

2022 Voters Guide

Early Voting: October 24-November 4

Election Day: November 8



**A Guide to help voters make informed choices
in the General Election**

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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“Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.”

– Ruth Bader Ginsburg

A LETTER TO VOTERS

Dear Voter,

Voting is a precious right, a valuable opportunity and a vital responsibility. It is an act of power – a power to make things happen. The power is yours. Use it. Vote this election!

This election includes important races at national, state and local levels. To help you make thoughtful decisions and informed choices, this Voters Guide includes unedited responses from the candidates to questions posed by the League. The League's electronic Voters Guide – <https://www.vote411.org> – includes responses to additional questions. Select the candidates who best align with your vision and best represent you. Voting is by far the most effective community development tool.

I want to draw special attention to important judicial races that will be listed on your ballot this election. Judges play a critical role in society. These races deserve your thoughtful consideration. To help understand the various courts and the duties associated with it, please refer to Page 12 in this Guide. Remember, you will not be able to vote straight ticket. Use this guide to help you make your choices.

New voting laws can possibly make voting more difficult, but that should not deter you from exercising your right and responsibility to vote. Please feel free to call the League with any questions at 210-657-2206. You can get information you need from the League website, lwvsa.org, or call the Voter Protection Hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683).

Use your power to uphold the principles of representative democracy. VOTE!



Madhu Sridhar

President, League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area

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 more than a century ago out of the national movement to get women the right to vote, membership in 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 forums, 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. In 2018, 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 has prepared several brochures with important election-related information in English and in Spanish that can be downloaded from our website, www.lwvsa.org. To increase civic engagement among the youth, the League launched Youth Initiative aiming to elevate the youth voice, power, and participation.

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,

The League of Women Voters, strictly nonpartisan, does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

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.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This Voters Guide is put together by the League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area, a strictly nonpartisan organization, to fulfill its longstanding commitment to promote an active and informed electorate. The League neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate. This public service effort is designed to provide the voters with the information they need to help them make informed choices about the candidates and issues in the November 8 election.

In addition, to ensure that the 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 simple language that includes voter identification requirements, provisional balloting, the 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, other local Leagues and the League of Women Voters of Texas sent questionnaires to all candidates in contested races. To follow up, candidates were contacted by email or 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 software truncates answers at the limit in a form that candidates can see. All candidates were informed of this process.

The League assumes no responsibility for replies not received, or received after the deadline. Replies received after the deadline are available on VOTE411.org, the League's online resource for upcoming elections.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN ANTONIO VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Vice President of Voter Services – Glenda Wolin

Members – Barbara Baruch, Kim Cauthorn, Martha Lankford, Teri Swartz, Luke Rosenberger, Hal Broth



ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED
VOTE411.org

- Compare the candidates
- Mark your choices
- Print your list
- Take it to the polls



VOTING INFORMATION

To vote in the November 8 election, you must have registered by October 11.

VOTE SAFELY

- Wear a mask
- Maintain social distancing
- Follow sanitation instructions from poll workers
- Make a list of your choices ahead of time and take it with you to allow you to spend minimum time at the polling booth. You are allowed to bring written materials with you, but not content on a cell phone.

VOTE CENTERS FOR ELECTION DAY

- Voters are allowed to vote at any open voting site in Bexar County on Election Day, just as they do in early voting.
- Early voting locations may also be open on Election Day.

Wherever you go, you will not be turned away if you are registered in Bexar County. Polling sites will be listed on the Bexar County Elections Department website, <https://www.bexar.org/elections>, after early voting ends, and in the *San Antonio Express-News* immediately before Election Day.

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.

Make sure you follow the instructions to finalize your vote. Once you have deposited your ballot into the tabulator, you may leave. (See instructions under Voting Machines below)

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

VOTING MACHINES

Instructions for the Machines

An instructional video can be found on the home page of the Bexar County Elections Department website, <https://www.bexar.org/elections>.

- Feed the card given to you by the poll worker into the machine. The machine will display your ballot. Make your selections.
- Once you have made all your choices, reviewed them and changed any you would like to change, press the button on the screen to eject the card.
- Check your card carefully to make sure what is printed is what you chose. If it is not, let a poll worker know immediately, before you leave the booth, so you can get a new ballot.
- Take the card to the tabulator, which looks like a large bin with a laptop on top and has a poll worker next to it.
- Feed the card into the slot. This is **VERY IMPORTANT** – that is when your vote is registered.
- Don't leave with your card or you have not voted.
- Once the tabulator has registered your vote, the card drops into the locked bin underneath.

Other Important Instructions:

- You can use the screen as it is, make the type larger or adjust the contrast for comfortable viewing.
- You may select an English – or Spanish-language ballot. You can also switch back and forth between English and Spanish ballots.

- The machines are also capable of selecting an audio ballot for the blind.
- Special machines can be taken outside for disabled voters who need to remain in their cars. When they arrive, they should park in a space designated as for disabled people. Then they should alert the Bexar Elections office, 210-335-8683, which will notify the poll workers, and flash their lights.

ACCESSIBILITY, LANGUAGES

All polling places must be accessible to people with disabilities. People with mobility problems are allowed by law to move to the front of the line. A sign will be posted stating that.

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 Pages 21-24 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 possess 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 the alternative list, which is also on the back of the Texas Voters' Bill of Rights.

PROVISIONAL BALLOTING

In most circumstances, anyone who comes to a polling site to vote and does not appear to meet the requirements – whether because of identification, not being on the rolls, or any other circumstance – can vote a provisional ballot. A provisional ballot 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 21-24.

VOTE EARLY
OCT. 24 – NOV. 4

VOTING BY MAIL

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

- Going to be away from your county during early voting and on Election Day
- Sick or disabled
- 65 years of age or older on Election Day
- Expected to give birth within three weeks of Election Day
- Confined in jail, but eligible to vote

To request a ballot, contact Bexar County Elections, 210-335-8683, or download an application from <https://webservices.sos.state.tx.us/forms/5-15f.pdf>.

You can fill it out online, but you cannot submit it online. You must download it, sign it and mail it. Completed applications must be mailed, with an original signature, so they are received by the Bexar County Elections Department no later than Friday, October 28. Faxed or emailed applications will be accepted only if followed by a paper application with an original signature within four days of sending the electronic application.

There is now a requirement to provide either your driver's license number or state ID issued by DPS, on both your ballot application and your ballot envelope; if you do not have either, you must include the last four digits of your Social Security. It is permissible – and strongly suggested – that you include both numbers.

Once you have received your ballot, you must complete it, seal it in the white envelope and then seal that in the self-addressed carrier envelope. Be sure to complete the identification information under the flap before you seal the carrier envelope. Your ballot will be rejected if you do not. Sign the envelope as instructed – that signature will be compared with the signature on your application for the ballot to make sure both were signed by you. Mail the ballot back as soon as possible. If your ballot is one page, one stamp is sufficient. If it is two pages, it may take two stamps. It must be received by 7 p.m. on Election Day, November 8, if not postmarked, or by 5 p.m. November 9 if the carrier envelope is postmarked locally by 7 p.m. November 8.

TRACKING YOUR BALLOT

Track your mail ballot application and your completed mail ballot at the Bexar Elections website, <https://www.bexar.org/elections>

HELPFUL INFORMATION AND CONTACT NUMBERS

League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area

Phone: 210-657-2206

Website: <https://www.lwvsa.org>

League of Women Voters of Texas

Phone: 512-472-1100

Website: <https://lwvtexas.org/>

League of Women Voters of the United States

Phone: 202-429-1965

Website: <https://www.lwv.org>

USE THE FOLLOWING TWO SITES TO:

- Download an application to register to vote
- Download an application to register name and address changes
- Find Early Voting locations and hours of operation
- Download an Application for a Ballot by Mail
- View a sample ballot
- View the election calendar
- View election results for previous and current elections

Bexar County Elections Department:

Phone: 210-335-8683

Website: bexar.org/elections, or Google Bexar elections

Texas Elections Department


Website: www.votetexas.gov

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

2-year term. Writing bills and resolutions, offering amendments and serving on committees. How do they impact you? By answering directly to the relatively small group of people they represent and running for election every two years, as opposed to senators, who represent an entire state and have 6-year terms.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org


DISTRICT 20

Candidate	What are the top three issues you would like to address if elected and why?	How would you vote on legislation protecting abortion rights at a national level, and why?	Do you think gun laws should be changed? If so, in what way? If not, why not?
 Joaquin Castro (D)	Now in my fifth term, I continue to prioritize the building out of what I call the "Infrastructure of Opportunity," the good public schools, high-quality health care system, and well-paying jobs that allow folks to pursue their American dreams. I am incredibly proud of our legislative accomplishments this year to lower health care drug costs, make clean energy investments, and boost domestic manufacturing. I look forward to building on these accomplishments in the coming year.	After the Supreme Court's devastating decision overturning Roe v. Wade, Texas Republicans ripped from Texans the basic right to make decisions about their health, lives, and families. Sadly, in our state, women and doctors are at risk of going to prison, and women will be forced to carry to term even in extreme circumstances. Congress must pass the Women's Health Protection Act to restore to Texas women the fundamental freedom to decide when and how to start a family.	After the horrific shooting at Robb Elementary, the deadliest mass shooting in Texas history, I was proud to support historic legislation to protect our community from gun violence through a range of commonsense measures. However, I know that additional actions are required to reduce mass shootings and other forms of gun violence. I will continue to champion legislation to require background checks for all gun sales, ban the sale of semiautomatic assault weapons, and other commonsense policies.
No response received by print deadline: Kyle Sinclair (R)			

DISTRICT 21

Candidate	What are the top three issues you would like to address if elected and why?	What legislation would you support to address access to and the cost of healthcare?	What federal election laws should be changed?
 Chip Roy (R)	<p>1. Secure the Border and Our Communities</p> <p>2. Limit Spending and work towards Balanced Budget</p> <p>3. Abundant, Affordable Energy Policies – build infrastructure and support domestic production of energy, overturn federal regulations limiting nuclear expansion</p>	<p>I have introduced the Personalized Care Act, which would expand Healthcare Savings Accounts to millions, increase contribution limits, expand allowable expenses, and allow employer contributions. We need to reform the insurance driven system that drive up costs, increases bureaucracy, and restricts freedom.</p>	<p>Congress has a very narrow role in elections according to the Constitution, however I have introduced legislation to ensure only U.S. Citizens are voting in our elections by providing states with information to secure their election registration rolls</p>
 Claudia Andreana Zapata (D)	<p>I would prioritize expanding food accessibility, ensuring that people have access to healthy food and grocery stores. No one should have to spend up to 3 hours commuting to their closest grocery store. I would prioritize environmental regulation to protect the beauty of Texas hill country and make sure folks have clean, drinkable water and air that is not contaminated by cement plants, rock quarries, and metal recycling facilities. I would prioritize universal healthcare and increased preventive and routine healthcare clinics in rural areas. Having insurance, Medicaid, or VA benefits does not benefit those who lack access to healthcare facilities.</p>	<p>I support universal healthcare as access to healthcare should not be reliant upon insurance. In addition, rural counties also face a lack of access to healthcare facilities. I will establish a Care for America program that works with Veterans of Foreign War posts, American Legion posts, and other established community centers to provide routine and preventative care. The program will work similarly to Teach for America with medical students rotated into rural counties—providing more opportunities for healthcare jobs in rural communities allowing students in rural areas increased homegrown job opportunities.</p>	<p>We must address issues within our voting practices and mediums while protecting and encouraging civic engagement. Democracy is under attack, and we need to implement federal uniform voting laws that currently exist in the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. These Acts restore crucial protections against racial voter discrimination, create automatic and same-day voter registration, restore the full protections of the Voting Rights Act, combat voter suppression and gerrymandering. We must also overturn Citizen's United. Additionally, I champion unique policies such as post-office voter centers and public library cards qualifying as voter identification.</p>

DISTRICT 23


Candidate	What are the top three issues you would like to address if elected and why?	How would you vote on legislation protecting abortion rights at a national level, and why?	Do you think gun laws should be changed? If so, in what way? If not, why not?
 John Lira (D)	<p>My top three issues to that I want to immediately address are rising inflation to bring down costs to families, responsible gun ownership, and immigration. The 23rd district is home to the Uvalde tragedy, 8.5% inflation, and it runs along 800 miles of the United States/Mexico border. Our rural communities are shrinking and in need of a workforce, housing, and infrastructure. Migrants have a role to play in our economic development in Southwest Texas.</p>	<p>I would vote to protect and codify women's right to choose to have an abortion. As a member of the Roman Catholic church, I struggle with the thought of terminating a pregnancy but as a husband, father of a 16-year old daughter, and uncle to four nieces, I want the women in my family and yours to have more healthcare options available to them, including the option to have an abortion. I am whole-heartedly committed to ensuring healthcare continues to expand and improve for women in America.</p>	<p>Yes. As a military veteran and a public servant, I have taken the oath to protect and defend the U.S. Constitution and the 2nd Amendment. As a Texan, I recognize that firearms are ingrained into our state's history. As a gun owner, I support responsible gun ownership and will tirelessly work to reduce gun violence and keep firearms out of the hands of those who aim to harm others. Gun laws must be changed to prevent people who intend to harm themselves or others from getting a weapon.</p>


No response received by print deadline: **Tony Gonzales (R), Frank Lopez Jr. (I)**

DISTRICT 28

No response received by print deadline: **Cassy Garcia (R), Henry Cuellar (D)**

DISTRICT 35

Candidate	What are the top three issues you would like to address if elected and why?	How would you vote on legislation protecting abortion rights at a national level, and why?	Do you think gun laws should be changed? If so, in what way? If not, why not?
 Dan McQueen (R)	<p>1st is the Economic Decay, 2nd is the National Security, 3rd is the Unity of America! First place is the plan forward for the entire nation that encompasses opportunity for all American's. I have written white papers on the border as an Economic Development Zone and Elevate Texas Skyways Transport – Fix Immigration and Security. My education, experience and leadership will bring back the Value of America as we fight for Freedom not socialism. To Keep America the Land of Opportunity! God Bless</p>	<p>The life of the unborn is most important. We learn that the ignition of light occurs at conception and this begins to educate us more about God's plan for life. It is hard for me to understand the women's point of view, though I continue having this conversation. I think we need more education on all levels of this topic to help the before abortion battle for women and understand that we have an obligation to protect those that can not protect themselves. "So Others May Live" U.S. Navy SAR</p>	<p>Gun Laws do not seem to be the issue in the problem with mental illness or lack of security. I have promoted a Veterans Carry Program, in which we intensify the security of our nation, cities, schools by having a secondary and tertiary defense system. This promotes purpose for many veterans and brings a higher level of security to America. I am trained, as military special operator, NRA and DPS instructor, I see more need to address the true ROOT CAUSE, not media or extreme propaganda.</p>

Candidate	What are the top three issues you would like to address if elected and why?	How would you vote on legislation protecting abortion rights at a national level, and why?	Do you think gun laws should be changed? If so, in what way? If not, why not?
 Greg Casar (D)	<p>1. An Inclusive Democracy: Working Texans deserve an inclusive democracy that respects the right to vote, the right to reproductive care, the right to be safe in your neighborhood, and the right to live free from discrimination. 2. Economic Justice: Working families deserve good jobs, Medicare for All, and affordable education. 3. A Sustainable World: We must fix the grid, fight for a future for our children, and create a sustainable planet for us all.</p>	<p>Texas is ground zero for the Republican attack on reproductive rights. When the State Legislature tried to close Planned Parenthood in East Austin, I led the effort that successfully kept it open. I also passed budget amendments to help Texans access abortion care with funding for travel, childcare, and more, delivering support to hundreds of people. I am dedicated to increasing access to abortion care, repealing the Hyde Amendment, and codifying Roe v. Wade.</p>	<p>Yes. To prevent future gun violence, I support funding common sense gun violence intervention programs, passing universal background checks, ending permitless carry, creating safe storage rules, and banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines. I also support Ethan's Law, reinstating the Violent Crime and Law Enforcement Act, and repealing the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA).</p>

GOVERNOR

Four-year term. The governor is the chief executive of the state. They appoint members to boards and commissions; appoint statewide executive officials, state judges and district attorneys when vacancies occur; declare special elections to fill vacancies in certain elected offices; deliver the State of the State address; provide guidance to the legislature; call special sessions of the legislature and set the agenda; and serve as commander-in-chief of the state's military forces. The governor can veto legislation (including a line-item veto on appropriations), sign legislation, or allow it to become law without their signature.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

Candidate	What steps, if any, should be taken to curb gun violence in our communities?	What is the role of the state government in addressing immigration at the border?	How would you address the economic and health consequences for those who cannot obtain abortions in Texas?
 Beto O'Rourke (D)	<p>I will always prioritize the lives of our children and the safety of our fellow Texans over any special interest. As governor, I will fight for bipartisan, commonsense gun safety measures that the majority of Texans agree on, like raising the minimum age to purchase an assault rifle to 21, implementing universal background checks, and establishing a red flag law system.</p>	<p>The state government should provide local communities the support they need to respond to migration flows at the border in a safe and orderly fashion. That can include support for migrant processing, shelter, and transportation—as long as it is done in a way that reflects our values, upholds U.S. asylum laws, and refrains from wasting taxpayer dollars on political stunts instead of solutions.</p>	<p>I will fight to repeal Texas' extreme abortion laws that endanger the lives of women and make no exception for rape or incest. I will also strengthen investments in women's health and family planning programs to increase access to contraception and cancer screenings, and combat Texas' maternal mortality crisis by expanding Medicaid and increasing pregnancy Medicaid to one-year postpartum.</p>
 Mark Tippetts (L)	<p>To meet Texans' security and education preferences, I support a school choice system so all Texans can afford to send their children to private, public, or home school. Cut taxes and government spending to create a more vibrant economy that draws people away from criminal activity. Curb drug war-related violence by legalizing marijuana.</p>	<p>It's nearly impossible to immigrate to America legally. We could end most illegal immigration by enacting a good comprehensive immigration policy, making it easier for honest, hardworking people to come work and live here legally. Reform requires federal action. Instead of seeing foreigners as a problem, we should welcome them as potential friends, business partners, and customers.</p>	<p>Recognizing that abortion is a sensitive issue, and that people can hold good-faith views on all sides, I believe that government should be kept out of the matter, leaving the question to each person for their conscientious consideration. A group of mostly men legislators should not be able to tell my daughters what they can and can't do with their bodies.</p>
 Delilah Barrios (G)	<p>Retailers must limit the amount and frequency of sales of guns and ammunition. The police budget should be limited as well and resources should go towards housing, childcare, education, gardens, transportation etc. I am a supporter of community police because the police criminalize poverty and mental health.</p>	<p>The role of our state is to be good neighbors. To have compassion and offer opportunities both here and in Mexico. We rely heavily on the exploitation of the global south. I would like to see Texas make amends and speed up the immigration process while also supporting Mexico's economy as well. A sustainable partnership would be ideal.</p>	<p>Statewide single payer would eliminate the insurance companies ability to cause harm to patients. I would enact a law that would provide protection to patients and providers. Anyone deliberately interfering with patient care due to religious or other will face a 50k+ fine plus jail. This is only a short term solution while we set up statewide single payer and better patient rights for autonomy.</p>

No response recieved by print deadline: Greg Abbott (R)



VOTE!

