The League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area is a strictly nonpartisan organization.

The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.
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A LETTER TO VOTERS

Dear Voter,

More than 200 years ago when George Washington was first elected president of the United States, less than 25 percent of the adult population had the right to vote. Three-quarters of the people who were to build our country were excluded from this simple act of self-determination because of race, sex or lack of property.

We forget how long it has taken and how much hard work, blood, and passion have gone into expanding the franchise and opening democracy’s door so that all segments of the American population can have a say.

The power base of American democracy has gradually widened, moving the nation closer to the vision set forth in the Declaration of Independence of a government that derives its power from “the consent of the governed.” We give our consent whenever we participate in the democratic process by exercising our right to vote.

This election isn’t about someone else; it’s about you and your family.

No matter who you are, where you live in Texas, this election will affect you and the things you care about: your job, your taxes, your children’s education, your safety, your civil liberties and much more. They are all at stake in this election.

With your one vote, you have the power to influence decisions that will impact you, your children and your grandchildren. No matter how much money you have, who your friends are, or what your ethnic background is, you have one vote – the same as everyone else. Voting is indeed a great equalizer in American society.

At a time our country is absorbed in partisan politics, the League of Women Voters continues to focus on the central player in our democracy – the voter. We have never wavered from our belief that the strength of a democracy is measured by the full and valued participation of all its citizens.

Come Election Day, it is not the pundits, not the campaign managers, and not even the pollsters who will set the future course of our communities, state or nation. On Election Day, no one else matters except the voter.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes a candidate or political party. We have built our reputation on ensuring that citizens’ voices are heard over the clamor of partisan politics. From our origins in the suffragist movement, we continue to focus on encouraging and supporting all Americans in their quest for full participation in American democracy.

We are living in a momentous time, a time that actually requires more, not less citizen involvement in the political process. I hope each of you will exercise one of your most fundamental rights by casting your vote in this primary election. The future of our communities, state and nation demands nothing less.

Sincerely,

Madhu Sridhar
President, League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area
ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This Voters Guide is funded and published by the League of Women Voters Texas Education Fund. Neither the League nor the Education Fund supports or opposes any political party or candidate. To fulfill its longstanding commitment to promote an active and informed electorate, this public service effort is designed to provide the voters with the information they need to help them make informed choices about the candidates in the March 6 Primary Elections.

In addition, to ensure that the Bexar County voters are aware of their voting rights at the polls and are empowered, this Guide also includes the Texas Voters’ Bill of Rights in both English and in Spanish. It lists 15 voters’ rights in clear language that includes voter identification requirements, provisional balloting, complaint process to address grievances and much more.

HOW THE LEAGUE GATHERED THE DATA

In compiling information for this Voters Guide, the ALL-VOLUNTEER League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area, together with other local Leagues and the League of Women Voters of Texas, sent questionnaires to all candidates in contested races whose names and email addresses were provided by the Texas Secretary of State. Only candidates in contested races were invited to answer the questionnaire. To follow up, candidates were contacted by email and by phone.

The League formulated all questions asked of the candidates. Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification. Due to space restrictions, candidates were given strict word limits. The form into which they entered their answers prohibited them from going over that limit.

The League assumes no responsibility for replies not received, or received after the deadline.

More information about the candidates and responses to additional questions can be reviewed by visiting VOTE411.org, your one-stop online resource for upcoming elections made possible by The League of Women Voters Education Fund. Simply enter your address to find your polling place, build your ballot with our online Voters Guide, compare candidates side by side, and much more. Also check out our resources for military and overseas voters.

ABOUT THE LEAGUE

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots, ALL-VOLUNTEER organization that promotes the informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League is strictly nonpartisan; we never support or oppose any political party or candidate. Born almost a century ago out of the national movement to give women the right to vote, the League is open to everyone. The women and men who belong to the League share a commitment to encourage political responsibility.

The League is widely known and well respected for our nonpartisan and fair work in voter education. We also hold forums on important public policy issues, organize voter registration drives, sponsor candidate debates, conduct get-out-the-vote campaigns and work with area schools and universities.

Many citizens, unsure of their rights at the polls, choose not to participate. This year the San Antonio League prepared the landmark Texas Voters’ Bill of Rights in both English and Spanish (included in this Guide) to close the participation gap.

The League of Women Voters operates at national, state and local levels through more than 800 state and local Leagues, in all 50 states as well as in DC, the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong. At all three levels, we encourage informed and active participation of citizens in their government, educate citizens on major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy.
This guide offers information about candidates running for:

Governor
Lieutenant Governor
Comptroller
Commissioner of the General Land Office
Commissioner of Agriculture
Railroad Commissioner
State Supreme Court Justice
Court of Criminal Appeals Judge
U. S. Senator
U. S. Representative
State Senator
State Representative
State Board of Education Member
District Court of Appeals Justice
District Judge
County Court-at-Law
County Probate Court
County Judge
County Commissioner
Criminal District Attorney
District Clerk
County Clerk

This Voters Guide is organized by office, by district, and with candidates listed by party and state ballot order where available. Ballot order may vary from county to county.

The names of unopposed candidates are also listed, but questionnaires were not sent to them.

To use the guide easily, you need to know the districts you live in. Your home address places you in different districts for the various races, with the candidates running to represent the district. Each elected office you will vote for in this election has a different district name.

To find your districts, you can do any of the following:

• Visit https://www.bexar.org/2229/Voter-Registration-Check-Polling-Location

• Call Bexar County Elections at 210-335-VOTE (8683)

• Email the League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area at League@LWVSA.org.

Provide your date of birth (MM/DD/YY) and the street number of the address you live at.

For example, if your address is 123 Main Street, give us 123. The League will respond with your districts.

• Contact the League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area at 210-657-2206.

In Texas, you can request a mail-in ballot if you are:

• Going to be away from your county on Election Day and during early voting

• Sick or disabled

• 65 years of age or older on Election Day

• Confined in jail, but eligible to vote

Contact Bexar County Elections, 210-335-8683, to request an application. Applications must be submitted, on paper with an original signature, to the Bexar County Elections Department no earlier than 2 months before Election Day and no later than 11 days before. Faxed or emailed applications will be accepted only if accompanied by a paper application with an original signature within four days of sending the electronic application.
VOTING INFORMATION

TO VOTE IN THE MARCH 6 ELECTION, YOU MUST HAVE REGISTERED BY FEB. 5.

PROCEDURES AT THE POLLS

On Election Day, polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. People in line at 7 p.m. can still vote.

When you enter the polling place and reach the front of the line, hand your identification to the election official at the computer, who will check you in and have you sign the register. A poll worker will escort you to a voting machine. If you need instructions, you can ask the poll worker then or at any other time.

You can mark up this Voters Guide with your choices and take along with you to the polls. You may not take any partisan campaign material into the polling site.

In a primary, you will be asked to choose a Republican or a Democratic ballot. It is actually two separate elections, and you can vote in only one. Other parties and independent candidates are not part of this election, and in a primary there are no write-in candidates.

Make sure you follow the instructions to finalize your vote. Once you have done that, you may leave.

If you make a mistake on your ballot, you can ask for a replacement before you walk away from the booth. Do not wait, because once someone else’s ballot is loaded, your ballot cannot be retrieved.

All polling places must be accessible to people with disabilities. People with mobility problems are allowed to move to the front of the line. All sites have voting machines accessible to sight-impaired voters.

Ballots are provided in English and Spanish. People who are not proficient in either language may select as an interpreter anyone who is not the voter’s employer, an agent of the voter’s employer, or an officer or agent of a labor union to which the voter belongs. The interpreter must take an oath of interpreter.

A person who is physically unable to mark the ballot or read it may ask for assistance from anyone who is not the voter’s employer, an agent of the voter’s employer, or an officer or agent of a labor union to which the voter belongs. The assistant must take an oath of assistance. Two poll workers can also assist.

SHOWING IDENTIFICATION

All voters must show identification before voting. The preferred method is to show one of the seven acceptable forms of photo identification. They are listed on the back of the Texas Voters’ Bill of Rights, on Page XX of this Voters’ Guide. If you have one but did not bring it, and you cannot return to the polls with it before closing, you can vote a provisional ballot. If you take your ID to the elections office within 6 calendar days, your vote will be counted.

If you do not have one of the acceptable IDs and cannot reasonably obtain one, you can fill out a Reasonable Impediment declaration explaining why and show a document from another list, which is also on the back of the Texas Voters’ Bill of Rights.

PROVISIONAL VOTING

In most circumstances, anyone who comes to a polling site to vote and does not appear to meet the requirements – whether because of identification, being in the wrong place, not being on the rolls, or any other circumstance – can vote a provisional ballot.

A provisional ballot is a paper ballot that is sealed in an envelope with a signed affidavit by the voter, who swears that he or she is eligible to vote. After the election, a panel studies each provisional ballot and rules on whether it should be counted. Each provisional voter is notified of the final status.

More information about your voting rights is in the Texas Voters’ Bill of Rights, Pages 29-32.
FIND OUT WHERE TO VOTE

On Election Day, March 6, you must vote in the location to which your precinct is assigned. Your precinct number is located on your voter registration card. The newest one is yellow. Be sure to check your precinct number – some have changed. If you don’t know it, go to www.bexar.org/elections and click on View Voter Precinct changes.

There are many other websites and apps that also provide the information – just do a computer search for “find my voting site.”

The San Antonio Express-News runs a list of voting locations by precinct number the day before Election Day.

DURING EARLY VOTING, FEB. 20-MARCH 2, YOU CAN VOTE AT ANY POLLING LOCATION. BELOW IS THE LIST OF EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS.

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS FOR JOINT PRIMARY ELECTION

TUESDAY, FEB. 20 THROUGH FRIDAY, FEB. 23........... 8 A.M-6 P.M.
SATURDAY, FEB. 24................................................. 8 A.M.-8 P.M.
SUNDAY, FEB. 25...................................................... NOON TO 6 P.M.
MONDAY, FEB. 26 THROUGH FRIDAY, MARCH 2 ....... 8 A.M.-8 P.M.

Bexar County Elections Department................................. 1103 S. Frio
Deaflink Available For The Hearing Impaired
Bexar County Justice Center.......................................... 300 Dolorosa
Brookhollow Library.................................................... 530 Heimer Rd.
Castle Hills City Hall .................................................. 209 Lemonwood Dr.
Claude Black Center .................................................. 2805 East Commerce
Cody Library ................................................................. 11441 Vance Jackson
Converse City Hall ...................................................... 405 S. Seguin Rd
Copernicus Community Center................................. 5003 Lord Rd.
Elmendorf Admin Bldg................................................... 8304 Fm 527
Encino Branch Library.................................................. 2515 East Evans Rd.
Fair Oaks Ranch City Hall ........................................... 7286 Dietz Elkhorn
Great Northwest Library ............................................. 9050 Wellwood
Henry A. Guerra, Jr. Library ....................................... 7978 W Military Dr.
John Igo Library ......................................................... 13330 Kyle Seale Parkway
Johnston Library .......................................................... 6307 Sun Valley Dr.
Julia Yates Semmes Library @ Comanche Lookout Park .. 15060 Judson Rd.
Kirby City Hall ........................................................... 112 Bauman St.
Las Palmas Library ..................................................... 515 Castrovile Rd.
Leon Valley Conference Center ................................. 6421 Evers Rd.
Lion’s Field ................................................................. 2809 Broadway
Maury Maverick, Jr. Library ......................................... 8700 Mystic Park
McCreeless Library ..................................................... 1023 Ada St.
Memorial Library .......................................................... 3222 Culebra
Mission Del Lago Pool and Community Center .. 2301 Del Lago Pkwy
Mission Library ........................................................... 3134 Roosevelt Ave.
Northside Activity Center ........................................... 7001 Culebra
Northwest Vista College .......................................... 5535 N. Ellison Dr.
Olmos Park City Hall .................................................. 120 El Prado W.
Parman Library@Stone Oak ......................................... 20735 Wilderness Oak
Precinct 1 Satellite Office ............................................ 3505 Pleasanton
Schafer Library ............................................................ 6522 Us Hwy 87
E Shavano Park City Hall (Lobby) ............................... 900 Saddletree Ct.
Somerset Junior High ............................................... 4730 W Loop 1604, Von Ormy
South Park Mall .......................................................... 2310 S.W. Military
Tobin Library @Oakwell ............................................ 4134 Harry Wurzbach
Universal City Library ................................................ 100 Northview Dr
UTSA (Bexar Room) ................................................... 1 UTSA Circle
Wonderland Mall Of The Americas @ Crossroads 4522 Fredericksburg

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

For More Information Contact The Office Of The Bexar County Elections Administrator, Jacquelyn F. Callanen, At (210) 335-Vote (8683)
U.S. SENATOR

6-year term. Must be at least 30 years old, a resident of the United States for at least nine years, and a resident of Texas. One of 100 members of the U.S. Senate which has specific powers to advise and consent to presidential appointments and treaties and to try impeachments. Powers the Senate shares with U.S. House of Representatives include the power to levy taxes, borrow money, regulate interstate commerce, and declare war. Current annual salary: $174,000

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

HEALTH CARE: What specific reforms, if any, would you propose in health care policy to address the cost and access to health care? Explain.

IMMIGRATION: What changes, if any, should Congress make in immigration policies? Why?

FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES’ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE 411.ORG

Sema Hernandez (D)

HEALTH CARE: I support single-payer healthcare for all. We are the wealthiest nation in the world that does not guarantee universal healthcare. A single-payer system would put healthcare in the hands of patient and doctor, taking the profit-driven health insurance companies out of the picture. I support single-payer healthcare and H.R. 676 because healthcare is a human right!

IMMIGRATION: Undocumented immigrants in Texas are treated as second-class citizens even though they play a crucial role in our state’s economic vitality. As your senator, I will work to pass legislation that gives undocumented immigrants a clear pathway to citizenship. I will also push for the simplification of the immigration process and ending immigration waitlists.

Mary Miller (R)

HEALTH CARE: Small businesses are drowning in the Obamacare obligation. And strangling small business isn’t the way to get the economy thriving. History has shown us that a prosperous middle class is the key to economic benefits for everyone. The employee level is too low that demands coverage. Healthcare should be required for over 100 employees rather than 50.

IMMIGRATION: The overlapping of internal investigation offices at U.S. Customs and Border Patrol has exposed a need to centralize their efforts to curb an alarming number of terminations. I am a proponent of DACA. The problem should have been solved years ago and the children are grown, productive taxpayers who need final acceptance into the only home they’ve ever known.

Edward Kimbrough (D), Beto O’Rouke (D), Ted Cruz (R), Stefano de Stefano (R) Bruce Jacobson Jr (R), Geraldine Sam (R)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED By Print Deadline. See VOTE411.ORG For Any Later Responses
**STATE OF TEXAS GOVERNOR**

Four-year term. Must be at least 30 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Texas resident for the five years immediately preceding the election. Among duties: executes all laws and conducts all business with other states and the federal government; fills appointive offices; fills vacancies in state or district elected offices by appointment; calls special sessions of the Legislature and sets their agenda; signs or vetoes bills passed by the Legislature.

Current annual salary: $150,000

### QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** Referring to water, energy, public education, transportation, what specific measures do you propose to meet the state’s growing infrastructure needs? Explain rationale.

**OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas Legislature, and what is your position on these issues?

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**FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES’ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE411.ORG**

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**Cedric Davis Sr. (D)**

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** Stop long-term tax abatements for the large corporation, I would not allow corporations to abate the educational tax. Allow non-violent offenders to learn a STEM, HVAC, Plumbing, and Engineering training so once released they may be contracted to become employed by the state to rebuild infrastructure for a 2 yr. period. Design new water reservoirs and seek new aquifers.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Equity in women’s pay and workplace harassment. Infrastructure Budgeting, and Criminal Justice Reform. Affordable higher education and work skilled labor training. Harsher ethics penalties for elected officials.

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**Joe Mumbach (D)**

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** We have 20 years of backlog on infrastructure projects to catch up on. From the Ike Dike to a third reservoir for flooding. Encourage renewable energy jobs with a sales tax-free home/business improvement. Improve schools so that our kids are better educated and qualified for more tech jobs, including free public pre-K and 2 years tuition-free training in community.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Our Texas Legislature and governor have once again decided to scrimp on education in order to reduce the state budget. We can’t do that to our kids and our future. Our students and teachers need an advocate in the governor’s office. We will teach parents (especially poorly educated ones) how to help teachers teach their own kids with online programs and also tv programs.

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**Jeffrey Payne (D)**

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** Texas needs an abundant supply of clean water. We need to improve our water resources and expand them. Our education system must be funded in accordance with the Texas Constitution. To do that we must insist that corporate citizens pay their fair share of property taxes. Renewable energy must be a priority.

**OTHER ISSUES:** We need to encourage minority owned businesses and other small businesses with the same tax advantages given large corporations. Tuition at State schools must be affordable & we should institute a system that keeps students from going into massive debt. I would explore an Income Sharing Agreement (ISA) as an option. Livable Wage legislation to improve Texans lives.
STATE OF TEXAS
GOVERNOR CONTINUED

Four-year term. Must be at least 30 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Texas resident for the five years immediately preceding the election. Among duties: executes all laws and conducts all business with other states and the federal government; fills appointive offices; fills vacancies in state or district elected offices by appointment; calls special sessions of the Legislature and sets their agenda; signs or vetoes bills passed by the Legislature.

Current annual salary: $150,000

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

INFRASSTRUCURE: Referring to water, energy, public education, transportation, what specific measures do you propose to meet the state's growing infrastructure needs? Explain rationale.

OTHER ISSUES: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas Legislature, and what is your position on these issues?

FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES' ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE411.ORG

Lupe Valdez (D)

INFRASSTRUCURE: First, we need to stop focusing on harmful, job-killing bills and start paying attention to these issues that truly matter to Texas. We should reform the school finance system, promote public and private investment in renewable energies, and ensure our transportation funding meets the needs of today and future growth.

OThER iSSUES: Texans need to know they have a voice in Austin who will support our families, rein in special interests' influence, and bring back some sanity. The Legislature must respond to people's needs and focus on issues where we can improve their lives - this includes the economy, accessible healthcare, an equitable education system, and adequate transportation funding.

Tom Wakely (D)

INFRASSTRUCURE: We need to scrap the state's franchise tax system and replace it with a business income tax. The increased revenue from a business income tax would go a long way towards meeting our state's infrastructure needs.

OThER iSSUES: Income Inequality is the #1 issue in TX. Connecting the dots you will find many of the problems facing TX can be traced back to income inequality. Two ways we can begin to address the issues is first, we raise the state's minimum wage to $15 an hour. The second thing we do is repeal our state's right-to-work laws. Rebuilt the labor movement, rebuilt the middle class.

Andrew White (D)

INFRASSTRUCURE: We need to reform the education system, and we need to pay teachers fairly. I will invest in public school districts, not voucher programs. I will build strong pre-K programs and vocational training for high school students. As our cities grow, so do our infrastructure needs. I will invest in smart plans to reduce traffic and I support the bullet train.

OThER iSSUES: My priorities are healthcare & education. We also need to increase funding for Planned Parenthood & close the $5 billion property tax loophole that benefits commercial property owners. Expanding Medicaid & closing loopholes takes pressure off the counties & homeowners who pay more than their fair share of property taxes. Finally, the “show me your papers” law is dangerous.

Adrian Ocegueda (D), Grady Yarbrough (D), James Jolly Clark (D), Greg Abbott (R), Secede Kilgore (R), Barbara Krueger (R)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED By Print Deadline.
See VOTE411.ORG For Any Later Responses
### Lieutenant Governor

Four-year term. Must be at least 30 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Texas resident for the five years immediately preceding the election. Among duties as part of both the Executive and Legislative branches: assumes powers of Governor when Governor is absent or unable to serve; acts as President of the Senate; by statute, is a member of several Legislative branch boards and committees. The salary is that of a state senator when serving as President of the Texas Senate and that of the Governor when serving as Governor.

#### Questions to Candidates

**Election Laws & Voting Rights:** What specific measures, if any, would you take to improve voter registration, access to voting, voter turnout and the redistricting process? Why?

**Health Care:** What specific reforms, if any, would you propose in state health care policy to address the cost and access to health care? Explain.

**For More Questions and the Candidates’ Answers and Contact Information, Go to Vote411.org**

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**Mike Collier (D)**

**Election Laws & Voting Rights:** I will oppose any law that disenfranchises voters, such as discriminatory voter ID. I will support and champion any law that promotes enfranchisement and voting such as paid time off on Election Day. I intend to kill gerrymandering in Texas by converting to a Redistricting Commission model. And I believe strongly in civics and history education in public schools.

**Health Care:** Texas should expand Medicaid (the business community is with me) but we should also reform Medicaid so that it marries well with the requirements of medical service providers. We should seek to optimize ACA, not destroy it. Pre-existing conditions should be covered, there should be no lifetime coverage limits, and healthcare should be treated as basic human right.

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**Scott Milder (R)**

**Election Laws & Voting Rights:** I will work to defend the Texas Voter ID law, ensuring our state’s voters know their elections are not being undermined by fraud.

**Health Care:** Healthcare is a complex issue, and many Texas families are facing rising insurance premiums as a result of the disastrous federal Obamacare law. I support market-based solutions that will help drive down costs, including allowing the purchase of health insurance across state lines and ensuring all Texans are able to access Health Savings Accounts.

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**Dan Patrick (R)**


**Health Care:** I stand by my record. Please visit my campaign website, http://danpatrick.org/ and my official website, https://www.ltgov.state.tx.us/.

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**Michael Cooper (D)**

**No Response Received By Print Deadline. See Vote411.org For Any Later Responses**
COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Texas resident for at least 12 months. Among duties: collects taxes and fees owed the state; reports the state’s financial condition to the Legislature at the end of each fiscal year and provides estimates of revenue for the coming year; provides economic development assistance to local governments and businesses; audits the performance of Texas schools. Current annual salary: $150,000

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

REVENUE: What measures would you take to ensure the reliability of estimates of money available for state spending?

IMMIGRATION: Will it be a priority of your office to update the 2006 study of the financial impact of unauthorized immigrants on the Texas economy? Why or why not?

FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES’ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE411.ORG

Joi Chevalier (D)

REVENUE: Accurate forecasting, regular audits, special reports on strategic opportunities as in healthcare, education; seek innovative federal or state programs for incremental revenue; independent reviews; expand definitions of programs to include related contingent areas and dependent programs and departments for more impact accuracy; systematic review protocol to ensure data.

IMMIGRATION: Absolutely. The discussion on needs to have factual, actionable information that is clear for different types of immigration, in order to remove emotion, assumptions, and hyperbole. Only then can real legislation be written to affect change in the priority arenas to keep what is positive, or to reconsider what does not work for Texas.

Tim Mahoney (D)

REVENUE: The Comptroller’s estimates have been as much about politics as economics. Estimating becomes even more precarious with the uncertainty of our extractive industries. The more the uncertainty, the poorer the predictions. We need to start building coherent local/regional economies. Our investment strategies, including the Rainy Day Fund, make little sense.

IMMIGRATION: The 2006 report should be updated; such information should be one of the Comptroller’s status reports before each legislative session. Mr. Hegar said he would do an update four years ago, but has not done one since he became Comptroller. The 2006 study found “Undocumented Immigrants” provided more to the economy than they cost the State, though there was less local info.

Glen Heger (R) - Unopposed Candidate

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED By Print Deadline. See VOTE411.ORG For Any Later Responses
**COMMISSIONER OF GENERAL LAND OFFICE**

- **QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES**
  - **COASTAL PLANNING:** What specific short-term and long-term measures would you implement to restore and protect the coast, wetlands, and built environment to minimize damage from major storms?
  - **OTHER ISSUES:** What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

- **Tex Morgan (D)**
  - **COASTAL PLANNING:** 1st-efficiently restore destroyed properties, building up & bright, or buying out (Harvey victims still homeless!) 2nd-abate destroying & reclaim wetlands, marshes, prairielands & floodplains. Build Coastal Spine & curved sea walls to cut storm surge. Restore, add, & expand dunes, beaches, groynes, Attack dead zones with water mega-pumps. Engineer & oblige porous parcels.
  - **OTHER ISSUES:** 1-Conserve our sacred Alamo & holdings, don’t squander a half-billion $ on redoing its surroundings. 2-Responsible to our Veterans, our GLO’ll better communicate & deploy state land, housing & home-improvement loan programs. 3-Permanent School Fund-it must reap more for better schools, to defray local taxes. 4-A Bipartisan Redistricting Board! 5-More transparency!

- **Miguel Suazo (D)**
  - **COASTAL PLANNING:** Short term, we need to care for those devastated by Harvey. Simultaneously, we must identify the projects that will most protect the coast. Protect estuaries, guard against encroachment of fresh and brackish water. Restoring oyster habitats, preventing brackish water invasion of fresh water habitats, combating invasive species, building berms and sand dunes.
  - **OTHER ISSUES:** The most critical issue facing the next Land Commissioner is that of leadership. The Land Commissioner must elevate the profile of the key issues Texans face and educate the public and other elected officials about the importance of the issues dealt with by the GLO. This requires setting critical priorities and focusing relentlessly on those priorities each and every day.

- **George P. Bush (R)**
  - **COASTAL PLANNING:** The restoration of McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge in Jefferson County is one example of what we are trying to do on the coast. Restoration to this area provides critical protection to Port Arthur and the oil and gas infrastructure of the state. The GLO, along with its partners, has identified approximately 60 similar, high priority projects.
  - **OTHER ISSUES:** Continuing Hurricane Harvey relief – The Texas coast was devastated by Harvey last fall and we need to continue to fight for those affected. Helping Veterans—Ensuring that veterans have access to services they need is a top priority for my administration. Saving the Alamo—My objective is to save the Alamo so that we can tell the heroic story of the battle better than ever.
COMMISSIONER OF GENERAL LAND OFFICE
CONTINUED

Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Texas resident for at least 12 months. Among duties: management of state lands and mineral-right properties totaling 20.3 million acres and providing revenues for the Permanent School Fund; repository of state land documents; responsible for the prevention of and response to oil spills that occur on “submerged” lands out to 10.3 miles in the Gulf of Mexico. The Commissioner also serves as a chairman of seven state boards, including the School Land Board, the Veterans Land Board, and the Coastal Coordination Council. Current annual salary: $137,500

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

COASTAL PLANNING: What specific short-term and long-term measures would you implement to restore and protect the coast, wetlands, and built environment to minimize damage from major storms?

OTHER ISSUES: What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES’ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE 411.ORG

Davey Edwards (R)

COASTAL PLANNING: Short-term would be to continue to provide beach replenishment and maintenance programs. Long-term would be to research plans that are being implemented in other areas of the world that have already or had coastal erosion issues.

OTHER ISSUES: Bringing back experienced and knowledgeable staff that was eliminated in the early term of the current commissioner during the GLO “reboot” program. This will make the GLO more efficient and effective to all the stewardships of the agency.

Jerry Patterson (R)

COASTAL PLANNING: A federally funded coastal barrier system such as the “Ike Dike” should be undertaken to protect the Galveston bay complex and the industries associated with it. Coastal development in eroding areas should be restricted in those areas of high rates of erosion, and habitat for coastal species should be enhanced and preserved in bays and estuaries.

OTHER ISSUES: Restoring confidence and transparency in the management and finances at the Alamo which is now managed by the GLO. Restoring the Disaster Recovery division of the GLO, which is responsible for temporary emergency housing for Hurricane Harvey victims, to the professionalism and level of competence that existed during Hurricanes Ike and Dolly.

Rick Range (R)

COASTAL PLANNING: Short-term: restoration from Harvey. GLO must assist storm victims in repairing their property. Long-term: strengthen structural requirements, Wetlands are endangered species habitats. New retainer, barriers, and drainage routes must be balanced with preserving the natural environment.

OTHER ISSUES: The other most urgent issue facing the GLO is the Alamo restoration in accordance with the Alamo Preservation Bill (HB 2968) passed and funded by the Texas Legislature in 2015. The structures need immediate attention. Then the original footprint of the 1836 battle can be recaptured, followed by a world-class museum to exhibit artifacts.
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Texas resident for at least 12 months. Among duties: regulates fuel pumps and weights and measures devices; regulates pesticide use and application; certifies organically produced products; facilitates trade and market development of agricultural commodities. Current annual salary: $137,500

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

RESPONSIBILITIES: Which responsibilities of the Texas Department of Agriculture are your highest priorities for the next 4 years, and how do you intend to accomplish them?

DISASTER RELIEF: Do you support or oppose supplementing the privately funded State of Texas Agriculture Relief Fund with taxpayer money to finance disaster assistance needs of farmers, ranchers, producers, and agribusiness owners in restoring operations and rebuilding property following catastrophic droughts and hurricanes? Why?

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Trey Blocker (R)

RESPONSIBILITIES: I have a good working relationship with the Governor, Lt. Governor and most legislators and will work with them to preserve, protect, and promote Texas agriculture. I want to restore honesty, integrity, and fiscal responsibility to the Texas Department of Agriculture. The current commissioner has raised taxes, grown the government bureaucracy, and had ethical problems.

DISASTER RELIEF: The beauty of the STAR fund is that it is 100% privately funded (preferred method of helping neighbors). However, we all depend on Texas Agriculture for our food and clothing, so it’s essential that their operations be restored as soon as possible. If the STAR fund is inadequate to ensure food safety and security, the Legislature should consider supplementing it.

Sid Miller (R)

RESPONSIBILITIES: Expand our TDA GO TEXAN marketing program marketing Texas agriculture products around the globe. 2) Continue our program of making Texas school lunches great again. We’ve already made great progress by repealing all the burdensome TDA mandates and rules on our Texas schools. 3) Strengthen TDA’s consumer protection division and ensure that Texans are not ripped off.

DISASTER RELIEF: The STAR FUND is funded entirely by the private sector to provide disaster assistance to farmers, ranchers, producers, and agribusiness owners who have been adversely impacted by disasters such as hurricanes, tornados, and wildfires. The STAR FUND should remain a voluntary and privately funded program to assist Texans in need without the use of any taxpayer funded dollars.

Jim Hogan (R)

Kim Olson (D) - Unopposed Candidate

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED By Print Deadline. See VOTE411.ORG For Any Later Responses

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED By Print Deadline. See VOTE411.ORG For Any Later Responses
RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

6-year term. Must be at least 25 years old, a Texas resident, and a registered voter. Regulates the energy industry, including preventing pollution, well plugging and site remediation, pipeline safety and damage prevention, surface mining of coal and uranium, gas utility rates, and alternative fuels.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

STEWARDSHIP: How do you plan to balance oil, gas, and mining interests with protection of natural resources and the environment?

RESPONSIBILITIES: Which reform(s) suggested by the 2016 Sunset Review Commission are your highest priority, and how do you plan on implementing them?

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Roman McAllen (D)

STEWARDSHIP: Right now I plan to balance the commission. The current commission is entirely beholden to the industry. It is an open secret that commissioners accept campaign contributions 24/7, 365 days a year, from the industry. I will balance the commission by listening to and believing scientists, surface rights owners & municipalities and supporting them.

RESPONSIBILITIES: I would lobby to change the name of the commission to something that tells the public, & the commissioners themselves, what the commission is supposed to be doing. I would seek increased reporting requirements for wastewater injection wells. These wells are causing earthquakes and I believe polluting our water. This to me is immoral and unjust. Texans cannot afford it.

Christi Craddick (R)

STEWARDSHIP: I take seriously my duty to protect our natural resources while industry creates jobs. Strong, fair, consistent regulation ensures a safe environment and economic growth. During my time at the Railroad Commission, we have updated our rules to ensure the industry continues to do business in Texas, and at the same time, we have kept our communities and environment clean.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Through the Sunset review process, the Railroad Commission has had considerable discussion about bettering its functions. We are more efficient today because of these efforts. One important reform, we are making improvements to our oil and gas monitoring and enforcement program, and oversight of Texas’ pipeline infrastructure.

Weston Martinez (R)

STEWARDSHIP: We’re going to support oil and gas producers who responsibly produce energy in our state and we’re going to make it easier for them to do business, but we will always reprimand bad actors.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Renaming the agency from the Railroad commission to a proper name as its members indicated April 29th of 2016. visit www.westofortexas.com for more in depth information.

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED By Print Deadline. See VOTE411.ORG For Any Later Responses

Chris Spellmon (D)
VOTING FOR JUDGES

ALTHOUGH IN SOME STATES JUDGES ARE APPOINTED, MOST JUDGES IN TEXAS ARE ELECTED. VOTING DECISIONS IN JUDICIAL RACES ARE AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT THAT A TEXAS VOTER MAKES.

WHY ARE JUDICIAL ELECTIONS IMPORTANT?

Judges make decisions about fundamental issues that affect all of us — family life, education, health care, housing, employment, finances, discrimination, civil rights, public safety, and government actions. Those decisions can have long-lasting impact on individuals, groups, and the public as a whole. It is critical that our judges make fair decisions based upon open-minded and unbiased consideration of the facts and the law in each case. Judges must know the law and not be influenced by any external political and economic factors.

WHAT SHOULD VOTERS LOOK FOR WHEN ELECTING JUDGES?

According to the American Bar Association, principles to consider in selection of judges include:

Judges should uphold the rule of law.
Judges should be independent and impartial.
Judges should possess the appropriate temperament and character.
Judges should possess the appropriate capabilities and credentials.
Judges and the judiciary should have the confidence of the public.
The judicial system should be diverse and reflective of the society it serves.
Judges should be constrained to perform their duties in a manner that justifies public faith and confidence in the court.

Unlike candidates for most political offices, judicial candidates cannot make promises about decisions they would make when certain issues or types of cases come up in their court. Questions posed to judges, therefore, focus on improvements they would make to their court, the need for impartiality and how they would increase access to justice.

HOW IS THE TEXAS COURT SYSTEM ORGANIZED?

The Texas court system is made up of a statewide network of trial courts and appellate courts. In trial courts, judges and/or juries evaluate the facts and the law and make a decision in a civil or criminal legal dispute. When decisions in most trial courts are appealed, they are sent to an appellate court where judges consider what happened at the trial court, evaluate legal arguments, and then decide if a mistake was made.

See http://www.courts.state.tx.us/pubs/court-overview.pdf for a chart of the Texas court structure.

The state’s two highest courts, the Texas Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals, have both administrative and appellate responsibilities. The Supreme Court is the final court of appeals within Texas for both civil and juvenile cases. The Court of Criminal Appeals hears criminal cases that are appealed from one of the 14 Courts of Appeals and death penalty cases that by law go straight to the Court of Criminal Appeals.

All members of each court are elected for six-year terms, with three elected every two years. Any vacancies are filled by gubernatorial appointment until the next general election.
**JUDGE, TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS**

6-year term. Must be age 35-74 years, a U.S. Citizen, a Texas resident, licensed to practice law in Texas, a registered voter, and have at least 10 years experience as a lawyer or judge. Reviews all death penalty cases and applications for habeas corpus in felony cases, hears final appeals on criminal cases, and administers publicly funded judicial and attorney education.

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

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<tr>
<th>Sharon Keller (R) - Presiding Judge</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACCESS TO JUSTICE:</strong> What recent developments (e.g., client choice of counsel, technology) provide opportunities to improve the state’s indigent defense system in criminal cases appealed from lower court decisions?</td>
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<td><strong>RESPONSIBILITIES:</strong> Which responsibility of a Court of Criminal Appeals judge is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?</td>
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<tr>
<th>Jay Brandon (R) - Criminal Appeals Place 8</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACCESS TO JUSTICE:</strong> In Texas, the idea of client choice in criminal cases originated with the Texas Indigent Defense Commission, which I have led since 2002. We provided funding and technical assistance to create the first such program in the U.S. Because the concept proved successful, we have discussed adding appellate appointments to the program.</td>
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<td><strong>RESPONSIBILITIES:</strong> My primary duty is to correctly interpret the law as set out by the legislature. I look first at the actual wording of the provision in question, resorting to legislative history only if the wording is ambiguous or absurd. I defer to the legislature whenever a statute can be construed to be constitutional.</td>
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<th>Dib Waldrip (R) - Criminal Appeals Place 8</th>
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<td><strong>ACCESS TO JUSTICE:</strong> With help of others, I pioneered the first “Client Choice” for indigent defendants in our nation. Initially a pilot, the program proved its viability and is in use today in Comal County. Client choice is a free market economy solution that motivates counsel to improve to get the next appointment. By creating competition, the entire justice system is inherently enhanced.</td>
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<td><strong>RESPONSIBILITIES:</strong> Preserving, protecting &amp; defending the constitution &amp; laws of the U.S. &amp; our state require courage &amp; intellectual honesty to avoid being an apologist for miscues of the state. I intend to be a solution finder &amp; consensus builder to enhance intellectual integrity of opinions so that law enforcement, prosecutors &amp; trial judges are not enabled to repeat errors with impunity.</td>
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David Bridges (R), Michelle Slaughter (R)

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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
DISTRICT 3

4-year term. Must be 26 years old or older, a U.S. Citizen, a Texas resident, and a registered voter. Oversees curriculum standards, instructional materials, graduation requirements, new charter school applications, and the Texas Permanent School Fund; appoints board members to military reservation/special school districts.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

TESTING: Does the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) adequately and efficiently diagnose individual student learning needs? Why or why not?

FUNDING: What measures, if any, would you take to improve (a) investment policies for the Permanent School Fund and (b) equitable distributions for public schools? Please explain.

FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES' ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE411.ORG

Marisa B. Perez (D)

TESTING: The STAAR in no way adequately assess the learning needs, or competencies, for that matter, of a student. It is a summative assessment of a child’s learning ability. However, progress is not measured, which is the most appropriate way to determine whether a child is learning. This should be done with formative assessments to be carried out throughout the year.

FUNDING: A) I believe the SBOE should be counseled to be as cautiously aggressive as possible with the investments to yield the best interest. B) Policy must be put in place to set a specific percentage of the PSF allocation the Legislature receives from SBOE that MUST be used toward public school. This is not the current case & a large percentage of the PSF allocation is diverted.

Dan Arellano (D)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED By Print Deadline. See VOTE411.ORG For Any Later Responses
QUESTION 1: Explain your position on immigration to the United States. Do you support or oppose DACA, a pathway to citizenship, and border security? Why?

**Eric Burkhart (R)**

**Answer 1:** Our nation is only as safe as the weakest part of our border. As a former Intelligence Agent and honor graduate from the Immigration Academy, my experience with Immigration issues has proven invaluable during my careers in both INS and the CIA. One of the most pressing and emotional Immigration issues needing resolution is the question of status for undocumented persons brought into the US by their parents. I support the option of providing Legal Permanent Resident status, but only if the option to petition for parents is removed. We must never reward people for breaking our laws.

**Answer 2:** Congress should convene a study of this issue, and include only US scientists, climatologists, meteorologists, and related specialists and researchers. To date, although American researchers have been involved, the climate change data that gets disseminated originates in Europe, or is sponsored, funded or controlled by the UN or European sources. We must address this issue from a national perspective, involving our universities, our research facilities and our renowned academics and climatologists. I believe in an American definition of the problem, and an American solution.

**Derrick Crowe (D)**

**Answer 1:** I strongly oppose the Trump administration’s attack on DACA protections for Dreamers, and support a clean Dream Act. I support whistleblower visas to allow workers to report abuses without fear of retaliation and expanding parole-in-place policies. I am a firm supporter of a pathway to citizenship. I strongly oppose President Trump’s outrageous plan to build a wall on the southern border as well as attempts to tie local law enforcement to immigration enforcement. We need increased funds for Customs and Border Patrol oversight and training and a stronger internal affairs office at CBP.

**Answer 2:** We must immediately take action to reduce our carbon emissions to net-zero by 2035. That means we must affirm our commitments to the targets set in the Paris Agreement, commit to a national carbon budget, require federal agencies go carbon-free by 2035, impose a carbon-fee-and-dividend system and a green transition carbon fee to fund electric vehicle technology; assist states in preparing for the onset of climate change while helping them and local municipalities get off of fossil fuels; end fossil fuel subsidies and convert them to electric vehicle incentives; and ban fossil fuel exploration.

Ivan Andarza (R), Francisco ‘Quico’ Canseco (R), Autry J. Pruitt (R), Jennifer Sarver (R), Robert Stovall (R)
Mauro Garza (R)

**ANSWER 1:** My position is to enforce Immigration Laws and border security first. My position is to phase out to the point of elimination a program such as DACA that has occurred because of Immigration Laws not being enforced. We do not want our future generations to have to deal with an issue such as this. The path to citizenship for those in the current DACA should also include the consequences for those that are not currently or do not currently identify as DACA. If, and only if, there will be a compromise for the DACA, it must be with the end in mind.

**ANSWER 2:** My legislative priorities for responding to our changing climate is for the US to balance its budget first. Just like in Texas, we require a balanced budget. Then, we can explore, renewable energies to keep a balanced budget and to reduce our impact on our climate. This will allow us to respond better to disasters whether due to climate change or not.

Foster Hagen (R)

**ANSWER 1:** I think we have to secure the border, but I don’t automatically think that immigrants are bad people. I think quite the opposite. I think that most immigrants come to this nation seeking the American dream. Immigrants already in the country would be required to register with the government, pay a fine, and after 10 years of registration as a provisional immigrant, apply for a green card status for three years and then apply for citizenship. “Dreamers”, DACA would all be phased in over five years, 20% each year, years one through five.

**ANSWER 2:** Natural gas is the backbone to any climate strategy. The increased use of natural gas will result in a significant reduction of carbon omissions. The climate is always changing. You can’t argue about that. I wonder why our friends on the left amended that term instead of using the phrase global warming. The earth is 4.5 billion years old. Geology knows that over long periods of time, that our climate changes. Earth has been much warmer than it is today. We have real data for the last 100 years. Comparing that data versus 4.5 billion years is inconclusive to say the least.

Jason Isaac (R)

**ANSWER 1:** Texas has seen firsthand that a porous border creates a pipeline of criminal activity into our communities. The border may be hundreds of miles away, but the ripples of transnational gang and cartel activity are here in the Hill Country. As a state representative, I voted to ban sanctuary cities, and to crack down on human trafficking, and send more resources to secure the border when the Obama administration derelicted its duty. I’ll continue fighting for
**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
**DISTRICT 21 CONTINUED**

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

**QUESTION 1:** Explain your position on immigration to the United States. Do you support or oppose DACA, a pathway to citizenship, and border security? Why?

**ANSWER 1:** I will be a strong supporter of comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship. In the short-term, I remain hopeful that Democrats in Congress will stay resilient and united in getting a clean DACA bill passed. In the long-term, I will focus on being a part of a solution that keeps families together, streamlines the immigration process, creates a pathway to citizenship, and addresses the needs of both low-skill and high-skill employers that cannot currently find enough employees to fill available jobs.

**ANSWER 2:** Climate change is real and scientists globally accept that emission of carbon dioxide through human consumption of fossil fuels is its principal contributing cause. A stable climate is a critical underpinning of quality of life and sustaining that stability, while exploring leadership solutions for a less stable climate, are at the core of my energy policies. These include: investing in wind/solar, following the Pentagon’s lead in investing in energy efficiency; carbon pricing & rebates; and 3rd party financing. You can read more at https://kopserforcongress.com/my-values/climate-energy/

**Joseph Kopser (D)**

**Ryan Krause (R)**

**QUESTION 2:** What legislative action, if any, would you support regarding our climate?

**ANSWER 2:** Global warming is a sham. While I am an advocate for cleaner air and water, the facts simply do not support man-caused, apocalyptic global warming.

**ANSWER 2:** Global warming, Global cooling, Climate change - or whatever it is being called today is not fact. The earth goes through cycles to replenish and restore itself. God’s creation is much more resilient and capable than we give it credit for. God did provide an amazing planet for us to utilize during our time here and we should be good stewards of his possessions, but the scare tactics employed to scare us into submission have gone way too far. Our children are being taught myths as fact and this needs to stop.
QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**QUESTION 1:** Explain your position on immigration to the United States. Do you support or oppose DACA, a pathway to citizenship, and border security? Why?

**QUESTION 2:** What legislative action, if any, would you support regarding our climate?

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**Matt McCall (R)**

**ANSWER 1:** I believe in legal immigration. I believe in nationhood and that it defines us. The border is not an artificial line. However, as a country we are grappling with justice vs. mercy. Justice calls for exportation and a wall. Mercy knows that families and livelihoods are at stake. So, I believe in strong borders and nationhood. I believe in building a wall, physical or high-tech, so long as it works. I do not support any new path to citizenship. Once those things are settled, we need to redo our entire immigration system so it is fair and also takes into account the on-the-ground realities.

**ANSWER 2:** Climate change happens, and humans clearly affect environments, but whether humans are causing world-wide temperature-based cataclysmic global warming is unclear at best. Ten years ago it was, “global warming,” and now it is, “climate change,” because the scientific models for warming didn’t pan out and anything that happens can be categorized under the heading of, “climate change.” I believe the environmental movement has been highjacked by socialists. I fully support clean air and clean water. I also fully support safe offshore drilling and the judicious use of our natural resources.

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**Elliott McFadden (D)**

**ANSWER 1:** I believe our highest priority on immigration is passing a clean Dream Act so the 800,000 American and 124,000 Texas Dreamers can have the security of a certain future. These undocumented immigrants brought to America as children only know the U.S. as their home and are contributing to our communities. On a broader scale, I would like to see a pathway to citizenship for law abiding undocumented residents. I oppose the building of a border wall and want to see our border security focus on proven, effective measures to control immigration.

**ANSWER 2:** Climate change presents one of the greatest threats to our way of life and wellbeing. We must first commit to following the science wherever it may lead and stop the corporate funded attacks on legitimate research. I am proposing a real infrastructure bill that focuses on investment in green energy and transit, and I support carbon cap and trade proposals that allow us to realize the indirect cost of carbon on our environment.
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DISTRICT 21 CONTINUED

2 year term. Must be 25 years or older, a US citizen and a resident of Texas. Responsible for representing the citizens of his/her district in the US House of Representatives.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: Explain your position on immigration to the United States. Do you support or oppose DACA, a pathway to citizenship, and border security? Why?

QUESTION 2: What legislative action, if any, would you support regarding our climate?

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Susan Narvaiz (R)

**ANSWER 1:** There is no question that our immigration system and border security policies are broken and for far too long Congress has failed to address this critical issue as a matter of national security. As a nation founded by immigrants, we must find ways to prevent people from overstaying their visas, secure our borders, and producing a common sense policy that allows non-permanent immigration legal for temporary highly skilled workers or students who graduate from American universities with advanced degrees, this is another avenue and innovative approach to growing our economy.

**ANSWER 2:** I support measures that would balance conservation and stewardship with common sense environmental policy solutions that work for the people, our economy and our beautiful natural resources, not against them. I support an, all of the above, energy policy that relieves our reliance on foreign oil, develops American-made energy sources that also protects the environment. It is so important that we expand oil and gas energy exploration, develop clean energy sources such as renewable and nuclear, and invest in technology that will allow us to use other sources of energy.

William Negley (R)

**ANSWER 1:** I agree with President Trump’s decision to allow DACA to expire. President Obama ignored the rule of law and our Constitution when he used an executive order to extend rights to those here illegally. Any future action on DACA must come from Congress. Additionally, I will not support any immigration reform until we have fully secured our southern border. Criminal illegal aliens, human traffickers, and drug smugglers continue to pour across our border - this poses a clear and imminent threat to our national security.

**ANSWER 2:** The United States has never been in a better position regarding the use of clean and renewable energies based on the technology developed by the private sector. We must continue to allow the private sector to innovate as we focus on the major global polluters in emerging economies like China. Furthermore, if we are going to become a nation that is less dependent on fossil fuels, we must expand American nuclear energy which has the potential to transform clean energy in the 21st century.

Al M. Poteet (R)

**ANSWER 1:** I support legal immigration. Our borders must be strong, applicants must be fully vetted for eligibility & able to work as productive individuals. Automatic chain, migration & immigration, lottery must be discontinued unless comprehensive vetting is instituted. DACA--I do not support any changes to Immigration & Nationality Act permitting reclassification of millions of illegals as lawfully present, providing entry to state and federal benefits. Each applicant must be fully vetted and then offered an earned pathway to citizenship.
**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
**DISTRICT 21 CONTINUED**

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

**QUESTION 1:** Explain your position on immigration to the United States. Do you support or oppose DACA, a pathway to citizenship, and border security? Why?

**QUESTION 2:** What legislative action, if any, would you support regarding our climate?

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that does. The “wall” must be built 1st to secure our border

**ANSWER 2:** Weather changes as has the climate for millions of years--warmer/colder periods occurred & NOT man-made. Cumbersome regulatory processes do not improve weather outcomes. I favor a clean/protected environment to sustain life--legislators should NOT blindly pass legislation that fosters political agendas instead of working men/women. Questions abound about the veracity/integrity of many so-called scientific studies re: Climate Change. Dire climate predictions have failed to occur--in the 1950’s, scientists predicted a new Ice Age was coming--not so much. It’s time for common sense to prevail.

**Chip Roy (R)**

**ANSWER 1:** Establish a truly secure border and immigration enforcement system first (border, visa overstays, workplace enforcement). Second, reduce legal immigration and overhaul it to focus on America’s needs (re-focused on labor/education/assimilation rather than family chain migration).

All other questions should be addressed after these things have been met.

**ANSWER 2:** We need to restore the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the limits set by Congress and return its focus on addressing actual measurable pollution that has a tangible negative impact on human health and the environment. I would support making permanent the reforms proposed by EPA Administrator Pruitt to permanently ban, sue and settle practices and to eliminate conflicts of interest between citizens appointed to independent advisory boards caused by them also being dependent on federal funding. Finally, I would support delegating more environmental regulatory authority to the states.

**Samuel Temple (R)**

**ANSWER 1:** There seems to be no evidence that DACA has any negative impact on the county and I find that the major flaw was that DACA did not provide a path to citizenship, leaving those individuals in a quasi-legal vulnerable state. Thus, I believe dreamers should be given a path to citizenship. I generally hold the belief that it is immoral to expel someone from the only country they have ever known, and on top of that, it’s generally bad for the economy too, as we have invested in the education and health of these people.

**ANSWER 2:** 1. Incentivizing carbon capture, use, and storage. Allowing a tax credit for companies that capture and store carbon in declining oil wells is an excellent option to reduce our carbon footprint with a solution that is available today. 2. Increase nuclear energy capabilities. While it comes with its own set of concerns, nuclear power is carbon emission free, and an excellent option in fighting climate change. 3. Increase federal energy efficiency standards. Federal standards are the main driver of energy efficient which reduces demand from power plants.
QUESTION 1: Explain your position on immigration to the United States. Do you support or oppose DACA, a pathway to citizenship, and border security? Why?

ANSWER 1: I believe that DACA should be extended and that qualified immigrants should be given a pathway to citizenship. I am in favor of a policy that allows immigrants who meet certain requirements to obtain work permits. Requirements include employment, children in school and out of gangs, insurance, clean criminal history, and to pay back taxes and a fine. We need immigration policies that allow immigrants to come in legally to fill necessary jobs. We need technologically advanced, cost-effective border security focusing on the needs of American citizens who live on the border and criminal activity.

ANSWER 2: I have worked on the economics of wind and solar energy and believe in the future of that technology. The cost of wind turbines has decreased every year. Texas went to free market energy pricing and that has aided the growth of wind energy in the state. In the first qtr of 2017, wind accounted for 23% of the electricity sold. I will vote to continue the current incentives for wind and solar. I want the United States to be the leader in green energy technology.

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Peggy Wardlaw (R)

**ANSWER 1:** We are a Nation of immigrants. We are a Nation of laws. My mother immigrated to the United States from Mexico, following the laws & regulations. She was given a Green Card and worked hard to raise her family. She eventually became a US citizen. My position reflects the example of how my mother followed the legal pathway to legally immigrate to our country, and eventually become a citizen. And, I would advocate for this if elected, in this specific order: 1. Secure the Border, and end Chain Migration. 2. Allow immigrants under DACA, with clean records (no felony convictions) to be afforded

**ANSWER 2:** I believe that we must be good stewards of our lands & resources. I support energy independence. The United States has the natural resources to provide what we need to power our industries and our home. I would support commonsense legislation to help ensure that we reduce air & water pollution, by funding science and technology research that would allow the discovery and smart transition to cleaner fuels, or the use of natural power. However, I do not support legislative efforts that harm our economy or force industries to close before we can transition.

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Anthony J. White (R)

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FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES’ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE411.ORG

Mary Street Wilson (D)

ANSWER 1: I believe Congress should pass a clean DACA act immediately. I also believe we need a complete revamping of our immigration policies. When a person attempts to immigrate here legally, following our system is nearly impossible, and those who succeed often persevere for 15-20 years. For those who can afford to wade through the process, I applaud them. For others who do not have the financial means or who come here in fear of their lives or their children’s lives, we need to find a better way.

ANSWER 2: 1. On a local scale, promote sustainable resources - wind and solar are particularly viable for the congressional district 21. Texas currently produces the most wind energy in the US. There’s no reason we shouldn’t continue to take advantage of this natural resource. 2. On a global scale support UN-REDD. According to their research “Deforestation and forest degradation account for approximately 17 per cent of carbon emissions, more than the entire global transportation sector and second only to the energy sector.” Clearly, we need a multi-faceted approach and we need global cooperation.

Judy Canales (D)

ANSWER 1: I support comprehensive immigration reform. I support passage of a “clean” Dream Act (S. 1615, H.R. 3440) which should be brought to a vote without amendments or qualifications of any kind. A decisive vote, unencumbered by additional enforcement provisions or attempts to restrict future legal immigration, is the best solution to resolving the undocumented status of a generation of young people. Our immigration laws have not kept pace with the rapidly changing nature of migration to the United States and around the world.

ANSWER 2: I have experience working with renewable energy solutions including wind, solar and other energy efficiency improvements for the home, business and industry.
QUESTION 1: Explain your position on immigration to the United States. Do you support or oppose DACA, a pathway to citizenship, and border security? Why?

Jay Hulings (D)

ANSWER 1: Immigration reform is personal to me. Having worked as a federal prosecutor on the border, I have seen how our current legal system has torn families apart. The only way to make lasting change for immigrant communities is by changing the law, and I am ready to fight for those changes. I stand in full support of DACA and demand that Congress pass a Clean Dream Act and comprehensive immigration reform in support of DREAMers.

ANSWER 2: Climate change is real and must be combated with serious legislative action. I will ensure that the federal government invests in climate change research and renewable energy research. We must also invest in renewable energy infrastructure to create jobs and preserve our environment. I also support the Paris Climate Accords. We must reject the backwards denialism of the Trump Administration and join the rest of the world in its joint efforts to fight climate change.

Gina Ortiz Jones (D)

ANSWER 1: As a first-generation American, I will never forget that our country was built by immigrants and that immigration strengthens our economy and contributes to our national security. I understand we need smart, responsible immigration policy reform that protects the security of Americans while also creating an inclusive and welcoming community for those who come to this country for a better life. Our nation’s border security cannot be compromised, but our safety does not require us to abandon the principles on which this country was founded. We must honor our promise and pass a clean DACA bill.

ANSWER 2: I would support legislation that increases public and private investments in renewable energy. I would work towards common sense solutions for man-made climate change given the real threat it poses to our national and economic security, and public health. We know that American leadership on climate change will create clean energy jobs and generate benefits far beyond the climate. As a coastal state with an economy that relies on agriculture and ranching, Texas must lead on smart, data-driven climate change policies.

Alma Arredondo-Lynch (R),
Will Hurd (R)

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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DISTRICT 23 CONTINUED

2-year term. Must be 25 years or older, a US citizen and a resident of Texas. Responsible for representing the citizens of his/her district in the US House of Representatives.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: Explain your position on immigration to the United States. Do you support or oppose DACA, a pathway to citizenship, and border security? Why?

QUESTION 2: What legislative action, if any, would you support regarding our climate?

FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES’ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE 411.ORG

Rick Trevino (D)

ANSWER 1: For far too long immigration has been used to divide people in America. In the past few decades we have seen the growth ICE, HSI, and the Private-Prison Industry. During the Obama Presidency the USA deported over 300,000 individuals a year (1 in 4 from mix status families). For those reasons I support full amnesty for undocumented people similar to what Reagan did in 1986. Until then we must protect the recipients of DACA and TPS from deportation but not tie their status to border wall/security funding. These are human beings, not bargaining chips.

ANSWER 2: I support a federal ban on fracking, off-shore drilling, and further pipeline creation. Climate Change is real and requires bold action by our country. We can responsibly phase out fossil fuel based jobs and transition these workers to clean energy jobs. I want to see the United States invest billions in new clean energy technologies like solar, wind, and hydroelectric. We must make this leap towards clean energy now because time has run out. The United States needs to hold companies accountable for their behavior at home and abroad. We should allow the US to sue or fine companies that exploit the environment of smaller nations. Also, environmental disasters and infractions should be grounds for jail time for executives of large companies.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DISTRICT 35

2-year term. Must be 25 years or older, a US citizen and a resident of Texas. Responsible for representing the citizens of his/her district in the US House of Representatives.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: Explain your position on immigration to the United States. Do you support or oppose DACA, a pathway to citizenship, and border security? Why?

QUESTION 2: What legislative action, if any, would you support regarding our climate?

FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES’ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE 411.ORG

S.K. Alexander (R), Lloyd Doggett (D), David Smalling (R)

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TEXAS SENATE
DISTRICT 25

4-year term. Must be 21 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the district represented. Responsible for representing the citizens of the district in which he/she is elected in the Texas Senate.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: Identify three measures you would support that reduce gun violence.

QUESTION 2: What would you do to provide and fund an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-k through grade 12?

FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES’ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE411.ORG

Jack Guerra (D)

ANSWER 1: 1. Review existing screening / background check programs and make sure they are funded (enforcement is critical) in addition to adding a ‘boyfriend’ clause.
2. Eliminate gun show loophole.
3. Broaden the public and private ‘assembly’ local regulations that will forbid bringing guns on site, such as public schools and universities, as well as charter schools, churches and other places of gathering.

ANSWER 2: I would amend constitutional ‘protective clauses’ that exempt commercial properties from disclosing purchase prices of land/facilities. I would work with county chief appraisers and the State appraisal regulating board so that we may amend how we evaluate commercial and private residential properties—especially for low income home owners on fixed incomes who are facing housing affordability issues in the inner city. I would promote the use of the ‘rainy day fund’ and establish that IT DOES apply to ‘basic programs that operated and maintained by the State of Texas,’ as mandated by the State Constitution. I would consider a 50% minimum funding from State Budget. I would consider the legalization of marijuana, which will require local ownership/investors, to offset funding costs.

Steven Kling (D)

ANSWER 1: Eliminate the “gun show” loophole and so-called “Constitutional” carry. Strengthen the Lautenberg Amendment to include anyone convicted of a violent crime and require existing weapon confiscation in new cases. Create a tiered classification of weapons that require increased levels of training and accountability. Owners of antiques or single-shot, bolt-action and pump-actuated hunting rifles and shotguns should have vastly different criteria than those seeking handguns or high-capacity assault rifles. We can still provide Constitutional, responsible and accountable ownership while protecting our communities.

ANSWER 2: First and foremost: Restore state funding which has dwindled to now 31% due to corporate tax loopholes that allow large companies to get out of paying property taxes. Increase taxes on fossil fuels. Increase the per-child rate to catch up to inflation and allow each ISD to apply for additional per-child increases based upon special needs and eco-dis population counts. Increase teacher pay to meet or exceed national average immediately with state-funded, zip-code based COLA.

Shannon K. McClendon (R)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED By Print Deadline. See VOTE411.ORG For Any Later Responses
Texas Voters' Bill of Rights

Your Voting rights are protected. These rights are guaranteed to qualified registered voters.

1. You have the right to vote if you are a qualified registered voter.
2. You have the right to cast your ballot in a manner that ensures privacy. You have the right to vote without any person trying to influence your vote and vote in a booth that prevents others from watching you mark your ballot.
3. You have the right to stay in the voting booth for as long as necessary to complete your ballot.
4. You have the right to receive up to two replacement ballots if you make a mistake and spoil your ballot before you cast your ballot.
5. You have the right to request assistance when voting from a poll worker or anyone of your choice except your employer, or an officer of your union or their representatives.
6. You have the right to vote if you are disabled. The polling place must be accessible, and there must be an accessible voting booth.
7. You have the right to vote if you cannot read or write. You have the right to bring an interpreter with you who can translate.
8. You have the right to vote but must show one of the IDs listed on the reverse side of this sheet.
9. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot if you believe you are a qualified registered voter but a poll worker tells you that you are ineligible to vote. (See reverse for details).
10. You have the right to vote once at an early voting location during the early voting period within the territory conducting the election.
11. You have the right to follow up any challenge to your right to vote through the complaint process.
12. You have a right to vote if you are not currently incarcerated for a felony conviction and have registered as a voter after your sentence is fully discharged.
13. You have the right to take this Voters’ Bill of Rights or any other papers, including a sample ballot, voter guide or campaign material, into the voting booth with you. Please remove all papers when you leave the booth.
14. You have the right to vote at your polling places on Election Day any time between 7 am and 7 pm for state and federal elections – hours may vary for local elections. If you are in line at the polling place when the polls close at 7 pm, you have the right to vote.
15. You have the right to bring your children into the voting booth with you.

If you feel that your right to vote has been violated in any way, call the Secretary of State toll free at 1-800-252-VOTE(8683), via e-mail at elections@sos.texas.gov and by regular mail at Elections Division, P.O.Box 12060, Austin, Texas 78711.

Ron Nirenberg
Mayor, The City of San Antonio

Nelson W. Wolff
Judge, Bexar County

Jacquelyn F. Callanan
Elections Administrator, Bexar County

Madhu Sridhar
President, League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area

Prepared by the League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area, January 2018
VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS

- Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
- Texas personal identification card issued by DPS
- Texas license to carry a handgun issued by DPS
- United States military identification card containing the person’s photograph
- United States citizenship certificate containing the person’s photograph
- United States passport

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the acceptable photo identification must be current or have expired no more than 4 years before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place.

If you do not possess and cannot reasonably obtain one of these IDs, fill out a declaration at the polls explaining why and bring one of the following supporting documents:

- Valid voter registration certificate
- Certified birth certificate (must be an original)
- Copy of or original current utility bill
- Copy of or original bank statement
- Copy of or original government check
- Copy of or original paycheck
- Copy of or original government document with your name and an address (original required if it contains a photograph)

PROVISIONAL BALLOT

You have the right to cast a provisional ballot IF,

Your name does not appear on the list of registered voters.

You have the right to cast a provisional ballot also IF,

(a) you do not possess one of the seven (7) acceptable forms of photo identification, which is not expired for more than four years, and you can reasonably obtain one of these forms of identification OR

(b) you possess, but did not bring to the polling place, one of the seven forms of acceptable photo identification, which is not expired for more than four years, OR

(c) you do not possess one of the seven forms of acceptable photo identification, which is not expired for more than four years, you could otherwise not obtain one due to a reasonable impediment, but you did not bring a supporting form of identification to the polling place.

You have the right to present one of the acceptable forms of photo identification, which is not expired for more than four years, to the county voter registrar’s office within six (6) calendar days after Election Day if you cast a provisional ballot.

If you feel that your right to vote has been violated in any way, call the Secretary of State toll free at 1-800-252-VOTE (8683), via e-mail at elections@sos.texas.gov and by regular mail at Elections Division, P.O. Box 12060, Austin, Texas 78711.
DECLARACIÓN DE DERECHOS ELECTORALES EN EL ESTADO DE TEXAS

Sus Derechos de elector están protegidos. Estos derechos están garantizados para todos los votantes calificados registrados.

1. Tiene derecho a votar si usted es un votante calificado y se registró en el período especificado.
2. Tiene derecho a emitir su voto en forma privada. Tiene derecho de votar sin que alguna persona tarde de influir en su voto, y a hacerlo en una cabina de manera que nadie vea sus elecciones en su planilla.
3. Tiene derecho a permanecer en la cabina de votación por el tiempo que sea necesario para completar su boleta.
4. Tiene derecho, antes de emitir su voto, a recibir hasta dos planillas en caso de haber cometido un error en la primera.
5. Tiene derecho a solicitar ayuda de un funcionario de la mesa electoral o de cualquier otra persona de su elección con excepción de su empleador, de algún dirigente de su sindicato o alguno de sus representantes.
6. Tiene derecho a votar si está discapacitado. La mesa electoral debe ser accesible y debe haber una cabina de votación adecuada para personas con necesidades especiales.
7. Tiene derecho a votar aún si no sabe leer o escribir. Tiene derecho a traer un intérprete que pueda traducir.
8. Tiene derecho a votar y deberá mostrar un documento de identidad si: a) está votando por primera vez, b) se inscribió para votar por correo y no adjuntó un documento de identidad al formulario de inscripción de elector, c) su nombre se encuentra en la lista de votantes inactivos, d) se ha disputado su voto, e) si algún funcionario de la mesa electoral lo requiere.
9. Tiene derecho de votar con una planilla provisional en el caso de estar en el entendimiento de que es un elector calificado y registrado pero algún funcionario de la mesa electoral le dice lo contrario. (Vea anexo 1 para detalles).
10. Tiene derecho a votar una vez en un centro de votación temprana durante el período de votación temprana dentro del territorio en donde se lleva a cabo la votación.
11. Tiene derecho de apelar cualquier incumplimiento de sus derechos electorales utilizando el procedimiento de presentación de quejas.
12. Tiene derecho de votar si no se encuentra encarcelado por una condena por delito grave y la inscripción electoral se realizó después de que su sentencia se haya cumplido por completo.
13. Tiene derecho de llevar consigo a la cabina de votación esta Declaración de Derechos Electorales así como cualquier otro documento de apoyo, incluso una planilla de muestra, una guía electoral o material de campaña electoral. No olvide llevarse los documentos al salir de la cabina de votación.
14. Tiene derecho de votar en su Puesto de Votación a cualquier hora entre las 7:00 a.m. y las 7 p.m. en los días de las elecciones Estatales y Federales. El horario de votación puede variar para Elecciones locales. Si está en la fila para votar al cierre del Puesto de Votación a las 7:00 p.m. tiene el derecho de votar.
15. Tiene derecho de que sus hijos lo acompañen a la cabina de votación.

Si cree que sus derechos electorales fueron violados de alguna manera, llame a la División Electoral de la Secretaría del Estado al 1-800-462-VOTE (8683), via e-mail al elections@sos.texas.gov y por correo regular al Elections Division, P.O.Box 12060, Austin, Texas 78711.

Ron Nirenberg
Mayor, the City of San Antonio

Nelson W. Wolff
Judge, Bexar County

Jacquelyn F. Callanen
Elections Administrator, Bexar County

Madhu Sridhar
President, League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area

Preparado por la Liga de Votantes de Mujeres del Área de San Antonio, enero de 2018
REQUISITOS DE IDENTIFICACIÓN DEL VOTANTE

Los documentos de identidad aceptados son:

- Licencia para Conducir de Texas, emitida por el Departamento de Seguridad Pública de Texas (DPS).
- Certificado o Credencial de elector de Texas emitido por DPS.
- Credencial de Identificación personal de Texas emitido por DPS.
- Licencia para portar armas de Texas emitido por DPS.
- Credencial de Identificación del Ejército de los Estados Unidos con fotografía.
- Certificado de Ciudadanía de los Estados Unidos con fotografía.
- Pasaporte de los Estados Unidos.

Con excepción del Certificado de Ciudadanía de los Estados Unidos, los documentos de identificación personal con fotografía deben estar vigentes o haber expirado en un periodo no mayor a 4 años antes de ser presentados para acreditación de votante en el puesto de votación.

Si no tiene en su poder y no puede obtener uno de estos documentos de identificación deberá llenar una forma de declaración en el puesto de votación explicando la razón y deberá presentar alguno de los siguientes documentos de soporte.

Certificado válido de Registro electoral.

- Acta de Nacimiento Certificada (debe ser original).
- Original o copia de alguna factura de servicios Público reciente.
- Original o copia de Estado de cuenta de Banco.
- Original o copia de algún cheque expedido por el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos.
- Original o copia de cheque de pago o documento oficial con nombre y dirección impreso (El original es necesario en caso de que el documento tenga fotografía).

PLANILLA PROVISIONAL

Tiene derecho de votar con una planilla provisional SI

Su nombre no aparece en la lista de electores registrados.

Tiene derecho a votar con una planilla provisional EN CASO DE.

(a) no tiene en su poder alguna de las siete (7) formas de identificación personal con foto aceptadas, las cuales estén vigentes o hayan expirado en un periodo no mayor a cuatro años, pero puede obtenerlas, o

(b) usted tiene pero no trajo consigo al puesto de votación una de las siete formas de identificación con foto aceptada, O

(c) no tiene en su poder una de las siete formas de identificación con foto aceptadas, y no las puede adquirir debido a un impedimento razonable y no trajo ninguno de los documentos de soporte al puesto de votación.

Tiene derecho de presentar una de las formas de identificación personal aceptadas o identificación con foto, mismas que deben estar vigentes o haber expirado en un periodo no mayor a 4 años, en las oficinas de registro electoral del condado en los siguientes seis (6) días calendario después del día de Elección si usted vota una planilla provisional.

Si cree que sus derechos electorales fueron violados de alguna manera, llame a la División Electoral de la Secretaría del Estado al 1-800-462-VOTE (8683), vía e-mail al elections@sos.texas.gov y por correo regular al Elections Division, P.O.Box 12060, Austin, Texas 78711.

Preparado por la Liga de Votantes de Mujeres del Área de San Antonio, enero de 2018
QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: Identify three measures you would support that reduce gun violence.

ANSWER 1: To reduce gun violence we need to:
1) strengthen the current gun laws we have in place;
2) increase the educational outreach to adults and children about not only the danger of weapons but what to do if they see someone who they think should not have a firearm; and 3) create new policies to allow law enforcement to remove firearms from individuals that are exhibiting “at-risk” behaviors so they can not harming themselves or others.

QUESTION 2: What would you do to provide and fund an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-k through grade 12?

ANSWER 2: All children deserve a quality education. To provide and fund an equitable, quality public education system we need to revamp our current system of school finance, which is broken. All stakeholders (parents, teachers, property owners, school board members and district administrators) should have a seat at the table in creating a system which funds our neighborhood schools. The state should then allocate enough resources to the districts to provide an equitable, quality education for all children.

Diana Arevalo (D)

ANSWER 1: In the past, I joined fellow members of the Bexar County delegation to stop HB 3866, which presented multiple safety concerns and would have eroded local control of municipal space. The 84th session ended with one of the worst gun bills - campus carry. Against the vocal opposition of students, parents, faculty, and administrators, Republican legislators pushed legislation to force universities to allow guns on campuses across Texas. When I called a point of order on SB 11, halting the proceedings on the House floor, I worked with universities to change the nature of the bill to send a message that leaders need to get sensible, practical, and realistic about gun policies on college campuses. I was recognized by Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America for my work empowering university presidents to regulate guns on their campuses. I will continue to fight for sensible gun legislation and against all gun bills that put the most vulnerable members of our community in harm’s way.

ANSWER 2: As the first person in my family to graduate from college and the second person to graduate from high school, I have first-hand experience in how a quality education can affect your life. A fully-funded and equitable public education system is vital to the future of Texas, and I am proud of my battles to fund our schools. In 2013, I negotiated the partial restoration of the devastating education cuts of 2011, returning $3.9 billion to the final budget and in 2015, I refused to support the final state budget, which underfunded Texas schools while leaving nearly $3 billion on the table. (Daily House Journal, 84th Legislature, p.5223) My commitment to equitable funding is also why, during the 84th Legislative Session, I used a point of order to defeat House Bill 1759, which would have exacerbated the inequities between wealthy and low-income school districts in Texas. I will continue to fight for Texas Schools in the Senate.

Trey Martinez Fischer (D)
QUESTION 1: Identify three measures you would support that reduce gun violence.

**Terisha DeDeaux (D)**

ANSWER 1: The three measures which can reduce the gun violence that I would support would include gun safety, Sensible gun laws, and safe communities. According to the Preventioninstitute.org, gun safety means to implement a mandatory training and licensing along with safe-and-secure-gun storage. By implementing Sensible gun laws the assault weapons would be banned immediately and a background check will be made mandatory. Preventioninstitute.org suggests by supporting the city wide planning and implementation of comprehensive violence prevention place to include prevention, intervention, and enforcement can possibly prevent shootings, killings and violence in the long term. In order for this measure to work successfully our communities need the proper resources. (Resource provided: https://www.preventioninstitute.org/focus-areas/preventing-violence-and-reducing-injury/preventing-violence-advocacy)

ANSWER 2: I support the funding for increase in education that is what I am running for, however without having the adequate knowledge of the current education budget I can’t answer this question (yet). I will work hard to ensure our students will receive the quality education along with access to more extra curricular activities.

**Carlos Antonio Raymond (R)**

ANSWER 1: (1) STOP PROMOTING GUN-FREE ZONES. “Politicians pass laws for gun free school zones, they issue press releases bragging about them. They post signs advertising them. And, in doing so, they tell every insane killer in America that schools are the safest place to inflict maximum mayhem with minimum risk.”

(2) STOP COPY-CATS BY NO GIVING SO MUCH MEDIA COVERAGE TO SCHOOL Shootings AND OTHER MASSACRES. Learn how to identify when someone’s at risk: Help people identity at-risk behaviors, especially on social media, and learn how to respond effectively.

(3) CONSIDER A NATIONAL DATABASE (DATA-DRIVEN) FOR THE MENTALLY IT AND THE DOEMSTIC VIOLENTAND AND CONVICTED FELONS:

(4) STREAMLINE AND INCREASE SCRUTINY FOR VIOKENT MOVIES AND VIDEO GAMES:

(5) HIRE ARMED GUARDS TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR SCHOOL: REHIRE qualified and active retired police, active reserve and retired military, security professionals, certified firefighters, security professionals, rescue personnel, an extraordinary corps
QUESTION 1: Identify three measures you would support that reduce gun violence.

QUESTION 2: What would you do to provide and fund an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-k through grade 12?

FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES’ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE411.ORG

Carlos Antonio Raymond (R) Continued

ANSWER 2: The quality of an early childhood program is dependent on the following three key factors.

1. INTERPERSONAL INTERACTIONS: The experiences that a child has in their earliest years shape their development, and teachers play an important role in creating those experiences. A WELL-TRAINED AND HIGHLY SKILLED TEACHER tailors their interactions to fit the needs of the child.

2. THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT: Children need a physical setting both indoors and outdoors where they can play, and learn safely.

3. EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY LEADERS: Can provide instructional and moral support to teachers and the business sector.

4. FAMILY ENGAGEMENTS: We must find ways to encourage families (parent) to participate in their children’s learning.

5. SUSTAINABLE AND SUFFICIENT FUNDING MECHANISM BY CUTTING FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE.

Michael Berlanga (R), Philip Cortez (D)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED By Print Deadline. See VOTE411.ORG For Any Later Responses
ANSWER 1: Last Legislative Session, I authored legislation encouraging gun buyback programs to take deadly weapons off the street. I also believe that Texas should implement both universal background checks and a ban on "bump stocks" which can transform semi-automatic rifles into near-automatic weapons. There are many other common sense options to reduce gun violence, such as investing in mental health prevention and treatment.

ANSWER 2: Improving primary education means reforming our byzantine school finance system so that districts can provide the quality education that will prepare their students for the job market or college. Overall, I support reform that will resolve the complaints of the state's largest districts while providing greater funding across-the-board through simplification and rationalization of the school finance formulas.

This is the most important issue handled by the state of Texas. Kids who receive a high-quality education are far more likely to end up in successful marriages, to have high-paying jobs, to be healthy, and become middle-class. When we don't give our youth the chance to succeed in their school, we're robbing him of a better quality of life for decades to come. As technology and automation disrupt the labor market and create higher demand for more-educated workers, we need to ensure every kid is getting a quality K-12 education so they are able to compete in the modern economy.
**Texas House of Representatives**

**District 121**

**Questions to Candidates**

**Question 1:** Identify three measures you would support that reduce gun violence.

**Steve Allison (R)**

**Answer 1:** stricter enforcement of existing laws
- enhancement for offenses involving guns
- enhanced identification and treatment actions regarding mental health conditions and violent propensities

**Answer 2:** Ensure that the State provides adequate funding for the provision of an efficient and equitable public education for all children of Texas, as required by the Constitution, and to reduce the increasing dependency on local property taxes. The State must prioritize public education spending with existing funds. Finally, the Robin Hood system which redistributes local tax dollars is broken and must be overhauled to address this longstanding problem.

**Adrian Spears (R)**

**Answer 1:** I believe it’s important to address the causes of gun violence. As such I would allocate funds to our mental health system and to addiction recovery and family violence.

- Stiffer penalties for family violence.
- Continue to support and allocate funding for increased border security and anti-gang measures.

**Answer 2:** As a father to three young children, it is paramount to me that we recruit, retain and reward top performing educators and improve curriculum. This is best accomplished by reducing administration, facility expenses, and overhead. We must end Robinhood and find a more equitable system of public school finance in Texas. Additionally, I also believe that the M & O portion of tax should follow the child to the school of their parent’s choice.

**Marc K. Whyte (R)**

**Answer 1:** I believe we need to enforce existing laws and not simply propose more laws for the sake of doing so.

**Answer 2:** I would like to see the state come back up to it’s previous share of public school funding and will work to ensure local school taxes stay in local school districts.

For more questions and the candidates’ answers and contact information, go to vote411.org
**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

**QUESTION 1:** Identify three measures you would support that reduce gun violence.

**QUESTION 2:** What would you do to provide and fund an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-k through grade 12?

FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES’ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE 411.

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**Charlotte Williamson (R)**

**ANSWER 1:** As a strong proponent of the second amendment, I believe that most gun violence is caused by mental health disorders. To help prevent gun violence, I will substantially increase the funding for the state’s mental health treatment centers. Moreover, I believe in early intervention among recurring domestic violence offenders as such behavior is highly correlated to future gun violence if left unchecked. Finally, better coordination between all branches of law enforcement to apprehend known predators as well as constant updating of watch lists from law enforcement and the military—the right hand has to know what the left hand is doing in order to prevent gun violence.

**ANSWER 2:** Texas’ school finance system is a total mess. With a huge number of conflicting legislative priorities, unfunded mandates, and an ever declining pool of willing teachers, it is time for Texas to think outside of the box. This starts with ending the so-called “Robin Hood” plan which unfairly punishes school districts with strong tax bases and seeks to redistribute those funds to other communities. Over the course of this program, schools in my district, Alamo Heights ISD and Northeast ISD have had millions of dollars “recaptured” and sent to lower income districts. Critical to an equitable distribution is ceasing all programs that seek to punish students by removing funds on the basis of the relative success of their families.
TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 122

2-year term. Must be 21 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the district represented. Responsible for representing the citizens of the district in which he/she is elected in the Texas House of Representatives.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: Identify three measures you would support that reduce gun violence.

QUESTION 2: What would you do to provide and fund an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-k through grade 12?

FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES’ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE411.ORG

Chris Fails (R), Lyle Larson (R)

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TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 124

2-year term. Must be 21 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the district represented. Responsible for representing the citizens of the district in which he/she is elected in the Texas House of Representatives.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: Identify three measures you would support that reduce gun violence.

QUESTION 2: What would you do to provide and fund an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-k through grade 12?

FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES’ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE 411.

Ina Minjarez (D)

ANSWER 1: 1) Repeal campus carry- every private university was given the option to opt out and all but 1 university did opt out. 2) Ensure that “constitutional carry” never passes. This initiative is filed every session and we have been able to combat it thus far. This bill states that you do not need any training or licenses to carry a fire arm on your person. 3) End the gun show loop hole. We need to ensure that everyone who purchases a fire arm has a background check and training to operate that fire arm.

ANSWER 2: All children in the state of Texas deserve quality public education from Pre-K through 12th grade. The legislature has been consistently under funding our public school system and when our public school system is underfunded, Texas residents help supplement that budgetary short fall with their property taxes. Instead of sending 800 Million dollars every 2 years for border security, we should send those dollars to our public schools. It is the federal government’s job to secure the border and it is Texas’ job to educate our school children. When we give our public schools enough money to thrive, everyone benefits. Homeowners property taxes will go down, we will have an educated society, teachers will be treated with more respect, and our workforce will be properly educated for generations to come. I have never and will never support vouchers or savings accounts for our tax dollars to be spend in private schools with no state oversight.

Sergio Contreras (D)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED By Print Deadline. See VOTE411.ORG For Any Later Responses
JUDGE - 187TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

QUESTION 1: Describe your particular legal experience for the type of judicial position you seek, including how many jury trials you’ve tried as lead counsel.

Karl Alexander (R)

**ANSWER 1:** I’ve tried approximately 100 jury trials. All my experience has been in state courts such as the 187th. I have prosecuted cases ranging from low level drug possession to capital murder. I’ve successfully tried some of the most egregious cases, securing thousands of years in prison sentences for those who have victimized children, women, and the elderly. I have been entrusted to teach trial advocacy and continuing legal education to other prosecutors.

ANSWER 2: I believe the issue of recidivism has to be bifurcated. First, we must look at the mentally ill and substance abusers. Individuals with a bona fide mental illness or addiction do not belong in prison until we have done our best to address their issues which have lead to their criminal conduct. Simply, warehousing someone in prison creates a revolving door that becomes impossible for such individuals to escape. Second, the career and violent criminals need stiffer punishment. A person who has demonstrated that they will continue to violate others should not walk around freely in our society. If a violent criminal keeps getting minimal sentences, then they will learn nothing.

Joey Contreras (R)

**ANSWER 1:** Extensive trial experience and thorough understanding of criminal procedure and rules of evidence. Felony first chair prosecutor in two multiple district courts. Approximately 300 jury trials with over half as lead counsel. Prosecuted as lead counsel numerous complex conspiracies including those involving dozens of witnesses, hundreds of items of evidence, and numerous defendants. Served as chief of intake of Bexar County District Attorney’s Office, Gang Coordinator, Chief of Major Crimes, and Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force attorney for the United States Attorney’s Office.

**ANSWER 2:** A relatively small percentage of repeat offenders are responsible for a grossly disproportionate percentage of all serious crime. This subgroup of repeat offenders must not be permitted to continue to offend over and over again. Habitual or career offenders must be incapacitated through incarceration if they have demonstrated continuous criminal activity. In my court, this group of offenders are assessed sentences lengthy enough to assure they will not offend for an indeterminate period of time. Sentences of life or forty or fifty years must be considered and assessed for those with repeated violent conduct.

FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES’ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE411.ORG
JUDGE - 187TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT CONTINUED

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: Describe your particular legal experience for the type of judicial position you seek, including how many jury trials you’ve tried as lead counsel.

ANSWER 1: I have experience as both a State prosecutor and as a defense attorney. The 187th Court is a State Court subject to state law & procedure, Not a federal court. I handled thousands of cases & tried approx. 100 criminal jury trials. Following is a “snapshot” of the multitude of cases I successfully prosecuted to protect our citizens: Man serving 9 Life Sentences w/ No Parole for sexual assaults of child; Man serving Life w/ No Parole for shooting his girlfriend, & killing 2 others; Man on death row for violent killing; & Man serving Life Plus for aggravated sexual assault.

ANSWER 2: B/c length of incarceration can increase recidivism rates, I will 1st provide defense attorneys representing non-citizens access to attorneys specializing in Immigration Law. To often cases of non-citizens linger b/c defense attorneys do not have the knowledge to weigh the consequences of immigration law on their client. This is costly & does nothing to reduce recidivism. 2nd, a Special Needs Court open to any qualifying defendant is a must. There are several “specialty courts”, but they require the accused to have a “label” such as “drug user,” “prostitute” or “Veteran”. Often, 1st time offenders of non-violent crimes are “lost in the system” b/c they have not been “labeled.” These offenders need a chance at rehabilitation also. At times the only reasonable option to protect our community is a lengthy prison sentence for deterrence. Our citizens deserve a Judge who will hand out sentences based on facts & law, w/ no concern of losing defense attorney, political & monetary support.

Jan Ischy-Prins (R)

VERONICA I. LÉGARRETA (R)

ANSWER 1: I have tried over a hundred jury trials as a prosecutor and defense attorney. I have worked on thousands of criminal cases ranging from tickets to murder. I know both sides of the law which is extremely important when having to decide issues of law and in being fair and impartial. I am also qualified for this office because I have practiced in the State courts every day for over ten years. I know the problems the courts and the attorneys face. Because of my experience I have been able to create a plan for the 187th District Court which is to create an immigration docket which is greatly needed.

ANSWER 2: I think a reason recidivism occurs is because the programs, classes and conditions assessed against an individual are not geared to rehabilitate the individual. What will work for one may not work for another. The court system has made incarceration the easiest option for people to avoid rehabilitation. I plan to tailor each sentence to the individual and their case. I plan to utilize different programs and conditions and work closely with probation to ensure the community is safe and the individual is rehabilitated. Incarceration will be utilized in egregious cases or when all other options have been exhausted.
Virginia E. Maurer (R)

**ANSWER 1:** I have been licensed to practice law for over twenty five years and have been practicing law for 24 of those years in the areas of criminal defense and abuse and neglect, representing children in the care of Children's Protective Services. I am qualified to take all types of criminal cases up to first degree cases as well as second chair capital murder cases.

**ANSWER 2:** Unfortunately, recidivism is a reality in the criminal justice system. The only way to reduce repeat incarcerations is through education. Many of the defendants lack basic education, such as a high school diploma. My plan is to require the defendants on probation in my court to, at the bare minimum, attain a GED or enroll in some type of trade course. A lot of the defendants do not know any other way of life. They have grown up with going to court to see their parents sentenced, this is perfectly acceptable behavior to them. It is not. We as a society have to re-educate them as to what is acceptable to the public as a whole. We need to help pull them up not dumb society down.

David P. Martin (R)

**ANSWER 1:** I have successfully prosecuted thousands of criminal cases, including some of the most serious offenders. I have tried over 300 total cases, including over 80 jury trials as lead attorney. I am currently a Chief Felony Prosecutor in charge of supervising one of the criminal district courts. My extensive trial experience includes cases of Capital Murder, Murder, Manslaughter, Vehicular Fatalities, Super Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child, Aggravated Robbery, Aggravated Assaults, physical and sexual abuse of children, Elder abuse/fraud, drug cases and financial crimes (white collar crimes).

**ANSWER 2:** In my experience, only a few types of cases have a high recidivism rate. Many of these are related to drugs and the desire to obtain drugs. Many people continue to pick up cases that involve drugs, alcohol, prostitution, theft and burglary. There are numerous programs available to help individuals combat these
JUDGE - 226TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT CONTINUED

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: Describe your particular legal experience for the type of judicial position you seek, including how many jury trials you’ve tried as lead counsel.

QUESTION 2: Please explain your thoughts on recidivism and how your court can reduce repeat incarcerations.

FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES' ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE411.ORG

issues and I will utilize them to try and reduce the number of repeat incarcerations. These programs include the drug court, prostitution court, and a newly created felony veteran’s court. Also, there are many programs available that can assist people battling mental health issues. I would exhaust all possibilities to help someone who is willing to fight these addictions/issues in order to keep them from repeatedly going to prison so long as no one is placed in danger by their conduct. I have seen too many people enter treatment simply to stay out of jail. I feel I can identify these people and will not allow them to take a treatment bed from someone who truly desires the help.

Todd McCray (R)

ANSWER 1: I am seeking office as Judge of a Criminal District Court. I have 28 years of experience practicing criminal law representing both individuals accused of crime and as lead prosecutor for two different District Attorneys in Texas. I represented the State of Texas as lead assistant district attorney in the Grayson County Attorney’s Office with felony jurisdiction and in the Bexar County District Attorney’s office. As lead attorney I have tried over 100 jury trials and resolved 1,000s of criminal law cases in every aspect of criminal law.

ANSWER 2: The judicial branch of government is charged with the primary duty of supervising individuals convicted of crimes and their recidivism rates in our community. Our judicial officers, courts and judges should maintain the highest standards of professional competence and experience in their respective duties of office. Recidivism rates increase when we as a community lower our standards of professional competence, integrity and experience as reflected in the officials we elect into office.

Velia J. Meza (D)

ANSWER 1: I’ve had 17 years of legal experience in criminal defense representing citizens in over 30 counties, accused of crimes ranging from murder to simple traffic offenses. I have handled over 900 criminal cases which include more than 50 jury trials and more than 25 criminal appeals, including post-conviction writs. My jury trial experience includes jury trials in Bexar, Atascosa, Guadalupe, Kerr, & Gillespie County. My experience in criminal law includes everything from arrest, indictment, trial, appeals, & post-conviction remedies.

ANSWER 2: My experience has shown me, when a person is placed on a term of supervision by the court, the conditions of the supervision should be structured in a way that they will succeed & also be held accountable. When the conditions are not structured accordingly, offenders will violate probation & face prison time again. In
JUDGE - 226TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT CONTINUED

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

**QUESTION 1:** Describe your particular legal experience for the type of judicial position you seek, including how many jury trials you've tried as lead counsel.

**QUESTION 2:** Please explain your thoughts on recidivism and how your court can reduce repeat incarcerations.

### Kristen Mulliner (R)

**ANSWER 1:** I am a former Felony Bexar County Assistant Criminal District Attorney. I am currently a partner at the Mulliner Law Firm, PLLC, practicing State and Federal criminal defense. I have been responsible for the disposition of hundreds of felony cases of all types as both a prosecutor and as a defense attorney. I have tried over 50 jury trials as lead counsel. I am licensed federally in all of the districts in Texas, the Fifth Circuit and the Supreme Court. I have been deemed qualified to receive felony federal appointments through the CJA panel.

**ANSWER 2:** Recidivism is a continual threat to the safety of Bexar County. It is often higher than it needs to be because the great majority of those people entering the criminal justice system have some sort of co-occurring mental health or drug addiction issue that goes untreated or unaddressed or the punishment imposed was not structured in a way that reflected the seriousness of the offense. I am incredibly supportive of specialty courts that structure punishment in a way that treats co-occurring disorders for individuals that will actually benefit from those programs. Others need sentences that better reflect how serious their offenses are in order to deter future behavior and personal choices.

### Joel Perez (D)

**ANSWER 1:** I have been a licensed to practice law for the past 29 years. I am a former prosecutor and have been doing criminal defense for over two decades. I am a trial lawyer. I have also been appointed a special prosecutor on some cases. I have been certified and qualified by the Committee on Standards for Representation of Capital Murder Death Penalty cases in the State of Texas for over two decades. I have tried multiple death penalty jury trials. I have tried all types of criminal jury trials. I have tried over a hundred jury trials and represented thousands of persons facing charges.

**ANSWER 2:** A judge has the ability to attempt to curtail recidivism and reduce repeat
QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: Describe your particular legal experience for the type of judicial position you seek, including how many jury trials you’ve tried as lead counsel.

ANSWER 1: I worked as a criminal prosecutor for 11 years, handling mostly felony level offenses, including baby death and family related murder and capital murder cases, sexual assaults, child abuse and other violent offenses. I have been a criminal defense attorney for 10 years, with a concentration on felony offenses. I have handled every step of the prosecution and defense, including investigation, presentment to grand jury, plea bargaining and trial. I have tried approximately 100 cases to a jury as a prosecutor or defense counsel.

QUESTION 2: Please explain your thoughts on recidivism and how your court can reduce repeat incarcerations.

ANSWER 2: I don’t believe that recidivism should be the only factor in deciding a defendant’s sentence. No two cases are alike and, similarly, no two defendants are alike. Therefore, the theories regarding the rate of recidivism for certain defendants or certain offenses should never over shadow the importance of considering each defendant’s sentence based on his/her specific crime, criminal history, personal background and prior court intervention. If elected, I think I can reduce repeat incarcerations by considering all the factors mentioned above, so that a defendant’s sentence is specific to the needs of that individual and so that the punishment addresses the motivation behind why the crime was committed in the first place.
JUDGE - 290TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Judges serve for four years, hearing felony cases up to Murder 1-Death Penalty.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: Describe your particular legal experience for the type of judicial position you seek, including how many jury trials you've tried as lead counsel.

QUESTION 2: Please explain your thoughts on recidivism and how your court can reduce repeat incarcerations.

FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES’ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE411.ORG

Jennifer Pena (D)

ANSWER 1: I'm running for the 290th District Ct, a Criminal Adult Ct that handles felony offenses. I began my career as a prosecutor where I tried actual jury trials that ranged from DWI to Capital Murder, as a Prosecutor, I was assigned to the Criminal Trial Division and Family Violence Unit. After I left the DA’s Office, I received my Federal License so that I could represent not only people charged with State Crimes but Federal Crimes as well. Since 09 I have been defending the citizens of this county and I have tried around 100 cases all together, I first chaired the majority of them.

ANSWER 2: As part of my practice I work with the Felony Drug Court and the Esperanza Court. These are specialty courts that focus on reducing recidivism by education, therapy, drug counseling, unemployment and hard work. I want to incorporate these things into how the defendants in my court are treated while on probation. It will be tougher on the part of the court and probation but it will be worth it if we can reduce recidivism for drug offenders, the homeless, the mentally ill, women charges with prostitution, and generally young offenders who have never had any structure in their life before. These programs are geared towards non violent offenders who are trapped in the recidivism cycle.

Stephanie R. Brown (D)

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JUDGE - 288TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Judges serve for four years, hearing divorces, child custody cases and lawsuits. They have no limit to the amount of money they can award.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: Describe your particular legal experience for the type of judicial position you seek, including how many jury trials you’ve tried as lead counsel.

QUESTION 2: How would you change the Presiding Court system?

FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES’ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE411.ORG

Joseph P. Appelt (R)

ANSWER 1: I have been practicing law for 25 years, primarily in Bexar and surrounding counties. During this time I have gained actual, in-court trial experience in many types of cases encompassing many types of law, including but not limited to: complex construction cases, contract disputes, business disputes, injury cases, property disputes, and over 2,000 family law matters. These are the very types of cases the 288th District Court decides daily. Also, I have experience appealing cases to the Courts of Appeals and the Texas Supreme Court. In addition to my extensive trial and appellate experience gained through maintaining my private practice, I am also a Municipal Court Judge and have been for over 4 years. As an attorney, I have had over 500 contested hearings and non-jury trials. Also, I have tried to jury verdict approximately 15 cases involving different areas of the law. As a Municipal Court Judge, I have presided over approximately 25 non-jury trials and a dozen jury trials.

ANSWER 2: In my 25 years practice as an attorney I’ve had the opportunity to appear in many different counties and courts. Bexar County’s Presiding system is unique and I believe it is the most efficient. If I were to change our system, it would be to have one judge available during the morning dockets to hear and decide the “not ready” announcements, “motions for continuance,” and other short matters. I feel this would “free up” the other judges for the longer, more complex matters and improve the efficiency of our courts.

Cynthia Marie Chapa (D)

ANSWER 1: I have had my own law practice for over a decade. My firm is comprised of a general practice in the areas of family law, real estate, probate, civil litigation, business and criminal law. The vast majority of my cases are focused in family law cases which require temporary orders, emergency orders, bench trials, social studies, etc. The seat I am seeking is a Civil District court that encompasses family law cases and civil litigation. The diverse areas of practice have prepared me for this position. Bexar County requires that all cases go to mediation prior to jury trial and because of that my cases have all settled before having to go to a full blown jury trial.

ANSWER 2: I think that the Presiding Court System has been designed to be as efficient as possible to keep attorneys and pro se clients from taking advantage of the system by preventing favoritism. The local rules for Bexar County already allow for the removal of complex cases at the discretion of the monitoring judge. I would encourage attorneys, pro se clients and judges to take greater advantage of this procedure for complex cases. This would allow for a judge maintain a case and to gain a deeper understanding of these case, which would allow for more effective adjudication which is one of the most frequent complaints about the current system. I would also make sure that attorneys are aware of the ins and outs of the system and the local rules. Some of the problem may be that attorneys may not be aware of what is exactly available to them.
Judges serve for four years, hearing divorces, child custody cases and lawsuits. They have no limit to the amount of money they can award.

**JUDGE - 288TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT CONTINUED**

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

**QUESTION 1:** Describe your particular legal experience for the type of judicial position you seek, including how many jury trials you’ve tried as lead counsel.

**QUESTION 2:** How would you change the Presiding Court system?

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**Milton Fagin**

**ANSWER 1:** I am the only candidate Board Certified In Family Law. Family and matrimonial law are half of the cases in the Civil District Court. I have tried over 50 jury trials to verdict in not only family, divorce, child custody law but also deceptive trade, personal injury and commercial construction. I have tried over 2500 non-jury trials and over 4500 ancillary hearings (contested hearings before final hearing). I am a Member of the College of the State Bar of Texas. I maintain my continuing legal education beyond the minimal requirements. I know what it’s like to represent women who have been the victims of Family Violence, left alone without shelter and money. I know how to obtain Protective Orders for my clients to protect them and their children. This is what a Civil Court is all about. Our citizens go into Court to obtain relief and seek compensation whether it be for child support, property division, damages sustained by personal injuries. This is a serious Court, not for a beginner.

**ANSWER 2:** I would like to see more cases that are complicated remain with one Judge and not the rotating system that we have. Many times this prevents consistency in Court rulings in a big case. One time I went before 6 different District Judges in one day on the same case. I would like for any case that has either a social study or psychological study ordered by a Court to remain in the same Court through final hearing. I would like for any case that has either a social study or psychological study ordered by a Court to remain in the same Court through final hearing. In addition there should be a way to move the pro se (those who represent themselves) on uncontested divorces, faster than the present time. At present the Pro Se litigants in Divorces have to wait over 6 months for a Staff Attorney to review their papers. When you have an attorney it takes half the time.

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**Clint Lawson (R)**

**ANSWER 1:** Over the past 22 years I have resolved countless family law cases to conclusion either through mediation, negotiation or a contested final trial. Although I have tried fewer than 10 jury trials, I have handled cases at every level of the appellate process, including the oral argument of a case in front of the Texas Supreme Court. I am a recognized leader with the bar. I am the past president of the San Antonio Family Lawyers Association, an organization of family law board certified attorneys. I have been honored and recognized by my peers for professionalism within the bar. I am consistently rated “AV Preeminent” for ethics and legal ability by Martindale Hubbell’s Peer Review Rating Service. In addition, I have been designated a “Fellow” in the prestigious American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and also the Texas Bar College.

**ANSWER 2:** One improvement that should be given serious consideration is a requirement
that mediation be required prior to a temporary orders hearing to resolve a pending child custody dispute. The potential for minimizing litigation through the early settlement of child custody cases needs to be evaluated against the additional expense of early mediation.

**Aida Rojas (D)**

**ANSWER 1:** During my fifteen and a half years as a practicing attorney, the primary focus of my practice has been the wellbeing and safety of Texas families. I have handled over 1,200 of the types of civil cases heard by this court, and have conducted over 30 civil jury trials. I am proud to be a member of the Texas Bar College and to have a robust pro bono component to my practice.

Family Law: In addition to serving as an attorney ad litem for Bexar County children I am proud to represent parents, grandparents and children stuck in the CPS system of Bexar County. I also represent parties in divorces, custody matters, adoptions, terminations, and protective order proceedings. I represent parties in probate court for wills and guardianship issues.

Civil Litigation: I represent parties who have been harmed through no fault of their own in personal injury and sexual harassment matters.

Criminal Law: I provide defense in both misdemeanor and felony cases.

**ANSWER 2:** The overwhelming majority of cases entering Presiding Court concern Family Law matters. I would encourage our legislators to consider creating specialty courts that hear only Family Law cases. These specialty courts could be assigned family law cases and hear these cases in their entirety through final hearing or trial. Clearly, having these specialty courts hear the same case through final hearing or trial would help to minimize the costs for clients and allow for other cases to be heard effectively.

Presenting the same case to different Presiding Court Judges is an inefficient use of public resources and I believe the introduction of specialized Family Law Courts could reduce the costs to litigants, as well as taxpayers, and help reduce the strain on our court system.
BEXAR COUNTY
CRIMINAL DISTRICT
ATTORNEY
Responsible for the prosecuting of misdemeanor and felony crimes. Serves as the chief attorney for the County government.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: Please describe what combination of education, motivation and experience qualifies you for the office.

QUESTION 2: Is the plea-bargaining system working in Bexar County or would you suggest changes? Please explain.

FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES’ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE411.ORG

Joe Gonzales (D)

ANSWER 1: I am the product of a single-parent household where my mother raised four boys on a modest salary. My greatest motivation to become an attorney is her constant encouragement and belief which she imparted to her children that everyone should be treated equally regardless of their social status. I was educated in San Antonio my entire life, having attended the majority of my schooling in Edgewood. I went on to obtain a B.A. in Political Science from St. Mary’s University and my Law Degree from St. Mary’s Law School in 1988. I am celebrating 30 years of practice, having spent my entire career as both a prosecutor and defense attorney. Part of the experience that qualifies me for this position is that I have been a criminal law practitioner twice as long as my opponent and have abundantly more trial experience. I have tried approximately 200 jury and non-jury trials in my career. Moreover, I was a Magistrate Judge for the City of San Antonio for 7 years.

ANSWER 2: The plea bargaining process works best when there is competent counsel on both sides of the case. What will often occur is that an accused will be appointed an attorney that is underqualified to adequately represent his or her client. I believe that more must be done to ensure that those accused of crimes, especially, violent offenses are appointed competent counsel. I would suggest a better system of vetting competent counsel and providing compensation commensurate with their experience. Likewise, we must remove the incentive for a jail mate to accept a plea bargain, even though they may be innocent, simply because they do not want to sit in jail awaiting their trial date.

Nico LaHood (D)

ANSWER 1: I graduated from Central Catholic Marianist High School and earned a B.A. in Finance and Financial Services from St. Mary’s University before earning my Juris Doctorate from St. Mary’s School of Law. For 13 years I worked as a defense attorney and had a front row seat to see the ways the DA’s office and our justice system could be improved. I am a board member for Child Safe, The Bexar County Family Justice Center, the Rape Crisis Center, and Crosspoint, Inc. My work was recognized by “Law & Politics” and “Texas Monthly” as a "Rising Star”. Prior experience includes serving as special prosecutor for Bexar, Karnes, Medina, and Wilson Counties, Magistrate Judge in Bexar County, and adjunct professor at St. Mary’s School of Law, and lecturer at the SAPD academy and AACOG police academy. The murder of my brother in 1996 showed me what the system is like for victims and I am a walking example of the restorative justice model. I have personally experienced the system from every angle.

ANSWER 2: Having experienced the plea-bargaining system from the perspective of both a defense attorney and a prosecutor I can tell you that the system is functioning, but needs
**BEXAR COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY CONTINUED**

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

**QUESTION 1:** Please describe what combination of education, motivation and experience qualifies you for the office.

**QUESTION 2:** Is the plea-bargaining system working in Bexar County or would you suggest changes? Please explain.

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**COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2**

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

**QUESTION 1:** What ideas do you have to support Small, Women and Minority Business development in Bexar County?

**QUESTION 2:** How would you balance spending between rural areas and urban San Antonio?

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**FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES’ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE 411.ORG**

improvement. We have taken some positive steps, but there are limitations to how far we can go. In many cases we have to deal with witnesses who refuse to cooperate (this is particularly common in domestic violence cases) and a plea bargain is the only tool we have left to try and extract some justice for the victim and hold the person accused responsible. As DA I also have an obligation to be responsible with taxpayer dollars. Based on witness statements, evidence, and the charges submitted to our office we have to determine if it makes sense to take a case all the way through a jury trial where the outcome is uncertain. Not everyone who makes a poor choice needs to be locked up, so we are using restorative courts which requires a plea bargain. We are doing a better job of determining who needs help and who is a threat.

**FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES’ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE 411.ORG**

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**Mario Bravo (D)**

**ANSWER 1:** I support the mission of the Fair Contracting Coalition. I would advocate for putting professional services out to bid and breaking up larger contracts so that smaller businesses have a fair chance at winning bids. As your Commissioner, I will support the creation of an ethics commission that could impose campaign contribution limits to commissioners (currently there are none) and rules prohibiting campaign contributions from those competing for a contract while that contract is up for bid. This would help reduce the influence of large donors over the contract procurement process.

**ANSWER 2:** I will bring a balanced approach that benefits our community as a whole and looks to ensure that no neighborhood is left without a voice in the process. My proactive approach to improving the health of our community...
COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2 CONTINUED

QUESTION 1: What ideas do you have to support Small, Women and Minority Business development in Bexar County?

QUESTION 2: How would you balance spending between rural areas and urban San Antonio?

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**Paul Elizondo (D)**

**Answer 1:** Bexar County has an award-winning Small, Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises (SMWBEs) program in place, helping ensure SMWBEs have a fair opportunity to compete for all Bexar County contracts. Bexar County’s program serves as a clearinghouse of information, identifies opportunities for qualified SMWBEs and offers technical support. Commissioners Court has established a policy seeking a minimum of 20% of all procurement dollars are spent with minority and women-owned business enterprises, and a minimum of 30% of those procurement dollars are spent with small businesses.

**Answer 2:** Although there are still rural areas in Precinct 2, the tremendous population growth in these areas has changed the discussion to balancing the needs of those fast growing areas and the older areas of the community. Each area has very different needs and I work to use every tax dollar efficiently to focus on the projects and programs that provide real, long-term value to our constituents. Balancing the two means funding projects like the expansion of 1604 and FM 211 to shorten residents commutes and the redeveloping of San Pedro Creek to create economic development and transform our Westside.

**Queta Rodriguez (D)**

**Answer 1:** Having spoken with many business owners, I believe we can expand Small, Minority and Veteran owned businesses opportunities by revising existing County policies to ensure a more creative, open, and fair contracting process that contains a clear small business component. I will work to establish clear goals related to SWMVB development, use performance measures, and report outcomes in order to drive new initiatives. I will strengthen partnerships with public, private and non-profit agencies that assist existing and future entrepreneurs through small business development courses and networking.

**Answer 2:** I would begin with developing a comprehensive needs based plan for spending. We have a great opportunity at this time given the City of San Antonio’s approach to resource application using an “Equity Lens.” I believe Bexar County should use a similar approach, capitalizing on partnerships with local, state and federal agency resources. There are many areas, both rural and urban, that are historically underserved; those would be placed at the top of the priority list. I will prioritize use of taxpayer dollars to meet our community’s basic needs first over funding less critical projects.
COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW

Judges serve 4 years and hear misdemeanor crimes, mostly DWI cases.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: What would you do to make your court (or the court you are running for) more efficient?

QUESTION 2: Please explain your thoughts on recidivism and how your court can reduce repeat incarcerations.

FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES’ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE411.ORG

Tony Jimenez II (D) - County Court-at-Law No.1

ANSWER 1: My judicial philosophy is consistency. Be consistent with a set time schedule for operation of the Court docket. Have a written set of policies and procedures that the Court will operate by to ensure the effective administration of Justice.

ANSWER 2: I believe effective intervention reduces recidivism. I would work closely with the Community Supervision office to focus on education, job placement, counseling services dealing with drug addiction. These programs should be specific and direct in assisting first time offenders so that they do not find themselves in the same situation within the criminal justice system. I believe in strong intervention and not merely the collection of fines, court costs and supervisory fees for successful completion of community supervision.

Jerry Kagan (D) - County Court-at-Law No.1

ANSWER 1: First and foremost, an elected judge has to appear and appear on time. The current judge has a poor reputation for arriving late, very late and leaving early. A court can not run efficiently when the judge or coordinator arrive late on a regular basis. Next, a judge gets to hand pick the court coordinator. The current coordinator has a bad reputation with dealing with attorneys before her. Arriving late, staying a few minutes and leaving to smoke for long periods of time. In short, not doing her job. The result is that the judge, by default, loses precious court time doing resets and other functions in the coordinators absence.

As someone who practices in different courts at the Bexar County Courthouse every day, I see which clerks are reliable, knowledgeable and hardworking. That is who should be rewarded with a coordinator position. The job should not be awarded as a political favor. The taxpayers of Bexar County deserve more from their elected judges.

ANSWER 2: Recidivism is a two way street. While I agree with prosecutors in general that each time a person is convicted, they should be punished more severely, we also see the other type of individual who will re-offend no matter how severely they were punished last time. What do you do with an individual like that, someone who has a five page arrest record? At some point, we must realize that we are waiting too much in cost of incarceration trying to punish or rehabilitate some who is incorrigible.

My experience has been that education and employment is the key to avoiding recidivism. Courts already offer help with job counseling or a high school diploma getting a GED a condition of probation. Easier said than done. My experience has also taught me that individuals don’t change unless they want to change. That change must come from the inside, not because a court forces it on them. In short, you can lead a horse to water, but can you force them to drink? That is the difficulty.
QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: What would you do to make your court (or the court you are running for) more efficient?

ANSWER 1: County Court 1 could be run much more efficiently than it is being run currently. If elected, I will hold a daily docket, and ensure that my staff is punctual and arrives ready to get to work. This should go without saying, but I understand that this not always the case. I intend to hold a weekly trial docket and motions docket, and to make sure that people who want to have a jury trial have their cases heard as expeditiously as possible. It is important to me that people who have been accused of misdemeanors, and are sitting in jail because they can’t afford a bond are prioritized in having their case resolved.

ANSWER 2: My experience as a prosecutor has given me great insight into this topic. If the root of the problem is not addressed, people will often continue to repeat the same mistakes. Drug, alcohol and mental health treatment is extremely important, and fortunately those are tools that will be at my disposal. But maintaining sobriety, and attending to mental health is a personal choice. As a judge, I will continue to offer up those services to the accused, and be a champion for the best outcomes. I will also hold people accountable for their actions, and require restitution for vocal and silent victims. I would also very much like to start a conversation with fellow county court judges on more measures that can be taken to grab the attention of young first time offenders, in the hopes of making a positive impact and making sure they get onto a better life path.

QUESTION 2: Please explain your thoughts on recidivism and how your court can reduce repeat incarcerations.

ASHLEY FOSTER (R) - COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW NO. 3

ANSWER 1: I want to run County Court-at-Law No. 3 as efficiently as possible, allowing the civil litigants who come before my bench to be afforded a fair trial with equal access to justice. County Court-at-Law No. 3 is one of two County Courts in Bexar County, out of 15 County Courts, that has been traditionally dedicated to hear civil matters. Civil matters currently assigned to its docket need to have precedence, but if the Court finds itself in a position in which nothing is immediately before it, I would avail myself of an Order of Assignment signed on October 12, 2017 by the Fourth Administrative Judicial Region and ask that cases from the Civil District Courts be assigned to me. I would also ask, should time permit, that criminal matters be assigned to me in order to make the most efficient use of the taxpayers’ courtroom and money. My vast experience in both the District Attorney's Office and private practice make me the candidate most suited for these assignments.

ANSWER 2: County Court-at-Law No. 3 has traditionally been dedicated solely to civil matters. As such, it does not currently deal with criminal matters.
COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW

CONTINUED

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: What would you do to make your court (or the court you are running for) more efficient?

QUESTION 2: Please explain your thoughts on recidivism and how your court can reduce repeat incarcerations.

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Leslie Sachanowicz (R) - County Court-at-Law No. 3

ANSWER 1: This court is a court of general jurisdiction, meaning it can hear civil and criminal cases. Currently, this court only hears civil cases. I would open this court up to hear both criminal and civil cases. We don’t need more more courts, we just need to have the courts take on more of the workload to save taxpayers money.

ANSWER 2: As mentioned in the above second question, I would take on criminal cases which would allow for more time to implement programs for the issues that stretch recidivism. Another course of action to reduce recidivism would be to establish a monthly check in docket on the individuals as to how they are doing in programs that they are mandated to enroll in.

Linda Molina (R) - County Court-at-Law No. 5

ANSWER 1: As the Judge of County Court at Law No. 5, I will work on improving efficiency by:

• Developing a consistent order for the court so both the prosecutors and defense attorneys will know what to expect:
   Establishing scheduling orders for pre-trial matters and trials with specific deadlines;
   • Working to process cases quickly:
   Providing speedy resolutions and trials;
   • Treating everyone equally and with the same degree of fairness;
   • Helping create and maintain a professional courtroom environment with respect for everyone involved in the process; and
   • Being available at all times.

ANSWER 2: One of the most significant issues facing the Criminal Courts in Bexar County, and one that I believe is important to address at the County Court level, is recidivism. In County Court at Law No. 5, I will work on slowing down the revolving door of crime by:

• Assessing appropriate punishments that are tailored to meet the needs of the individual;
• Sentencing convicted individuals to programs with a high success rate in rehabilitation;
• Monitoring community supervision programs to ensure the effectiveness of my sentences; and
• Establishing guidelines and monitoring the progress of offenders.

Julie Bray Patterson (R) - County Court-at-Law No. 5

ANSWER 1: The reason why I am running for judge is to address this one question. Most attorneys, defense attorneys and state’s attorneys, do not enjoy practicing in this court for the sheer amount of time it takes to get business done. This lack of efficiency leads to many resets which leads to justice being delayed. If elected I purpose to be on time and tend to the business at hand in an efficient manner. A job as judge is not to lecture at length to each individual that chooses to take responsibility for their actions. I will be a good listener and purposeful with my words.
Judges serve 4 years and hear misdemeanor crimes, mostly DWI cases.

CONTINUED

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: What would you do to make your court (or the court you are running for) more efficient?

QUESTION 2: Please explain your thoughts on recidivism and how your court can reduce repeat incarcerations.

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Susan Skinner (R) - County Court-at-Law No.14

ANSWER 1: The proper administration of a court begins with a judge who is willing to work hard every day. Upon taking the Bench on January 1, 2015, there were 1,236 active cases. By the end of 2016, there were 563 active cases, a 50% reduction. I will continue to work hard and ensure that the cases are resolved in an efficient manner. In addition, I have implemented the first Animal Abuse Docket in Bexar County, upon seeing the needs of the community. Since the creation of the Animal Abuse Docket, the backlog of animal cruelty cases has been resolved and the pending cases now have access to timely trials. I will continue to preside over these important cases and give them the attention they deserve. Another area of concern is the number of inmates in the Bexar County Jail, who are unable to make bond and are awaiting a court date. I will continue to monitor and schedule immediate bond hearings for these indigent defendants who are eligible for a reduction of bond or release on a PR bond.

ANSWER 2: There are many studies on how to rehabilitate a criminal in order to avoid recidivism. If elected, I plan on requiring those placed on probation for certain crimes to attend specific classes that would hopefully change behavior. For example, I would require a DWI probationer to attend alcohol education and victim sensitivity classes, for someone with a drug charge to attend a drug education program, and for someone with an assault charge, anger management classes. I hope to help people avoid future mistakes.

Joseph Strickland (R) - County Court-at-Law No.14

ANSWER 1: I feel that there is too much emphasis on docket numbers and moving cases. Given the life altering impact that a criminal allegation can have on a person’s life, I think that the emphasis must be on ensuring that every defendant’s case is handled properly and that they are afforded effective assistance of counsel; not how quickly and inexpensively cases can be disposed of.

ANSWER 2: I believe it is the Judge’s responsibility to reduce recidivism. A misdemeanor judge is in a unique position to strongly impact a first-time offender from re-offending and advancing to the felony level. With first-time offenders, it is imperative to identify the underlying reason for committing the crime for which they are charged. Common underlying reasons tend to be peer pressure, mental health issues, substance abuse and addiction, unemployment, lack of education or job skills, etc. If the underlying problem is not addressed, there is a greater likelihood of repeated criminal behavior. During my time on the Bench, I have worked closely with several service organizations and the probation department to identify and address the underlying reasons to help ensure a person has a successful future and does not re-offend.
Judges serve 4 years and hear misdemeanor crimes, mostly DWI cases.

CONTINUED

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**QUESTION 1:** What would you do to make your court (or the court you are running for) more efficient?

**QUESTION 2:** Please explain your thoughts on recidivism and how your court can reduce repeat incarcerations.

FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES‘ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE 411.ORG

That being said, I plan on reducing the number of people who are in jail while their case is pending, which will reduce the overall cost of each case from start to finish. Currently we hold countless innocent people in jail who are accused of nonviolent offenses but cannot afford to post bail. In these cases, the bail amount is doing nothing to ensure the safety of our community, but is simply serving as a financial burden. In most of these situations releasing these individuals on Personal Recognizance bonds would be appropriate, serve no safety risk, and reduce the county’s cost.

**ANSWER 2:** At the misdemeanor level I think that addressing recidivism is paramount. In no case are we considering locking someone away forever, so the main issue in sentencing is what can be done to make sure this person doesn’t come back. I intend to focus on treating the causes and not the symptoms. In DWI cases for instance, I think that counseling can be a much more valuable tool with a longer lasting effect than relying solely on alcohol monitoring devices.

**Cesar Garcia (D) - County Court-at-Law No.15**

**ANSWER 1:** Efficiency starts with organization and planning. In order to be an efficient court, the court must be organized and the schedule must be planned out. This means that all the parties must communicate with one another effectively, in writing and electronically if possible, so everyone is on the same page concerning court dates and times. Secondly, everyone including me must be on time for court. Court should start promptly at designated times. Thirdly, scrutiny should be applied to excessive requests for continuances on defendants’ cases. The court shouldn’t have to deal with a huge back load of cases simply due to attorneys excessively postponing cases as a trial tactic. Lastly, every court should be able to adapt and make changes to increase efficiency based upon feedback from court officials and members of the community.

**ANSWER 2:** I believe recidivism is one of the biggest issues with the criminal justice system. Recidivism not only adversely affects the defendant’s livelihood but also adversely affects the defendant’s children in the areas of growth and development. Recidivism can also adversely affect a community’s income inequality and economic development potential. One way to help reduce the rate of recidivism is through a program of restorative justice and sentencing alternatives for low risk, non violent, first time offenders. The court system should divert these defendants into community service, diversionary and educational programs along with mental health treatment if necessary, then upon successful completion of the program, the court should allow the defendant to seal his/her court records. This would allow the defendant to confidently seek gainful employment and become a productive member of society, not only for themselves but their children as well.
Questions to Candidates

**Question 1:** What would you do to make your court (or the court you are running for) more efficient?

**Answer 1:** First and foremost, I will work harder than the present judge. I will be punctual by starting court promptly each morning so as to respect the time of all the attorneys, staff and defendants that appear in the court. I will convey the judicial temperament that is necessary to run an efficient court. If elected, I intend to be fair, impartial and compassionate to all members of the community that may come before me. I do not want anyone to feel intimidated or scared to approach me, as I feel that it makes a less efficient court. Lastly, I will work together with the other county courts, and assist with overcrowded dockets, should time permit. I feel that all the courts working together and pooling resources will make for a more efficient court system overall to ensure that tax payer funds are being spent most efficiently.

**Question 2:** Please explain your thoughts on recidivism and how your court can reduce repeat incarcerations.

**Answer 2:** County Court at Law No. 15 hears class A and B misdemeanors. The maximum punishment with respect to jail time is one year in the Bexar County Jail with a class A misdemeanor conviction, and six months in jail on a class B misdemeanor conviction. Most defendants at this level will qualify for some variation of deferred adjudication, probation or pretrial diversion; however, based on my experience, the people who are likely to reoffend and be incarcerated are those with mental health issues, problems with substance abuse or alcohol, or with prostitution cases. These are often the defendants that will have repeated incarcerations. I feel that sentencing should never be uniform, but rather on a case by case basis, taking into account what personal factors may be causing the individual to reoffend. If elected, I intend to work closely with the specialty courts, i.e. Mental Health Court (CC12) and the DWI Court (CC8) to ensure that the defendants are truly getting the help that they need.
**BEXAR COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK**

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

**QUESTION 1:** How would you redact records to protect children from identity theft?

**QUESTION 2:** What improvements do you suggest to the County Information Systems to better facilitate the District Clerk’s duties?

**FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES’ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE411.ORG**

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**Larry Romo (D)**

**ANSWER 1:** It is an absolute must that the Bexar County District Clerk Office protects all Sensitive Personally Identifiable Information (PII). This information must not be disclosed as it could result in harm to the individual whose privacy has been breached. Sensitive PII should be encrypted while transmitting and when data is in storage. Some example of PII includes personally financial information and passport or Social Security numbers.

I will do a thorough review within the first month in office of all Sensitive PII data maintained in the District Clerk office, District Courts and Magistrate Courts to ensure we are encrypting the data during transmission and while in storage. I will also review the computer/cyber security program to ensure that the data is protected from hacking to prevent identity theft. We will also train our personnel on Sensitive PII handling procedures.

**ANSWER 2:** Bexar County Information Systems needs to work with the District Clerk office, the District Courts and the Magistrate Court to create an action plan to fix the mistakes and implement the recommendations from the IBM Review and Audit, “Bexar County Five Year IT Strategy (Detail), January 19, 2016.”

- Collaborate with the District Clerk Staff, judges, court staff, attorneys, clients and other customers to see how we can speed up the information they need for their work and ask for their suggestions how to optimize customer service and other work processes.

- Create a District Clerk Information Technology Board to meet with end users, County Information Technology staff members, and others as needed, to review and complete ongoing technology-related projects as rapidly as possible.

- Analyze District Clerk Office Computer Security Practices and Training and look to enhance and/or revise standards where needed.

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**NO RESPONSE RECEIVED By Print Deadline. See VOTE411.ORG For Any Later Responses**

**Mary Angie Garcia (D)**
BEXAR COUNTY
CLERK

Responsible for all land and marriage records, along with administrating the County Court at Law courts.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: How would you redact records to protect children from identity theft?

QUESTION 2: How would you make available to the public the Spanish Archives?

FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES’ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE 411.ORG

Lucy Adame-Clark (D)

ANSWER 1: Making sure we upgrade our systems, protocols and procedures on how we handle very sensitive information especially our children and children’s future to include our elders as well as in their information and property. Being the oversight of identity theft and working directly with SAPD, TXDPS, DISTRICT ATTORNEY OFFICE to include FBI thru central records for many years I personally know the importance of protecting one’s information or anybody’s property. Working in criminal investigations Division for almost 5 years I know the importance of integrity and how valuable all confidential information is.

ANSWER 2: Our Spanish achieves information is very valuable history to many and is very valuable, knowledgeable history that should be made available to the public, though with the understanding that first I want to bring it back to it’s original place at the court house or museum by the central downtown area. First and foremost I want to reach out to our historians experts and compare other counties to how they facilitate and how they handle the process and having it available to the public.

Tim Ybarra (D)

ANSWER 1: I would start by researching the best practices being implemented and speaking with county clerks across the state. I would explore options such as electronic auto-redaction software, options for lawyers and self-represented litigants to redact this information from any documents that are filed with the court and if the information is needed, then it is submitted on a confidential form.

ANSWER 2: The Spanish Archives could be advertised with already existing infrastructure such as the five County downtown visitor kiosks as well as enhancing the County’s web site to be interactive for the user. A mobile app could also be developed. Working with Visit San Antonio to advertise with the tourists and locals especially as we celebrate the 300th anniversary this year.
COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE

Responsible for guardianship of the mentally ill or abused and for settling estates after death.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: How would you improve the court’s relationship with the mentally disabled?

QUESTION 2: How could the court better interact with the public on probate matters and education?

FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES’ ANSWERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION, GO TO VOTE 411.ORG

Kelly M. Cross (R) - County Probate Court 1

ANSWER 1: As a community, we need to invest more money and services to assist our mentally ill. That’s right–they are OUR mentally ill. Mental illness transcends social and economic status. It affects our young, old, our Veterans, our wealthy and our poor. First our society must destigmatize the way we look at those struggling with mental illness. To that end I have engaged with various communities including the faith community to destigmatize mental illness. I modified and improved our out-patient commitment docket honing the care management expertise needed for transitioning patients from inpatient to outpatient services. The Court continues frequent contact with first responders to the needs of the mentally disabled and other stakeholders who provide services to the mentally ill.

ANSWER 2: As a Court and a court system we must always be improving and educating our community. We owe it to the people to give 100% all of the time. And part of that effort is educating the people. Since I took the bench, I have been regularly speaking with Veterans groups, social groups, neighborhood associations to educate our population on the need to have end of life directives and a will. Who is going to speak for you when you cannot? We have made special efforts to visit lower income communities whom we have found are less likely to have their wishes in writing, but are just as interested in preparing and crave information.

The Court has provided probate informational pamphlets that help explain the probate process. We created a probate court website for family guardians for citizens needing a small estate affidavit. The Court continues to have a strong relationship with our military families and serves them with a special docket so they can be with others who have a departed veteran.

Anna Gordon Torres (R) - County Probate Court 1

ANSWER 1: All people, disabled or not, must be treated with dignity and respect. The key is to provide systems (and to implement those systems consistently) which support the disabled and allow them to be as independent as possible. In my experience, most attorneys who practice in Probate Court are aware of the need to support the mentally disabled. Those of us who practice in Probate Courts exclusively also usually know of appropriate resources (group homes and supported communities) to enable the mentally disabled to succeed.

ANSWER 2: Absolutely. There is a tremendous amount of misinformation about the mental health docket, for instance, as well as the role of the Probate Courts in the life of every person in Bexar County. Being a judge is a full-time job, but there are opportunities to educate the public about the importance of the Court and to dispel myths. I frequently give presentations on guardianships and the probate process in general and am very happy to continue doing so.
QUESTION 1: How would you improve the court’s relationship with the mentally disabled?

ANSWER 1: Bexar County Probate Court No. 2 duties include guardianship cases and I believe my focus on probate and guardianship law for the past 23 years gives me unique experience in dealing with these types of cases and I want to ensure fair and compassionate treatment for Wards and their families under the law. These people MUST be treated with respect by the Courts and I will insist upon it as Judge of Bexar County Probate Court No. 2.

ANSWER 2: Yes, for sure. Again, probate matters can be very complex and come at very difficult times for those having to deal with them. Public outreach programs that the court can spearhead, such as simple will clinics, for example, are great ways to help make the probate process easier for people by being better educated and prepared before the need arises. I would also like to explore the idea of “sponsoring” occasional free public seminars to educate the public on the need for pre-planning and what options are available. We have a great probate bar in San Antonio that I feel would jump at the chance to participate in providing this public service if it were organized and handled correctly.

Julie Hardaway (R) - County Probate Court 2

ANSWER 1: I have just completed a 9 year term on the Board of Directors for the Arc of San Antonio. I am aware of the issues facing our special needs community. I have been amazed by the participants there and their gifts and abilities. I would like for there to be at least yearly communication (if possible) from anyone under guardianship to the court. The court hears from the guardian at least once a year on the condition of the person under guardianship. It would be great to also hear from the person themselves. We need to be sure that they are happy and healthy and receiving the care and information that they need from their guardian and the court.

ANSWER 2: I am a big believer in planning. I want to educate the public on ways to plan for incapacity and death. The court can decide what will happen in these cases if people do not. But, I believe most people would like to make these decisions for themselves while they are able. I know that the court does help the public on a daily basis with matters. I know when I worked there we received calls daily from people needing assistance. But, more proactive education could be offered. The court cannot give legal advice but we could explain processes and how to find an attorney or entity for assistance. The matters touched in probate court are very important and personal to the community. A better understanding of these matters may make the situation more bearable for people who have lost a loved one or need to navigate the guardianship process or mental health system.
**COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE CONTINUED**

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

**QUESTION 1:** How would you improve the court’s relationship with the mentally disabled?

**ANSWER 1:** I have been appointed to represent people on the mental health docket in the past and know that the mentally disabled need patience and a calm influence in court. I also have a vision of seeking a partnership with the graduate students studying social work in various universities in San Antonio, to provide more assistance in a program similar to CASA (child advocates), with trained, supervised volunteers to provide more insight into the individual cases on the mental health and guardianship dockets. I will be working on the possibility of a foundation of private donors who could help set up such a program.

**QUESTION 2:** How could the court better interact with the public on probate matters and education?

**ANSWER 2:** Absolutely! There is always room for improvement in communication and probate education. As our society has now obtained almost universal access to the internet, more can be done on the Court’s website, and videos can be made available online to help educate the public. As judge, I would be available to speak to groups and I will be looking for every opportunity to improve interactions with the public. For many people, probate is their first time in court. They need a Judge who will put them at ease and make them feel safe. I believe strongly in the importance of treating all the persons before the Court, including lawyers, with dignity and respect. I have empathy for others because I too have known the heartache of loved ones suffering from Alzheimer’s. I am dedicated to following the law strictly, but with compassion, and I will work diligently to set a standard of excellence in the courtroom. As I stated earlier, listening has always been my strength. People need to be HEARD in court.

**Laura D. Heard (R) - County Probate Court 2**

**ANSWER 1:** The first way to improve the court’s relationship with the mentally disabled is to work tirelessly to remove the stigma of mental illness. The second is to distribute information on what the court can do for their mental health, including distributing information on resources that are available, encouraging a person with a mental challenge to obtain help, encouraging them to not ignore advice of medical professionals and encouraging affected persons to maintain their treatment including taking prescription medications and avoiding all forms of self medication. The third is to work with mental health professionals to ensure that people taken into a mental health facility are not just returned to the community without the filled prescriptions for medication that a person diagnosed with a mental disability needs to take on a regular basis. Far too many mentally challenged individuals are released with a paper prescription that is not filled and they do not receive the medicine they need.

**ANSWER 2:** Yes. The Court has an education fund that would allow it to provide for information on the court, which hears primarily 5 subject matters that affect the public. These are: probate, guardianship, trusts, mental health and eminent domain. With education, there are ways for the public to avoid or limit all of...
COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE CONTINUED

RESPONSIBLE FOR:
- Guardianship of the mentally ill or abused and for settling estates after death.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: How would you improve the court’s relationship with the mentally disabled?

QUESTION 2: How could the court better interact with the public on probate matters and education?

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these dockets, especially guardianship by the proper preparation of documents that would not only help our Bexar County citizens avoid guardianship, but allow them to pick the person(s) of trust who can help them in time of their greatest need. This is also true for public education in probate and trusts on the nature and extent of the benefits of the probate and trusts in efficiently handling their last wishes. Finally, in the area of mental health, the court could help educate the public on the resources to help those who are mentally challenged and their families, who are on many occasions desperate for help with their needs and the needs of a mentally challenged family member.

HELPFUL INFORMATION AND CONTACT NUMBERS

League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area
Phone: 210-657-2206
Web site: www.lwvs.org

League of Women Voters of Texas
Phone: 512-472-1100
Web site: www.lwvtexas.org

League of Women Voters Voter of the United States
Phone: 202-429-1965
Website: www.lwv.org

Bexar County Elections Department:
Phone: 210-335-8683
Website: http://www.bexar.org/Elections

Texas Elections Department
Website: www.votetexas.gov

Need a ride to the Polls?
The League does not provide rides to the polls.

VIA Metropolitan Transit offers free rides on established routes on Election Day only to voters who can show their valid Voter Registration Card. Call 210-362-2020 for more info.

Political parties may also offer rides. You may contact Bexar County Democratic Party 210-255-8420 and Bexar County Republican Party 210-824-9445.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area wishes to thank all those who contributed to the League of Women Voters Texas Education Fund, a 501(c) (3) corporation. Donations made by individuals, corporations, and foundations allow the League to publish for every election a Voters Guide for the San Antonio area. If you wish to help support future Voters Guides, you can mail your tax-deductible contribution made payable to LWV-TX Ed Fund to LWVSAA, 106 Auditorium Circle, Ste. 120, San Antonio, TX 78205.

Join the San Antonio Area League of Women Voters

Dues are $70 for individual memberships, $100 for household memberships at the same address, $30 for students.

Name ____________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
Phone ____________________________________________
Email ____________________________________________

Mail to LWVSAA, 106 Auditorium Circle, Ste. 120, San Antonio, TX 78205
Telephone: 210-657-2206
WHY YOUR VOTE REALLY MATTERS

Your vote makes a difference whether in a national, state or local election. So don’t think one vote doesn’t matter.

• Ingram Mayor James Salter won against Twanda Brown in May 2014 by one vote. Brown sued over her 63-62 defeat in May, claiming irregularities on election day – when a tie was logged – and in the recount that gave Salter a one-vote lead. The suit was settled by an agreement to conduct a new election which Salter won 105 votes to 86.

• In November 2016, two Bandera City Council candidates, Jim Hannah and Justin Knight, each garnered 89 votes. Knight beat Hannah in the runoff with Knight’s 49 to Hannah’s 32 votes.

• Campaigning for a seat on the Massachusetts Governor’s Council on the day of the primary in 1988, Herbert Connolly lost track of time – and got to his polling place too late to vote. When the ballots were counted that night, he’d lost by one vote.

• A Lansing, Michigan, school district bond issue was defeated in 1989 when the final recount produced a tie vote. As a result, the school district had to reduce its budget by $2.5 million.

• Marcus Morton was elected governor of Massachusetts in 1839 by one vote out of 102,066 cast.

Important decisions that affect us all have been made because of very few votes.

• Congress voted to admit Texas to the union in 1845 by a two-vote margin.

• Women won the right to vote in 1920 by the passage of the 19th amendment to the Constitution. Tennessee was the last state needed to pass the amendment. One 24-year representative, Harry Burn, changed his vote, and the Tennessee legislature ratified the amendment by a vote of 49-47.

• A tie vote in the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1997 defeated a bill to reinstate the death penalty. The tie came about when one representative, who had voted earlier for the death penalty, changed his mind.

• One vote in the U.S. Senate saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment conviction in 1868.

• In 2003 Vice President Dick Cheney, as president of the Senate, cast the deciding vote on a Senate tax-cut package amendment that reduced income taxes on capital gains and corporate dividends.

“IT IS NOT THE HAND THAT SIGNS THE LAW THAT HOLDS THE DESTINY OF AMERICA. IT IS THE HAND THAT CASTS THE BALLOT.”

—PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN