This Voters Guide is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund and the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area Education Fund. For more than 95 years, helping voters cast an informed vote when they go to the polls has been the primary goal of the League of Women Voters. As a non-partisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, the League believes that all of us are stakeholders in making democracy work. Neither the League nor the Education Fund supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

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The Austin American-Statesman has partnered with the League of Women Voters on this guide to the May primary elections.

Using content gathered from candidates by the League, the Statesman designed and published the guide.

In addition to being carried in the Sunday, February 14, Statesman, several thousand copies will be distributed by the League at various locations, and both the League and the Statesman will provide the content on their websites, statesman.com and lwvaustin.com.

Additional information can be accessed at www.VOTE611.org.

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**Voting in the Texas primaries**

When you vote in a political party’s primary, you become affiliated with that party for the next two years. At the time you vote, your voting certificate will be stamped with the name of the party in whose primary you vote. You may vote in only one party’s primary. If there is a runoff, you may vote only in the same party’s runoff election. (Note that in the General Election in November, voters may vote for any candidate they wish, regardless of whether they voted in a party primary or runoff or participated in a party convention. All candidates from all parties are on the same ballot.)

Only party members can participate in the precinct, county, senatorial district, and state conventions of a particular party.

Proof of party affiliation (your stamped voting certificate) is needed for admission to a party’s convention. Parties other than those whose candidates are listed in this Voters Guide are not holding primary elections; instead, their candidates are nominated and selected in their precinct, county, and state conventions.

Party precinct conventions are the first step in the process that adopts the state party platform; certifies the party’s nominees for state office in general elections; selects delegates to the party’s county or senatorial district, and the state and national conventions; nominates presidential electors; elects national party committee members; and writes the national party platform.

On election day, eligible Travis County and Williamson County voters may vote at any voting location. You may bring this Voters Guide into the voting booth.

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**What to take to the polls**

- Voter Registration Certificate
- State Senate district
- State House district
- Congressional district
- County Commissioner precinct
- Justice of the Peace precinct/Constable precinct
- State Board of Education Districts
- District 5
- Includes Hays County, Caldwell County, and northern portion of Travis County
- District 10
- Includes northern portion of Travis County, Williamson County, and Bastrop County

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**Texas requires voters to show photo ID**

Texas now requires voters to show an acceptable photo ID at the polls. The only acceptable photo IDs are:

- Drivers license
- Personal identification card issued by DPS
- Concealed hangun license
- Election Identification Certificate

**Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)**

- Drivers license
- Personal identification card issued by DPS
- Concealed handgun license
- Election Identification Certificate

**U.S. government-issued photo IDs**

- United States passport
- Military identification card
- Citizenship certificate or naturalization certificate with photograph

**These photo IDs are not acceptable at the polls:**

- Student IDs
- Employer IDs
- Out-of-state driver licenses

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- Kara Hall
- Harriett Harrow
- Melissa Jones
- Frances McIntyre
- Nancy Neavel
- Anita Privett
- Joanne Richards
- Gwendolyn Santiago
- Sally Wittliff

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U.S. Congressional races

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

Question 1: What specific actions would you take to facilitate your vision for managing government spending?

Answer 1: I would definitely prioritize governmental spending that would truly reflect consideration for the needs of citizens within the 10th District of Texas and throughout the nation. I would review all aspects of the budget and eliminate wasteful spending thus protecting citizen’s tax dollars.

Answer 2: I do support comprehensive immigration reform. The United States is a country that others around the world admire due to the freedoms and opportunities that are present. As with any other aspect of life, when we see a need, we often respond. In the case of refugees regardless of their origin, it is important that in the midst of identifying and attempting to meet needs, the safeguards are in place. The United States reflects citizens naturally born and millions from other parts of the world. Due to the fact that there are some that desire to do us harm, strict, streamline reform is necessary.

Answer 3: A healthy economy indeed strengthens a country. In order for the United States to truly be at its best, we must thoroughly address the economy including minimum wage, infrastructure and its impact, and equal pay. Enhanced infrastructure is necessary in order to compete economically. Those surviving on minimum wage are not living, they are merely surviving. We must address this issue. With no hesitation I support equal pay for equal work. Women are leaders in the home, community, and family. Women deserve to be fairly paid based on their skill and not not underpaid because of their gender.

Answer 4: Voting represents a citizen’s voice at the table of decision. Voting is strength and power that should never be taken away. Citizens should recognize that any time their right to vote is threatened, those attempting to remove their rights want to remove their voice. The use of guns in the state of Texas is almost second nature. Many of us grew up in homes with guns. However in order to assure safety, background checks must be in place. Discrimination in any form is wrong. As and RN Educator, I know that all Americans deserve to have access to healthcare. Healthcare is a crucial necessity.

Answer 5: I would propose training American citizens for the jobs that would allow Americas the biggest and competitive edge here and abroad. Many jobs are outsourced to other countries, thus hurting the American economy. If American citizens are trained to fulfill jobs that are currently outsourced, not only does the American citizen become employed, but our economy grows.

Answer 6: My policy decisions will be citizens based. Education of our children is most definitely a priority. It is our responsibility to assure that our children are receiving the absolute best education. Our children will indeed lead this country very soon. We must equip them with all of the resources and opportunities that will prepare them. Protecting our seniors and veterans’ interests are priority. These are the children that have made sacrifices to secure our country. We must not give them the “your service is no longer needed” treatment. Our actions in policy must reflect our true commitment.

Tawana W. Cadien (D)

Education: Executive Masters in Public Administration-Texas Southern University; Bachelors of Science in Nursing-Prairie View A&M University

Experience: Tawana W. Cadien has serviced her community in varying facets ranging from Prcinct Chair, Community Educator to organizational boards.

www.tawanacadienforcongress.com

LOCAL RACERS

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 10

Scott B. Gallaher (D)

Education: BS Mechanical Engineering & MS Technology

Commercialization, University of Texas at Austin; MPA International Development, Harvard University

Experience: Founder, Share-Age, Inc.; Sr. Private Sector Advisor, USAID Jordan; Strategy Advisor, McKinsey; Analyst, 3M; Program Manager, Applied Materials scotgallaher.com

Answer 1: Government contracting is broken and costing the American taxpayer. There exists a separate universe of companies entirely focused on winning government contracts. I support changes to open competition in government supply including to dynamic innovative start-ups like the ones built in Austin.

Answer 2: Our fellow Texans who remain undocumented should be moved into permanent residence (green card) status immediately if they came before 2009 and have no convictions. Power laid not with the immigrant but rather Americans eager to exploit the poor. A strong boarder is important to stop repeating the exploitation of the past; but for those we lured here long ago, they are our fellow Texans and should become our fellow Americans. As to refugees, our America does not turn away orphans and mothers from war zones. Yet certainly, we must equip them with all of the resources and opportunities that will prepare them. Protecting our seniors and veterans’ interests are priority. These are the children that have made sacrifices to secure our country. We must not give them the “your service is no longer needed” treatment. Our actions in policy must reflect our true commitment.
U.S. Congressional races

Continued from Page 2

but we await your tired, your huddled masses with warm embrace.

Answer 3: America’s economic health starts and ends with the middle class. A $15 minimum wage is a living wage. Women deserve equal pay for equal work. I support expansion of social security benefits through raising of the income cap. Raising the cap enables a lower rate overall giving a payroll tax break to middle class workers. America’s infrastructure underpins the middle class. Infrastructure investment pays dividends to our economy and working Americans. Modernizing rail and road networks spurs productivity, but the biggest return comes in returning America to leadership in broadband connectivity.

Answer 4: I support redistricting commissions and elimination of voter ID requirements. I call for a reduction of the voting age to 17 so that our young practice civic participation in their final school year. Universal background checks on gun purchases are vital, but a person must be allowed to develop a background. I call for raising the minimum ownership age for handguns to 26 and a return of the assault weapons ban. I am thrilled all can participate in marriage and believe in further efforts to eliminate LGBT discrimination such as H.E.R.O. Texas should accept Medicaid expansion full stop.

Answer 5: Entrepreneurs create jobs. It’s the role of government to put wind at their backs. I propose a multi-gig broadband investment to unleash connectivity across America in the information age. I call for a step-change in teacher compensation through a $12,000 tax credit on top of current salaries with even higher-credits for graduates of highly competitive Finland-model programs. I would expand grants for accredited start-up accelerators and offer insurance and housing support to accepted entrepreneurs. Broadening access to communication, quality teachers, and entrepreneurship all create jobs.

Answer 6: I believe our drinking-age laws fail to model adult drinking behavior and driving responsibility to young Americans. I call for a multi-stakeholder review of the drinking age. A 19-year minimum drinking age with restrictions on any consumption for under-21 drivers is more consistent with societal strictions on any consumption for under-21 age. A 19-year minimum drinking age with respect for young Americans. I call for raising the minimum drinking age to 21 so that our young practice civic participation in their final school year. Universal background checks on gun purchases are vital, but a person must be allowed to develop a background. I call for raising the minimum ownership age for handguns to 26 and a return of the assault weapons ban. I am thrilled all can participate in marriage and believe in further efforts to eliminate LGBT discrimination such as H.E.R.O. Texas should accept Medicaid expansion full stop.

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U.S. Congressional races

Continued from Page 3

Commercial Lending Energy; Fighting to protect taxpayers in Austin by running for Mayor

www.toddphelpsforcongress.com

Answer 1: Demand and support A Balanced Budget Amendment.

Answer 2: I support establishing criminalization and prosecution for those here illegally, that refuse to return home. I will propose and support new and expanded criminalizing of illegal aliens as well as deportation with full cooperation with ICE. When we start to prosecute and enforce laws, those here illegally that do not respect our laws will head home. The situation is at epidemic proportion and talk of amnesty which I would never support only causes people to be trafficked here and risk death and injury. Enforcement is better for us and better for anyone wanting to live in the U.S.

Answer 3: Focus on expanding industry/industrial jobs and working class job infrastructure in addition to High Tech, so that people who do not have advanced education can obtain meaningful wages that actually allow them to support themselves.

Answer 4: I will defend the Second Amendment relentlessly as well as individual liberty for all people regardless of background or gender.

Answer 5: Demand that any existing programs to stimulate jobs focus on the working class and lower income sectors as well so that people can support themselves.

Answer 6: I believe government overreach is out of control and public trust of our leaders is at an all time low. I will listen to the people and let them know I respect their privacy, their liberty and their beliefs.

Lamar Smith (R)

Education: Yale University, B.A.; Southern Methodist University, J.D.


www.texansforlamar smith.com

Answer 1: A balanced budget is a recipe for economic success. A government that lives within its means will lead to higher wages, lower unemployment rates, and greater economic growth. I have consistently co-sponsored balanced federal budgets as well as a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution.

Answer 2: America has the most generous immigration system in the world, admitting one million legal immigrants each year. That is more than all other countries combined. And that generosity should continue. In addition, the United States has humanitarian programs to admit those who are persecuted in their own countries because of their religion, political views, or ethnic backgrounds. We need to secure the border and enforce our current immigration laws.

Answer 3: It is my responsibility as a Member of Congress to ensure that businesses have the tools to succeed in today’s economy, particularly the nearly 28 million small businesses in America. Hardworking Americans deserve good wages. I believe the best solution for ensuring higher wages is a government that empowers job creators and innovators to succeed. This economic success will in turn produce higher wages and more take-home pay. We must make the necessary investment in our critical transportation infrastructure to maintain, improve, and construct new roads.

Answer 4: Voting is a fundamental right of all Americans and all Americans should be encouraged to exercise this right. I will protect the rights of all law-abiding citizens under the Second Amendment and oppose any new restrictions on gun ownership. Every American deserves access to quality healthcare. It is my view that the private sector is better equipped to deliver healthcare in America than the federal government. Private sector solutions such as health savings accounts and portable insurance plans are sustainable solutions to ensure coverage of all Americans.

Answer 5: Economic prosperity and job growth can be accomplished through policy solutions that empower the private sector. Eliminating unnecessary and costly regulations, lowering taxes, and balancing the federal budget would create jobs and help the economy.

Answer 6: We must continue to ensure that the United States works to reduce its national debt and gets its fiscal house in order. I will continue to co-sponsor and support legislation that balances the budget and reduces spending.

Tejas Vakil (D)

Education: MS, Computer Science, Illinois Inst of Technology, Chicago; MBA, Marketing & MIS, Uni of Iowa; BS, Chemical Engg, Uni of Madras, India

Experience: 35+ years in technology business as large company executive & entrepreneur; Co-owner of commercial real estate company.

www.tejasforcongress.com

Answer 1: Reduce taxes on businesses & individuals. Institute a consumption tax until national debt is down to 25% of GDP. Set steady-state defense spending at 4% of GDP. Increase spending on infrastructure. Show political will and eliminate government programs that are inefficient or don’t work.

Answer 2: I support comprehensive reform that provides border security against illegal immigrants & potential terrorists, while allowing in skilled legal immigrants. I would provide a path to legal status to the 11 million illegals already in the country, assuming they have no criminal record. We need a guest-worker program, with e-Verify and security checks, for seasonal work. The US has a moral responsibility to accept refugees fleeing war & persecution, especially from wars that we influenced in some way. All refugees have to go through stringent security checks.

Answer 3: We need to reduce the national debt and free up monies to invest in infrastructure, domestic programs, and security. To do this, I will reduce taxes to spur growth while introducing a consumption tax to pay down the debt. I support the Earned Income Tax Credit, in lieu of increasing the minimum wage. It encourages & rewards work as well as offsets federal payroll and income taxes. Infrastructure spending in the US (transportation, communications, etc.) needs to increase to ensure that the nation remains competitive in the global market. I strongly support equal pay for equal work for women.

Answer 4: Voting: increase voter turnout by extending early voting and removing stringent ID requirements. Guns: I support the 2nd amendment and ownership of guns. But I oppose Open Carry and high-capacity cartridges. I also am for comprehensive background checks. Sexual discrimination: I oppose discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. I support Gay Marriage. Healthcare: we need to reduce healthcare costs; the ACA needs to be fixed not repealed; allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices; increase competition by having hospitals & doctors publish their prices for all to see and compare.

Answer 5: Job growth will come from incentivizing corporations and small businesses to invest in new plants and services, and from innovation. We can enable this economic investment via tax cuts for both businesses & individuals. Businesses: lower corporate tax to 20%; eliminate tax on future foreign earnings; current foreign earnings can be repatriated at a 5% tax. Eliminate corporate subsidies & tax loopholes. Individuals: simplify tax code to 2 tiers: 15% & 22%; tax capital gains as ordinary income. Both of these proposals will free up significant capital, spur innovation, & create jobs.

Answer 6: I believe that there is a Sensible Center in this country that: wants fiscal responsibility in the government that curbs the national debt, and drives jobs and economic growth; understands that there are many government programs—defense, homeland security, the FDA, the NTSB, Medicare/Medicaid that genuinely help the citizens and must be preserved; is for an assertive but responsible foreign policy that promotes the American values of individual and economic freedom; desires a practical immigration policy. It is time for this Sensible Center to raise its voice and its influence.

Tom Wakely (D)

Education: Alamo Heights High School; Loretto Heights College Chicago; Theological Seminary.

Experience: I am not a politician. Though I was elected to the Lake Geneva Wisconsin High School School Board over 20 yrs. ago. I am a hospice caregiver.

www.wakely2016.com

Answer 1: I believe we must start with zero-based budgeting. Every department of government would need to start from zero then build their budget from there. This would force all departments to fully explain and justify all existing programs and staffing.

Answer 2: We need to bring the millions of undocumented workers out of the shadow economy. I support permanent residence status for any undocumented worker who has lived in the US continually for 5 years. A path to citizenship would follow. I believe the US should continue accepting refugees under current guidelines. I worked with many Bosnian Muslim refugees after the war as they resettled in the Austin area. The process took years for them to be vetted before being allowed to enter the country. The process worked then and it still works today. It is by far the most difficult way to enter the US.

Answer 3: My wife & I run a small business — a VA Medical Foster Home and Hospice — and I know how important it is to control costs. That said, I support an increase in the minimum wage to $15.00 an hour because it is the right thing to do. Women make 82 cents for every dollar men make doing the exact same job. I believe this wage gap is wrong and would support any legislation to help women secure equal pay. Our roads, bridges, dams, and more are in need of immediate repair. I support a modern day version of the 1930’s Work Progress Administration to create jobs and rebuild America.

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Continued from Page 4

Answer 4: I do not support the Texas Voter ID law. I do support same day voter registration. I believe in the 2nd Amendment and the right of Texans to own guns but I also believe we need to draw the line on the type of guns that can be owned. I support the reinstatement of Federal Assault Weapons Ban and closing the gun-show loophole. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in Texas face legal challenges and discrimination not faced by other people. I support same sex marriage and the efforts of cities and towns throughout our state to pass non-discrimination ordinances.

Answer 5: Climate Change is an Economic Disaster waiting to happen. If our policymakers and business leaders don’t act aggressively to adapt to the changing climate our nation’s & our state’s economy will be hard hit. Transitioning toward a completely nuclear-free, fossil fuel free clean energy system for electricity, heating, and transportation is not only possible and affordable it will create millions of good jobs. Texas can and should become the nation’s leader in clean energy just as it once was the world’s energy leader when oil & natural gas were king.

Answer 6: Global climate change will have wide-ranging implications for U.S. national security interests over the foreseeable future because it will aggravate existing problems such as poverty, social tensions, environmental degradation, ineffectual leadership, and weak political institutions that threaten domestic stability in a number of countries. It is the growing driver of global migration like the Syrian exodus into Europe. Climate change is also a growing public health risk. Both of these risks can be and should be immediately addressed by Congress.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 25

Kathi Thomas (D)       Unopposed

Roger Williams (R)     Unopposed

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 27

Gregg Deeb (R)         Education: BS, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering; Illinois Institute of Technology
Ma: Defense Management, American Military University.

Experience: United States Marine Corps (20 years); retired LtCol; Orion Drilling Company; Vice President Tactus MD; Chief Operating Officer Volтарус Consulting, Own. electgregdeeb.com

Answer 1: Realign the planning process. Initiate a debate on the actual “needs” of the US, with strict reference to the US Constitution. Eliminate those agencies and programs that do not fall under Constitutional guidance. Reduce or eliminate entitlement programs. Reduce foreign aid.

Answer 2: No. Enforce existing immigration laws. Eliminate entitlement programs to illegal immigrants, to minimize their will to want to enter the US. The US should not accept any refugees from any country, until that individual refugee has been properly vetted by competent US authorities. The US cannot afford to let potential terrorists enter the US unwittingly.

Answer 3: Repeal Dodd-Frank. Enact fair and equitable trade practices. Simplify the tax code. Eliminate wasteful spending and excessive federal regulations. I do not support raising the minimum wage. Free market principles of supply and demand apply. If employers desire to retain good employees, they will naturally increase wages. If employees desire to have increased wages, one must work hard to achieve that goal.

Answer 4: Identification should be required in order to vote.

I support the Second Amendment as envisioned by our founding fathers - that the right to bear arms is about ensuring that citizens have the ability to protect and defend themselves against a tyrannical government. I am opposed to discrimination. I support free market healthcare principles.

Answer 5: Eliminate long-term entitlements. Take citizens off the entitlement programs, and they will seek employment. This will reduce the burden on working class families.

Answer 6: National Security, including border security. Debate the use of force, and a strategy that utilizes all instruments of power available, not just military power. Economic growth, for reasons stated above. Reestablish a Constitutional Government - elect leaders to replace current followers in office, restore consent of the people, return legislative power to the Congress, restore Christian values - leaders in office stand up proudly regarding religious beliefs, pro-life, defense of marriage, Care for Veterans - provide adequate, timely care for veterans, improve access to care.

Blake Farenthold (R)    Education: B.S University of Texas, JD Saint Mary’s University School of Law

Experience: Attorney, Small Business Owner, Radio Talk Show Host, Member of Congress

Answer 1: We are spending our grandchildren’s money and it must stop. That means we must cut wasteful spending, reform our entitlement system, fix our tax code and most importantly grow the economy. As our economy grows people pay more in taxes because they are earning more.

Answer 2: While I agree we need to address our broken immigration system, we currently have over 11 million illegal immigrants living in the US, first we must insure our Borders are secure. We are a nation of immigrants and legal immigration has made this country great, but it must be done legally. I’m concerned with accepting refugees unless we can be assured they don’t want to do us harm. That’s why I am a cosponsor of H.R. 3573, that prohibits new refugees being admitted until Congress approves that new refugees undergo proper security screening to ensure ISIS stays out of the United States.

Answer 3: We need to get the government out of the way so our business community can thrive. This includes repealing Obamacare, Tax reform, and ending unreasonable regulations from the alphabet soup of federal agencies. I believe the minimum wage is a starting wage and those who work hard and work smart quickly start to earn much more. Increasing the minimum wage would result in many jobs being lost to automation. I believe in equal pay for equal work. We must maintain the best highway, waterway rail and air transportation in the world. These improvements must be done in a fiscally responsible manner.

Answer 4: Voting is fundamental to our republic. We must fight voter fraud with Voter ID. I believe gun control is hitting what you aim at and nothing else. I am endorsed by the NRA. To aid in combating sexual discrimination I voted to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. I have voted over 60 times to repeal and replace Obamacare and provide Americans with real affordable options. Obamacare has cost millions to lose insurance, is crippling the America economy and not helping those it was intended to help.

Answer 5: I along with my fellow conservatives have supported lifting the crude oil ban and building the Keystone XL pipeline which would immediately create thousands of jobs. We saw first hand how this can impact jobs and the Texas economy as the first tanker loaded with crude oil left the Port of Corpus Christi two weeks ago. I have supported reducing the amount of burden-some federal regulations responsible for shutting down thousands of businesses. As an example, the two hundred new regulations imposed by the administration in the last six years have cost the country over 80 billion dollars annually.

Answer 6: Keeping America Safe, Creating jobs, improving the economy, taking care of our Veterans, supporting local law enforcement and first responders, choice in education, improving healthcare for all Americans, securing our borders, fighting for life and providing services to the people I represent are some of my most important priorities. We must also return the power to the people and take power away from a bloated unaccountable executive branch. I’ll address them legislatively, in the media and working one on one with people.

Raul (Roy) Barrera (D)
Education: Robstown High School; Del Mar College Police Academy, Del Mar College Telecommunications.

Experience: Raul has worked over 35 plus years in Law Enforcement. He currently works as a Special Deputy/Court Security Officer at the Federal Court House. barreraforcongress@gmail.com

Answer 1: 1. Government spending is out of control. We don’t get much bang for our buck. The important projects such as infrastructure, roads, education, and veteran benefits are being ignored. I believe in forming a committee to oversee current expenditures and make appropriate cuts.

Answer 2: 1. To an extent, I do support comprehensive immigration reform, because it is a humane thing that we must do. But the off set would be that our nation would go broke in a matter of years for trying to up keep all these different immigrants from different countries here in the U.S. 2. The U.S. role would be to determine each individual’s situation or circumstances, such as, if the person or group are fleeing from a communist country. The U.S. needs to determine if the individuals are not affiliated with members of radical and or terrorist groups.