It's in your best interest.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Four-year term. The lieutenant governor is powerful because of their position as president of the Texas Senate, where they appoint the chairs and vice-chairs of committees; appoint senators to committees; assign bills to committees; and control the Senate's agenda. They are also a member of several commissions and boards, and serve as governor in the governor's absence.


For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

Candidate	What steps, if any, should be taken to curb gun violence in our communities?	What can be done to ensure that Texas has sufficient power during extreme weather conditions?	How would you address the economic and health consequences for those who cannot obtain abortions in Texas?
 Mike Collier (D)	As Lt. Governor, I will work with community leaders and law enforcement to raise the age to purchase a firearm to 21, universal background checks, safe storage requirements, and a waiting period to buy a semi-automatic firearms. These actions must be undertaken before the start of the next school year because the time to stop the next school shooting is now.	As a lifelong businessman and energy expert, I will make fixing the power grid amongst my top priorities. I will work to bring down energy bills for Texans by investing in producing more energy, investing in energy storage and smart grid technology, and establishing emergency tie-ins to the national power grid.	Under current law, all abortions are banned in Texas, including in cases of rape or incest. As Lt. Governor, I will work to codify the protections of Roe v. Wade into the books of law—returning the power to make decisions to doctors and their patients, as well as invest in pre-natal and maternal healthcare for women across Texas.
 Shanna Steele (L)	I support the Second Amendment. Ending the war on drugs, treating addiction, and improving economic conditions would curb gun violence.	There are several hydroelectric power plants that used to be connected to the power grid that are no longer in operation. By fixing these power plants and other parts of the power grid infrastructure we will be on the right track.	I would remove state government from healthcare decisions that should be made between doctors and their patients. In addition, I would like to make the adoption process easier for those who choose adoption over abortion.
No response received by print deadline: Dan Patrick (R)			

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Four-year term. The Attorney General is the chief law enforcement officer of the state; represents the state and state officials in legal matters; issues opinions; oversees collection of child support; administers the crime victims compensation fund; enforces the open records/open meetings acts; approves public bond issues; and enforces consumer regulations.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

Candidate	What would be your highest priorities for the next four years, and how do you intend to accomplish them?	What should be the role of the Texas Attorney General regarding immigration law and policy?	How would you protect Texans' freedom to vote while maintaining safe and secure elections?
 Rochelle Mercedes Garza (D)	As AG, I will protect the rights of all Texans. I'll root out corruption and bring back integrity and transparency to the AG's office. I'll create a Civil Rights Division to protect the safety, privacy, and dignity of Texans, and I'll prioritize consumer protections to hold bad actors accountable. Most importantly, I will fight to restore abortion rights in Texas.	Immigration enforcement falls under federal jurisdiction. As an immigration attorney and border native, I understand the complexities of our immigration system. I have litigated against bad policies that have created a humanitarian crisis at the border. Texas' enforcement efforts at the border are unconstitutional, wasteful and only worsen the issue.	As Attorney General, I will dismantle the wasteful "election integrity unit" — which is really about enforcing the GOP's voter suppression measures, instead of protecting voting rights — and replace it with a voter protection unit under a fully funded Civil Rights Division. I will ensure voting rights are protected, not undermined, especially for voters of color.
No response received by print deadline: Ken Paxton (R), Mark Ash (L)			

COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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

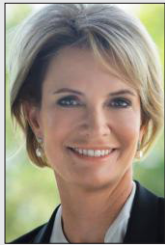
For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

Candidate	What would be your highest priorities for the next four years, and how do you intend to accomplish them?	What is the proper balance of tax revenues sources in order to fairly fund state government, including public schools?	What is the optimal amount to be held in the Rainy Day Fund? How would you balance paying down the state's debt vs. responding to urgent needs?
 Glenn Hegar (R)	I will continue to focus on the core constitutional duties of my office and that means maintaining my attention on the Texas economy. Navigating the last few years has been difficult, but I have always remained focused on the trends, challenges and opportunities in our state economy. We must fight to keep Texas a place where freedom creates new opportunities for families and businesses to thrive.	Funding public schools in Texas has been a shared burden split between state funds and local property taxes. Until recently the local share was allowed to grow unchecked creating increased pressure on local property taxes. I helped compress local property tax rates and rebalance the burden between state funds and local taxpayers. Our strong economic recovery now puts us in position to do more.	Texas is blessed to have a strong Rainy Day Fund, which is designed and should be used to smooth out the state's revenues during an economic downturn, to assist in a disaster, and for one-time expenses that are strategic for Texas' economic health and well-being. I fought to manage these dollars more effectively to guard against inflation and protect them for generations.
 Janet T. Dudding (D)	Statute defines Comptroller as state's 'sole' accountant. We've never had a CPA as our Comptroller. I will be the watchdog over tax dollars, answerable to Texans not special interests. As a hurricane survivor, climate-disasters are personal to me and I will work to mitigate the root cause as well as our risk exposure through SECO. Expand broadband by partnering with local govt utilities & coops.	Find new revenue for Charter & 313. Texas Legislature added \$6.5 billion dollars in funding to public schools in 2019. Yet per a 2021 SPLC report, Texas currently ranks 40th in the nation. New rev streams are needed. Legalizing adult-use cannabis could bring \$1 billion in tax revenue (and decriminalization could save \$300 million). Look at "green" taxes to build revenue streams from green energy.	Government Finance Officers Association recommends a minimum of 2 months of regular revenue or regular expenditures be maintained in a rainy day fund. Typically, rainy day monies mitigate the risk of unstable revenues or unexpected expenditures. Natural disasters fall into the 2nd category & Texas ranks 1st in these. The state of Texas' general obligation debt currently is rated Aaa/AAA/ AAA/AAA.
 Alonzo Echevarria-Garza (L)	The highest priority is to implement policies that may improve operations, optimize benefits, and offer flexibility in dealing with financial challenges. These policies will not only improve conditions in four year, but beyond my own term in office.	I don't believe there is, strictly speaking, a proper balance that policy makers should adhere to, or fix to fairly fund state government or public schools. The question is not the balance amounts, but what mechanisms are in place to adapt.	I would suggest six months of operating expenses is a good start. However, this depends on the mitigating policies implemented by the state.

COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE


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

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

Candidate	What would be your highest priorities for the next four years, and how do you intend to accomplish them?	As the head of the agency that manages the Alamo, what story should it tell?	When federal funds for natural disaster relief are allocated, how would you ensure that communities with the highest needs are prioritized?
 Dawn Buckingham (R)	I'm running for Texas Land Commissioner to improve the lives of all Texans and protect the Texas we know and love for future generations. As the first female Land Commissioner in history, my priorities are unleashing Texas oil and gas production, keeping our communities safe by securing the border, and protecting the Permanent School Fund to ensure that every child has a great public education.	I am, and always have been, a champion for the preservation of our Texas History. As a State Senator, I laid down the legal challenge to keep the Cenotaph in its rightful place out front. Our Alamo should tell the story of Texas' revolution and of course the battle at the Alamo itself.	When catastrophe strikes the Texas coast, I'll be there every step of the way to help Texans recover. I grew up in a small town along the Texas coast, so I know firsthand just how devastating a major hurricane can be and what people need in its aftermath. As Land Commissioner, I'll make sure the GLO is fully prepared to respond to catastrophic storms that impact our coast.


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Candidate	What would be your highest priorities for the next four years, and how do you intend to accomplish them?	As the head of the agency that manages the Alamo, what story should it tell?	When federal funds for natural disaster relief are allocated, how would you ensure that communities with the highest needs are prioritized?
 <p>Jay Kleberg (D)</p>	Reforming the GLO disaster programs to ensure all Texans can recover from the last storm and prepare for the next one. Expanding carbon storage opportunities by opening leases in Texas' submerged lands. Responsibly expanding renewable energy production on state lands to diversify our revenue base. Reforming and modernizing the Veterans Land Board to expand and improve Veteran services in Texas.	The story of the Alamo is as far reaching and complex as Texas itself. The Alamo is a symbol of Texan and Tejano pride and we must honor those contributions to Texas. It's also important to consider the role of early Black Texans and slavery in our history, as well as indigenous groups who inhabited the site for centuries. All of these groups should have input in the conversation on the Alamo.	Centering the voices of communities most impacted by natural disasters and least-supported by our government is a priority for my campaign and will continue to be a priority for me as commissioner. As Land Commissioner, I will emphasize the reformation of disaster relief and recovery programs at the General Land Office. This will ensure Texans most affected have the proper funding.
No response received by print deadline: Alfred Molison (G)			

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE


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

Candidate	When federal funds for natural disaster relief are allocated, how would you ensure that communities with the highest needs are prioritized?	What can be done to help Texas farmers face rising costs and supply chain disruptions?	Should Texas diversify its agriculture to include cannabis, biofuels or other crops? Why or why not?
 <p>Susan Hays (D)</p>	Economic survival, rural health care, & climate change—and they are intertwined. I will look for opportunities, analyze the data, advocate to the USDA to change counter-productive policies, and help producers find a path to prosperity and environmental sustainability. Failing rural hospitals are an existential threat to rural communities. Texas must expand Medicaid to save them.	Accurate analysis of supply-chain choke points followed by government action to alleviate them. For example, the meat packing industry is a Wall Street-driven, near-monopoly with ranchers having to pay to reserve time to process their cattle. I will aggressively draw down federal dollars to help Texas entrepreneurs open and expand local operations which will in turn keep those profits in Texas.	Yes. As a cannabis attorney I understand the best way to legalize & regulate to protect public health & safety giving Texans an opportunity to share in the economic opportunity. Texas ag can flourish by growing more fruits, vegetables & high-value crops. California produces more than 70% of U.S. fruits and vegetables — too many eggs in one basket. We need to diversify & support small operators.
No response received by print deadline: Sid Miller (R)			

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

Six-year term. The Railroad Commissioner is one of the three-member Texas Railroad Commission. The commission regulates the oil and gas industry, gas utilities, pipeline safety, safety in the liquified petroleum gas industry and surface coal and uranium mining. It has no regulatory authority concerning railroads.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

Candidate	What further changes, if any, are needed to ensure that Texas has sufficient power in times of extreme weather conditions?	How important is the impact of methane emissions on climate change? What are effective ways to reduce methane emissions in the oil and gas industry?	How can the Railroad Commission reduce the risk of seismic activity or earthquakes caused by water disposal from oil and gas drilling?
 <p>Wayne Christian (R)</p>	During Winter Storm Uri, wind generated less than 6% of our electricity despite averaging 23% during 2020. Natural gas generated 67% of our electricity during the storm despite averaging only 46% in 2020. The RRC has designated natural gas facilities as critical during energy emergencies and put in place weatherization requirements to ensure even better performance in future.	Oil and gas production and a clean environment are not mutually exclusive; the six-major pollutants regulated by the EPA have decreased by 77% over the last 50 years. The current Administration's methane rule and natural gas tax could shut down oil and gas production in Texas which would kill jobs, harm our economy, increase costs to consumers, and reduce the reliability of our grid.	The RRC has in place some of the most stringent rules on disposal wells — the type of wells some link to earthquakes — in the country. In fact, Obama's EPA stated in a report that the Railroad Commission is "commended for establishing new regulations specific to seismicity, including solidifying RRC authority to take appropriate action related to injection well operations."

"We can all agree on the importance of voting."

— Jenna Bush

Candidate	What further changes, if any, are needed to ensure that Texas has sufficient power in times of extreme weather conditions?	How important is the impact of methane emissions on climate change? What are effective ways to reduce methane emissions in the oil and gas industry?	How can the Railroad Commission reduce the risk of seismic activity or earthquakes caused by water disposal from oil and gas drilling?
 Luke Warford (D)	Strengthening our energy infrastructure is my number one priority because it is unconscionable that Texans have to live in fear that their power will go out the next time it gets cold. I will establish a clear, substantive, and enforceable weatherization standard, identify critical gas producers, and ensure preparations for the next major storm are actually completed.	Methane emissions play a large role in climate change, and the Railroad Commission has a tremendous capacity to address climate change by reducing methane emissions while strengthening the Texas economy. I will accomplish this by enforcing existing regulations, limiting the number of flaring exemptions the Commission grants, identifying and plugging methane leaks, and capping orphaned wells.	The Railroad Commission's lackluster approach is responsible for the recent increase in seismicity in West Texas. And now, their response to what is happening is unscientific and out-of-touch with the realities on the ground. The Commission should work with affected communities and experts in the water disposal industry to develop a science-based response to the increase in seismic activity.
 Jaime Andres Díez (L)	The RRC has taken good steps to fix issues concerning critical infrastructures designations with ERCOT and weatherization requirements. However, there continues to be issues with data management, transparency, and with outlining how they will deal with repeat non-compliance. Regarding repeat weatherization non-compliance, I think the RRC should consider waiving the maximum fine of \$1 million.	Reducing methane is the most effective strategy for dealing with climate change. Imposing restriction on flaring will reduce methane in TX, but will increase overall methane emission. Flaring/barrel in TX is amongst the lowest in the world. Flaring restrictions will cause forced closure of wells and increases in foreign (less-green) extraction. Solution: Bitcoin mining pays operators to not flare	There's no one-size-fits-all-solution since seismic activity resulting from water disposal varies greatly due to local geologic formations. However, the RRC must recognize that local entities have a disproportionate share of the risks and limited \$ benefit. I would favor moving authority downwards to allow local officials, who are more responsive to local voters, to determine the risk/trade-offs.
 Hunter Wayne Crow (G)	I would recommend that we invest taxpayers money toward the development of Renewable Energy Technology such as wind, solar, geothermal, conservation and small-scale hydroelectric. Once we have one or more of these methods fully utilized. We would be able to supply a vast amount of energy that would able to resolve the State of Texas current energy demands.	Methane is the second most abundant anthropogenic GHG after carbon dioxide (CO2), accounting for about 20 percent of global emissions. Methane is more than 25 times as potent as carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere. I will support the enactment of bans on hydraulic fracturing for natural gas and oil on the local, state and federal level and also ensure not further damage occurs.	I will support measures that will make Hydraulic fracturing in any form illegal. I will also support shutting down any drilling rig that would be considered to be located in unstable areas of Texas. I think if we ended the United States dependents on fossil fuels we would not have these problems any longer.

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, these are principles to consider in selection of judges:

- 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 <https://txcourts.gov/media/> 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.

JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

Six-year term. A justice is one of the nine-member Supreme Court, which issues final decisions on civil and juvenile appeals, issues certain orders to governmental officials to act and to individuals to appear before the court, and has jurisdiction over orders or judgements of trial courts, if the Supreme Court determines them important to the jurisprudence of the state.

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PLACE 3

Candidate	What issues do you believe will be the most pressing for the Texas Supreme Court?	What can be done to improve access to justice for all, including persons or groups who may be underserved?	Since judicial candidates solicit donations and raise money to be elected, how can voters be assured that campaign donations will not impact how judges interpret the law and/or review lower court decisions?
 Debra Lehrmann (R)	Regardless of the subject matter, enforcing the rule of law in a consistent, scholarly, methodical, impartial & fair manner is of utmost importance. As the overseer of the 3rd branch of government, the Court must also ensure that rules governing our court system, and members of the Bar & Judiciary, serve the public in an efficient and just manner. These Court responsibilities are essential.	If justice is denied to one individual, it is denied to all. During my tenure on the Court, we have made great progress in improving access to justice for all persons, regardless of financial means. We have devoted much time & effort towards increasing public & private support for expanded representation of underprivileged Texans. Proud of these efforts, I intend to expand upon this work.	As Senior Justice on the Supreme Court of Texas, & after many years of judicial service, I have a proven record of fairly and impartially applying the law in every case. It is critical that we consistently & rigorously apply the rule of law across the board, to supporters and non-supporters alike. The risk diminishes when judges employ sound & stable methods, as I have for many years.
 Erin A. Nowell (D)	The U.S. Supreme Court has increasingly divested itself of jurisdiction over issues it has determined belong to the individual states. Examples include gerrymandering, voting rights, and a woman's right to bodily autonomy. Accordingly, these issues will continue to arise within our state courts. As new laws are passed, interpreted, and even contested, the Texas Supreme Court will be the forum.	First, we need to increase the individuals in the pipeline who are available and willing to assist those in underrepresented communities – in every level of the judicial system. We also need to support (with both work and money) programs and initiatives that seek to provide equal justice access for all.	It is incumbent on judges to conduct themselves in a manner that leaves no doubt as to their integrity and fairness. Judges should take steps to avoid both impropriety and the 'appearance' of impropriety. This could include not soliciting campaign donations from individuals with cases pending before them and/or recusing themselves from hearing cases where a ruling could be questioned.
 Thomas Edward Oxford (L)	The Jury system has been under attack in Texas for years. Powerful special interest groups have funded judges who believe they are in a better position than juries to decide questions of fact. We must continue to push for a system in which judges decide questions of law and juries decide questions of fact.	We must continue to support and improve the IOLTA program and the pro bono efforts of the local bar associations.	They cannot, we see evidence of justice for sale on a regular basis.



