters or sudden revenue

drops, to prevent service cuts, fund major one-time projects (water, education), and stabilize the budget during downturns. It should not be used for chronic underfunding or ongoing programs. I understand prioritizing prudence while allowing investment for growth while funding efficiently.

Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs): As a CPA I am uniquely trained and committed to ensure transparency and accountability, Annual audits, programmatic

COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

(continued)

★ Michael Berlanga (R) (continued)

reporting, defined qualifying expenses, account suspension/fund recovery procedures, digital wallet technology are legislated measures that will only safeguard taxpayer dollars ensuring that funds are used strictly for their intended purposes when quality oversight is my authority.

Budget Management: Implementing user-friendly online tools like “Where the Money Goes,” data charts, graphs on spending by agency/category, citizen-centric reports, and the Transparency Stars program for local governments, designed to make

complex state finances accessible and understandable for taxpayers. Simplifying state finances, foster greater trust and more participation in fiscal oversight unlike before.

Priorities: Achieving the Governor’s goal of eliminating school property tax 3 years & 10 sessions ago. My God given talents to calculate and communicate will influence the Legislature to do what Texas has ever done before. The Constitutional Duty of the Legislature is to fund education efficiently. My priority will make property more affordable for every Texan and achieve universal choice truly universal

Campaign Website: www.mikeberlangafortexascomptroller.com



★ Christi Craddick (R)

Qualifications: Having served and managed a large state agency as Commissioner of the Railroad Commission since 2012; Bachelor’s Degree as Plan II graduate and a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from UT Austin.

Rainy Day Fund: The Comptroller doesn’t pass laws, but plays a key role in how we budget. Priorities change all the time. I would partner with legislators to protect conservative priorities, ensure accurate revenue forecasts, and keep Texas a low-tax, pro-growth state.

Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs): Real-time auditing and verification systems to prevent misuse or double-billing; Vendor and provider audits to confirm compliance and quality in approved services; Public transparency dashboards so taxpayers can see exactly how ESA dollars are being spent; Close coordination with the TEA

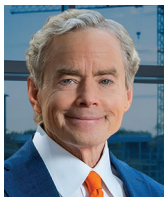
and the Legislature; Swift penalties and clawbacks for any individual or vendor found abusing the program.

Budget Management: Audit everything, launch a local government efficiency task force, and upgrade outdated technology. Texas taxpayers deserve to know where their money is going. I will launch a top-to-bottom audit to ensure every dollar is tracked, every program is reviewed, and no waste goes unchecked. From city budgets to special districts, there should be reviews of local budgets to help communities cut waste

Priorities: Ensuring that the office is responsive to taxpayers. At the Railroad Commission I led efforts to cut permitting delays from months to 48 hours. I’ll bring that same approach to the Comptroller’s Office to bring faster refunds for Texas businesses. When small businesses overpay their taxes, they shouldn’t have to wait months to get their money back.

Campaign Website: christicraddickforcomptroller.com

★ Kelly Hancock (R) No response received



★ Don Huffines (R)

Qualifications: I exposed a multi-million-dollar corruption scandal that sent six to prison and saved taxpayers millions. As senator, I refused salary and perks. As Comptroller, I’ll audit spending and fight fraud.

Rainy Day Fund: The Rainy Day Fund belongs to taxpayers, not the government. I’ll examine how the ESF is invested to maximize benefits for its rightful owners, Texas taxpayers. It should be reserved for true emergencies so Texas can pay its bills on time. As a lifelong businessman, fiscal discipline matters to me, and I earned a 99% scorecard as a Texas Senator from Texans for Fiscal Responsibility.

Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs): I’ve always fought for education freedom and real competition, because competition lowers costs and raises the quality. As Comptroller, I’ll manage Texas’ new Education Savings Account program so parents

can choose the best school for their child. I’ll ensure it’s transparent and empowers parents with no strings attached.

Budget Management: We need a budget that’s simple, transparent, and easy to understand, not just for the Legislature, but for every Texas taxpayer. Too many in government forget whose money they spend. Every dollar belongs to taxpayers, not government. The Comptroller must do more than track revenue, it must ensure dollars are spent wisely, efficiently, and transparently.

Priorities: The greatest challenge is ending the culture where bureaucrats treat taxpayer money like it’s theirs. As Comptroller, I’ll make the office a watchdog: audit government, expose fraud, waste, and corruption, and work with law enforcement to put thieves in jail. Then I’ll fight to return the savings to Texans.

Campaign Website: donhuffines.com

COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Four-year term. As head of the General Land Office, the commissioner manages state lands, including oil and gas properties (which supply funds to the Permanent School Fund) and the Alamo. The commissioner chairs the Veterans Land Board, which administers programs for Texas veterans, and is responsible for environmental protection of Texas’ coast. Other state boards chaired include the School Land Board and the Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee. Current annual salary: \$140,938

★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Disaster Recovery: What measures should the state take to respond quickly and effectively to disasters?

Veterans: Explain how you will support veterans through programs and resources

your office oversees?

Coastal Management: What policies would you endorse regarding development in flood-prone areas?

Challenges: What is the greatest challenge facing the General Land Office, and how would you address it?

COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

(continued)



★ Benjamin Flores (D)

Qualifications: I'm serving my third year as Councilman in Bay City, with almost three decades of Cybersecurity and Risk Management. I also started a small farm raising heritage pigs almost four years ago.

Disaster Recovery: Beginning with the statewide implementation of the Community Emergency Response Team program by FEMA. Next, from a GLO perspective, establish working groups within the different Regional Councils chapters, to develop processes for efficient and effective recovery work. Lastly, any vendors wishing to participate in recovery efforts, will be vetted in advance of any potential disaster.

Veterans: Look to address gaps in healthcare options for veterans in the valley, verify the presence of Service Officers in all counties, drastically reduce the timelines for veteran mortgage applications, fully fund the Hazelwood Act program.

Coastal Management: Support the adoption of new weather forecasting models, and newer roofing construction techniques, along the coast. This would help with insurance prices. Second, speedup the current state efforts for flood

Challenges: Not maximizing nor diversifying the sources of revenue for the Permanent School Fund. Solar, wind, geothermal should all be considered. We could provide additional funding for our schools and property tax relief.

Campaign Website: letsgowithben.com



★ Jose Loya (D)

Qualifications: Marine Corps war veteran, former oil refinery worker, and union staff rep with 8 yrs negotiating wages, safety, and benefits statewide. Lifelong Texan committed to accountability and working families.

Disaster Recovery: Texas faces disasters too often, and recovery must be faster and more transparent. The state should use CDBG-DR funds to speed housing repairs and prioritize communities that are hit the hardest, especially rural and working-class areas. It must also invest CDBG-MIT funds in mitigation, coastal protection, and erosion control to reduce future damage and better protect families and infrastructure.

Veterans: As a Marine Corps veteran who deployed twice to Iraq, I understand the challenges veterans face. The Veterans Land Board offers home, land, and renovation loans, veteran assisted living, and a dignified place to be laid to rest beside those who

served. I will reach out to every veteran and increase transparency so they can access the resources they've earned.

Coastal Management: Through permitting, enforcement, and endorsing responsible coastal policies, I will limit risky development in flood-prone areas, protect public safety, and preserve our coast. Developers must be held accountable so taxpayers aren't left paying the price for irresponsible building. Texas beaches belong to the people, not special interests.

Challenges: The greatest challenge at the General Land Office is transparency. The GLO manages billions in public land, school funding, and disaster aid, yet too many Texans don't see how decisions are made. With my kids in public school and years spent helping veterans access earned benefits, I'll ensure this office puts schools, veterans, and working families first—not special interests.

Campaign Website: www.joseloya.com

★ Dawn Buckingham (R) Unopposed

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Four-year term. The agriculture commissioner's principal job is promoting Texas' agricultural products. In that capacity, the commissioner facilitates trade and marketing of agricultural products; regulates weights and measures; regulates pesticide use and application; certifies organically produced products; administers the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs; provides financial help to farmers; and helps solve issues related to natural disasters. Current annual salary: \$140,938

★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Food Assistance for Children and Schools: How would you ensure the nutritional needs of Texas children are met year-round?

Tariffs: How would you protect Texas farmers from potentially higher costs or lost

sales due to tariffs?

Rural Development: What is the greatest challenge facing rural communities, and how would you address it?

Water: What policies would you support to balance water usage between farming and other uses?

★ Clayton Tucker (D) Unopposed



★ Sid Miller (R)

Qualifications: With decades in Texas agriculture and years serving as Ag Commissioner, I bring proven leadership, real-world experience, and a Texas-strong commitment to serving the people of this great state.

Food Assistance for Children and Schools: Under my leadership, Texas ranks first in delivering healthy meals to schoolchildren. By expanding year-round nutrition programs, supporting community efforts like the

MAHA movement, collaborating with leaders such as Robert F. Kennedy, and serving on Governor Abbott's newly created Texas Food Nutrition Committee, I work to ensure every Texas child receives the nutritious meals they deserve.

