

# **VOTERS \* GUIDE**

by the League of Women Voters Austin Area

# **VOTING IN THE 2024 LOCAL ELECTION**

YOU MAY BRING A PRINTED VOTERS GUIDE INTO THE VOTING BOOTH. Use of electronic devices is prohibited.

#### VOTER CHECKLIST

Here is everything you need to know before you go to vote. Complete all of the steps below, and you'll be ready and prepared to go to the polls.

☐ Confirm voter registration: Registered voters will have received a voter registration certificate (see page 38 for an example). While this document is not needed to vote, it contains helpful information about your districts, precinct, and more. If you do bring it to the polls, a poll worker can use it to confirm your eligibility if there's any problem. Receiving the certificate is confirmation that you are eligible to vote. If you aren't sure you are registered, you can check online at **VoteTravis.com** or **www.wilcotx** .gov/elections. Students, see page 2 for more information. As of this printing, the deadline for new registrations for this election will have passed, but please register now for future elections.

☐ Update your voter registration name or address: To vote, you must update your registration every time you move or change your name. If you have not updated your voter registration information, you may be required to vote provisionally. That means your vote will not be tallied until the issue surrounding voter information has been resolved. Be sure to update your voter registration BEFORE YOU COME TO THE POLLS:

> You may correct your voter registration information on the back of the voter registration certificate and mail it to your local voter registrar.

#### **Travis County:**

Bruce Elfant

P.O. Box 149327, Austin, TX 78714-9327

#### Williamson County:

Williamson County Elections P.O. Box 209, Georgetown, TX 78627

You can change your address or name on the Texas Secretary of State's website: https://bit.ly/32E8QK8

Complete information on updating your registration can be found at VoteTexas.gov.

#### ☐ Vote Early or on Election Day

WHERE: Residents of Travis and Williamson Counties can vote at **ANY** polling place in their county. Locations and wait times are available at the following county voter information websites.

Travis County: VoteTravis.com Williamson County: www.wilcotx.gov/elections

#### EARLY VOTING: April 22-April 30, 2024

#### Travis County polling times:

Monday (4/22)-Saturday (4/27): 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Sunday (4/28): 12:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Monday (4/29)-Tuesday (4/30): 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.\* Extended hours at some locations (7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.)

#### Williamson County polling times:

Monday (4/22)-Saturday (4/27): 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Sunday (4/28): no voting Monday (4/29)-Tuesday (4/30): 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

**ELECTION DAY:** Saturday, May 4, 2023

**Travis County:** 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Williamson County: 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

# ☐ Bring Photo ID—You must use one of seven forms of ID

- ➤ Texas driver license
- ➤ Texas Election Identification Certificate (EIC)
- Texas identification card issued by DPS

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# **VOTING IN THE 2024 LOCAL ELECTION (continued)**

- Texas handgun license issued by DPS
- ➤ US military identification card with visible photograph
- ➤ US citizenship certificate with visible photograph
- US passport (book or card)

If you do not have one of the above photo IDs, as a registered voter you can still vote. You will be required to sign a Reasonable Impediment Declaration form and present a copy or original of one of the following documents:

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

☐ Check ID expiration date: You can still vote with an expired photo ID. IDs may be expired up to four years. For voters age 70 or older, there is **NO** limit on ID expiration.

#### ☐ Know your voting rights

- ➤ If you are still in line when the polls close, stay in line. You will be able to vote past poll closure as long as you stay in line.
- > You may ask for another ballot if you need to make changes to your ballot after printing it.
- ➤ If voting machines are down, you may ask for a paper ballot.
- ➤ If you run into issues on Election Day, call an Election Protection Hotline.

**English:** 1-866-OUR-VOTE / 1-866-687-8683 Spanish: 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA / 1-888-839-8682 Arabic: 1-844-YALLA-US / 1-844-925-5287

**Asian languages:** 888-API-VOTE / 1-888-274-8683 **ASL (Video):** 301-818-VOTE / 1-301-818-8683

**Disability Rights TX:** 888-796-VOTE / 1-888-796-8683

- ☐ Vote safely: The League of Women Voters encourages you to "Be a Safe Texas Voter!"
- **Vote at home by mail:** You must be 65 years or older, have a disability, be out of the county during early voting and Election Day, or be an eligible voter in jail. See below for more information on how to apply.
- ➤ **Vote early:** The early voting period is April 22–30. Take advantage of this to avoid busy polling places on Election Day. During early voting and especially on Election Day, vote during non-peak hours, such as mid-morning or mid-afternoon.
- ➤ Vote with a mask: That includes polling places anytime you go to vote. We encourage everyone to wear a mask at polling locations so everyone can vote safely.
- **Vote six feet apart:** Distance yourself from other voters and poll workers by at least six feet. It may seem that the lines are a bit longer, but that only means everyone is working to stay safe.

#### **HOW TO VOTE BY MAIL**

A registered voter may vote by mail (VBM) if they:

- > are 65 years of age or older (eligible for mail-in ballots for an entire calendar year).
- > are sick or disabled (eligible for mail-in ballots for an entire calendar year).
- will be absent from the county during the entire early voting period and Election Day, AND provide an out-of-county address where the ballot can be mailed, AND include dates they can receive mail at the out-of-county address (eligible only for one election at a time). Voters who are absent from the county because they are active duty military or because they reside overseas should complete a Federal Post Card Application. Information and forms are available from county and state offices.
- > are confined in jail, but otherwise eligible to vote (eligible only for one election at a time).
- > are expecting to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day.

The procedure:

- 1. Request the application, which is available for download from the county elections or secretary of state websites, or by calling or emailing the appropriate office. The application is known as an ABBM (application for a ballot by mail). https://bit.ly/2YL0Gi3
- 2. IMPORTANT—The application MUST be completed and received by the early voting clerk in the Travis or Williamson County Elections Division office by April 23, 2024. NOTE: If you submit an ABBM by fax or email, it must also be submitted by mail and received in the appropriate office within four business days of your electronic submission.
- 3. Once received, the mail-in ballot MUST be mailed and postmarked by 7 p.m. on Election Day and received by 5 p.m. on the 1st mail day after Election Day, or if civilians abroad the 5th day after Election Day, or if Military voters the 6th day after Election Day. A VBM tracker and "Cure" process is available at VoteTexas.gov.
- ➤ Track your VBM application and VBM ballot throughout the election process.
- > Provide contact information on your VBM application so the county may contact you if you need to fix an error with your application or ballot.

Please visit our websites for more detailed information: LWVAustin.org/vbm/ and LWVTexas.org/votebymail.

#### STUDENT VOTERS

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

# **VOTING IN THE 2024 LOCAL ELECTION (continued)**

#### LEARN WHAT LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS DO

Are you curious about what local elected officials do? Do you want to learn more about the positions you vote on? Check out our self-paced modules on our website. These learning modules can be completed at your convenience and in multiple sittings. They are interactive and will have activities you must complete before you move on to the next section. You can take the module on your computer, tablet, or phone. Visit our website at LWVAustin.org/LWV-AA-Civics-Sessions.

# **VOTING SYSTEM**

Both Travis and Williamson Counties are now using an Express-Vote Ballot Marking Device (BMD), which uses touch-screen technology but produces a paper ballot for tabulation. It is modern, secure, and allows you to verify your selections before casting your vote.

For more information, please visit:

elections.traviscountytx.gov/voter-information/travis -county-voting-system/

www.wilcotx.gov/192/Voting-System

#### Steps to Vote

**1. VOTE:** At check-in you will receive a blank ballot. Insert this ballot into any Express-Vote BMD. Follow instructions on the screen to make your selections. Poll workers will be available if you need assistance.



- **2. REVIEW:** When prompted, print your ballot. Carefully review all the selections printed on the card to be sure it accurately reflects your choices.
- 3. SCAN: You MUST then scan your ballot into the DS200 scanner to cast your vote. Do NOT leave the polling location with your ballot.



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS VOTERS GUIDE

#### **ABOUT THIS GUIDE**

This Voters Guide is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas (LWVTX) and the League of Women Voters Austin Area (LWV-AA). We invite every candidate in competition for office to provide information. We list the names of unopposed candidates but do not send them questionnaires. Political affiliations in partisan races are abbreviated as follows: (D) Democratic Party, (R) Republican Party, (L) Libertarian Party, (G) Green Party, (I) Independent.

This Voters Guide and other educational League materials are funded by member and supporter donations. Donations may be made at LWVAustin.org. Donations enable us to print and distribute more guides and to offer translations into Spanish, Simplified Chinese, and Vietnamese. As LWV-AA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, each donation is acknowledged, appreciated, and deductible to the extent allowed by law.

#### VOTE411.ORG

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

# **HOW THE LEAGUE GATHERS CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

To compile the *Voters Guide* information, the League of Women Voters Austin Area sends questions to all candidates in major contested races. League members verify accurate contact infor-

mation provided by various election entities and the Texas Secretary of State. The League formulates all questions through a rigorous questions committee. Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification of content. Due to space restrictions, candidates are given strict character limits. The form into which they enter answers prohibits them from violating the limit. If a response has been cut off due to this constraint, the response has [.] inserted at the end. Candidates are also asked to avoid negative references to their opponents. We reserve the right to redact portions of responses that do not meet our guidelines. Those appearing without a photo failed to submit one. Candidates must submit answers by the deadline provided in order to be included in the printed version. Answers on VOTE411.org may be updated after the print deadline.

#### **CANDIDATE RESPONSES**

The League of Women Voters Austin Area reviews all candidate responses carefully for adherence to our guidelines. The League reserves the right to redact portions of a candidate's response, but avoids doing so as much as possible. Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification of content. The League takes First Amendment rights seriously and believes that the public has a right to know what the candidates think and what they stand for, even if it may be considered offensive. Each candidate is personally and solely responsible for the content of their response.

# HOW DOES THE LEAGUE HANDLE **BALLOT MEASURES?**

For each ballot measure (such as bonds, charter amendments, or other propositions), the League researches and analyzes the

# **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS VOTERS GUIDE (cont.)**

topic and provides information to help explain the background and effects of the proposed change. We do not always include pros and cons, and instead focus on explaining potential effects of the measure's passing. If we do offer pros and cons, we make sure they are balanced and include both points of view. The following information is typically included:

- Background: How did this get on the ballot and what group brought it forward?
- > Ballot language explainer: What does the ballot language re-
- > Potential effects: What possible effects will this ballot measure have on our area?

For a more in-depth explanation of ballot measures, or updated information that may be added after printing, please check VOTE411.org.

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

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

#### **ABOUT THE LEAGUE**

The League of Women Voters Austin Area is a grassroots, all-volunteer organization promoting informed and active participation of citizens in government. Since 1919, both LWVTX and LWV-AA have helped voters cast informed votes when going to the polls. No League organization supports or opposes any political party or candidate. As a nonpartisan organization, the League believes that all of us are stakeholders in making democracy work. We host informative programs concerning important public policy issues, organize and offer voter registration efforts, engage in get-out-the-vote projects, work with local area schools and universities to promote civic participation, and conduct fair and open candidate forums.

#### LWV VISION STATEMENT

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

#### **LWV MISSION STATEMENT**

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

# ... MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU!

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# TRAVIS COUNTY

#### **CENTRAL APPRAISAL BOARD**

**Qualifications:** What training and personal characteristics qualify you for this position?

**Criteria:** What do you think are the most important criteria for assessing property values?

**Hiring:** What qualifications will you look for in a Chief Appraiser?

Board Experience: What experience have you had serving on governmental boards/commissions that impact the taxation of county residents and businesses?

Appraisal Experience: What experience do you have in either residential or commercial real estate appraisal methods?

#### PLACE 1



**Jett Hanna** 

Qualifications: Retired board certified real estate lawyer; Member, Texas Supreme Court Professional Ethics Committee; Prior member of Appraisal Board of Directors; Senior VP customer owned insurance company

**Criteria:** The law and professional standards set the criteria for assessing values. Our process must use data analysis techniques that result in equal and uniform taxes under the Texas Cons. The Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice set standards for appraisals. Market values based on comparable properties must be considered. Avoiding bias in assessing individual property values is critical.

**Hiring:** The Tax Code sets professional requirements for the chief appraiser, and certain conflicts of interest are prohibited. In addition to these qualifications, I will look at the experience of any chief appraiser. Ability to communicate with taxpayers and local governments is crucial. Ability to manage and organize district personnel is another important qualification.

**Board Experience:** I previously served in the Travis Central Appraisal District Board of Directors. In that capacity, I participated in many of the functions currently required of board members. During my tenure, we searched for and hired a chief appraiser who led the district very successfully for many years Appraisal Experience: My direct experience in appraisal methods is not that of a licensed appraiser, but I have learned about appraisals from my real estate law work and previous service on the board. I personally contested my own home appraisal once, and learned about appraisal from that process.

Campaign Website: JettHanna.com



Don 7immerman

Qualifications: I hold a MS in mechanical engineering, have construction and rental property experience, and have served for decades as a taxpayer advocate; elected as local MUD President and Austin D6 Councilman.

Criteria: The most important thing in assessment is taking per-

spective and interpretation of laws and rules to benefit those who pay the taxes, instead of those who profit from the taxes, which is the current case. True value for all property, today, is what it would all sell for, if sold today. CAD property value assessment is covered by voluminous statutes and rules which require interpretation.

Hiring: The Chief Appraiser needs experience in appraising property and accurately interpreting complex, voluminous statutes and rules. The Chief must not have close political ties and common political interest with the taxing entities who profit from rising appraisals, but rather promote the taxpayers' interest. Taxes are unaffordable because spending is driven by bureaucrat greed, not taxpayer needs.

Board Experience: As elected President of my Northwest Austin MUD #1, I supervised budget preparation for our taxing subdivision and lowered out of pocket taxes every year, even though property values rose every year: we reduced tax bills reducing spending! Greedy increased spending by government causes rising property taxes and rent, not increased property valuations! Appraisal Experience: I have experience contesting over valued appraisals and suing taxing subdivisions over illegal taxation. My most significant success was winning an illegal taxation lawsuit filed against the City of Austin in 2002 (won in 2009) which eliminated an illegal MUD property tax mentioned above. The local taxpayers saved \$18 million when the illegal property tax was abolished.

#### PLACE 2



**Matt Mackowiak** 

Qualifications: I have 15+ years of gov't, communications & policy experience at the federal/state/local level. I have lived here (NW, W, NE & downtown for 32 yrs. I am a taxpayer & a homeowner.

Criteria: The Texas Property Code and professional standards such as Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice(USPAP) should be followed. For commercial properties the cost approach, sales comparison approach, and income capitalization approach are valid methodologies. The sales comparison approach should be used for homes. Most importantly appraisals must be fair and objective.

Hiring: The chief appraiser must have technical expertise in appraisal methodologies, business management as well as the ability to be independent in a highly political environment. The chief appraiser needs to be able to successfully interact with the taxing jurisdictions and taxpayers, as well as the Legislature. We deserve a highly competent, honest, experienced Chief Appraiser. Board Experience: Taxing board experience? None. Community board experience: -Fmr Board Member, Austin Community College Center for Public Policy & Pol. Studies (2011-2016) -Fmr Leadership Cmte member, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (Central TX chapter) (2016-2020) -VP, Balcones Country Club BOD (since Jan. '23) -VP, Texas Cowboys Alumni Association (since Jan. '23) -Luke's Wings, Board of Advisors (since Apr. '16)

# TRAVIS COUNTY

#### PLACE 2

#### Matt Mackowiak (continued)

**Appraisal Experience:** I am not a professional appraiser, but that is not the role of board members. I have experience in managing my own business and dealing with the Legislature as well as members of the taxing jurisdictions. I am acutely aware of the affordability issues of both residential and commercial property owners. I want TCAD to be efficient, effective, and professional.



#### Jonathan Patschke

Qualifications: I have experience on boards of nongovernmental organizations and an understanding of how small errors compound in this case to potentially under-fund services and price people out of their homes.

Criteria: Assessments must be conducted uniformly and without any sort of bias, using current and accurate data as a basis for comparable value. The initial appraisal ought to be sufficientlydocumented as to withstand most challenges and ought to be fair enough to deter challenges in the first place.

**Hiring:** In addition to the statutory requirements detailed in the Texas Tax Code, I feel a chief appraiser should have a work history which includes assessing property values either in Travis County or in another location where fast-growing industries and slow urban sprawl present the challenge of wildly differing realmarket values even within neighborhoods.

Board Experience: This would be my first role on such a board, but I have been a board member in both for-profit and nonprofit

Appraisal Experience: My only experience in real estate appraisal is as someone who has purchased property in Texas and has successfully challenged an appraisal before the review board in another county.



#### Shenghao "Daniel" Wang

Qualifications: I am an attorney and majored in math in college. I am also a result-oriented pragmatist. Together, these allow for creative and flexible problem-solving to ensure fair outcomes for taxpayers.

Criteria: State law sets the criteria for assessing property values as "fair market value." The assessment of a property's fair market value is a technical matter and the Board of Directors has no role in that process. Therefore, I do not believe that a Director's opinion on this issue should matter.