Answer 3: Our country’s economy is in a decline. The educational system is broken. It is difficult to find skilled tradesman. It’s time to take a hard look at economic policy and education. I would propose the following: 1. I would bring back to our high schools apprenticeship programs in welding, carpentry, plumbing, electricians, etc. 2. I would allow companies to bring their money on shore and not be taxed if used for building manufacturing facilities. 3. I would allow 5 year depreciation for construction of manufactur-
Continued from Page 5

Answer 4: I believe that every citizen should exercise their right to vote, provided that they present a valid I.D. and voters registration card. 2. I'm a firm believer of our second Amendment rights to bear arms. For the purpose of recreational hunting, self-defense and to protect property. 3. Sexual discrimination, should not be happening in our country, whether you're applying for a job or trying to advance in a position in your work place. Nobody should be discriminated upon because your a female or male.

Answer 5: 1. If Elected I would stimulate or help small business to grow, so that they have more jobs for our citizens.

2. I would implement programs and educate citizens with different kinds of programs, such as electricians, welders, auto mechanics, plumbers, etc. ... Educate the citizens just like in high school, after they successfully learn his/her trade. Present them with a certification certificate of the kind of program he or she specialized on.

Answer 6: One of my main concerns is Education, helping our Veterans, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. 1. Education is expensive nowadays that it is hard for parents $30,000 to $40,000 dollars a year to put their kids through college. My solution would be to see if we can implement free college or loans to the student’s parents at a very low interest rate. 2. Better assist our veterans that suffer from PTSD.

Ray Madrigal (D)
Education: U.S. Army Veteran – Army High School Bachelor of Science – Texas A&M Judges School – Del Mar College Nueces Cty Dispute Resolution – NY School Photography Experience: Judge, Veteran, Photographer, Barber, Construction, Boxing Promoter, Dance Hall Operator, Dispute Resolution

Answer 1: Go by the budget for each year and prevent over spending. Make sure my District get all that is budgeted for Dist. 27.

Answer 2: Yes, I would support comprehensive immigration reform. Accept as many refugees as assigned to US. But double check the criminal background.

Answer 3: The minimum wage should be increased so that a household could make a decent income to support a large family.

Answer 4: Voting should have less restriction and a large turnout. Guns should not be in hands of people with mental problems.

Answer 5: Bring back jobs from other countries, increase hourly wages.

Answer 6: The security of U.S. with more security at border crossings.

Wayne Raasch (D)
Education: Texas A&M Experience: 20 years in public education

Answer 1: However I can help the common, the middle class is shrinking, 40 people own 85 percent of the wealth, soon, only 1 person will control all the wealth, that’s how the Greek and Roman empire’s collapsed, greed

Answer 2: No response.

Answer 3: Equal pay for equal work

Answer 4: Should everyone have access to atomic bombs ? We have to draw the line somewhere, hunting rifles, shotguns, pistols, are fine.

Answer 5: No response.

Answer 6: When the $ 80 billion Koch bros control the Republican party, this is not representative democracy, there is too much money in politics.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 31

John Carter (R)

No response

Mike Sweeney (R)
Education: BS Applied Mathematics / Computer Science, Boise State University, 1973

Experience: As a hands-on CEO for 23 years; I have been in your shoes at some time in my experience of working my way from tech grunt to owning my own company.

www.mikesweeney4congress.com

Answer 1: I will not vote to increase national debt. I will promote a Balanced Budget Amendment, promote the use of zero based budgeting to examine all Federal departments. Promote the use of Block Grants to States Privatize programs, by example the disastrous Obamacare Website and $1.0 DHS website issue

Answer 2: Our current immigration policy is a disaster. I support securing and closing our borders before anything else transpires with illegal immigrants. Our current policy of open borders and not enforcing immigration laws creates the tragedies we see today for our citizens such as Kate Steinle. I strongly support legal immigration. In America, the legal definition of a refugee is specific to political asylum, not fear of danger or social unrest or economic conditions. We need to follow the law.

Answer 3: Eliminating government regulation and bureaucracy improves market conditions. Eliminate the Federal Minimum wage leaving it to the states to determine the best level of a minimum wage. The marketplace determines what jobs are worth. No human or computer program can determine or codify all of the parameters that go into a business decision. We cannot legislate corporate morality and we cannot regulate every aspect of our lives. The hammer of regulation pounds the life out of a vibrant economy. Government should leave wages alone and let wage and prices be determined by the market place.

Answer 4: Our Second Amendment right is subservient to the First. Both are Sacrosanct. Voting is a privilege granted to citizens which must be secured with State issued identification. The laws on Sexual discrimination have been codified in labor and personal preference for adults. I am vehemently opposed to efforts by the LBGT community to force little girls in our schools to accept boys in their locker rooms and showers based on the claim of transgender equality. What may be accepted as adults is not acceptable with underage children. I believe this to be no less than child abuse.

Answer 5: Small business is the backbone of our economic engine and government is stifling it. We are losing more small businesses than are being created because of regulations. Repeal Dodd Frank, Sarbanes Oxley, Obamacare and eliminate the CFPB mandates killing community banks. Eliminate Federal Taxes on earned income outside of the United States allowing $2 Trillion to be re-invested in the US. The Keystone Pipeline waits. The world runs on energy, America should be the leader in supplying all forms. The market place determines the viability of any energy source, not special interests

Answer 6: Enact the Fair Tax in lieu of the income tax to incent capital formation, investment and job creation. Special interests and crony capitalists should not burden those that do not have lobbyist on K Street or on their staff. The Fair Tax treats all equally. Healthcare should be based on a national free market system without manipulation, thus promoting the use of competitive insurance and medical pricing. Regulations that separate the patient from their doctors and their delivery systems keep medical costs high and inefficient and must be removed if not in keeping with a free market system.

Mike Clark (D)
Unopposed

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 35

Lloyd Doggett (D)
Unopposed

Susan Narvaiz (R)
Unopposed

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Texas Railroad Commission races

**Question 1:** How would you balance the environmental concerns of Big Bend residents related to construction of the Trans-Pecos natural gas pipeline with oil and gas industry interests?

**Answer 1:** As a geologist (PG. 10342) in the Groundwater Advisory Unit, I am the only candidate with Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) experience. I am a technically oriented person with no previous political experience that will analyze issues objectively, while serving no political interests.

**Education:** Bachelor of Science - Geological Sciences, 1995; Masters Program - Geological Sciences (incomplete)

**Answer 2:** There are two primary threats from ‘fracking’ activities. First, is the possibility of groundwater contamination by induced fracturing. Effective groundwater sampling programs before drilling, during well development, and after completion is the most definitive method to discern pollution issues. Additional casing and cementing may be necessary in well construction plans to prevent such issues. Second, are issues relating to induced seismicity. Those issues warrant further investigation.

**Answer 3:** The impending review by the Sunset Commission in 2016 is the most important issue that will be faced by the RRC. This review, coupled with the state of the oil & gas industry, will create a storm of scrutiny over the next year. As an employee of the RRC, I will be best suited to explain RRC functions to the legislature. Secondly, induced seismicity issues in North Texas are a concern to residents in that area. As a geologist, I am the best qualified candidate to review seismicity studies.

**Wayne Christian (R)**

**No response**

**Gary Gates (R)**

**No response**

**John Greytok (R)**

**Background:** This position is basically a judicial one. The Railroad Commission functions as a tribunal. While there is not space for my full resume, in short I am the only candidate with the legal training, knowledge and experience to do a good job from day one.

**Education:** B.A. Economics (with Honors), UT Austin J.D. (with Honors), UT Austin

www.johngreytok.com

**Answer 1:** The Railroad Commission must balance the rights of landowners and industry across Texas and not solely in regard to the Trans-Pecos pipeline. We must ensure that any development meets the proper standards and protects all Texans.

**Answer 2:** All state agencies, including the Railroad Commission must give priority to the health, safety, and welfare of all Texans. We must always be alert and open to new information about the costs and risks of industrial activities. When reliable engineering and other data are available, we should take steps to protect the health and safety of all Texans.

**Answer 3:** First, stabilize the agency by reviewing seismicity studies. This review, coupled with the state of the oil & gas industry, will create a storm of scrutiny over the next year. As an employee of the RRC, I will be best suited to explain RRC functions to the legislature. Secondly, induced seismicity issues in North Texas are a concern to residents in that area. As a geologist, I am the best qualified candidate to review seismicity studies.

**Ron Hale (R)**

**Background:** Being a licensed professional engineer and private security consultant for the Texas energy industry for the last 18 years.

**Education:** Technical School TBFAA Tomball College

ronhalefortexas.com

**Answer 1:** Everything has to be done by the standard provided by Title 16. We need to do a better job explaining the benefits to the public in the area.

**Answer 2:** There are no main health issues related to fracking. Fracking has been around for 60+ years. Think about this the drill hole is 12,000-15,000 feet deep. That’s at least 10 Empire state building stacked on top of each other.

**Answer 3:** Efficiency: Updating the technology the Texas RRC uses in day to day operations. Education: The Texas RRC needs to do a better job educating the public through partnerships with colleges and public access TV.

**Doug Jeffrey (R)**

**Background:** As an officer in the USAF I consistently found ways to save millions of taxpayer dollars. I’ll take that experience and help ensure regulations are standardized, safe and effective while always looking for ways to be more efficient.

**Education:** Texas Tech Poli Sci Duquesne Masters in Leadership and Business Ethics, Squadron Officer School Air Command and Staff College

DougJeffrey4Texas.com

**Answer 1:** As Railroad Commissioner I will make sure the oil and gas industry is doing things the right way. I want my children to enjoy Big Bend just like I did growing up in Texas.

**Answer 2:** My number one priority is for the oil and gas industry to be safe and effective. Urban areas want safe production and my goal is ensure that happens.

**Answer 3:** The price of oil is the most serious issue. If we are smart about how we run the Railroad Commission we can ensure the industry weather these challenging times. The second issue is we need to ensure we have a standardized training system to make sure standards are being met across the board.

**Weston Martinez (R)**

**Background:** My first job was Oil & Gas experience as a business owner, where I worked with Operators and land owners within the confines of the regulated oil and gas industry in the Eagle Ford Shale. 2: My 4 years experience as Texas Real Estate Commissioner. I am the grassroots tea-party conservative in this race.

**Education:** Bachelors Business Administration, Texas Certified Mediator, AT&T Electrical Engineering Program

www.westonfortexas.com

**Answer 1:** Responsible development through accountability and transparency is key to energy independence in Texas. Enforcing the many rules in place while keeping the public informed is the way to ensure public confidence and industry success which keeps our economy alive and healthy.

**Answer 2:** Ensuring integrity of water supply and safety of populations is the 2 most important issues, which would be addressed by increasing transparency while continuing to responsibly developing our resources.

**Answer 3:** We achieve the above goals by increasing technology in reporting and finding new ways to frack responsibly. This will help keep Texas moving forward. This is how we develop responsibly and economically. As Texas Railroad Commissioner I will fight for every Texan to have an Energy Independent Future. The conservative leaders across Texas are supporting me because I know the issues, I know the Process, and I know how to fight for Texas Values. Visit and share www.westonfortexas.com

**Lon Burnam (D)**

**No response**

**Cody Garrett (D)**

**No response**

**Grady Yarbrough (D)**

**No response**
Texas Supreme Court

Question 1: How do you maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns?

Question 2: The Texas Supreme Court oversees and controls rules and standards for the legal profession. What changes to the attorney disciplinary rules are needed to provide better protection to the public?

Question 3: How have you worked toward improving access to justice for all Texans and what role should the Texas Supreme Court play in ensuring access to justice?

Debra Lehmann (R)
Background: With a total of 28 years judicial experience, I have served on this Court for 6 years and have written on a vast number of complex legal matters including oil and gas, contract interpretation, commercial, corporate and securities law, tax, torts, family and probate law, civil procedure & evidence.

Education: A member of Phi Beta Kappa, I graduated with high honors from The University of Texas in 1979 and The University of Texas School of Law in 1982; I am a candidate for an L.L.M. in Judicial Studies from Duke University School of Law. judgedebralehmann.com

Answer 1: The importance of judicial independence — that is, the duty to apply the law equally and neutrally to all parties — cannot be overstated. It is imperative that judges serve with humility, that they exercise restraint, and that they fairly and neutrally apply the law equally to all litigants. I am bound by the Code of Judicial Conduct to apply these principles across the board, and never waiver in my obligation to do so.

Answer 2: I have the honor of serving as the Court’s liaison to the Board of Disciplinary Appeals and the Commission for Lawyer Discipline. In this capacity, I have devoted many hours to ensuring that complaints are handled in an efficient and just manner. The recently enacted Civility Oath is an example of the Court’s ongoing concern that lawyers conduct themselves with utmost professionalism at all times.

Answer 3: As an attorney, I provided pro bono work in a variety of areas; as a judge, I have worked on many projects to ensure that legal assistance is available to the indigent. I worked tirelessly with the State Legislature to ensure that funds are available. The Court must continue its work in this critical area because if justice is available only to those who can afford legal representation, justice is available to no one.

Michael Massengale (R)
No response

Mike Westergren (D)
Unopposed

JUSTICE, PLACE 5

Dori Contreras Garza (D)
Unopposed

Paul Green (R)
No response

Rick Green (R)
Background: Licensed mediator, former TX Legislator, author and teacher for over 15 years on the proper jurisdictions of the government as outlined in the Constitution.


Answer 1: My donors are made up mainly of grassroots supporters and not law firms who practice in front of the court. Additionally, I have a proven legislative record of not letting contributions influence my decisions and that will not change.

Answer 2: Sometimes public servants take action, just to take action, and make things worse. I’m open to learning about specific needs for changes to the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, but I am not personally advocating for specific changes at this time.

Answer 3: In addition to my practice of law for nearly 20 years, I have educated citizens about their constitutional rights and how to assert them, including within the civil courts. The Supreme Court, acting only with authority granted by the people in the Texas Constitution and via the people’s elected representatives in the legislature, should promulgate rules that provide/ensure justice, not just fairness; and decide cases with respect for and strict adherence to the state and federal constitutions.

JUSTICE, PLACE 9

Eva Guzman (R)
Background: The depth and breadth of my experience includes service at 3 levels of the Texas Judiciary. As a Supreme Court Justice, I have ruled on thousands of civil cases. I bring to my work a conservative judicial philosophy, a strong work ethic, superior credentials and a firm commitment to excellence.

Education: Duke University School of Law, L.L.M. Judicial Studies South Texas College of Law, Juris Doctor University of Houston, B.B.A. www.evaguzman.com

Answer 1: As judicial candidates, we have an obligation to inform the public about our qualifications and the issues in judicial races. Under the present system, funding for judicial races comes from many sources, including lawyers. But, importantly, the many Texans that have supported my campaign expect and ask only one thing: that I perform my duties with the dignity, honor, honesty and integrity that is expected of the office — it is a request that I am proud to uphold each and every day.

Answer 2: As a Court, we serve the public interest well when we promulgate rules and standards that protect the public and that are also fair to all stakeholders in our system of justice. The present rules are imperfect and should be revisited to address changes that may be necessary due to new technologies, 21st century practice models, and other substantive deficiencies. An effective rule-making process will include input from the public and the Bar.

Answer 3: I am the Supreme Court of Texas Liaison to the Access to Justice Commission. In that role, I have led and participated in local and national efforts to improve access to our courts by the almost 6 million Texans who live at or below the poverty level. But, even people making a modest wage cannot afford lawyers. The Court should continue to lead efforts that promote and support policies, procedures, court rules, and legislation that open the courthouse doors for all Texans, especially Veterans.

Joe Pool (R)
No response

Savannah Robinson (D)
Unopposed

Texas Court of Criminal Appeals

TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

Question 1: How do you maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns?

Question 2: Describe an accomplishment of which you are proud and how it would help make you a better justice on this court.

Question 3: Aside from the issues above, what are the two most pressing issues facing the Court in the next term, and how would you address them?

JUDGE, PLACE 2

Mary Lou Keel (R)

Education: JD, University of Houston, 1985 BA, University of Texas, 1982 www.maryloukeel.com

Answer 1: Iron discipline.

Answer 2: The Court of Criminal Appeals hears criminal cases on appeal, nothing else. Candidates for that court should demon-
**Texas Court of Criminal Appeals**

**Continued from Page 8**

strat an aptitude for that kind of work. I do. I represented the State in 279 criminal cases on appeal when I was a Harris County prose cutor. My opponents have handled criminal appeals numbering in the single digits.

**Answer 3:** (1) I would like to see the court issue its opinions more decisively, i.e., with out the need for rehearing. (2) I would like the court to issue its opinions in a more timely fashion. I would address these issues by lending my three decades of experience to the job and working hard.

**Chris Oldner (R)**

**Background:** Fearless integrity and an entire professional career committed to the improvement of the criminal justice system. I am the top rated judge in Collin County. With 15 years as a trial judge, I have never been reversed in a felony case. My statewide judicial leadership is unmatched in this race.

**Education:** Texas Tech University School of Law – Juris Doctorate, 1993 Baylor University - Bachelor of Arts, 1989 Plano East Senior High School - High School Diploma, 1985

www.chrisoldner.com

Answer 1: This is the constant tension in judicial races. The better counter-measure to the concern for bias due to political contributions is requiring full transparency in filings with the Ethics Commission that are easily searchable and thorough. In addition, I believe it is incumbent for any judge hearing a case to disclose to all parties if a significant donor represents a party before him or her. The system must not only be fair to all parties, but also be perceived as fair by all.

Answer 2: In 2007 I served as the Local Administrative Judge for all the Collin County district courts. In August of that year, we were moved from the courthouse we had occupied since 1979 into the new courthouse. The move involved several offices that serve the courts and every district court. I led a team of judges and clerks that orchestrated the complete move with less than two days of normal court operations disrupted, and maintained at least one operational court to address any emergency.

Answer 3: First, maintaining pace with scientific advancement to ensure that the rules of evidence and post-conviction remedies keep pace and attorneys are informed. Second, continuing the positive momentum and advancements in indigent defense so that counsel for the defense is not only adequately compensated, but also thoroughly trained and prepared to provide representation that meets and exceeds constitutional minimums.

**Ray Wheless (R)**

**Background:** I offer the broadest legal experience. My twenty-one years pre-judge experience trying criminal and civil cases and my AV rating placing me in the top 5% of all lawyers is unmatched. As a judge, I have disposed of over 23,000 cases, conducted over 500 jury trials and sat as an appellate judge.

**Education:** I earned my GED in the Air Force during the Vietnam War era and attended college at night. I earned a Bachelor in Business Administration at California State University and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas at Austin, Texas’ top law school. Double Board Certified, AV rated.

judgeryawheless.com

**Answer 1:** I was appointed to my first bench as a County Court at Law Judge and appointed by the Governor as a Distric Judge. I have never had an opponent. Because I didn’t have to campaign, I did not accept campaign contributions until a few years ago. I have now received contributions from a broad cross section of citizens. Most of these people are not criminal defense lawyers and will never have cases before me. I pledge that I will follow the Rule of Law and administer justice blindly.

**Answer 2:** I created the first DWI/Drug Court Program in Collin County and serve as the Chairman of the Specialized Courts Advisory Council to Governor Greg Abbott. My role is to establish best practices and recommend funding to the Governor for alternatives to incarceration such as Veterans Court Programs and Drug Court Programs. As a member of this Court, I will help to shape our criminal justice system policy and help administer State funds to train judges in these specialized courts.

**Answer 3:** 1. Statewide electronic filing of all documents in criminal cases still needs to be implemented. A hearing is scheduled in April of this year to address these issues. Provisions will have to be made to allow pro se citizens to file paper documents. 2. The Court is struggling with issues surrounding the Michael Morton Act requiring prosecutors and law enforcement to turn over all exculpatory evidence. This Court must affirm proper convictions but remain vigilant against wrongful convictions.

**Lawrence “Larry” Meyers (D)**

Unopposed

**Sid Harle (R)**

**Background:** Appointed to the 226th District Court Bench in 1988 by Gov William Clements; previously Prosecutor and Defense Attorney State and Federal Courts; I have prosecuted, defended and presided over every conceivable type of criminal case, including Death Penalty litigation; I have a proven track record.

**Education:** Austin College 1974-1975; University of Texas 1975-1978; Bachelor of Arts with Honors; St. Mary’s University School of Law – Juris Doctorate 1980 electionsidharle.com

**Answer 1:** Contributions are a necessary evil in the current system, I limit amounts, much less than the maximum under the law and respect the courts when no opponent files. Contributions are a necessary evil in the current system, I limit amounts, much less than the maximum under the law and return when no opponent files. Contributions are a necessary evil in the current system, I limit amounts, much less than the maximum under the law and return when no opponent files. Contributions are a necessary evil in the current system, I limit amounts, much less than the maximum under the law and return when no opponent files.

**Answer 2:** Appointed by Supreme Court to preside over the State of Texas vs. Michael Morton in Williamson County. It led to the discovery that Mr. Morton had served 25 years in prison but was proven actually innocent by DNA. In addition, the prosecutor withheld favorable evidence that would have exonerated Mr. Morton. The actual perpetrator committed another murder while Mr. Morton was in prison. I exonerated Mr. Morton and instituted a criminal proceeding against the prosecutor, who withheld evidence.

**Answer 3:** The current issues on problems involving forensic science, including DNA, which have led to a multitude of appeals on numerous cases. The Court must continue to protect the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and individual liberties.

**Steve Smith (R)**

**Background:** I served as a Texas Supreme Court justice and authored numerous opinions. My conservative judicial philosophy is another important qualification. My prior litigation experience includes litigating the Hopwood v. Texas case that eliminated unconstitutional racial preferences at Texas universities.

**Education:** I graduated with Honors from the University of Texas School of Law in 1986. UT Law is generally recognized as not only the best law school in Texas, but the best law school in the Southwestern United States.

www.ProvenConservative4Texas.com

**Answer 1:** I believe that state judges should continue to be elected. The core task of the judiciary is to efficiently and fairly resolve cases by applying Texas law to the facts. Direct elections make the state judiciary accountable to Texas voters, allowing them to remove judges who are inefficient, unfair, or who legislate from the bench. However, because of the inherent conflict of interest that arises, campaign contributions from attorneys to judges should be strictly limited.

**Answer 2:** I am proud of my service on the Texas Supreme Court. My judicial philosophy mirrors that of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Scalia: textualism and rejection of the liberal “living constitution” theory. When reviewing a constitutional or statutory provision, judges should enforce the plain meaning of the text. See, e.g., my majority opinion in the landmark case of Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services v. Mega Child Care, 145 S.W.3d 170 (Tex. 2004).

**Answer 3:** First Issue: Whether the death penalty is constitutional in Texas. My view is that neither the United States Constitution nor the Texas Constitution prohibit the death penalty. Others, including some Republicans, disagree. Second Issue: Whether the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals should be merged with the Texas Supreme Court. I believe that such a merger would improve the state’s jurisprudence, improve the efficiency of both courts, and make high court justices more accountable to the voters.

**Scott Walker (R)**

No response

**Brent Webster (R)**

**Background:** I’ve practiced Criminal law since 2006, and I have very diverse criminal, trial and appellate experience. I’ve handled everything from misdemeanors to murder and I’ve written appeals. I currently served as the General Counsel for the Williamson County District Attorney’s office.

**Education:** J.D., University of Houston Law Center B.A. in Political Science, Southwestern University

www.votewebster.org

**Answer 1:** I am running a grassroots campaign and have received many donations from a broad group of people. They are donating to me because they believe in me. They trust that I am Conservative and will always do the right thing. As an appellate judge, the quality of my work will be judged...
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals
Texas Court of Appeals and State Board of Education

Continued from Page 9

by the opinions that I write. Therefore, if I were to do something that is contrary to what the law requires (in a way that is not impartial), then the voters would, and should, hold me accountable for that action.

Answer 2: I am proud of how hard I fought for children that have been physically abused. I have been very successful helping multiple children get out of bad environments where their life and physical safety was at risk. I believe this will make me a better judge because, not only will I be a strong advocate for our constitutional rights, but I also have a deep and profound understanding of what victims of violent crime must live with for the rest of their lives.

Answer 3: First, there is always a high volume of cases that can result in a backlog. I am running to work hard for Texas and I will use my skills and energy to help move the caseload at the Court of Criminal Appeals. Second, I believe that our Constitutional Rights are under attack around the nation by the Government. As a Judge, I will make sure that your rights are protected, especially your 1st Amendment right to Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Religion, and your 2nd Amendment right to bear arms.

Betsy Johnson (D)
Unopposed

Richard Davis (R)
No response

Michael E. Keasler (R)
Background: 17 yrs Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, 17 yrs 292nd District Judge, 12 yrs Dallas Senior Felony Chief Prosecutor 432 jury trials, former chair State Bar Judicial Section, 7 yrs dean, Texas Judicial College, 25 yrs National Judicial College faculty, teach ethics and constitutional law nationally.

Education: B.A. University of Texas at Austin, 1964 L.L.B. University of Texas School of Law, 1967 judgkeasler.com

Answer 1: So far, since I have been on the Court, I have not taken contributions from lawyers who appear before me. Most of my contributions have come from friends and college fraternity brothers. But I sincerely believe that the overwhelming majority of judges are principled, honest men and women who are not influenced by campaign contributions. And to do away with the appearance of impropriety in judicial fundraising, you need to do away with judicial elections. That won’t happen in my lifetime.

Answer 2: In 2011, with professors Joseph Hoffman and Penny White and attorney Robin Wosje, I co-wrote and taught a National Judicial College curriculum for appellate judges handling capital murder cases. Judges from all over the country attended the course and were very complimentary of its content and teachers. My work on this curriculum and preparation for teaching it has been helpful in analyzing the capital cases I deal with regularly.

Answer 3: The most pressing issue facing the Court is the new scientific information dealing with DNA analysis. This may result in a significant increase in our habeas corpus litigation. We are currently coordinating with the scientific community, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges to deal with the issue justly and effectively. This is a national issue, and, thanks largely to the efforts of our Court, Texas is the leader nationally in addressing it.

Robert Burns (D)
Unopposed

Cindy Olson Bourland (R)
Unopposed

Texas Senate

Question 1: What are the issues of the Child Protective Services program that you consider most urgent? For example, early intervention, budget, and caseloads?

Question 2: These topics are of concern to Texas citizens. Please discuss your position on: voting, guns, sexual discrimination and access to healthcare.

Question 3: The Legislature currently draws the district lines determining our voting districts (redistricting). Would you support a Citizen’s Independent Redistricting Commission at the State level? Why or why not?

Question 4: What are your legislative priorities for ensuring that all children in Texas are well educated?

Question 5: What are your legislative priorities for responding to our environmental issues in Texas, such as water management, air emissions, nuclear energy, and renewable energy?

Question 6: What other issues do you consider the most important and how would you address them?

Texas Senate

JUDGE, PLACE 6

Jon Cobb (R)
No response

Ryan Downton (R)
Education: BA Vanderbilt University; MBA Vanderbilt University; JD University of Texas

Experience: Business owner; Attorney; Dad. Fought Obama Admin & won the Texas Redistricting maps that helped Texas elect a record number of Republicans. www.ryandownton.com

Answer 1: Overloaded case workers are the number one issue in the current CPS system and we need to make sure they have adequate resources to do their job and keep vulnerable children safe.

Answer 2: Voters must have photo IDs to ensure the integrity of our elections, which are central to the health of our republic. The Second Amendment is clearly written and not subject to interpretation. Citizens have the right to keep and bear arms. Women should be paid the same as men for the same or similar jobs performed. Obamacare is a disaster and should be completely repealed. As a health care executive, I know the best path to affordable, accessible health care includes the free market, less frivolous lawsuits, and the sale of insurance policies across state lines (a nationwide insurance market).

Answer 3: I do not support such a panel because a truly independent panel isn’t possible, someone has to appoint the members of the panel. The voters elected

Continued on Page 11
Texas Representatives

**Question 1:** What are the issues of the Child Protective Services program that you consider most urgent? For example, early intervention, budget, and caseloads?

**Question 2:** These topics are of concern to Texas citizens. Please discuss your position on: voting, guns, sexual discrimination and access to healthcare.

**Question 3:** The Legislature currently draws the district lines determining our voting districts (redistricting). Would you support a Citizen’s Independent Redistricting Commission at the State level? Why or why not?

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**Question 5:** What are your legislative priorities for responding to our environmental issues in Texas, such as water management, air emissions, nuclear energy, and renewable energy?

**Question 6:** What other issues do you consider the most important and how would you address them?

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**John Cyrier (R)**  
**Education:** Texas A&M University, B.A.  
**Experience:** State Representative, former

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**Brent Mayes (R)**  
**Education:** BA UT Austin, MD Tulane University; MBS Dallas Theological Seminary  
**Experience:** Physician, mail order small business owner.  
www.brentmayes.org

**Answer 1:** Protect the rights of the parents.  
**Answer 3:** No opinion

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**Reed Williams (R)**  
**Education:** Gatesville High School Graduate, 1965; University of Texas, B.A. 1969.  
**Experience:** Burnet County vineyard owner; 33 years in petroleum refining and marketing at senior executive level for 3 Fortune 500 companies; 8 years Army  
www.reedwilliams.com

**Answer 1:** Child Protective Services needs to do their job and take care of the children.  
**Answer 2:** On voting, Texas public officials should not be able to serve in any position for more than eight years. I fully support term limits. On guns, I fully support the Second Amendment. I would vote to amend the Texas Constitution allowing constitutional carry. I support repealing Obamacare and reinforcing the value of health savings accounts.  
**Answer 3:** Yes, it would be smart to take the politics out of redistricting — at least out of the hands of the elected officials who live or die by where the boundaries are drawn.  
**Answer 4:** Every child is different in the way they learn and in his/her interests. The bottom line is, instead of pushing students to fit a specific mold, we have to pull every student through school. We do this by offering different paths they can explore, allowing them to figure out what career best suits them. Some will go on to college, but others may be interested in becoming an electrician, welder, mechanic, etc. We have an obligation to allow every avenue for that student to find what they are passionate about and allow them to provide for their future families.  
**Answer 5:** The Legislature should demand EPA withdraw the Waters of the U.S. Rule. In Texas, groundwater is the property of the landowner. The growth of Texas will depend not on surface water, but on the efficient, market-based movement of groundwater — if and when a property owner chooses to sell water. I would fight the EPA’s expansion of the Interstate Air Compact and save our coal plants. Expanding nuclear energy is a risk. Renewables like wind must be efficient enough to compete without taxpayer subsidies.  
**Answer 6:** Water (see above).  
**Virginia “Jennie Lou” Leeder (D)** Unopposed

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**Susan King (R)**  
No response

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**Continued from Page 10**

Continued on Page 12
We need to drive dollars back to commission.

Serve accountability which is not available. The idea is to have the or down vote of the plan from both houses.

Sustainable trajectory.

Push for reforms as the program is on an un

Held accountable. Finally, we should require all state agencies to provide a regulatory impact analysis for new regulations.

The state needs to build upon the border control measures which were in place last. Session and remove all state incentives to illegal immigration. This would include the banning of sanctuary cities and the state funding for illegals to attend college. We need to pass an amendment which would tie the growth in state government to population plus inflation and we need to provide transparency to the rapid growth in local state debt which in 2013 was second only to New York.

Texas Representatives

Continued from Page 11

Proving disaster response and recovery, protecting and defending our borders, balancing the budget and cutting taxes, defending religious freedom, and promoting the Texas economy. In my first term as state representative, I am proud of the progress that I have made on these issues, which is why I was named a Champion for Free Enterprise, Faith and Family Champion, and one of the top-20 most fiscally responsible members of the Texas House. In my second term, I look forward to building on these successes and representing our district with integrity.

Brent Golemon (R)

Education: JD University of Texas School of Law, BA Hampden-Sydney College

Experience: Co-founder of Gallery Watch Legislative Tracking Service, Legislative Aide for Texas House and Senate members, Bastrop County WCID State Board Member brentgolemon.com

Answer 1: Working to insure a more expeditious process for caseloads. Insuring families are not subjected to multiple trials and hearings with respect to children taken from their homes.

Answer 2: I support all efforts to insur legal citizens are allowed to vote. I am a strong supporter of second amendment and and “A” rated member of NRA and TSRA (per questionnaire) and a license to carry applicant. The law should protect the rights of all citizens irrespective of your gender and not give preferential status to one victim over another based upon their race, color or national origin. I am opposed to a single payer healthcare system and holding the line on the expansion of medicaid and would push for reforms as the program is on an unsustainable trajectory.

Answer 3: I would support an impartial drawing of district lines coupled with an up or down vote of the plan from both houses (no amendments). The idea is to have the lines drawn outside the political arena but would insure the voters have accountability through the legislative process as they deserve accountability which is not available with decisions solely made by an un-elected commission.

Answer 4: The path to improving education is in fewer statewide tests, less teacher red tape and more local and parental control. We need to drive dollars back to the classroom. In 1970 we had 2.5 teachers for every administrator and today that ratio is 1 to 1. Dollars are being drained from our classrooms. We must fight unfunded mandates as local issues should be handled by local school boards and not Austin bureaucrats. Finally, we should expand parental choice through an expansion of charter schools, open enrollment school districts and taxpayers savings grants.

Answer 5: We need to improve upon the regulatory framework to insure local control of water resources whereby we protect the water rights of all landowners and insure desired future conditions are maintained. We need to insure eminent domain is utilized for public good and not to promote business interest in the absence of the public good. We should maintain a regulatory process whereby all stakeholders are allowed input and those who violate regulations are held accountable. Finally, we should require all state agencies to provide a regulatory impact analysis for new regulations.

Answer 6: The state needs to build upon the border control measures which were in place last. Session and remove all state incentives to illegal immigration. This would include the banning of sanctuary cities and the state funding for illegals to attend college. We need to pass an amendment which would tie the growth in state government to population plus inflation and we need to provide transparency to the rapid growth in local state debt which in 2013 was second only to New York.

Texas Representative, District 20

Marsha Farney (R)

No response

Terry Wilson (R)

Education: BS in Business Administration from Texas A&M University; MS in Strategic Logistics Plans and Management from the Air War University

Experience: Recently retired from the U.S. Army after serving over 30 years.
terrywilsonfortexas.com

Answer 1: I think the biggest issue facing CPS would definitely be caseload. It is imperative that CPS caseworkers have the time to thoroughly investigate each claim to ensure that children are not being endangered or abused.

Answer 2: Voting: Voter ID is common sense and protects election integrity. We must ensure that everyone voting in our elections are legal citizens and registered voters. Guns: I support the Second Amendment and our right to bear arms. Sexual Discrimination: Everyone should be evaluated based on their character, abilities, and work ethic, not their sex. Access to Healthcare: Obamacare must be repealed at the federal level to allow for states to develop free market reforms to drive down healthcare costs and increase access for all Texans.

Answer 3: Absolutely not. Our legislative districts should be drawn by individuals directly accountable to the voters, not an unelected board accountable to no one.

Answer 4: We must ensure that every student in our public schools has the opportunity to receive an A+ education that will give them the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in college and/or a vocation. We must eliminate costly and ineffective education bureaucracies, and point more dollars toward the classroom. Passionate and successful teachers should be rewarded for their efforts.

Answer 5: Energy is an issue of national security and in Texas, it is literally the life-blood of our state budget and economy. In 2012 alone the oil and gas industry provided over $12.1 billion in tax revenue to fund our state’s obligations from education to infrastructure. Before the price of oil dropped, Texas was literally on the cusp of energy independence. We must continue as a state to promote a energy production and ensure all regulations are based on science, not speculation.

Answer 6: Immigration: We must secure the border, put an end to sanctuary cities, reject amnesty, and put an end to the incentives that encourage illegal immigration. Religious Liberty: There is an assault on religious freedom going on in America. I will fight to protect religious freedom and Christian leaders from frivolous lawsuits and government overreach. Fiscal Responsibility: I will fight to reduce wasteful spending, limit the growth of government to population growth plus inflation, and enact zero-based budgets for every government agency.

Texas Representative, District 45

Jason A. Isaac (R)

Unopposed

Texas Representative, District 46

Dawwna Dukes (D)

Unopposed

Gabriel Nila (R)

Unopposed

TEXAS REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 47

Ana Jordan (D)

Unopposed

Jay Wiley (R)

Education: B.A., The Citadel – The Military College of South Carolina; J.D., St. Mary’s School of Law


www.votejaywiley.com

Answer 1: I am strongly in favor of parental rights and there needs to be accountability in cases where parental rights are impeded by the heavy hand of government. Bigger budgets are rarely ever the answer to how we make government work better - more efficient processes are.

Answer 2: I strongly favor our 2nd Amendment gun rights and will work to expand them. No one in America is denied access to healthcare - we need greater patient choice through free markets and I favor completely abolishing ObamaCare. I favor strong Voter ID to ensure the integrity of our elections. We have laws in place addressing sexual discrimination, we should follow them without adding new ones that venture into social engineering and extreme political correctness.

Answer 3: No. The Legislature is popularly elected and the duty to draw districts should remain with them. At the same time, the Legislature should be held accountable for the districts they draw. That is something we would not get with an independent commission. There would also be a cost involved with hiring demographers, staff to analyze the maps, potential problems of cronyism in who picks the commissioners and how. A citizen’s commission is a solution in search of a problem.

Answer 4: I favor empowering parents, not education bureaucrats. It is the parents responsibility to educate their children - the State’s role is to help facilitate the parents’ responsibility. We need to cut layers of bureaucracy in education and get the money to the classroom. Teacher raises should be merit-based and we should make it easier to fire bad teachers. We also need school choice so students aren’t locked into continually failing schools.

Answer 5: Regulatory agencies should be measured by outcomes such as as improvements in air and water quality, not merely
Texas Representatives

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outputs like enforcement actions and permits issued. We should push back strongly against costly and useless EPA standards. I favor reforming how we enforce the Endangered Species Act to minimize adverse impacts on landowners. Regulations should be carefully scrutinized so the financial impact is minimal.

Answer 6: Property tax relief with significant movement toward eliminating it entirely and replacing with a reformed sales tax so homeowners finally own their home instead of leasing them from the government. Annexation reform that rewrites the municipal code so cities must get the popular vote of neighborhoods before annexing them. Limiting burdensome regulations on businesses and individuals. Government exists to protect our God-given rights to Life, Liberty, and Property. I want to get government back to that role.

Paul Workman (R)
No response

TENNESSE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 48

Donna Howard (D)
Unopposed

TENNESSE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 49

Aspen Dunaway (D)
Education: J.D. Baylor University School of Law, B.A. Southwestern University
Experience: Democratic Party Precinct Chairman Precinct 242 (10 years), Board Certified Attorney in private practice; Small Business Owner
dunawayfortexas.com

Answer 1: I think training, caseloads, and retention are all important issues for CPS. We should focus on training and retaining social workers, administrators, and case workers and reduce turnover rates. We need to support the people who are charged with this important and difficult work.

Answer 2: Voting: Issue universal state identification card which is proof of ID for voting purposes for all of our students, homeowners, seniors and everyone else. Expand list of acceptable IDs. Guns: seek repeal of open carry and encourage businesses to opt out of open carry whenever possible. Sexual discrimination: Fully enforce federal anti-discrimination laws and promote qualified women whenever possible. Access to healthcare: Fully fund Medicaid using federal funds for 80% of the cost as advocated in my Formula for 49, my comprehensive plan for district 49, and protect women’s access to healthcare.

Answer 3: I favor such a commission, I believe voters should choose their representatives and not the other way around. I would support a plan such as the one passed in Arizona that was upheld by the Supreme Court.

Answer 4: I will join the coalition of legislators who fight to increase school funding and look for ways to improve Texas’ schools. I will work with interested parties and organizations to look for legislative solutions while advocating for changes in policy that will have a positive affect on our state’s education system. Texas Students need support throughout their educational endeavors from early childhood education all the way through vocational, undergrad, graduate, and professional programs. In my Formula for 49 I also propose a tuition freeze for our state universities for 2017 and 2018.

Answer 5: Protect Texas’ Rivers: Polluting industries have put our nation’s waters in jeopardy. Restore Our Gulf Coast: Our Gulf Coast provides families with recreational and educational opportunities. It is also a home to important wildlife and sources of food that many Texans depend on. Go Solar: We need to lead the country and start moving off traditional fossil fuels and work towards the energies and economies of tomorrow. Fighting for state park funding: Our parks are an easily accessible natural escape from the more developed world. They need to be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Answer 6: Cut property taxes. Fully Fund Medicaid. Freeze Tuition at State Universities for 2017 and 2018. Raise the Texas minimum wage to $10.10 per hour and index it to inflation. Immediate 10% Raise for State Employees with 5% raises in 2017 and 2018. Expand Revenues from Gaming in Texas Including Casino Pilot Project in Austin. Tenant’s Bill of Rights. Increase State Transportation Funding. Legalize Marijuana and end the drug war. Body cameras for all police officers statewide.

Huey Rey Fischer (D)
Education: B.A. Government and Latin American Studies, The University of Texas at Austin
Experience: Senior Policy Analyst, Legislative Aide, Texas Democratic Party Executive Committee, Student Activist
www.hueyfischer.com

Answer 1: I support increasing funding and hiring more case workers to reduce caseloads. The state should also increase case workers’ pay in order to boost retention. In addition, the Legislature should appropriate additional funds for the State Fund 421 (beyond court fees) to benefit programs such as CASA.


Answer 3: Yes, absolutely. I will author or sponsor legislation that establishes an independent redistricting commission. The process should be non-partisan and require a super-majority commission approval of at least 60 percent. Furthermore, gerrymandering is bad for democracy, and the best way to hold our elected officials accountable is to have reliably competitive elections.

Answer 4: I support an expansion to full-day pre-K. We also need to end high stakes over-testing and reduce class sizes with enforceable caps. I will work to secure funding for our public schools back to pre-2011 levels. The Republican majority has consistently failed our children in adequately financing our public schools. In addition, I will fight against any vouchers, “school choice” or other privatization efforts. Last, we must tackle college tuition and the student debt crisis.

Answer 5: I will work to address illegal dumping in our Colorado River, protect our water supply for the next generation, and increase Texas’ investments in wind and solar energy. As a former environmental policy analyst at the Capitol, I have been a consistent voice in support of President Obama’s Clean Power Plan, and I will continue to fight to get Texas on board when I am elected.

Answer 6: I will pursue common-sense measures to address our rising property taxes. I support circuit breakers for both homeowners and renters, allowing local governments to implement a flat dollar homestead exemption, and mandating sales price disclosure. I will also be a champion for labor rights. This includes adopting mandatory workers compensation, raising the minimum wage to $15/hour, and ending the exploitation of workers. In addition, I will focus on putting an end to for-profit prisons operating in Texas, because justice should never be a business.

Gina Hinojosa (D)
Education: B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin, Plan II Honors/ Government degree. Law degree from George Washington University Law School, Washington.
Experience: Immediate past President, Austin ISD School Board. Attorney for social justice organizations; community volunteer www.ginaforauustin.com

Answer 1: I support a significant increase in funding for Child Protective Services (CPS) that would reduce high caseloads, address staff turnover, increase salaries for caseworkers, and provide more early interventions for families that would allow more children to stay in their homes in a safe environment.

Answer 2: Voting. We need to reduce barriers to voting, not enact more. We also need to promote efforts to make registration and voting easier, to encourage more participation. Guns. I support giving public universities the same rights that private universities have to opt out of campus carry. Sexual Discrimination. I support laws for equal pay for equal work and family-friendly policies at the workplace. Access to healthcare. I support expanding Medicaid coverage to the 1 million low-income Texans who do not have health insurance.

Answer 3: I am significantly troubled by the redistricting process. The Texas Legislature has abused and overstepped their authority in how they have addressed redistricting in recent years, and Austin is a perfect example of this partisanship. I believe that legislatures which are directly accountable to the electorate should perform the role of redistricting. However, I would be open to delegating this authority to an independent commission, similar to those that have been created in other states and which have passed constitutional muster.

Answer 4: We cannot keep operating our schools under an outdated and unconstitution state education finance system. It is bad for kids, and it is one of our biggest affordability challenges locally. Austin is uniquely required to shoulder an unsus-
Texas Legislative races

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Answer 5: I will make the environment a top legislative priority and focus on the following issues of water quantity—promoting conservation; air quality—supporting reduction of carbon emissions; climate change—basin our decisions and policies on science; and supporting local control so that cities have the authority to protect their environment if the state fails to do so.

Answer 6: Women’s health. We must re-store full funding to Planned Parenthood and stop the Republican assault on women’s reproductive rights. Higher Education. We must increase funding for higher education and ease the burden of student debt so that all students have equal opportunity for a college education. Revenue/Budget. We will face a tight budget in the next session, and we must look for ways next to identify additional revenue to meet the needs of our state and its growing population.

Kenton D. Johnson (D)
Education: I received both my undergraduate business degree (BBA) and law degree (JD) from The University of Texas at Austin.

www.votekenton.com
Answer 1: CPS is vital. We must protect our children from abuse, neglect and exploitation. We need more CPS caseworkers, with better pay and training, to manage reduced caseloads. We need improved technology, earlier intervention, and more committed parents to rebuild our foster care system.

Answer 2: We should encourage people to vote instead of passing laws that restrict voting rights. Expand early voting. Adopt “no-excuse” absentee voting in Texas. While the 2nd Amendment protects our right to keep and bear arms, that right is not unlimited. Close the loophole for gun show sales. Expand background checks. Promote the use of gun safety technology. Discrimination, whether based upon gender, skin color, or sexual orientation, cannot be tolerated. Eliminate pay inequities. Strengthen our discrimination laws. Good and affordable healthcare must be made available to all.

Answer 3: Yes. I would support the creation of the Commission as long as it is independent and nonpartisan. We need more competitive voting districts to combat our current divisive political structure. Gerrymandering has gotten out of control in Texas. Other states have had great success with independent commissions. I also believe that every person should be counted for determining representation at the Legislature. If elected, I will represent every person in District 49 and not just those that are eligible to vote.

Answer 4: My family and I attended public schools, and my sister is a public school teacher. Free and appropriate public education must be provided to all children in Texas. We need to adopt comprehensive school finance reform to fully fund our pre-K programs, primary and secondary schools. We need to stop “teaching to the test” and properly pay our teachers. And, we need to lower the teacher-to-student ratio in the classroom. Students flourish in smaller classes, Texas children deserve better.

Answer 5: Protection of our nature resources is critical. I’ve been involved with environmental issues since law school. We need to conserve our scarce water resources, control air emissions, and reduce our dependence upon nuclear energy. We need to support the research and development of alternative energy sources, such as wind, solar and geothermal. And, we need to fully fund our Texas State Parks system. Austin is famous for its green spaces, parks and environmental stewardship. We need to ensure that Austin’s leadership continues.

Answer 6: Transportation and immigration. We need to expand capacity and provide more integrated transportation options, such as rail and dedicated bike lanes. We should promote flextime employment options and encourage the growth of companies such as Car2go, Lyft and Uber. We also need to provide immigrants with a pathway to citizenship. Immigration reform should not be tied to securing the border.

Blake Rocac (D)
Education: B.A.
American Studies, University of Texas at Austin. J.D. Texas Tech School of Law
Experience: Public interest and health care lawyer. Former Texas House committee clerk and Texas Legislative specialist for NARAL Pro-Choice TX and the ACLU of TX

biakercap.com
Answer 1: Any issue that allows a child to continue living in a dangerous situation is urgent. These issues all stem from a budget that does not meet the needs of CPS and the families and children they should be serving. This results in caseloads that are too high making early intervention less likely.

Answer 2: We must make it easier to vote in Texas. We lag behind many states in using technology to improve our voting process. I’m in favor of same day voter registration, electronic voter registration, and changing the current strict training and other requirements of who can be a deputy voter registrar. I support the passage of a Texas Fair Pay Act (The Lilly Ledbetter Act) that was vetoed by former governor Rick Perry in 2013. We should also make it illegal to discriminate against gay and transgender Texans in both employment and public accommodations. We must expand Medicaid to ensure more Texans.

Answer 3: Yes, I would support an independent redistricting commission. The current process is unfair, not transparent and far too political. Without the protection of the voting rights act the process is also discriminatory. However any commission is subject to outside influence and political gamesmanship. I would support a commission that had a professional staff of cartographers and demographers tasked with redistricting.

Answer 4: We must expand our high quality Pre-K programs across the state. The state must fund education to reduce class size, increase teacher retention and recruitment and ensure that fine arts, music and theater remain an option for all students. We should stop using exclusionary discipline policies and criminalizing juvenile misbehavior that prevents students from achieving their educational goals and creates a school to prison pipeline.

Answer 5: Texas, through the TCEQ must live up to its responsibility to protect the environment. The permitting process must be more open to the public. We must allow local communities to make decisions about fracking, and take necessary enforcement action to stop polluters. The state should continue CREDZ initiatives to continue bringing renewable energy from the source to cities where it is most needed. We must update our renewable portfolio standards to continue to encourage the growth of renewable energy, because renewable energy is the least expensive way to reduce climate pollution.

Answer 6: We are overly reliant on an unfair property tax system to fund our schools and a regressive sales tax which makes up more than half of state revenue. Texas has the highest rate of uninsured residents, while our tax dollars fund Medicaid expansion in other states. We must rebuild our network of women’s health clinics to provide Texans the care that they need by eliminating exclusions that banned Planned Parenthood. We must protect our teachers and public employees’ pension plans from attack by those who wish to dismantle them and ensure that the healthcare we are providing is affordable.

Matthew Shrum (D)
Education: University of Texas - Austin, BA ’00, JD ’06
Experience: Legislative staff in ’03 and ’05, DWI & DV prosecutor, solo law practice, title company and cattle biz owner, father of 6 & 4 year old, soccer coach.

www.mattschruminfortexas.com
Answer 1: As with most everything, CPS needs more funding so that the caseloads are reduced. Overwhelming caseloads lead to insufficient investigations and that leads to kids being left in bad situations. Reduce waste in the budget and prioritize kids’ welfare.

Answer 2: We need to make it easier to vote, exploring online voting. Campus carry is not the answer but realistically the focus should be on mental health care. You can’t legislate crazy and people are going to have guns regardless of the law and do terrible things, public safety depends on more focus on mental health issues than fighting the Tea Party and the NRA. However, the registration/background check loophole for gun shows should be closed. Sexual discrimination: we’re all just humans, we should all have equal rights and treatment under the law. We should all have access to affordable HC.

Answer 3: Absolutely. Redistricting is the most ridiculously partisan thing that happens in the Capitol. Obviously it results in laughable districts (see Zaffirini’s district) that cross over areas of conflicting interests. This thwarts the point of having a representative for a geographical district. How can Zaffirini represent the interests of south Austin and Laredo in a single vote? A CIRC would still be influenced by partisan politics but it would be better than what we have now.

Answer 4: As a freshman legislator, my singular priority would be to get on the appropriations committee so that I have a more powerful voice for 49. Beyond that, I think getting full time pre-K into the formulas is a primary goal. But really we need legislators with the courage and advocate to make some big changes which will upset a lot of people. The sign of a good compromise is that everyone’s pissed. Simply waiting for the next court decision and applying the patchwork bandage as mandated is just kicking the problem down the road. I intend advocate for the courage to make big change.

Answer 5: Water conservation is a pri-
Texas Legislative races

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mary issue. With our population growth we have to figure out further ways to conserve water and energy. Otherwise we’re a train headed for a broken bridge. As for air quality, we must be in front of this issue considering our growth. Perhaps offering further incentives for low/zero emission vehicles. Personally, I am an outdoorsman and a lake/river guy. I’m always going to be looking for ways to keep Texas beautiful.

Answer 1: Abuse and neglect of children who are under the care of the State of Texas is intolerable. Urgent issues for the Legislature to address include reforming the state’s foster care system, which was recently found unconstitutional by a federal court, increased accountability, and early intervention.

Answer 2: I have dedicated my career to fighting for people and justice in our society. I oppose the Republican voter ID law that unfairly discriminates against students, seniors, and minorities. As a UT Law Professor, I know firsthand that guns do not belong in our classrooms. We must enact common-sense gun regulations to reduce the epidemic of gun violence. I vigorously oppose discrimination. Everyone deserves equal protection of the law. Access to health care is a basic right. I will work to restore access to women’s health services and funding for Planned Parenthood and expand Medicaid funding.

Answer 3: Yes, I strongly support a Citizen’s Independent Redistricting Commission for Texas. Gerrymandering and special interest money are destroying our government. As long as redistricting decisions remain in the hands of incumbents, our government will continue to serve insiders and fail to serve the public interest. An independent commission would create more competitive legislative districts that would bring new voices, ideas, and representation to our government. Texas should join the other 13 states that have independent commissions drawing electoral districts.

Answer 4: I am a champion of public schools. Quality public education is the foundation for our society, economy, and the future success of every child. As a mother of two children in AISD schools and a PTA leader, I helped lead the fight to keep our neighborhood schools open. A top priority is to reform the inequitable recapture rules that are draining tax dollars from Austin schools. AISD lost close to $175 million in 2015, and will lose a billion dollars over the next five years. We must also increase state funding to deliver quality education, along with universal Pre-K, to all children.

Answer 5: Clean air and water should be a right for every Texan. We must reform Texas environmental agencies and insist that they protect the health of our families and communities. We need strong wind and solar power development so we can phase out polluting coal power plants. We also need a state fund to help cities acquire environmentally sensitive greenbelt lands. We need to stop the extension of the SH 45 SW toll road project. I will also work hard to preserve local control and Austin’s ability to be a leader in renewable energy and water conservation.

Answer 6: Our State’s growing economic divide is the biggest challenge of our time and is a fundamental threat to our democracy and the families of Texas. The loss of opportunity is destroying the middle class and reducing the chance for lower-income families to get ahead. I am running because we need strong leadership to fight for progressive values at the Capitol. At the Legislature, I will continue to fight for people and work to increase social and economic justice. I have a strong record of standing up for our community and getting results at the Legislature.

Charles R. Kimbrough (D)

Answer 1: I am a candidate for District

District Judge

Question 1: What are the most pressing problems facing this office and how do you propose to handle these issues?
Question 2: What tools are available to you to reduce the rates of incarceration and recidivism? How will you use them?
Question 3: How would you handle a situation where an attorney appearing before your court is inadequately representing his/her client?

21ST DISTRICT JUDGE
(CALDWELL COUNTY)

22ND DISTRICT JUDGE
(CALDWELL COUNTY, COMAL AND HAYS)

Bruce Boyer (R)
Unopposed

21ST DISTRICT JUDGE
(BASTROP COUNTY)

235TH DISTRICT JUDGE
(BASTROP COUNTY)

421ST DISTRICT JUDGE
(CALDWELL COUNTY)

Bruce Boyer (R)
Unopposed

423RD DISTRICT JUDGE
(BASTROP COUNTY)

Chris Duggan (D)
Unopposed

423RD DISTRICT JUDGE
(BASTROP COUNTY)

www.voteheatherway.com

Heather Way (D)
Education: University of Texas at Austin, Bachelor of Arts in Government and Journalism; Law Degree from the University of Texas School of Law
Experience: UT Law Professor; legislative reformer; community leader; legal aid attorney; PTA Vice President at Kealing and Zilker; Affordable Housing Hero Award

Tony Dale (R)
Unopposed

Larry Gonzales (R)
Unopposed

Celia Israel (D)
Unopposed

Cesar Ruiz (R)
Unopposed

Paul R. Gordon (D)
Unopposed

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2016
AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN / LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS JOINT PRIMARY VOTERS GUIDE
District Judge

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Judge of the 421st District Court of Caldwell County. Our county is growing; therefore, the volume and complexity of the cases filed in the court undoubtedly will increase. If elected, I will work hard to continue the fine work and reputation of the court established by our retiring incumbent judge, the Hon. Todd A. Blomerth, District Judge of the 421st District Court.

Answer 2: Our criminal justice system laws provide punishment options to address public safety, victim rights, and defendant rights and rehabilitation to prevent recidivism. The Texas Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits a judicial candidate from making a promise on specific propositions that would indicate a predisposition to a probable decision if elected to office. Respectfully, I am prohibited from further answering this question under our law.

Answer 3: Our criminal and civil justice system laws provide substantive and procedural tools to ensure the rights of all litigants. The Texas Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits a judicial candidate from making a promise on specific propositions that would indicate a predisposition to a probable decision if elected to office. Respectfully, I am prohibited from further answering this question under our law.

Andrea “Andi” St. Leger (D)

Education: Bachelor of Philosophy from Miami University, J.D. from Valparaiso University School of Law

Experience: Board Certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 2008, Trained Mediator, “Super Lawyer” since 2012, Licensed since 1999

Answer 1: The most pressing problem in this Court is the impact of untreated mental health issues on court dockets and jails, and the resulting incarceration of our community’s most vulnerable citizens. Caldwell County does not presently have a collaborative mental health initiative, and could benefit from forming a task force composed of members from the judiciary, law enforcement, mental health providers and the community to re-envision our system.

Answer 2: Caldwell County has the following tools to reduce rates of incarceration and recidivism: 1) Challenge Court for drug offenders that incorporates rigorous treatment and counseling, 2) pretrial diversion services for misdemeanor cases, and 3) a well-run probation department that helps defendants connect with the services they need to maintain compliance with the terms of their probation. I will make good use of these programs and consider new ones.

Answer 3: In criminal cases, the judge has the moral, ethical and legal obligation to ensure that the accused are being adequately represented. I would stop the trial and make appropriate findings. I would then follow the procedure applicable to the situation depending on the conduct of the attorney. In family law cases, I would question the witnesses to ensure I had the information necessary to protect the safety and welfare of the child.

Chris Schneider (R)

Unopposed

53RD DISTRICT JUDGE

(TRAVIS COUNTY)

Scott Jenkins (D)

Unopposed

98TH DISTRICT JUDGE

(TRAVIS COUNTY)

Rhonda Hurley (D)

Unopposed

126TH DISTRICT JUDGE

(TRAVIS COUNTY)

Darlene Byrne (D)

Unopposed

167TH DISTRICT JUDGE

(TRAVIS COUNTY)

P. David Wahlberg (D)

Unopposed

200TH DISTRICT JUDGE

(TRAVIS COUNTY)

Gisela D. Triana (D)

Unopposed

345TH DISTRICT JUDGE

(TRAVIS COUNTY)

Melissa Mather (D)

Education: JD, University of Virginia Law School, 1997 BA, University of Virginia, 1994

Experience: Current Asst. Attorney General; Previous Lecturer, University of Texas Law School; Lecturer, University of Texas Law School; Lecturer, University of Chicago Law School; Law Office of H. M. Mather

Answer 1: We should continue to work on providing everyone who appears in court with a fair hearing, regardless of whether they or their attorney have donated to a judge’s campaign. At the same time, making judges accountable to the public in an election can also increase fairness and transparency. Funding limits should continue to be enforced, at the attorney and the firm level. Disclosure is also key, so that all information on donations are public.

Answer 2: Judges have a great many tools at their disposal to address these types of situations. Off the record conferences with the attorneys can help, as well as explaining the legal principles to all parties in open court so that everyone is on the same page. Our primary goal is to provide a fair process to every person who comes to court, and we should make that clear not just to the parties but it attorneys as well.

Answer 3: Our city is growing, and our court dockets are growing. We need smart, hard-working judges who conduct themselves as public servants, providing fair and reasoned decisions promptly in a resource-constrained environment. Prompt, well-reasoned decisions build trust in our government.

353RD DISTRICT JUDGE

(TRAVIS COUNTY)

Tim Sulak (D)

Unopposed

390TH DISTRICT JUDGE

(TRAVIS COUNTY)

Julie H. Kocurek (D)

Unopposed

Jan Soifer (D)

Education: Yale University, B.A., 1979; University of Texas School of Law, J.D., 1982

Experience: A 33-year lawyer & former Austin Bar President, Jan is a respected Austin trial lawyer, a proven Democratic leader & a dedicated community activist.

Answer 1: In an ideal world, judicial candidates would not need to raise funds for their campaigns. Unless public campaign finance is available (not likely in Texas), the only alternative would be to appoint judges; in the current political climate in this state, that is not an acceptable alternative. There are financial disclosure requirements and safeguards in place for judges to recuse themselves or be recused if they can’t be impartial for any reason.

Answer 2: If the inadequacies rise to the level of incompetence, judges are required to take appropriate action, including informing the State Bar so it can take action against the lawyer, and I would certainly do so. If the inadequacies are simply trial strategies or tactics that are not working, I wouldn’t interfere as lawyers should have the flexibility to represent their clients as their clients and they agree is best, and judges shouldn’t take action.

Answer 3: Inadequate access to justice by those who can’t afford lawyers is the most serious issue. I have worked for the past 30+ years on providing free legal services to the indigent, raising money for legal aid, and serving as a leader in organizations, including Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas and the Texas Access to Justice Commission, working on the issue. I will continue to work with lawyers, judges, and the legislature to improve access.
**District Judge**

**427TH DISTRICT JUDGE (TRAVIS COUNTY)**

Jim Coronado (D)

Education: B.A. University of Texas at Austin 1974; J.D. University of Texas at Austin 1978


**Answer 1:** I oversee, with Judge Cliff Brown, the Pre-Trial Diversion docket. By successfully completing a one-year counseling program, offenders can avoid a criminal record. I refer appropriate cases to drug court and mental health court. We have successful programs and I will continue to use them; however, they need to be expanded to meet the demand. Substance abuse is a national/local health crisis most effectively addressed by intervention and treatment.

**Answer 2:** I have rarely had to address this situation in my court. The best method is to advise counsel that they need assistance. I will request an attorney from the non-profit Capital Area Private Defender Service if the attorney and the client have agreed to accept. The attorneys are qualified, vetted and mentored to handle complex cases. Judges rely on them for court-appointed matters. I am very supportive of this program and its attorneys.

**Tamara Needles (D)**

Education: Texas Tech University School of Law; Lubbock, Texas; J.D. 1997; Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas; B.A. Communication Studies, cum laude, June 1992

Experience: I have been a litigator for 18 years. I gladly represent person charged with the most service crimes.

**voteforchantal.com**

**Answer 1:** The most pressing problem of this court is related to the lack of fair and progressive disbursement of justice. With the growing population of Travis County our criminal courts are full to capacity. We need to find a solution to our mental health, drug and alcohol addicted and dangerous criminals that represents an outside the box thinking that is progressive in nature.

**Answer 2:** The best tool available to a judge is communication. Talking to, brainstorming with and listening to law enforcement, the district attorney’s office, criminal defense attorneys and the community is the best way to come up with progressive solutions to reduce the rates of recidivism and incarceration. Utilizing the powerful minds of many with many years of experience is the key.

**Answer 3:** Having been a criminal defense attorney for eighteen years, I know what poor, adequate and excellent representation looks like. Communication is the key to the solution. I would talk to the attorney in private and offer advice and solutions. I saw no improvement then I would feel compelled to request the attorney withdraw. Excellent representation, not adequate, is what we, as a community, should strive for.

**Don Clemmer (R)**

Unopposed

**26TH DISTRICT JUDGE (WILLIAMSON COUNTY)**

Donna King (R)

Unopposed

**395TH DISTRICT JUDGE (WILLIAMSON COUNTY)**

Terence Davis (R)

Education: St. Mary’s University School of Law—Cum Laude, Board Certified in Family Law by Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Experience: 15 years of litigation experience, 8 years elected to Block House Creek MUD, Attorney for the Republican Party of Williamson County

**www.davisfor395th.com**

**Answer 1:** The 395th District Court, by administrative order, will hear only family law cases because about 50% of all district court cases are in family law. The most pressing problem will be to put a judge with extensive family law experience on the bench to protect children. I am the only candidate in this race who is an experienced family law advocate. I would bring my board certified family law experience to the bench and be ready to start day 1.

**Answer 2:** This question isn’t really relevant to a family law court, but to elaborate on the prior question, I am one of only eight attorneys in Williamson County who is Board Certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Six of the seven others are endorsing me (the seventh is a judge and therefore prohibited from endorsing candidates), along with over 100 other family law attorneys. Experience matters!

**Answer 3:** I would require that all attorneys who appear in the courtroom conduct themselves with the highest degree of integrity and professionalism. The delicate matters that arise in this court demand adequate representation. If the client is a child or incapacitated party, I would speak with that attorney to see if there are any challenges the attorney may be having or considering and over zealous prosecution has resulted in innocent people spending years in prison for crimes they did not commit. If the attorney cannot adequately represent the client, another attorney should be appointed as co-counsel to assist the accused.

**Brad Urrutia (D)**

Education: Crockett High School, Austin, Texas; Class of 1987; Texas State University, BA, Class of 1993; Washburn University School of Law, JD Class of 1996

Experience: Since 1996 I have practiced criminal defense in Austin, Texas. Most of my practice is dedicated to indigent defendants charged with serious crimes.

**www.bradurrutia.com**

**Answer 1:** I need meaningful criminal justice reform. We should expand the pretrial diversion and youthful offender programs so non-violent youthful offenders can have an opportunity to avoid a felony label. We must choose treatment over incarceration and stop filling our jails with low level drug offenders. We must also stop criminalizing the mentally ill and implement programs to treat our mentally ill rather than allowing them to languish in jail.

**Answer 2:** We must develop programs that assist those who have either completed their prison sentence or are currently on community supervision or probation to successfully reintegrate into the community. Programs such as the youthful offender program, which provides supervision to high risk youthful offenders and connects them to resources they would not otherwise have should be expanded. We must also expand the Veterans Court to the district court level.

**Answer 3:** As a judge, it is critical to safeguard the rights of the accused in the criminal process and avoid wrongful convictions. Too many times inadequate representation and overzealous prosecution has resulted in innocent people spending years in prison for crimes they did not commit. If the attorney cannot adequately represent the client, another attorney should be appointed as co-counsel to assist the accused.

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District Judges

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Ryan Daniel Larson (R)
Education: Southwestern University School of Law, J.D.; UCLA, B.A., Political Science (NCAA Track & Cross Country All-State Athlete; Campus Crusade for Christ)
Experience: Formerly an Assistant Attorney General, I developed a winning record at all levels of Texas courts and was elected a Texas Bar Foundation Fellow. www.voteryanlarson.com

Answer 1: This office is a trial court of general jurisdiction that presides in a dynamic and rapidly growing county, as such the docket changes as the community’s needs change. Consequently, the next judge of this court needs sound and consistent judgment and the ability to tackle an array of legal issues based on proven experience. It further needs a judge, like me, that won’t short circuit the democratic process by legislating from the bench.

Answer 2: There has been extensive research supporting more rehabilitative-focused programs for non-violent drug offenders, as opposed to incarceration, implemented in partnership with the courts. As such, I would consider creating a drug treatment court that consists of a court-supervised treatment program that provides intensive judicial supervision of strictly non-violent offenders. Participants would also be held accountable for their actions.

Answer 3: I will treat each situation on a case by case basis. If there is a way to correct the attorney’s representation I would attempt to do so, as that attorney is the most familiar with the case and doing otherwise might unnecessarily delay a resolution of the case. However, if I thought the attorney’s representation could not be corrected, I would set a hearing for substitution of the attorney.

425TH DISTRICT JUDGE
(WILLIAMSON COUNTY)
Betsy F. Lambeth (R)
Unopposed

Bastrop County races

BASTROP COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Question 1: County government is primarily financed through taxes. Are there other revenue options beyond the property tax? Please explain.

Question 2: What are the transportation issues and how do you plan to address them?

Question 3: Because the State legislature has not given counties ordinance making power (i.e. zoning authority), how do you plan to address growth issues in the unincorporated areas of your county?

Question 4: What are the health and human services issues in your county and how would you address them?

Melvin (Mel) Hamner (R)
Education: Community College of the Air Force, A.A. in Traffic Management

Answer 1: First, in our role as overseers of all county department budgets, commissioners should work with departments to encourage increased efficiencies, to lessen demand for local taxes. Where available, state and federal grants should be pursued. Also, many county services are currently supplemented by user fees. All county operations should be carefully analyzed to identify potential for user fees, where appropriate.

Answer 2: Bastrop County’s current structure establishes four independent road departments, one in each Commissioner’s Office — this is standard procedure in smaller counties. With 74,000+ residents across 896 square miles, Bastrop County is large enough to establish a single road department to work with the county engineer and all four commissioners for increased, cost-effective road maintenance.

Answer 3: Uniform subdivision standards should encourage provision of completed, adequate infrastructure from day one. Encourage developers to provide family recreation areas and activities for youth. Also there are currently too many miles between isolated subdivisions, without egress feeders to enhance evacuation or even detours when needed. We should link outlying subdivisions with cross-county boulevards so local traffic does not have to use SH 71.

Answer 4: I have taken an active role in facilitating private sector support for the homeless and needy by coordinating activities of Derek’s Mission and the In The Streets – Hands Up High Ministry in their efforts to open men’s shelters in Bastrop and Elgin, a women’s shelter in Smithville and feeding programs in Stoney Point and Lake Bastrop Acres.

Joe D. Newman (R)
Education: U. of Okla, Economic Dev’t Institute; SMU Institute for Organizational Mgmt; U. of TX LBJ School; Navarro College, computer programming courses
Experience: 30+ years Sr. Mgmt of Economic Dev’t in Texas. Elgin & Bastrop EDCs; TX Economic Dev’t. Council CEO; Lobbyist, State Comptroller Local Govt. votejoenewman.org

Answer 1: Bastrop County has a one-half of one percent sales tax. That tax raised just over $3.6 million last year. As our retail base grows, we become less dependent upon ad valorem taxes. In fact, the City of Bastrop is one of the few cities in the State that actually receives more in sales tax than property taxes. Other than that, Bastrop County has the usual fees such as court costs, vehicle license fees, fines, etc.

Answer 2: Highway 71 is the main transportation corridor between Austin and Houston and I plan to work with the Texas Dept. of Transportation to continue improving that highway so Austinites will be able to get on Hwy. 71 and never catch a red light until they reach Houston! (But, please stop in Bastrop). Other than lobbying to get better State roads, I hope to find additional funds in the budget to improve the county’s roads and bridges.

Answer 3: Almost every legislative session, counties try to get lawmakers to grant some additional tools that could help address the rapid growth...at least for counties surrounding the major metropolitan cities such as Austin, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and Ft. Worth. As population expands out of Austin, Bastrop County is faced with very limited powers to protect existing and future homeowners. I’m a former lobbyist and will use that if elected.

Answer 4: Counties do have certain powers to regulate health and safety issues outside city limits such as permitting septic tanks, street construction, etc. We need more highly-trained and well-paid law enforcement so that our citizens are better protected. Growth is definitely coming our way, and along with that, it creates a strain on our sheriff’s department. We MUST remain competitive with deputies’ salaries and also have them properly trained.

Willie Pina (R)
Education: Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics from the University of Texas at Austin, Texas, and Master of Science Degree in Quality Systems Management
Experience: I have been a county commissioner for seven years and I am a Certified County Commissioners Court Member. Retired LTC, Vietnam & Afghanistan veteran. www.williepina.com

Answer 1: Although property taxes are the majority of revenue for counties, counties do receive other forms of taxes, such as sales taxes, motor vehicle registration, fees, etc. We have applied and used grants for special projects, such as home hazard waste cleanup, fire mitigation, etc. Also, we collect fees for septic system permits and other county services. Our state legislature should always consider funding when a county service is proposed.

Answer 2: Bastrop County is one of the

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Bastrop County races

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fastest growing counties in Texas. Obviously, traffic is a concern and public safety is a priority. In 2009, we, Commissioners Court, joined the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organizations (CAMPO), and then, in 2010 became a voting member when CAMPO Transportation Policy Board voted to expand their board composition to include Bastrop County. By joining, we can adequately focus on funding TXDOT projects.

Answer 3: Even though we have limited land use authority, the Texas legislature did give us some subdivision regulations that we can impose on developers. If developers are seeking a tax incentive from the County, we can enact the Local Government Code 381 which allows the County to give a tax incentive such as a tax abatement to a developer. With a 381 agreement, a County can impose terms and conditions on projects.

This has led for growing counties to try to secure further land use controls through action of the state legislature. The Commissioners Court needs to make sure we have the legal tools and abilities to handle the coming influx of people and homes.

Answer 3: Bastrop County has many rural areas and there is a definite lack of nearby medical services once you get outside of Bastrop County’s larger cities. The County needs to look into the possibility of establishing mobile health clinics that would go to the rural communities and provide basic, preventative health care, low cost immunizations, antibiotics, health screenings & regular checkups. Small fees could be charged to help offset the costs.

Answer 3: Lynn Boydston (R)

Education: Attended St. Edwards University, Rio Salado College, and Austin Community College, 1752 hours continuing education. Experience: Forty years in law enforcement, 20 years police management, Police/Instructor, 911/Dispatch Instructor, 15 years patrol work

Answer 1: Absolutely. Taxes fund slightly over two-thirds of Bastrop County’s 30 million dollar budget. We are fortunate here at Bastrop to have a Federal jail. This jail provides Bastrop County with approximately 2.1 million in revenue. Other revenue sources include fees, collected from services provided by the County, and fines collected from citations. These both total about 2.5 million. Motor vehicle registration also contributes largely to the County.

Answer 2: A major concern in Precinct 3 of Bastrop County is the safety of Highway 71. There are an outrageous number of collisions on that stretch of 71 in Cedar Creek, many of which result in fatalities. With its proximately to the schools there, I think something needs to be done about this issue. I would use my position as County Commissioner to push on TXDOT to give this area attention immediately, and ultimately, see an overpass placed there.

Answer 3: Bastrop County has to continue to use what limited authority we do have to manage for good growth in these areas of the County. This includes our septic regulations, driveway regulations, and most importantly, our subdivision/platting regulations. As a Commissioner, I will push towards revisiting our subdivision regulations and updating them, as it is evident that those regulations are now outdated. Ensure quality infrastructure is being built.

Answer 4: A major concern in Bastrop County, is the amount of illegal dumping. Our Environmental and Sanitation department stays extremely busy with calls and reports of illegal dumping, which creates health concerns. We need to allocate more resources to curtailing this problem. Secondly, employee retention at our Sheriff’s office is a concern. Much of this high turnover rate is pay related, a problem that can be addressed by the Commissioners Court.

Dock Jackson (D)

Unopposed

BASTROP COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

Fred R. Ensinger (R)

Education: B.A., B.S., MAA, CPM

Experience: Public servant, educator, first responder, and volunteer.

fredensinger.com

Marc Mulkey (R)


Experience: Truck driver, heavy equipment operator, plumber, DJ, Restaurant Mgr., Constitutional, Christian Conservative, Honesty, Integrity, Accountability.

www.marcmulkey.org

Answer 1: Yes! As commissioner I will encourage a level of entrepreneurship in all of our divisions. I will support continuing education and make sure that each department has someone that is proficient at seeking funding opportunities and writing grants.

Answer 2: Anticipation and being proactive is the essential. We can not afford to be reactive to development when it comes to transportation issues. As an active member of the community, I witnessed a failure in our ability to plan for transportation issues concerning the Memorial Stadium and the F-1 race complex. I will be proactive in the details of all our growth and the transportation issues that arise.

Answer 3: We are a strong community. Our citizens in the unincorporated areas represent a strong tax base and a heavy influence in our government business. I will serve as a liaison and our community will dictate and plan for our growth.

Answer 4: I am a public servant. I have been involved rigorously during my tenure with Bastrop County with CASA, Juvenile Probation, the food banks in Bastrop and Red Rock, Blue Bonnet Trails MHMR, CPS, Adult Protective services, Hospice, and many more entities dedicated to providing Human Services. I served as a Domestic Violence instructor at the Bastrop Family Crisis Center. I am an advocate of our programs in Bastrop County.

Colton Stabeno (R)

Education: Bachelors of Science degree from Texas A&M University.

Experience: Strong experience with our local government through my current position. Water issues through my experience on the LCRA regional council board.

www.votecolton.com

Answer 1: Yes! As commissioner I will encourage a level of entrepreneurship in all of our divisions. I will support continuing education and make sure that each department has someone that is proficient at seeking funding opportunities and writing grants.

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Marc Mulkey (R)


Experience: Truck driver, heavy equipment operator, plumber, DJ, Restaurant Mgr., Constitutional, Christian Conservative, Honesty, Integrity, Accountability.

www.marcmulkey.org

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BASTROP COUNTY SHERIFF

Question 1: How does the Sheriff’s office work with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and what improvements or changes, if any, will you make?

Question 2: How will you train officers to deal with diverse populations, including those with mental issues and the transgendered?

Question 3: What measures or programs do you propose to reduce crime in our community?

Lynn Boydston (R)

Education: Attended St. Edwards University, Rio Salado College, and Austin Community College, 1752 hours continuing education. Experience: Forty years in law enforcement, 20 years police management, Police/Instructor, 911/Dispatch Instructor, 15 years patrol work

Ly nnforsheriff.com

Answer 1: The BCSO appears to have a good working relationship with ICE. I don’t foresee any major changes. We will continue to enforce the laws and work with others to ensure the safety of the community.

Answer 2: I have been a police instructor since 1986 and believe a well trained staff is extremely important. Fines and fees can come from: criminal defendants who pay fines and court costs, fees levied by justices of the peace, fees from Constable Services, birth certificates, passports, marriage licenses, civil, felony, and arrest fees, and fines and fees levied by the county court.

Answer 2: Bastrop County will likely have another 20,000+ new residents within the next few years. The Commissioners Court must continue to work aggressively with TXDOT to make sure that the state highways are improved by widening lanes of traffic plus building more bridges & ramps that will bypass stop lights. We should also implement more Ride Share programs and work closely with the CARTS Board and CAP-COG to identify ways to improve service and funding.

Answer 3: The extremely limited nature of counties and land use controls has led to situations in which rapidly growing counties, like Bastrop, find themselves unable to control development in an acceptable manner. This has led for growing counties to try to secure further land use controls through action of the state legislature. The Commissioners Court needs to make sure we have the legal tools and abilities to handle the coming influx of people and homes.

Answer 4: Bastrop County has many rural areas and there is a definite lack of nearby medical services once you get outside of Bastrop County’s larger cities. The County needs to look into the possibility of establishing mobile health clinics that would go to the rural communities and provide basic, preventative health care, low cost immunizations, antibiotics, health screenings & regular checkups. Small fees could be charged to help offset the costs.

Ly nnforsheriff.com

Answer 1: Absolutely. Taxes fund slightly over two-thirds of Bastrop County’s 30 million dollar budget. We are fortunate here at Bastrop to have a Federal jail. This jail provides Bastrop County with approximately 2.1 million in revenue. Other revenue sources include fees, collected from services provided by the County, and fines collected from citations. These both total about 2.5 million. Motor vehicle registration also contributes largely to the County.

Answer 2: A major concern in Precinct 3 of Bastrop County is the safety of Highway 71. There are an outrageous number of collisions on that stretch of 71 in Cedar Creek, many of which result in fatalities. With its proximity to the schools there, I think something needs to be done about this issue. I would use my position as County Commissioner to push on TXDOT to give this area attention immediately, and ultimately, see an overpass placed there.

Answer 3: Bastrop County has to continue to use what limited authority we do have to manage for good growth in these areas of the County. This includes our septic regulations, driveway regulations, and most importantly, our subdivision/platting regulations. As a Commissioner, I will push towards revisiting our subdivision regulations and updating them, as it is evident that those regulations are now outdated. Ensure quality infrastructure is being built.

Answer 4: A major concern in Bastrop County, is the amount of illegal dumping. Our Environmental and Sanitation department stays extremely busy with calls and reports of illegal dumping, which creates health concerns. We need to allocate more resources to curtailing this problem. Secondly, employee retention at our Sheriff’s office is a concern. Much of this high turnover rate is pay related, a problem that can be addressed by the Commissioners Court.

Mark Meuth (D)

Unopposed
vital to the success of the department and those we serve. Since I've been in law enforcement for such a long time, I have a lot of resources to bring qualified instructors to the Sheriff’s Office. I will actively recruit a diverse workforce which will enhance our relationship with the community. Education leads to understanding.

Answer 3: One of the major programs will be ‘taking back our neighborhoods’. This team of deputies will be trained in evaluating neighborhoods where there have been persistent drug problems, gang activities, and pronounced concerns by neighborhood residents. Since the majority of burglaries and thefts are drug related, this team will assist in various areas of the department. We will take an aggressive approach to stopping and/or deterring crime.

Ann Calderon (R)  
No response

Maurice Cook (R)  
Education: Associates, Bachelors, Masters, Juris Doctor Degrees-FBI National Academy- Police Staff Command-Secret Service Dignitary School-DFS 16 Week Academy  
Experience: USAF, City Police, Highway Patrol, Intelligence, Motor Vehicle Theft, Texas Rangers-Chief, College Professor-Attorney-Expert Witness, Leader, Budget M
voteforcooksheriff.com

Answer 1: Not being with the Bastrop Sheriff’s Department (BCSO) I can only speculate how the BCSO works with ICE. Since ICE is a federal agency charged with exclusive jurisdiction over immigration and Naturalization issues it would seem reasonable that the BCSO maintain a cooperative attitude on matters of mutual interest such as human smuggling and federal immigration violations. According to news sources the BCSO reports immigration violations to ICE.

Answer 2: There are training courses in place which deals with both subjects. As an Educator and Law Enforcement Trainer I would seek out and provide the necessary training to deal with the above issues plus other issues that tend to discriminate against any of our citizens. I have a keen awareness of each issue since both are represented in my family. I would also make sure that policies and procedures were in place to identify and address infractions.

Answer 3: I would use my experience to recruit, hire, retain, and train qualified personnel to serve within the Sheriff’s Department. Develop a partnership with the public to help report and identify those who violate the law and put our citizens at risk. Utilize Sheriff Department personnel and resources in the most efficient and effective manner to investigate and identify the criminal element; properly file and prepare criminal cases for prosecution.

Delvin (Dale) Dockery (R)  
No response

John M. Helenberg (R)  
Education: John is a graduate of the College of the Mainland Police Academy, the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia and the FBI-LEEDA Command Institute.  
Experience: 18 years in public service, including Municipal, County, and State law enforcement experience and now serving the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement www.helenbergforsheriff.com

Answer 1: As sheriff, I believe in fostering close working relationships with our state and federal partners. I firmly believe that requests made by U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) are intended to detain criminal immigrants who pose a serious danger to our communities. These detainers provide notice and time for ICE to take criminal immigrants into custody. I intend to follow the request of Gov. Abbott to fully enforce ICE detainers.

Answer 2: In my current role with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, I am responsible for administering the statewide training program for all Texas peace officers, jailers, telecommunicators, and school marshals. I believe in a strong training program designed to address all aspects of our diverse population; which in-turn, protects our civil liberties, increases our public safety, and decreases liability.

Answer 3: Operate highly visible patrols with an appropriate number of deputies and measured by response times along with active feedback from community. Forge a partnership with employees and the citizens they serve to encourage bi-directional information sharing to collectively combat crime. Create an atmosphere to actively and aggressively investigate crimes reported or discovered to present complete thorough and quality investigations for prosecution.

Matthew Henderson (R)  
Education: Bastrop High School 1981, CAPCOCG Academy 1996, Constable Leadership College, Justice Court Training Center, TCOLE, ALERRT, TPA Leadership Conference

Experience: Bastrop County Constable, Pct 3, Bastrop County Reserve Deputy, Past Member Hostage Negotiations Team, LCRA Power Plant Operator 28 ½ years
facebook.com/matthewhendersonforsheriff

Answer 1: Immigration and Customs Enforcement enforces federal laws that target criminal aliens and partners with local state and county agencies to aid in identification, arrest, detainment and deportation of these criminals. I do support ICE and will improve our partnership to better protect our community and raise revenue for our Office.

Answer 2: I plan to utilize all training resources to enhance the officer’s knowledge, confidence and accuracy in all areas of skill, departmental interest, cultural diversity, gender diversity and consumers with mental health issues. This strength will boost morale, confidence and diversity within the department to better serve our community.

Answer 3: I will restore leadership, morale, appreciation and pride within the Sheriff’s Office, restore community faith in the Sheriff’s office and promote community safety for all residents of Bastrop County. I will strengthen partnerships with Citizens on Patrol and Neighborhood Watch programs and others so we can all work together through awareness, observation and involvement to help reduce crime in our community.

Steve Joseph McBride (R)  
Education: MS in Criminal Justice — Sam Houston State, BA - Government-University of Texas at Austin, Leadership: APD- WestPoint, TCSO- SHIELD, CMIT, FBI-LEEDA  
Experience: Over 20 years in Criminal Justice, including law enforcement and corrections. 20 years engaging communities through gospel evangelism, stevemcbrideforsheriff.com

Answer 1: Citizens have the right to petition their legislators for changes or status quo of the law. My office will not be used for the political agendas of either. My Wisdom of Solomon Approach to ICE is we will enforce the law as interpreted by the governor/ attorney general. However we are not a round up agency. If you do not break the law you will not go to jail. You break the law, you go to jail. We will lawfully detain. Vote McBride 4 wise decisions.

Answer 2: Mandated training addresses those issues. Staff will be in compliance with required training. I will ensure staff are applying what is learned in the classroom in the community. Deputies will deal with each situation based on the information they have. Every person will be treated in a professional manner. Claims of misconduct will be investigated through due process. Staff accountability will begin with me. Vote Steve McBride 4 accountability.

Answer 3: Reducing crime starts with the mindset of prevention. An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure. We will be proactive in implementing the best practices. Through visibility in volatile areas and having quicker response times, proper investigations, and gathering of evidence we will close a case timely then turn it over for prosecution. Criminals, will know we are committed to bringing them to justice. Vote McBride 4 restore justice

Colin Shadwell (R)  
Education: I have over 2900 hours of law enforcement and higher education training.
facebook.com/shadwellforsheriff

Answer 1: As always the Sheriff’s Office will work in a professional and cooperative manner with ICE and assist them however we can. We currently hold and house detained individuals until they are interviewed by ICE at which point they determine if they will place a detainer on the individual or allow them to stay in the country.

Answer 2: I would implement additional training for all patrol officers and supervisors who would encounter those persons who suffer from mental health issues while in the performance of their duties. More than that I am currently working with one of our trainers to get a training program completed to bring this valuable information to our jail officers who deal with the mental health and transgendered issues for more than anyone else.

Answer 3: Our focus will be on the attitude and relationships within our agency. When you treat people with respect and appreciation they take a higher level of ownership and respond accordingly. Those actions transfer to the community which will draw in the citizens who will be more proactive in keeping their neighborhoods safe. We then start community restoration programs which help victims have closure and offenders be accountable to those they harmed.

Mike Renck (D)  
Unopposed
Lockhart.

With projects like the widening of 183 in fruition. We will also need to widen roads options. There are several new roads in the counties and two interstate highways, we will need to continue to pursue other road improvements. While we are fortunate to have SH 130 connecting with Caldwell County and I believe these developments are coming to Caldwell County and I believe these master planned developments are coming to Caldwell County and I believe these developments are coming to Caldwell County.

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CALDWELL COUNTY COMMISSIONER

**Question 1:** What are the transportation issues and how do you plan to address them?

**Answer 1:** Transportation issues will continue to be an issue in Caldwell County. While we are fortunate to have SH 130 connecting our county to at least three other counties and two interstate highways, we will need to continue to pursue other road options. There are several new roads in the planning stages that need to be brought to fruition. We will also need to widen roads with projects like the widening of 183 in Lockhart.

**Question 2:** What are the health and human services issues in your county and how would you address them?

**Answer 2:** Health and human services issues are two very important issues. Without a healthy citizenship you do not have a healthy workforce. A healthy educated workforce is important. The county should collaborate with all levels of healthcare providers to address health and human services for all of our citizens.

**Question 3:** What are the health and human services issues in your county and how would you address them?

**Answer 3:** One way to address growth in our county is to assure that developers are following environmental regulations. There are construction general permits required by the state that are not very well enforced. These regulations allow for the enforcement to take place at the county level. There are also environmental laws pertaining to permitting water wells and septic tanks that should be enforced. Address these and you can promote good growth.

**Question 4:** What are the health and human services issues in your county and how would you address them?

**Answer 4:** Caldwell County is by no description a wealthy County. We have a median household income that is over 15% below the State average. Almost 20% of our residents are at or below the national poverty level. We have a host of issues ranging from affordability and quality of housing to availability of healthcare. I believe that an advisory committee should be formed coordinate and present recommendations to the court on these important County issues.

**Hoppy Haden (R)**

**Education:** Degree in Physical Science

**Experience:** 20 years of residential and commercial construction and 32 years in the environmental laboratory and consulting industry.

**Answer 1:** Yes. There are grant opportunities for revenue available to counties such as Caldwell County. There are also opportunities for inter-local agreements that can be financially beneficial to our county. Our commissioners court recently passed up an opportunity to negotiate a host agreement that would have yielded approx. $500,000 per year for the next thirty years to the county.

**Answer 2:** Transportation issues will continue to be an issue in Caldwell County. While we are fortunate to have SH 130 connecting our county to at least three other counties and two interstate highways, we will need to continue to pursue other road options. There are several new roads in the planning stages that need to be brought to fruition. We will also need to widen roads with projects like the widening of 183 in Lockhart.

**Richard Mendez (R)**

**No response**

**Alfredo R. Munoz (D)**

Unopposed

**Caldwell County Commissioner, Precinct 3**

**Randolph Flores (R)**

**No response**

**Edward ‘Ed’ Theriot (R)**

**Education:** BA, Geography / Urban and Regional Planning, Texas State University, 1986 (SWTSU at the time)

**Experience:** 29 total years of experience in the area of government administration specializing in land use planning, permitting, and development.

**Answer 1:** There are many opportunities for the County to leverage funds and obtain needed resources. CAPCOG provides invaluable coordination and assistance in obtaining State and Federal funding for law enforcement training, emergency communications, economic development, and infrastructure improvements. CAMPO is another important agency that provides transportation planning funds and approves the use of transportation funds in the region.

**Answer 2:** The condition and maintenance of the Caldwell County road system is one of the biggest issues facing the County today. The cost necessary to bring these facilities to at least a minimum standard needs to be identified and the complete range of funding options brought before the public and the Commissioners Court. With the public's input and the assistance of all of the available resources, I believe we can begin to address this important issue.

**Answer 3:** While we do not have zoning authority, the County does have the authority to enforce subdivision and other public health and human safety regulations. A strong but fair set of regulations is necessary to ensure that County development occurs at a standard and in a planned manner that is expected by the citizens. Several master planned developments are coming to Caldwell County and I believe these represent only the beginning of the coming wave.
Caldwell County races

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Caldwell County races

HAYS COUNTY SHERIFF

Question 1: How does the Sheriff’s office work with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and what improvements or changes, if any, will you make?

Answer 1: Typically, our inmate population does not regularly meet Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) criteria, so I do not see any changes in the near future. This being said, I will stay fluid and make changes only if warranted. I enjoy a positive and professional working relationship with ICE as I do with all law enforcement agencies.

Answer 2: Officers receive continuing education in the areas of mental health and cultural diversity as mandated by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Usually, deputies encounter people and make the proper assessments in the field and alternatives other than jail are located for those in need. When jail is the last resort, we have mental health professionals, housing and psychiatric treatment strategies in place for safe and humane incarceration.

Answer 3: I encourage proactive measures in the use of technology to not only deter and solve crimes but to communicate with our citizens in Hays County. We use mass communications during law enforcement operations to keep our citizens safe. We have implemented programs using modern technology to locate fugitives, stolen property, and registered sex offenders. We will continue to research and evaluate evaluation options to improve and develop programs.

Gary Cutler (R)
Education: Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, May 1973, TCOLE-Masters and Instructors Certificates
Experience: TX Alcoholic Beverage Commission 2004-2010, Williamson County Sheriff’s Office 2001-2004, Travis County Sheriff’s Office 1974-2000 (Retired)

www.cutlerforsheriff.com

Answer 1: While I was the Sheriff the deputies and jail personnel underwent continuous education in diversity training. At that time there was no specialty training for transgendered, however I did then and would expect now that they are being treated fairly under the law and with dignity like any other citizen. We also had a full time mental health unit that responded as needed across Hays County.

Answer 2: If elected I would restart the critical programs I had initiated when I was the Sheriff that Gary Cutler disbanded shortly after he became the Sheriff. This included the drug and burglary interdiction units that had such great success across Hays County. I would also be more proactive with the Sheriffs Office Facebook account that I implemented, in informing and educating the public on criminal activity across Hays County.

Rodrigo Amaya (D)
Unopposed


HAYS COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Question 1: County government is primarily financed through taxes. Are there other revenue options beyond the property tax? Please explain.

Question 2: What are the transportation issues and how do you plan to address them?

Question 3: Because the Texas legislature has not given counties ordinance making power (i.e. zoning authority), how do you plan to address growth issues in the unincorporated areas of your county?

Question 4: What are the health and human services issues in your county and how would you address them?

Debbie Gonzales Ingalsbe (D)
Unopposed

County Commissioner Precinct 3

Will Conley (R)
Education: Texas State University - Degree in Political Science and Business

Experience: Father, husband, business owner, and Commissioner votewillconley.com

Answer 1: About 65% of county government is funded by property taxes. About 35% of the county budget comes from sales taxes, fees and fines, interest income, and revenue from other public sources. We have grown our savings account, kept tax rates low, and improved our credit rating. We have balanced 11 budgets, have been awarded exceptional status on 11 audits, have cut taxes for business, the disabled, seniors and

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Hays County races

have never voted for a tax rate increases

Answer 2: Hays County’s transportation system was mostly built and designed when we had less than 42,000 people and today we have about 150,000. We have redesigned and re-developed our transportation system for our growing population while also being sensitive to Hays County beautiful hill country character and environment. We are doing this through good planning and leveraging local dollars to bring in millions of state and federal monies to meet our need.

Answer 3: Counties do not have nor do they need zoning authority. This would be a determinate to county budgets, property rights, and freedoms that our citizens cherish. Instead, smart counties work with other jurisdictions in creative ways and set forth sound and responsible regulations to meet public safety needs. We have developed some wonderful plans in Hays County and have created the right type of environment for a bright future.

Rob Roark (R)

Education: College of Charleston - Business, North West Vista Community College - Semiconductor Manufacturing

Experience: 15 years Semiconductor Test Floor management. 8 Years Quality Control in Steel manufacturing. Over 10 years of volunteer work in Hays and San Marcos

robroarkforhays.com

Answer 1: Located in one of the fastest growing areas in our nation, we are challenged with maintaining our status as one of the healthiest counties in Texas. We provide care to disadvantage mothers and children, veterans, senior citizens, and have expanded programs to address the growing need for mental health treatment. We have provided these services in a cost effective manner by leveraging local funds with different monies and partners.

Answer 2: Two main transportation issues are facing Hays County. Access for citizens to job centers inside and outside of the county along the I-35 and US 290 corridors will continue to be an issue as we grow over the next decade, and I will work to keep Hays county toll free. Keeping jobs closer in Hays County, and communication infrastructure enhancement in our rural areas, along with alternate evacuation routes will be critical.

Answer 3: Counties do not have nor do they need zoning authority. This would be a determinate to county budgets, property rights, and freedoms that our citizens cherish. Instead, smart counties work with other jurisdictions in creative ways and set forth sound and responsible regulations to meet public safety needs. We have developed some wonderful plans in Hays County and have created the right type of environment for a bright future.

Answer 4: Mental health continues to be a major issue affecting our county, with the burden falling on our law enforcement, jail, and court systems. The Scheib Center is not central to many in our county, and we need to enhance access for the rural areas. Helping our law enforcement officers to better deal with these issues can save court costs and jail resources. After recent flooding, we are also seeing an increase in stress and fatigue in our citizens.
Hays County races

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but individuals with rights. The court must be about justice, not raising revenue. Identifying indigent parties ensuring equal access to the courts. Increase awareness of rights. Be available to law enforcement. End death inquests done by telephone. Civil process should be done with minimal disruption to the individual. Court summons should be preferred over warrants to avoid needless incarcerations.

JoAnne Prado (D)
Education: San Marcos High School graduate
Experience: 30 years with Hays County working with the judicial system 12 of those years as Justice of the Peace

Answer 1: Should have complete knowledge and understanding of all duties and responsibilities of the Justice of the Peace and be able to effectively conduct the court to be fair and impartial over all cases filed.

Answer 2: Currently this office is in need of another full time clerk. Due to the growing population in Hays County and with the volume of cases filed in the court the need for another employee would most definitely be beneficial. More funding is needed in this office for continuing education for my staff in order to keep up with all changes made by the legislature as it pertains to the office of the Justice of the Peace.

Answer 3: All process service is handled by the constable and or a private processor. In regards to customer service I have a very efficient and knowledgeable staff that are available to assist anyone who comes to the office. Currently all my staff is cross trained and can assist with all matters at the window.

HAYS COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 1, PLACE 2

Scot Courtney (D)
Education: Juris Doctorate, Thurgood Marshall School of Law 1994; BA/Political Science & Resource Management, Texas State University (SWT) 1990
Experience: 21 Years experience as a Criminal Trial Attorney–Board Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization-Criminal Law.

www.scotcourtney.com

Answer 1: I believe a minimum educational requirement of Bachelor Degree is a reasonable expectation. I also think that a Juris Doctorate (Law Degree), along with practical experience in the Courts and/or the Criminal Justice System would best serve larger and growing counties, such as Hays. While formal education is important, practical experience can also be an invaluable asset to any candidate seeking to serve the citizens as Justice of the Peace.

Answer 2: Staff salaries are always a priority to ensure that not only the current staff is adequately compensated for their hard work, but also competitive enough to attract candidates in the future, should any positions become available. Continued improvements in technology are also crucial to ensure efficient information and document management, as well as improve access to information and communication with the Court staff.

Answer 3: Accessibility and cooperation with all aspects of the Court system is a priority. The JP Court must adapt to help the other components of the Court system work more efficiently. Additionally, any court is only as good as it’s staff; they are the ones that truly make a Court function efficiently. Making sure they are confident in their responsibilities and prepared to serve, will ensure an effective and efficient administration of justice.

Sandra Sepulveda Lopez (D)
Education: SMHS Graduate ’98, Texas State University- Criminal Justice/Forensic Psychology, Texas Justice Court Training- Civil Process & Civil Office Management
Experience: 10+ years Justice Court experience and civil office management, TCIC/NCIC Certified, TLETS Certified, J.P. Courtroom Interpretation-Spanish sandraslopez.com

Answer 1: I believe that the minimum requirements to hold the office of JP should include work experience and formal education in a related field as well as involvement in the community you seek to serve. My experience as a Justice Clerk coupled with my education in criminal justice provide a firm foundation on which to build a streamlined department that will efficiently serve the community.

Answer 2: All county offices have the same general cost of operation: personnel costs, office supplies, equipment, etc. While the bulk of the budget would be spent on those items, I feel that the greatest need in funding would be for training. It is important to invest in continuing education for all staff members so that they are able to serve the public effectively.

Answer 3: Any issues with the service of process can be mitigated by fostering and maintaining a good working relationship with the Constable’s office which is primarily responsible for service of Justice Court documents. In terms of customer service, the Justice Court must never forget that it serves the people and I would ensure that all staff members treat everyone with dignity and respect.

Maggie Hernandez Moreno (D)
Education: San Marcos High School Junior at the University of Texas San Antonio pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Legal Studies
Experience: I supervise the state programs in 28 counties, provide education to the community thru public speaking, and ensure grant deliverables are met.


Answer 1: As it stands now, the minimum qualifications for this office are determined by the State. To qualify, a candidate must be 18 years of age, a resident of the State of Texas, a district resident, and registered to vote in the area elected from. It is up to the voters if they want candidates with additional qualifications such as a university degree, law license, or a working knowledge of the criminal justice system.

Answer 2: The funding needs for this office are difficult to state, since it has not been fully functional after the death of my mother, Judge Margie Hernandez in April of 2015. One can only look at past budgets and estimate what the workload may be in 2018 when this office is fully staffed again. If elected, I would work with Commissioner’s Court to construct a budget that meets the needs of the newly combined Place 1 and Place 2 offices.

Answer 3: The office of the Justice of the Peace must continue to have an open communication line with the Constable’s office in order to handle process serving in a timely and efficient manner. By providing as much information as possible to the Constable’s office, the office of the Justice of the Peace can ensure that notifications regarding summons to appear before the court are provided to individuals within a reasonable amount of time.

James D. “JD” Elshoff (R)
Education: B.A., University of Iowa, Iowa City; Juris Doctorate, Western State University College of Law, San Diego
Experience: 31+ years law practice; former JP in Montana; Professor, School of Criminal Justice, Texas State University; Teen Court Judge, San Marcos

www.facebook.com/Elshoff-for-Justice

Answer 1: All judgesthips should be filled by an attorney licensed to practice law. Poor decisions precipitate unnecessary appeals and trial de novo.

Answer 2: San Marcos is the fastest-growing city in the U.S., and the Justice Court is the busiest Court in the state of Texas. It requires judges and experienced clerks who can process orders timely. Precinct 1 may very well need a third JP to meet the ever-increasing caseload. Additional support staff and technology are also needed.

Answer 3: Process-serving can be dangerous and should be carried out by a trained law enforcement officer; his or her safety is paramount. Customers are the parties named in cases filed with the court; they are entitled to respect and justice. I will ensure they receive it when I am elected.

Shane Scott (R)
Education: Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice
Experience: 5 years experience in municipal government.

Answer 1: Currently a high school diploma is all that is required to hold the office of Justice of the Peace in Hays County. Many other counties have pushed to only allow attorneys to represent the office. Personally believe a Justice of the Peace would lose the public point of view by requiring a law degree. A law degree is not a hindrance but it takes away from the human touch and does not allow one to be impartial.

Answer 2: Current funding needs have been set for the court until after the November 2016 election. The Hays County commissioners are responsible for allocating the courts funding. Prior to the position being opened the two presiding Justice of the Peace offices retained their own staff. In an attempt to save money, commissioners combined the staff for both offices. If elected I would work with staff to understand their needs to help with efficiency.

Answer 3: This sounds more like a Constable question when it comes to the serving process. The Justice of the Peace orders the constables office to serve papers to notify people when they need to address the court. When it comes to customer service the Justice of the Peace needs to be a friendly face which is on duty 24/7 and ready to serve at a moment’s notice when the public calls. Professionalism and impartiality is necessary to serve the public.

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Hays County races

HAYS COUNTY CONSTABLE

**Question 1:** What do you think are the most important responsibilities of the County Constable’s office?

**Question 2:** What emerging problems do you foresee in the Constable’s office and how will you address them?

**Question 3:** What should be the minimum qualifications for the position of Constable?

HAYS COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 1

David L. Peterson (D)

Unopposed

Saul Medrano (R)

Unopposed

HAYS COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 2

Steve Avalos (R)

Education: High School Diploma, SAC

Experience: Over 17 years law enforcement, Over 2200 law enforcement training hours, Instructor certifications, Masters Peace Officer license

Answer 1: The main responsibilities of the Constable’s office are to protect citizens not only through effectively implementing state mandated responsibilities such as civil process and court security but also to provide exceptional public service to the citizens by keeping up with the expectations and needs of the community. Due to the considerable growth of the precinct, it is important to track changes and ensure the office grows along with the precinct.

Answer 2: I foresee the continued problem with the backlog of Class C warrants as well as the need for current training of deputy constables to ensure safety and reliability in performing their duties. I will conduct regular local warrant round-ups, prioritize civil process demands and scheduling, and implement in-house procedures to ensure successful workflow and cooperation with the JP court. I will also foster strong relationships with other agencies.

Answer 3: TCOLE Certified Peace Officer, Prior law enforcement experience, Professionalism, Organizational/Management Skills, Excellent communication skills, Team Player

James H. Kohler (R)

Experience: 38 years

Answer 1: To make sure all people in my County, young and old are safe.

Answer 2: I don’t foresee any problems in our office.

Answer 3: Common sense and another deputy.

Jimmy Zuehlke (R)

Education: Associate of Arts Degree in Law Enforcement, from Blinn College. Bachelors of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Texas State University.

Experience: Retired from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission after 25 years of devoted service. Patrol Deputy with Hays County Sheriff’s Office for 3 years.

Answer 1: As a Constable for Precinct 2 Hays County, I am ready and looking forward to becoming a key figure as a Proactive Community Leader to provide Civil Process/Court Documents, and Criminal Law Enforcement to the citizens of Hays County, and the citizens of this Republic of Texas! My priority will be to serve any and all Civil Process papers, serve Criminal Warrants, and provide the Justice of the Peace with all expected service from a Constable.

Answer 2: The entire Precinct 2 area as well as Hays County has grown by leaps and bounds in the past several years and it continues to grow in population and technology. I will make sure that my supervisory experience will motivate my personnel and promote professionalism to excel in all aspects of the Constables office. I will provide internal, external, and whatever means possible to educate my personnel and prepare them for the future.

Answer 3: A four year college education should be mandatory for a Constable. At least 20 years of Law Enforcement experience which includes supervisory experience. I personally achieved the rank of Lieutenant with TABC. As society changes, so must a Constable. Experience with budgetary and financial issues. Foremost is to be able to communicate with the community in a positive and professional manner.

Michael Torres (D)

Unopposed

HAYS COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 3

Ray Helm (R)

Unopposed

HAYS COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4

Ron E. Hood (R)

Unopposed

HAYS COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

John Ellen (R)

Education: Master’s Degree in Political Science/Public Administration, Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology, Master Peace Officer, 6700+ hours of LE training.

Experience: Licensed Peace Officer for 35 years, 14 years Executive/Command experience, 10 years Supervisory experience, 3500+ hours of Instructor experience.

johnellenforconstable.com

Answer 1: As a Constable for Precinct 2 Hays County, I am ready and looking forward to becoming a key figure as a Proactive Community Leader to provide Civil Process/Court Documents, and Criminal Law Enforcement to the citizens of Hays County, and the citizens of this Republic of Texas! My priority will be to serve any and all Civil Process papers, serve Criminal Warrants, and provide the Justice of the Peace with all expected service from a Constable.

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Answer 3: A four year college education should be mandatory for a Constable. At least 20 years of Law Enforcement experience which includes supervisory experience. I personally achieved the rank of Lieutenant with TABC. As society changes, so must a Constable. Experience with budgetary and financial issues. Foremost is to be able to communicate with the community in a positive and professional manner.

Michael Torres (D)

Unopposed

Mitch Johnson (R)

Education: Have a Master Peace Officer Certificate

Experience: 36½ years of law enforcement experience, 27 years with Hays County.

Answer 1: To maintain a high standard of quality of law enforcement service, building trust and relationships with the public. Treating the public the way I would want my family treated with respect and dignity. One of the ways to meet these standard is through the continued training and education for all the officers. Also working with all the public safety agencies, courts and serving all the civil process and warrants that is sent to the department.

Answer 2: Hays County is one of the fastest growing areas in the county. This will mean and increase in calls for service by law enforcement along with an increase in court cases being filed and civil process being served. As Constable I will try to work with the assets that I have along with working with the commissioners court and seek grant funding to have adequate staff and equipment to keep up with the growth and meet the needs of the public.

Answer 3: The minimum should be as stated in Texas Local Government Code 86.002. I feel the candidate Should hold a minimum of a Master Peace Officer Certification and live in the Precinct you want to hold the position of Constable for a minimum of five years. Along with some experience in serving civil process in order to be able to supervise Deputies working for you that are serving civil process.

Matt Mancillas III (R)

Education: Capital Area Planning Council Regional Training Academy - Master Peace Officer Certification, Southwest Texas State University BA in Psychology

Experience: 20+ years Law Enforcement experience Patrol, Investigator, Deputy Constable, Mental Health Worker, and Probation Officer, Constable since 2005

www.facebook.com/Matt-Mancillas-III

Answer 1: The most important responsibility of the Constable’s office is to properly and effectively execute civil process. As licensed peace officers, we ensure that no citizen is deprived of monies, property, or personal liberty without the full due process afforded to them by civil law. It is imperative to me that our department treats all people with dignity and respect

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Hays County races

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Answer 2: Our greatest challenge is managing the increased amount of civil process caused by the explosive growth in the area while maintaining the level of service our citizens have become accustomed to. With growth comes the need for additional resources and personnel. I will continue to carefully and responsibly manage the department’s budget and ensure that any additional resources are appropriate and necessary.

Answer 3: I believe that the minimum qualifications required by law for the position of Constable are sufficient. However, having served as the Constable since 2005, I find that it helps to possess a formal education and relevant work experience. Buda has a diverse community and being able to communicate in multiple languages, including Spanish and American Sign Language, has greatly enhanced the effectiveness of my position.

TAX ASSESSOR
Luanne Caraway (R)
Unopposed

Travis County races

TRAVIS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Question 1: What supervision and management of prosecutors will you provide to avoid over-zealous prosecutions and prosecutorial misconduct?

Question 2: Are there measures or programs that you propose or support to reduce crime in our community (family violence, juvenile crimes, etc.)?

Question 3: What is the most important function of the Office of the District Attorney? Please explain.

Gary Cobb (D)

Education: J.D. from The University of Texas School of Law. Bachelor’s Degree from Mississippi State University.

Experience: 25 years as a felony prosecutor; Director of the Grand Jury Division. Experience trying over 200 jury trials.

www.garycobbforda.com

Answer 1: I would create a Prosecution Integrity Unit. We have to train prosecutors to be aware of and to avoid the mistakes and biases that commonly lead to wrongful convictions. The public trust must be earned every day. The DA’s Office is made up of tremendously talented men and women who work tirelessly day in and day out. I commit that from the top down we will work each day to respect our community and the laws we enforce.

Answer 2: In Travis County, violent offenders too often “plead” out. I believe the DA’s office exists to take on the worst offenders in our community. We owe it to the victim, the victim’s family, and our commitment to public safety to ensure that dangerous criminals do not receive a lighter sentence simply for the sake of efficiency. Our community, through a jury verdict, needs a stronger voice in determining appropriate justice for these individuals.

Answer 3: The DA should create a culture at the Office that values seeking justice in every case rather than simply getting convictions. Experienced prosecutors understand that an incompetent or negligent lawyer can poorly represent a client but we must ensure all prosecutors understand this. Prosecutors should be trained to not fall into the common error of treating individuals differently because of the race, income, gender, or other characteristic.

Margaret Moore (D)

Education: BBA, University of Texas at Austin, 1970; JD, University of Texas School of Law, 1972


www.margaretforda.com

Answer 1: I will provide mandatory training in legal and ethical opinions that address prosecutorial conduct; and I will personally regularly observe my assistants in their grand jury presentations and courtroom appearances. I was told that I am District Attorney.

Answer 2: I believe in vigorous prosecution of violent crime. I also support alternatives to merely prosecuting and punishing non-violent offenders. Our community demands both efficient and effective responses to crime. For example, as County Attorney, I instituted the first and only deferred prosecution program in the county. I intend to study and strengthen existing diversion programs, e.g., the Drug Court, and initiate new programming as needed.

Answer 3: To exemplify the highest ethical conduct. The personal integrity of the DA is crucial to our community’s faith in that office and the system as a whole. A DA must command the confidence of the judges, the defense bar, law enforcement, and community leaders when tough and controversial decisions have to be made. By providing ethical leadership, the DA influences all participants in the administration of justice.

Rick Reed (D)

Education: Bachelor of Arts, UT Austin, 1978; Juris Doctor, SMU School of Law, 1985; Board Certified, Criminal Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization, 1993

Experience: 30 years in Criminal Law: 21 years as a prosecutor in Dallas County and Travis County; 9 years in private practice; tried almost 350 jury trials.

www.rickreedforda.com

Answer 1: I will establish a strict policy that such conduct will no longer be tolerated. I will remind all current employees, and inform all new employees, that they will be expected to abide by both the letter and the spirit of the law that provides that it shall be the primary duty of all prosecutors “not to convict, but to see that justice is done." I will take appropriate disciplinary action in the event that any employee violates either policy.

Answer 2: Yes. First, I will require prosecutors to refocus their efforts on those crimes that most seriously affect public safety: violent crimes. Second, I will reorganize two divisions that play a critical in promoting public safety in our community: the Grand Jury Division, which is doing a poor job screening cases before accepting them for felony prosecution; and the Family Justice Division, which is extremely understaffed and overburdened.

Answer 3: The Office of District Attorney is the chief law enforcement agency of Travis County. Its most important function is to zealously pursue two competing goals, both of which are indispensable to justice: (1) to prosecute felony offenses that need to be criminally prosecuted, while diverting those that can be better dealt with through treatment and rehabilitation programs; and (2) to avoid incarcerating and prosecuting individuals who are innocent.

Maura Phelan (R)
Unopposed

TRAVIS COUNTY JUDGE, COURT AT LAW #8
Carlos H. Barrera (D)
Unopposed

TRAVIS COUNTY JUDGE, COURT AT LAW #9
Kim Williams (D)
Unopposed

TRAVIS COUNTY ATTORNEY
David Escamilla (D)
Unopposed
TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Question 1: County government is primarily financed through taxes. Are there other revenue options beyond the property tax? Please explain.
Answer 1: I am adverse to additional revenue. We must make Travis county affordable again. We must conduct an independent, forensic audit to ensure we eliminate any/any (possible) fraud, waste and/or abuse. We must show that we can do more with less. I will do everything in my power to ensure business pays its way, and its fair share. We must eliminate incentives for businesses to move here. We must invest in our local talent. Let's Spend Wisely.

Question 2: What are the transportation issues and how do you plan to address them?
Answer 2: There are too many cars on the road at the same time, most going in the same direction. There must be a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach to reduce congestion. We must reduce car traffic by increasing other modes of transportation (e.g. rail, bicycles), encourage and incentivize work times (private and public), incent ridesharing, investing in outlined work center(s) development, build roads, and connect roads that work. Time the lights
Answer 3: Develop a “Promise Zone”, based on Education, Entertainment, and Technology, to be placed at the intersection of the ETJ and city properties, in far east Precinct 1. This project would be a draw and create a space for the creators and innovators to build and expand their many talents, create high paying jobs and entrepreneurs. The “Promise Zone” will also provide for Hydroponic farming, multi-income housing, a legal and health clinic.
Answer 4: There are, at minimum, 3 major health issues that the county must address; lack of health care facilities, environment mental impacts, and lifestyle choices. The county must increase and expand services, (including mental healthcare) into the county, we must investigate, mitigate and rapidly eliminate the effects of the environmental dumping, and incentivize health lifestyle choices. Services must be viewed comprehensive to increase effectiveness.

Richard Franklin III (D)
Education: Associates in Avionics, Master Avionics Technician, Aircraft Dispatch License, Train Dispatch License, Series 7 & 66 Security Licenses
Experience: Former DV School Board Member and Pct.101 Chair. President, Youth Unlimited. Former Business owner, Financial Consultant, AF Veteran, Cancer Survivor
richardfranklin4pct1.info
Answer 1: I will work with the Commissioner to ensure our local talent. Let’s Spend Wisely
Answer 2: There are too many cars on the road at the same time, most going in the same direction. There must be a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach to reduce congestion. We must reduce car traffic by increasing other modes of transportation (e.g. rail, bicycles), encourage and incentivize work times (private and public), incent ridesharing, investing in outlined work center(s) development, build roads, and connect roads that work. Time the lights
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Marc Hoskins (D)
Education: B.A. in Political Science, M.A. in Political Campaign Management
Experience: Former Galveston City Council Member, senate staffer to Texas State Senator Jose Menendez, owner of Hoskins & Associates LLC
Answer 1: In order to carry out certain responsibilities, the commissioners court is authorized to issue bonds for certain purposes. Commissioners are also responsible for management of debt incurred by the sale of such bonds. Bonds may be issued for the following purposes: county parks; for acquisition of land and buildings playgrounds, historical museums, and may issue bonds to provide for a courthouse jail.
Answer 2: Overall, transportation is a state issue and I would like to see a consortium of local government (city and county, including the state) to come up with a resolution to address our transportation issues here in Austin. As commissioner, I would advocate for more efficient bus routes and additional services that can help Precinct One residents get to and from their destinations.

James Nortey (D)
Education: JD, Harvard Law School; M.S. in Technology Commercialization, University of Texas at Austin; BA in Philosophy, Criminal Justice, Baylor University
Experience: Treasurer, African American Cultural Heritage District; City of Austin Planning Commissioner; Blanton & Pecan Springs elementary reading coach
jamesnortey.com
Answer 1: Unfortunately, the State of Texas provides Travis County with just a few tools to collect revenue. Our revenue options include property taxes, development fees, service charges, and fines. The majority of our county revenue comes from property taxes. This unfair tax system increases income inequality and leaves local governments struggling to meet the needs of our residents. We must keep taxes low and fairly distributed and work for tax fairness.
Answer 2: Traffic congestion is our most urgent transportation issue. We must use every tool in the toolbox to get better roads, more transportation options, and better land planning. We especially need improved bus service and more sidewalks in Precinct 1. Long-term, we must encourage affordable, compact, and connected communities with job centers, affordable housing, recreation centers, and green spaces within a short driving or walking distance.
Answer 3: Even with limited powers, Travis County can encourage responsible growth, address affordability, reduce traffic congestion, and create good jobs for the residents who live here. County Government should work with public and private partners to use creative tools like tax increment financing and homestead preservation districts to preserve existing affordable housing stock and minimize the displacement of low-income households.
Answer 4: Some parts of our community lack access to healthy food options, places for active recreation, and accessible primary and preventive healthcare services. We have a critical shortage of mental health services, and too many people in need find themselves in jail instead of in treatment. We need expanded healthy food options, more clinics, more parks, and a regional effort to tackle regional problems like homelessness, hunger, and instability.

Arthur Sampson (D)
Education: Travis County Sheriff’s Academy, attended Austin Community College—continuing education.
Experience: Lt. Governor of the State of Texas, Criminal Justice, Travis County
Answer 1: Yes, there are intergovernmental resources (shared funding from other governmental jurisdictions), charges for continued on page 28
Travis County races

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services, fines and forfeitures, investment income, general purpose reserves, special purpose reserves, the sale of major assets, and a few other small reserves for emergencies and contingency funding.

Answer 2: I-35 is severely congested, the most effective way to address the congestion on I-35 is to un-toll SH-130. This will significantly eliminate congestion, a pilot project should be put in place to assess the effectiveness of the proposal. Many have no access to mass transit options which allow them to go to a doctor’s office, work, or school. We must provide options which will allow families access to transportation solutions to be successful.

Answer 3: The first step is maximizing the use of existing state law. The county does have the authority to focus on developments which may pose health or safety risks. I will support the work of the Land Development Division and work to make sure that it has the personnel and skill sets necessary to be effective. It is important to have a staff which really understands and has experience in planning and land use regulations.

Answer 4: Travis County has seen an increase in the number of low-to moderate income families. There is a need to ensure the access and availability of health-related resources. Mass transit opportunities are insufficient, and with an aging population, we must ensure access to healthy food sources, recreation facilities, programing, and other services provided by non-profit and public organizations. We must reengineer our practices to reflect our needs.

Pat McCord (R)

Unopposed

TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

Gerald Daugherty (R)

Education: Gerald graduated from Cypress-Fairbanks High School in 1968. After a career in professional baseball he graduated from the University of Texas in 1975.

Experience: He has been an Austin businessman and entrepreneur for more than 40 years. He has been County Commissioner for Travis County PCT 3 for 10 years this year.

www.votegerald.com

Answer 1: Not really as State Government mandates what we can and can’t do. The source of revenue that we can do better (and should do) is the collection of fines, i.e., the Courts from JP Courts on up. In my opinion, we (Travis County) are too lenient with what fines are owed to us!

Answer 2: As everyone that knows me, I’ve always complained about the notion that if we don’t build it, they won’t come—this has really been our downfall in my opinion. This being said, we have to concentrate on increased roadway capacity and improving our major intersections. This will in turn, help our public transit system. Unfortunately this will take substantial investment which will necessitate asking the public for more money.

Answer 3: In the last 10 years we’ve worked with many environmentalists, developers, and neighbors to set up rules that can positively enhance development, especially in the sensitive hill country. Making sure there is enough water supply and roadway connectivity has allowed for a more accepted pathway towards growth. I doubt if the Legislature will give counties more authority. We can mange this ourselves with sensitive ideas and active participants!!

Answer 4: Here are a few: Uninsured: Central Health has the main responsibility, but the County helps through our HHVS Department. Mental Health: Again, Central Health is a big player, but the County helps with Mental Health Diversion programs & Courts to treat people, not jail them. Homelessness: Work actively with ECHO & all social service agencies to help the homeless & provide wrap around services, to save on emergency room & jail costs.

Jason Nassour (R)

No response

David Holmes (D)

Unopposed

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF

Question 1: How does the Sheriff’s office work with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and what improvements or changes, if any, will you make?

Question 2: How will you train officers to deal with diverse populations, including those with mental issues and the transgendered?

Question 3: What measures or programs do you propose to reduce crime in our community?

Sally Hernandez (D)

Education: B.S. Criminal Justice from St. Edward’s University. Master Peace Officer Certification.


www.vote4sally.com

Answer 1: I will end the voluntary, unconstitutional cooperation with ICE and the Priority Enforcement Program (PEP–Comm), rebuild trust with immigrant communities, and find opportunities to reduce turnaround time for U and T Visa violation requests. We need to ensure that all Travis County families are safe in our community and confident that law enforcement will treat them equally under the law. I will stand up for our progressive values.

Answer 2: We must stop criminalizing mental illness. I will partner with stakeholders and work with the Behavioral Advisory Health Committee to address the growing need for health services, mental health training, secure housing, and reentry programs, to help people with mental illnesses. I will respect the gender identity and sexual orientation of people who are stopped and booked. I will not tolerate discrimination of any kind from my staff.

Answer 3: One of my main priorities will be keeping our neighborhoods safe. I will direct more resources to property crimes, partner with neighborhoods so that they can develop their own neighborhood watch programs. I want to expand Parking Mobility, Senior Fraud Prevention, and Child Safety programs countywide by partnering with communities and organizations. I have the education, training, and experience to keep you, your family, and neighborhood safe.

Todd Radford (D)

Education: Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice Administration Master of Science, Executive & Strategic Leadership

Experience: 27 years of State, County, and City experience.

www.radfordforsheriff.com

Answer 1: While I know and respect Sheriff Hamilton and his service to Travis County, I disagree with him on his approach to working with ICE. Simply put, Travis County deputies should not be in the position of acting as immigration agents, so I will end ICE deportations from the Travis County Jail. Doing otherwise destroys the trust that must be built between law enforcement and immigrant communities.

Answer 2: Proper training for law enforcement is essential for building trust and legitimacy with residents of Travis County. As Chief of Police, I recognized this need and had all of my patrol officers cross-trained as mental health officers. I want to bring the same approach as Sheriff. Additionally, I will ensure officers are well-trained to promote understanding and sensitivity with the LGBT community and other populations within Travis County.

Answer 3: I will focus on building trust and legitimacy with residents of Travis County. When the public is confident in the work being done by law enforcement, they are more apt to obey the law and help officers solve “and thus prevent” crimes. Additionally, all Travis County deputies should have body cameras. As Chief of Police, I outfitted my patrol officers with body cams, and I am the only candidate with the first-hand experience in getting that done.

Don X. Rios (D)

Education: FBI–LEEDA Supervisor, Leadership, and Executive Institutes and Master Peace Officer, Firearms Instructor, and Master Jailer certifications

Experience: 23 years with the Sheriff’s Office, Chair–Lake Travis Task Force, hostage negotiation team leader, child abuse detective, mental health officer

www.riosforsheriff.com

Answer 1: ICE must be separate from law enforcement. Unless the person is a serious danger to the community, we will not be involved in any ICE operations or honor detainer and notification requests. When families are separated following minor violations, it becomes difficult for law enforcement to do its job. We rely on ties built in our communities to maintain public safety. Constitutionally dubious ICE detainers

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harm these ties.

Answer 2: We need increased accountability and more de-escalation and diversity trainings, which will decrease the likelihood of further tragedies and build trust with these populations. I am the only candidate with a Mental Health certification and know we must advocate for more mental health funding instead of incarcerating people with mental illness. Our law enforcement must also be reflective of our county’s diversity.

Answer 3: We need a collaborative effort to build trust through criminal justice reform, meaningful policies that lower recidivism rates, and a focus on mental healthcare. Effective communication, community involvement, and a focus on diversity are areas that we can’t scrimp on.

Answer 3: I expect my officers to learn the community we serve, talk to neighbors, and listen to their problems. The Sheriff’s office needs to host community events and forums in every neighborhood in Travis County, with a particular emphasis on property crime prevention. And together with community health providers, I want to get the mentally ill the treatment they need, and out of the revolving door of the criminal justice system.

Joe G. Martinez (R)
Unopposed

TRAVIS COUNTY CONSTABLE

Question 1: What do you think are the most important responsibilities of the County Constable’s office?

Question 2: What emerging problems do you foresee in the Constable’s office and how will you address them?

Question 3: What should be the minimum qualifications for the position of Constable?

TRAVIS COUNTY CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 1

Rick Schumacher (D)


Answer 1: Being transparent and responsive to the community, fulfilling the needs of the Justice of the Peace Court, and adding value to the community through the established warrant service as well as community-centric programs such as my plan to mitigate illegal dumping in eastern Travis County and my plan to introduce social workers to the eviction process.

Answer 2: Eastern Travis County is growing at a significant pace. The coming years will see an equally significant increase in service requirements. Forward focused plans to manage that growth will require input from a number of community and business leaders, which is why I plan on developing a community advisory council to help develop a working plan. I also plan on creating an interactive website providing benchmarks for all programs and services.

Answer 3: A Constable in Travis County should have the experience and education to not only manage a law enforcement agency personnel and budgets but also be able to build rapport and relationships with a very diverse community. As a cross-cultural communicator, who worked to reduce sectarian violence in Iraq through relationship building, I believe that experience in community engagement is essential to building peace in our community.

Janie Serna (D)

Education: Associates Degrees, one with emphasis in Criminal Justice and one in Corrections.

Experience: License Peace Officer with 11 years experience, with over 2200 Law Enforcement training hours and hold a Master Peace Officer Certification.

Answer 1: Constable should be a person of integrity with good morals who is willing to work on building relationships within the community. To serve and protect, cooperate with local, state, federal and county agencies.

Answer 2: Ensuring staff understand their role in serving the community. That all civil process be served in a timely manner. Staff should be partially bilingual in order to better serve the community.

Answer 3: Constables should be community driven individuals who understand that their main function is to serve the community with integrity, accountability and professionalism. A Constable should be a Licensed Peace Officer when elected by the community and have a degree from a credible college or university and hold a Master Peace Officer Certification by TCOLE in order to have the education and experience to effectively meet the challenges of the office.

Danny Thomas (D)

Education: "Old Anderson High School" graduate, Associates of Art in Criminal Justice from Austin Community College.

Experience: Elected Official 13 years: City Council Member six years, Travis County Constable seven years, I have over 28 years of law enforcement experience.

re-electconstabledannythomas.com

Answer 1: Serving the citizens of Travis County by educating the community on the different functions of the Constable’s office. Developing and implementing a new website to provide an informational resource for the community relative to Precinct One functions and activities. Continue to participate in community events and neighborhood association meetings to develop and maintain effective working relationships with the community.

Answer 2: Efficiency, education, outreach and service will continue to be the major focus of the daily operations. As Constable I will continue to strive to ensure that Pct.

One remains a valuable asset to the community it serves. I plan to continue to utilize available resources to further enhance the capabilities of the office.

Answer 3: The minimum qualifications should be a licensed peace officer under Chapter 1701, Occupations Code with law enforcement experience.

TRAVIS COUNTY CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 2

Adan Ballesteros (D)
Unopposed

Deke Pierce (R)
Unopposed

TRAVIS COUNTY CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 3

Anthony ‘AJ’ Johnson (D)

Education: Certified Master Peace officer Certified Firearms Instructor Certified Gang Instructor and Investigator Certified FTO Certified Narcotics

Experience: I have 36 years of Law Enforcement experience. Retired Austin Police, Travis County District Attorney, Travis County Constable Pct. 3

afjforconstable.com

Answer 1: The important responsibilities of the Constable’s office are, official responsibility for service of process: such as summonses and subpoenas for people to appear in court in criminal and/or civil mat-

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ters. On the other hand, they are fully em-
powered law enforcement officers. Constab-
les may also have additional specialized
duties unique to their office.

Answer 2: Some of the Problems I fore-
see is open carry, the law is unclear for po-
lice to enforce the law and more clarifi-
cation is needed. I also think that in today
times all police-officers need body cam’s
because when an offense occurs, officers
and the public can have a clear view of what
happen.

Answer 3: By state statute, requires a
High School diploma or equivalency certifi-
cate with no felony convictions. Must be at
least 21 years of age with 30 or more hours
of accredited college credits or 2 years
of military service with an honorable dis-
charge. Must have two years of prior law en-
forcement officer experience. Requires In-
termediate Certification as a peace officer
by the Texas Commission on Law Enforce-
ment (TCOLE).

Stacy Suits (D)
Education: Bachelor of Arts in Government,
University of Texas, 1974
Experience: I was
elected Constable Pct. 5 in 1982 and served for
seven years. I served as Chief Deputy
Constable for Pct. 3 for 10 years beginning

www.suitsforconstable.com

Answer 1: Those mandated by state law
must come first: 1) serve as bailiffs in their
precinct’s Justice of the Peace Court; 2) ser-
ve civil process; and 3) execute their pre-
cinct’s Class C warrants. Other duties have
been approved and funded by County Com-
misioners; for example, as Chief Deputy, I
created Pct. 3’s Clean Air Task Force to tar-
get manufacturers of counterfeit inspec-
tion stickers and inspection stations that
falsify inspection reports.

Answer 2: As long as the duties listed
above are performed efficiently and effec-
tively (as they were when I was both Con-
stable and Chief Deputy), we are in an ide-
al position to help decrease air pollution.

Since 90% of vehicular air pollution here is
caused by 10% of the vehicles, I would re-

stitute a Clean Air Task Force program at Pct
3 so we can once again investigate and
prosecute inspectors and inspection sta-
tions that falsify vehicle emission tests.

Answer 3: For an increasingly large, urban
county such as Travis, Constables should
have a minimum of 1) a four-year college
degree; 2) a Master Texas Peace Officer Li-
cense; and 3) a Civil Process Proficiency
Certification from the Texas Commission
on Law Enforcement (all of which I have).

TRAVIS COUNTY CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 4

Manuel Jimenez (D)
Education: Gary Job
Corp-1990. Security
Police Academy-
USAF,1991. Community College of the
Air Force. Non-Commissioned Officers
Academy-USAF.
Experience: I’ve been in law enforcement
for over 24 years (Supervisor for 17 years).
Currently the Chief Deputy of Travis Co Pct
4 & Ret. Master Sergeant in USAF.

Jimenezforconstable.com

Answer 1: The most important responsi-
bility is to effectively carry out the civil/
criminal process and to execute court or-
ders without prejudice. A Constable must
also ensure his officers are knowledgeable,
professional, and responsive to the com-
unity in which they serve. I’ve pushed for
more training for my officers and I contin-
uously encourage my deputies to attend
community events, including resource fairs
at schools and in neighborhood centers.

Answer 2: An emerging problem in any
law enforcement office is the growing di-
vide between law enforcement and the
community. Since Day 1 of this campaign
I have emphasized: 1. Increased officer train-
ing, especially de-escalation training. 2.
More community outreach to let the people
know we are here to keep them from jail not
to throw them in it. 3.) I’ll support the Vet-
"ans Court and the Sobriety Center so citi-
zens get the help they desperately need.

Answer 3: I believe the voters of the pre-
cinct 4 have done a great job selecting their
Constables. Travis County’s office en-
geraged and informed voters and they have a
history of electing the most qualified Con-
stable. I think the only necessary qualifica-
tion is the their trust and vote.

George
Morales III (D)
Education: Johnston HS
Grad; Austin Community
College; Huston Tillotson
University—Criminal Justice MajorLiberal
Arts Minor.
Experience: 7 Years Chief Deputy
Constable; 15 Years Deputy Constable; 22
Years Public Service
georgeforconstable.com

Answer 1: I believe the most important
responsibilities of the Constable’s office are
to service the Justice of the Peace Court’s
civil process and warrants. I also believe the
Constable has a duty to the people within
the precinct to improve the community.

Constables should be servants of the
people that elected them. Communities
face different challenges it is up to the
Constable to determine how to overcome
tose specific challenges.

Answer 2: Travis County Constable
Pct. 4 has one of the highest employee
turnover rates in all of Travis County. I am
Chief Deputy for Constable Pct. 2; which
has one of the lowest turnover rates within
Travis Co. I will implement programs that
I championed at Pct. 2, such as employee
recognition and a rewards program for top
performing employees. These programs are
very effective at fostering positive
workplace relationships and improving
retention.

Answer 3: I believe a Constable should
hold a Master Peace Officer’s License and
have served at least 10 years as a Texas
Peace Officer. The Constable should
also hold a certification in Civil Process
Proficiency. These are the main facets of
the job and the training and experience
should reflect that. I am the only Master
Peace Officer, Civil Process Proficiency
certified and the only licensed mental
health officer in this race.

TRAVIS COUNTY CONSTABLE,
PRECINCT 5

Carlos B. Lopez (D)
Unopposed

TRAVIS COUNTY TAX
ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

Bruce Elfant (D)
Unopposed

When and where to vote

Early Voting: All registered voters may vote early by
personal appearance at any early voting location in
their county. Check with the county clerk or election admin-
istrator for early voting times and locations. Early voting
days for the March 1, 2016, Primary Election are Febru-

Election Day Voting: On Election Day you must vote in
your precinct of residence (unless, like Travis County and
Williamson County, your area is participating in county-
wide vote centers). Your precinct is listed on your regis-
tration card, or you may find out where to vote by calling
or going online with your county election administrator.
County elections addresses and fax numbers are avail-
able at www.VoteTexas.gov or at www.VOTE411.org. If
you report to the incorrect polling place, you will be redi-
rected to the correct site or offered a provisional ballot.
You can vote by provisional ballot, but if it is determined
that you are not registered in the precinct where you
vote, your ballot will not be counted by Texas law. More
information on provisional voting appears on the Texas
Secretary of State website www.VoteTexas.gov.

Ballot-by-Mail Voting: Only specific reasons entitle
a person to vote by mail (no longer called absentee vot-
ing). You may request a ballot by mail if you · will be away
from your county on Election Day and during early voting.
• are sick or disabled.
• are 65 years of age or older on Election Day.
• are confined to jail, but eligible to vote.
You do not need a photo ID to vote by mail, but photo
ID will be required of first time voters if a driver license or
Social Security number was not included with the voter
registration application.

Request an Application for Ballot by Mail from the early
voting clerk in the county where you are registered, or
download the form from www.VoteTexas.gov. The com-
pleted form must be received by mail, fax or email by
February 19, 2016. Note: postmarks don’t count.

A ballot will be mailed to you, and you must return your
completed ballot to your county elections department
by 7 p.m. on Election Day, March 1. The ballot must be re-
ceived, not just postmarked, by that date. If you are mail-
ing your ballot from outside the United States, the early
voting clerk must receive your ballot by the fifth day af-
ter Election Day. (You must mail it no later than 7 p.m. on
Election Day.)

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Williamson County races

WILLIAMSON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY, 26TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Question 1: What supervision and management of prosecutors will you provide to avoid over-zealous prosecutions and prosecutorial misconduct?

Question 2: Are there measures or programs that you propose or support to reduce crime in our community (family violence, juvenile crimes, etc.)?

Question 3: What is the most important function of the Office of the District Attorney? Please explain.

Shawn Dick (R)

Education: University of Texas at Austin; Bachelors Degree with honors. University of Houston Law Center; Juris Doctor (J.D.).


www.shawndick.com

Answer 1: I will first and foremost lead by example. Employees will be guided by the principle that we must always seek and find the truth. We will only employ the best and brightest attorneys in the State; there is no substitute for experience. I intend to establish an office structure with more experienced attorneys directly available to assist and supervise newer prosecutors and staff.

Answer 2: Williamson County Law Enforcement has always done an amazing job of keeping us safe. As our county grows, we must prioritize our resources efficiently and effectively to prevent crime. I will expand the ability for Law Enforcement to communicate with our office through training and availability of prosecutors. We will have an open door to those agencies providing them access to experienced prosecutors around the clock.

Answer 3: Preserving the integrity of the criminal justice system. Whenever we allow egos, personal agendas, or politics to affect the outcome of a criminal case, we erode the public’s confidence in our system of laws. Government is built on a system of laws of, by and for the people. We must hold those guilty of harming our society accountable, but do so fairly, honestly, and openly or we risk fracturing the public trust.

Jana Duty (R)

No response

WILLIAMSON COUNTY JUDGE, COURT AT LAW #2

Question 1: Do you believe changes in the current election process are needed to improve or maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns? Please explain.

Question 2: How would you handle a situation where an attorney appearing before your court is inadequately representing his/her client?

Question 3: Please explain how this office is important to your constituents and what your plans are for improvement?

Laura Barker (R)

Education: 1995, Texas State University (cum laude with a degree in Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement), 2002, St. Mary’s University School of Law (J.D.).

Experience: Attorney in private practice in for 13 years handling thousands of cases in civil, juvenile, and criminal law. Winner of Wilco bar poll for this bench

laurabarkerforjudge.com

Answer 1: There are really only two ways to select judges in this state; by election or by appointment. While the election process may be imperfect and require candidates to raise funds to promote their candidacy, I believe it is a far superior to an appointment process that puts too much power into the hands of one person and allows another branch of government to choose those who preside over the judiciary. We should leave the choice to the voters.

Answer 2: It is not uncommon for allegations to be leveled against an attorney for failure to provide adequate representation. Sometimes those allegations have merit and sometimes they do not, so it’s important to take a measured approach when this situation arises. Due process is best served if a hearing is conducted where both the attorney and client can speak, and if it is determined the attorney is at fault, they should be removed from the case.

Answer 3: The court hears over 50% of the misdemeanor criminal docket, civil cases, mental health commitments, and family cases in the county. In addition, this is the DWI/Drug court and Veterans Treatment court. I will make the court more efficient and consistent with respect to scheduling, docketing, and with court policies. It is also vital that participants in the specialty courts receive proper treatment to become productive members of the community.

Lesli Fitzpatrick (R)

Education: University of Texas – Odessa, Bachelor of Arts, 1994 Baylor University, Master of Arts, 1997 South Texas College of Law, Juris Doctorate, 2000

Experience: Licensed nearly 15 years State Prosecutor; Criminal Defense Lawyer; Administrative Law Attorney at the Texas GLO; Staff Attorney for the Texas Senate

www.lesliforjudge.com

Answer 1: No. I think that the campaign donation limits are a safe guard for creating impartiality.

Answer 2: I would call the attorney to the bench and have a private conversation with them about their representation. If any further attention needs to be taken after that conversation I would act accordingly.

Answer 3: CC-2 handles 50% of the misdemeanor crimes filed. And has two specialty courts which are the DWI/Drug Court and a Veteran’s Court. I have served as the Evaluator for the DWI/Drug Court for over four years. Participants that successfully complete this program have less than a 2% recidivism rate one year after completion. The cost per participant is $6 not $100 a day like jail. I want to be smart and conservative on crime while keeping us safe.

Brandy Halford (R)

Education: Obtained a Bachelor of Liberal Arts in 1992 from The University of Texas at Austin, and a Juris Doctor in 1996 from St. Mary’s School of Law.

Experience: I’m in my 20th year of law practice. I have practiced and litigated cases in every area of law that his court has jurisdiction over.

www.brandyforjudge.com

Answer 1: I support the present system in Texas of direct election of judges. As a judicial candidate, I follow all laws in our state and nation. I have voluntarily agreed and sworn to comply with Texas’s Judicial Campaign Fairness Act. This Act has contribution and expenditure restrictions.

Answer 2: Judges and candidates for judicial office are bound by the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct. This is a matter that could come before the court, and I am not able to comment about it per Texas Code of Judi-

WILLIAMSON COUNTY ATTORNEY

Doyle “Dee” Hobbs (R)

Unopposed
Williamson County races

WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

**Question 1:** County government is primarily financed through taxes. Are there other revenue options beyond the property tax? Please explain.

**Question 2:** What are the transportation issues and how do you plan to address them?

**Question 3:** Because the Texas legislature has not given counties ordinance making power (i.e. zoning authority), how do you plan to address growth issues in the unincorporated areas of your county?

**Question 4:** What are the health and human services issues in your county and how would you address them?

WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

**Charles ‘Chad’ Chadwell (D)**

**Education:** BS, Mechanical Engineering Technology; Clemson University MS, Technology Commercialization; University of Texas - Prosthetics

**Experience:** I have 30 years in design and manufacturing in the defense and semiconductor industries. I have also served on the board of Round Rock ISD for 7 yrs.

www.facebook.com/chadwell4wilco

**Answer 1:** Williamson County will continue to rely predominantly on property taxes for its revenue, but it can also generate other income by offering services to the community. Pay-as-you-go fees can ensure existing homeowners and businesses are not burdened with paying for new infrastructure development that only certain citizens will use. Also, sharing costs with other entities through inter-local agreements can reduce total taxes for all stakeholders.

**Answer 2:** Transportation can be improved by working with CAMPO, CapMetro, TXDOT and neighboring cities to optimize traffic flows through the region. Companies and other organizations can offer their workers flex hours and telecommuting options to reduce the number of vehicles on the roads during peak hours. Also, implementing low-cost improvements to traffic signals can allow more vehicles to safely pass through intersections with fewer delays.

**Answer 3:** Without ordinance making power, growth in unincorporated areas can be addressed by offering incentives to developers and homebuilders. Regional affordability for all citizens continues to be a serious concern because of the rapid population growth over the last few years. The supply of available homes and apartments lags behind the demand and drives up the value of those properties. Annexation can work as long as the assumed debt is manageable.

**Answer 4:** Health and human service issues are often related to lack of education and lack of adequate job opportunities. When a family struggles due to a medical emergency or the loss of a job then their options are limited. The schools do a great job identifying at-risk children and their families then help find assistance resources. For those out of school, including veterans, helping them get established becomes a responsibility of the community.

Terry Cook (D)

**Education:** BS Biochemistry, East Carolina University MS Biomedical Engineering, Duke University Master Gardener (Colorado) Woody Plant Management, CSU

**Experience:** Business owner, business analyst, people & program manager, contract negotiator, budget planner/administrator, RFP responder, park & open land planner

www.terryforwilco.com

**Answer 1:** Fees of Office are collected from court system per Texas legislation; charges for service such as EMS to recoup partial costs; Fines are received from legal charges such as moving vehicle fines, license & insurance fines, as well as illegal behavior; Intergovernmental income is from grants and reimbursements from other governmental entities; Investment and Other income include sale of assets, donations, and any other miscellaneous income.

**Answer 2:** Massive growth means congestion and road wear. Insufficient E-W & N-S arteries to distribute traffic. Need to assess planning for additional roads. Increased density of people has improved the cost/benefit for coordinated regional public transportation. I support efforts to increase roads, fixes & lanes. I’ll pursue joint efforts among cities & counties for regional public transport, but must rein in the deficit spending of Williamson County.

**Answer 3:** Williamson County Subdivision Regulations is a strong start. Growth brings issues of paving & runoff, diminished arterial traffic flow, congestion, & loss of native flora. I would encourage use of porous paving materials in paths & overflow parking for water retention, and more native plantings. If adjacent plats, I would advocate for use of collector roads between them for reduced arterial intersections to increase traffic flow.

**Answer 4:** Soaring mental health crises & limited support; for low income people: lack of cross-county public transportation to medical facilities, lack of medical insurance & limited funding. Large health disparities between E Wilco and W Wilco. Sexually transmitted infections & obesity are on the rise; significant pockets of vaccine refusers. I support Community Health Assessment & Community Health Improvement Plan’s goals & strategies, now underfunded.

Paul B. Matthews (R)

**Education:** Masters Business Administration (MBA) University of Texas Bachelor of Science Business - Finance & Bachelor of Arts Economics, Indiana University

**Experience:** Finance Director for the Travis County Sheriff’s Office (oversee $170+ million county budget); Owner of a CPA firm; Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA)

www.paul4texas.com

**Answer 1:** In TX, our state constitution and various laws enacted by the Legislature greatly restrict the ability of county government to create additional sources of revenue. Thus, property taxes will always be the primary source of funding county government, barring a major shift in these fundamental factors. I believe the county should not nickel-and-dime residents with miscellaneous fees as the associated cost & overhead often exceed collections.

**Answer 2:** The ability to get into and out of Austin especially during rush-hour. Unfortunately, this will be a difficult problem to fix given the intransigence of most Austin city leaders to support road construction. In Wilco, we must look at fixing areas where traffic tie-ups occur daily: SH45 toll merge onto I-35N, I-35S between US79 and Hester’s Crossing, as well as the perpetual backups along US 183. We must fix “chip & seal” in our neighborhoods.

**Answer 3:** As a strong supporter of private property rights, I realize protecting these rights is critical if Texas wishes to remain an engine of economic and job growth. Thus, I would oppose the extension of zoning authority by the Texas Legislature to the counties. Counties may regulate land use in unincorporated areas especially the development of subdivisions to ensure a sufficient water supply and that public safety resources can respond adequately.

**Answer 4:** The largest issue is the proliferation and higher acuity of persons with mental health issues. Often, these individuals end up in jail, placing undue stress on staff. Not only are there high costs to medically treat these cases, but these individuals tend to remain in jail longer. We must ensure adequate funding & training of a sufficient number of psychiatric professionals & work with community partners to develop long term care plans.

Donna Parker (R)

**Education:** B.S. Management/ Economics Russell Sage College Troy, NY

**Experience:** Director, Brushy Creek Municipal District

www.donnaforwilco.com

**Answer 1:** In Williamson County, approximately 82% of our revenue comes from property taxes. Fees of Office are approximately 4%. An example of these fees are: County Clerk filing fees, citation fees and vehicle registration fees. Charge of Service fees are approximately 4%. An example of these fees are: EMS, parks and landfill fees.

**Answer 2:** Congestion on I-35 and our roads. We need to continue to financially partner with our cities, TXDOT and Fed agencies to leverage county money to improve traffic flows. Innovative designs, such as the diverging diamond interchange and continuous flow intersections will allow traffic to move faster. Reversal of access ramps on I-35 has helped with speed and flow of traffic. We need to research innovative options.

**Answer 3:** Approximately 60% of the residents in Williamson County live in cities. We need to work with government and non-government entities for voluntary cooperation in development and building in the unincorporated areas. We need good relationships and communication with HOA’s and their deed restrictions, MUD’s and specialty utility districts. I believe most people have the common goal of living in an attractive area that retains high property values.

**Answer 4:** In Wilco, approximately 14% of adults and 7% of children lack health insurance. Mental health issues are increasing each year. I will build on and support our Public Health Dept, WCCHD and WilCo Care. One focus area is to support prevention and treatment of behavioral health and substance abuse. I will work towards having more of our mentally ill NOT serve time in jail, but get the help they need.

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Williamson County races

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Landy Warren (R)

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Accounting from Austin College 1982
Experience: 34 years of financial institution experience, being 6 in regulatory and 28 in community banking.

Answer 1: For revenues other than property taxes, user fees are appropriate, but only when they are reasonable and market based, and used specifically for the purposes levied. I do not believe government should create “profit margins” other products or services to subsidize negatively cash flowing operations.

Answer 2: Williamson County is an extremely fast growing county that is an integral component in the Austin-Round Rock MSA region. Using Economic Development to create and attract jobs in Williamson County to reduce traditional commuting patterns can help, but we must continue building out our road grids while we can do so through rural lands where the cost of design and construction is a fraction of that through developed areas.

Answer 3: The cities in Williamson County have been successful in recruiting substantial companies to the area, who desire high quality facilities. Their employees desire high quality homes, and want to shop and dine in high quality facilities. These companies pay very strong wages with benefits. This is the best tool to continue the trends of responsible development we are presently experiencing. It also creates jobs in the retail sector.

Answer 4: Williamson County has seen substantial development of health care delivery outlets in the last 10 years, leaving little reason for our citizens to need to travel outside the area. We have also developed a strong presence of community clinics for the underserved. The presence of medical schools is a further positive note. I have been active in all of these efforts/developments. Mental health resources are the greatest challenge.

Williamson County Commissioner, Precinct 3

Valerie Covey (R)

Education: Valerie Covey attended the University of Texas at Austin, where she earned a degree in accounting.
Experience: Covey, a CPA for 30 years, has served as County Commissioner Pct. 3 for the past nine years. She serves on various County boards & committees.

www.valeriecovey.com

Answer 1: Approximately 23% of revenue comes from fines, fees and other sources like interest on investments. Sales tax revenue is not an option for Williamson County since some areas have reached the maximum rate of 8.25%. We often partner with cities, the state as well as developers and other entities to leverage the county’s dollars when addressing transportation, mental health and other issues.

Answer 2: In a fast growing county, we continually try to address safety & mobility issues. Proactively, I have worked to build infrastructure, reserve right-of-way, & enhance the overall long-range transportation plan. As commissioner, we have completed many road projects including Williams Dr, Reagan Blvd, IH-35 northbound frontage road, & the turnarounds at SH29. I am currently working on an SH29 bypass & a bridge enhancement at Ronald Reagan/IH35.

Answer 3: We are currently coordinating with cities to address growth in their extra-territorial jurisdictions and make sure that development adheres to the laws and permitting specifications in an effort to make sure that all growth is conducted responsibly.

Answer 4: As the county grows, we search for innovative ways to ensure that tax dollars are spent effectively. For nine years I have served on the Williamson County Mental Health Taskforce, which helped develop a jail diversion program that keeps non-violent offenders out of our jail & allows them to receive the behavioral/mental healthcare attention they need. Our great partnership with our LMHA allows for collaboration on various health issues.

Matt Heaton (R)

Education: Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement, Magna Cum Laude, Texas State University


www.facebook.com/HeatOnInWilco3

Answer 1: Property taxes make up approximately 70% of the County’s budget. The County can receive revenue through many other options including fines and fees levied through the court systems, vehicle registrations and excess fees through the County Clerk’s Office as well as Hotel and Motel taxes. Recreation services with parks and recreation facilities bolster the County’s revenue stream. We can also increase our revenues through reducing expenses.

Answer 2: I believe we have satisfied much of the transportation issues in Williamson County since we are now $1,000,000,000 in debt in paving our county. I plan to collaborate with the city officials in my precinct to work on Safe and Effective connection plans that do not violate property owner rights. The focus needs to be on the citizens of the county and not special interests.

Answer 3: Our focus needs to be on preserving what is great about Texas and we have to use local developers and businesses to build and create a better county and a better Texas. We need to develop and county to evolve through smart growth initiatives that attract quality businesses to the county. Broader collaboration with our city governments to make decisions that are beneficial to the citizens of the county as a whole.

Answer 4: Our current Health and Human Services needs to focus on the Veterans and their families and the Children of our county. Funding for Veterans Services is less than half of our animal services. We have over 36,000 Veterans in Williamson County with a budget of $323,000. Our children’s services is 1/3 of what we allow for our Veterans. We can easily do more.

Anthony R. Rector (D)

Unopposed

Robert Chody (R)

Education: Associates Degree-Theology

Associate Degree General Studies Bachelor Degree-Criminal Justice FBI National Academy Graduate

Experience: Former Texas Department of Criminal Justice Corrections Officer

Austin Police Officer Current Elected Law Enforcement Official

www.robertchody.com

Answer 1: As our Sheriff, I intend to enforce all of our laws and hold criminals accountable for their crimes as justly and efficiently as possible. That is the only way we will discourage crime, stop the harmful impact of illegal immigration, prevent the threat of terrorism, and keep our families safe. This includes honoring detainees requested by ICE.

Answer 2: Mental health issues should be one of the greatest focuses for any law enforcement agency. As the close relative of a person with a cognitive disability, I have a heavy heart and strong passion for ensuring our law enforcement agencies uphold the law while meeting the unique needs of each person with whom they interact. This requires the right resources, training, awareness, and quality assurance from the top-down.

Answer 3: As Constable, I have devoted a great deal of my efforts to reducing DWI crime in our community because, not only does it put the driver and so many of our innocent families in jeopardy, but it is a very preventable offense. Our office must create a top-notch DWI enforcement team to stop the rising DWI fatalities in Williamson County. One of my first initiatives will be to use existing resources to extend our successful DWI programs.

Mike Cowie (R)

Education: Austin Community College

Criminal Justice Program

Experience: 31 Years Department of Public Safety; 8 years Williamson County Sheriff’s Dept.

cowieforsheriff.com

Answer 1: The Sheriff’s office, upon arresting someone whose citizenship is in

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question, their name and all available identifiers are forwarded to ICE for investigation. Based upon the information we receive back from ICE, the Sheriff’s Office will then take appropriate ICE directive action.

Answer 2: Williamson County officers are currently trained to deal with all individuals in a fair and impartial manner. As Sheriff, I will ensure that this training will continue, and any new training that becomes available will be provided for all officers. The Sheriff’s Office current Crisis Intervention Team is nationally recognized for their ability to interact with those who are experiencing mental problems or disorders.

Answer 3: The Sheriff’s Office wants to continue aggressive narcotics enforcement, which helps reduce property crimes related offenses as well as fraud and identify theft. We will strive to increase awareness of ever-changing crime trends and use supporting data to combat criminal activity through technology and other means.

Williamson County races

Randi Elliston (R)
Education: B.S. Degree in Criminal Justice - Baylor University; Graduate of Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command.
Experience: Chief of the Texas Highway Patrol – Retired; Over 37 years as a Texas Peace Officer.
www.elliston4sheriff.com

Answer 1: As Texas peace officers, we are sworn to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State. As sheriff, I will work closely with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) to assist in carrying out its responsibilities to secure our borders and to detain those violating the law.

Answer 2: Police officers frequently come in contact with people with mental illness which can create a significant challenge for both, the officer and the mentally ill person. As sheriff, I would maintain the specially trained Crisis Intervention Team that responds to emergency calls involving mental health patients in crisis. I would also ensure all deputies are trained on how to deal with the mentally ill persons.

Answer 3: I would utilize “spot” strategies when geographic areas have a high concentration of crime. Increased patrols in concentrated high crime areas can be very effective with limited resources. This technique provides a visual deterrence and can quickly adapt to changes in targeted crime areas. I will reinforce Neighborhood Watch programs to promote safer neighborhoods. These programs help neighbors look out for each other and their property.

William (Bill) Kelberlau (R)
Education: BS Chemistry, Math minors history, physics, MS Engineering Management and other Post

WILLIAMSON COUNTY CONSTABLE

Question 1: What do you think are the most important responsibilities of the County Constable’s office?

Question 2: What emerging problems do you foresee in the Constable’s office and how will you address them?

Question 3: What should be the minimum qualifications for the position of Constable?

Vinnie Cherrone (R)
Education: High School Diploma; Associates Degree; Master Peace Officer
Experience: 2.5 Years Precinct One Deputy; 20.5 Years Round Rock Police Officer; 8 years President Round Rock Blue Santa
vinnieforconstable.com

Answer 1: I believe that serving civil papers, warrants and Court Room security for Justice of The Peace Court in a very professional manner are the most important responsibilities of the Constables Office. It’s equally important that the Constable show compassion and empathy while performing their duties, understanding that many times we’ll be encountering people during some of the toughest times of their lives.

Answer 2: With the struggling recovery of the economy more and more people will continue to face financial, relationship and personal challenges, all of those present opportunities for the Constable to bring positive outcomes. It will be equally important for the Constable to put forth frugal yet smart and strategic budgets to keep up with one of the fastest growing counties in the Country.

Answer 3: I believe the minimum qualifications for the position of Constable should be at least 60 hours of college credit from an accredited University, Master Peace Officer certified and a minimum of 2500 hours of continued and advanced training. A candidate should have a record of demonstrated successful leadership at the individual and team levels.

Leo Enriques (R)
Education: Associate Degree from ACC, Texas State University pursuing BA in Criminal Justice, TCOLE continuing education

Answer 1: The primary mission of the office of the constable is the service of all citizens (warrants) and civil process emanating from Justice Court and County and District courts in Texas and other States. The Constable Offices also provide Court Security for the Justice Court. Working with Human Resources in hiring and training the best personnel that apply is very important. I am committed to upholding the Constitution of the US and Texas.

Answer 2: The biggest emerging problem is the tremendous growth of people coming to Williamson County, with those people comes the additional evictions, bankruptcies, law suits and warrants that will be issued by the courts. The Constable’s office will have to address these issues with the same amount of personnel and resources that we have now. I will seek additional training for my personnel to give them all of the tools they will need to accomplish this.

Answer 3: Law enforcement supervisory experience, including ten years at a command-level position within a law enforcement agency that provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities to satisfy all requirements for this position; possess a master peace officer certificate, demonstrate strong work ethic, ability to plan, assign, coordinate, and conduct the work of varied functions of a constables office. Establish effective working relationships.

L.A. (Tony) Trumps (R)
No response

WILLIAMSON COUNTY CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 1

Rick Coffman (R)
Education: US Navy Honorary Ret 22 yrs, Hill College Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State, Texas Constables Leadership College and various continuing education
www.coffmanforconstable.com

Answer 1: I believe in, and am committed to, upholding the US and Texas Constitutions. As Constable, I provide the services outlined in the Texas Constitution (Article 5 Section 18) and Local Government Code (Chapter 86.) These duties include; serving all process, civil and criminal, attend each session of Justice Court in the Precinct. The Constables office also provides other law enforcement duties, as may be required.

Answer 2: The largest emerging problem I see facing Wilco in general and Pct 2 in particular is rapid growth and how it affects the mission of the office. As more area is taken into the various cities in Pct 2 it becomes more important to have good communication with our partner law enforcement agencies so we do not duplicate ef-

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WILLIAMSON COUNTY CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 3
Kevin Stofle (R)
Unopposed

WILLIAMSON COUNTY CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 4
Marty Ruble (R)
Unopposed

WILLIAMSON COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR
Larry Gaddes (R)
Unopposed

Answer 3: The minimum qualifications for the position of constable, in my belief, should be a Texas Licensed Peace Officer, and should possess a clear and proven track record of strong leadership along with adherence to any applicable state law.

Mike Pendley (R)

Education: Master Peace Officer, Civil Process Proficiency, CAPCOG Regional Police Academy, Program Admin, 4500+ TCOLE training hours, CJ Major Texas State
Experience: 13 years w/ Constable’s office, Police Academy Instructor, Field Training Officer, Grant Coordinator, Supervisor, Entry Team Leader, Writ Specialist

www.pendleyforconstable.com

Answer 1: The Constable office’s primary role is to serve the JP court by serving all process, and executing all warrants, as well as provide Court Security. The Constable Office, by nature, is not as reactive as other law enforcement entities. Most of the Constable’s work comes after a judgement, or conviction has been rendered. Constable’s can receive process from any court in the State and are tasked with duties, such as evictions & property seizures.

Answer 2: Williamson County is one of the fastest growing counties and, as it grows, the challenge for the office will be keeping stride with the demands of this growth. Constables fill a very specific role, and there is a balance between duplicating services, and not creating work for other departments. As Constable, I will have a great working relationship with all county and city agencies, while always keeping the community’s best interests in mind.

Answer 3: At minimum, the Constable should be a trustworthy leader, and team builder, well versed and experienced in all of the duties and aspects of the office. Like any law enforcement officer, the Constable should have a servant’s heart and a warrior’s mindset. It is also important to have the backing of the surrounding law enforcement agencies. I have received the endorsement of every officer association endorsing in the Precinct Two Constable’s race.