Tariffs: I work hard every day to protect Texas farmers by advocating for fair trade policies, standing with President Trump on strengthening American agriculture, and pushing for relief tools that offset higher costs or lost sales. By promoting Texas-grown products, expanding new markets, and fighting for producers at every level, my focus always remains on keeping Texas farmers strong and competitive.

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

(continued)

★ Sid Miller (R) (continued)

Rural Development: The greatest challenge facing rural communities is access to healthcare, markets, infrastructure, and opportunity. I work every day to expand broadband, strengthen local economies, support rural schools and hospitals, protect our water, and ensure state resources reach small towns. By championing rural voices and cutting red tape, I stay focused on keeping rural Texas strong and thriving.



★ Nate Sheets (R)

Qualifications: Lifelong conservative Republican, Navy veteran, Christian w/ a decade in full-time ministry. Built the nation's #1 honey brand from one backyard hive by championing transparency & purity for consumers.

Food Assistance for Children and Schools: Texas ranks 44th in school lunches under current leadership. I'll re-prioritize state food dollars toward Texas-grown produce and meat to improve nutrition, support farmers, and get better results for kids.

Tariffs: Farmers once earned over 40¢ of every food dollar—today it's about 14¢. I'll re-

Water: I support protecting farmers' water rights while promoting long-term conservation through rainwater harvesting, desalinating brackish supplies, recycling fracking & oilfield produced water for irrigation, tapping newly discovered deep-water sources, improving storage, and offering incentives for efficiency. My focus is ensuring Texas agriculture and communities have reliable water for the future.

Campaign Website: sidmiller.com

form outdated, inefficient programs to help producers sell directly to consumers, keep more profit, and strengthen Texas agriculture.

Rural Development: The biggest challenge in rural Texas is losing jobs and opportunity. Instead of subsidizing multinational processed food companies, I'll use the state's buying power to buy from Texas farmers and ranchers—keeping dollars local.

Water: I'll protect landowners' water rights, support common-sense conservation, and ensure agriculture isn't pushed aside by urban growth—balancing Texas water needs without mandates or overregulation.

Campaign Website: NateSheets.com

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?

Environmental and public safety: What steps would you take to eliminate the backlog of uncapped abandoned oil, gas, and injection wells across the state?

Public Participation: How would you improve transparency and public participation

in the Commission's rulemaking and permitting process?

Monitoring and Enforcement: How would you ensure that the Commission is able to provide adequate monitoring and enforcement to the oil, gas, and mining sectors?

Challenges: What do you see as the two greatest challenges to the office, and how would you address them?

★ Jon Rosenthal (D) Unopposed



★ Katherine Culbert (R)

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.

Environmental and public safety: RRC received added funds in the last budget to plug orphan wells. This funding level needs to continue, and yearly plugging targets need to continue to be exceeded. New plugging requirement laws will help keep new wells from being added to the list. We need better oversight during the well-plugging activities to ensure our dollars are being spent effectively and wells are being properly plugged.

Public Participation: Texans deserve clear oversight, responsible stewardship of natural resources, and a Commission that is open about how decisions are made and how

public input is used. Monthly RRC meetings are streamed, and we need to allow remote public input to the meetings. Communication about upcoming rulemaking and permitting needs to be improved to allow for increased public participation.

Monitoring and Enforcement: The annual monitoring and enforcement plan defines strategic priorities. It is necessary to work with impacted community members and the professionals in the agency to develop a comprehensive plan. Adequate staffing levels and expertise are necessary for proper implementation.

Challenges: Texans need access to reliable and cost-conscious energy. I will pursue policies that help prevent unnecessary rate burdens and ensure that families, businesses and communities benefit from a stable and efficient energy market. Texas must be prepared for a rapidly changing energy landscape. From new tech to shifting market demands, we need to modernize operations and plan for long-term resilience.

Campaign Website: www.katherine4texas.com



★ Hawk Dunlap (R)

Qualifications: Fourth generation oil and gas. Grew up around men who taught me to do it the right way. 30 years operational field experience from fighting oil well fires to excavating over 150 "plugged" wells.

Environmental and public safety: Texas has over 10,000 doc-

umented orphaned wells with at least 100,000 that will likely be orphaned in the next few years. We also have an over abundance of produced water. I propose a \$.10 per barrel tariff on each barrel of produced water that is injected. At 30 million barrels per day, we'll have \$1 billion in new annual revenue to plug the riskiest wells the right way.

Public Participation: First, allow remote electronic participation by the public. Second, actually ask questions during the monthly public meetings the Commission currently has that goes through 600+ agenda items in 30 minutes. Third, I would have factu-

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

(continued)

★ Hawk Dunlap (R) (continued)

ally informative social media posts as opposed to the current propaganda. The regulators need to regulate, not brag about how many wells they issued drilling permits for

Monitoring and Enforcement: I'll be in the field, not in the office. I intend to travel the state to each of the districts, and help ensure experienced oil and gas men and women are leading with integrity. Treating everyone equally. That means consistent and fair application of the rules. I will also help create a portal for the public to

more readily report and check on the status of their complaints.

Challenges: 1. Lack of accountability to the public. I have experienced firsthand how Commissioners treat those making public comments at the open meetings. They are condescending. It's unacceptable. 2. Getting oil and gas money out of the political arena. Not just in this race, but in politics generally. Operationally - see above for water injection and orphaned wells.

Campaign Website: Hawk4texas.com

★ Bo French (R) No response received



★ James "Jim" Matlock (R)

Qualifications: I have twenty years in field experience in many areas of the oil and gas industry. I have worked with the service companies, SWD's, leasing, pipelines, and right of ways.

Environmental and public safety: I have a plan to address this by working with the independent producers of the state. Plugging is not the right answer for most of the wells. Due to the high salinity and other corrosive properties under extreme pressure, the metal casing deteriorates over time which will cause subsurface damage long before it reaches the surface. We need to repurpose these wells for geothermal or lithium mining.

Public Participation: Since most people can't take the time to drive to Austin, I

plan to host district meetings monthly. That will give everyone the opportunity to come out and voice their concerns. I understand that there are a lot of concerns we need to address.

Monitoring and Enforcement: We need more inspectors. Or inspectors are overloaded with the territory they are expected to cover.

Challenges: Everyone has a vested interest in the industry they were elected to regulate. I have no vested interest in the industry. I do love the industry, but we need regulators, no more corporate self governance. We need representatives who are not afraid to have difficult conversations and take responsibility for issues such as lake Boehmer.

Campaign Website: matlockfortexas.com

★ Jim Wright (R)

Qualifications: Currently Chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission. Started working in energy industry at age 19. Later created a group of environmental management companies that service the energy sector.

Environmental and public safety: The RRC is currently working with the U.S. Department of the Interior to streamline and improve the federal Orphaned Wells Grant Program. That and recent legislative initiatives in the state legislature make it easier to cut through red tape and allow the RRC to utilize its world-renowned well plugging expertise and save taxpayers money.

Public Participation: We engage with the public through open meetings and the RRC website, making information available on proposed rules. We have sector based advisory groups and remote listening sessions, hosted by the Office of Public Engagement. Those

allow energy experts to answer questions on rulemaking and permitting processes As chairman, I know transparency in what we do as a government agency is critical.

Monitoring and Enforcement: RRC has been hard at work to improve our efficiency in staffing and the use of new data tools to flag potential potential issues or questionable recordings. That commitment results in better follow up to serious complaints by the general public and ensures consistency in the reporting. Improved data results in improved monitoring and enforcement.

Challenges: 1. Support the best use of our natural resources to benefit Texans, while maintaining stewardship of the environment. 2. Balancing the needs and wants of the various sectors and sizes of energy related businesses from small businesses to multi-million dollar interests so that decisions are fair to all stakeholders.

Campaign Website: wrightfortexas.com

CHIEF 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: \$210,000–\$264,600

★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Ethics: How will you ensure your rulings remain impartial and free from both political pressure and the interests of your campaign donors?

Equity: What role should the Supreme Court play in expanding access to justice

for persons or groups who may be underserved?

Issues: What do you see as the most pressing challenge facing the courts today, and how would you propose addressing it?

Philosophy: What is your judicial philosophy?

CHIEF JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

(continued)

PLACE 1



★ Maggie Ellis (D)

Qualifications: As an appellate justice, a former prosecutor and civil-criminal attorney with state and national legal certifications, I've handled thousands of matters in court. I've also led large organizations.

Ethics: Experience and a proven history of advocating fairly from all sides of the docket is a good indicator of a candidate's likeliness to be fair and impartial. I have handled thousands of matters from all sides, including: ruling over cases fairly as a judge; defending individuals at risk of losing their liberty, their children, and their homes; and advocating for justice as a prosecutor.

Equity: The TXSC should be a leader. As a child who grew up transient and homeless and with 15% of Texans living below the poverty level, I understand the need. I have been awarded for my work helping our most vulnerable have access to the court sys-

tem by drafting legislation and establishing pro bono clinics. I will bring this experience to expand the TXSC commissions that address access to the courts.

Issues: We have been experiencing an erosion of our separation of powers and of our civil rights. This election comes at a critical time when our judiciary is under attack and under political pressure. As the first openly gay woman to serve as an appellate justice in Texas, I will bring balance back to our courts; I will not bow to political pressure; and I will protect the laws that protect everyone.