Hiring: I believe that the most important responsibility for the chief executive of any organization is to create a collaborative workplace. This ensures that the employees feel empowered to solve problems rather than punt or feel the need to watch their

back. However, a leader must also ensure accountability when an employee does not meet expectations.

Board Experience: I do not have such experience. I don't believe there are many (if any) such boards beyond that of the TCAD board, or other elected positions such as City Councils, school boards, or County Commissioners Courts.

Appraisal Experience: I do not have direct experience but am a quick study and have worked on the valuation of electric utilities as a regulatory lawyer and such businesses are significantly more complex than most real estate properties.

Campaign Website: www.danielfortcad.com/

#### PLACE 3



#### **Dick Lavine**

Qualifications: I served for 22 years as an appointed member, then chair, of the TCAD Board of Directors. I worked to ensure that all Board members participated in decisions, so that we could reach optimal results.

Criteria: In setting appraised values, TCAD is governed by professional standards, state law and oversight by the Comptroller. Appraisals should reflect the market value of each property. Property appraisal is a technical job and must be kept separate from the political considerations that school boards, city councils and county commissioners weigh in setting the tax rate applied to appraised values.

Hiring: I was Chairman of the Board when we hired Marya Crigler, who served with distinction as Chief Appraiser until her recent retirement. She had deep knowledge and experience in the appraisal process, was dedicated to reaching out to inform the community of their rights and promoted high morale among her staff. These are all characteristics I would look for in any future chief appraiser.

Board Experience: I am a trustee of the City of Austin Employees Retirement System, serving on the investment committee. Better investment results reduce the burden on the city budget, and thus on taxpayers, of funding retirement benefits for city

Appraisal Experience: I am not an appraiser, but through my day job I am very familiar with the statutory rules governing how an appraisal district must set property values and carry out its other duties. I understand the three main approaches for appraising property - the market, income and cost approaches as well as adjustments for property characteristics and market

Campaign Website: www.dicklavineforTCAD.com

#### **Bill May**

No response received

# **CITY OF AUSTIN PROPOSITIONS A-F**

Residents of Lost Creek, the Mooreland Addition, Blue Goose Road, Lennar at Malone area, Wildhorse/Webb Tract, and the River Place Outparcels have propositions on the ballot. Go to vote411.org and type in your address for more information.

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY

# CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Qualifications:** What training and personal characteristics qualify you for this position?

Criteria: What do you think are the most important criteria for assessing property values?

Hiring: What qualifications will you look for in a Chief Appraiser?

**Board Experience:** What experience have you had serving on governmental boards/commissions that impact the taxation of county residents and businesses?

**Appraisal Experience:** What experience do you have in either residential or commercial real estate appraisal methods?

#### PLACE 1



Jim Buell

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

Qualifications: I've been a Williamson County Texas resident since 1988. A retired international project engineer at age 44, then over 30 years as an owner/manager real estate investor in residential single and multi[.]

Criteria: Comparison to similar properties in recent sales, ie market value

**Hiring:** Experience with local real estate sales in the various parts of the county. Some areas will have a premium, others will have an impairment and some just average or median.

**Board Experience:** No experience as a government employee. Various experience with property owners advising them on appraisal protests and property improvements.

Appraisal Experience: 10 years experience working with an appraiser in residential real estate.



**Hope Hisle-Piper** 

Qualifications: My expertise lies in the mortgage and real estate sectors, particularly in brokerage/agency services, I am the co-owner of Turn Key Property Group and Producing Manager at Barton Creek Lending Group.

Criteria: When considering the best criteria for assessing property values, it's crucial to prioritize factors that ensure fairness, accuracy, and transparency in the tax assessment process. Property taxes serve as a significant revenue source for local governments, funding essential services such as schools, infrastructure, and public safety. The criteria should use the true market value of each property.

**Hiring:** The ideal Chief Appraiser should possess a combination of technical expertise, leadership/Communication skills, legal knowledge, and ethical conduct to effectively oversee the operations of the appraisal district and ensure fair and accurate property assessments for taxation purposes.

**Board Experience:** This is my 3rd year serving on the WCAD Board of Directors and this year I serve in the position of Sec-

retary. I also serve on the Finance Committee within WCAD. I have also served in various boards in the LISD, including Leadership Leander ISD Class of 2006, President of the Booster Club, Small Business of the year, Hill Country News Best of the Best. Appraisal Experience: I possess knowledge of both residential and commercial real estate appraisal methods, encompassing market analysis, comparative market analysis, cost approach, income approach, and sales comparison approach. My expertise extends to evaluating properties for various purposes, including lending, listing, and investment analysis, providing valuable insights to lenders and my real estate agents.

#### PLACE 2



Jon Lux

Qualifications: Currently: Chairman Williamson Central Appraisal District Board & Chairman LISD Bond Oversight Committee Previously: Cedar Park Tourism Board, Planning and Zoning Commission, & City Council

**Criteria:** The important criteria for assessing property values are accuracy, fairness, timeliness, cost effective, transparency, and customer service. The two most important are accuracy and timeliness. Without an accurate and timely appraisal roll, taxing entities would not have the information they need to set tax rates within their entities and would hinder them from effective funding their entities.

**Hiring:** Extensive experience in residential and commercial appraisals. Proven experience and success in leading an appraisal district. Proven success in timely delivery and accuracy of appraisal rolls. Proven focus on customer service. Demonstrated desire to embrace new technologies and approaches to increase accuracy of appraisals and cost effectiveness of district. Budget controls and transparency.

**Board Experience:** I'm currently Chairman of the Williamson Central Appraisal District (WCAD) board and have been on the board for 4 years. Additionally, I'm currently Chairman of the Leander ISD bond oversight committee and I have been on the committee for 2 years. Previously I was on Cedar Park city council for 4 years.

Appraisal Experience: Over fours years as board member Williamson Central Appraisal District.

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/JonLuxCampaign

#### **DONATE!**

Support the *Voters Guide* production with a contribution to the League of Women Voters Austin Area, a nonpartisan nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Mail to: 3908 Avenue B, Austin, TX 78751, or make a secure donation online at LWVAustin.org.

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY

PLACE 2 (continued)



Mike Sanders

Qualifications: I have served on various governing boards including HOA Board, and church Elder Boards through the years. For the past two years I have served on the Williamson County Republican Executive Committee.

Criteria: For residential properties -house size, property size, condition of house, neighborhood safety, age of house, foundation & roof, signs of infestation, swimming pool, patio, other structures on property, ease of access to transportation corridors, potential for flooding, don't tax people out of their own homes. Commercial property - Income, signage, zoning, maintenance needs, parking, accessible[.]

Hiring: Ability to work with others, experience, responsiveness to property owners, math skills, knowledge of Property Tax Code, ability to read through and to generate detailed reports, kind heart, responsive to Board of Directors, clearly communicate in English, education, computer and software skills, ability to find his/her own errors and resolve them, willing to accept advice.

**Board Experience:** I have not served on a government board that taxes residents other than the HOA Board. I believe what is needed in this position is someone who will represent taxpayers who have not had adequate representation on the WilCo Appraisal Board previously. People should not be taxed out of their homes and we need Board members who understand that, not members who want to maximize county tax income.

**Appraisal Experience:** I have purchased numerous properties through the years and before purchasing each property, I conduct thorough research to determine the value of the property. This has included evaluating the values of dozens of other properties in each area where my properties have been located. I usually spend months looking at property values in an area prior to purchasing a property in that area.

Campaign Website: Mike4WilCo.com

PLACE 3



**Collin Klein** 

Qualifications: Economics BA (Finance and BA minors). Construction Company Owner (Klein Design Systems). I focus on critical path and systems analysis in order to identify priorities. My values are centered on Truth.

Criteria: Residential homes-Flooding, drainage, size, amenities, roof is big, of course the market is important to be cognizant of. Safety. Commercial- Ease of access, market value of the business sector the property is zoned for. Structure and quality, parking. Hiring: Well versed in the Property tax code. Has good and accurate reporting skills. Exhibits common sense and an ability to think for them self. If they cant answer a question I look for people that are not afraid to admit they do not know something. I like people with character over credentials.

**Board Experience:** I am 32 and have not yet sat on a board. I am

a business owner and in my field I am concerned and wish to provide oversight and knowledge to the public on the the level of influence the big developers have over our local governance. We the people need a seat at the table. Not in the room not in the deal. Hard times are ahead and we need to make sure we can mitigate on behalf of the people.

Appraisal Experience: I have dealt with appraisers in my construction work. I have learned how to do market research and my building experience gives me a unique perspective, where as most people will just check a box on a list, I go into the details and know many problems homes in the different areas have. Example, did they use treated wood for the bottom plate? I see lots of rot when I open up walls in old homes.



**Mason Moses** 

Qualifications: I have served on my local school board and on the WCAD Board which has provided me the training on how to serve on a governing board and properly evaluate that the Chief Appraiser is being effective.

Criteria: Appraisals must be accurate since homeowners and business owners rely on the accuracy of the appraisals so they do not pay more than they should in taxes. Since the WCAD does not set a tax rate or collect the taxes, the best way it can impact the taxes on property owners is to get the appraisal right and to provide a fair, unbiased, process for those values to be appealed. Accuracy is a must.

**Hiring:** Naturally you want experience, knowledge, and skill at running an organization, I think the personal characteristics of being honest and transparent with a high-degree of integrity is key to being successful in running a public entity. A home and/ or a business is the biggest investment most people make in their life and it is important that they have confidence in the value of that investment.

**Board Experience:** I have previously served on the Round Rock ISD School Board where we successfully voted to reduce the tax rate three times and also were able to pass the largest school bond in RRISD history without impacting the tax rate. This approach transitioned to my time as a WCAD Board member as we managed to stay within budget and looked for ways to improve the management oversight of the WCAD.

Appraisal Experience: It is important to know that the Board doesn't perform the appraisals nor can they change an appraised value. However, it is still important to understand what goes into getting an accurate appraised value. Serving on public Boards has taught me that having good relationships with stakeholders through honesty and transparency is critical to earning their confidence in the organization's actions.

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id =61556794941315



# CITY OF CEDAR PARK

#### MAYOR

#### Jim Penniman-Morin

Unopposed

#### CITY COUNCILMEMBER

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

**Growth:** How will you balance development with increased stress on infrastructure?

Water and Energy: What do you consider to be priorities for assuring water and energy supply year-round?

Public Safety: What would be your priorities for maintaining public safety?

**Development:** What type of development do you envision for the Lime Creek Quarry and in what time frame do you think it should occur?

# PLACE 2

#### Mel Kirkland

Unopposed

#### PLACE 4



**Eric Boyce** 

**Qualifications:** Two Terms City Council; Chairman-Planning & Zoning Commission; President-Economic Development Corporation; Local business owner; Board- Cedar Park Regional Hospital, Chamber Legislative

Comm; 18yr resident

**Growth:** I'll leverage our Comprehensive Plan to help ensure that our remaining land is used to its highest & best use, balancing land owner's interests with what is best for all citizens. We have 9-10,000 residential units currently entitled for development, as well areas for commercial and mixed-use development which are all included in our long term infrastructure investment plans (water/waste etc).

Water and Energy: We have approved and are executing on ongoing major water infrastructure investments to support future population and business growth. Based on current development entitlements and expected future land use, I will work to prioritize continued investments to ensure that our citizens have adequate water availability- alongside other essential services which our citizens deserve.

**Public Safety:** I've consistently voted for budget enhancements for police and fire training, manpower, equipment and competitive compensation, and I supported a major investment in a joint training facility featured in our most recent bond election. I also support safe roads/street crossings, investment in emergency

management/regional partnerships, and access for multi-modes of travel where feasible.

**Development:** We received several visioning options when I was elected, as we land banked the quarry for future development. Our current priority is to successfully execute the Bell District redevelopment. The Quarry will be a major undertaking, and will require significant funding & resources. As Bell winds down, we will restart citizen input/engagement, visioning, develop cost ests-much like we did with Bell.

Campaign Website: www.ericforcedarpark.com



#### **Michael Endres**

Qualifications: Being a parent, spouse, veteran, detective, police supervisor, and real estate broker taught me to listen and be empathetic to the needs of residents of all backgrounds, beliefs, and economic status.

**Growth:** Reducing traffic congestion requires giving people more opportunity to work, shop, and exercise without needing to drive as far (or at all). Pockets of mixed-use development with tree-lined sidewalks, like the Bell District and High Ridge, give nearby residents the opportunity to get their steps in by getting groceries and visiting a restaurant, gym, or park without needing to drive to get there.

Water and Energy: At a macro level, completing Brushy Creek Regional Authority's Lake Travis deep-water intake, maintaining water treatment capacity, and cooperation with Pedernales Electric. Individually we can build resilience through rooftop solar, home battery and generator backup, bidirectional EV charging infrastructure, low-flow fixtures, xeriscape, and similar efficiency and conservation measures.

Public Safety: After serving as a detective in a Sex Crimes Unit, I believe public safety is far more than just police, fire, and EMS. Public safety includes providing opportunities for youth to mature and develop decision-making skills, crisis response and counseling, a wide range of housing and employment for all stages of life, traffic-calming and pedestrian-friendly transit, and mental health treatment.

**Development:** It will take decades, but I envision Cedar Park shaping Lime Creek Quarry's 216 acres of unique topography and water features into a spectacular recreational, walkable mixed-use destination. San Diego's former quarry Civita Park or San Antonio River Walk's highly vertical restaurants, treeshaded overhead walkways, and commercial spaces are examples of Lime Creek Quarry's significant potential.

#### PLACE 6

#### **Heather Jefts**

Unopposed



#### **CITY COUNCILMEMBER**

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

**Growth:** How will you balance development with increased stress on infrastructure?

Water and Energy: What do you consider to be priorities for assuring water and energy supply year-round?

Public Safety: What would be your priorities for maintaining public safety?

Other Issue: What other critical issue do you think is important to your community, and how will you address it?

#### PLACE 2



### **Cory Denena**

Qualifications: Hutto's Parks Advisory Board, Diversity and Inclusion, and Charter Review Commissions. Masters degrees in Ed. Admin. and Mus. Ed. Principal/Admin. in 3 international schools.

Visionary/Forward Looking

**Growth:** Plan early, plan long-term, act now. Identify present/ future needs without delay. Act immediately to develop a plan to address needs - benchmarks/time frames. Begin now - implement action steps. Work with developers/plan together, ensure present development is resilient to future needs. Hire great engineers, facilitate inter. depart. collaboration/innovative solutions. Plan/secure fin. resources.

Water and Energy: Long-term planning is critical to successfully address these needs. Develop a sound plan and stick with it. Secure needs in advance/develop plus-capacity on supply. Plan financially to secure needs. Ensure equipment is weatherized/ resistant to harsh cold spells. Replace old/worn-out equipment. Partner with/maintain healthy relationships with energy suppliers and ERCOT.

Public Safety: Continue to work closely with the chief of police and the fire chief. Continue to address compensation to hire the best. Allow professionals to do their jobs and listen to them when they tell us what they need. Work to ensure public awareness of safety programs and secure public participation and dialogue. Make sure police and fire have the equipment and training needed to effectively do jobs.

Other Issue: Nature trails/parks, trail connectivity, playgrounds and other amenities are vital to a vibrant community. Take advantage of green spaces already available to develop nature trails as well as ADA compliant concrete trails. Plan ahead for trail connectivity, be vigilant to secure future park spaces to accommodate growing population. Tap into community volunteers to realize trail/park potential.

Campaign Website: corydenenaforhutto.org



#### **Dan Thornton**

Qualifications: I served on the parks board and economic development corporation before my time on city council. I bring an analytical engineering background and attention to detail to my role.

**Growth:** When we have a choice to allow a new development or not, I carefully weigh the burdens on infrastructure against the benefits of the new development. For developments that are coming, I work to make sure we charge appropriate impact fees for roads, water, wastewater and parks. We do not need to chase more development, we need to manage the development that is coming and use the impact fees wisely.

Water and Energy: We have been working to add new capacity to our water system in the coming years so that we will have enough water as the city grows. It is also important that we weigh the water use of proposed developments carefully. Water is our most finite resource, and we can't give away capacity unless the project is a net benefit to the city.

Public Safety: Public safety has been and will continue to be a priority. We boosted officer pay to make our PD a department of choice in the area, allowing us to be selective and hire high quality officers. Our focus on training helps our officers serve our diverse, growing community. We are one of the safest cities in Texas, and I will continue to support budget and policy needs to keep our community safe.

Other Issue: Traffic is top of mind for most Hutto residents. We have pulled out of past financial issues and put professional staff in place to run our projects. Faster execution of existing plans is the current focus. At the same time, I continue to push long term planning, making sure we work with CAMPO on US 79 plans. We have a long way to go, and I'm going to keep pushing to get us where we should be.

Campaign Website: thorntonforhutto.com

### PLACE 5



### **Nicole Calderone**

Qualifications: This is my 6th campaign. I'm invested as a property owner and citizen that's fed-up with erroneous spending, scandals, and rising taxes. I've stepped up to bring awareness and do something to fix it.

**Growth:** Hutto hasn't been able to keep-up infrastructure with growth which is why I'd entertain a temporary moratorium of the EDC, use the revenue toward the general fund, and catchup on CIP projects. I will also be set goals for the City Manager to reach, with milestones along the way to ensure project completion is within budget and progressing along the anticipated timeline.

**Water and Energy:** Top priority is water conservation and securing a source in preparation of 5, 10, 50 years ahead. I encourage Wilco to form a Water Services District, which will work with other Counties to collaborate on the scientific data collected. We need to explore additional streams of financing to pay

#### PLACE 5

#### Nicole B. Calderone (continued)

for the necessary upgrades so that current residents don't experience a sudden skyrocket of utility fees.

**Public Safety:** There has been a rise in criminal activity that comes with explosive growth but I have confidence in our Police Department and ESD#3 for keeping us safe while retaining great officers. Hutto falls short in the flow of traffic, causing more accidents and making it difficult for emergency crews. Emphasis needs to be placed on engineers and contractors to deliver what was promised.

Other Issue: We need to discuss mental health more, like how sitting in traffic diminishes our Quality of Life and how fixing current parks is more important than raising taxes to build brand new. I have, and will continue, to be the voice for those who can't

speak for themselves. We all chose to live here so let's work together toward making Hutto affordable again and better than we found it.

#### Campaign Website: www.nicoleforhutto.com

#### **Marcus Coleman**

No response received

#### **Brandon DeLeon**

No response received

#### **Evan Porterfield**

No response received

#### **Dana Wilcott**

No response received

### **PROPOSITIONS**

# Description

Hutto, Texas, is a Home Rule City. Its charter provides rules for how the city officials will conduct the business of the city. The charter serves as a sort of detailed mission statement to permit City officials to implement their vision of governance for Hutto.

#### **PROPOSITION A**

#### **Background**

Hutto, Texas, is a Home Rule City. Its charter provides rules for how the city officials will conduct the business of the city. The charter serves as a sort of detailed mission statement to permit City officials to implement their vision of governance for Hutto. This proposed charter amendment was suggested by the City's Charter Review Committee, which meets periodically to review and make recommendations for changes to the charter.

# **Ballot Language**

Shall SECTION 3.04 COMPENSATION of the Hutto City Charter be amended to replace the word "compensation" with salary and add that the salary is subject to the limitation imposed by state law and Texas Constitution?

# **Explanation**

Proposition A clarifies that Hutto City employees' salaries are subject to any limitations imposed by Texas state law and the Texas Constitution. It also substitutes the word "salary" for "compensation" to align with provisions in the Texas Constitution and Texas Statutes regarding "salary."

# **PROPOSITION B**

### **Background**

Hutto, Texas, is a Home Rule City. Its charter provides rules for how the city officials will conduct the business of the city. The

charter serves as a sort of detailed mission statement to permit City officials to implement their vision of governance for Hutto. This proposed charter amendment was suggested by the City's Charter Review Committee, which meets periodically to review and make recommendations for changes to the charter.

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall SECTION 3.05 MAYOR AND MAYOR PRO-TEM of the Hutto City Charter be amended to add a provision that Mayor Pro-Tem is elected by the newly elected City Council at the first meeting after conclusion of regular or run-off election?

#### **Explanation**

Section 3.05 currently authorizes City Council to elect a Mayor Pro-Tem at the first regular City Council meeting following each regular City election. Proposition B permits the election to occur after the conclusion of the run-off election if one occurs.

#### PROPOSITION C

#### Background

Hutto, Texas, is a Home Rule City. Its charter provides rules for how the city officials will conduct the business of the city. The charter serves as a sort of detailed mission statement to permit City officials to implement their vision of governance for Hutto. This proposed charter amendment was suggested by the City's Charter Review Committee, which meets periodically to review and make recommendations for changes to the charter.

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall SECTION 3.06 b) FORFEITURE OF OFFICE of the Hutto City Charter be amended to provide that the Mayor and any City Council Member be removed from office for failing to maintain the qualification for office in the Texas Constitution,

#### PROPOSITION C (continued)

and for a conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude; or convicted of an offense as prohibited by Texas Penal Code, Chapter 36, Bribery and Corrupt Influences, as may be amended, for a conviction of the offense of Section 36.02 Bribery; Section 36.03 Coercion of Public Servant or Voter; Section 36.04 Improper Influence; Section 36.05 Tampering with Witness; Section 36.06 Obstruction or Retaliation; Section 36.07 Acceptance of Honorarium; Section 36.08 Gift to Public Servant by Person Subject to His Jurisdiction; or Section 36.09 Offering Gift to Public Servant?

#### **Explanation**

Proposition C provides more specific clarification of crimes that would result in the forfeiture of office for any Hutto Mayor or City Council Member who is convicted of any of the enumerated crimes listed from Texas Penal Code Chapter 36.

#### **PROPOSITION D**

### **Background**

Hutto, Texas, is a Home Rule City. Its charter provides rules for how the city officials will conduct the business of the city. The charter serves as a sort of detailed mission statement to permit City officials to implement their vision of governance for Hutto. This proposed charter amendment was suggested by the City's Charter Review Committee, which meets periodically to review and make recommendations for changes to the charter.

### **Ballot Language**

Shall SECTION 3.10 QUORUM of the Hutto City Charter be amended to reduce the number of City Council members necessary to establish a quorum from five (5) to four (4)?

#### **Explanation**

The Hutto City Council is composed of 6 council members and a Mayor. The Mayor is permitted to vote (but not veto), so technically the City Council has 7 members. Proposition D reduces the quorum required to convene a City Council meeting from five (5) to four (4) City Council members. This amendment does not change the requirement that four City Council members are needed to approve an item or five members if required by state law.

# **PROPOSITION E**

### Background

Hutto, Texas, is a Home Rule City. Its charter provides rules for how the city officials will conduct the business of the city. The charter serves as a sort of detailed mission statement to permit City officials to implement their vision of governance for Hutto. This proposed charter amendment was suggested by the City's Charter Review Committee, which meets periodically to review and make recommendations for changes to the charter.

### **Ballot Language**

Shall SECTION 3.12 VOTING of the Hutto City Charter be amended to provide that members of the City Council in attendance shall vote upon every resolution or ordinance except where there is a Conflict of Interest pursuant to Chapter 171 of the Texas Local Government Code or except when the Member of the City Council abstains from voting in order to avoid the appearance of impropriety as defined in the Hutto Ethics Code or City Council Protocols?

#### **Explanation**

Proposition E clarifies that all members of the City Council in attendance shall vote upon every resolution or ordinance except in the event of: 1) a Conflict of Interest as defined pursuant to Chapter 171 of the Texas Local Government Code; or 2) to avoid the appearance of impropriety as defined by the local Hutto Ethics Code or Hutto City Council protocols.

#### **PROPOSITION F**

#### Background

Hutto, Texas, is a Home Rule City. Its charter provides rules for how the city officials will conduct the business of the city. The charter serves as a sort of detailed mission statement to permit City officials to implement their vision of governance for Hutto. This proposed charter amendment was suggested by the City's Charter Review Committee, which meets periodically to review and make recommendations for changes to the charter.

### **Ballot Language**

Shall SECTION 3.13 ORDINANCES IN GENERAL of the Hutto City Charter be amended to remove second reading requirement so that ordinances may be enacted by one reading, as allowed by state law and that the Caption of the Ordinance shall be published in the Official Newspaper as required by state law?

#### **Explanation**

Proposition F amends the process for approving ordinances and resolutions to conform to state law. State law for Home Rule cities provides that ordinances may be enacted by only one reading, followed by publication of a caption that summarizes the purposes of the ordinance in the Official Newspaper. Therefore, Proposition F eliminates one reading and permits a summary of the proposed ordinance to be published only once.

# **PROPOSITION G**

### Background

Hutto, Texas, is a Home Rule City. Its charter provides rules for how the city officials will conduct the business of the city. The charter serves as a sort of detailed mission statement to permit City officials to implement their vision of governance for Hutto. This proposed charter amendment was suggested by the City's Charter Review Committee, which meets periodically to review and make recommendations for changes to the charter.

#### PROPOSITION G (continued)

### **Ballot Language**

Shall SECTION 5.01 C) VOTER ELIGIBILITY OR VOTER REGISTRATION LIST of the Hutto City Charter be amended to delete the requirement that the City Secretary maintain a certified list of voters registered within the City as prepared by the County Elections Administrator because the County Elections Administrator maintains the certified list of voters registered within the City?

#### **Explanation**

Proposition G proposes to remove the requirement that the City Secretary maintain a certified list of voter registrants within the City of Hutto as it is duplicative of what the County Election Administrator maintains.

#### PROPOSITION H

#### Background

Hutto, Texas, is a Home Rule City. Its charter provides rules for how the city officials will conduct the business of the city. The charter serves as a sort of detailed mission statement to permit City officials to implement their vision of governance for Hutto. This proposed charter amendment was suggested by the City's Charter Review Committee, which meets periodically to review and make recommendations for changes to the charter.

### **Ballot Language**

Shall SECTION 5.02 FILING FOR OFFICE of the Hutto City Charter be amended to remove the requirement that city employee must resign to file for office because the requirement conflicts with state law and to provide that a petition signed by twenty-five (25) qualified voters residing in the City for a candidate's application is required for a candidate to be placed on the ballot and delete the requirement that a candidate's application to be placed on the ballot have a Petition signed by one-half of one percent of the total votes received by all candidates for mayor in the most recent mayoral regular election?

#### **Explanation**

Section 5.02 b) 3) of the Hutto City Charter requires that city employees resign their positions if they file for an elective office of the City. Proposition H deletes that requirement. Section 5.02 b) 4) of the Hutto City Charter currently provides an option of presenting a petition (in lieu of a filing fee) signed by the greater of a) twenty-five (25) qualified voters residing in the City or b) one-half of one percent of the total votes received by all candidates for mayor in the most recent mayoral regular election. Proposition H deletes subsection b).

In summary, Propositions H proposes that city employees may file for an elective office in the City without resigning their positions and in lieu of a filing fee, the candidates may present a petition signed by twenty-five (25) qualified voters residing in the City.

#### **PROPOSITION I**

#### **Background**

Hutto, Texas, is a Home Rule City. Its charter provides rules for how the city officials will conduct the business of the city. The charter serves as a sort of detailed mission statement to permit City officials to implement their vision of governance for Hutto. This proposed charter amendment was suggested by the City's Charter Review Committee, which meets periodically to review and make recommendations for changes to the charter.

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall SECTION 6.02 PETITION FOR RECALL of the Hutto City Charter be amended to provide that a Petition for Recall be signed by qualified voters of the City equal in number to at least ten percent (10%) of the number of qualified voters as currently certified to by the County Elections Administrator at the last municipal election; that the City Secretary certify the Petition for Recall demanding such questions for Recall within two (2) working days; that the signer's signature be added to the Petition for Recall as required by Chapter 277 of the Texas Election Code; that the Petition be circulated by a qualified voter?

#### **Explanation**

Proposition I reduces the percentage of qualified voters of the City necessary to sign a Petition for Recall from twenty percent (20%) to ten percent (10%). "Qualified Voters" in the current charter are defined as those voters currently certified to by the County Elections Administrator. Proposition I also clarifies the time frame for certifying Qualified Voters to be as of "the last municipal election."

The Proposition further confirms that the City Secretary make available—to qualified voters making affidavits for removal—petition blanks demanding such removal within two (2) working days. Proposition I also confirms that the signer's signature be added to the Petition for Recall (in addition to printed name, address, Voter ID or date of birth, and date of signature), and that the Petition be circulated by a qualified voter of the City, as required by Chapter 277 of the Texas Election Code.

#### **PROPOSITION J**

#### Background

Hutto, Texas, is a Home Rule City. Its charter provides rules for how the city officials will conduct the business of the city. The charter serves as a sort of detailed mission statement to permit City officials to implement their vision of governance for Hutto. This proposed charter amendment was suggested by the City's Charter Review Committee, which meets periodically to review and make recommendations for changes to the charter.

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall SECTION 6.04 VARIOUS PAPERS CONSTITUTING RECALL PETITION be amended to provide that signatures to such Petition for Recall shall remain effective or be counted which were placed on the Petition for Recall within seventy-five

#### PROPOSITION J (continued)

(75) days after the certification of Petition for Recall by the person performing the duties of City Secretary; that the City Secretary shall verify the Petition for Recall within ten business (10) days as required in Chapter 277 of the Texas Election Code?

#### **Explanation**

Proposition J permits the Petition for Recall to remain effective for seventy-five (75) days after the date of certification by the City Secretary. Certification consists of accepting an affidavit for removal by any five (5) or more qualified voters of the City and issuing to them petition blanks for certification. The City Secretary is required to notify the official whom the petition(s) seeks to recall immediately and to issue petition blanks to qualified voters circulating the petitions within 2 working days of the receipt of affidavits for removal (Section 6.03).

Proposition J further provides that the City Secretary has (10) business days to verify the petition(s) after they have been presented to the City Secretary.

#### **PROPOSITION K**

#### **Background**

Hutto, Texas, is a Home Rule City. Its charter provides rules for how the city officials will conduct the business of the city. The charter serves as a sort of detailed mission statement to permit City officials to implement their vision of governance for Hutto. This proposed charter amendment was suggested by the City's Charter Review Committee, which meets periodically to review and make recommendations for changes to the charter.

# **Ballot Language**

Shall ARTICLE 7 INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM of the Hutto City Charter be amended to decrease the number required to sign a petition for initiative or referendum from 20 percent to 10 percent and that petitions for initiative or referendum conform to Chapter 277 of the Texas Election Code?

# **Explanation**

Section 7.03 PETITIONS, under ARTICLE 7 of the Hutto City Charter, currently requires the signatures of at least twenty percent (20%) of the number of total qualified voters of the City, as currently certified to by the County Elections Administrator. Proposition K reduces that percentage from twenty percent (20%) to ten percent (10%) and requires that petitions for initiative or referendum conform to Chapter 277 of the Texas Election Code.

#### PROPOSITION L

#### **Background**

Hutto, Texas, is a Home Rule City. Its charter provides rules for how the city officials will conduct the business of the city. The charter serves as a sort of detailed mission statement to permit

City officials to implement their vision of governance for Hutto. This proposed charter amendment was suggested by the City's Charter Review Committee, which meets periodically to review and make recommendations for changes to the charter.

### **Ballot Language**

Shall SECTION 8.07 AMENDMENTS AFTER ADOPTION of the Hutto City Charter be amended to allow for additional restrictions by ordinance relating to city manager authority to transfer funds for purposes of employee separation pay?

#### **Explanation**

Proposition L allows City Council to restrict by ordinance the city manager's authority to transfer funds for purposes of employee separation pay.

#### **PROPOSITION M**

#### **Background**

Hutto, Texas, is a Home Rule City. Its charter provides rules for how the city officials will conduct the business of the city. The charter serves as a sort of detailed mission statement to permit City officials to implement their vision of governance for Hutto. This proposed charter amendment was suggested by the City's Charter Review Committee, which meets periodically to review and make recommendations for changes to the charter.

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall SECTION 8.11 DEPOSITORY of the Hutto City Charter be amended to delete the requirement for original ink signatures for checks in excess of \$5,000 to allow for electronic transmission of checks in excess of \$5,000?

#### **Explanation**

Currently two original signatures are required for all checks issued by the City in excess of \$5,000. Proposition M permits electronic transmission of checks in excess of \$5,000 in accordance with Chapter 322 of the Texas Business and Commerce Code.

#### **PROPOSITION N**

#### **Background**

Hutto, Texas, is a Home Rule City. Its charter provides rules for how the city officials will conduct the business of the city. The charter serves as a sort of detailed mission statement to permit City officials to implement their vision of governance for Hutto. This proposed charter amendment was suggested by the City's Charter Review Committee, which meets periodically to review and make recommendations for changes to the charter.

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall SECTION 12.04 PLANNING AND ZONING COM-MISSION of the Hutto City Charter be amended to add a requirement to establish a quorum as 4 to convene a meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission?

#### PROPOSITION N (continued)

#### **Explanation**

Proposition N proposes to require that a quorum of four (4) members of the Planning and Zoning Commission be present in order to convene a meeting.

#### **PROPOSITION O**

#### **Background**

Hutto, Texas, is a Home Rule City. Its charter provides rules for how the city officials will conduct the business of the city. The charter serves as a sort of detailed mission statement to permit City officials to implement their vision of governance for Hutto. This proposed charter amendment was suggested by the City's Charter Review Committee, which meets periodically to review and make recommendations for changes to the charter.

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall SECTION 13.03 ETHICS of the Hutto City Charter be amended to use defined term, "substantial interest" as defined in state law; to add procedures for the Ethics Ordinance; to amend the nepotism requirements as required by state law and to add a provision that the Board of Ethics shall review the Ethics Ordinance annually?

### **Explanation**

Proposition O clarifies that "substantial interest" is used as defined in state law under the Texas Local Government Code Chapter 171. The Proposition amends subsection c) Nepotism to conform to the requirements of state law under Chapter 573 DE-GREES OF RELATIONSHIP NEPOTISM PROHIBITONS of the Texas Government Code. Finally, Proposition O proposes that a provision be added to require the Board of Ethics to review the Ethics Ordinance annually.

### **PROPOSITION P**

# **Background**

Hutto, Texas, is a Home Rule City. Its charter provides rules for how the city officials will conduct the business of the city. The

# SAVE TIME—USE OUR INTERACTIVE VOTERS GUIDE

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

charter serves as a sort of detailed mission statement to permit City officials to implement their vision of governance for Hutto. This proposed charter amendment was suggested by the City's Charter Review Committee, which meets periodically to review and make recommendations for changes to the charter.

# **Ballot Language**

Shall SECTION 13.09 PROHIBITIONS of the Hutto City Charter be amended to replace the word, "City position," with City Employment and add to the activities prohibited in Section 13.09 a) creed, color, disability, age, national origin, familial status, sexual orientation, transgender, gender identity or gender expression and to amend Section 13.09 b) to remove the words, "who either individually or with others willfully" and add as to a violation of Section 13.09 a) as evidenced in a final Court Judgment or final Criminal Conviction is ineligible for appointment or election to a position in the City for four (4) years and replace the word "officer" with City Elected Official and remove the words, "employee of the City" and replace the words, "forfeiting the office or position" with Elected City Official's office for the immediate forfeiture of office?

#### **Explanation**

Proposition P replaces the words "City position" with the words "City Employment" in Section 13.09. Proposition P adds to the reasons not to discriminate or favor City employees or administrative appointees in Section 13.09 a) the following: creed, color, disability, age, national origin, familial status, sexual orientation, transgender, gender identity or gender expression.

Proposition P also revises Section 13.09 b) Penalties to state that "Any person who violates any provision of the foregoing Sections 13.09 a) as evidenced in a final Court Judgment or final Criminal Conviction is ineligible for appointment or election to a position in the City for four years...."

Finally, Proposition P replaces the word "officer" with "City Elected Official" and removes the words "employee of the City" and makes it clear that any City Elected Official who violates the provisions of Section 13.09 a) (as evidenced by a final Court Judgment or Criminal Conviction) will be subject to an immediate forfeiture of the City Elected Official's office.

# **AVAILABLE IN THREE ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES!**

¡Disponible en Español! 有中文 Tiếng Việt

We now proudly offer translations in Spanish, Simplified Chinese, and Vietnamese on VOTE411.org. There are also downloadable and printable PDFs on our website: LWVAustin.org/voters-guide/

# CITY OF LAKEWAY

#### CITY COUNCILMEMBER

3 at-large seats; choose 0, 1, 2, or 3

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

**Growth:** How will you balance the interests of existing neighborhoods while allowing for new development?

Water and Energy: What do you consider to be priorities for assuring water and energy supply year-round?

Public Safety: What would be your priorities in maintaining public safety?

Other Issue: What other critical issue do you think is important to your community, and how will you address it?



**Kelly Brynteson** 

**Qualifications:** 17-year resident. Career in Competitive Intelligence, small-business owner, current Councilmember, PUD Development Committee, Comprehensive Plan Committee, Arts Committee Liaison, city's CAPCOG Rep.

**Growth:** Responsible development while allowing growth is key. On PUD Development Committee, I meet with potential developers to review proposed development. I give feedback on what residents will accept and what they will fight against. Any new development should align with Lakeway's charm and character, be considerate of adjacent neighborhoods and residents, and should not create road safety hazards.

Water and Energy: I helped drive the recent ordinance to allow xeriscaping in residential neighborhoods to lessen irrigation needs. The council recently had hard conversations with two of our largest MUD suppliers about the state of our dwindling water supply. The city and I agree with their conservation efforts. I support the city's effort to educate residents on both water and energy conservation. Public Safety: Ensuring officers are fully funded to provide the best training, equipment for officer safety, latest technology and resources for victim services. The department must be fully staffed. Council recently voted to raise officer pay, increase benefits and offer sign-on bonuses. This will attract qualified candidates who will fill vacancies and help retain current staff. Foster more community events.

**Other Issue:** Transportation and road safety are top priorities. I advocated for several major road changes to 620, Flint Rock Rd and Serene Hills Dr. I am pushing for added safety measures throughout the city, including Highlands Blvd in Rough Hollow. It is imperative that Main Street and Birrell St are completed prior to the 620 Expansion Project to provide residents adequate access to grocery and medical.



**Christopher Levy** 

**Qualifications:** As a 30 year veteran of the Cybersecurity industry and long-time Lakeway community member, my proven leadership skills and financial acumen will drive my efforts as a City Council member.

**Growth:** Lakeway has a diverse mix of regions that historically have not been unified. The city has grown far beyond the original Lakeway Proper region and this ring of growth is an asset which we should tap into. My goal will be to unify all of these regions into One Lakeway with an integrated community plan that acknowledges this growth and our combined potential as one city moving forward.

Water and Energy: Providing financial incentives to new home builders and existing home owners to install safe, modern and durable artificial turf is a priority. This will dramatically reduce the strain on our precious and dwindling water supply. The city should encourage residents to install solar power with battery storage and when appropriate, generators to lessen the impact on our energy grid during peak usage.

Public Safety: Community policing and strengthening the bond between our residents and our police force is critical to increasing the safety of our community. As a Director of the board for the Lakeway Police Foundation, I am working daily to push this initiative forward providing critical resources for victim services, officer wellness and technology lifts that increase the safety of our officers.

Other Issue: We need to restore civility, respect and professionalism across all aspects of the council's operations. Leadership begins with earning the respect and confidence of those you lead. A good leader is in touch with the ebb and flow of their organization and constantly analyzing the effectiveness of their efforts. Transformational leadership will be key to this restoration effort. Campaign Website: www.levyforlakeway.com



### **Matt Sherman**

Qualifications: Public sector: Commissioner -Lakeway Zoning and Planning, Chair - Lakeway Comprehensive Plan 2024, President -Lakeway View HOA. Private sector: Leadership roles in public and private companies.

Growth: "Honoring Our Heritage, Shaping Our Future" guides my City Council campaign and decisions as a ZAPCO Commissioner and Chair of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Committee. I prioritize resident feedback, our comprehensive plan, FLUM, and developer collaboration to balance preserving Lakeway's character with meeting current lifestyle demands and future needs.

Water and Energy: As we witness declining lake levels, it's imperative to align city ordinances and HOA requirements with water conservation measures. Collaboration between the LCRA, the city, and residents is crucial to prevent water scarcity. Similarly, we must proactively work with our energy providers to ensure no roadblocks are hindering their efforts to strengthen the grid, delivery, and uptime reliability.

**Public Safety:** We will continue to keep our crime rate low by providing the tools and budget required by our police department. Develop city-sponsored youth programs focused on street safety for kids and substance abuse education among teens. Promote collaboration between residents and police through transparency and regular forums held directly in neighborhoods where we live and parks where we spend our time.

# CITY OF LAKEWAY

#### CITY COUNCILMEMBER

#### Matt Sherman (continued)

Other Issue: Lakeway's parks and greenbelts are among the top reasons my family enjoys living here. The Parks & Open Space Master Plan, and its proposed bond, will bring significant improvements to the city park, Rough Hollow Park, swim center, and more. As an avid user of our outdoor spaces, I have consistently contributed to this plan, and I believe these upgrades will enhance the city for years to come.

Campaign Website: www.shermanforlakeway.com



Jennifer Szimanski

Qualifications: As a current, one term (2 years) Councilmember in Lakeway, I have the experience required to finish out major projects and changes in the works for the City of Lakeway. I look forward to this!

**Growth:** The majority of new development in my time on council has been focused around the new town center and we have taken many precautions and listened to our residents about the location, proximity, and connectivity to existing neighborhoods. When it comes to commercial development we recently approved a new location near Hwy 71 that fits the current and future needs of the area.

Water and Energy: We must conserve water and be open to innovate solutions. In my time on council we have listened to several group presentations by experts in the field who have provided their opinions and outlook in the realm of water and energy. In my time on council, I voted to approve the use of artificial grass in residential areas as this was one way to address water issues locally. Public Safety: With nearly 20 years of public safety / law enforcement experience, I strive to keep Lakeway a safe, secure and a leader in the realm of public safety. I've been a strong advocate for providing the latest and greatest tools to law enforcement officers here in Lakeway. These tools provide a direct benefit to our residents as they raise solvability and deter crime. We should always prioritize safety

Other Issue: I look forward to another two years on council and I feel it is critical that councilmembers build positive relationships with community groups, school district leadership, state agencies, and city staff. This issue, coupled with public safety, were my reasons for running two years ago and will continue to be my focus moving forward. There is continued room for improvement here and it's important.

Campaign Website: www.jenniferforlakeway.com

# **CITY OF LEANDER**

#### MAYOR

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

**Growth:** How will you balance development with increased stress on infrastructure?

Water and Energy: What do you consider to be priorities for assuring water and energy supply year-round?

Public Safety: What would be your priorities in maintaining public safety?

Other Issue: What other critical issue do you think is important to your community, and how will you address it?



# **Damon Burger**

**Qualifications:** I have spent the last 20 years in leadership positions for several different large organizations. I am skilled and trained in budgeting, operations, people development and security operations.

**Growth:** I believe that the growth of the city and infrastructure go hand in hand. Leander is a growing city and will continue to be. I believe that a carefully planned roadmap must be developed by the Council to ensure roads, water and energy are readily available and accessible so Leander's growth and development can continue. **Water and Energy:** This issue needs to be front and center for Leander. All options are on the table for me. I would meet with experts in these areas to develop sustainable and scalable plans to address the cities needs now and in the future. I would heavily scrutinize current agreements and contracts the city has in place to ensure the citizens of Leander are the priority and maintain our current and future growth.

Public Safety: I will ensure that the Leander Police and Fire Department have the resources necessary to effectively ensure the safety and security of citizens and visitors. I will be a close partner with both departments to ensure that they are focused on their core roles. Both departments have highly skilled and passionate staff that are experts and I will leverage their expertise when discussing new policy.

Other Issue: I believe another core issue for me is overall awareness and community engagement in local issues. I would work with the Council to create and develop more outreach within the community to create a more engaged and involved Leander. The revitalization of the downtown area, more community events and social media presence will be some first good steps in the

Campaign Website: www.damonburger4leander.com/

#### MAYOR (continued)



John David Cowman

Qualifications: Mayor - City of Leander 2003-2012 Board Member Capital Metro 2004-2010 I was awarded the "Local Leader of the Year" in 2006 for the State of Texas. Leander was best planned city award in 2006.

**Growth:** Balance is the key. We are out of it. In 2012, the city was about 3 years ahead infastructure wise; now we are 2 years behind. I will apply the same methods politically from years ago. We will manage growth rather than allow it to "just happen." Become business friendly. Allowing apartments on a limited scale. There are 6 times more police calls to apartments than singlefamily residenial.

Water and Energy: We obtained a 50-year supply for Leander in 2011 and the infastructure to carry such. We must have redundancy and maintenance on our water system continuously. We bought our water system from LCRA so we could be in control of our precious resource. PEC is our partner, not just our provider for electric. Redundancy, rediness, communication and continous maintenance is required from our partner.

**Public Safety:** I purchased our current police station from Bankruptcy Court in Atlanta in 2008. We had a 15 year plan. LPD has now outgrown their facility. This will be one of my top priorities to assess the needs of police and fire and then find the best approach for the next 25 years. Currently, I understand these issues are a priority, but I will be the catalyst to make them happen sooned rather than Later[.]

Other Issue: When I was in office, Leander was in the media 2.76 times per week. Everyone new about us, we were the winning team and everyone wants to be on the willing team. Most people are here because of what we did back then. We have lost our momemtum and I aim to get it back. It starts with Leander 2050. High Technology (AI, Nano, 3D etc.) will be an important component for our success. Business retention[.]

Campaign Website: johncowman.com



**Christine DeLisle** 

Qualifications: I've been Mayor for the last 3 years and served on Council for the 3 years prior to that. I represent Leander's interest on CAMPO & have strong working relationships with other entities in our region.

**Growth:** We do not currently fit the state's legal requirement for a moratorium, so the only thing we can do is slow growth & make it more sustainable. We've begun phasing large projects, added development fees for roadway improvements, & require new builds to have less landscaping. We also issued a resolution opposing higher density development. We'll continue to innovate at every opportunity.

Water and Energy: We've secured water rights & invested more than \$200 million into expanding our 2 water treatment plants as well as our reuse. We pushed for and received a PEC substation that was previously shelved, and brought ATMOS to the table and got them to add resiliency to their system. In the coming

year, you'll see a contract in place for Advanced Metering for water that will detect issues in real time.

Public Safety: We've increased hiring in our PD & implemented a new step pay program that makes us more competitive for recruitment in both Police & Fire. We've also improved our benefits for all city employees. In coming years, you'll see emphasis on competitive hiring, construction plans for 2 new fire stations, and planning for a larger public safety facility to house our PD and expanded 911 call center.

Other Issue: Leander is on the verge of 100,000 residents. It is critical that we continue our focus on water, roads, safety, & business. This is not a time to be distracted. We're also finally getting the attention of tax-producing businesses who previously overlooked us. Home Depot & both our first Class A Industrial & Class A Commercial projects are opening this year. What we're doing is working.

Campaign Website: MayorChristine.com



#### **Andy Hogue**

**Qualifications:** Travis GOP Communications Director; former Constituent Services Director, City of Austin, District 6; 20+ years in journalism/policy analysis; state-level speechwriter; ministry and civic leadership.

**Growth:** By picking up the phone. Improved communication between the city/developers/government entities is an absolute must. Developers want to build infrastructure that works for their future residents/tenants, as do we; it's up to our elected representatives to advocate for what we the taxpayers expect. Also: I'm committed to finding cost-efficient, smarter ways to decrease your traffic and drive time.

Water and Energy: A city of our level of talent should not be in Stage 4 restrictions! But in the meantime we all must do everything we can to save water until the BCRUA pipeline is replaced. Though we're now on a sustainable path as we grow in population, improved planning/communication with utility providers and nearby cities/districts can avoid any such future water or power shortage. Let's not repeat history.

**Public Safety:** Maintain the baseline of support for our police, fire, and EMS, and make absolutely certain we're competitive with cities in our region to attract the best talent. Work closely with our HOAs and neighborhood associations to identify problems before they begin and solicit their input. Implement various improvements for our walking paths, well-traveled sidewalks, and intersections.

Other Issue: It's mission-critical to expand our tax base in order to pursue our future plans and keep taxes low. This includes continuing support for our growing and impressive small business community, but also successfully recruiting industry and large businesses to locate here. Meeting with neighbors, I hear repeated calls for a store like Trader Joe's or a gourmet restaurant (and I happen to agree).

Campaign Website: tinyurl.com/andy4leander

### **Fred Summers**

No response received

#### CITY COUNCILMEMBER

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

**Growth:** How will you balance development with increased stress on infrastructure?

Water and Energy: What do you consider to be priorities for assuring water and energy supply year-round?

Public Safety: What would be your priorities for maintaining public safety?

Other Issue: What other critical issue do you think is important to your community, and how will you address it? 

#### PLACE 2



### Michael Herrera

Qualifications: General Manager at CSSI for 29 yrs.. CSSI today is a multi-state firm that has 40+ employees that provides a variety of cloud, software, and backoffice services to investment firms.

**Growth:** Growth has to be paired with the infrastructure needs. The current City Council has tried to balance this with some success, but they are hamstrung by the lack of funds due to current financial arrangements that need to be addressed. These funds could be used to get ahead of the infrastructure needs and prioritize what the city needs while attracting top-tier development. Water and Energy: Leander suffers from an unreliable water system that is currently being upgraded to meet future demands. My concern is that there is not enough risk management to ensure reliability and that we will revisit similar issues in the future that could be avoided by better contingency planning. The current providers need to be held accountable for communicating and having these plans in place.

Public Safety: Leander has an excellent Police and Fire Departments, and have done an excellent job of partnering with the citizen volunteers. The capabilities of these departments will need to continue to grow with the city. I think we need to look harder at our traffic flow and make the city more drivable as we continue to grow. We need more left turn lanes and deal with problem intersections. Other Issue: Leander has to much of its money leaving Leander in the form of sales tax that doesn't benefit Leander. This needs to change. If this doesn't change we will continue to see a trade off between what we have to do and what we would like to do. At the same time we will be unlikely to see any true property tax relief. We need retail and commercial development that keeps our money in Leander.

Campaign Website: www.herrera4leander.com



Esmeralda Mattke Longoria

Qualifications: I am currently the incumbent and won in 2021. I have almost 3 years of experience on the Leander City council. My confidence shows and I'm prepared for every meeting. Integrity is key to me.

**Growth:** Over the last 3 years I'm very proud of what the city council has been able to accomplish with water infrastructure. It is a bit difficult. We are trying to attract campus employers but at the same time we need to have the infrastructure to support those residents who are here. Our water CIP projects are costly and tax dollars do help provide for those projects. We have stopped some growth.

Water and Energy: Ensuring we have good working relationships with our partners such as Atmos Gas, Pedernales Electric and our BRCUA partner and sandy creek plant. Prior to 2021, we did not have a good relationships with water and energy providers. It helps. For example, in 2020 or early 2021 we had no gas in Travisso due to low pressure. We now have made the efforts to work with Atmos to ensure we have gas.

Public Safety: I'm endorsed by Leander Professional Firefighters Association and also by the Leander Law Enforcement Association. I have a solid record of working with public safety over the last 3 years. Also, I'm proud that I have pushed through lights that were marked as public safety issues due to many accidents and a death at one of the intersections. The past city councils did not push projects forward.

Other Issue: Our Senior center has had many delays beyond the control of the city council. I want to finish projects that I started like the senior center and the short term gap of the Leander Activity Center for our active adults. Before I joined, many projects were stalled by the city council and I made sure we had a commitment to residents to push things to completion that made

#### PLACE 4



#### Monica Roussel-Methena

Qualifications: I have an MBA in Management, a CTCM, passed a TAC rule, manage a large team. I served Leander on the Charter Review Board; Art Commission, eventually being elected its Chair; Board of Adjustments.

**Growth:** Balance is exactly the right word. We need to keep our mind open to opportunities. Infrastructure and development need to happen in coordination with each other. One cannot happen without the other. We need to look at water, power, roads, safety, etc to provide for the growing needs of our city. That also includes facilitating grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, small businesses, etc.

Water and Energy: We need to source water and energy in a sustainable way. The current reliance on Lake Travis is not sustainable. The local population keeps increasing so we have to be able to serve that need. Maybe Leander as a city can't figure this out alone, maybe counties or even the state should be part of finding a solution. We need to have these conversations. **Public Safety:** Growing Police and Fire concurrently with the city makes sense. LPD and LFD do a great job of forecasting needs and build facilities in new areas. I want to support that, and empower them to make the requests they need to keep us all safe. Other Issue: We need more commercial development. No matter how I look at it, we cannot pay our bills and fund our needs

#### PLACE 4

#### Monica Roussel-Methena (continued)

with property taxes and development fees alone. That is not sustainable. Sales tax is the only way we can have everything we want and need for our city and our families. I want to encourage development and facilitate progress.

Campaign Website: monica4leander.com



### Na'cole Thompson

Qualifications: My leadership in Leander as a long-time resident, business owner, retired banker, wife, mom and current councilwoman has given me the knowledge, experience and expertise to successfully serve Leander

**Growth:** Leander has been one of the fastest growing cities for several years. A shift to a more concentrated effort around commercial development is a great way to balance out our strong residential market. As a current councilwoman, this shift has already begun with our council's solid focus on updating infrastructure and creating unique programs that encourage commercial development and economic growth.

**Water and Energy:** Our water and energy resources are finite in nature. With our rapid population growth and commercial development expansion, conservation, exploring new technologies and sources of supply are key. Leander's proactive approach include creating collaborative opportunities with energy providers Atmos, PEC and LCRA. This has led to more accountability and communication benefiting our city and residents

**Public Safety:** Leander is a great place to live, work and play due in large part to our phenomenal public safety teams and strong leadership within those teams who stay engaged in service to the community through a variety of programs, initiatives and events hosted year round. In Leander, we prioritize funding our public safety departments, accountability, education and engagement to maintain public safety.

Other Issue: A critical issue is letting voters know just how vitally important their voice and vote are this year. Leander is moving in the right direction making significant progress with water improvements, economic development, infrastructure, parks and bond projects like the senior center. Let's keep this momentum going with solid experience and proven leadership that's committed to the Leander community.

Campaign Website: nacolethompson.com

### PLACE 6



Becki Ross

Qualifications: 3 yrs on council, 3 yrs P&Z, CapMetro Suburban Cities Boardmember, 6 years on Leander Chamber Board, 21 year resident, business owner, and community volunteer. Education includes 2 business degrees.

Growth: Continue to champion staff to think creatively to encourage balanced growth. We've done it through residential

phasing, changes to the landscape ordinance, courting low use water commercial, instituting roadway impact fund, utilizing partnership with CapMetro.

Water and Energy: Completing upgrades and expansions to Sandy Creek and BCRUA water plants, projects that are on time and on budget. Keeping waste water projects on target. Nuturing a solid relationship with our partners at ATMOS and PEC and demand they live up to their promises to provide gas and electricity to our residents and businesses.

Public Safety: Public safety is one of the pillars that makes Leander great. We have supported changing the pay structure for police and fire to increase competitiveness and retention rates. The current council funds equipment and new officers when funds are available. We recently supported a modification to better recruit tenured officers.

**Other Issue:** It is imperative that we expand our tax base so that Leander's budget is not so heavily dependent on development fees. Our growth has been historical and projections show a fully built out city in the next 10-15 years. The city has to concentrate on having a stable, well maintained infrastructure so that developers and employers want to locate here. Our future depends on it.

Campaign Website: www.Becki4Leander.com



### **Pulla Reddy Yeduru**

**Qualifications:** I am running for Leander City Council because I believe in the power of community-driven leadership and the need for fresh perspectives to address our city's challenges.

Growth: By streamlining our city's processes and implementing policies that prioritize economic development, we can ensure that Leander becomes first choice of destination for businesses and a community where residents can live, work, and prosper. Water and Energy: Ensuring a reliable water and energy supply year-round for Leander requires a multifaceted approach including Invest in alternative water sources such as rainwater harvesting, treated wastewater reuse, and aquifer storage and recovery to reduce reliance on surface water. Collaborate with neighboring cities, utilities, and government agencies to share resources and expertise in managing water.

Public Safety: Ensuring public safety in a growing city like Leander requires a proactive and strategic approach. Ensure our police and fire departments have the resources and staffing they need to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies. Promote community policing strategies to build trust and collaboration

**Other Issue:** We are at a pivotal moment in our city's journey, it's time to act on sustainable commercial growth, build infrastructure, backup water resources are challenged, and public safety and security remains a major concern.

Campaign Website: reddy4leander.com

### Anna Yelaun

No response received

#### **PROPOSITIONS**

# PROPOSITION A: ADOPTION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

#### **Background**

This ballot proposition results from a petition submitted by the Leander Professional Firefighters Association, according to the requirements set out in the Texas Code. Since this question had previously been submitted to Leander voters in 2013 and did not pass, this new petition required signatures of at least 20% of the number of voters in the most recent municipal election. The petition met that requirement.

#### **Ballot Language**

Adoption of the fire fighters'and police officers'civil service law for the Leander fire department.

#### **Explanation**

This proposition places the question of whether the city should adopt the civil service framework set out in the Texas Code. This legislation was enacted in 1947 to allow municipalities to place police and fire department employees under civil service protection. This specific ballot proposition applies only to the Leander Fire Department. If passed, the city's fire department will operate under civil service regulations.

The purpose of a civil service system is to promote fairness and professionalism for public employees. Under a civil service framework, jobs are classified based on merit and experience, and hiring, promotions, compensation, discipline, and firing are carried out according to pre-determined standards and procedures. Texas's state law requires adopting municipalities to estab-

# IF YOU ARE A VOTER WITH A DISABILITY, YOU HAVE RIGHTS

You have the right to have reasonable accommodations under federal law.

You have the right to vote privately and independently under federal law.

You have the right to choose your assistant, if needed. Polling places must be accessible, and one voting machine at each polling location must be accessible (including headphones for visual impairment, adjustable contrast or font, puff or switch, and wheelchair height).

Don't hesitate to ask questions about accommodations. Call ahead to your polling place to ensure they have the accommodations you need ready to go.

If you aren't receiving the support you need or you have any issues, call Disability Rights Texas at 888-796-VOTE (1-888-796-8683).

lish a civil service commission to oversee the implementation of the system and to provide a way for individual employees to appeal their treatment under the system.

Proponents of this proposition believe that civil service systems offer fairness, continuity, and transparency and prevent favoritism. Since neighboring cities of comparable size have already adopted civil service systems for their fire departments, proponents believe adoption will improve Leander's competitiveness in attracting and retaining higher-quality employees.

Opponents of the proposition express concerns over the possibility that the city will have less flexibility and may face potential costs to provide for training the city's human resources personnel and setting up the initial regulations for the Department.

# PROPOSITION B: ADOPTION OF THE FIRE AND POLICE EMPLOYEE RELATIONS ACT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

#### Background

This ballot proposition results from a petition submitted by the Leander Professional Firefighters Association, according to the requirements set out in the Texas Code for fire and police employee relations.

#### **Ballot Language**

Adoption of the state law applicable to fire fighters that establishes collective bargaining if a majority of the affected employees favor representation by an employees association, preserves the prohibition against strikes and lockouts, and provides penalties for strikes and lockouts.

#### **Explanation**

This proposition places the question of whether the city should adopt the portion of the Texas Code that establishes regulations for labor relations, including collective bargaining, between municipalities and fire and police employees. This proposition would only affect the city's fire department employees. If passed, the city will be governed by these regulations, allowing for collective bargaining between the city and groups representing fire department employees.

Proponents of this proposition point out that 85% of the city's fire department employees are currently members of the Leander Professional Firefighters Association and support the use of collective bargaining as a means of negotiating wages, benefits, and working conditions. Proponents believe that access to collective bargaining will make the city more competitive as an employer for firefighters. They also point out that striking and work stoppages are not permitted under the state's collective bargaining regulations, and that fire department employees cannot be required to join any employee organization.

Opponents of collective bargaining for public employees express concerns over the possibility of increased costs to the city to cover negotiated pay and benefits and reduced flexibility for the city in its dealings with its employees.

# **CITY OF LIBERTY HILL**

#### MAYOR

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

**Growth:** How will you balance development with increased stress on infrastructure?

Water and Energy: What do you consider to be priorities for assuring water and energy supply year-round?

Public Safety: What would be your priorities in maintaining public safety?

Other Issue: What other critical issue do you think is important to your community, and how will you address it?



### **Crystal Mancilla**

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Qualifications: With experience on boards, a commitment to public service, and expert knowledge from serving as a councilwoman, I am prepared to lead Liberty Hill as mayor during this transformative period.

**Growth:** I will continue to collaborate with staff to establish processes for current and upcoming developments, ensuring they meet high standards and align with ordinances. We prioritize forward-thinking planning to balance development with infrastructure stress, embracing innovation and regional partnerships. Water and Energy: Liberty Hill is in a unique place where partnerships play a critical role in building out an infrastructure that supports the community. My years of service to the city have provided me tremendous insight into what partnerships provide long term advantages to the community and we are looking into innovative solutions for sustainable water.

**Public Safety:** My public safety priorities include community policing, training, emergency response, partnerships, mental health support, crime prevention. We also plan to build a new facility for our police department to enhance their capabilities and service to the community.

Campaign Website: www.crystal4libertyhill.com

#### INFORMATION ON WHERE TO VOTE

Voters can look up information on where to vote at their county's election website:

# VoteTravis.com www.wilcotx.gov/elections

These websites list the most up-to-date information on the locations of polling places and their hours of operation.

For Travis County, there is also a live map with the current wait times for each polling location.

Remember, you can vote at ANY polling location in your county.



### **Devin Vyner**

**Qualifications:** I've been on the "inside" of government most of my professional life as a police officer, helping build budgets and seeking ways to improve the lives of our citizens and my employees alike.

**Growth:** The greatest component in leadership is understanding you are not an expert in everything. The Mayor of Liberty Hill has to get the right minds in the same room and, together, choose the best course for the citizens we serve. You have to open your ears and listen. Whether for business or for families, growth is inevitable, so infrastructure development is one of the top concerns for the city.

Water and Energy: I would to refer to the department heads and experts in both areas before I could make an educated decision on how to go about securing sustainable sources for both. Water is more of an immediate concern at the moment and maintaining supply begins with conservation. I will take time to educate the citizens on the impact of conservation and trust that more informed decisions will be implemented.

Public Safety: Leadership at the top can be contagious, and unfortunately so can a lack thereof. Getting the right leaders in the right places is paramount. Ensuring that from the Chief to the City Council, city leaders understand that the citizens deserve top-tier public servants. Attracting and retaining those dedicated individuals is how you obtain and maintain a high level of public safety.

Other Issue: Transparency between the citizens and the government. I plan to be available by phone or meetings to concerned citizens. I will do everything within my authority to explain why decisions were made by your city leaders. Prior to decisions being made, I will do a better job to solicit input and hear concerns about the direction in which this city is growing.

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id =61556415031032

# IF YOU HAVE ISSUES AT YOUR POLLING LOCATION

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

### **Election Protection Hotlines**

ENGLISH: 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) SPANISH: 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682)

ASIAN LANGUAGES: 888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683)

ARABIC: 844-YALLA-US (844-925-5287) ASL (Video): 301-818-VOTE (301-818-8683) DISABILITY RIGHTS TX: 888-796-VOTE

(888-796-8683)

# CITY OF ROUND ROCK

#### **CITY COUNCILMEMBER**

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

**Growth:** How will you balance development with increased stress on infrastructure?

Water and Energy: What do you consider to be priorities for assuring water and energy supply year-round?

Public Safety: What would be your priorities for maintaining public safety?

Other Issue: What other critical issue do you think is important to your community, and how will you address it?

#### PLACE 3



# **Melissa Fleming**

Qualifications: I have 26 years in the financial services industry, prior business owner, and founder of a local nonprofit. I serve on various boards and committees within my community. Growth: I want to continue to attract busi-

nesses that provide new, high paying jobs and bring additional revenue to Round Rock and create a long-term strategic plan that encourages securing our city's future infrastructure needs. I am committed to working with neighborhood groups, nonprofits, and business and community leaders to ensure Round Rock remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Water and Energy: We as leaders need to work diligently to acquire water supplies to meet the population growth we are experiencing in Central Texas. It is crucial for us to look at water conservation concepts and building standards to ensure we are embracing policies that limit water usage. We also need to be directly involved with community partners to educate and promote water conservation.

Public Safety: Our police and firefighters work hard to keep our community safe. I believe in ensuring Round Rock is

fully staffed with highly qualified emergency responders, well equipped, and paid a competitive wage. Being married to a retired Police Officer, I understand the importance for City staff, Elected Officials, and First Responders to work together to keep the crime rate low and citizens safe.

Other Issue: With growth in the city, comes traffic congestion. City Leaders have developed traffic plans to avoid mistakes other cities have made of not addressing future transportation issues and providing traffic congestion relief. I will work to address maintaining and improving roadways and secure the state and federal funding needed. I want to maintain the quality-of-life residents expect.

### Campaign Website: votemelissafleming.com



#### Alan K. Simms

Qualifications: I have had a large variety of jobs though out my life time. Control systems designer Flour corporation petrochemical, self employed most of my life small businesses owner, home construction.

**Growth:** Work on advanced technology, drawing water out of the atmosphere, hydrogen energy. Mass transportation Water and Energy: Conservation to start, but again looking at advanced technologies to draw water from the atmosphere; research other technologies. Mini hydrogen generators, which can supply a cleaner electricity source at a lower cost.

Public Safety: Continue to supply our great first responders, fire, police, EMS. With the financial needs, training, & tools to do their jobs.

Other Issue: Providing quality education, so people can get the appropriate skills to hold jobs that will provide a livable wage. Promoting companies that can & will pay a sustainable wage

#### PLACE 5

#### **Kristin Stevens**

Unopposed

#### **PROPOSITIONS**

#### PROPOSITION A

### **Background**

The city of Round Rock operates under a City Charter with a Mayor and City Council. The Round Rock Home Rule Charter contains systems and procedures for running the city government. All systems and procedures must comply with state law as set out in The Texas Local Government Code. A city charter may be revised to reflect new state laws or to clarify vague language in the city charter.

Every four years the Charter Review Commission made up of seven members reviews each section of the Home Rule Char-

ter. Members of the Charter Review Commission are appointed by the City Council. The Commission works with city staff on recommendations and holds public hearings to hear citizen input. A final report of recommendations is presented to the City Council for approval. If approved by the City Council, the proposed amendment is presented to voters for approval.

#### **Ballot Language**

Amendment to the home rule charter of the City of Round Rock, Texas to clarify the types of Municipal Court proceedings; the designation and requirements of Municipal Court judges; and the use of costs and fines imposed by Municipal Court.

# CITY OF ROUND ROCK

#### PROPOSITION A (continued)

#### **Explanation**

#### What this means:

This amendment clarifies vague language in the current Home Rule Charter.

The proposed language clarifies that civil proceedings and misdemeanors will be tried in Municipal Court.

The proposed language distinguishes between a presiding Municipal Court judge and additional associate judges. It sets requirements for associate judges. It clarifies that compensation for both the presiding Municipal Court judge and associate judges is set by the City Council.

The proposed amendment clarifies that funds collected by the Municipal Court that are not owed to the state will be paid into the City Treasury.

#### If Prop A passes:

Procedures already observed in Municipal Court will be reflected in Charter language. Language will clearly describe the types of judges, their required qualifications and judges' compensation and where funds collected by the Municipal Court must be distributed.

#### If Prop A fails:

The court will continue operating as it has, but the potential for problems and misunderstandings would remain.

#### **PROPOSITION B**

#### **Background**

The city of Round Rock operates under a City Charter with a Mayor and City Council. The Round Rock Home Rule Charter contains systems and procedures for running the city government. All systems and procedures must comply with state law as set out in The Texas Local Government Code. A city charter may be revised to reflect new state laws or to clarify vague language in the city charter.

Every four years the Charter Review Commission made up of seven members reviews each section of the Home Rule Charter. Members of the Charter Review Commission are appointed by the City Council. The Commission works with city staff on recommendations and holds public hearings to hear citizen input. A final report of recommendations is presented to the City Council for approval. If approved by the City Council, the proposed amendment is presented to voters for approval.

### **Ballot Language**

Amendment to the home rule charter of the City of Round Rock, Texas to allow city staff to be delegated the ability to approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove a plat as now permitted by section 212.0065(a) of the Texas Local Government Code.

#### **Explanation**

#### What this means:

The modification in this proposition mirrors a new state law, HB 3677 passed in September 2023. The Home Rule Charter will

now broaden the ability of City Staff to perform the technical and administrative task of plat review to ensure the plat meets all city ordinances and requirements including zoning, setback requirements, transportation, utilities, building codes, flood plain adjustment, access to public roads, etc. This process takes many months of work with the developer and City Staff. City Staff would have the ability to approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove a plat.

"...approve, approve with conditions, disapprove..." is listed in the current Home Rule Charter under duties of the Planning and Zoning Commission. In practice the Planning and Zoning Commission has no discretion to disapprove or make changes. It simply okays staff recommendations based on the months of work between the developer and city staff.

There is no subjective approval/disapproval at plat level. If the plat meets the basic requirements and ordinances the City is obligated by state law to approve the plat. Currently, no public hearings are held for plat approvals and this amendment does not change that. The public's questions regarding new developments may be answered through a search of the City's website.

This amendment does NOT affect the Planning and Zoning Commission's authority to review and make recommendations to the City Council regarding requested zoning changes. The process for this function remains the same and requires public hearings, Planning and Zoning Commission review and recommendation, and City Council approval.

# If Prop B passes:

The Charter is modified to mirror state law and the process is streamlined. The process is faster for developers. The city saves money by not preparing for and conducting unnecessary meetings.

# If Prop B fails:

The city will be required to present it to the voters again as state law requires that the Home Rule Charter must comply with state law.

# JOIN THE LEAGUE— **BE PART OF THE SOLUTION**

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

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

# **CITY OF TAYLOR**

#### CITY COUNCILMEMBER

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

**Growth:** How will you balance development with increased stress on infrastructure?

Water and Energy: What do you consider to be priorities for assuring water and energy supply year-round?

Public Safety: What would be your priorities for maintaining public safety?

Other Issue: What other critical issue do you think is important to your community, and how will you address it?

#### **DISTRICT 2**



### **Terry Burris**

Qualifications: Have held various management positions in high tech companies. Currently work with many cities on a daily basis through my job at FEMA>

**Growth:** I would prefer for the developer to

supply infrastructure as part of their development plans.

Water and Energy: Seek additional sources for each. Seek out industries that use minimal resources.

**Public Safety:** Ensure police and fire are fully staffed and have all of the equipment they need.

Other Issue: I will focus my efforts on ensuring we reduce waste in our city to free up more funds for street improvements.



# Shelli Cobb

Qualifications: Serving Taylor as a teacher, coach and Asst. AD for 25 years, I have built lasting relationships with all I have encountered and developed a dedication to the citizens of Taylor.

**Growth:** Much of our current infrastructure is extremely fragile and will need to be addressed before any new development is introduced. Prioritizing our tax dollars in a more effective manner and leveraging assistance from incoming support businesses will be key to assisting with this.

Water and Energy: The city of Taylor must remain in regular contact with the Brazos River Authority and ERCOT to stay updated on plans for ground water projects during drought, diversified energy sources, and conservation efforts that need to be communicated to and utilized by the community during peak times.

Public Safety: As the mother of a Texas State Trooper and another son who is pursuing fire and paramedic, public safety is extremely important to me. My priority would be to ensure that both our police and fire departments have budgets which provide adequate staff and equipment to do the job properly. This would include seeking and securing all applicable grants, Competitive pay is a must as well.

Other Issue: Taylor has one of the highest tax rates of any sur-

rounding city which is making it hard for our citizens to remain in their homes and small businesses to stay open. We also have some of the worst roads within our city. I would vote to lower those taxes and prioritize our funds away from council compensation and unnecessary projects and towards repairing our roads. Campaign Website: shellicobb.com



# **Mitch Drummond**

Qualifications: Having served two terms as the District 2 Representative, I have a much better understanding of city government and recognize the role of council is to provide leadership and vision not management.

**Growth:** We, working with the community, created the Envision Taylor Comprehensive Plan and the Land Development Code that encouraged development where infrastructure was preexisting. New developments expand that infrastructure and are designed to create enough wealth to pay for their future maintenance. While increasing rooftops are a necessity, it's local business and industry that provides the support.

Water and Energy: With climate and growth pressures, we must have a water plan for the future. The BRA has planned out to 2050 and is preparing for future emergencies. Taylor needs a second water line to BRA and a second water source. I've ask we research the feasibility of using our existing wells as an emergency supply. We work closely with Oncor and Atmos to maintain our electrical and gas infrastructure.

**Public Safety:** The Fire and Police Chiefs know what they need. our job is to find the funding. We are continually upgrading older equipment and hiring first responders as needed and finances allow. We are planning a third fire station on the south side and expanding Stations 1 and 2. Currently, we are designing a new Justice Center to house the Police Department, Municipal Courts, and City Administration.

Other Issue: Workforce housing and transportation. We require developers to increase affordable and multifamily housing. We encourage ADUs on existing lots and consider creating land trusts to keep homes affordable. I will propose a \$100 million bond issue on the November ballot to rebuild failed streets. Improve pedestrian and bike access and work with CARTS Now to expand service to weekends and expand hours.

Campaign Website: mitchdrummonddistrict2.com

#### **Sandra Wolff**

No response received



# **CITY OF TAYLOR**

#### DISTRICT 3



**Kelly Cmerek** 

Qualifications: - University of Texas at Austin - BBA Finance -28 year banking career -13 years on the Taylor Economic Development Corporation Board -Lifelong resident of Taylor

Growth: Infrastructure will be one of Taylor's biggest challenges in the coming years given the synergistic growth driven by the Samsung project. The resulting increase in the city's commercial tax base will provide more tax dollars for new infrastructure and improving existing infrastructure.

Water and Energy: Water: continue to work with the Brazos River Authority to develop additional capacity. Ultimately, a second/redundant water source would be ideal; however, the cost is prohibitive. Energy: maintain a strong relationship with ERCOT given their office location in Taylor. Ensure trees are trimmed along utility line easements.

**Public Safety:** Police: We have a shortage of police officers, so increased funding for new officers and/or implementation of new training programs to develop officers. Fire: construction of new facilities to ensure coverage for growth areas.

Other Issue: Acclimation to change. As our community experiences a growth rate not seen here before, our challenge is to maintain our small-town character while embracing new people and new development. The city needs to do an excellent job of communicating with its citizens about change. Elected officials must earn the trust of its citizens and foster an environment of civility.

# **Nathan Walker**

No response received

#### **PROPOSITIONS**

#### PROPOSITION A

### **Background**

This proposed charter amendment was submitted by a Taylor resident in an initiative petition with the required number of signatures, along with three other proposed charter amendments (Propositions A-D).

In 2006, the Taylor City Council, operating within the City Charter, set a rate of compensation for councilmembers of \$12.50 per meeting. The Charter limited the number of paid meetings to two per month, so the councilmembers were compensated at a rate of \$25.00 per month

Starting in 2022, the Council began to consider changing the councilmembers' compensation rate. In August 2023, the Council passed an ordinance to raise the compensation rate to \$500 per meeting (\$1000 per month), with the mayor's compensation set at \$750 per meeting (\$1500 per month). Some members of the public disagreed with this decision. The petition for this ballot proposition resulted from this disagreement with the Council's action.

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall Section 4.5 of the City Charter be amended to set council compensation at \$125 for each councilmember and the Mayor per meeting rather than established by ordinance?

#### **Explanation**

If passed, this Charter Amendment would fix both the councilmembers' and the mayor's compensation at \$125 per meeting, with a maximum of two compensated meetings per month, for monthly compensation of \$250. It would also change the method by which councilmembers' compensation could be set in the future. Currently, the City Council sets councilmembers' compensation through ordinances adopted by the City Council. This

Amendment would require voters to approve of Charter Amendments to change the rate of compensation in the future.

### **PROPOSITION B**

#### **Background**

This proposed charter amendment was submitted by a Taylor resident in an initiative petition with the required number of signatures, along with three other proposed charter amendments (Propositions A-D).

In August 2023 the City Council introduced, then considered and voted on an ordinance that increased councilmembers' compensation. These actions took place in back-to-back meetings on the same day. Some members of the public thought that this timeline did not allow for adequate consideration of the proposal. The petition for this ballot proposition resulted from this disagreement with the Council's action.

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall Section 8.1 of the City Charter be amended to require a minimum period of 72 hours between meetings from the time a nonemergency ordinance is introduced to the time it can be adopted?

### **Explanation**

If passed, this Charter Amendment would establish a required minimum 72-hour interval between the introduction of any nonemergency ordinance at the City Council, and the Council's vote on the ordinance.

#### PROPOSITION C

#### Background

This proposed charter amendment was submitted by a Taylor resident in an initiative petition with the required number of

# **CITY OF TAYLOR**

#### PROPOSITION C (continued)

signatures, along with three other proposed charter amendments (Propositions A-D).

Currently, the City Charter provides that the councilmembers (four of whom are elected by single-member districts and one of whom is elected by the City's voters at large) choose one of their number to serve as the City's mayor. One point of discussion during the Council's consideration of compensation was the question of whether all councilmembers and the mayor should receive the same compensation, or whether the mayor should receive more because of additional duties associated with that position. This led to a larger discussion about how the mayor is chosen.

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall Section 7.1 of the City Charter be amended to designate that the councilmember elected to the At-Large position shall serve as the Mayor?

#### **Explanation**

If passed, the councilmember elected at-large would become the mayor automatically. In effect, this would allow voters throughout the city to have direct input into who serves as mayor, rather than the mayor being chosen indirectly, through a vote by all the councilmembers. The Charter Amendment does not propose any changes to the duties or authority of the position of mayor.

#### **PROPOSITION D**

#### **Background**

This proposed charter amendment was submitted by a Taylor resident in an initiative petition with the required number of signatures, along with three other proposed charter amendments (Propositions A-D).

During the discussions over councilmember compensation, some members of the public expressed concern about councilmembers' attendance at a retreat at a facility outside the City of Taylor. They felt that official city business should be conducted at locations that allow the city's residents to attend easily.

# **Ballot Language**

Shall Section 7.1 of the City Charter be amended to require that all meetings of the City Council shall be held within the City of Taylor?

#### **Explanation**

If passed, all City Council meetings would be required to be held within the city limits of Taylor.

#### **PROPOSITION E**

#### **Background**

This ballot proposal was submitted by a Taylor resident as a referendum petition with the required number of signatures. As is the case with Propositions A-D, this proposition is a response to the City Council's adoption (in August 2023) of an ordinance that increased the councilmembers' compensation. Its form is different

from Propositions A-D, as those measures are proposed Charter Amendments. This is a referendum that seeks to repeal the ordinance that made the change to the councilmembers' compensation.

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall Ordinance 2023-40, setting councilmember compensation at \$500.00 per regular meeting and setting mayor compensation at \$750.00 per regular meeting, be repealed?

#### **Explanation**

If passed, this referendum would repeal the ordinance that raised the councilmembers' compensation from \$12.50 per meeting to \$500.00 per meeting (with the mayor receiving \$750.00 per meeting).

The impact that passage of this referendum would have on councilmembers' compensation could vary depending on whether Proposition A passes.

If Proposition A passes, it would control the level of the councilmembers' compensation, regardless of the outcome of this measure.

If Proposition A fails, and this measure passes, presumably the councilmembers' compensation would revert to the level it had before the August 2023 ordinance was adopted (\$12.50 per meeting). However, the City Council would have the option of considering another ordinance in the future to change their compensation level.

If both Proposition A and this measure fail, the councilmembers' compensation would remain at the level set by the August 2023 ordinance.

#### **PROPOSITION F**

#### **Background**

In 2023, the Texas Legislature passed new legislation regulating how counties manage polling locations for elections. Technically, this legislation did not directly impact municipalities' abilities to establish polling locations. However, since the City of Taylor contracts with Williamson County for the management of the City's elections, the new legislation does have an indirect impact, prompting this recommendation by city staff for a charter amendment.

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall Section 6.4 of the City Charter be amended to require the City Council to establish polling places consistent with the requirements of state law?

### **Explanation**

If passed, the existing provisions in the Taylor City Charter will be repealed, and the City will establish polling places so that their locations are consistent with the state requirements that the new law imposes on Williamson County in its conduct of elections.

If the amendment does not pass, then the City's Charter provisions will no longer be aligned with state requirements that Williamson County must follow. This could lead to complications in the City's ability to contract with the County for election management.

# **EANES ISD**

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

Teacher Retention: How would you attract and retain teachers? **Student Outcomes:** What would you do to improve academic, social, and emotional outcomes for all students?

Parental Input: What is your position regarding parental input in book selection in school libraries?

**School Safety:** How will you implement the state mandates for physical safety on school campuses?

#### PLACE 4



#### **Robert Morrow**

Qualifications: I have an A.B. from Princeton (1987), an MBA from the Univ. of Texas (1990), an IQ between 135-140 and a well thought out plan to go completely berserk if I am elected to the Eanes School Board.

Teacher Retention: I want to have a "hot teacher contest" every spring at Chaparal Stadium. This contest will be open to all female teachers in the EISD. We are going to get them up there in high heels and bikinis and when that jiggling gets just right we are going to whoop and holler, shout and stomp our feet and let those girls know how pretty we think they are! [Portion of response removed; does not meet criteria.] will not be allowed in the contest, just real All-American girls, hopefully with some very nice curves. I volunteer to be one of the judges in this contest.

Student Outcomes: Starting in 1st grade, we will teach the kids how to make anti-Zionist Tik Tok videos as we teach them about Israel's genocide of the Palestinians. With EISD board concurrence, I will invite the 3rd Calvery down from Killeen [Portion of response removed; does not meet criteria.] as we reinact the state of Israel's leveling of the Gaza strip. Students will role play as wounded/dying Palestinian kids.

Parental Input: I am concerned about Zionist propaganda in our schools. Sure it is okay to have an Anne Frank exhibit to talk about the horrors of the Holocaust but I want the kids to know in graphic terms the mass murder that the illegitimate state of Israel is exacting on the Palestinians. I especially want to see the works of anti-Zionist Jewish writers such as Noam Chomsky in our school libraries.

School Safety: I think that teachers and EISD staff should be allowed to have AR-15s and hand grenades at the ready to ward off any Israeli Defense Force style attack on our precious children. School cooks should be trained in Kung Foo. Chapparal students should be given the option of taking AR-15 training for the safety of them and their fellow students. I will bring Michael Cargill to teach the students safety

Campaign Website: twitter.com/BarrySealDeath



**James Spradley** 

Qualifications: Parent of two Eanes ISD graduates (K-12), school board trustee (5 years), school board president, TASB Master Trustee, finance professional, professional project manager, business owner, youth leader[.]

Teacher Retention: Do what Eanes ISD does well - build a culture of unmatched professionalism in a fun, family environment. Employ campus leaders who value people and foster a team environment where teachers are appreciated and welcome. Recognize, celebrate, and reward individual and team accomplishments at all levels. Leverage talented, experienced teachers to help mentor new teachers to build an even stronger team that understands and embraces those things that make our district special. Stay abreast of changes in the teaching profession and embrace ways to retain and grow our pool of superb teachers. **Student Outcomes:** Continue to support our district in facilitating personalized learning, integrating social-emotional learning into the curriculum, and providing mental health support. Strong collaboration between educators, families, and our community is crucial for holistic student development. Working together, we can make big strides in supporting academic, social, and emotional outcomes for all students.

Parental Input: I support parental rights and responsibilities regarding their child's access to library materials. Eanes ISD parents opt their children in/out of access to books in our libraries and the system works. Our district's team-based approach for selecting library materials allows us to balance parental preferences with the need for intellectual freedom and exploration in

**School Safety:** Eanes ISD made a big improvement to campus safety in 2023 when trustees approved funding for a district police department in advance of the state mandate. We now have officers on each campus - officers who have become part of our Eanes ISD family. The Board will make investments in physical and technological safety that will help keep our campuses safe and our district ahead of state mandates.

Campaign Website: www.jamesforeanes.com

#### PLACE 5



**Kelly Marwill** 

Qualifications: As a substitute nurse on all campuses, I have a deep understanding of our district. As a parent, I have an unwavering focus on student outcomes. As a community member, I've never met a stranger.

Teacher Retention: I think we start with building a school climate that makes teachers want to stay. Teachers should feel valued and supported, and this will attract new educators as well. We can grow emerging leaders from within through additional professional trainings and opportunities for further education and promotion. We need to continue to increase compensation annually while looking for additional financial incentives through sources like grants and the EEF Endowment. In speak-

# **EANES ISD**

#### PLACE 5

#### Kelly Marwill (continued)

ing with teachers, they would love more quality substitutes they can trust when they need to be away from their classroom. **Student Outcomes:** Academics are strongest when we also teach students to focus on relationship skills, self-awareness, resilience and critical thinking. This promotes mental wellness through a focus on personal development to avoid negative, comparative judgments. Every student is unique so we need a personalized approach to instruction to establish learning environments where students feel safe and accepted.

**Parental Input:** Parents should engage with their kids about what they are reading and watching. No parent has the right to decide what another person's child should or should not read. With this in focus, the current opt out permission by parents for their specific child is the most inclusive policy, so as not to limit the options for other students and preserve the rights of those who choose to read.

**School Safety:** We recently celebrated the pinning of officers to the EISD Police Department. I could feel the excitement from the parents and families in attendance as they cheered for their individual campus officer. Going forward, we need open communication to support the officers as they develop positive relationships with students and to foster trust within the community around our new police department.

Campaign Website: kelly4eanes.com



#### **Aaron Silva**

Qualifications: I am a CEO, entrepreneur and an expert negotiator. That mindset, creativity and fiscal acumen will add a needed dimension to the board that can help Eanes tackle some of our most pressing challenges.

# IF YOU HAVE ISSUES AT YOUR POLLING LOCATION

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

### **Election Protection Hotlines**

ENGLISH: 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)

SPANISH: 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682)

ASIAN LANGUAGES: 888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683)

ARABIC: 844-YALLA-US (844-925-5287)

ASL (Video): 301-818-VOTE (301-818-8683)

DISABILITY RIGHTS TX: 888-796-VOTE

(888-796-8683)

**Teacher Retention:** Teacher retention is a major problem in EISD. We lost over 21% of our teachers in 2023 and it will get worse. Another 1 in 5 teachers hired are not certified. What we are doing today isn't working. Bottom line, we must find ways to pay teachers more money and then eliminate non-educational distractions and allow them to get back to what they love doing, and that's teaching.

Student Outcomes: First, I would propose we add EXCEL-LENCE back into our mission statement. We need to guarantee parents an "Excellent and Market-Ready Education." Getting our fiscal house in order, rewarding great teachers, meaningfully engaging parents, and eliminating non-educational distractions are all ways we can improve outcomes in Eanes.

Parental Input: This issue must be addressed once and for all. Books must be age-appropriate and non-pornographic, and parents made aware of the reading material that their children are assigned and have the ability to opt their family out of that book. We owe maximum transparency and communication from the board to the public about what our kids are learning.

**School Safety:** The government has never gone far enough when it comes to protecting our children. I would implement all mandates to the fullest level of compliance and then I would add even more protection for our children until all parents and teachers are satisfied. This means fully funding our new campus safety officer positions, ensuring only the most qualified applicants are hired for Eanes.

Campaign Website: www.silva4eanes.com

# **Catherine Walker**

No response received

# IF YOU ARE A VOTER WITH A DISABILITY, YOU HAVE RIGHTS

You have the right to have reasonable accommodations under federal law.

You have the right to vote privately and independently under federal law.

You have the right to choose your assistant, if needed.

Polling places must be accessible, and one voting machine at each polling location must be accessible (including headphones for visual impairment, adjustable contrast or font, puff or switch, and wheelchair height).

Don't hesitate to ask questions about accommodations. Call ahead to your polling place to ensure they have the accommodations you need ready to go.

If you aren't receiving the support you need or you have any issues, call Disability Rights Texas at 888-796-VOTE (1-888-796-8683).

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

Teacher Retention: How would you attract and retain teachers?

**Student Outcomes:** What would you do to improve academic, social, and mental health outcomes for all students?

Parental Input: What is your position regarding parental input in book selection in school libraries?

**School Safety:** How will you implement the state mandates for safety on school campuses?

#### PLACE 6



#### Jen Mauldin

**Qualifications:** Prior to being elected to the School Board in 2021, I was employed as a regular/special education teacher and campus/ district administrator for 28 years. A strong education program is my passion!

**Teacher Retention:** Since we live in one of the most expensive areas in the country, in order for GISD to attract and retain teachers, we first must have a competitive salary structure that says to the staff "we value and appreciate your expertise". In addition teachers must have input into instructional decisions and feel a sense of belonging on their team and that their work is important to the school community.

Student Outcomes: The social connections students form with others and how they manage the emotions of life are a part of the experience we call school. While it is important that we have a strong academic curriculum and extra curricular programs, it is equally important when students stumble whether academically, socially or behaviorally, that we have supports in place to help the students get back on the path.

Parental Input: When a school library is securing books, the librarian takes into account the parents and students of the school before the purchase. If a parent objects to a book that their child checks out (let's say a science book on body parts) the library system can flag the students check-out record. If a parent objects to the book being in the library, utilization of the district policy needs to occur.

**School Safety:** Some of the state mandates for school safety are reasonable. For example, the requirement that schools have a robust safety plan to respond to an active shooter is reasonable. However, the requirement to add armed guards to each school is challenging due to the limited funds that were provided and due to the staffing challenges that even our local police department have in staffing their patrols.

Campaign Website: www.Jen4GISD.com





#### **Aaron Smith**

Qualifications: Our school board needs members with experience in finance, leadership, and building community partnerships; all talents I possess. I'm also a parent of two GISD students and husband to a GISD teacher.

Teacher Retention: Our school district struggles with teacher compensation and incentives. I want our teachers to have a seat at the table when the district reviews teacher compensation packages and, where compensation is limited, provide candid insight into incentives that do (or would) make them stay. Having teachers actively participate in the process will provide transparency, ownership, and improve retention.

Student Outcomes: Education is constantly evolving which is why we must regularly evaluate the policies and practices (i.e. encouraging attendance, more opportunities to practice concepts, etc) that have the greatest evidence of improving students' academic and social outcomes and support it appropriately. We can also improve mental health outcomes for students by adding novel resources, like the TCHATT program.

Parental Input: Parental involvement in their child's education is always encouraged! Thankfully, GISD employs incredible librarians who work tirelessly to curate a literary selection that is appropriate for their student population! Should parents have input regarding the content selection in their school's library, GISD has existing policies to help parents share their concerns, be heard, and find a resolution.

**School Safety:** Implementing the statutory requirements of HB3 (i.e. intruder alert system, safety audits, etc) must be meticulously budgeted, planned, and completed in partnership with local law enforcement to ensure clearly defined roles and flawless operation. The fiscal responsibility of HB3 falls to GISD, so we must balance the cost, benefit, and need of our schools to determine the order of deployment.

Campaign Website: smith4gisd.com

# PLACE 7

# Stacy McLaughlin

Unopposed

# SAVE TIME—USE OUR INTERACTIVE VOTERS GUIDE

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

#### **PROPOSITIONS**

# PROPOSITION A **Background**

The Georgetown ISD School Board unanimously called for a \$649,510,000 bond election on May 4, 2024. The bond is broken into four propositions. Prop A addresses growth, aging facilities, and safety in the district. By state law bond money for technology, Fine Arts, and Athletics is listed separately.

Superintendent Devin Padavil said, "...we're probably at one of the most critical points in the future of Georgetown ISD as a school district."

Georgetown's rapid growth is the reason for the bond proposal. In the last five years, GISD has grown by nearly 14%. Enrollment projections estimate an additional 6,000 students by the school year 2027-2028. Currently, six campuses in the district are projected to be at or near capacity in 2027-2028. Since 2021 enrollment in Fine Arts has increased 33% and enrollment in Athletics has increased 38%.

An 80-member Citizen's Advisory Committee met monthly in the fall of 2023. The committee studied and prioritized the need for renovated or new facilities. The CAC cut \$30 million of lower priority projects to limit the tax impact. Community surveys in December showed support for a 1-cent property tax rate increase which would net \$650 million.

Over the past few years, property tax rates in the district have declined more than 36 cents. The proposed tax increase is 1 cent or less per \$100 valuation. For the average GISD homeowner, a 1cent tax rate increase will result in an anticipated \$2.77 a month. Because the district has a rapidly growing tax base and strong financial position the 1-cent tax rate increase is deemed sufficient and could even be less.

Further details about school finances and budgeting and the Homestead and over-65 exemption is explained in more detail on the GISD website: georgetownisdbond.org

#### **Ballot Language**

The issuance of \$597,470,000 in bonds for school facilities, the purchase of school security technology, the purchase of necessary sites for school facilities, and the purchase of school buses and the levy of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds. This is a property tax increase.

#### **Explanation**

### What this means:

This proposition includes the construction of three new schools (an elementary school, a middle school and a comprehensive high school). Also included is reconfiguration of a middle school to become the new Frost Elementary.

The proposition provides funding for the renovation and expansion of Fine Arts and Athletic classrooms to accommodate growing enrollment in these programs.

Prop A funds the installation of safety and security infrastructure, purchase of new buses and land for future growth, repairs and maintenance at various district campuses.

If Prop A passes: Georgetown ISD will keep pace with bal-

looning enrollment at a level comparable to peer school districts. All district campuses will be brought up to a similar level of facilities and maintenance.

If Prop A fails: Overcrowding on campuses will lead to the need for portable classrooms which are inferior and deplete operating budgets. Commute times for buses and students will increase. Building supplies and costs will increase. Land acquisition will become more expensive due to increasing costs and decreasing availability.

# **PROPOSITION B**

### **Background**

The Georgetown ISD School Board unanimously called for a \$649,510,000 bond election on May 4, 2024. The bond is broken into four propositions. Prop A addresses growth, aging facilities, and safety in the district. By state law bond money for technology, Fine Arts, and Athletics is listed separately.

Superintendent Devin Padavil said, "...we're probably at one of the most critical points in the future of Georgetown ISD as a school district."

Georgetown's rapid growth is the reason for the bond proposal. In the last five years, GISD has grown by nearly 14%. Enrollment projections estimate an additional 6,000 students by the school year 2027-2028. Currently, six campuses in the district are projected to be at or near capacity in 2027-2028. Since 2021 enrollment in Fine Arts has increased 33% and enrollment in Athletics has increased 38%.

An 80-member Citizen's Advisory Committee met monthly in the fall of 2023. The committee studied and prioritized the need for renovated or new facilities. The CAC cut \$30 million of lower priority projects to limit the tax impact. Community surveys in December showed support for a 1-cent property tax rate increase which would net \$650 million.

Over the past few years, property tax rates in the district have declined more than 36 cents. The proposed tax increase is 1 cent or less per \$100 valuation. For the average GISD homeowner, a 1-cent tax rate increase will result in an anticipated \$2.77 a month. Because the district has a rapidly growing tax base and strong financial position the 1-cent tax rate increase is deemed sufficient and could even be less.

Further details about school finances and budgeting and the Homestead and over-65 exemption is explained in more detail on the GISD website: georgetownisdbond.org

#### **Ballot Language**

The issuance of \$20,330,000 in bonds for district-wide school technology and the levy of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds. This is a property tax increase.

#### **Explanation**

#### What this means:

This proposition provides funds to replace aging tablet devices for students and staff and additional devices to accommodate growing student enrollment.

#### PROPOSITION B (continued)

The proposition replaces and upgrades technology infrastructure, including a phone gateway, data center, firewall and electronics.

Aging or broken technology used for classroom instruction and business operations can also be replaced.

If Prop B Passes: The district's goal to integrate, grow and maintain technology will be funded. Georgetown ISD will have parity in technology with peer school districts.

If Prop B Fails: The district's goal to integrate technology in both the classroom and administration will be under-resourced. The district will fall behind peer school districts in technology infrastructure, use, and devices.

# **PROPOSITION C Background**

The Georgetown ISD School Board unanimously called for a \$649,510,000 bond election on May 4, 2024. The bond is broken into four propositions. Prop A addresses growth, aging facilities, and safety in the district. By state law bond money for technology, Fine Arts, and Athletics is listed separately.

Superintendent Devin Padavil said, "...we're probably at one of the most critical points in the future of Georgetown ISD as a school district."

Georgetown's rapid growth is the reason for the bond proposal. In the last five years, GISD has grown by nearly 14%. Enrollment projections estimate an additional 6,000 students by the school year 2027-2028. Currently, six campuses in the district are projected to be at or near capacity in 2027-2028. Since 2021 enrollment in Fine Arts has increased 33% and enrollment in Athletics has increased 38%.

An 80-member Citizen's Advisory Committee met monthly in the fall of 2023. The committee studied and prioritized the need for renovated or new facilities. The CAC cut \$30 million of lower priority projects to limit the tax impact. Community surveys in December showed support for a 1-cent property tax rate increase which would net \$650 million.

Over the past few years, property tax rates in the district have declined more than 36 cents. The proposed tax increase is 1 cent or less per \$100 valuation. For the average GISD homeowner, a 1-cent tax rate increase will result in an anticipated \$2.77 a month. Because the district has a rapidly growing tax base and strong financial position the 1-cent tax rate increase is deemed sufficient and could even be less.

Further details about school finances and budgeting and the Homestead and over-65 exemption is explained in more detail on the GISD website: georgetownisdbond.org

#### **Ballot Language**

The issuance of \$27,850,000 in bonds for district performing arts facilities and the levy of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds. This is a property tax increase.

#### **Explanation**

### What this means:

The proposition addresses conditions at Klett Performing Arts facility at GHS, now over twenty years old. Voters rejected a

2021 Bond to renovate and improve Klett Performing Arts Center. The need to fix the aging facility continues to increase.

Construction of a performing arts facility at East View High School is also included.

This proposition also includes funding for new uniforms and equipment. Enrollment in Fine Arts has increased 33% since 2021.

If Prop C passes: The district will meet the increased demand for performance space. Both high school campuses will have comparable facilities and will be better able to serve evolving and growing programs throughout the district and community.

If Prop C fails: Deterioration of Klett Performing Arts Center will continue to increase. Growing demand for performance space across the district and community will not be met. Construction and maintenance costs will increase.

#### PROPOSITION D

#### Background

The Georgetown ISD School Board unanimously called for a \$649,510,000 bond election on May 4, 2024. The bond is broken into four propositions. Prop A addresses growth, aging facilities, and safety in the district. By state law bond money for technology, Fine Arts, and Athletics is listed separately.

Superintendent Devin Padavil said, "...we're probably at one of the most critical points in the future of Georgetown ISD as a school district."

Georgetown's rapid growth is the reason for the bond proposal. In the last five years, GISD has grown by nearly 14%. Enrollment projections estimate an additional 6,000 students by the school year 2027-2028.

Currently, six campuses in the district are projected to be at or near capacity in 2027-2028. Since 2021 enrollment in Fine Arts has increased 33% and enrollment in Athletics has increased 38%.

An 80-member Citizen's Advisory Committee met monthly in the fall of 2023. The committee studied and prioritized the need for renovated or new facilities. The CAC cut \$30 million of lower priority projects to limit the tax impact. Community surveys in December showed support for a 1-cent property tax rate increase which would net \$650 million.

Over the past few years, property tax rates in the district have declined more than 36 cents. The proposed tax increase is 1 cent or less per \$100 valuation. For the average GISD homeowner, a 1-cent tax rate increase will result in an anticipated \$2.77 a month. Because the district has a rapidly growing tax base and strong financial position the 1-cent tax rate increase is deemed sufficient and could even be less.

Further details about school finances and budgeting and the Homestead and over-65 exemption is explained in more detail on the GISD website: georgetownisdbond.org

#### **Ballot Language**

The issuance of \$3,860,000 in bonds for district athletic facilities and the levy of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds. This is a property tax increase.

#### PROPOSITION D (continued)

### **Explanation**

#### What this means:

This proposition funds repair of the track at Georgetown High

The proposition also covers the expansion the East View High

School field house and locker rooms. Enrollment in athletics has increased by 38% since 2021.

If Prop D passes: Overcrowding and safety issues will be resolved.

If Prop D fails: Overcrowding at EVHS will create safety and scheduling issues for the growing number of student athletes. Track repairs left undone are a safety issue. Construction costs will increase.

# **HUTTO ISD**

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

2 at-large seats; choose 0, 1, or 2

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

Teacher Retention: How would you attract and retain teachers?

**Student Outcomes:** What would you do to improve academic, social, and mental health outcomes for all students?

Parental Input: What is your position regarding parental input in book selection in school libraries?

**School Safety:** How will you implement the state mandates for safety on school campuses?



# **Amanda Barron**

Qualifications: I have 15 years in public education, 13 years in the classroom, 2 years leading and coaching teachers at multiple campuses, and I served on multiple education committees.

Teacher Retention: Teachers need and want quality professional learning opportunities, strong support systems, and transparent communication. They have a profound impact on our students' lives so investing in their growth, well-being, and recognizing their contributions will foster loyalty and job satisfaction. At the state level, I will advocate for more funding for teacher pay raises and health insurance.

Student Outcomes: My focus is to foster a strong sense of community. A collaborative environment strengthens the overall climate of the district. Advocating for training, research-based curriculum/resources, and consistent support to ALL staff members allows relationships to be built with students that will nurture their overall well-being and success. After all, it truly does take a village to support a child.

Parental Input: I think it's important to trust librarians when it comes to picking books. They know how to choose ones that help us think critically and learn new things. They're like the superheroes of our reading world! Parent involvement at home complements this, ensuring alignment with family values.

School Safety: Hutto ISD meets and exceeds many of the state

requirements for school safety. Currently we are having to fund much of this without enough state funding. My focus is advocating for increased state funding and grants so our district can continue to implement all of their exceptional safety measures and add more officers. Securing a learning environment for all is a top priority.

Campaign Website: bit.ly/Barron4Hutto



**Amy English** 

**Qualifications:** • Hutto ISD Trustee for 3 years • Texas Association of School Board Master Trustee • State and Federal Advocate for teachers and students • leadership positions on several boards & commissions

**Teacher Retention:** I voted for the new Teacher Apprenticeship Program, which is a pathway for aspiring educators where they earn income, gain classroom experience, and earn a teaching degree tuition-free. Losing experienced teachers has a direct impact on student outcomes. I continually advocate for higher teacher compensation, better teaching conditions, while providing more growth opportunities and autonomy.

**Student Outcomes:** I support the use of social and emotional learning. SEL is a foundation to fix many of our pressing priorities: it helps students learn and practice skills that set them up for academic success, fulfilling careers, healthy relationships, and to become responsible citizens. By prioritizing mental health, student outcomes will improve.

Parental Input: Parents have the right to control what books their children read, but they don't have the right to restrict or infringe upon the rights of other parent's book choices for their children. The book vetting process within Hutto ISD makes every attempt to provide age-appropriate reading resources to children of the district that both facilitates and enhances the learning and reading needs of all.

School Safety: Students should always feel safe at school. A secure campus is vital to student focus, reduced anxiety, and peace of mind. The state didn't provide adequate funding for the mandates that were handed down to assist with implementation. As a trustee, I supported the hiring of an SRO for every campus, along with the creation of a training program to build a pipeline for the new positions.

Campaign Website: www.amyenglishforhutto.com

# **HUTTO ISD**

# **BOARD OF TRUSTEES (continued)**



#### Zenaida Martinez

**Qualifications:** My training and experience includes working in advocacy, leadership, & board member experience, My expertise is in empowering families to advocate for themselves in school and health environments.

Teacher Retention: Besides financial incentives, I would work on a couple 1. Promote self-care by encouraging decompression and reset. 2. Incorporate feedback from teachers on how they want to be appreciated as it will empower them to stay invested in their jobs. Districts can create a supportive and fulfilling environment that enhances teacher morale and ultimately benefits student learning outcomes.

**Student Outcomes:** Just to name a few, but I would work on ways to enhance support services, strengthen family and community engagement. By implementing these strategies and fostering a holistic approach to education, schools can create an environment where all students have the opportunity to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

**Parental Input:** My position emphasizes the importance of adopting a flexible and inclusive approach to address concerns about book selection in school libraries. By adopting various approaches, you aim to strike a balance between respecting parental input and ensuring that library collections reflect a diverse range of perspectives to support students' academic and intellectual development.

**School Safety:** I'd support the requirements set by the state and being transparent and open about what it translates to in a way parents and the community understands. Everyone needs to understand the requirements. I would like to see that we implement a safety task force, such as the SHAC, to address these issues and follow up on reports so parents are assured we take safety very

Campaign Website: www.zenaidam.com



James Matlock

Qualifications: I hold finance/accounting degrees and public finance experience. I am on many boards and committees where I hold leadership positions. I am an advocate for special needs and the Hutto ISD community.

Teacher Retention: To attract and retain teachers, we must rebuild the pipeline and support programs like the Hutto Apprenticeship Program to bolster teacher retention. We must also emphasize professional development and career growth and foster a culture of appreciation by listening to concerns, prioritizing work-life balance, and creating policies that support teachers and staff.

**Student Outcomes:** Students thrive in environments where they feel a sense of belonging and respect. I advocate for diverse programs that provide a sense of community for students. Programs like FFA, fine arts, athletics, Special Olympics, and STEM enrich the student experience in Hutto ISD. Moreover, it's vital to cultivate a positive school climate through anti-bullying efforts and robust student support programs.

Parental Input: Parents play a pivotal role in their students' education. The district has professional librarians and procedures to ensure that books are appropriate and used as instructional resources, and parents can challenge library resources when requested. This collaborative approach allows for a balance between academic freedom and parental concerns while respecting parents' values.

**School Safety:** Safety is key; students cannot learn if they don't feel safe. My approach would focus on ensuring a safe and secure learning environment for students, staff, and visitors while being mindful of budgetary constraints and community needs. Collaboration, communication, training, and prudent financial management would be central to effectively implementing state mandates on Hutto ISD school campuses.

Campaign Website: MatlockforHuttoISD.com



#### **Ashley Rendon**

Qualifications: I've served on district committees and have worked at the executive level to manage people, projects, and workflow. I'm open-minded and easygoing, objective and analytical.

Teacher Retention: The Hutto ISD teacher apprenticeship program is innovative and I think it will serve the district well. We should expand professional development opportunities and provide further program support.

**Student Outcomes:** As a Board we should expand training opportunities to equip staff with more tools to provide forwardthinking strategies to inspire early intervention, student support, and accessible resources to families.

Parental Input: I think it's important to keep families and the community involved in learning. It's also important to hire qualified staff that will ensure our students are exposed to appropriate materials.

**School Safety:** We should focus on the mental health and safety of our students and staff, look for creative solutions to funding issues and apply for grants, and advocate for increased support from the state.

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id =61556529720979

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# LAKE TRAVIS ISD

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

Teacher Retention: How would you attract and retain teachers?

**Student Outcomes:** What would you do to improve academic, social, and emotional outcomes for all students?

Parental Input: What is your position regarding parental input in book selection in school libraries?

**School Safety:** How will you implement the state mandates for physical safety on school campuses?

### PLACE 1

# **Craig Cancienne**

No response received



**Phillip Davis** 

**Qualifications:** LTISD Trustee since 2021; Associate Dean & tenured Associate Professor; 13 yrs. of classroom teaching & curriculum development; 2+ yrs. of academic administration; 14+ yrs. of corporate experience

**Teacher Retention:** First, we must partner with universities to build a pipeline of student teaching candidates and direct hires. Second, we must actively participate in job fairs to ensure we maintain a balance of new and seasoned teachers. Third, we must create a supportive culture that allows all teachers to thrive and develop. Fourth, we must actively engage in two-way dialogue with our teachers to better understand the challenges they face, so that we can employ strategies to help them. Finally, we must allocate more school funding to improve pay for teachers and invest in their success.

Student Outcomes: To improve academic outcomes for all students, we must understand the areas of opportunity for each student. Meeting every student where they are allows the district to help them achieve their academic potential. To improve social and emotional outcomes, we must create a nurturing and inclusive environment. Students thrive across these facets when they identify as an integral part of their campus.

Parental Input: Parental involvement in their child's education is extremely important to the child's success. I support parental choice for library book selection for their children. Partnering with campus librarians, parents can specify what constitutes an appropriate library choice for their children. I believe librarians should make choices for the school, and parents should make choices for their children.

**School Safety:** To implement the state mandates for physical school safety, an armed officer must be on every campus. Officers are an integral part of the campus culture, and it is important for them to build relationships with students to ensure two-way dialogue. This creates a shared sense of safety ownership with students. We must engage in safety audits and threat assessments to ensure all campuses are secure

#### PLACE 2



# **Christy Comfort**

Qualifications: Substitute teacher for 3 years, mom of two boys, PTO board member, City of Lakeway volunteer, LTYA volunteer, servant leader in church, Texas A&M Engineering grad, SMU MBA, Fortune 500 Sr. Executive.

Teacher Retention: A great education begins with a great teacher! As the daughter of two career educators, I know firsthand how hard our teachers work. Being a substitute teacher in Lake Travis the last three years I have had many conversations with dedicated teachers who share that discipline policy needs to be reviewed, updated and enforced equally. Our classrooms should be safe and calm environments where teachers can teach and students can learn in safe, bully-free environments. Student Outcomes: Lake Travis is a wonderful school district and the parents here expect a top education for their students. I would work to improve academic outcomes by making sure our limited resources are spent on programs and learning techniques that are results oriented and prepare our students for what is ahead, whether that is college, a trade school or the workforce. Parental Input: I am a supporter of parental rights and involvement. I believe our school district should have policies in place where parents and educators can be heard. Ultimately, the decision on content guidelines comes down to the Board of Trustees, per TEA. All learning materials should be age-appropriate. **School Safety:** You implement school safety mandates by having the funds necessary for the required improvements. You also accomplish this by enforcing policy consistently and making sure every student is able to learn in a bully-free environment. Campaign Website: ChristyforLT.com



**Lauren White** 

Qualifications: I have a college degree in special education, I taught in public schools for a decade, and I have served as a Lake Travis board trustee for six years. My three children attend Lake Travis schools.

**Teacher Retention:** We must urge the state to allow us to keep enough tax dollars locally to pay teachers better salaries. We must also listen to teachers and ensure that leadership supports their work. The district should consider providing an affordable housing option for staff. Research shows that teachers have the single most important impact on student achievement: we should treat them accordingly.

**Student Outcomes:** The district has made important progress in curriculum development and management. We must continue that work to ensure that every child in LTISD has access to a rigorous curriculum with the best instructional practices. The curriculum should also support students' social and emotional wellbeing, with skilled staff like counselors and social workers to support all student needs.

Parental Input: Parents have the right to monitor and guide book selection for their own children, and the district should continue to work on technology to make this easier for parents. We should

# LAKE TRAVIS ISD

#### PLACE 2

#### Lauren White (continued)

continue to rely on librarians' expertise to curate the library collections on each campus. Librarians are available on each campus to support parent concerns about childrens' reading choices. **School Safety:** Student safety is paramount. Our district has

complied with all state mandates for physical safety, and has safety procedures in place beyond the state requirements. We must remember that physical safety is intertwined with students' social and emotional well being and sense of connection to their school and staff. We must do more to combat bullying and bad behavior that endangers students.

Campaign Website: votelaurenwhite.com

# LIBERTY HILL ISD

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

Teacher Retention: How would you attract and retain teachers?

**Student Outcomes:** What would you do to improve academic, social, and mental health outcomes for all students?

Parental Input: What is your position regarding parental input in book selection in school libraries?

**School Safety:** How will you implement the state mandates for safety on school campuses?

books in question, discuss their content, and after discussion, vote on whether the content is age appropriate and fits community values.

ents and the schools can work together, on a regular basis, to read

School Safety: The school board oversees the district implementation of safety mandates and local plans. Procedures and protocols must be in place and exceed expectations. We insure legal and local requirements are met or corrected when needed. Training and communication are critical so parents, teachers, students, and community members know what to expect and how to support safety measures in play.

#### PLACE 3

# Michael Ferguson

Unopposed

#### PLACE 4



### **Kathy Major**

Qualifications: I have 37 years as a teacher and administrator, plus 6 years on the LHISD Board of Trustees. I volunteer in and for LHISD in a variety of roles. I love my community and that's why I am here.

**Teacher Retention:** Inside our district, we need to continue to collaborate with advisory groups to maintain strong expectations and develop our school calendar, benefits, and working environment to reflect the high value placed on teachers. Outside the district, it is our job to represent and stand for what is right for students and support our teachers in achieving those goals. **Student Outcomes:** Academic, social, and mental health of students begins with strong relationships with people in all areas of our community. Parents, teachers, coaches, youth sponsors, church and community group participation give students an identity and adults who know them. When adults know students, care about student success, and love them enough to reach for success, students feel safe and confident.

Parental Input: Parents should have the final word in what their child can choose in the library. It is equally important that right remains for each parent for their child. I believe that par-



#### **Sharon Yager**

Qualifications: I worked 32 years as a Sr. Admin. Asst. at a High School and a President of the classified union. I worked with the district negotiating salaries, insurance, etc. on budget

Teacher Retention: Offer competitive salaries, good working conditions, competitive Health Insurance plan.

Student Outcomes: Make a safe and secure environment for all students to achieve the best. Have classes for all types of careers because not all students go to college and they all need a chance to succeed in life.

**Parental Input:** I believe parents are very important in what their children are being exposed to. I think there should be a parent or two on a committee that would help select these books. **School Safety:** Make sure we have an officer at every campus. work on making sure that campuses are secure. Training for all on all scenarios that could arise.

# PLACE 5

# **Brandon Canady**

Unopposed



# PFLUGERVILLE ISD

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

Teacher Retention: How would you attract and retain teachers?

**Student Outcomes:** What would you do to improve academic, social, and emotional outcomes for all students?

Parental Input: What is your position regarding parental input in book selection in school libraries?

**School Safety:** How will you implement the state mandates for physical safety on school campuses?

PLACE 1 **Alex Okafor** Unopposed

PLACE 2



Melissa Lee

Qualifications: With a B.S. in Business Admin/Econ, 15+ years in finance, and 4.5 years supporting PfISD, I offer a unique blend of academic knowledge, experience, and commitment that aligns perfectly with this role.

**Teacher Retention:** Attracting and retaining teachers requires balancing budgetary constraints while maintaining competitive compensation, including insurance and retirement benefits. I propose increased social media presence to showcase teaching advantages in PfISD, targeting talented educators. Having spent a lot of time with our teachers, I believe leveraging teacher surveys to enhance non-financial benefits by prioritizing team building, appreciation, and safeguarding planning time, to name a few, is imperative. A teacher-focused culture boosts retention and positive word-of-mouth, attracting new talent.

**Student Outcomes:** Enhancing educational outcomes demands exploring alternatives to recent cuts that have impacted PfISD students over the past couple of years, and preserving access to vital programs within financial constraints. Prioritizing social and emotional well-being, I'll advocate for safeguarding fine arts access and assess the impact of counselor reductions to ensure a holistic educational approach.

Parental Input: I support a collaborative parental role in school library book selection within Federal and TEA regulations. PfISD librarians curate enriching content, and while opportunities exist for parents to provide input, censoring others' access is inappropriate. I support parents setting limits on their own child's library account, respecting personal values without infringing on others' rights.

**School Safety:** I am committed to advocating for compliance that ensures the safety of our kids. I believe to reduce the risk of unintended accidents, we must only entrust these roles to highly qualified, well-trained officers. Despite limited state funding, responsible resource allocation is crucial for safe implementation of HB3. The safety of our students within state mandates remains non-negotiable.

Campaign Website: tinyurl.com/5bvfpdss



#### **Charlie Torres**

**Qualifications:** 35+ years volunteering in public schools 12 years Gregory-Portland ISD Trustee (two as VP), PfISD volunteer 15 years, PTO President-Highland Park ES, District committee's member, PEF President

Teacher Retention: Higher compensation. Teachers teach because they love educating kids, but to attract and retain the best teachers in PFISD, pay must be raised. Advocacy at the State House is a given; however, it does not end there. There must be a commitment from the Board of Trustees. Mental health intervention for educators and students. I'll be an advocate for legislation to fund mental health supports for educators and students. I'll be an advocate to increased State Funding, for higher teacher/staff salaries but also programs, that help educators take students to their full potential. Advocate for SPED.

**Student Outcomes:** "Listening" is essential in service to our teachers and to our students. I propose quarterly public Pfocus Group meetings with the Superintendent to discuss current challenges and opportunities for students. Strong advocate for mental health supports, additional certified social workers, Funding through grants. Focus on enhancing and enriching education in the classroom.

Parental Input: PFISD educators and administrators are highly educated and qualified individuals. Speaking as someone who has been involved 15+ years at several PFISD campuses, I trust the existing District process for reviewing books and materials that parents may question. My energies will be directed toward school funding, student safety, learning gaps, supporting our educators, growing our SPED department.

School Safety: The Guardian Plan, is an unfunded mandate, is not the proper way to protect our PFISD schools and students. The best way to protect our students while complying with the state mandate is to create and fund a fully-staffed police department for PFISD schools at a cost of ~\$3 million dollars. Police officers are highly trained, qualified experts in safety, security and emergency response.

# **AVAILABLE IN THREE ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES!**

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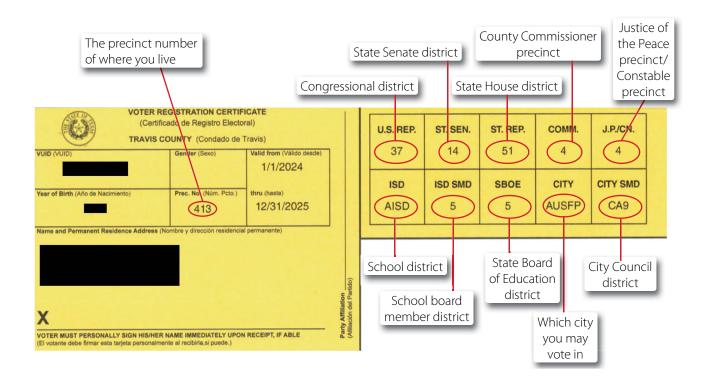
# **TAYLOR ISD**

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

AT-LARGE DISTRICT 2

Todd GratehouseMarilyn TennillAnita VolekNo response receivedNo response receivedUnopposed

# VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE/CARD



The Voter Registration Certificate/Card provides the district numbers for each race, or you may go to **VOTE411.org**, **VoteTravis.com**, or **Wilco.org/elections** to receive the list of all candidates you will consider. All citizens wishing to vote must be on the official list of registered voters in their county of residence and provide ID.



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