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PLACE 5

Candidate	What issues do you believe will be the most pressing for the Texas Supreme Court?	What can be done to improve access to justice for all, including persons or groups who may be underserved?	Since judicial candidates solicit donations and raise money to be elected, how can voters be assured that campaign donations will not impact how judges interpret the law and/or review lower court decisions?
 Rebeca Huddle (R)	<p>Court backlogs are a pressing issue in some big-city trial courts. If criminal judges don't move dockets, dangerous offenders roam the streets instead of facing punishment. If civil judges don't move dockets, Texas families and businesses wait too long for resolution. I believe Texas judges must always be accountable to the people and dispose of cases responsibly, but as promptly as possible.</p>	<p>The Court's Access to Justice Commission works to expand access to free legal services. More lawyers should volunteer pro bono (free) representation of poor Texans, and courts should encourage and recognize lawyers who do. Technology can also help. The Supreme Court now permits Zoom hearings in routine hearings, so Texans can participate in court proceedings without missing a day of work.</p>	<p>I have authored over 400 reasoned judicial opinions. This body of work demonstrates my fidelity to the rule of law. My opinions explain why I decided each case as I did and show that I apply the law fairly, in every case, regardless of who the parties or lawyers are or whether they contributed to my campaign. My record also shows I have ruled against campaign contributors many, many times.</p>
 Amanda Reichck (D)	<p>A slew of "hot button" issues that implicate some of our most basic liberties which counsels quick resolution, but at the same time are emotionally-charged and complicated.</p>	<p>Increased access to pro bono services, more funding and resources available for legal aid organizations, simplifying the filing process, and removing other artificial barriers to accessing the legal system.</p>	<p>While there is always the possibility of influence, strict limitations on judicial campaign contributions along with campaign finance disclosure requirements provide safeguards against abuse. This possibility is also why it is imperative that we elect and retain judges with unimpeachable integrity and a demonstrated commitment to fair play and their oath of office.</p>

PLACE 9

Candidate	What issues do you believe will be the most pressing for the Texas Supreme Court?	What can be done to improve access to justice for all, including persons or groups who may be underserved?	Since judicial candidates solicit donations and raise money to be elected, how can voters be assured that campaign donations will not impact how judges interpret the law and/or review lower court decisions?
 Evan Young (R)	<p>Among its most pressing work, the Supreme Court must ensure, even in times of crisis, and without fear or favor, that the U.S. and Texas Constitutions' limits are respected—the lines between different branches of government, between the state and local governments, and between government power and individual liberty. The Court must make sure that the law is followed, wholly aside from politics.</p>	<p>Ensuring open courts is fundamental to public confidence in our judiciary and to protecting individual rights. The Access to Justice Commission, Texas Legislature, and Texas Supreme Court have made great progress in marshaling public and private support and resources for expanded representation of underprivileged Texans and making judicial proceedings more efficient, comprehensible, and fair.</p>	<p>First, all Supreme Court decisions are published, so our rulings can be tested for consistency, legitimacy, and sound reasoning. Second, the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act strictly limits how much judicial candidates can receive from individuals, firms, and PACs. No source can be more than a small percentage of a judicial campaign's funds, which helps reduce even the appearance of undue influence.</p>
 Julia Maldonado (D)	<p>Equity and access to justice are two of the most pressing issues. We have to ensure that the rights of every Texan are protected and that everyone, regardless of their socio-economic status, has access to justice. The justices have to ensure that Texans feel confident with the Court's actions at all times.</p>	<p>Increase funds for nonprofits who provide services for low-income Texans, ensure that there are educational materials in different languages regarding the court processes. Motivate big firms to provide pro bono services and create partnerships with law schools so that law students can hone their skills while providing much needed legal help under the supervision of their professors.</p>	<p>In my case, I know that my obligation is to follow the law and to serve all of the residents of the state without regard of any campaign donations made to my campaign. As a district judge, I have a record of integrity and ethics that will continue when elected to the Supreme Court, I have never allowed any campaign donation to influence my decisions which are always in accordance with the law.</p>

JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS


Six-year term. A member of the nine-member court which has final judgement in all criminal cases. The court must review all cases in which the death penalty is assessed. It also exercises discretionary review in other criminal cases and issues orders to governmental officials to act and individuals to appear before the court.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org



PLACE 2

Unopposed: Mary Lou Keel (R)

PLACE 5

Candidate	What can be done to improve access to justice for all, including persons or groups who may be underserved?	Texas requires that candidates for this Court be licensed in Texas for at least 10 years and have no suspensions or revocations in that time. What are the positive and negative impacts of this requirement?	What is your judicial philosophy?
 Dana Huffman (D)	More access to pro bono representation as well as access to language lines that cover all languages at every proceeding	Positive: ensures that a candidate has substantial years of legal experience needed. Negative: Some attorneys may have accumulated more practical experience specific to their bench than another attorney who has practiced longer but not necessarily in matters specific to the court.	To see that justice is done.
No response recieved by print deadline: Scott Walker (R)			

PLACE 6

Candidate	What can be done to improve access to justice for all, including persons or groups who may be underserved?	Texas requires that candidates for this Court be licensed in Texas for at least 10 years and have no suspensions or revocations in that time. What are the positive and negative impacts of this requirement?	What is your judicial philosophy?
 Jesse F. McClure, III (R)	In the criminal justice system, indigent defendants at the trial court level are appointed counsel, and we need to ensure that such counsel are competent, fairly compensated, and have reasonable caseloads. In the civil system, other states have experimented with allowing non-lawyers to handle certain matters - an innovation worth evaluating to allow greater access to Texas courts.	The positive impact of the requirement is that it helps promote experience (and ethical conduct) so that Judges have sufficient experience in the law before making very important decisions that effect the life and liberty of the litigants before the Court. The negative impact could be that a very qualified, but relatively inexperienced lawyer is unable to join this Court.	I follow the text of the constitutional provision or statute in question. It is rarely, if ever, proper for a judge to depart from the plain, original public meaning of the text. When dealing with “non-textual” issues, I strive to bring common sense to my decision making, always keeping in mind that vindicating the rights of the citizen is paramount.
 Robert Johnson (D)	I believe our State Bar has set high standards for the representation of indigent and underserved persons/ communities, but we can do more. We should incentivize pro bono legal services for large law firms by providing discounted bar dues and continuing legal education fees for those who show a set minimum number of indigent defense hours. Our justice system is only as fair as it is perceived.	The Court of Criminal Appeals is the highest appellate court in the state concerning criminal matters. This court hears only criminal cases. Judges who serve on the highest criminal court should also have the highest level of experience in practicing criminal law. I have, nearly, two decades of criminal law experience. While ten years is adequate, I believe two decades is better.	My judicial philosophy can be summed up in three words: Less is more. The less a judge attempts to impose his or her will on judicial decision making the more consistent our application of the law will be. Ultimately, this job is not about me or my opponent. This job is about you and all of our fellow Texans. I will remain focused on upholding the letter and spirit of the law as it is written.

TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



Four-year term. The fifteen-member board decides curriculum, standards, student testing, special education programs, and textbooks for Texas public schools. It also oversees the Permanent School Fund. Members of the board are not paid, but receive reimbursement for expenses incurred in the course of official business.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org



“For this nation to remain true to its principles, we cannot allow any American’s vote to be denied, diluted or defiled.”

– President Ronald Reagan

DISTRICT 1

Candidate	What is the impact of independent charter schools on the funding for local public schools? And is there anything you would do to change that impact?	As the developer of Texas public school curriculum, how would you ensure a comprehensive history education that addresses the needs of all students?	What other issues do you believe will be the most pressing for the State Board of Education?
 Michael 'Travis' Stevens (R)	In order to negate the financial impact of charter schools, two things need to be changed. First, the SBOE must increase the rigor of their vetting process, to ensure that pop up schools are not approved. Secondly, in order to keep schools fully funded, we need to fund them based off of their enrollment numbers and not based on average daily attendance.	In order to ensure a comprehensive history education that addresses the needs of all students, I would advocate for a Social Studies curriculum that is based on historical factual evidence. Additionally, I would support curriculum that provided students with an overview of our nations history from the perspective of all those who were part of that history, not just a Eurocentric point of view.	The SBOE needs to consider removing STAAR testing as a requirement for graduation.
 Melissa N. Ortega (D)	Independent charter schools divert crucial resources away from public schools. Charter schools do not have public oversight of how money is spent & are not held accountable and to the same standards as public ISD's. I would work to ensure that compliance with state quality standards, governance requirements, and financial accountability is created, monitored & held to the same standards as ISD's	History should be taught to incorporate diverse perspectives and acknowledge that historical events are affected by race, ethnicity, culture, religion, education, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, and personal experiences. An effective history builds on students' capacity for research, reasoning, generating logical arguments, and critical thinking.	Other issues that are most pressing will be to create significant efforts for teacher retention, and solutions to our state's test-based accountability system. Class size limits need to be re-evaluated, and a more inclusive curriculum that focuses on the social emotional learning needs of our students need to be in place.

DISTRICT 3

Candidate	What is the impact of independent charter schools on the funding for local public schools? And is there anything you would do to change that impact?	As the developer of Texas public school curriculum, how would you ensure a comprehensive history education that addresses the needs of all students?	What other issues do you believe will be the most pressing for the State Board of Education?
 Ken Morrow (R)	Charter schools have a positive impact by creating competition and alternatives to Public Schools, but they are still regulated by SBOE.	Truth should be taught. We do not need to re-write history. We need to teach world history, US History and Texas History with the truth about our History. We were founded as a Christian nation. Slavery and Domination of the American Indians was an awful chapter in our countries history. Other countries have been far worse. We were one of the first countries to ban slavery. America is exceptional!	Issues I believe will be relevant. School safety is a priority, I think the Guardian plan has merit. CRT has no place in Texas Schools. Boys are boys, Girls are Girls. No confusion should be allowed in locker rooms, bathrooms, or in sports.
 Marisa B. Perez-Diaz (D)	Because charter schools receive state funding based on ADA, but no local tax revenue, the fiscal impact on traditional public schools varies depending on location of the charter school. More pertinent is the unilateral authority the Commissioner of Education has on the expansion approval of charter schools. The over saturation of charter schools in communities leads to more serious funding impact.	I will continue to work with subject matter experts (K12 practitioners and historians) who would: a) contribute content that is diverse in representation (i.e. individuals, communities, and events that have been absent in standards but have played pivotal roles in the history of the US); b) provide guidance about pedagogy, methodology, and content for implementation considerations.	The SBOE will continue to approve standards for K-12 curriculum, which should be influenced by facts, peer reviewed research, and inclusivity. Additionally, major responsibility for the PSF has moved to a corporation, currently comprised of 5 SBOE members & 3 governor appointed individuals. That governing body must continue to require 5 elected SBOE members for continued democratic representation.

TEXAS STATE SENATE



4-year term. Responsibilities include passing bills on public policy matters, setting levels for state spending, raising and lowering taxes, voting to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes. Senate holds impeachment trials. Bills originating in the Senate, when approved, go to the House for a vote. Bills passed by the House go to the Senate for a vote.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

VOTE!

It's in your best interest.


DISTRICT 19

Candidate	Under what circumstances, if any, should abortion be legal for Texans? Explain.	What if any additional gun regulations do you support?	Do you think voting laws should be changed, and if so, in what way? If not, why not?
 Robert Garza (R)	I believe abortion should only be legal in cases involving medical necessity to save the life of the mother.	None. The recent court decisions do not allow any further restrictions on the 2nd amendment.	Voting laws need to prevent voter fraud. I would support further measures to verify and insure the accuracy of the mail in ballots. I believe in strict measures on the number of voters that may be assisted by any given individual.
 Roland Gutierrez (D)	I am pro-choice and do not believe that a woman's right to healthcare should ever be infringed upon by the government.	I support universal background checks, raising the purchasing age limit of a semi-automatic long rifle to 21 years of age, cooling-off periods, and extreme risk protective orders (ERPOs) that temporarily remove guns from the hands of someone in a crisis. We should create a Texas version of the ATF that reviews gun applications and helps remove weapons from the hands of people that should not have weapons in the first place.	I believe that every citizen of the United States should have the right to vote and there should be no barriers in the way to stop them from doing so. The laws passed in the 87th Legislative Session hurt access to voting at a time where we should be expanding it. Voting by mail is safe and convenient and every Texan should be able to do it regardless of age or ability. People should be able to visit a polling location at any time of day they need to cast a ballot.

DISTRICT 21

Candidate	What is your position on reproductive rights and how would you address the impacts of the loss of local healthcare services?	What steps, if any, should be taken to curb gun violence in our communities?	What is your highest legislative priority for funding, and would you be willing to use Texas's budget surplus or "rainy day fund" to finance it?
 Julie Dahlberg (R)	I believe that every person has the right to reproduce or not reproduce and has the tools to carry out their choice, as they see fit. I do not believe that, once reproduction occurs, anyone has any right to end the life of a child for any reason. All healthcare is abundantly offered to care for the health of women. Terminating the life of a child is not healthcare for either a woman or her child.	I believe that criminals that use firearms to commit crime will do so despite any law. There will always be people who have evil in their heart and will carry out evil acts. These criminals should be removed from our communities and kept in jail. I believe it is critically important that individuals have the ability to protect and defend themselves and their family against these criminals.	My highest priorities that I would commit surplus funding to are supporting parents experiencing unplanned pregnancy to parent or navigate adoption; and, further supporting the effort to stop the drugs, trafficking, smuggling cartel enterprise consuming our southern border and strengthening the corruption organized crime devastating our communities. Additionally, electric grid and water security.
 Judith Zaffirini (D)	My position on reproductive rights is that women have a right to make decisions regarding our health and that, especially given 50 years of precedence, Roe v. Wade should not have been overturned. The Legislature must provide exceptions for abortions in cases of rape, incest, and health complications and increase funding for family planning, reproductive health services, adoption, and foster care.	As the senator for Sutherland Springs, where 26 persons were killed and 20 wounded, and having experienced the UT Tower shooting, I am too familiar with gun violence. We need action, including raising the age to buy a firearm from 18 to 21, requiring universal background checks and a "cooling off period" for firearm purchases, establishing "red flag" laws, and regulating high-capacity magazines.	My highest priority is to fund the state's share of expanding Medicaid in Texas, which would cost approximately \$600 million annually. I believe this should be funded with general revenue, but would support financing it with the "rainy day fund," if needed. Such an investment would result in a reduction of uninsured spending and of long-term health care costs and in an increase in tax collection.
 Arthur DiBianca (L)	Regarding abortion, I would support legislation to allow abortion on demand during roughly the first trimester of pregnancy. After that, abortion would only be allowed in cases of medical necessity. Regarding healthcare, government interference has greatly worsened access. Mandates and subsidies have driven costs to outrageous levels. I support reducing the state's involvement in healthcare.	I am a strong supporter of gun rights and the Second Amendment. The single most effective step the legislature could take to reduce gun violence would be to end drug prohibition in Texas. Prohibition creates lucrative black markets, and black markets create violence.	My highest priority is to cut the state budget across the board. I helped draft a proposal to cut the Texas budget by half over ten years. Cutting the budget would allow substantial tax cuts that would greatly improve the lives of Texans.

DISTRICT 25

Candidate	How would you address the economic and health consequences for those who cannot obtain abortions in Texas?	What steps, if any, should be taken to curb gun violence in our communities?	What can be done to ensure that Texas has sufficient power during extreme weather conditions?
 Robert Walsh (D)	I support a bill like SB8 (the bill creating a private cause of action for any citizen to sue anyone who receives or helps someone get an abortion) creating a private cause of action for anyone who has had their healthcare disrupted by that law - or any anti-abortion law - against all the representatives, senators, and executive branch actors who enshrined it in law.	We need to enforce the laws we have and consider common sense reform. Uvalde shows us that includes refreshing and correcting priorities for law enforcement. I am certain that raising the age to buy assault weapons would help them in their cause.	The simplest answer is almost always the best one. We need to connect Texas's grid to the national system. It didn't make sense to disconnect and it doesn't make sense to be disconnected now. It would give us the federal protections available to any other state in the Union. It would also likely reduce consumer electricity costs.
No response recieved by print deadline: Donna Campbell (R)			

DISTRICT 26

No response recieved by print deadline: Ashton Murray (R), José Menéndez (D)

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE



2-year term. Representatives make new laws; change or update existing laws; make decisions about funding for schools and district improvements, mental health issues.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

DISTRICT 116

Unopposed: Trey Martinez Fischer (D)



DISTRICT 117

Candidate	Under what circumstances, if any, should abortion be legal for Texans? Explain.	What if any additional gun regulations do you support?	Do you think voting laws should be changed, and if so, in what way? If not, why not?
 Aaron Schwope (R)	No response.	Not at this time	24-hour or drive-thru locations should be stopped.
 Philip Cortez (D)	Throughout the 87th Legislative Session, I consistently opposed legislation that imposed additional restrictions on reproductive health services. I will always advocate for a woman's right to choose the best option for herself.	I support an individual's right to own a gun responsibly. However, I believe it is essential to impose reasonable restrictions to ensure public safety, so I voted against HB 1927 (constitutional carry) during the 87th Legislative Session.	As the former Vice-Chairman of the Elections Committee, I can assure you that I believe that voting rights and election integrity are essential to democracy. Throughout my terms in the Texas House of Representatives, I have continuously advocated that voting rights are not infringed upon. During the 87th Legislative, I stood in solidarity with the other 61 democrats to ensure that SB 7 would not pass and tried to appeal to congress during the special sessions to fight for that right.


“We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.”

– President Thomas Jefferson

DISTRICT 118


Candidate	Under what circumstances, if any, should abortion be legal for Texans? Explain.	What if any additional gun regulations do you support?	Do you think voting laws should be changed, and if so, in what way? If not, why not?
 John Lujan (R)	I am a Pro-Life Candidate. I am open to discussing scenarios/circumstances that impact the Mother and/or Child.	It is very important that we do not punish law abiding gun owners because of the crimes that a criminal commits. We need to have strict fines and/or sentences for individuals that commit crimes with guns. Illegal use of a firearm should carry a strong and quick sentence. Purchasing stolen firearms, getting them on the black market, or getting them from an unauthorized person should carry strict fines and/or sentences.	As a legislator, it is extremely important for Texas that voting laws be fair. I will work to strengthen laws to prosecute anyone convicted of violating our laws that protect free and fair elections.
 Frank Ramirez (D)	I believe that our government and state leadership should have no place in forcing pregnancies on people, especially in situations of rape and incest. Under current law, there are little to no exceptions to receive an abortion. At the least, we must advocate for the victims of some of the most heinous crimes by providing them with the option to make the most difficult decisions, at the most difficult times of their life, without government intrusion.	I support increasing the minimum age for purchasing any weapon from 18 to 21. I believe we must do better to keep guns out of the hands of individuals with demonstrated mental issues and to create emergency risk protective orders to remove guns from the possession of individuals with violent records, especially in domestic violence situations. I believe that ownership of a weapon should be earned, not given.	Voting laws should absolutely be changed. We need to continue expanding our freedoms, not making them more difficult to access. A few ways we can do this are by providing same day voter registration, online voter registration, or even automatic voter registration upon turning 18.

DISTRICT 119

Candidate	Under what circumstances, if any, should abortion be legal for Texans? Explain.	What if any additional gun regulations do you support?	Do you think voting laws should be changed, and if so, in what way? If not, why not?
 Arthur M. Thomas IV (L)	I would put no restrictions on abortion. Such decisions are between the parents and their health care providers. Politicians will not be the ones caring for or involved in the current or future lives of people that are attempting to make decisions for. It is absolutely not my place.	I support a fundamental right to firearm ownership. I only support regulating ownership to those who have gone through due process to limit or remove such rights. I think gun violence is a serious, and sometimes tragic, issue. I refuse to dismiss it as many have politicians done, but that doesn't mean the solution is as simple as curbing the rights of millions of law abiding Texans who are not harming others.	Absolutely! I do not believe the election was "stolen" but I think our election systems have many flaws that are not being talked about by the old parties. Gerrymandering, First-past-the-post voting, single member districts, ballot access laws, primary screen out, primary favoritism, and so many problems exist in our election system. I strongly encourage voters to look up information on Approval Voting. One does not have to like me or other 3rd parties to know options are good.

No response received by print deadline: Elizabeth "Liz" Campos (D)

DISTRICT 120

Candidate	Under what circumstances, if any, should abortion be legal for Texans? Explain.	What if any additional gun regulations do you support?	Do you think voting laws should be changed, and if so, in what way? If not, why not?
 Barbara Gervin Hawkins (D)	Medical condition of the mother and child, rape, incest, age of pregnant girl, concerns and referrals from the individuals medical professionals.	Increase the age to purchase guns, make AR15's and other assault weapons illegal for civilians, they should be sold only to the military and special operations.	Yes, we need change. We need national oversight to ensure the states stop using partisan techniques to win elections and that people's votes are counted. The John Lewis Act should be enacted, with a pre-clearance component which is critical as well as voting day should be a holiday to encourage voters to turn out.

No response received by print deadline: Ronald Payne (R)


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DISTRICT 121

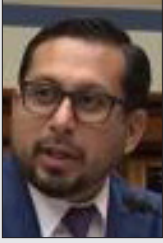
Candidate	Under what circumstances, if any, should abortion be legal for Texans? Explain.	What if any additional gun regulations do you support?	Do you think voting laws should be changed, and if so, in what way? If not, why not?
 Steve Allison (R)	I believe in supporting life, whether that of an unborn child, an expectant mother, or others. I will always respect and support a woman's choices over her own health and body but, likewise, there must be respect and support for the separate life of an unborn child from the mother's pregnancy. There exists considerable interest and concern regarding factors of rape, incest, risks to the life or vital organs of the mother, and profound harm to the fetus. These merit address, both pro and con.	I feel strongly that we must assess and reassess everything impacting the senseless acts of violence and tragic loss of life. This includes, but is certainly not limited to guns, including assessment, pro and con, of age requirements, background checks, waiting periods, definitions, exceptions, "red flag" indicators, the efficacy of "gun free zones", as currently applied, and pertinent constitutional and other legality factors. We need to have common sense guardrails to further gun safety.	Looking back at prior sessions, voting laws and the Election Code receive repeated attention and change. I sense this will continue, like it or not, from whichever side or perspective. I agree with the characterization that it should be "easy to vote and hard to cheat." We all should be in agreement there. As long as any additional changes merely further ease of access for all eligible voters and deter fraud or other violations, if any, affecting outcomes, I believe we'll be fine.
 Becca Moyer DeFelic (D)	The abortion bans that were passed in the last session are too extreme for Texas. The state government should not interfere with the informed decisions made by Texans and their physicians. If elected, I will file and/or co-sponsor bills to repeal the 6-week abortion ban and total abortion ban, as well as bills to repeal the \$100,000 bounty and threat of felony charges to Texas physicians and the \$10,000 bounty on Texans who assist another Texan in receiving abortion care.	I will file or co-sponsor legislation to raise the minimum purchase age of all firearms in the state to 21, with exceptions for active-duty military or law enforcement; require a background check on all gun sales, including private sales; prohibit the open carry of long arms in public places; and repeal the permitless carry law passed in the last session, which allows anyone who can purchase a handgun to carry it in public places with no background check, training, or proficiency exam required.	I support the expansion of secure vote by mail for all Texans; online voter registration, which would save counties money; and increased funding for polling sites to make voting safer for election judges, to encourage more Texans to exercise their right to vote, and make voting more accessible for all Texans, regardless of partisanship, age, or ability.

DISTRICT 122

Candidate	Under what circumstances, if any, should abortion be legal for Texans? Explain.	What if any additional gun regulations do you support?	Do you think voting laws should be changed, and if so, in what way? If not, why not?
 Angi Aramburu (D)	I believe that women deserve the right to make decisions pertaining to their own well-being. The government should not interfere with these very personal, life altering decisions.	I support common-sense gun legislation that prioritizes responsible gun ownership. We need comprehensive universal background checks, red flag laws, and domestic violence reporting laws to prevent mentally unstable individuals and those wishing to do harm from obtaining guns. We must also repeal permitless carry, which endangers our police and first responders.	Every citizen in Texas should easily be able to vote. However, Texas is the most difficult state in which to register to vote and cast a ballot. We need to enable same-day, online voter registration, and we need to make it less cumbersome and confusing to vote by mail. We need more polling places, including ballot drop-boxes, and we need to expand the ID requirements to make voting more accessible, particularly for the young, elderly, and low-income individuals that it affects most.



No response received by print deadline: Mark Dorazio (R), Stephanie Berlin (L)

DISTRICT 123



Candidate	Under what circumstances, if any, should abortion be legal for Texans? Explain.	What if any additional gun regulations do you support?	Do you think voting laws should be changed, and if so, in what way? If not, why not?
 Diego Bernal (D)	Women should be able to make their own decisions regarding their own body, period. Fully recognizing that abortion is banned in the State of Texas, at very minimum, abortion should be allowed in instances where the mother's life is in danger and in cases of rape and incest.	Since my first election to the Texas House in 2015, I have supported, and filed bills regarding, common sense gun reform. I fully support the repeal of "constitutional carry", a prohibition on the carry of long guns in public, closing the "gun show loophole", and the creation of an alert for law enforcement for certain ammunition and firearm purchases.	In short, yes, I think that the voting laws in Texas should be changed. Notably, the State of Texas has a long history of discriminating against voters from minority communities; three federal courts have ruled as such 10 times over the past 10 years. As a State Representative, I have continually fought against proposed restrictions on Texan's voting rights including filing legislation that would expand access to the polls for all Texans.

No response received by print deadline: Charlotte Valdez (R)

DISTRICT 124

Candidate	Under what circumstances, if any, should abortion be legal for Texans? Explain.	What if any additional gun regulations do you support?	Do you think voting laws should be changed, and if so, in what way? If not, why not?
 Johnny Arredondo (R)	Mothers life is in danger	I am open to discussions on how to improve public safety.	Voter ID should be a basic requirement.
 Josey Garcia (D)	We must protect victims of incest and rape. Currently, there are no provisions in the law. There must be!! This is an injustice for the girls and women who have been victimized. Banning abortion does not lower abortion, it lowers access to safe healthcare. The choice for abortion should be that of a woman and her healthcare providers.	We have to do whatever we can in our power to ensure the tragedy in UVALDE never occurs again. I support raising the minimum age for the purchase of high-powered assault weapons from 18 years to 21 years of age, Universal Background Checks to keep guns out of the hands of those who pose a danger to public and themselves, as well as, the implementation of "Red Flag Laws" that allow family and police to identify person who may be at risk of harming themselves or others.	We need to increase access to voting by increasing voter locations and expanding hours. We need to repeal laws that have made it difficult for our seniors to vote-by mail. By automatically mailing all seniors vote-by-mail ballots, eliminating the need for application, we can further reduce wait time. Voting Rights should be a granted for all eligible Texans upon their 18th birthday. By eliminating application and renewal processes, we can save money and increase voter participation.

DISTRICT 125

Candidate	Under what circumstances, if any, should abortion be legal for Texans? Explain.	What if any additional gun regulations do you support?	Do you think voting laws should be changed, and if so, in what way? If not, why not?
 Carlos Antonio Raymond (R)	We must preserve and protect the sanctity of the unborn, and only in very limited and rear circumstances, such as where the Life Of The Pregnant Woman Is at stake should abortion be beformed. The United States Supreme Court Recently Outlawed Abortion and I support and respect such law of the land.	The Massacre At Uvalde, Texas Elementary School Killed 19 Children And Two Teachers. Guns Are Not The Problem, OK? People Are The Problem. But still, I will Support Some of the following Gun Law: Background Checks, Red Flag Laws For All New Gun Purchases, Raising Legal Age From 18 To 21, Arming Teachers, Hiring Retired Military/Veterans To Protec Our Public Schools, and Restriction For Felons.	The law does not require or force citizens to vote, but voting is a very important part in any Democracy. By voting citizens are participating in the Democracy. As a register voter, you should vote for leaders who will act only in their best interest. As a Texas Legislator, I want to Preserve and Protect The VOTING INTEGRITY And Restore its Core protection; to outlaw discriminatory voting practices and abuse. I fought for this right to vote in the 60's
 Ray Lopez (D)	Choice of the Mother in conjunction with her doctor. The current law is untenable and draconian by having no exception for Rape, Incest or the life of the mother.	There is a long list of reasonable legislation that has been submitted but unfortunately ignored. Red Flag laws, age restrictions for purchase for weapons and ammunition would be a major step forward along with background checks.	The last Legislative session implemented a series of roadblocks to voting access, making it harder for everyone to vote. In particular, people of color and financially disadvantaged. Make it easier to vote with expanded Vote by mail, Early Voting access. We also need to provide a safe environment for the Poll Workers.



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE SAN ANTONIO AREA

Register now!
Early bird pricing
ends February 18!

Join the fun at the League's 5K run/walk!

Sunday, March 19, 2023

For more information, or to register,
just scan the QR code



Texas Voters' Bill of Rights

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

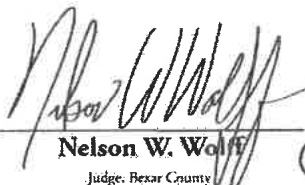
1. **You have the right** to vote if you are a qualified registered voter.
2. **You have the right** to cast your ballot in a manner that ensures privacy. You have the right to vote without any person trying to influence your vote and vote in a booth that prevents others from watching you mark your ballot.
3. **You have the right** to stay in the 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 any polling place in Bexar County* on Election Day any time between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. 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 p.m., 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, contact the Secretary of State toll free at 1-800-252-VOTE(8683), via e-mail at elections@sos.texas.gov or by regular mail at Elections Division, P.O.Box 12060, Austin, Texas 78711.



Ron Nirenberg

Mayor, The City of San Antonio



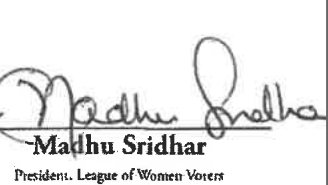
Nelson W. Wolff

Judge, Bexar County



Jacquelyn F. Callanen

Elections Administrator, Bexar County



Madhu Sridhar

President, League of Women Voters
of the San Antonio Area

*For counties other than Bexar, check with your county election official.

Prepared by the League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area

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. For voters over age 70, the expiration date for documents is unlimited.

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

- » Valid voter registration certificate
- » Certified birth certificate
- » Current utility bill
- » Bank statement
- » Government check
- » Paycheck
- » Government document with your name and an address

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, contact the Secretary of State
toll free at 1-800-252-VOTE(8683), via e-mail at elections@sos.texas.gov
or by regular mail at Elections Division, P.O.Box 12060, Austin, Texas 78711.

Prepared by the League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area

DECLARACIÓN DE DERECHOS ELECTORALES EN EL ESTADO DE TEXAS

Sus Derechos de elector están protegidos.

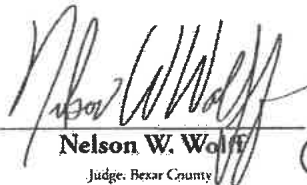
Estos derechos están garantizados para todos los votantes calificados registrados.

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 trate 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 ésta 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 cualquier casilla en el condado de Bexar* a cualquier hora entre las 7 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 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, contactar a la División Electoral de la Secretaría del Estado al 1-800-462-VOTE (8683), via e-mail al elections@sos.texas.gov o por correo regular al Elections Division, P.O.Box 12060, Austin, Texas 78711.



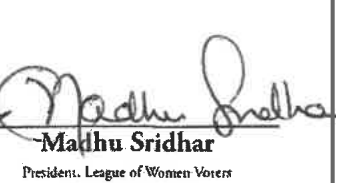
Ron Nirenberg
Mayor, The City of San Antonio



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

*Para los demás condados aparte de Bexar, consulte con el oficial correspondiente a su condado.

Preparado por la Liga de Votantes de Mujeres del Área de San Antonio

REQUISITOS DE IDENTIFICACIÓN DEL VOTANTE

Los documentos de identidad aceptados son :

- » Licencia para Conducir de Texas, emitida por el Departamento de Seguridad Publica 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 período no mayor a 4 años antes de ser presentados para acreditación de votante en el puesto de votación. Para votantes de 70 años de edad o más, la fecha de expiración en los documentos es ilimitada.

Sí no tiene en su poder no puede obtener uno de éstos documentos de identificación deberá llenar una forma de declaración en el puesto de votación explicando la razón y traiga la original o una copia de uno de los siguientes documentos:

- » Certificado válido de Registro electoral
- » Acta de Nacimiento certificada o documento de nacimiento aceptable por la corte que puede ser un documento de otro país.
- » Factura de servicios Público reciente.
- » Estado de cuenta de Banco.
- » Cheque
- » Documento gubernamental con su nombre y domicilio.

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 período 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 aceptad, 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 período 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,
contactar a la División Electoral de la Secretaría del Estado al 1-800-462-VOTE (8683),
via e-mail al elections@sos.texas.gov o 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

JUSTICE, 4TH COURT OF APPEALS



Six-year term. Courts of Appeals hear appeals on civil and criminal cases from lower courts in their districts.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

PLACE 6

Candidate	What can be done to improve access to justice for all, including persons or groups who may be underserved?	What is your view of the Texas Courts of Appeals system and what changes, if any, would you recommend?	Texas requires candidates for this Court be licensed in Texas for at least 10 years and have no suspensions or revocations in that time. What are the positive and negative impacts of this requirement?
 Todd McCray (R)	As a candidate, I have 32 years of experience (25 Board-Certified) representing the rights of indigents and underserved before trial and appellate courts throughout Texas. Board Certification was established by the Texas Supreme Court to “promote the availability, accessibility and quality of services of attorneys to the public.” Advocacy for access to justice improves equity for all Texans.	The Fourth Appellate District is composed of seven justices who serve thirty-two counties within the district. One of the largest geographical regions, structural changes to the Appeal Court system have been proposed that would be beneficial to the administration of justice, improve the efficiency of the courts within the district, reduce confusion, and address burdens on the two higher courts.	A candidate for the Court of Appeals should have significant, relevant experience and a reputation for competency before the courts and within the legal community. Judicial experience advances the standards of the Texas judiciary and assures the public a high level of legal competency when appearing before a particular court. Raising judicial standards benefits all Texans and the court system.
 Irene Rios (D)	Funding for legal aid providers and removing financial barriers for low-income individuals to have equal access to the civil justice system are imperative. Providing pro bono clinics in more communities throughout Texas and also creating and improving self-help forms would improve access. Perhaps incentivizing newly licensed lawyers to work for legal aid providers would provide the needed help.	An independent judiciary is indispensable to justice, and an independent judicial branch of government is indispensable to our democracy. I do not recommend any changes. In 2021, bills were introduced to redistrict the 14 appellate courts into 7 mega-districts. I invite you to read my article on p.27 at https://bit.ly/3r710p2 . Stay tuned in 2023.	Ten years’ experience ensures justices contribute extensive knowledge of the law and experience in litigation or appeals and bring a greater respect for the enormous responsibility of the job. A person’s reputation for integrity, good character, and work ethic is established—important qualities for a justice to possess. A negative impact: it disqualifies less experienced but qualified lawyers.

PLACE 7 – UNEXPIRED TERM

Candidate	What can be done to improve access to justice for all, including persons or groups who may be underserved?	What is your view of the Texas Courts of Appeals system and what changes, if any, would you recommend?	Texas requires candidates for this Court be licensed in Texas for at least 10 years and have no suspensions or revocations in that time. What are the positive and negative impacts of this requirement?
 Lori I. Valenzuela (R)	The legislature controls funding, however, stakeholders in the judicial branch can implement safeguards to build awareness of programs that support the underserved. Members of the judiciary and bar can collectively ensure there is consistent oversight of court appointment systems, that pro bono programs exist, and that there is free and easy-access materials for pro se litigants.	As a sitting justice on an intermediate appellate court, I see firsthand how the system works. As one of eighty justices in the state, I appreciate the integral part we play in the system and I take great pride in the work we do. I would not make any changes to the current system.	The benefit of a minimum licensing requirement without suspension ensures that Texas is getting experienced, ethical, and conscientious justices.
 Rebecca ‘Beckie’ Palomo (D)	We must continue to evolve as a judicial system to ensure access to justice for all people across Texas, including the less fortunate and other marginalized groups. Common sense solutions include additional funding for expanded legal aid programs, improved translation services, rocket dockets and the utilization of virtual technology to reach those that wouldn’t otherwise have their day in court.	I know many fine justices in our Texas COA, men and women of intellect and high ethics. For this, I am happy and grateful. I would like to see our judiciary continued to use new and advanced technology that has and can continue to speed up access to justice for many while still giving each case the amount of time and care that is deserved and needed.	These requirements are necessary to ensure that all candidates for this court possess the highest of ethics and the richest of experience. While these requirements serve as a good filter, they do not guarantee that a candidate has the ethical backbone, judicial temperament or quality experience to serve in this noble profession.



VOTE! It's in your best interest.

BEXAR COUNTY DISTRICT COURT - CIVIL



2-year term. Some of the case types heard in civil courts include divorce, land titles, election contests, and civil matters in which the amount of money or damages is less than \$200. **See Voting for Judges, Page 12.**

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org



45TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Candidate	In which area of legal practice are you most experienced? How will this help you in your role as a District Judge?	What other qualifications and experiences do you bring to serve as a district judge?	What motivates you to run for this particular court seat, or civil court in general?
 Patricia Jay (R)	I am most experienced in the area of Family Law.	I have practiced in multiple areas of law including family law, general civil litigation, and criminal defense. I have an undergraduate degree in social work and worked as a juvenile probation officer, and as a training developer and coordinator for a juvenile probation department, prior to becoming an attorney.	I decided to run for the 45th in particular because I would like to see change in that court, in regard to the treatment of our community members, officers of the Court, and Bexar County Families. It is imperative to maintain decorum and treat all participants in legal proceedings with dignity and respect, including listening to the facts and applying the law, without imposing personal bias.
 Mary Lou Alvarez (D)	I am most experienced in the area of civil litigation. I began my litigation career with Federal Law before moving to Products Liability Defense where my legal and engineering qualifications merged. In 2006, I began working for legal aid and dedicated the majority of my career to public service as a family law advocate for victims of domestic violence. I also represented families in Child Protective Services cases focusing on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable children in our community.	I believe my Engineering Degree and experience as a Mother have served me well in my time as a judge. The understanding of engineering processes combined with the compassionate understanding required of Motherhood allows me to take a holistic approach to decision-making in a way that considers not just facts and evidence, but context and nuance as well.	My desire to serve our community has and motivates my decision to run for District Judge. During my time serving as your District Judge, I have been able to provide training critical to improving outcomes in civil court and meet the needs of our most vulnerable children. I remain motivated to serve our community and make sure our judiciary remains strong and dedicated to providing justice without exception.



150TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Candidate	In which area of legal practice are you most experienced? How will this help you in your role as a District Judge?	What other qualifications and experiences do you bring to serve as a district judge?	What motivates you to run for this particular court seat, or civil court in general?
 Scott Bradney (R)	During my 16-year legal career, I have primarily practiced family law with an emphasis on child support and child abuse and neglect cases. As a majority of cases heard in the 150th Civil District Court involve family law issues including child custody, child support, modifications, and divorces, my extensive experience in this area will assist me in deciding cases quickly, fairly and in accordance with the law.	Prior to becoming an attorney, I spent 8 years serving in the US Army on active duty working in both human and veterinary medicine fields. My military service taught me to be more adaptable, flexible, and tolerant when dealing with complex issues, situations, and with individuals from various socio-economic and educational backgrounds. As a former service member, I understand the unique challenges and difficulties military families experience dealing with family law issues, cases and courts.	Bexar County families deserve judges who are committed to making timely rulings based on the facts of the case, evidence presented, and the existing laws. I am motivated by the opportunity to serve my community as one of those judges. While representing some of the most vulnerable people in our community, I have witnessed firsthand the detrimental impact on people's lives when judges fail to do this.
 Monique Diaz (D)	As a civil district court judge, I am most experienced in presiding over thousands of family law, family violence, child welfare, personal injury and civil cases. Prior to taking the bench, my greatest experience was in family, business, municipal, contract, criminal, and administrative law. I represented the range of people and entities that I now serve. My deep and diverse background in almost every area of law before this court helps ensure my rulings are well-informed, fair and just for all.	In addition to nearly 4 years serving as a district judge, I teach trial advocacy and coach the National Trial Team at St. Mary's Law School, and I have taught judges across the nation as faculty for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. I am Co-Chair to the Collaborative Commission on Domestic Violence and have helped bring over \$1 million in domestic violence funding to our justice system. I serve on the Bexar County Juvenile Board, and I am a mentor to disadvantaged youth.	I was raised to always be thankful for my blessings and to pray for the less fortunate. I didn't have much, but I knew at a young age I was blessed with a loving family and wanted to devote my life to helping children and families in need. As a civil judge, I am motivated by our ability to provide wraparound support to those in need in ways that can last generations, and by our ability to do so while ensuring every single participant is treated with the same dignity and respect we all deserve.

224TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Candidate	In which area of legal practice are you most experienced? How will this help you in your role as a District Judge?	What other qualifications and experiences do you bring to serve as a district judge?	What motivates you to run for this particular court seat, or civil court in general?
 Cathleen 'Cathy' Stryker (R)	As a lawyer most of my cases were in the areas of personal injury, employment and contract law. As a Judge I have spent the majority of my time on family law, personal injury, contract and oil and gas cases.	Before I took the bench I was an experienced trial attorney and mediator. As a trial judge I have presided over more than 50 jury trials and countless non jury matters. I was appointed as a Multi District Litigation Judge and presided over oil and gas matters throughout South Texas for 4 years.	It is a privilege to be able to serve Bexar County in this position. Every day I hear cases that pertain to the most important things in peoples' lives; namely their families, property and businesses. I love having a position that is impactful to others and allows me to use my legal knowledge for the benefit of the community. As Chair of the Civil District Courts Committee I enjoy working with my colleagues to improve the service we provide Bexar County.
 Marisa Flores (D)	I am most experienced in family law matters with elements of domestic violence. Domestic violence has plagued Bexar County for far too long. I have worked extensively to protect my clients by utilizing the court system's available tools. This problem needs a leader with an all hands-on deck approach and experience in collaboration with community partners to end the cycle of violence in Bexar County. I will bring that to the role of judge.	I have dedicated my legal practice to assisting the most vulnerable in our community navigate the legal system, specifically, on civil matters which can be very costly and difficult to maneuver. Beyond my legal practice, I have served on community boards such as the Red Cross, The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Legal Advisory Board for Catholic Charities. I have always been engaged in understanding our community's challenges and implementing impactful solutions.	I was motivated to run for a civil district court because I have seen firsthand the way a stroke of a judge's pen can impact a person's life, safety, children, and their future possibilities. As an attorney, I have used my legal practice to improve the lives of those I've served. If elected judge, I will continue working to ensure that justice is served and to improve the lives of the people in Bexar County.



225TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Candidate	In which area of legal practice are you most experienced? How will this help you in your role as a District Judge?	What other qualifications and experiences do you bring to serve as a district judge?	What motivates you to run for this particular court seat, or civil court in general?
 Renee Yanta (R)	My professional experience has made me uniquely and vastly qualified to serve again as a District Court Judge. I have the most judicial experience in family law, having handled over 1000 family law trials and hearings in the 7 years I served as a District Court Judge. I also tried over 40 cases to juries, from family law cases to complex business disputes. As an attorney, I am board certified in Civil Appellate Law, specializing in the procedural, evidentiary, and legal issues of litigation.	The Family Code charges District Court judges the responsibility to oversee the care and placement of children in Foster Care. While a Judge, I saw the significant challenges teens in Foster Care face. I took my responsibility seriously, building a special program for teens in Care called PEARLS Court. Our great community invested in teen girls through PEARLS Court, providing specialized mental health care for healing, interactive life skill training, and healthy mentor relationships.	In addition to protecting children and families, my heart is to bring my almost 30 years of experience back to the Bench. I have tried and presided over all the types of cases the 225th District Court handles, from family law to complex business disputes. I have deep expertise in procedure and trial processes. And I want to use this experience to make the litigation process more efficient and ensure justice is done.
 Christine Vasquez Hortick (D)	Approximately 80% of District Court cases involve family law issues, an area I have significant expertise in after 16 years of legal practice. Beyond the standard areas of family law such as divorce and custody, I have more than a decade of experience handling cases involving children and child protective services. By statute, the 225th District Court gives preference to these types of cases and has a long tradition of helping to oversee the associate courts who hear these difficult cases.	In addition to my family law expertise, experience in criminal defense, and work as a certified mediator, I am the President of the Bexar County Children's Court Attorney Association, leading attorneys in the representation of families involved in the foster care system. I also serve as a board member and volunteer for local non-profit Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and as a member of the Children's Court Committee where I work with local stakeholders to support children in foster care.	As a young attorney I took on Children's Court cases to broaden my knowledge and give back to the community, quickly realizing this work was my calling. My career is defined by going beyond the duty of representing my clients to address issues regarding quality of legal representation and communication between attorneys and administration. As Judge of the 225th, I will leverage my legal and community experience to lead pivotal changes that will improve the lives of local children and families.



“The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It’s the most powerful nonviolent tool we have in a democratic society and we’ve got to use it.”

– Rep. John Lewis

285TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Candidate	In which area of legal practice are you most experienced? How will this help you in your role as a District Judge?	What other qualifications and experiences do you bring to serve as a district judge?	What motivates you to run for this particular court seat, or civil court in general?
 Mark Thompson (R)	I have practiced family law (divorce, child custody, child support, paternity) almost exclusively for the last 13 years and have handled over 850 family law cases in Bexar County alone. 80%-90% of the cases heard in the District Courts are family law cases. I have handled countless hearings for Temporary Orders and approximately 50 bench trials.	No response	It is important that Judges show up to work and not be afraid to make difficult decisions. I grew tired of going to Court only to be told that all the Judges were taking the day off or being told by the Judges to "work things out". While most cases are resolved through negotiating, some cases need to be decided by a Judge.
 Nadine Melissa Nieto (D)	As a proud graduate of South San High School and the Thurgood Marshall School of Law, I have been practicing civil litigation in Bexar County as a trial lawyer for the last 26 years. In this capacity, I have led a great deal of jury trials which has provided me with the legal expertise and courtroom experience needed to serve as a Civil District Court Judge and an effective administrator of the court's docket.	Judges are required to preside over trials, so it is essential that a candidate for judge have extensive jury trial experience. My trial experience is one of the important assets I bring as a candidate. I have led countless trials from start to finish, which entails personally selecting juries and managing legal proceedings until a verdict is delivered.	My passion for being engaged in my community and providing effective representation for my clients has driven my 25+ year career as an attorney. I believe that my legal expertise and service as a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates has prepared me to best serve our community on the other side of the bench as Judge of the 285th District Court.

288TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Candidate	In which area of legal practice are you most experienced? How will this help you in your role as a District Judge?	What other qualifications and experiences do you bring to serve as a district judge?	What motivates you to run for this particular court seat, or civil court in general?
 Art Rossi (R)	Family Law, including divorce, adoptions, Suits Affecting the Parent-Child Relationship, custodial matters, CPS termination cases, amicus, ad litem appointments, child support collection and enforcement and family law mediation. I have collegial relationships with family lawyers who elected me to serve as the first president of the Family Law Bar Association-San Antonio during the first formation years and as editor-in-chief of the annual family law seminar for the past 16 years.	As a family law board certified attorney, I have over 30 years extensive experience in the primary subject matter of the court. I also have served as a family law, children's court and probate mediator, and received awards from the BCDRC for distinguished service and Covid service. My experience extends into the children's court as an attorney and guardian ad litem and attorney for children, which extends to guardianship. I am a founder and first president of the Family Law Bar Association-SA.	Family Law is the majority of cases for Bexar County civil district courts. It is important to be able to understand what parties are experiencing during the process and to be able to formulate judgments based on extensive experience in actual trials, mediations and case preparation. As a member of the Pro Bono College since 2019 and other organizations, including the first president of the Family Law Bar Association-SA, I understand the importance of the need for experienced public service.
 Cynthia Marie Chapa (D)	Family Law. As a Civil District Court Judge the majority of the cases I preside over are family law cases dealing with divorce, child custody, child support etc. Having had a practice with a focus in family law, I bring experience and a unique understanding to the bench.	I worked as a district director for HD 125 State Representative for 14 years where I had the unique privilege to draft and help pass legislation related to the family law practice and CPS. Including the DFPS's Ombudsman Bill. Giving me a very unique perspective as a judge.	As a young child at the age of 3, I already knew I wanted to be a judge. I believe that serving our community as judge is the best way for me to make a positive impact in our community. Everyone deserves access to the justice system and to have their case heard while being treated with respect. They should be able to depend on the judge following the law. I believe that I possess the judicial temperament, compassion, knowledge of the law and experience to continue serve Bexar County.

BEXAR COUNTY DISTRICT COURT - CRIMINAL

2-year term. Felony cases involving charges such as murder, assault, theft, drunk driving.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

144TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT



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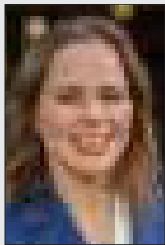
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Candidate	What qualifications and experience do you have to be a judge beyond a law degree?	What, if any, do you believe is the appropriate role for the judiciary in addressing the rise in violent crime?	What can be improved in the administration of the criminal court system to address the backlog of cases and ensure speedy trials?
 Lorina I. Rummel (R)	I have the practical experience of having tried hundreds of felony criminal trials to verdict. I have done so as a prosecutor and I have presided over almost 100 felony criminal trials as a judge. There is not a case that will go before me that I don't have personal experience handling. This includes trying capital murder death penalty cases. I also presided over a specialty court, the Esperanza Court. I was able to divert defendants from repeated penitentiary trips through counseling.	Judges need to run effective and efficient court rooms. They need to bring cases to trial timely. They need the background and experience to know how to dole out appropriate sentences. They need to know when a defendant can be rehabilitated with probation as opposed to those that need to be punished with prison time. If all of these are followed, the backlog will be reduced and violent cases can be brought to justice. My extensive felony criminal trial background allows me to do all of this	Judges have complete control over their dockets. If all parties know what to expect from a Judge, then they know how to proceed in a court. When I was Judge, I relied on my background and experience of almost 25 years of felony trial experience to make the appropriate rulings, sentencings and judgements. I also made sure that cases were tried in a timely manner. The court went from being one of the most backlogged, to one of the quickest to trial. Respect and consistency are the key.
 Michael Mery (D)	I have 23 years of judicial experience: current judge of the 144th District Court; 8 years as judge of the 37th District court; over 11 years as judge of Bexar Criminal County Court at Law #12. I've presided over many thousands of criminal cases and hundreds of criminal and civil jury trials. I served as Assistant Attorney General of Texas and Assistant District Attorney of Bexar County, protecting children from abuse. I've been a lawyer 40 years, with 12 years in private practice.	The greatest impact the judiciary can have on the rise in violent crime is to assess thoughtful and appropriate sentences that deter these acts, while also addressing the core problems that contribute to repeat offenses.	As your Judge of the 144th Judicial District Court, I worked hard with my team during the pandemic to reduce the number of cases pending on the docket by 40% in less than two years. However, even better results could be achieved if more money was available to secure additional beds in inpatient treatment facilities and hire more trained personnel to conduct required evaluations and pre-sentence investigations. Increased funding for these needs would speed up the disposition of cases.



186TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Candidate	What qualifications and experience do you have to be a judge beyond a law degree?	What, if any, do you believe is the appropriate role for the judiciary in addressing the rise in violent crime?	What can be improved in the administration of the criminal court system to address the backlog of cases and ensure speedy trials?
 Daphne Previti Austin (R)	I am already an experienced District Court Judge, familiar with the Administrative tasks that accompany the position. I have served on Judicial Boards and Committees. Having worked ten years each as a Prosecutor and a Defense Attorney, I have extensive insight to both sides of a case and offer balance on the bench, not favoring one side or the other. This court serves the mental health needs of our Veterans, a good fit for my experience presiding over mental health court dockets	Criminals need to know there is a consequence to their misdeeds. There has been a breakdown of the Golden Rule, treating others as you would like to be treated. When defendants are found guilty in my court, I will sentence them accordingly, to include making financial reparations, and when appropriate, writing apology letters to their crime victims.	My top issue is to protect the safety of our community while working through the backlog of cases due to the pandemic. Our citizens deserve to have timely resolution of their legal issues. Crime victims are re-victimized by long waits for justice. Conversely, accused persons are affected by delays to clear their names. Having already served as a District Court Judge, I have the experience to move the docket without learning on the job.
 Kristina Escalona (D)	I am Board Certified in Criminal Law and have served as a Prosecutor and defense attorney. I have litigated over a hundred jury trials, a large number involving major violent crimes. My most valuable experience is my bond with this community. I was born, raised and educated in San Antonio. Before me generations of my family worked hard planting roots deep within our city. The honor of serving the same community generations of my family have proudly called home continues to be my inspiration.	The judiciary has limited ability to generally address the rise in crime. The primary role of the judiciary is to guarantee fairness and ensure that Constitutional rights are upheld. However, at times the judiciary is called upon to sentence violent offenders. When appropriate the Court can render tough sentences on violent crimes allowing it to act as an overall deterrence in the community.	The administration of justice can be improved by simple hard work. I currently work in a District Court that decreased its case load by nearly 50% since jury trials reconvened, thus eliminating the pandemic backlog. This immense task was accomplished by setting extra dockets, working long hours in court, weekly jury trials, and consistent team work. Having witnessed what hard work can do I believe each court has the ability to effectively address the backlog of cases and ensure speedy trials.

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

– The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution



187TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Candidate	What qualifications and experience do you have to be a judge beyond a law degree?	What, if any, do you believe is the appropriate role for the judiciary in addressing the rise in violent crime?	What can be improved in the administration of the criminal court system to address the backlog of cases and ensure speedy trials?
 Walden Shelton (R)	<p>I have 12 years of Judicial experience. The past 4 years I have served the citizens of Texas as a Visiting Judge in the 4th Judicial Region hearing cases in the District Courts in the 4th and 6th regions. Prior to that, I served the citizens of Bexar County as Judge of County Court at Law #9 for 8 years. I have 23 years of experience as a lawyer. I was named twice to Texas Monthly Super Lawyers and was listed in Martindale-Hubbell as a Distinguished Trial Lawyer.</p>	<p>To efficiently move cases by timely reviewing plea agreements and trying cases. To know which defendants are good candidates for probation and which need to be incarcerated.</p>	<p>Showing up to work daily and working a full day will make a large impact on reducing the backlog.</p>
 Stephanie R. Boyd (D)	<p>I have 25 years legal experience in the field of criminal law. The 187th District Court hears felony adult cases; I have tried all types of felony cases. As an original attorney in the first felony drug court and Esperanza Court, I am aware of the available rehabilitation programs to offenders who need treatment, and also provide the necessary safeguards to protect our community. As a professor at UTSA, I provide students with mentorship opportunities and the resources to succeed.</p>	<p>A judge's duty is to maintain the integrity and independence of the judiciary. In my position as judge, I'm able to set appropriate bond and probation conditions to rehabilitate and protect the public. In some cases, I have sentenced persons to incarceration. In all cases, my role is to be fair and impartial. My judicial role extends beyond the bench. Part of my role is to educate the public, as a professor and through charitable work. We must all do our part to better our community.</p>	<p>When elected to the bench in 2019, there was a backlog of cases. Due to my legal experience, hard work, great staff and litigants, there is no longer a backlog of cases. The 187th District Court is in jury trial weekly. Persons who request trials are given quick trial settings. Judicial economy should not be at the sacrifice of justice and the right for adversarial parties to receive a fair trial. To see your court at work visit: https://bit.ly/3Llveqg</p>

226TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Unopposed: Velia J. Meza (D)

227TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Candidate	What qualifications and experience do you have to be a judge beyond a law degree?	What, if any, do you believe is the appropriate role for the judiciary in addressing the rise in violent crime?	What can be improved in the administration of the criminal court system to address the backlog of cases and ensure speedy trials?
 Kevin M. O'Connell (R)	<p>I was an Assistant District Attorney for 24 years. For the last several years at the DA's Office I dealt with only serious felonies. I was in charge of filing all murder cases under District Attorney Susan Reed. I was elected in 2014 as the 227th District Court Judge. The most recent statistics from Court Administration reflects that my Court has the highest clearance rate in Bexar County and one of the lowest amount of taxpayer money spent per court.</p>	<p>Following the law. There are plenty of laws on the books, the problem is Judges and DA's not following the laws in the name or under the guise of reform. It is not a Judge's job to legislate from the bench. That is what legislators (law makers) are for.</p>	<p>Obviously being present and working hard are tantamount. But we have instituted special dockets such as Stae Jail Felony dockets or Defendants with Multiple cases dockets. That is why the 227th District Court which had over 1700 pending cases during the pandemic is now averaging about 800 pending cases.</p>
 Christine Del Prado (D)	<p>I began at the Bexar County DA's Office as an intern in 1986 and left as a felony prosecutor in 1991. Then, I opened my own criminal defense law firm. In 2019, I returned to the DA's Office as Chief of the Public Integrity and Cyber Crime division, where I oversee cases of public corruption, internet crimes against children, and complex financial crimes. This role and my 34 years of criminal law experience in criminal prosecution and criminal defense have prepared me to lead this felony court.</p>	<p>The best thing that a judge can do is ensure that the punishment fits the crime. By doing this, the general public can have confidence that the justice system is fair and consistent. Those who pose a threat to our community need to know, beforehand, that there will be swift and expected consequences for their criminal actions. The judiciary cannot help deter violent crime in our community if criminals don't have an expectation of punishment.</p>	<p>I will bring decades of legal experience and an unrivaled work ethic to this court. As a prosecutor and a criminal defense attorney, I have practiced in front of dozens of judges in many different courts. I have seen what does and doesn't work when it comes to moving a docket. Cases that should take precedence are those that involve child victims, domestic violence, undue trial delays where a defendant is waiting in jail, and violent crimes where victims have been long awaiting justice.</p>



“Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote.”

– George Jean Nathan

290TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Unopposed: Jennifer Peña (D)

437TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Candidate	What qualifications and experience do you have to be a judge beyond a law degree?	What, if any, do you believe is the appropriate role for the judiciary in addressing the rise in violent crime?	What can be improved in the administration of the criminal court system to address the backlog of cases and ensure speedy trials?
 Melisa Skinner (R)	In addition to my extensive experience as a prosecutor and a criminal defense attorney, this is my 10th year as a Presiding District Court Judge. As a District Court Judge, I have presided over more criminal felony jury trials than any other judge in Bexar County. As a trial attorney, I tried hundreds of felony jury cases, including Capital Murder Death Penalty cases. I have consistently been recognized as one of the most efficient and hard-working judges in Bexar County.	Members of the judiciary make the majority of sentencing decisions and must have extensive experience in the practice of criminal law in order to recognize those offenders who pose a danger to the community so that sentencing is effectively imposed. I have handled thousands of criminal cases in my career as a prosecuting attorney, a criminal defense attorney and, most importantly, as a Presiding District Court Judge. Appropriate sentencing decisions protect the public from violent recidivism.	Very simply, the judges need to show up to the courthouse every day and work. Since the Bexar County Courthouse fully reopened on March 6, 2022, I have reduced the number of my pending cases by more than half. I am the only judge who has accomplished this and I did it by showing up every day and insuring that defendants were given the opportunity to have jury trials. Some have been waiting for years. An experienced, hard-working judge who knows how to run a court can and will do this.
 Joel Perez (D)	I am a former prosecutor for Webb and Bexar counties. I have been practicing law for 34 years primarily in criminal defense. I have tried hundreds of felony trials, including approximately 15 capital murder death penalty jury trials. I practice in State and Federal courts in Bexar County, all over Texas, and the United States. The 437th is a Criminal District Court. I have the character, wisdom, temperament, and experience to treat victims of crime with respect and to judge the accused fairly.	The judges should strive to bring cases involving violent crime to trial promptly without doing a disservice to justice and fairness. The judiciary should also set bail in violent criminal cases at an amount that assures the safety of the community taking into account the nature of the offense without being oppressive.	The Court's use of the Zoom video format to conduct court appearances and hearings is a great way to move the docket promptly and dedicate more time to jury trials. The courts should also schedule informal appearances on Zoom between the prosecutors and defense lawyers to facilitate communication, negotiations, and the prompt resolution of cases.

BEXAR COUNTY DISTRICT COURT - JUVENILE

2-year term. Criminal judges who hear mostly juvenile delinquency cases, which deal with conduct that would be criminal if committed by adults but are dealt with differently for people under age 17. They also hear criminal cases of juveniles who have been charged as adults.

289TH JUVENILE DISTRICT COURT

Unopposed: Rose Sosa (D)


436TH JUVENILE DISTRICT COURT


Unopposed: William "Cruz" Shaw (D)

BEXAR COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY

4-year term. Works with law enforcement in the investigation of criminal cases, presents cases to the grand jury, represents victims of violence in protective orders, represents the state in prosecuting felony criminal cases and in removing children from abusive households.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

Candidate	What would your policy be for recommending bail vs. recognizance in non-violent offenses? Violent offenses?	What is your position on prosecuting abortion cases? Explain.	How would you prioritize prosecution of drug offenses? What factors would you consider?
 Marc LaHood (R)	We should never have a blanket justice policy based upon a personal agenda. Justice must fit the crime. The problem with justice in Bexar County is that decisions are being made by personal political agenda rather than one of upholding the law. Blanket bail policies often get it wrong. If we base bond solely on whether it's a low-level non-violent crime, then we have ignored relevant facts. We experimented with no bail. More than 31% failed to appear and 65% reoffended after being released.	The job of the district attorney is to enforce the laws on the books not to create his or her own laws. It is the job of the legislature to create the laws. There are two distinct branches of government and two distinct roles and functions. The legislature writes the law, the governor signs them and the DA prosecutes them. Once we deem it acceptable and appropriate to ignore laws created by the legislature, there is no law.	Both my mom's brothers served in Vietnam and it took a toll. One committed suicide and the other became addicted to heroin. He spent the rest of his life battling addiction and he died in prison. I have seen how addiction affects everyone. Depending on the facts, incarceration is always on the table. Neither incarceration nor rehabilitation/treatment are bad words. The facts determine which is the right path for the case. The goal of law enforcement is to move people away from addiction.

Candidate	What would your policy be for recommending bail vs. recognizance in non-violent offenses? Violent offenses?	What is your position on prosecuting abortion cases? Explain.	How would you prioritize prosecution of drug offenses? What factors would you consider?
 Joe Gonzales (D)	As District Attorney, my policy on recommending bonds has been to review each case individually. For violent offenses, we consider the severity of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, the danger posed to the community as well as the defendant's flight risk. We have a presumption of release for non-violent first-time offenders. The current bail system is unjust because a person of means that is a danger to the community can be released on bond while a poor non-violent person cannot.	Overturning Roe v. Wade is a travesty that erodes women's rights and their power to make medical decisions about their own bodies. While I am legally obligated to review every case filed in our office by law enforcement, I believe there is no justice in prosecuting either the women who seek abortion services or the medical professionals who provide these services. I spoke out very publicly and swiftly after the Dobbs decision was announced. We must focus our limited resources on violent crimes.	My office aggressively prosecutes drug dealers and violent criminals. However, we must be judicious with our limited funding and not squander the DA's office resources by prosecuting low-level offenses such as small amounts of marijuana. Factors we consider in drug prosecution include the quantity of drugs charged, defendant's criminal history and the risk to the community. In partnership with law enforcement, our cite and release program has saved taxpayers millions in booking costs alone.

BEXAR COUNTY JUDGE

4-year term. Presiding officer of the Bexar County Commissioners Court, voting member of court, spokesperson and ceremonial head of the county government, head of emergency management, sets agenda for meetings.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

Candidate	How do we ensure adequate electrical power and water is available, at reasonable prices, during drought situations and increased power demands similar to the freeze of 2021 and summer of 2022?	Where do you stand on the value of economic incentive policies/tools for local communities to attract new businesses/jobs and grow existing jobs? What accountability tools should the county maintain, and what is missing?	Do you think the sheriff's department should include more personnel trained as first responders who could approach some events as mental health crises as opposed to a more traditional show of force? Explain.
 Trish DeBerry (R)	We learned valuable lessons during the Winter Storm. Families learned their preparedness levels during a crisis situation. Governments learned their weaknesses with coordination, resources, and funding. Our utilities learned their infrastructure and communications shortcomings in a disaster. The first step is to ensure continuity of our electrical and water infrastructure. From aging equipment to over reliance on state leadership, Bexar County must upgrade our infrastructure and invest.	The use of economic incentives is crucial to expand our business and job opportunities. However, we must be smart in offering incentives and ensure we see a measurable return on our investment. If we offer incentives, we must monitor the outcomes of each business and ensure we are getting our money's worth. Additionally, all size businesses must have availability to receive incentives, its not just for the big companies, its for small family owned businesses as well.	We ask our law enforcement to play many roles outside of simply writing tickets or keeping the peace. As our understanding of how we police our communities has grown, we learned that mental health is a major area of opportunity for communities to invest in training for Deputies and Police Officers. We must train our law enforcement for the realities of mental health intervention and as County Judge, I will fund programs that raise the level of mental health awareness for our Deputies.
 Peter Sakai (D)	Grid resiliency is as important to County residents as it is to City residents. ERCOT failed us in 2021, resulting in the loss of life and trust. I will hold our local public utilities accountable. The County needs representation on the CPS Energy/SAWS Boards. Bexar must work with them to ensure we are all doing to avoid another disaster. I will lead the collaboration for emergency planning and advocate in Austin and Washington for the resources we need to keep the power and water running.	Incentives and grants can make Bexar County attractive to new businesses that offer good-paying jobs. They must have accountability measures. The backbone of our economy is small business, so we must provide economic incentives and resources for prosperity. I will help businesses recover from the pandemic and address workforce shortages through private/public partnerships. We must expand opportunities in industries like manufacturing, tech/biomed and cybersecurity.	County law enforcement officers are trained in de-escalation measures but don't have specialized training for mitigating the unique risks posed when responding to calls where mental health concerns are involved. By embedding mental health specialists into special trained units for mental health response, our officers can more effectively respond to mental health related calls and mitigate further risks, harm, or tragedies to those involved.
 Edgar Coyle (I)	I wish I could promise you that there was some way of maintaining reasonable prices during extreme demand events, but that's just not how it works. The most efficient method of allocating scarce resources is with a market based price system. Electricity is just another scarce resource, and during times of extreme strain on the grid there needs to be a proportional raise in price just like any other surge price. Those who need the electricity will pay the higher prices and those who don't won't.	I am not in favor of government guided policies aimed at "stimulating" economic growth. Usually these programs don't benefit the community at large and only serve to enrich the special interests involved with securing their passage. I do however, believe in reducing the size and scope of the county government and thereby cutting and ultimately abolishing property taxes which in turn would have a stimulative effect on the economy of Bexar County.	I absolutely believe that officers should be more mindful of the person on the other side of the interaction. Often times there is someone who's had a bad day or someone who is legitimately in crisis and needs empathy and de-escalation rather than handcuffs and an arrest. The problem I foresee with bringing on more mental health professionals is there will inevitably be more people labeled as mentally unfit than actually are, and then they have to deal with the stigma that comes with that.

TELEVISED CANDIDATE FORUM – OCTOBER 21, 8 P.M.



All three County Judge candidates will answer more questions at a League of Women Voters-sponsored forum airing October 21 at 8 p.m. on KLRN. You can send your questions in advance to voterservices@lwva.org. Put "Forum" in the subject line.

BEXAR COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW



4-year term. Civil and criminal courts at law handle many cases similar to those in district courts, though jail sentences and fines are less; they also accept appeals from Justice of the Peace and Municipal courts. **See Voting for Judges, Page 12.**

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

COURT 1

Candidate	What qualifications do you have that would make you a successful County Court-at-Law judge?	What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the court you are running for, or the court-at-law system in general?	What is your position on whether judicial races are best left as partisan or if they should be made nonpartisan?
 Bob Behrens (R)	BA Criminal Justice UTSA 89; M.P.Aff. UT 92; J.D., St. Mary's U. 94. Intern @ DA office Drug Impact Ct 2 yrs. Tried felony jury trials as 3rd year law student. 28 yrs practice handled 1000's of criminal cases, >200 family law, and others. Dozens of felony jury trials. I also was judge of County Court at Law No. 15 from 2015 to 2018.	The backlog of cases in general resulting from the covid shutdowns. Also, over-management in some courts in an attempt to resolve the backlog that is actually counter-productive. Judges must remain neutral. I believe the appropriate role players for handling day to day docket management are court coordinators. As judge, I delegated authority and gave flexibility to my coordinator but also guidelines when lawyers would need to approach me if they wanted a reset after already having had a few.	I sometimes think a non-partisan separate election where the year the candidate was licensed was on the ballot might be better. The legislature recently increased the number of years licensed required to run but did nothing about requiring actual trial experience which is equally, if not more, important. On the other hand, judicial philosophy is important to voters and a partisan race gives some indication if candidates' philosophies regarding the proper way to administer justice match theirs.
 Helen Petry Stowe (D)	I have vast legal experience from being the sitting judge of County Court #1 for the past four years, and an attorney practicing criminal law for over ten years prior to that. I have a great deal of trial and appellate experience, which gives me confidence in my rulings. I also have unique life experience that I bring as well, having worked very hard and struggled for success. I was a young mom who obtained a GED, bachelor's, teacher certification, and a law degree.	As judge of County Court #1, I preside over a DWI Specialty Court along with my regular misdemeanor court docket. My court teams are doing phenomenal work with both of these dockets, and keeping a judge that is knowledgeable and hard working, with a professional temperament, and who cares deeply about the citizens of this community is the most pressing issue for this court.	I believe that the job itself is not partisan, and so in a perfect world, people would have plenty of information provided in order to select the best person for the job. However, at this time, I don't believe that there is adequate infrastructure. As a voter myself, if there is very little information to be found about a particular candidate, I do believe that knowing that candidate's political party affiliation is the most important piece of information to assist me in my voting decision.


COURT 2

Candidate	What qualifications do you have that would make you a successful County Court-at-Law judge?	What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the court you are running for, or the court-at-law system in general?	What is your position on whether judicial races are best left as partisan or if they should be made nonpartisan?
 Jason Wolff (R)	When I was elected Judge in 2010, County Court 2 had the largest backlogged docket among all county courts. In one year, after 40 plus jury trials and thousands of adjudications, Court 2 went from "worst to first" in efficiency and caseload management. I am a felony prosecutor now, and have been practicing for 18 years. I have presided and/or tried over 240 jury trials. I have the experience and dedication it takes to once again clean up the backlog and right the ship in Court 2.	The most pressing issue by far is the lack of experience by judges on the bench and those seeking the bench. Court 2's caseload has been ignored for the last several years and was the subject of a recent local news blitz. Judge Uzomba had the majority of her caseload transferred out of Court 2 by Administrative Judge John Longoria due to her ineptitude and allowing over a thousand cases to go without settings for months to over a year. This will not happen if I am elected to Court 2.	The subsequent election of a judge, who initially won the bench via a traditional partisan vote, should be non-partisan. Citizens within the district can vote every four years on whether to retain the Judge or to remove the Judge. If the Judge is removed, then a traditional partisan election is held and the process repeats. This gives the citizens a greater voice in who keeps the bench, and requires people to pay attention to the persons performance, and not the Party's.
 Melissa Saenz (D)	I have been practicing criminal law for 11.5 years. Although I spent time working as a criminal defense attorney, the majority of my career has been spent as a Prosecutor at the Bexar County District Attorney's Office. I have tried numerous cases including DWIs, Crimes Against Children, and Murder cases. I have the knowledge and experience to run a fair and efficient Court. I want to keep our community safe and rehabilitate non-violent offenders so they will not re-offend.	One of most pressing issues in County Court #2 is the number of cases awaiting disposition. For a long time cases were not getting court settings. As a result, many cases are old and need to be resolved. When someone is arrested, that persons life gets put on hold. They may lose their job, home, and family. If there is a victim, that persons life also gets put on hold because they can't get closure. As Judge, I will run an efficient docket to avoid unnecessary delays.	I think it's helpful for the voter to know a candidate's platform. Although Judges can't take a position on certain things, a voter should be able to get to know the candidate and see if their ideals match their own.

COURT 3

Unopposed: David J. Rodriguez (D)

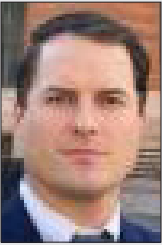

COURT 4

Candidate	What qualifications do you have that would make you a successful County Court-at-Law judge?	What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the court you are running for, or the court-at-law system in general?	What is your position on whether judicial races are best left as partisan or if they should be made nonpartisan?
 Alfredo Ximenez (D)	<p>Having been elected over a sitting incumbent, I came to this office having real world knowledge. I was a private practice defense attorney since graduating law school. I know what it takes to run efficient dockets working hand in hand with district attorneys offices in numerous counties and federal district courts. While on the bench, I have taken on tasks this court has never attempted. I began accepting domestic violence cases, and hundreds of other cases when the pandemic was in full force</p>	<p>I believe we cannot simply process people through the system and hope for the best. Preventing recidivism and helping individuals through a difficult time is paramount. We must get to the root of the problem causing the individual to reoffend and fail to complete their obligation to the court. Programs through probation, should be increased, not limited to but including drug rehabilitation, anger management, job placement assistance, and parenting classes.</p>	<p>I believe partisan races should remain in effect. For generations, citizens have aligned themselves with a political party that represents their values. It is important for these people, many who still remember when their particular race or gender was not allowed to vote, know if a candidate is aligned with their way of thinking and truly support their views.</p>
No response received by print deadline: Jason Garrahan (R)			


COURT 5


Unopposed: Andrea Arevalos (D)

COURT 6



Candidate	What qualifications do you have that would make you a successful County Court-at-Law judge?	What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the court you are running for, or the court-at-law system in general?	What is your position on whether judicial races are best left as partisan or if they should be made nonpartisan?
 Brandon Jackson (R)	<p>I have over 12 years of experience practicing law in the County and District Courts of Bexar County and have worked closely with most of the Judges, as well as learned from them. I have seen what works and what doesn't. I will initiate a plan of action that emphasizes justice and efficiency. I will also ensure proved crimes receive their due consequence, I will not be soft on crime. Additionally, I was instrumental in bringing the Veteran's Treatment Court to Bexar County shaping it's policies.</p>	<p>Overcrowded dockets and old cases are a problem with most Courts. I plan on running an efficient Court with an emphasis on pushing older cases to clear out backlog.</p>	<p>I have maintained that judicial races, especially at the County and District levels should be nonpartisan. A judge should be a neutral magistrate, follow the law, and apply it accordingly.</p>
 Erica Dominguez (D)	<p>The Veterans Treatment Court in County Court at Law #6 is an accountability court that offers wrap-around services to veterans including mental health and substance abuse. My service as a Veteran in the US Air Force and legal experience as a Defense Attorney and a Public Defender, provide me the qualifications needed to serve on this bench. And as a Public Defender, I have gained extensive knowledge of the numerous resources available to assist those who have been arrested to reduce recidivism.</p>	<p>County resources fall short in providing arrested persons with adequate access for services to prevent reoffending. For example, there are no facilities to support the transgender population for inpatient rehab. There are long wait times for the State Hospital for those found incompetent to stand trial. At the county court level, we are in a position to prevent future arrests by addressing the core issue that leads to detrimental behaviors, but additional funds are needed.</p>	<p>I believe everyone should familiarize themselves with all the judicial candidates on the ballot regardless of party. Experience, qualifications, knowledge, and work ethic are key factors to consider when making the choice of who to support. I encourage voters to do research and determine who is the most qualified candidate, who puts the most heart into the job, and who really wants to work to make a positive difference.</p>

COURT 7

Candidate	What qualifications do you have that would make you a successful County Court-at-Law judge?	What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the court you are running for, or the court-at-law system in general?	What is your position on whether judicial races are best left as partisan or if they should be made nonpartisan?
 Adam Michael LaHood (R)	<p>I have practiced criminal law for almost 10 years. In that time, I have tried dozens of criminal cases in front of a jury, and have handled countless other cases via plea bargains, and other pre-trial dispositions. I will bring a strong knowledge of criminal law and procedure to the bench. I also have the temperament necessary to effectively, and efficiently, administer and run the Court. I will work hard to make sure the Court handles its cases, while making sure everyone is treated fairly.</p>	<p>There is a tremendous backlog of cases in County Court 7 due to years of inactivity and inefficiency! This is a problem which has plagued many of our Courts, but is especially egregious in Court 7. I will address this problem by getting to work immediately and holding trial dockets every week to move the docket forward and encourage the parties to reach a resolution on a case, whether via plea bargain, trial or dismissal if appropriate.</p>	<p>I would encourage voters to educate themselves and vote for the best candidate for the job, no matter what. I would prefer that judicial races be made nonpartisan, however we absolutely have to honor and uphold the law, and the law calls for partisan elections.</p>

Candidate	What qualifications do you have that would make you a successful County Court-at-Law judge?	What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the court you are running for, or the court-at-law system in general?	What is your position on whether judicial races are best left as partisan or if they should be made nonpartisan?
 Melanie Lira (D)	With a robust understanding of the issues in our legal system, their effects on our community, and people-centric solutions, I've served all parts of our community as a practicing criminal and immigration defense attorney. It is time we recognize that Bexar County is home to many non-citizens. If elected, I'd be the only criminal misdemeanor judge with immigration experience. This court needs a judge that understands these complexities and can assure that the law will be applied equally.	County Court at Law 7, which solely handles misdemeanor family violence charges, oversees a vulnerable group of individuals. Adding to this challenge, there is a significant backlog in this court. While the County has made progress in identifying ways to lessen this burden, the most pressing issue remains addressing the volume of cases filed and preventing additional backlog. I believe my legal experience and my proven record working with vulnerable communities best qualify me to address this	The answer to this question is complex. I appreciate the partisan approach because voters who are not as aware of the smaller races, such as mine, have the opportunity to continue to vote within the party that holds their beliefs close.


COURT 8

Candidate	What qualifications do you have that would make you a successful County Court-at-Law judge?	What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the court you are running for, or the court-at-law system in general?	What is your position on whether judicial races are best left as partisan or if they should be made nonpartisan?
 Ashley Foster (R)	First, I am a mature, grown adult. I have been a member of this community for nearly all my 49 years. My husband and I are raising our family here, and we have a vested interest in seeing this community thrive for everyone's children. I have practiced law since 2000, with 11+ of those years as an Assistant Criminal District Attorney here, in Bexar County. I have tried over a hundred cases and handled thousands more. I am a qualified mediator and have served as Special Commissioner.	Every report tells us that crime is significantly on the rise in Bexar County, while tax dollars are in short supply in our current economy. The Bexar County Courthouse needs judges committed to working hard themselves and not relying on "visiting/impact" judges to manage the caseload. Now is the time for victims to be heard, criminals punished, and the innocent set free. The Courthouse is in desperate need of judges to tackle the task in its entirety, not just dismiss cases to move them along.	I can not begin to think of any logical reason why judicial races should be partisan races. Justice should never be burdened by political winds. When citizens of this, or any county, step into a courtroom, they should never have to be worried about the political affiliation of the judge, or what influence that affiliation might play upon their case.
 Mary Roman (D)	I am board certified in criminal law and my work experience includes 20+ years as a prosecutor, defense attorney, and judge both on the district and county court levels. I have participated in and presided over numerous jury trials ranging from capital murder to criminal trespass as an attorney and also as judge. My work ethic is excellent and is demonstrated by case load statistics. Most importantly, all who appear in court are heard, respected, and treated courteously.	There are serious issues with the ability to dispose of cases involving defendants with mental health problems and DWI cases. A defendant may stay in the Bexar County jail because there are no beds available at a mental health institution. We do not have labs which can process blood and alcohol test results efficiently and timely. Without lab results, a misdemeanor DWI can take a year or longer to get through the criminal justice system.	Today, many persons evaluate a judicial candidate by his or her party label. Too many times, good and competent judges are swept out of office solely based on party label. Despite the party label, judges apply the law, strive to be fair and impartial and must not be swayed by partisan interest, fear of criticism or public opinion. Can judges be truly independent if judges must campaign under a specific party label? Judicial races should be made nonpartisan.

COURT 9

Unopposed: Gloria Saldaña (D)

COURT 10


Candidate	What qualifications do you have that would make you a successful County Court-at-Law judge?	What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the court you are running for, or the court-at-law system in general?	What is your position on whether judicial races are best left as partisan or if they should be made nonpartisan?
 Jamie Mathis (R)	I graduated Incarnate Word HS, UT Austin and St. Mary's Law. I served as a briefing attorney at the Court of Crim. Appeals, a Bexar Co. Assistant DA and Staff Attorney for Probate Court 1. Since 2017, I have worked as Assoc. Judge of Von Ormy. In these positions, I reviewed 1000s of cases ranging from traffic tickets to death penalty appeals. These experiences make me qualified. However, my commitment to assessing each case carefully and applying the law fairly, is what will make me successful.	The public has a reasonable expectation that their case will be heard swiftly. There are delays in access to justice. I commit to being a full-time judge. Another pressing issue facing our court system, and frankly our community, is mental health. We should invest more resources towards those are in mental health crises. Also abuse of our elderly, whether sexual or financial exploitation, is becoming a greater issue facing our court system. We must protect the most vulnerable in our community.	The judges at the courthouse should be apolitical and nonpartisan. Politics and pre-conceived bias or even the appearance of bias has no place in the courthouse. Someone should be able to attend their hearing, and not be concerned that their judge has any bias towards one party over the other. This is true whether the judge identifies as Republican or Democratic.

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Compare the candidates · mark your choices · print your list · take it to the polls

The League of Women Voters, strictly nonpartisan, does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

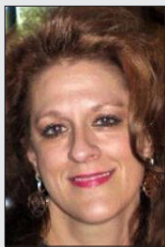
VOTERS GUIDE • 2022 General Election Edition
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Candidate	What qualifications do you have that would make you a successful County Court-at-Law judge?	What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the court you are running for, or the court-at-law system in general?	What is your position on whether judicial races are best left as partisan or if they should be made nonpartisan?
 Cesar Garcia (D)	<p>I first worked five years in the personal injury field with a big law firm, then seven years as a solo practitioner and currently three years with Texas Health and Human Services. I've tried approximately 40 cases to final verdict and mediated dozens more. I also have extensive work in the non profit field in San Antonio.</p>	<p>Efficient and effective adjudication of cases</p>	<p>I'd prefer if judicial races were nonpartisan.</p>

COURT II


Candidate	What qualifications do you have that would make you a successful County Court-at-Law judge?	What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the court you are running for, or the court-at-law system in general?	What is your position on whether judicial races are best left as partisan or if they should be made nonpartisan?
 Tommy Stolhandske (R)	<p>I have served as a CCL Judge for the last 8 years and during that time have proven myself as a hard-working judge with one of the most efficient courts. Since late 2019, CC11 has conducted the most jury trials, taken the most pleas, and had the lowest cost per disposition of all of the CCLs. Since 2016, I have voluntarily led the Drug Treatment Court focusing on rehabilitation through recovery. In 2018, our team was recognized as the Outstanding Specialty Court Team for the State of Texas.</p>	<p>Moving courts into the 21st century is one of the most pressing issues I will continue to address. I was the first Criminal Court Judge to hold regular dockets online and implemented many of the virtual court forms and processes. Technology and hard work allowed CC11 to navigate the pandemic without having a backlog and positioned us to be able to assist other courts by accepting more than 1400 Family Violence cases and bringing them to a resolution.</p>	<p>When I put on my robe, I am always committed to ruling with impartiality; I interpret the law and do my best to ensure that everyone who comes before me is treated fairly. In my opinion, partisan waves have been detrimental to keeping good, hard-working, experienced judges on the bench. I appreciate those who take the time to review questionnaires like this one and strive to vote for the best candidate in each race regardless of political affiliations.</p>
 Erica Peña (D)	<p>I have dedicated my career to public service. Throughout my career it has been my goal to use my skills, knowledge, education, and personal experience to create a positive impact in the community. I've done that providing social services as a Case Manager at Catholic Charities, as a prosecutor with the Bexar County DA's Office, and as a Staff Attorney with District Court Administration. My career path has given me the knowledge, experience, and temperament to run a fair and efficient court.</p>	<p>"Assembly line justice" is the most pressing issue facing the Criminal County Court system. To achieve meaningful justice, a judge should not take a "one size fits all" approach. A judge can significantly and positively impact lives each day. The system is better served when a judge takes a holistic approach, considers the individual and facts in front of them, and strives to find productive solutions that lead to real results for both the individual and community.</p>	<p>A judge should know and apply the law fairly regardless of party affiliation. I would support an effort to make judicial races non-partisan. With that said, I understand that it can be important to voters to know a judge's party affiliation to assist them in making an educated decision when voting.</p>

COURT 12


Candidate	What qualifications do you have that would make you a successful County Court-at-Law judge?	What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the court you are running for, or the court-at-law system in general?	What is your position on whether judicial races are best left as partisan or if they should be made nonpartisan?
 Suzanne Kramer (R)	<p>I have been an attorney for 34 years with experience as a prosecutor, a defense attorney and as an Associate Judge of the Probate/County Court At Law No. 1 covering the Mental Health Docket. I have years of practice and would bring a well-rounded perspective to the bench.</p>	<p>County Court at Law 12 is a specialty court covering Mental Health. I believe that anyone who is referred to the Mental Health side of this Court, should receive prompt attention and access to the services available through the Court. These people should not have to wait until they are required to plead to their charges before they can receive services. Further, there is so much delay in the County Court at Law system which adds further stress on the judicial system and its budget.</p>	<p>I have struggled with issue over the years. The older I get, the more I am of the belief that there must be a system where the people who get elected are not elected simply because of the party they belong to. I have seen many good judges lose because of the phenomenon of the "wave." I am not yet a supporter of the "ranking" elections other States are utilizing, however, I feel that there must be some sort of a solution to this issue that members of both parties could support.</p>

"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


Candidate	What qualifications do you have that would make you a successful County Court-at-Law judge?	What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the court you are running for, or the court-at-law system in general?	What is your position on whether judicial races are best left as partisan or if they should be made nonpartisan?
 Yolanda Huff (D)	I have been an attorney for 22 years and a Judge four years. I have served as president of organizations and board member for many nonprofits. I am currently a Commissioner for the Texas Commission on Mental Health and a board member for NAMI. These many community efforts have prepared me to lead a court successfully. In the past four years while on the bench I formed the Bexar County Specialty Courts Coalition and I chair that coalition. I intend to foster more community projects in the future.	One of the most pressing issues facing the county courts are the DWI (Driving While Intoxicated) cases. DWIs are more than 75 percent of our dockets on any given day. Mental health and domestic violence are what the media is highlighting, but the DWI issue is just as big a problem, if not more, that no one is discussing.	The question at hand is something Judges are not allowed to do by law. Judges by law are nonpartisan. When applying the law what our political affiliation is should and can not ever be considered. I think a better ask is should Judges be appointed or elected.

COURT 13

Candidate	What qualifications do you have that would make you a successful County Court-at-Law judge?	What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the court you are running for, or the court-at-law system in general?	What is your position on whether judicial races are best left as partisan or if they should be made nonpartisan?
 Rosie Speedlin Gonzalez (D)	I am the judge with a unique background of having worked in social services for over 11 years, been an attorney for almost 17 years, was the only NACC Board Certified Child Welfare Law Specialist in Bexar County before taking the bench, & while judge have drafted legislation that created a trauma-based, IOP drug treatment program for 1st time offenders of FV/DV. As a judge I have been a leader, trailblazer, innovative, dedicated, published, award-winning & true principled public servant.	We are plagued with record-setting cases of Family Violence being reported, filed & prosecuted in Bexar Co. We notoriously hold the #1 spot in Texas for these types of cases. We must come together to find solutions to remove this scourge from our community. We must go to the problem source: the offender, & address those behaviors via trauma treatment, drug treatment, job training & providing housing. That's where we start. Commitment to eliminating behaviors will bring our case numbers down.	Partisan races provide the public with the power of choice. Removing that choice from the people the courts serve, removes their inalienable right to self-determination. Candidates have a right to align themselves with ideals & values that are embraced and promoted by parties of choice. The voters have the same right. In today's world, people want to know who they are electing to lead them at city/county levels, State capitols, in our courtrooms & in D.C. Party affiliation provides this choice.


No response recieved by print deadline: Charles E. Gold (R)

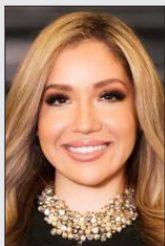
COURT 14

Candidate	What qualifications do you have that would make you a successful County Court-at-Law judge?	What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the court you are running for, or the court-at-law system in general?	What is your position on whether judicial races are best left as partisan or if they should be made nonpartisan?
 Susan Skinner (R)	I am the rare candidate who has worked all sides of a criminal case-- as a probation officer, prosecutor, defense lawyer, and judge. I have over 34 years of criminal justice work, and believe this experience creates a more fair and efficient judge. Most importantly, I successfully held the same judge position for 4 years. I was recognized for my excellence, reducing the docket by 40% and creating the first animal abuse docket in the county, assuring that animal victim justice is not overlooked.	The pandemic created a 55% backlog in cases in Bexar County. Lack of the availability to have jury trials attributed to the backlog. Personally, I think reducing the backlog begins with a judge who is willing to work hard everyday. Starting court promptly, being prepared, ruling efficiently, and working late will immediately reduce the backlog. Priority will be given to jury trials and reducing the backlog. As a former judge, I reduced the docket by more than 40%, and I'm ready to do it again.	I believe judges should be elected in non-partisan races. A bi-partisan election becomes a race based on political affiliation, rather than electing the most qualified candidate. Judges are elected to be fair, impartial, and to uphold the law, and party affiliation should have no bearing on their decisions. A non-partisan judicial election will ensure that the focus on the candidate's qualifications and experience.

No response recieved by print deadline: Carlo Rodriguez Key (D)

COURT 15

Candidate	What qualifications do you have that would make you a successful County Court-at-Law judge?	What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the court you are running for, or the court-at-law system in general?	What is your position on whether judicial races are best left as partisan or if they should be made nonpartisan?
 Robert "RC" Pate (R)	I have been both a prosecutor and defense attorney in San Antonio for the past 14 years. I have seen both sides, and bring that perspective to the bench.	Managing dockets that have become backlogged because of the pandemic, being good stewards of the counties resources.	I don't think my opinion on the matter changes much. Legislative candidates can change this. Judicial candidates should focus their attention on things they have control over.

Candidate	What qualifications do you have that would make you a successful County Court-at-Law judge?	What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the court you are running for, or the court-at-law system in general?	What is your position on whether judicial races are best left as partisan or if they should be made nonpartisan?
 Melissa Vara (D)	As the current judge of this court, I have brought an efficient, fair and innovative approach to the bench. I have managed to run an efficient criminal docket, assisted with civil dockets and volunteered to take domestic violence cases. I treat all individuals who come before me with the fairness and respect they deserve. Lastly, throughout the pandemic I have brought an innovative approach to my virtual dockets and have participated in programs benefiting the community like "Bexar Gives Back."	The most pressing issue I see is the backlog of cases, both criminal and civil, due to the Covid pandemic and the suspension of jury trials. I have assisted with this backlog by volunteering to take domestic violence cases and assisting with civil cases. I continue to work towards reducing this backlog by having daily morning and afternoon dockets and running an efficient jury trial docket so that both the accused and the complainants have their day in court.	My oath as a judge is to follow the laws and the Code of Judicial Conduct, so while I can't take a position on this issue, I do believe in the democratic system of having the people choose who they want to represent them in all facets of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of our government.

BEXAR COUNTY PROBATE COURT

4-year term. Serves as clerk and custodian for all District Court records, coordinates jury panel selection process, processes passport applications, manages court registry funds.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

COURT 1


Unopposed: Oscar Kazen (D)

COURT 2

Unopposed: Veronica Vasquez (D)

BEXAR COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK

4-year term. Serves as clerk and custodian for all District Court records, coordinates jury panel selection process, processes passport applications, manages court registry funds.

Candidate	What characteristics does a District Clerk need to be successful?	What do you see as the main roles of District Clerk?	How would you organize and prioritize your workload?
 Misty Spears (R)	A District Clerk needs integrity, honesty, efficiency, accountability & unbiased statutory compliance. I will lead the Office of the District Clerk with honesty and integrity. I will have zero tolerance for misconduct, bias or corruption. I believe in safeguarding the records, evidence & monies entrusted to the District Clerk. I will advance the technology and the end-user functionality of our office. I will be transparent and accountable & never tamper with the integrity of our justice system.	Safeguarding the records, evidence and monies entrusted to the District Clerk. Advancing the technology and end-user functionality of our office. Transparency and accountability and never tampering with the integrity of our justice system. My accounting degree and almost 20 years of experience as a senior litigation paralegal affords me the perspective of the standards across the state, the fiscal responsibility required and the vision to implement the changes we need here in Bexar County.	I will: 1. confirm that all statutory requirements are being met 2. develop a plan to protect the records entrusted to me from cyber-attacks 3. re-evaluate the technology we currently employ, seeking ways to improve the services we provide to the public 4. engage with all users to discern the best practices needed to support the district court system and promote transparency 5. evaluate spending, in order to present an efficient and fiscally responsible budget to Commissioner's Court.

No response received by print deadline: Gloria A. Martinez (D)



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BEXAR COUNTY CLERK

4-year term. Responsible for birth and death certificates, issuance of marriage licenses and other public records, along with administering the county courts at law.

Candidate	What in your background will be most helpful to you in performing the duties of County Clerk?	What are the challenges facing the office, and how would you address them?	How would you organize and prioritize your workload?
 Richard A. Gold (R)	<p>Twenty-seven years of administrative experience working for Bexar County. The first 7 years in the District Clerks office. The past twenty years I served as the first full time Bexar County Records Manager approved by Commissioners Court – responsible for the maintenance, storage, safety, and disposition of county office records. As the County Records Manager, I have experience, in staffing, policies, procedures, budgeting, records retention, and setting agenda for quarterly meetings.</p>	<p>The main challenge facing the Bexar County clerks office is Cybersecurity . Over the last ten years, privacy, data protection and identity theft have become issues of concern for all County Clerks offices. I would implement new structured records management programs for all county clerk departments to include all encryption of all case management indexing software, apps, firmware, usb , vendor related software and communications and security tags for restricted document access.</p>	<p>I would organize my monthly, weekly, and daily workload to reflect my most urgent priorities, such as communicating with my administrative staff daily , the Bexar County Computer Information computer support services for the County Clerks Office , the contracted vendor software vendor services. I would allocate time to address any mission critical concerns that could affect the `access to the county clerks recorded information for access by the general public and businesses.</p>
 Lucy Adame-Clark (D)	<p>21+ years of experience with the Criminal Justice Information System from the time I worked in the Sheriff's Office; working with high profile cases to include Texas DPS and other local law enforcement agencies. I also have prior paralegal studies, currently serve as the Bexar County Clerk, in addition to serving as the Countywide Records Management Officer. This experience has helped as our office has transitioned to a new civil case management system and finalizing the criminal side.</p>	<p>Coming into office in 2019, preserving the historical collection, digitizing judicial records and adding more accessibility to the public. All three components have been completed with our historical preservation project and digitization projects across our judicial and real property departments, over the 3 + years. I continue to address the issue by working towards 100% completion of preservation, digitalization, access to model of best practices in alignment with other Texas County Clerks.</p>	<p>All workload in the County Clerk's Office is time sensitive and it is my duty to ensure all documents are processed, recorded or filed, in accordance with Texas Statutes. I ensure my staff receives training to ensure they meet the deadlines, as set out by statutes, including OCA (Office Courts of Administration) requirements. As the County Clerk, I also ensure I receive continuing education credits so that I may stay up to date on changes to legislation and statutes that affect my office.</p>

BEXAR COUNTY COMMISSIONER


4-year term. Represents ¼ of county's population. Commissioners Court adopts county budget and tax rate, sets salaries and benefits, has exclusive authority to authorize contracts, maintains county buildings and facilities.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

PRECINCT 2

Unopposed: Justin Rodriguez (D)

PRECINCT 3



Candidate	What are the most significant problems facing Bexar County in the next four years?	What do you see as the most pressing needs for infrastructure or capital projects in the county?	Where do you stand on the value of economic incentive policies/tools for local communities to attract new businesses/jobs and grow existing jobs? What accountability tools should the county maintain, and what is missing?
 Grant Moody (R)	<p>In the coming four years, we need to reprioritize our budget and ensure that law enforcement and public safety is properly funded and staffed. Public safety is fundamental and we should treat it that way in our budget cycles. The other issues are managing growth with timely investments in infrastructure, and that we make government more efficient and lean by eliminating redundancies between city and county services.</p>	<p>We all have to navigate road construction projects, particularly in Precinct 3. That's likely to continue, but timely investment can reduce the months or years of inefficiency and inconvenience to residents and businesses. Increases in population will continue to strain the existing roadways, and the county must plan well to accommodate projected traffic volumes.</p>	<p>As discussed above, the county is clearly attracting thousands of new residents naturally, as new businesses grow or relocate to San Antonio. There is no need to raise taxes on our current residents to attract businesses that are already looking at relocating to Bexar County. That being said, we do need to compete with Austin over the coming decade and ensure that our lower cost of living and family friendly environment win out for new businesses.</p>

“The most important office, and the one which all of us can and should fill, is that of private citizen.”

– Louis Brandeis

Candidate	What are the most significant problems facing Bexar County in the next four years?	What do you see as the most pressing needs for infrastructure or capital projects in the county?	Where do you stand on the value of economic incentive policies/tools for local communities to attract new businesses/jobs and grow existing jobs? What accountability tools should the county maintain, and what is missing?
 Susan Korbel (D)	<p>We have come through a pandemic and must now support our economic growth and social needs so that we can continue to be the metropolis we love. Unfortunately, we are so popular that we've run out of places to live, and so demand for housing has shot our appraised residential values through the roof. We must join together with the city and other municipal authorities to forge a sustainable plan for the next 30 years – to prepare for growth, climate change and other challenges to our health and prosperity.</p>	<p>As we grow, we clog the streets and public services. Our team has been concentrating on traffic — please visit our blog: https://bit.ly/3RtiQx3</p>	<p>The relationship between commercial growth, fair tax contributions and proper stewardship of our resources is very complex. Before we recruit new businesses we should be committed to a sustainable growth strategy, and then reach out to new businesses which will support our vision.</p>

PRECINCT 4

Candidate	What are the most significant problems facing Bexar County in the next four years?	What do you see as the most pressing needs for infrastructure or capital projects in the county?	Where do you stand on the value of economic incentive policies/tools for local communities to attract new businesses/jobs and grow existing jobs? What accountability tools should the county maintain, and what is missing?
 Photo not provided Larry Ricketts (R)	<p>Property taxes and school taxes. There are 40,000 new homes being built in Pct 4. My concern is electricity, water, and sewage, let alone the amount of traffic in the communities.</p>	<p>Our roads and right of ways in rural areas of pct 4.</p>	<p>Once again infrastructure.</p>
 Tommy Calvert (D)	<p>Climate change and how our infrastructure, emergency management, and healthcare systems get ready for climate change and climate disasters. Second, transitioning people to jobs available in the information technology economy when their jobs become obsolete because of technology and cheaper labor in other parts of the world. Third, is expanding home ownership for all and housing security for those experiencing homelessness with more permanent supportive housing.</p>	<p>Securing our water. If you don't have water, you don't have an economy. We need to be laser-focused on restoring funding that protects the aquifer recharge and contributing zones because South Texas may have an eighty year drought as a result of climate change. Planting trees as our summer temps are predicted to rise as high as 108 degrees and our climate will turn into a desert. Working with the federal government to transition to clean energy with electric charging stations and more.</p>	<p>I believe in using all tools available to attract jobs but I also believe we should create a local business accelerator to help them export their company to other markets. I also have seen how housing incentives for local residents have allowed developers to operate Air B&B operations and I will crack down on that practice to ensure that local residents benefit and not just developers. I recently denied a Home Depot incentive because it did not have any more jobs than a typical store.</p>



BEXAR COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE



4-year term. Handle evictions, small claims, misdemeanors punishable by fine only, foreclosures, evictions.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

PRECINCT 1

Unopposed: Sylvia M. Ruiz (D)

PRECINCT 3

Candidate	What experience do you have with Texas eviction laws and procedures?	How will you ensure objectivity in cases, particularly those where one party is represented by legal counsel and the other is not?	What in your background qualifies you to serve as justice of the peace?
 Julie Bray Patterson (R)	As an attorney for over 27 years, I've focused my attention on laws being created in Washington, D.C., juvenile law, criminal law, and municipal law. I have and continue to do hours of independent study on Texas eviction laws, I have attended meetings with the current JP to discuss law and court procedures, and I have had many conversations with current constables working out of Precinct 3 regarding their role in delivering a Notice to Vacate or Non Payment of Rent.	If elected, my goal as judge is to listen attentively to all parties, treat each person with dignity and respect, assess appropriate consequences, and run an efficient court. For the past 3 ½ years my day to day job has been to advise the Bexar County criminal district court judges on matters without inserting any bias or prejudice. If elected, I will ask probing questions to all before me, attorneys or not, to determine the fair and just way to rule on issues before the court.	My education, experience, and involvement in our community qualify me for this job. I grew up in Precinct 3 and graduated from MacArthur High School, in addition to the University of Texas School of Law. I currently serve in an advisory role for the local criminal district court judges, having also been a prosecutor and a defense attorney. In addition, my leadership experience in local nonprofits, such as Morningside Ministries, will help me both manage the Court and resolve disputes.
 Paul Talamantez Jr (D)	I have handled eviction cases, and I have advised many clients on both sides of the law. I have represented clients in residential and commercial eviction cases.	I will ensure objectivity by following the rule of law. My experience as a Municipal Court Judge and as a prosecutor has taught me to treat all people the same regardless if they have an attorney or not. I will treat all people with fairness, respect and dignity.	I have been licensed by the State of Texas for more than 28 years. For at least half of that time I have practiced mostly in Justice of The Peace Courts and Municipal Courts all over the State of Texas. I have experience as a Municipal Court Judge, prosecutor and defense attorney. If given the opportunity to serve I will give it my all to be the best Judge that precinct #3 has ever had.

PRECINCT 4

Unopposed: Michele Garcia (D)

OTHER RACES ON THE BALLOT

In addition to the races whose candidates were sent questionnaires, the November 8 ballot includes races in many Bexar County municipalities, school districts and utility districts. Please check with those entities for information about the candidates and issues.

They are:

- Bexar County Water Control District 10 Improvement general election
- Castle Hills bond election
- China Grove special election
- Converse general election/special election
- East Central ISD bond election
- Green Valley Special Utility District general election
- Helotes special election
- Judson ISD bond election
- Schertz general election
- Somerset ISD general election
- South San ISD general election
- Universal City bond election
- Windcrest general election/special election
- Leon Valley special charter election.

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CHOICES ARE THE
BEST CHOICES.
VOTE INFORMED.**

PICTURE THIS

I AM AMERICAN DEMOCRACY YOUTH CONTEST

INVITING ALL HIGH SCHOOL,
COLLEGE AND GRADUATE
STUDENTS TO SUBMIT ENTRIES



Respond to the prompt:

I AM AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Submissions open from
October 1 to October 31, 2022

**1ST PRIZE IN EACH ACADEMIC CATEGORY
IS A \$100 AMAZON GIFT CARD**

Questions? Email picturethis@lwvsa.org
For Submission Details Visit LWVSA.org
or scan the QR code

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YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

Create the future you imagine

**Calling all Bexar County high school,
undergraduate and graduate students**

Join a diverse community of young students
empowered to imagine and create a better future
through democracy.

The Youth Leadership Training Program welcomes you to FREE
sessions of intense learning, networking, and dialogue
among peers culminating in our first annual Youth Conference.

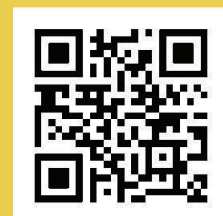
First session: a behind-the-scenes visit to the elections department.
Saturday, October 15th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

To join:

Email picturethis@lwvsa.org

OR Scan the QR code to complete the form online

**OR Visit LWVSA.org for more details
and to complete the form**



FIND OUT WHERE TO VOTE/EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

You can vote at any Bexar County polling location, both during Early Voting, October 24-November 4, and on Election Day, November 8.

Signs will be posted at each polling site listing the four other nearest sites, so if the one you selected is too crowded, you can easily choose another one nearby.

Election Day voting sites will be posted on the Bexar County Elections website, <https://www.bexar.org/1568/Elections-Department>, after Early Voting is completed, and in the San Antonio Express-News the day before the election.

EARLY VOTING CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	October 24 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.	October 25 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.	October 26 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.	October 27 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.	October 28 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.	October 29 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
October 30 Noon to 6 p.m.	October 31 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	November 1 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	November 2 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	November 3 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	November 4 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

Subject to change.

Bexar County Elections Department (DeafLink Available)	1103 S. Frio	McCreless Branch Library	1023 Ada St.
Bexar County Justice Center	300 Dolorosa	Mission Branch Library	3134 Roosevelt Ave.
Brookhollow Branch Library	530 Heimer Road	Northside Activity Center	7001 Culebra Road
Castle Hills City Hall (Community Room)	209 Lemonwood Drive	Northwest Vista College (Pecan Hall)	3535 N. Ellison Drive
Christian Family Baptist Church	1589 Grosenbacher	Olmos Park City Hall	120 El Prado W.
Claude Black Center	2805 East Commerce	Our Lady of the Lake University (Library)	411 S.W. 24th St.
Cody Branch Library	11441 Vance Jackson	Palo Alto College (Ozuna Library Room 102)	1400 W. Villaret Blvd.
Old Converse City Hall	407 S. Seguin Road	Parman Branch Library at Stone Oak	20735 Wilderness Oak
Copernicus Community Center	5003 Lord Road	Precinct 1 Satellite Office	3505 Pleasanton Road
Cortez Branch Library	2803 Hunter Blvd.	Precinct 3 Satellite Office	320 Interpark Blvd.
East Central ISD (Boardroom)	6634 New Sulphur Springs Road	San Antonio College (Victory Center)	1819 N. Main Ave.
Elmendorf City Hall	8304 FM 327	Schaefer Branch Library	6322 US Hwy 87 E
Encino Branch Library	2515 East Evans Road	Shavano Park City Hall (Lobby)	900 Saddletree Court
Frank Garrett Multi-Service Center	1226 N.W. 18th St.	Somerset City Hall	7360 E. 6th, Somerset
Great Northwest Branch Library	9050 Wellwood	Southside ISD Admin Building	1460 Martinez-Losoya Road
Helotes City Hall	12951 Bandera Road	St. Mary's University	1 Camino Santa Maria
Henry A. Guerra, Jr. Branch Library	7978 W Military Drive	St. Paul Community Center	1201 Donaldson Ave.
John Igo Branch Library	13330 Kyle Seale Parkway	Texas A&M University (Mays Center)	One University Way
Johnston Branch Library	6307 Sun Valley Drive	Thousand Oaks Branch Library	4618 Thousand Oaks Dr.
Julia Yates Semmes Branch Library at Comanche Lookout Park	5060 Judson Road	Tobin Branch Library at Oakwell	4134 Harry Wurzbach
Kirby City Hall	112 Bauman	Universal City Branch Library	100 Northview Drive
Las Palmas Branch Library	515 Castroville Road	University of Texas at San Antonio (Main Campus - Bexar Room)	1 UTSA Blvd.
Leon Valley Conference Center	6421 Evers Road	Van Raub Elementary (Rock House)	8776 Dietz Elkhorn
Lion's Field	2809 Broadway	Windcrest Takas Park Civic Center	9310 Jim Seal Drive
Maury Maverick, Jr. Branch Library	8700 Mystic Park	Wonderland Mall Of The Americas at Crossroads (Lower Level, A-17)	4522 Fredericksburg
		Woodlawn Pointe Center for Community	702 Donaldson Ave.

For more information contact the office of the Bexar County Elections Administrator, Jacquelyn F. Callanen, at (210) 335-VOTE (8683).



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