Philosophy: I believe deeply in what our courts are supposed to be: steady, independent, and grounded in the rule of law- that no one is above the law. Upholding my oath to defend our state and national Constitutions is important to provide confidence in our courts. I also believe that our laws should allow for flexibility to rise and shift in response to changes in our values but not to political pressures.

Campaign Website: www.maggieforjustice.com



★ Cory L. Carlyle (D)

Qualifications: I served 6 years on the Dallas Appeals Court, am Board Certified in Civil Appellate Law, the fundamental law the Court does, and worked cases with over 30 justices, R and D, in my time on the bench.

Ethics: Each case presents a unique set of challenges that our law either answers or provides a guide to answer. I intend to follow the law and answer the questions presented by the cases before me. Politics want to invade but I found in my time on the Dallas Court of Appeals that focusing on the legal principles and the facts of the cases before me that I could most faithfully apply the law.

Equity: The Supreme Court is the highest arbiter of law in the state and should play an integral role in finding funding and people to make our justice system most accessible by the underserved. In my eyes, the court system is only as good as it treats those who need

it most, meaning we must strive to meet them where they are when necessary. Our commissions are a good start, but their reach can grow.

Issues: The greatest challenge the courts face is the insidious creep of ideology to our highest courts' chambers. Some judges have begun judging more from a personal-political basis in ways that have become destructive to the role of the third branch. I will address it one person at a time, one case at a time, not allowing these judicial lapses go unnoticed, with the goal of eliminating them forever.

Philosophy: The true delight in deciding cases is finding the right answer. When settled law gives an answer, the quest is easy. But when the answer is unclear, we must apply the principles that came before us. Stare decisis is real, and when judges fail to follow precedent, they create uncertainty and diminish respect for the judicial system. I will follow the law in deciding our state's most important cases

Campaign Website: Carlyle4justice.com

★ Jimmy Blacklock (R) Unopposed

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 training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Ethics: How will you ensure your rulings remain impartial and free from both political pressure and the interests of your campaign donors?

Equity: What role should the Supreme Court play in expanding access to justice for

persons or groups who may be underserved?

Issues: What do you see as the most pressing challenge facing the courts today, and how would you propose addressing it?

Philosophy: What is your judicial philosophy?

PLACE 2 (UNEXPIRED TERM)

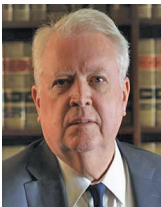
★ Chari Kelly (D) Unopposed

★ James P. Sullivan (R) Unopposed

JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

(continued)

PLACE 7



★ Gordon Goodman (D)

Qualifications: I served as Justice on the 1st Court of Appeals. Prior to that, I served in senior positions for DuPont, Conoco, and Occidental. In the community, I served on many school and professional boards.

Ethics: I have published many articles on ethics for the ABA, the UC Business Law Journal, the Heidelberg Journal of International

Law, and the Harvard Public Health Review. My articles emphasize that individuals must not only comply with the law in all matters, but also that they must do the right thing even when the law is silent or ambiguous, and even when doing the right thing is unpopular.

Equity: The Texas Supreme Court should be accessible to all citizens. There is an important role to be played by individuals and groups whose interests may be impacted

★ Kristen Hawkins (D)

Qualifications: I am board-certified in civil trial law and personal injury law. In 2021, I was Tex-ABOTA Judge of the Year. As a trial-court judge, I have presided over more than 200 jury and bench trials.

Ethics: As a trial-court judge, I base my decisions on the facts and the law—not on campaign contributions. If elected to the Supreme Court, that would not change. I strive for predictability and consistency so the parties know what to expect when they come to court. I treat everyone with courtesy and respect, regardless of socio-economic status, political affiliation, or whether they have donated.

Equity: The Supreme Court chooses its cases, and should select cases that are important to all Texans—not just the well-resourced. It should also review cases mindful of the constitutionally embedded right to a trial by jury and should respect juries and their

by future rulings, and the court should be receptive and attentive to amicus curiae briefs (i.e., briefs filed by friends of the court).

Issues: The justices of every court in Texas swear an oath to uphold and defend the constitution and laws of the State of Texas and the United States. The judicial department of Texas is the third arm of the government, and under the Texas constitution, the separation of powers is explicitly stated. The justices of the Texas Supreme Court must base their decisions on the law and not popular opinions.

Philosophy: Like Justices Holmes and Brandeis, I believe a “common law” approach is the most vital. This was the prevailing judicial philosophy for most of the 20th century and is a form of pragmatism. A more popular judicial philosophy today is “originalism” which proposes to interpret the law as it was understood when first enacted. The “common law” approach acknowledges that the world changes over time.

Campaign Website: goodmanforjustice.com

verdicts. The Court can adopt rules streamlining access to justice for those with fewer resources, including self-represented litigants.

Issues: The persistent attacks on judges—both at the state and federal levels. The judicial branch is a coequal branch of government, and maintaining judicial independence is necessary to sustain our democracy. I would rule based on the law and facts and strive for consistent and fair application of the law without favoring any party.

Philosophy: The Constitution requires every party appearing in Court be treated equally under the law and guarantees a right to a jury trial. My judicial philosophy is simple: apply the law equally to everyone who appears in court and ensure that juries and their verdicts are respected. Consistent and predictable application of the law is what every Texan should expect from our judicial system.

Campaign Website: www.judgehawkins.com

★ Kyle Hawkins (R) Unopposed

PLACE 8

★ Gisela D. Triana (D) Unopposed

★ Brett Busby (R) Unopposed

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 training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Ethics: How will you ensure your rulings remain impartial and free from both political pressure and the interests of your campaign donors?

Issues: What do you see as the most pressing challenge facing the courts today, and how would you propose addressing it?

Philosophy: What is your judicial philosophy?

PLACE 3

★ Okey Anyiam (D) Unopposed

★ Brent Coffee (R) No response received

★ Lesli Fitzpatrick (R) No response received

JUDGE, TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

(continued)



★ Alison Fox (R)

Qualifications: I have almost 20 years in criminal appellate law, drafting opinions, reviewing records, and litigating writs. I am known for my rigor, neutrality, and fidelity to the Constitution.

Ethics: I will decide every case based solely on the law and the record. Ethical rules, precedent and judicial restraint - not politics

or donors - govern my rulings.

Issues: I believe the greatest challenge is applying the law consistently and impar-

tially while resisting political pressure, misinformation, and demands for results over justice. I can address these problems by applying the law consistently, writing clear opinions, respecting precedent, and maintaining independence from politics — courts build trust through fairness, transparency, and restraint.

Philosophy: My judicial philosophy is grounded in fidelity to the Constitution, respect for precedent, and judicial restraint. Judges must apply the law as written, decide cases on the record, and remain independent from politics or personal views.

Campaign Website: www.foxforjudge.com

★ Thomas Smith (R) No response received

PLACE 4

★ Audra Riley (D) Unopposed

PLACE 9

★ Holly Taylor (D) Unopposed

★ Kevin Patrick Yeary (R) Unopposed



★ Jennifer Balido (R)

Qualifications: I have over 33 years of criminal law experience as a district judge, prosecutor, public defender, and criminal defense attorney, trying cases and arguing appeals, including death penalty cases.

Ethics: Transparency is key to the public's trust in the judiciary.

Aside from accurate and timely reporting to the Ethics Commission, a judge should make the parties aware of any potential conflicts of interest, either personal or professional, however slight, and let the parties decide if they wish to ask the judge to recuse herself. As a district judge, I have recused myself when necessary.

Issues: The most pressing challenge facing appellate courts is the length of time it

takes for a case to go through the appellate process. Delays occur at every turn, and victims of crime and defendants deserve a swift but thorough examination of the trial record and applicable law and a thoughtful appellate opinion addressing the issues raised in the case. Panel opinions could clear more cases quickly.

Philosophy: As a sitting district judge, people come before me facing the most difficult situations of their lives. Crime victims, defendants, their families, and their attorneys are looking to me to set the tone. I treat everyone with respect, I allow everyone to have their say, and I fully consider the arguments of both sides. You may not agree with my decision, but you will know that you were heard.

Campaign Website: www.judgebalido.com



★ John Messinger (R)

Qualifications: Representing Texas in this court has been my job for 15 years. Few people have comparable experience: over 125 petitions for review, over 100 briefs, and 26 oral arguments in this court alone.

Ethics: We're blessed to be able to elect (and un-elect) judges. I have a long record of advocating for what the law requires, not what I would prefer. The voters will ensure that I keep my promise to continue enforcing the law as written.

Issues: Although the court has found many novel ways to reverse convictions in the

last few years, the biggest problem is the time it takes. The average time it took the court to review a decision and issue an opinion was over 500 days last year. It used to be under 200. You fix this by electing people who've spent their careers analyzing complex legal issues in 30 days or less. That's me.

Philosophy: Justice through law enforcement. In a system of law, judges are not empowered to do whatever they think is fair or right in a given case. They must apply the law as written. If the law is properly interpreted and the result is not what the legislature intended, it is the legislature's job to rewrite the law. Judges should have the humility to accept their limited roles and limited wisdom.

Campaign Website: messengerforjustice.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.

TEXAS SENATE

Four-year term. The Texas State Senate is the upper chamber of the Texas State Legislature. Alongside the Texas House of Representatives, it forms the legislative branch of the Texas state government and works alongside the governor of Texas to create laws and establish a state budget. Legislative authority and responsibilities of the Texas State Senate include passing bills on public policy matters, setting levels for state spending, raising and lowering taxes, and voting to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes.

TEXAS SENATE DISTRICT 18: The Senator for Senate District 18 serves 17 counties: Aransas, Austin, Burleson, Calhoun, **DeWitt, Fayette,** Goliad, **Gonzales,** Grimes, **Lavaca,** Lee, Refugio, Victoria, Washington, and part of Fort Bend, Harris, and Waller.

★ **Erica Gillum (D)** Unopposed

★ **Lois Kolkhorst (R)** Unopposed

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Two-year term. The Texas House of Representatives has 150 seats and is the lower chamber of the Texas Legislature. Duties include passing bills on public policy that become the law for the State of Texas; setting levels for state spending by passing a two-year budget; voting to raise and lower taxes for the state; and voting to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes of bills.

★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES Districts 30 & 85 only

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

Elections: What changes should be made to Texas election laws to protect voting rights and access while maintaining safe and secure elections?

Education: What policies would you support to ensure all Texas students have access to quality public education, regardless of school choice policies?

Healthcare: What role should the state government play in promoting a healthy Texas population, and what steps would you take to ensure that healthcare is affordable and accessible for all Texans?

Economy: If elected, what specific legislative actions would you propose to bring good-paying jobs and economic opportunities to communities that have been left behind?

TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 30: The Representative for Texas House District 30 serves six counties: **DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca,** Matagorda, and Victoria.



★ **Crystal Sedillo (D)**

Qualifications: I am a citizen that cares enough to get involved and I whole-heartedly believe that is all the qualifications one needs to represent their district. I am a recent graduate of Texas A&M-Victoria with a bachelor's degree in communication. I have worked in my community to hold elected and appointed officials accountable, as well as advocate for resources for the underserved.

I am looking to continue this work in the Texas House.

Elections: Texas should protect voting rights by expanding access while keeping elections secure. That means longer early-voting hours, more polling locations, county-wide voting centers, and restoring curbside voting. We should also modernize mail-in voting with secure online applications and better ballot-tracking, while protecting the right of seniors and voters with disabilities to vote by mail. Strong access and strong security can and should go hand in hand.

Education: I support policies that ensure every Texas student has access to a

strong public education, no matter what school choice options exist. That starts with fully funding public schools so districts can provide competitive teacher pay, smaller class sizes, updated instructional materials, and safe, well-maintained campuses. I also support increasing resources for special education, bilingual and multilingual learners, and rural and underserved communities so all students receive the support they need.

Healthcare: The state should ensure every Texan has access to affordable, reliable health care. That includes expanding Medicaid, supporting rural hospitals and community clinics, and investing in mental-health and preventive services. I also support efforts to lower prescription drug costs and improve maternal and child health. A healthier Texas starts with making care accessible in every community.

Economy: I would focus on bringing good-paying jobs to underserved communities by investing in workforce training, expanding broadband and transportation infrastructure, and supporting small businesses. I also support targeted incentives for employers who hire locally and offer strong wages, along with strengthening public schools and community colleges to build a skilled workforce.



★ **David Steves (D)**

Qualifications: As a 5th generation rancher, I bring a unique set of skills that's tailored to help rural Texas. I have 3 degrees in diesel mechanics that help me take things apart and find the problem with them. I have worked as an operator in a chemical plant that helps me keep things flowing in the proper direction. I have helped plan the maintenance budget for the plant. I have also worked in the quality control lab for the plant ensuring the product meets the customer specs.

Elections: I think voter equipment should be standardized across the state allowing a person to vote early anywhere in the state, but on election day only in their county. Peo-

ple should be allowed to vote using a state issued id (even expired) with a picture on it.

Education: We need to fully fund the public schools to ensure the school districts don't have to cut programs that help all students. If we could create a fund that could be self supporting to help pay for public education, that would be the best way to fund it.

Healthcare: By Texas funding rural medical facilities to keep them open and fully staffed, this helps promote a healthy population. Because the rising costs of health insurance is driving many people off of insurance, it's time for Texas to look at alternative ways for keeping people insured with affordable comprehensive coverage.

Economy: In my district, we are fortunate to have many diverse industries that

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(continued)

★ David Steves (D) (continued)

pay well. I would ensure that current industry keep paying a living wage and their fair share of taxes. With most of the district being rural communities, I will seek to make sure that the market value of crops and livestock is sustainable for farm-

ers and ranchers to ensure that they are able to keep family farms in business supporting our communities. I also strongly feel we need to be supporting our public schools so that secondary students are well prepared to enroll in college, trade school or directly enter the workforce to support our local families and economies.

Campaign Website: davidsteves.com

★ AJ Louderback (R) Unopposed

TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 44: The Representative for Texas House District 44 serves two counties: **Gonzales** and **Guadalupe**.

★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES District 44 only

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

Public Education: What policies would you support to ensure all Texas students have access to quality public education, regardless of school choice policies?

Healthcare: What role should the state government play in promoting a healthy

Texas population, and what steps would you take to ensure that healthcare is affordable and accessible for all Texans?

Water: How should Texas evaluate and manage the impact of large data centers on local and regional water supplies, particularly in areas facing drought or rapid growth?



★ Eric Norman (D)

Qualifications: My experience campaigning taught me that prestigious degrees, awards, and success don't mean anything if politicians are only there to serve donors and party leaders. I've met with voters across the district to understand our challenges - we have to elect someone who will fight for us, or we'll continue to go unheard. Although I've got my fair share of qualifications, my uncompromising commitment to do the right thing is what I'm known best for. I'm ready to create alliances with other problem-solvers in the legislature to tackle the rising cost of rent, insurance, healthcare, and food. These are the issues that matter most to voters, and have the greatest impact on quality of life. That's my only agenda, and I'd appreciate your vote.

Public Education: Last election fighting for our public schools was my signature issue. Millions of dollars were spent to make vouchers seem like the solution to all our problems. But why would we trust lawmakers to fix a problem they created? They starved our districts of funding, vilified teachers, and passed unfunded "safety" mandates. In other states with voucher programs, academic performance has, at-best, matched prior public school systems, so what's this really about? Funneling public money into private hands. Our communities deserve better resourced public schools, teachers deserve better pay and respect, and students deserve a holistic curriculum that broadens their perspective and prepares them to compete in a much more complex world.

Healthcare: One of the biggest reasons I'm running is because healthcare costs have derailed the lives of too many people I love. Premiums are unaffordable so people skip preventative care and wind up in the ER, often when it's too late. Families shouldn't have to declare bankruptcy because of medical bills, but it's happening. Medicaid expansion would provide healthcare to millions more Texans, a major step in the right direction for uninsured families, but it would also bring down costs for all of us. Even though the majority of Texans support this, the governor has used his political power to kill previous efforts. That's why elections are so important; in Austin I'd fight for what's best for our community, not cower to the governor and his donors.

Water: Although state leaders have gone all-in to make it seem like Texas is eager to be a data center hub, I'm skeptical that's what Texans want. Data centers consume tons of electricity and water, and offer few jobs. To serve them, energy companies have to make big investments. But instead of developers paying these costs, energy companies are passing them on to residential customers. They expect us to subsidize the world's richest companies - that's not right. Water's a similar story. We're already worried about how to stretch our resources to provide for a growing population, we can't be taking on such big demand when so much of the state is vulnerable. The jobs we're promised just don't justify the tradeoffs we have to make to get them.

Campaign Website: www.ericfortx.com



★ Steve Schwab (D)

Qualifications: I am a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel, a Wharton-trained economist, and a college professor. As a leader in the Army for over two decades, I always chose the right thing over the easy way out. As an economist, I understand the impacts of our policy decisions, now and in the future. As a college professor and parent, I know our children are our future, but we must equip them with the resources to succeed, as previous generations did for us. My work in the Army, including three tours in Iraq and culminating as CFO of Brooke Army Medical Center has prepared me to be a leader for our district. I know how to execute a mission and advocate for the needs of our most vulnerable populations. I plan to bring that experience to the State House.

Public Education: My plan focuses on funding, assessment reform, and public accountability. Funding: Secure dedicated State funding to fully cover special education services, alleviating the financial burden on districts and ensuring all students re-

ceive the support they need. I will also sponsor automatic inflation-based adjustments to the basic allotment. Assessment Reform: Reduce the weight and frequency of high-stakes testing in favor of more balanced accountability measures such as formative assessments, project-based evaluations, and professional teacher assessments that better reflect student learning and development. Public Accountability: Any school receiving public dollars, whether public or private, will be accountable to the same standards.

Healthcare: Healthcare policy should be grounded in dignity, freedom, and opportunity. Research has also repeatedly shown that helping people regain their health has numerous economic benefits that exceed the costs of care. Here are 5 specific proposals I will introduce: Expand Medicaid - Texans already pay 90% of this cost in federal taxes. Eliminate co-pays for generic drugs and branded drugs without an alternative. Copays are counter-productive when applied to essential medications. Reduce the influence of Pharmacy Benefit Managers so that savings reach patients. Restore reproductive freedom - personal medical decisions, including reproductive care, belong with patients and doctors. Expand funding for rural and critical-access hospitals.

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(continued)

★ Steve Schwab (D) (continued)

Water: While data centers can bring job creation, tax base growth, and economic diversification, data center water use is projected to reach 400 billion gallons annually, or 7% of total statewide water demand by 2030. As our district already faces water stress, Families, farmers, and first responders should never be forced to compete with indus-

trial facilities for basic water security. In HD-44, policy should ensure that: New large facilities demonstrate long-term water availability before approval; Residential, agricultural, and emergency water needs come first; Non-potable or recycled water is used whenever feasible; Developers help fund new water infrastructure or conservation measures when additional demand is created.

Campaign Website: www.schwabfortexas.com



★ Gabriel Ortiz (R)

Qualifications: My experience comes from leadership, service, and running a business in the real world. I served six years in the Texas Army National Guard and earned my commission as a Second Lieutenant, where I learned how to lead people, make decisions under pressure, and stay accountable for results. As a small business owner, I've dealt firsthand with regulations, permits, infrastructure problems, payroll, and the impact government decisions have on day-to-day operations. I understand what it takes to keep a business running and people employed. I'm approachable, persistent, and willing to push for solutions. I listen, follow up, and don't stop working an issue until it's addressed.

Public Education: I support policies that make sure public schools remain strong, stable, and properly funded no matter what school choice options exist. Most Texas students will continue to attend public schools, and the state has a responsibility to make sure those schools can deliver quality instruction. That means protecting per-student funding, investing in teachers and classrooms, and giving districts flexibility to meet local needs. Public schools should be able to focus on strong core academics while also offering career, technical, and life-skills education that prepares students for what comes after graduation. School choice should give families options, not drain resources from public schools. I will support policies that hold all education prog-

Healthcare: The state has a role in promoting health by setting the conditions for Texans to live healthier lives, not by micromanaging personal decisions. A good place to start is in our schools. Building healthy habits early through physical education, nutrition awareness, and active lifestyles helps shape long-term outcomes. Schools are one of the few places where we can influence culture in a positive, lasting way, and that's something worth investing in. On healthcare access and affordability, Texas needs more doctors and more competition. Making Texas an attractive place for physicians to live and practice is key. That means reducing unnecessary regulatory barriers, supporting alternative care models like direct primary care, and allowing doctor

Water: Texas should treat large data centers like any other high-demand industrial user and require proof that water and power capacity exist before projects are approved. In drought-prone or fast-growing areas, the state should require water impact reviews that account for total usage, peak demand, and drought conditions. Data centers should be encouraged to use low-water cooling systems, water reuse, and to fund the infrastructure needed to support their operations so local residents are not forced to absorb the cost. Long term, Texas must expand water supply through projects like coastal desalination plants to support growth without overstraining inland water sources. If adequate capacity does not exist, projects should wait until it does.

Campaign Website: www.votegabrielortiz.com

★ Alan Schoolcraft (R) No response received

TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 85: The Representative for Texas House District 85 serves six counties: Austin, **Colorado, Fayette, Fort Bend** (part), Waller, and Wharton.



★ Lawrence Brandyburg (D)

Qualifications: I have over 40 years of work experience that qualifies me to be State Representative for District 85. I have over 7 years experience in the United States Army as a Commissioned Officer this has provided me the opportunity to lead and follow. This experience has sharpened my ability to work and learn with others. I have over 27 years combined in higher education as a professor/administrator and in K-12 over 10 years as a school board member for Royal Independent School District. I clearly understand the improvements needed in education and workforce needs for success.

Elections: Texas laws should adapt the policy that providing all qualified voters the opportunity to vote is good for America. Voting should be accessible and free from intimidation. Provide fair and equal voting locations in all areas. Texas should also have a State Holiday for voting.

Education: Workforce education and transfer education is simply good for America! Texas should provide free education for the first two years of college focusing on Community Colleges as the leader in this process. Providing workers for industry needs and helping Texans improve their social economic status should be our policy. Education can change everything and help move this effort forward.

Healthcare: The Texas House Representative has oversight and the responsibility of policy when it comes to specific healthcare funding. I would fight to make sure insurance plans pay a fair share of the cost of health care. Another huge concern for me is making sure that surprise billing is totally eliminated. Prior to any procedure cost in detail should be provided to the customer. I also would fight to make sure pharmaceutical needs are based on the doctor's recommendation and not the provider. Pushing to ensure that the consumer knows everything detail about cost to include what and where to go for the least expensive procedure or the least expensive medication. This should be the responsibility of the healthcare provider.

Economy: In my district, we are fortunate to have many diverse industries that pay well. I would ensure that current industry keep paying a living wage and their fair share of taxes. With most of the district being rural communities, I will seek to make sure that the market value of crops and livestock is sustainable for farmers and ranchers to ensure that they are able to keep family farms in business supporting our communities. I also strongly feel we need to be supporting our public schools so that secondary students are well prepared to enroll in college, trade school or directly enter the workforce to support our local families and economies.

Campaign Website: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DSsPNe6jiOT/>

★ Aaron Westerfield (D) No response received

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(continued)

★ **Dennis “Goose” Geesaman (R)**

Qualifications: Previous mayor for Flatonia, TX, 5 terms on Flatonia city council, retired USAF Lt Col and fighter squadron commander, founded Flatonia EDC

Elections: Citizenship verification to register. Paper ballots and no machines.

Education: No response received.

Healthcare: Clear labeling on ingredients in food. Promote healthy and active lifestyle. Health savings accounts and promote health consumer shopping.

Economy: Promote and incentivize manufacturing and transportation outside cities.

Campaign Website: goose4texrep.com

★ **Stan Kitzman (R)** No response received

COUNTY ELECTIONS

County Clerk ★ County Commissioner ★ County Judge ★ County Treasurer ★ District Clerk ★ Justice of the Peace

County Clerk: Four-year term. A County Clerk in the state of Texas serves as clerk and custodian of records for the Commissioners Court, Constitutional County Court and Statutory County Courts; acts as a recorder and custodian of important public records, including all bonds, deeds, birth and death certificates, assumed names and livestock brands, ensuring that records are maintained in a secure, archival manner; issues marriage licenses; and in some counties, serves as chief elections officer.

County Commissioner: Four-year term. A county commissioner in the state of Texas is elected to the County Commissioners Court to conduct the general business of the county. The Court consists of the county judge, elected at-large, and four commissioners, elected by geographical precinct. Each commissioner is typically responsible for building and maintaining county roads and bridges within the precinct. Commissioners adopt the county budget and the county tax rate; approve all budgeted purchases of the county; set all salaries and benefits for county employees; authorize all county contracts; provide and maintain all county buildings and facilities; and fill vacancies in elective and appointed county offices.

County Judge: Four-year term. A Texas County Judge acts as the chief executive and judicial officer, presiding over the Commissioners Court (the county’s legislative body) and handling administrative duties like budgeting, setting tax rates, and managing emergency response, while also presiding over specific court cases (probate, small civil, appeals) and serving as the county’s public face, with roles varying by county population.

County Treasurer: Four-year term. The County Treasurer in the state of Texas receives and deposits all county revenues; acts as chief liaison between the county and depository banks; disburses funds upon the order of the Commissioners Court; records receipts and expenditures and reconciles bank statements; may prepare the payroll; may be designated as the county’s investment officer and required to submit regular reports on county finance to the members of the Commissioners Court; may also act as the county’s human resources officer, employee benefits coordinator, risk manager and insurance coordinator; and may have some audit responsibilities in counties with no Auditor.

District Clerk: Four-year term. The District Clerk in the state of Texas serves as clerk and custodian of all records for the District Courts; indexes and secures all court records, collects filing fees, and handles funds held in litigation and money awarded to minors; coordinates the jury panel selection process; may process passport applications; and manages court registry funds.

Justice of the Peace: Four-year term. A justice of the peace in the state of Texas presides over the justice court in a geographical area (precinct) in cases involving misdemeanors, small civil disputes, landlord/tenant disputes, conducts inquests, and may perform marriage ceremonies. The term of office is four years.

COLORADO COUNTY

For early voting and election day polling locations and hours, check the Colorado County elections website:

<https://www.co.colorado.tx.us/page/colorado.elections>

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY – NO CANDIDATES

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY – THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES ARE RUNNING UNOPPOSED

★ **Kimberly Menke (R)**

Colorado County Clerk

★ **Ryan P. Brandt (R)**

Colorado County Commissioner
Precinct 2

★ **Todd Krenek (R)**

Colorado County Commissioner
Precinct 4

★ **Ty Prause (R)**

Colorado County Judge

★ **Joyce Guthmann (R)**

Colorado County Treasurer

★ **Valerie Dunn Harmon (R)**

Colorado County District Clerk

★ **Rodney Meyer (R)**

Justice of the Peace Precinct 1

★ **Boe Reeves (R)**

Justice of the Peace Precinct 2

★ **Donald J. Clark (R)**

Justice of the Peace Precinct 3

★ **Stan Warfield (R)**

Justice of the Peace Precinct 4

DEWITT COUNTY

For early voting and election day polling locations and hours, check the DeWitt County elections website:
<https://www.co.dewitt.tx.us/page/dewitt.Elections>

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY – NO CANDIDATES

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY – THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES ARE RUNNING UNOPPOSED

★ Natalie Carson (R) DeWitt County Clerk	★ Ben Zimmerman (R) DeWitt County Judge	★ Esther M. Ruiz (R) DeWitt County District Clerk
★ Brian Carson (R) DeWitt County County Commissioner Precinct 4	★ Desirae Poth-Garibay (R) DeWitt County Treasurer	★ Blanca S. McBride (R) DeWitt County Justice of the Peace Precinct 2

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY – ALL CANDIDATES LISTED BELOW ARE ON THE BALLOT AND OPPOSED

DeWitt County Commissioner Precinct 2

★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Motivation: Why are you running for this position?

Managing growth: How can our county manage growth in a way that maintains local character, conserves natural resources, protects our environment, and

makes good use of taxpayer funds?

Issues: What are people asking you to address if elected?



★ **Brenda Lopez (R)**

Motivation: I've been employed for Dewitt County for 15 years. In those 15 years the past 4 I've worked for Pct. 2. My experience working side by side with our current commissioner has given me the passion to continue serving the residents of Dewitt County.

Managing growth: We can effectively manage growth by implementing 'smart growth' principles that prioritize targeted development while protect-

ing community character, historic districts, and natural resources, ensuring the environment is protected and taxpayer money is used wisely.

Issues: Residents have clearly indicated they are ready for a change within Dewitt County, and are looking for someone to make sure our county residents' tax money is spent wisely.

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/p/Vote-Brenda-Lopez-for-De-Witt-County-Commissioner-Pct2-61580822350519/



★ **Ricky Nunez (R)**

Motivation: I was born and raised in Yoakum, I feel the need to take ownership to serve and improve my hometown region. I bring over 20 years of experience with the county in Precinct 2. My knowledge, experience, and proven leadership position me to better serve our community.

Managing growth: I am committed to maintaining a positive and productive work

environment. A present and effective commissioner who is in tune with their crew fosters growth, accountability, and teamwork. Improved work efficiency not only helps conserve natural resources and protect the environment, but also ensures responsible use of taxpayer funds.

Issues: I plan to be available to the taxpayers and their concerns. It is a priority of mine to upgrade and maintain our county roads and bridges, while preserving the natural environment, such as our native plants and wildflowers.



★ **Carl Smith (R)**

Motivation: I feel it's time to share my 50+ years of experience with the Commissioners Court and the voters of DeWitt County. Throughout my career, I've focused on solving problems, managing budgets, and overseeing projects that make communities stronger. I want to bring that same hands-on, practical experience to Precinct 2 and be a voice for taxpayers, families, and small businesses.

Managing growth: Managing growth in our county is essential for our community to thrive and prosper. Establishing fair tax rates and offering targeted tax incentives can help attract new businesses and support long-term economic development. At the same time, we must preserve the hometown character and traditional way of do-

ing business that define our historic county. By maintaining strong infrastructure and thoughtful policies, we can encourage growth without disrupting the values and practices that our current businesses and residents depend on.

Issues: Community leaders approached me and asked if I would run for Commissioner of Precinct 2 to help keep taxpayer spending in check and bring strong leadership to the Commissioners Court. They believe my experience would help guide better decision-making, keep our tax rate low, and ensure we build and repair roads that last longer. Based on my work history and proven leadership, they felt I would be a good fit for the job and someone who would represent the best interests of our community.

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10214916896032553&set=g.1546076973486529j

DEWITT COUNTY

(continued)

DeWitt County Justice of the Peace Precinct 1

★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics will help you be a fair and impartial Justice of the Peace?

Operations: As Justice of the Peace, what steps will you take to ensure that your

office carries out its duties effectively?

Equal access: How would you ensure that all individuals who enter your court receive equal access to justice?



★ John V. Garoni (R)

Qualifications: As for training & experience, I have over 3000 hours of continuing education and 30 years of experience in law enforcement service. I have learned to take in & objectively evaluate information on a matter by matter basis determining how the law applies to it and acting on it. As for characteristics, I was raised by my father & mother in a Christian home. They taught my siblings & I

right from wrong, to respect the law, to treat others with dignity & respect, to think for ourselves & make our own decisions. Leadership, integrity, and compassion are traits

that will make me the best JP I can be.

Operations: As Justice of the Peace, I will ensure that I and my office staff take advantage of applicable trainings and resources. I will also build and foster positive working relationships with other offices and stakeholders to ensure our duties are accomplished effectively and efficiently. Thus allowing us to better serve the community.

Equal access: Fairness, due process and equality are cornerstones of justice. Every person that enters my court will be treated with dignity & respect. By using my years of experience as a public servant to evaluate each matter before the court objectively and with impartiality will ensure that due process is achieved and the law is applied equally for all.

★ Nancy Hosek (R) No response received

FAYETTE COUNTY

For early voting and election day polling locations and hours, check the Fayette County elections website:
<https://www.co.fayette.tx.us/page/fayette.Elections>

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY – NO CANDIDATES

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY – THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES ARE RUNNING UNOPPOSED

★ Brenda Kallus Fietsam (R)

Fayette County Clerk

★ Jamie Moreau (R)

Fayette County Justice of the Peace Precinct 2

★ Paul Zapalac (R)

Fayette County Justice of the Peace Precinct 4

★ Drew Brossmann (R)

Fayette County Commissioner Precinct 4

★ Charles Zapalac (R)

Fayette County Justice of the Peace Precinct 3

★ Jessica Pietsch (R)

Fayette County District Clerk

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY – ALL CANDIDATES LISTED BELOW ARE ON THE BALLOT AND OPPOSED

Fayette County Commissioner Precinct 2

★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Motivation: Why are you running for this position?

Issues: What are people asking you to address if elected?

Managing growth: How can our county manage growth in a way that maintains local character, conserves natural resources, protects our environment, and makes good use of taxpayer funds?



★ Abraham L. Pace (R)

Motivation: Tax payers deserve their taxes to be used appropriately. I look at this position as a taxpayer

Managing growth: Try to maintain quality and development to a standard that helps keep this area desirable for all people. While trying to keep the tax burden low and the benefits high for the

people. Efficiency is key and free will should be affected as little as possible.

Issues: Maintaining honesty in the local government and efficient use of taxpayer funds. almost all other concerns I share with the community.

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100058209513332



★ Clint Sternadel (R)

Motivation: Over my 8 years of service to Fayette County, I have witnessed the growth it faces. I'm running to continue serving the community my family and I call home and to build on the work already underway. I recognize the responsibility of this role. I believe county government should be practical, transparent, and fiscally responsible, with a focus on service rather than politics. I'm committed to remaining an accessible, steady voice who listens, communicates honestly, and continues to be a careful steward of our county, protecting what makes it special, while planning responsibly for the future.

Managing growth: Growth management is a challenge for all leaders. This issue has been a focal point of my past 8 years of county service where I helped draft and pass several land use ordinance amendments that protected landowners' rights with-

out infringing upon personal property freedoms. These measures regulating commercial development, wastewater disposal, and petroleum production help protect our heritage that draws many visitors to our county. They also reduce the chances of contamination and wasteful use of our already strained natural resources. I am committed to continuing this work as our county grows.

Issues: Residents are asking for safe, well-maintained roads and bridges, responsible use of taxpayer dollars, and clear communication from county government. They want basic infrastructure addressed proactively, and maintenance done efficiently to control unforeseen costs. I also hear concerns about land development and balancing protection of property rights without overly restricting economic growth. Above all, people want a commissioner who shows up, listens, communicates transparently, and focuses on practical solutions that make sense for Fayette County, not ideas designed for large urban areas.

Campaign Website: www.votesternadel.net

★ Chad Tiemann (R)

Motivation: I am a 5th generation Fayette County resident and care deeply about our Precinct. I'm running because I believe we need hands-on, practical leadership which understands the day to day functions of building and maintaining our roads and bridges. Local government has a direct impact on people's daily lives by setting the county tax rate, maintaining the infrastructure, and help coordinating emergency response efforts. We need transparency, responsiveness and accountability in our local government. My goal is to serve with integrity, and leave the position better than I found it.

Managing growth: We need to plan and prepare before the growth happens. Require the new developments to help pay for the impact it creates. There are subdivision regulations that are currently in place in regards to road construction, drainage and septic, but they need to be reviewed and revised. Once the policy is in place, it needs to

be enforced. New development should not be a burden to existing taxpayers. This includes commercial growth. Tax abatements should not be granted if it burdens our resources. We can't stop the growth, but need to protect our local character by planning accordingly.

Issues: Since the Commissioner's position is literally at "ground-level" it has mostly been about the condition of our county roads and safety concerns. Citizens like to see tax dollars spent in a productive way and how I would change the processes in place. The timeliness of completing repairs and what projects take priority over others have also been asked. The biggest county wide concerns are re-opening the hospital in La Grange and the outdated Justice Center and how the County plans to handle both. Citizens want a balanced budget, accountability for government spending, and a low tax base.

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61583607867403

Fayette County Judge

★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Motivation: Why are you running for this position?

Managing growth: How can our county manage growth in a way that maintains local character, conserves natural resources, protects our environment, and makes

good use of taxpayer funds?

Priorities: Which county services do you think need the most attention or reform? What are people asking you to address if elected?



★ William Patrick Bernsen (R)

Motivation: I believe the purpose of government is to secure the God-given, inalienable rights of citizens. Limited government increases freedom which leads to prosperity. It is much easier to make an impact at the local level, and I believe it is essential to the revival and success of our nation. We need better financial decisions, more transparency, impartiality and increased citizen participation. Conservatism is crucial – of our rich culture and heritage, our growth, budget and most of all our fundamental rights. I care deeply for my county, and I want my children to know good governance here.

Managing growth: It's not the county's duty to promote or prohibit growth, but

to regulate it. Regulatory clarity provides citizens and developers with certainty and understanding with respect to development requirements. This clarity, implemented fairly and impartially, improves compliance and enforcement. The purpose of government is to secure the rights of the citizens, not to govern people and their behavior, except where necessary to prevent harm. According to population data, our county is experiencing less growth than our neighbors, and we should be more concerned about the growth of the budget.

Priorities: Our county provides many essential services, and all departments do a fantastic job. We need more financial oversight and increase our general fund balance (the county's savings account). Overwhelmingly, the biggest concern I hear is the increase in tax rate and the accelerating growth in spending. As a fiscally conservative business-

FAYETTE COUNTY

(continued)

★ William Patrick Bernsen (R) (continued)

man, my approach to the budget will eliminate waste, save money and slow the rate of spending. Where a bureaucrat doesn't mind spending other people's money as if it were



★ Josh Homan (R)

Motivation: Fayette County is a special place where neighbors look out for one another, and families can raise children with strong values. I enjoy that way of life, and I'm running to protect it for the next generation. As County Judge, I'll ensure growth is smart and thoughtful, prioritize fiscal responsibility, and lead a transparent, people-first County government that remembers who it works for.

It's not about politics- it's about service, stewardship, and keeping Fayette County a place families are proud to call home.

Managing growth: Fayette County can manage growth by planning ahead, not reacting after the fact. That means encouraging smart, responsible development that fits our rural character, protects our land and property rights, and doesn't overwhelm our



★ Craig Moreau (R)

Motivation: I am running for this position because I believe leadership is a calling from God and a responsibility to serve, not a pursuit of power. Through prayer and experience, I feel called to lead with integrity, humility, and common sense. I am committed to reducing wasteful spending and respecting taxpayers by ensuring every dollar is used wisely. I also believe government should empower churches,

charities, and nonprofits that already serve our community effectively. Fayette County deserves servant leadership that strengthens families, honors faith, and supports neighbors helping neighbors.

Managing growth: Managing growth requires thoughtful leadership that protects what makes our county special. My children live here, and like all families, they deserve a clean environment, safe water, and open spaces, along with real job opportu-



★ Josh Vandever (R)

Motivation: I am running for this position because I was born in this county, experienced so many of my early life memories here and am raising my children here. I want to do my part in building a sustainable, fiscally responsible county governmental infrastructure that can withstand any future challenge that comes our way, in a manner supported by our county residents. My experience building high

functioning teams and using outside the box thinking to advance our county's EMS service has inspired me to grow that impact into the rest of our county's government.

Managing growth: The county has to engage with our state legislators to strengthen our ability to fight against wind, solar, and battery projects that threaten to destroy our picturesque landscape. We also must work to ensure that our subdivi-



★ Mike Zweschper (R)

Motivation: I have served my community since youth and feel serving one's community is critical to local success. My career has offered me the skills, expertise and ability to lead Fayette County into the future. I have managed budgets and lead projects to cut cost and waste. I have dealt with various government agencies, lead arbitrations and negotiated contracts. In the manufacturing world I come from, "impos-

sible", "delayed", "unavailable", "too difficult" are unacceptable terms. Necessity is the Mother of Invention and we will create opportunities while facing each challenge head on.

"free", I still recognize the need to conserve all taxpayer funds. The mindset matters.

Campaign Website: williambernson.com

infrastructure or outpace our ability to improve it. With smart decisions at the Commissioner's Court, coordination with our partners, and careful budgeting, we can welcome sensible growth while preserving what makes Fayette County so special and being good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

Priorities: I view services and categories through 3 lenses: 1. Quality of life 2. Prosperity and 3. Good Governance. I will ensure that all County actions strengthen at least 1 of the 3. Specifically, 4 key areas that need focus are: supporting the reopening of operations at our hospital so families and seniors have local care; ensuring law enforcement has the staffing, tools, and support they need to keep our communities safe; maintaining and improving our county roads; and cutting unnecessary costs while spending taxpayer dollars carefully and responsibly on what truly matters.

Campaign Website: www.votehoman.com

nities close to home. We should pursue smart, measured growth that preserves rural character and conserves natural resources. The public has been clear they do not want ugly, loud, or dangerous energy sources imposed on our landscape. By maintaining assets and listening to local voices, we can grow responsibly, protect taxpayers, and secure opportunity for the future.

Priorities: The priorities are SHOUTED by the citizens. People want low taxes, reduced spending, and real transparency in how their money is used. They want a county government that lives within its means and explains decisions openly. Public safety and emergency services also need attention, ensuring our firefighters, law enforcement, and EMS have the resources, training, and resilience to respond to disasters and daily emergencies. Voters are asking for practical leadership that cuts waste, strengthens safety, and restores trust by putting taxpayers and community first.

Campaign Website: www.votemoreau.com/#hero

sion requirements aren't overly burdensome on landowners, but also maintain common-sense limitations that prevent our county from being carved up into tiny plots. Water is a precious resource and we must have a plan to protect against the issues we've seen in other areas of the state where rampant growth has threatened the supply.

Priorities: Our Fayette County Sheriff's Office, Fayette County EMS, and Volunteer Fire Departments provide invaluable, services in people's darkest times. We have a responsibility to make sure that those departments are fiscally responsible, well equipped and well staffed to respond to the needs of our citizens. The process I think needs the most attention however is the county's budgeting and financial management. As the budget officer I will work, alongside the county auditor, to ensure that we are writing transparent, sustainable, and strategic budgets that prioritize the well-being of our taxpayers.

Campaign Website: www.joshforjudge.org

Managing growth: Fayette County isn't a secret, the world knows we are here and far too many individuals and entities see us as an opportunity for them. The answer to this question is WE, as a county, must be proactive in searching for and pursuing the opportunities that strengthen and enhance our county. Fayette County and its citizens are too special to take what we get. We deserve what we want and need. There are a lot of people in this county with the talents and contacts to make this possible. We just to provide the structure and support to use county talent to help ourselves.

Priorities: Everyone is concerned about taxes. We need comprehensive reviews of our budgets, prioritize our expenditures and look for economies of scale to help curb costs.

FAYETTE COUNTY

(continued)

★ **Mike Zweschper (R) (continued)**

Can we hedge certain utility costs, can we use economies of scale across precincts or partner with neighboring counties to cut costs? Another area is Emergency Manage-

ment, the 100-year floods and storms often include state and federal resources. We need better preparedness for that 3-day icing, 18-hour internet downtime, power disruptions of crucial areas, etc. All citizens should be fully aware of all of our plans and protocols.

GONZALES COUNTY

For early voting and election day polling locations and hours, check the Gonzales County elections website: <https://www.co.gonzales.tx.us/page/gonzales.elections.admin>

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY – NO CANDIDATES

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY – THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES ARE RUNNING UNOPPOSED

★ **Lona Ackman (R)**

Gonzales County Clerk (Unexpired Term)

★ **Collie Boatright, Jr (R)**

Gonzales County Commissioner Precinct 4 (Unexpired Term)

★ **Janice Sutton (R)**

Gonzales County District Clerk (Unexpired Term)

★ **Deidra D Voigt (R)**

Gonzales County Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 (Unexpired Term)

★ **Darryl Becker (R)**

Gonzales County Justice of the Peace Precinct 4

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY – ALL CANDIDATES LISTED BELOW ARE ON THE BALLOT AND OPPOSED

Gonzales County Commissioner Precinct 2

★ **QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Motivation: Why are you running for this position?

Managing growth: How can our county manage growth in a way that maintains local character, conserves natural resources, protects our environment, and makes

good use of taxpayer funds?

Issues: What are people asking you to address if elected?

★ **Shane Brzozowski (R)**

No response received

★ **Royce Farrar (R)**

No response received

★ **Robert (Bobby) Tomas (R)**

No response received

Gonzales County Justice of the Peace Precinct 3

★ **QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Qualifications: What training, experience, and characteristics will help you be a fair and impartial Justice of the Peace?

Operations: As Justice of the Peace, what steps will you take to ensure that your of-

fice carries out its duties effectively?

Equal access: How would you ensure that all individuals who enter your court receive equal access to justice?

★ **Cody Mikulencak (R)** No response received



★ **Jonathan Richter (R)**

Qualifications: Being a life long resident of this precinct will allow me to make rulings that are grounded in the community's needs. My patient temperament will allow me to make decisions after careful deliberation without rushing to a conclusion. I am a respected member of my community that will treat everyone with respect and dignity. I will

make decisions based strictly on evidence and law. My decisions will be free from external influence or personal gain. I have been observing a neighboring Justice of the Peace to learn more about the duties and responsibilities the position requires.

Operations: I think it is important to continue judicial training and certifications throughout the whole term to ensure that I will stay current on legal developments. I feel it's necessary that cases be handled in a timely manner without undue delay. The ability to

GONZALES COUNTY

(continued)

★ Jonathan Richter (R) (continued)

explain legal procedures and decisions in plain, understandable language to all parties is a crucial part of the position so everyone understands the proceedings and the outcome.

Equal access: I will listen to all sides objectively and apply the law uniformly regardless the individuals involved in the case. I believe everyone deserves their day in court

and equal application of the law regardless of race, gender, status, background, or ability to pay for legal representation.

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/people/Jonathan-Richter-Candidate-for-Gonzales-Co-Justice-of-the-Peace-Pct-3/61584359776187

LAVACA COUNTY

For early voting and election day polling locations and hours, check the Lavaca County elections website:
<https://www.co.lavaca.tx.us/page/Elections>

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY – NO CANDIDATES

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY – THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES ARE RUNNING UNOPPOSED

★ Barbara K. Steffek (R)

Lavaca County Clerk

★ Keith Mudd (R)

Lavaca County Judge

★ James Foster (R)

Lavaca County Justice of the Peace
Precinct 1

★ Mark Yackel (R)

Lavaca County Justice of the Peace
Precinct 3

★ Marty Steffek (R)

Lavaca County Commissioner
Precinct 4

★ Tammy Koerth (R)

Lavaca County Treasurer

★ Travis Hill (R)

Lavaca County Justice of the Peace
Precinct 2

★ Hallie Hall (R)

Lavaca County Justice of the Peace
Precinct 4

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY – ALL CANDIDATES LISTED BELOW ARE ON THE BALLOT AND OPPOSED

Lavaca County Commissioner Precinct 2

★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Motivation: Why are you running for this position?

good use of taxpayer funds?

Managing growth: How can our county manage growth in a way that maintains local character, conserves natural resources, protects our environment, and makes

Issues: What are people asking you to address if elected?

★ Wayne Faircloth (R) No response received

★ Joshua Moeller (R)

Motivation: For the last few years, I've been asked to run for county commissioner by several people. I've lived in Lavaca County PCT 2 my whole life, and graduated from Moulton ISD in 2003. As kids growing up in the country, we were able to ride our bikes on the gravel county road. However, due to the increased traffic, that no longer is safe. Now that I have my own family, I want my children to have a similar childhood as I did. I'm running for this position to try to preserve the qualities of our county as it grows, and to serve PCT 2 residents with my knowledge, dedication, and commitment.

Managing growth: The best way to manage growth is by limiting excessive land developers from splitting up old heirloom ranches into two to five acre tracts. As a lifelong cattle rancher, preserving farmland and water, which are such precious resources at this day and age, holds a very close place in my heart. Small tracts of two to five acres each, means more water wells, driveways, and traffic, which increases county maintenance, therefore costs taxpayers more money.

Issues: Road safety, road maintenance, and increased truck/vehicle traffic.



★ Pat J. Steffek (R)

Motivation: I'm running to serve the people of Lavaca County. I want to be available and listen to the people of Pct. #2 and address their concerns.

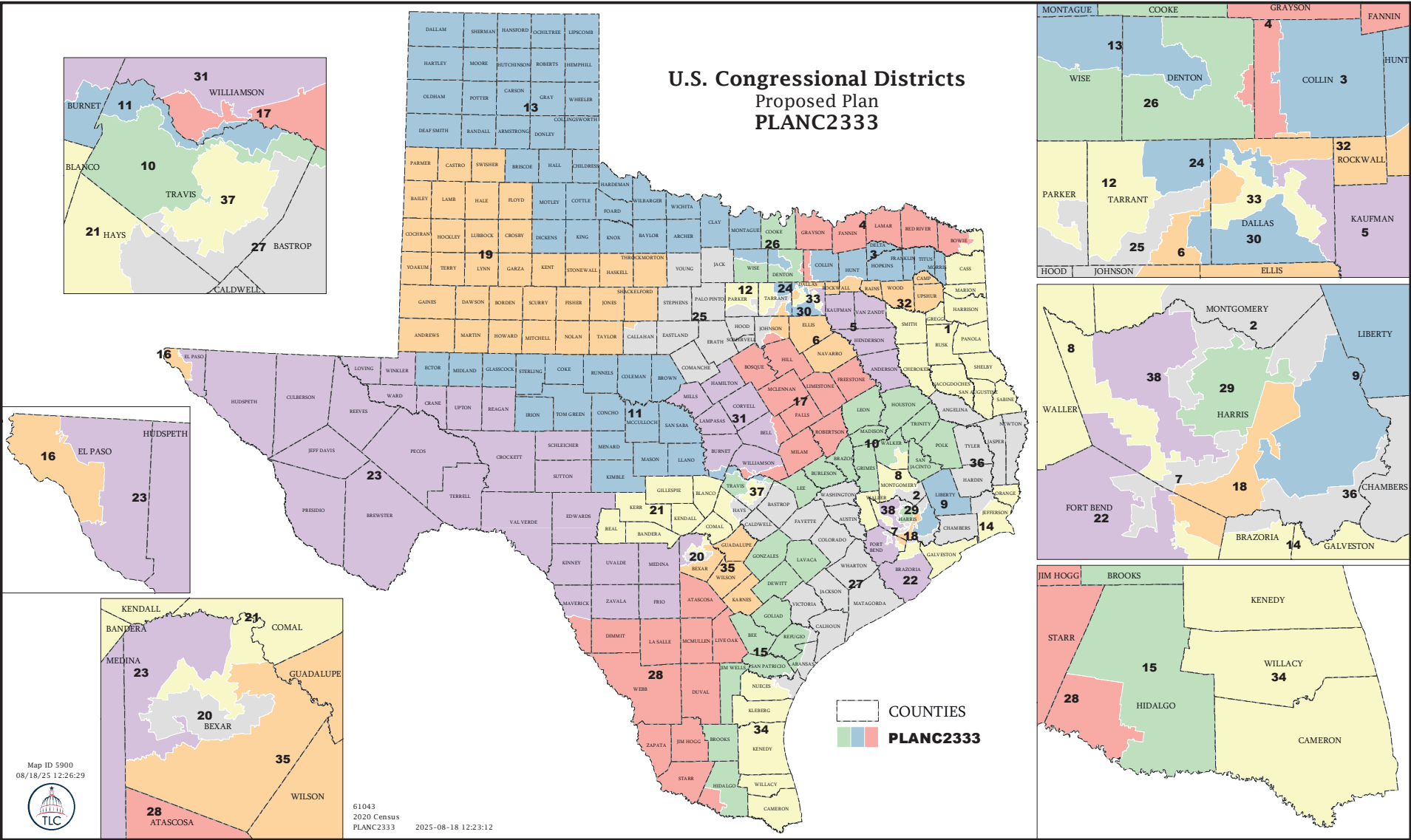
Managing growth: I believe good stewardship of our land and taxpayer funds are dependent upon aligning county leadership values with

the values of the local people. The main method to do this is to connect with the local community and maintain good lines of communication. This alignment in turn guides leadership in responsible decision making, assuring that growth is for the betterment of Lavaca County citizens.

Issues: Most people I've spoken with are asking me to address road maintenance, and use taxpayer money efficiently.



TEXAS REDISTRICTING MAP 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION



This is the official Texas redistricting map adopted in 2025 for use in the 2026 Primary Election. The redrawing affected the following U.S. House districts: 9, 18, and 29 (Houston); 20, 21, 27, 35, and 37 (Austin/Hays County); 28 (Laredo); 30 and 33 (Dallas); and 34 (Rio Grande Valley). If you previously lived in one of these districts, please check your voter registration at VoteTexas.gov to confirm whether your voting district has changed. You can view an interactive version of this map at dvr.capitol.texas.gov/Congress/89/PLANC2333.

2026 TEXAS PRIMARY ELECTION KEY DATES

2 FEB	Last day to register to vote or update your registration
17 FEB	First day to vote early in person
20 FEB	Last day for Vote by Mail ballot application to be received
27 FEB	Last day to vote early in person
3 MAR	Election Day and last day for Vote by Mail ballot to be received

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS

VOTE 411

ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED