2020 Voters Guide

Early Voting: October 13-30
Election Day: November 3

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.
A LETTER TO VOTERS

Dear Voter,

You will be casting your ballot this general election under unprecedented conditions. Stakes in this election are amazingly high and so is the health anxiety surrounding us. In spite of all the efforts to tame the pandemic, it continues to be a public health crisis. The League not only wants you to be an informed voter but also a safe voter.

Being prepared with your voting choices is always helpful but it is even more critical this election, especially for voters who will be voting in person and who would prefer to spend minimum time at the polling booth.

The ballot this election will be long since it will include municipal races that were postponed in May and also referendum questions. This is the first time you will not be able to vote a straight ticket. Getting informed about down-ballot candidates is also critical because these are the races that impact your day-to-day lives the most.

To help you, this Voters Guide includes unedited responses from the candidates themselves to questions posed by the League. This should help you find the candidate who best represents you. The Guide also provides arguments for and against for each of the referendum questions. For municipal races, we ask that you check with your municipalities and school boards for information about the candidates and issues there.


Elections are about choices. Make your informed choices and let your voices be heard. Help shape America with your vote.

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

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This Voters Guide is put together by the League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area, a strictly non-partisan 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 3 Election.

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

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties.

No More Straight-Ticket Voting

Because of a change in Texas law, there is no straight-ticket option on this ballot, although that is currently in dispute in the courts. You must pick a candidate in each race in which you choose to vote. The party affiliations are listed on the ballots.

BALLOT TRACKING

Track your mail ballot application and your completed mailed ballot at the Bexar Elections website: bexar.org/1568/Elections-Department

OTHER RACES ON THE BALLOT

In addition to the races whose candidates were sent questionnaires in this Voters Guide and the San Antonio referendums, the November 3 ballot includes races in many small Bexar County municipalities, school districts and utility districts. Please check with these entities for information about the candidates and issues. They are: Alamo Colleges District, Alamo Heights, Converse, Fair Oaks Ranch, Helotes, Hollywood Park, Kirby, Leon Valley, Sandy Oaks, Schertz, Selma, Somerset, Terrell Hills, Universal City, Windcrest, Edgewood Independent School District, Medina Valley ISD, North East ISD, SAISD bond, Somerset ISD, South San ISD, Southwest ISD, Green Valley Special District, and Trinity Glen Rose District.
VOTING INFORMATION

To vote in the November 3 election, you must have registered by October 5.

VOTE SAFELY

To protect yourself and others from COVID-19:

- 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 voting site.

VOTE CENTERS FOR ELECTION DAY

- Voters will be allowed to vote at any open voting site on Election Day, just as they do in early voting.
- Early voting locations will also be open on Election Day.
- In response to COVID-19, two mega centers in large facilities will be open for early voting and on Election Day with multiple check-in tables and more room for social distancing. Find the mega center closer to you in the Early Voting Locations list on the back page of this Guide.

Wherever you go, you will not be turned away if you are registered in Bexar County. Polling sites will be listed on the Bexar Elections Department website, http://www.bit.ly/bexelex.com, after early voting ends, and in the Express-News immediately before Election Day.

THE VOTING PROCESS

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 done that, 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 (they were updated last year):

- 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, press a button and the card is ejected.
- Check your card carefully to make sure what is printed is what you chose.
- 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 switch between English and Spanish on your ballot at any time by pressing the “language” button.
- 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.

ACCESSIBILITY, LANGUAGES

All polling places must be accessible to people with disabilities. People with mobility problems are allowed to move to the front of the line. 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 19-22 of this Voters’ Guide. If you have one but did not bring it, and you cannot return to the polls with it before closing, you can vote a provisional ballot. If you take your ID to the elections office within 6 calendar days, your vote will be counted.

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

PROVISIONAL 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 19-22.
VOTE BY MAIL

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

■ Going to be away from your county on Election Day and during early voting
■ Sick or disabled
■ 65 years of age or older on Election Day
■ Confined in jail, but eligible to vote

Application process

Bexar County Elections is sending applications to all registered voters over age 65 with postage-paid return envelope. If you still want to request one or you meet any of the other criteria for voting by mail, contact Bexar County Elections, 210-335-8683, to request one, or download an application from 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 Oct. 23, or personally delivered by the voter before Early Voting begins on Oct. 13.

If delivering in person, you will be asked to show an acceptable photo ID. (See a list on the back of the Texas Voters’ Bill of Rights, Pages 19-22.) 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.

Ballot submission

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. 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 postmarked by 7 p.m. on Election Day, November 3, and received by 5 p.m. the day after to be counted. You can also deliver it, sealed in the envelopes, in person at the Elections Office, any time during business/polling hours. Deadline is 7 p.m. on November 3. You must present an acceptable photo ID.

HELPFUL INFORMATION AND CONTACT NUMBERS

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

League of Women Voters of Texas
Phone: 512-472-1100
Web site: my.lwv.org/texas

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

VOTE!

It’s in your best interest.

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U.S. PRESIDENT

**Duties:** The President is the head of state of the United States of America; the Chief Executive Officer; and the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are prescribed in the Constitution and federal law. The President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices, and federal judges, subject to Senate approval. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress.

**Term:** Four years. Limit of two terms.

**Base Salary:** $400,000 per year.

**For more information on the candidates and responses to more questions, go to VOTE411.org.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>What is the most important issue facing our country and how do you plan to address it during your first 100 days in office?</th>
<th>How will you address racial injustice in our country on day one of your administration?</th>
<th>What will you do over the long term to ensure access to quality healthcare for all?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Donald J. Trump (R)</td>
<td>Pandemic. Recession. Racial injustice. Climate change. We’re facing historic crises; we have to tackle them all at once. Character and experience count. I’ll listen to scientists, tell the truth, and make sure we’re never so unprepared for a pandemic again. I’ll expand the Affordable Care Act, lowering costs and making health care a right for all. I’ll build our economy back better, and make racial equity central to recovery. In these crises, we have an enormous opportunity, if we come together. As President, I’ll draw on the best of us, not the worst. I’ll work as hard for those who don’t support me as for those who do. That’s a president’s job; to represent us all. To take responsibility. To protect the nation. To unite and to heal.</td>
<td>America is at an inflection point. It’s past time to end our inequities and deal with the denial of our nation’s promise to too many for too long. I’ll fight to end the health inequities that COVID-19 amplifies; and give every child the same strong start in life by offering universal Pre-K, tripling funding for Title I schools, and making public college debt-free for most families. I’ll make racial equity central to our recovery; closing the racial wealth and income gaps, boosting home ownership, and investing in communities and entrepreneurs of color — building a stronger, more inclusive middle class for the future. And, I’ll work for real police reform and invest in shifting our criminal justice focus from incarceration to prevention.</td>
<td>This pandemic makes clear: All Americans need access to quality, affordable health insurance. That’s why I’ll protect and build on the Affordable Care Act. I helped to secure the final key votes to pass that landmark law, protecting 100 million Americans who can no longer be turned away or denied coverage for pre-existing conditions, and bringing coverage to 20 million more. As President, I’ll build on that progress with a public option and lower health care and prescription drug costs. I’ll make all COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccines free; double funding for community health centers that are so often on the frontlines of care; and much more.</td>
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<td>Joseph R. Biden (D)</td>
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**U.S. SENATOR**

Six-year term. One of two members of the U.S. Senate from Texas. The Senate has the exclusive power to advise and consent on presidential nominations to executive and judicial offices, to ratify U.S. treaties, and to try impeachments. With the U.S. House, the Senate adopts budgets, levies taxes, borrows money, regulates interstate commerce, provides services, adopts regulations, and declares war. Current annual salary: $174,000.

**For more information on the candidates and responses to more questions, go to VOTE411.org.**

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<th>What actions, if any, would you take to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to safe and fair elections?</th>
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<td>John Cornyn (R)</td>
<td>Recognizing we are a nation of immigrants, Senator Cornyn has voted in support of a permanent legislative solution for Dreamers who call Texas their home. The Senator cosponsored the Secured and Succeed Act in 2018, which proposed a solution for DACA recipients that provides a pathway to citizenship for 1.8 million young adults.</td>
<td>Sen. Cornyn voted for the CARES Act, which sent stimulus checks to individuals who — through no fault of their own — were unable to work and earn a paycheck, and established the Paycheck Protection Program — a critical lifeline that helped ensure businesses could bridge the gap without laying off employees.</td>
<td>Sen. Cornyn believes that any Texan who wants to vote safely can do so under existing law. If you’re over 65 or you’re disabled, you can vote by mail. Or if you are not going to be present in your county on Election Day, Gov. Abbott has extended the early voting period.</td>
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<td>Mary ‘Mj’ Hegar (D)</td>
<td>We need comprehensive immigration reform that reflects our core American values – the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We must streamline the process for applying for and receiving citizenship, create a pathway to citizenship for those here, protect DREAMers, permanently end child separation and secure the border with effective procedures &amp; technology.</td>
<td>We need to listen to experts, not politicians, when it comes to solving the public health and economic crisis. We must provide adequate testing that is fully covered, protect our frontline workers, and improve contact tracing capacity. The economic recovery must center around supporting small businesses and workers, while enforcing transparency and accountability measures.</td>
<td>Having served 12 years in the military I'm committed to defending our constitutional rights. I'll work to expand access to registration and voting, fight against voter suppression tactics, and support the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, restoring protections which have been weakened by the Supreme Court.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kerry McKennon (L)</td>
<td>Our first priority is that no child is left in a cage or separated from their family, reforming immigration policy means making it as simple as have the same policy for all immigrants from all countries. More judges and caseworkers are needed to determine if those seeking asylum can be allowed in, because an individual in a detention facility for three years is unacceptable.</td>
<td>I think politicians are damned if they do and damned if they don't in a pandemic situation. What we can do is get the government out of the way of treatment and care. It is difficult to say who is and who is not essential. For the individual working that is now not essential by the government for them that paycheck is essential to feed their family, to have shelter, etc.</td>
<td>The Voters Rights Act has been a huge success. So much so that preclearance at the federal level is rarely needed to ensure the right to vote. One way to ensure eligible voters can access equal, safe, and fair elections is to stop the gerrymandering that currently occurs from both old parties.</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Collins (G)</td>
<td>Make immigration policy humane, at last. The US has helped make much of Central and South America unsafe for poor and indigenous families for decades; this must stop. Let our neighbors in and give them a path toward citizenship. If the flow of capital is globalized, with national boundaries practically irrelevant, the movement of workers should be just as unrestricted.</td>
<td>Our 4% of the world's population has about quarter of its COVID-19 deaths. If we had shut down public spaces, suspended rent and mortgage collections, and given US residents a livable income for a few months, like New Zealand and other countries, we would have saved thousands of lives and billions of dollars. We could easily pay for this by redirecting defense funding.</td>
<td>I believe all representatives of our government should be held to the highest standard. This includes our police, but also administrators and other workers. Joe Biden's crime bill has disproportionately harmed communities and deterred rehabilitation for those whom it affected. We must have stern law and order while also working to rehabilitate and release those who wish to reform their lives.</td>
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**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Serves two-year term. Primary duties: 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 six-year terms. For more information on the candidates and responses to more questions, go to VOTE411.org.

**TEXAS U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 20**

<table>
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<th>Candidate</th>
<th>What criminal justice reform do you recommend, if any?</th>
<th>What changes to our immigration system would you propose or support?</th>
<th>What is your position on climate change?</th>
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<td>Mauro Garza (R)</td>
<td>I believe all representatives of our government should be held to the highest standard. This includes our police, but also administrators and other workers. Joe Biden's crime bill has disproportionately harmed communities and deterred rehabilitation for those whom it affected. We must have stern law and order while also working to rehabilitate and release those who wish to reform their lives.</td>
<td>We must have strong, walled borders so that we can direct and welcome good people to enter through our ports. Many of the appropriate laws are already in-place, but are not enforced for political reasons. We must fully fund and support our immigration and border patrol organizations so they can fully execute their job of protecting the American people and welcoming the legal immigrant.</td>
<td>I believe we are blessed with a beautiful landscape and it is our responsibility to be a good steward of that blessing. I am pledged to pass on a better, more beautiful land to my children and I will not let political movements deter me from that pledge.</td>
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All the candidates on your ballot answer additional questions on the issues.

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<tr>
<td>Joaquin Castro (D)</td>
<td>For far too long, too many Americans have lost their lives to police brutality, and for far too long, the government has failed to protect the people. I was honored to co-sponsor the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act to address systemic racism in our criminal justice system. The bill would also ban the police from using chokeholds and no-knock warrants and would limit qualified immunity laws and create a national registry for police misconduct.</td>
<td>Our immigration system is broken, and we must have the moral courage to fix it. The United States of America has always been a nation of immigrants, but the current administration has demonized asylum seekers and those wishing to come to America to build a better life for themselves and their family. We need to immediately end the practice of separating families at the border and we need to provide a pathway to citizenship for DREAMERS and those under deferred action programs.</td>
<td>Protecting our environment and combating climate change are some of the most pressing issues of our time. Our first priority should be rejoining the Paris Climate Accord. Here at home, we must invest in renewable energies, especially in Texas where we are leaders in wind and solar – industries that will provide not only clean energy, but good-paying jobs in the decades to come. I’m proud to have the endorsement of the League of Conservation Voters’ Action Fund.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Blunt (L)</td>
<td>End the failed “War on Drugs” and release those imprisoned for simple possession of small amounts of drugs.</td>
<td>Make it easier for highly educated and skilled immigrants to come to this country, as they make us economically stronger.</td>
<td>The climate is fine as it is. I am against changing it.</td>
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<td>Texas U. S. Representative District 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Candidate</td>
<td>What criminal justice reform do you recommend, if any?</td>
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<td>What is your position on climate change?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chip Roy (R)</td>
<td>No response received by print deadline. See VOTE411.org for any later responses.</td>
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<td>Wendy Davis (D)</td>
<td>While I do not support defunding the police, I support ending choke-holds, no-knock warrants, qualified immunity, and criminalization of low level marijuana possession. We should increase resources to mental health/drug addiction &amp; homelessness.</td>
<td>We can secure our borders while also comprehensively reforming our immigration system, put an end to family separations, stop caging asylum seekers and provide a path to citizenship to Dreamers.</td>
<td>I feel a profound responsibility to my granddaughters — and all children — to do my part to deliver a sustainable future for them. We must invest in clean energy jobs and transition from reliance on fossil fuels. We should restore environmental protections that the Trump administration decimated, constrain use of eminent domain for placement of private energy pipelines and give communities a voice in environmental consequences of permitting activities impacting their air and water.</td>
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<td>Arthur DiBianca (L)</td>
<td>The federal government encourages the militarization of police by providing military equipment to them. I want to end that. I also want to end federal drug prohibition, which is connected to many of the problems with police abuse we see today. There is a lot of evidence that our criminal justice system is filled with racial inequity, and that is wrong and needs to end.</td>
<td>Immigrants are our friends, not our enemies. I want to make it much easier for foreign nationals to come live and work in the United States.</td>
<td>Climate change is a complex scientific question, and I am not a climate scientist. However, I oppose efforts by the federal government to control or restrict Americans’ energy choices.</td>
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**TEXAS U. S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 23**

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<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>What criminal justice reform do you recommend, if any?</th>
<th>What changes to our immigration system would you propose or support?</th>
<th>What is your position on climate change?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tommy Wakely (G)</td>
<td>Our nation’s criminal-legal system denies the rights &amp; dignity of all human life, harms both victims &amp; offenders, &amp; disrupts communities. New policy must re-envision &amp; reform our current system, while restoring the common good. The three areas of reform I would recommend are: 1. Ending CIVIL FORFEITURE – The practice that let’s the police seize a person property even if they have never been convicted of a crime; 2. Ending QUALIFIED IMMUNITY which shields police &amp; 3. LEGALIZING MARIJUANA;</td>
<td>My wife is from Mexico. Most of her family still live in Mexico &amp; as such, immigration is an important issue for me. I would support a 5 year pathway to permanent status &amp; citizenship for the 11 million unauthorized immigrants currently living, working, and contributing in America today; I would also support removing old or low-level contacts with the criminal justice system, such as marijuana possession, that currently prevent undocumented immigrants from attaining citizenship.</td>
<td>This is a CLIMATE EMERGENCY. Ice sheets are melting, the West coast is burning. It is only a matter of time before a 75,000 year old carcass thaws out somewhere &amp; releases a deadly pathogen that will make COVID-19 seems like the sniffles. As tillable land &amp; fresh water disappear around the world, local conflicts will turn into regional conflicts &amp; war. I’m the only candidate on the ballot for TX21 that understands that we must act now &amp; that is why I support a ban on fracking &amp; flaring.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Gonzales (R)</td>
<td>I support law enforcement, and I am proud to have earned the support of police officers association around this district. I will be a constructive member of Congress helping work toward a bipartisan police reform bill, including banning chokeholds, requiring officers to undergo training, and requiring criminal investigations whenever someone dies in police custody. The job of police officer is incredibly difficult and 99% of police officers are good and honorable people.</td>
<td>I support legal immigration and oppose illegal immigration. I support increasing border security in urban areas where the foot traffic is highest. I support labeling drug craters as terrorist organizations. I support closing loopholes in our asylum laws. I will support sensible reforms to our legal immigration system.</td>
<td>I support an all of the above energy policy. We cannot shut down fossil fuels, not should we. The Green New Deal would destroy our economy and kill millions of jobs. I support clean energy sources and they will power the future. But today our emissions in the US are falling due to the increased use of natural gas from fracking. That’s a very good thing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gina Ortiz Jones (D)</td>
<td>Ending mass incarceration in the United States begins with sentencing reform. Our current criminal justice system leaves Americans who live in poverty at a tremendous disadvantage, many of whom are people of color. I also support anti-recidivism education and training programs to ensure that everyone has a chance to contribute meaningfully to their communities.</td>
<td>As a proud first-generation American, I know that immigration strengthens our economy and contributes to our national security. I’ll advocate for common-sense immigration reform and fight to protect DACA and pass a clean Dream Act. We need to honor the promise we made to these young people, over 100,000 of whom call Texas home. These young people have become a crucial part of our workforce, economy, and communities, and I support ensuring they have a path to full citizenship.</td>
<td>Failing to address climate change, means we’re failing to address the national security and public health risks it poses, as well as ignoring the economic opportunities that clean energy presents. I’m proud that Texas is a leader in clean energy, and in Congress, I’ll work to create more good-paying, clean energy jobs here in South and West Texas by ensuring we’re investing in the infrastructure and advanced-skills training needed to compete.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beto Villela (L)</td>
<td>A crime requires a victim. If there is no victim, then no crime has occurred. I would reform legislature with this in mind.</td>
<td>The act of immigrating produces no victim. Therefore, any act of immigration is not a crime. I propose to legislate with this in mind.</td>
<td>I am a proponent of free market environmentalism. It is not the role of government to care for the environment. That is a private issue. It would certainly help if federal agencies reduced their own level of pollution. I would labor to do so by helping reduce or eliminate them.</td>
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"Someone struggled for your right to vote. Use it."

– Susan B. Anthony
### Texas U. S. Representative District 28

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<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>What criminal justice reform do you recommend, if any?</th>
<th>What changes to our immigration system would you propose or support?</th>
<th>What is your position on climate change?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sandra Whitten (R)</td>
<td>No response received by print deadline. See VOTE411.org for any later responses.</td>
<td>No response received by print deadline. See VOTE411.org for any later responses.</td>
<td>No response received by print deadline. See VOTE411.org for any later responses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Cuellar (D)</td>
<td>I was proud to vote for the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. This legislation is a comprehensive approach that will hold police accountable, end racial profiling, empower our communities, and build trust between law enforcement and our communities. We must make necessary reforms to our policing system, not defund or disassemble it, but rebuild trust between our law enforcement and our communities. Ending racial, religious and discriminatory profiling and improve transparency in the system.</td>
<td>As one of eight children born to migrant farm workers in Laredo, Texas, finding a solution to repair our broken immigration system is always a top priority. I have a long history of fighting for long-term solutions which is why I have supported legislation protecting DACA recipients, DREAMers. I have also fought through my role on the House Appropriations Committee to secure funding for migrant workers and jobs programs allowing migrants access to jobs and education.</td>
<td>I support real action to protect our environment. I was proud to introduced the Launching Energy Advancement and Development through Innovations for Natural Gas (LEADING) Act of 2019. The legislation prioritizes research and development funding for technology that captures carbon emissions. Ultimately, the bill seeks to develop more carbon capture technology. More needs to be done to reduce America's emissions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bekah Congdon (L)</td>
<td>First, we must end qualified immunity. Police need to be held accountable for their actions as much as any other citizen. We need to demilitarize law enforcement return the standard of policing to protecting and serving.</td>
<td>The free movement of peaceful people should not be infringed.</td>
<td>I believe that climate change is a very real concern. The US Government has been one of the greatest polluters of all time. They should hold themselves to a higher standard, set a better example, and allow the market to demand better of companies and businesses.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Texas U. S. Representative District 35

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>What criminal justice reform do you recommend, if any?</th>
<th>What actions, if any, would you take to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to safe and fair elections?</th>
<th>What legislation would you support to address the health and economic impact caused by COVID-19?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jenny Garcia Sharon (R)</td>
<td>No response received by print deadline. See VOTE411.org for any later responses.</td>
<td>Vote by mail option for all. Resist Trump postal service sabotage. Restore Voting Rights Act. Overrule Citizens United and secret corporate money polling our democracy. Replace outrageous gerrymandering with nonpartisan redistricting panel. I sponsored H.R. 1, For the People Act, to limit SuperPAC spending, improve voter registration and access, limit voter purges, provide alternate financing.</td>
<td>Assistance for virus testing, small businesses, unemployed. I am helping hundreds of Texans access aid. Supported extensive assistance obstructed by Trump enablers: more COVID testing &amp; treatment, food security, another relief payment, school safety, postal service, and state/local government assistance, which Senate GOP Leader irresponsibly willing to bankrupt. Overcome ongoing Trump deception.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lloyd Doggett (D)</td>
<td>Better security with fair, just treatment. Black Lives Matter since too often devalued. Sponsored George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, blocked by GOP; to ban abusive practices, racial profiling; create new training, empower federal misconduct review; limit qualified immunity; Condition federal funding on local compliance; Adequately fund many good officers providing effective community policing.</td>
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</tbody>
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@lwvsaa lwvsaa
### Texas Railroad Commissioner

Six-year term. The railroad commissioner is one of the three-member Texas Railroad Commission. The commission has no regulatory authority concerning railroads. Instead, it regulates the oil and gas industry, gas utilities, pipeline safety, safety in the liquefied petroleum gas industry, and surface coal and uranium mining. Current salary: $137,500. **For more information on the candidates and responses to more questions, go to VOTE411.org.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>What criminal justice reform do you recommend, if any?</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mark Loewe (L)</td>
<td>I devised progressive school choice to empower parents, especially poor parents, to reject mediocre schools and choose safe schools that better serve the individual needs, abilities, and interests of their children. Such choice would greatly improve education and job skills, reduce disruptive behavior and numbers of children who turn to drugs and crime, and is essential to criminal justice reform. To ease access, I favor making federal election days holidays. For elections with more than two candidates, I favor instant-runoff voting. To promote accurate results and deter fraud in federal elections, I favor photo IDs, recountable ballots, public access to photos of cast ballots and chain-of-custody records, federal rules and payment for mandatory recounts, and severe penalties for fraud.</td>
<td>Except to vet aliens for dangerous communicable diseases, I oppose health limits on liberty without proof that a person is dangerous. To improve health care and lower costs, I favor unlimited competition, with public access totrack-record and cost statistics of treatments and practitioners. I oppose bailouts that would reward lavish spending, poor planning, and mismanagement by state governments.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chrysta Castañeda (D)</td>
<td>I will work to reform the Juvenile system in an effort to allow Juvenile offenders an opportunity to overcome barriers and not repeat offenses. I will work to close to pipeline of Juvenile to County Jail to Prison incarceration. Every year, America spends millions of dollars treating the symptoms of instead of prevention and intervention of Juvenile delinquency which may lead to long term jail. Due to COVID-19 I would support Vote By Mail with protocols in place to minimize voter fraud. I will also work to assure that there are enough voting sites available in all areas (rural, urban, and suburban) to have reasonable access to voting sites. I will also push for Texas to modernize the election process ensuring fair and just election results. Voters respond well to a fair process.</td>
<td>I would support legislation that ensures that essential workers are secured and protected. I would support legislation that protects vulnerable children and elderly individuals who may be more At-Risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus. I would support legislation that focuses on a vaccine and that assures that there would be more than enough PPE supplies, hospital beds, and ventilators are available.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Sterett (L)</td>
<td>I devised progressive school choice to empower parents, especially poor parents, to reject mediocre schools and choose safe schools that better serve the individual needs, abilities, and interests of their children. Such choice would greatly improve education and job skills, reduce disruptive behavior and numbers of children who turn to drugs and crime, and is essential to criminal justice reform. To ease access, I favor making federal election days holidays. For elections with more than two candidates, I favor instant-runoff voting. To promote accurate results and deter fraud in federal elections, I favor photo IDs, recountable ballots, public access to photos of cast ballots and chain-of-custody records, federal rules and payment for mandatory recounts, and severe penalties for fraud.</td>
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</table>

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties.
Candidate | What can the Texas Railroad Commission do to further ensure compliance with pipeline regulations to avoid environmental harm?
---|---
Katija Gruene (L) | First, no new pipelines. Second, properly inspect and review existing permits for compliance and safety. Third, hold corporations accountable for violations including restoration of & restitution in areas already harmed. Fourth, stop taking political contributions from those they are regulating. Fifth, enforce new 2020 regulations, including updating existing pipelines.

What can the Texas Railroad Commission do to promote the reclamation and reuse of water resources used in fracking operations?

Ban Fracking Period. There is no need for such a highly wasteful, unsafe, and unsustainable practice. All water used in these operations is no longer potable and because it is chemically altered, scientists believe it may never be returned to the state of water – h20. The emerging tech of onsite carrier gas desalination plants could become a valid option if successful.

What, if any, further regulations or limits are needed to address the impact of flaring on the environment?

There are solutions, we just need to require them: power oxidation process, flare gas power generation, flare gas reinjection in secondary oil recovery, feedstock for petrochemical plants, LNG, CNG, & a small reactor that inexpensively breaks water and methane into carbon monoxide and hydrogen in the field (syngas), which can then be used for energy and industrial products.

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### 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. For more information on the candidates and responses to more questions, go to VOTE411.org.

District Judges, pages 28–32.

**WHY ARE JUDICIAL ELECTIONS IMPORTANT?**

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

**WHAT SHOULD VOTERS LOOK FOR WHEN ELECTING JUDGES?**

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

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

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

How is the Texas court system organized?

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

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

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

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Visit lwvsao.org
TEXAS SUPREME COURT

Six-year term. A member of the court that hears only civil cases. The Supreme Court issues final decisions on civil and juvenile appeals, issues writs of mandamus/habeas corpus, and has jurisdiction over orders or judgments of trial courts if the Supreme Court determines them important to the jurisprudence of the state. Current salary: $171,000. **For more information on the candidates and responses to more questions, go to VOTE411.org.**

### TEXAS SUPREME COURT, CHIEF JUSTICE

**Nathan Hecht (R)**

Voters should decide who their judges are, but in partisan elections, they don’t get to, because there are too many judges on the ballot to know their qualifications. It’s not voters’ fault. Party politics and campaign fundraising are poisonous. Judges must follow the law. Appoint on qualifications, then voters elect to retain based on performance, holding them accountable.

**Amy Clark Meachum (D)**

The State should help voters by sending an information packet to each voter and providing that information at polling locations. The packet should contain background information, qualifications, and a statement of judicial philosophy for each candidate. That information would assist voters to make an informed selection and would reduce campaign costs for candidates.

**Mark Ash (L)**

Elections for judges should not be based on political party affiliation. At a minimum, judges should be in good standing with the state bar and have actively practiced law in Texas for a minimum time period of 5 or 10 years. Also, term limits for judges should be seriously considered limiting judges to no more than 2 or 3 terms per court.

### TEXAS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE, PLACE 6 (UNEXPIRED TERM)

**Jane Bland (R)**

No change in judicial selection can happen without the support of the voters and their elected representatives. Governor Abbott and the Texas Legislature have formed a bi-partisan commission charged with making recommendations about judicial selection. I look forward to these recommendations, and I support this process.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties.
### Texas Supreme Court Justice, Place 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Texas is one of the few states that elects judges in partisan elections. What changes, if any, in the judicial selection process would you recommend?</th>
<th>What changes, if any, do you think are necessary to improve public confidence in the legal profession?</th>
<th>What training and practices do you recommend for trial judges to guard against implicit biases?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cathy Cheng (D)</strong></td>
<td>The beauty of democracy is that citizens can vote for individuals who they believe reflect their values, which in the State of Texas includes the election of judges. If that choice turns out to be a bad choice, being able to vote elected officials out of office is a mechanism to hold said officials accountable. As such, I see no need for change at the present time.</td>
<td>As time evolves, the means of disseminating the rules and standards for the legal profession shall also evolve. With the ease of digital accessibility, there should be more educational information available to the general public by digital means of the rules and standards governing said profession so that the general population are better informed as to their rights.</td>
<td>Raising awareness of the existence of implicit bias through regular meeting discussion can debias the years of exposure to cultural stereotypes, narratives and/or systemic policies. In addition, implement a mandatory annual implicit bias training for judges and staff members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jeff Boyd (R)</strong></td>
<td>Electing judges creates issues that undermine the public's confidence in the system, but it also requires judges and judicial candidates to interact with the public. This gives the public the opportunity learn who will best serve to counteract those problems. If we were building the process from scratch, leave it to the public to decide to alter the system.</td>
<td>The legal profession needs to get more involved in the community. My judicial outreach program, the Citizens' Civil Academy (&quot;CCA&quot;), was launched to educate citizens about the civil court system. The CCA explores the types of cases heard in the civil courts and what happens to a case from the time the case is filed until it is disposed. There have been over 350 graduates.</td>
<td>Programs like the “Beyond the Bench” conference the Court sponsored in 2016 can be effective for that purpose. Requiring judges' participation in such well-designed, high-quality programs as part of their annual continuing-education requirements would be a meaningful step in the right direction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Staci Williams (D)</strong></td>
<td>Texans have elected judges in partisan elections for more than 100 years. While I believe that this Texas tradition should not be disturbed, a Commission has been established to study options to selecting judges in urban areas by methods other than partisan elections. Recommendations will be made at the end of the year. I look forward to reviewing these alternatives.</td>
<td>We must continue to make the system more accessible by reducing the costs and delays required to resolve common civil disputes. We must do more to promote the legal profession as a means for public service instead of private profit. And we must continue to promote transparency into the operations and activities of our courts and judges.</td>
<td>I believe they should attend training sessions and evaluate on a monthly basis what practices or procedures can be modified to reduce implicit bias. Every day, the judge should ask him/herself, “would I have treated this litigant differently if he had been a member of my own race?”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Texas Supreme Court Justice, Place 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Texas is one of the few states that elects judges in partisan elections. What changes, if any, in the judicial selection process would you recommend?</th>
<th>What changes, if any, do you think are necessary to improve public confidence in the legal profession?</th>
<th>What training and practices do you recommend for trial judges to guard against implicit biases?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>William Bryan Strange, III (L)</strong></td>
<td>No response received by print deadline. See VOTE411.org for any later responses.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Brett Busby (R)</strong></td>
<td>Our process should select experienced judges who will deliver justice; giving everyone the fair day in court they deserve and ruling impartially based on the law, never imposing their personal or political views to reach a desired result. I support the work of the Texas Commission on Judicial Selection, which the Legislature created to report on selection options in 2021.</td>
<td>Important conversations are taking place across Texas about equality and justice under the law. The Supreme Court's “Beyond the Bench: Law, Justice, and Communities Summit” developed a toolkit to foster dialogue on real solutions that will enhance public trust in our justice system. I encourage lawyers, judges, and local leaders to use this kit in their communities.</td>
<td>The Texas Center for the Judiciary provides all new Texas judges with training on recognizing and responding to implicit biases. As part of our ongoing commitment to assure that equal justice under law is a reality for all, the Center also offers continuing education on unconscious processes that affect decisions and best practices for increasing sound decision-making.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vote safely: To protect yourself and others from COVID-19:

- 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 voting site.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties.
**JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, PLACE 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>How should the Court of Criminal Appeals address mental health issues of those who come before the court?</th>
<th>What opportunities are there, if any, to improve the state’s indigent defense system in criminal cases?</th>
<th>What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Court of Criminal Appeals?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Patrick Yeary (R)</td>
<td>The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, along with the Texas Supreme Court, recently established the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health “to engage and empower court systems through collaboration, education, and leadership, and to thereby improve the lives of individuals with mental health needs and persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).”</td>
<td>The Texas Indigent Defense Commission provides financial and technical support to counties to develop and maintain quality, cost-effective indigent defense systems that meet the needs of local communities and the requirements of the Constitution and state law.</td>
<td>The Court must follow the rule of law and ensure that the written law provides the even playing field that all citizens should expect from our judicial system. Judges must not be policy makers, but should instead decide disputes between parties to litigation, guided by reference to the constitution and laws, which are written by others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tina Clinton (D)</td>
<td>The CCA is an appellate court so issues of mental health raised on appeal are the issues that may be addressed. The CCA also funds education programs and grants for judges, lawyers and prosecutors. Expanding the funding for additional education on mental health in criminal cases would make a vast difference in the entire criminal justice system.</td>
<td>First, review cases of ineffective assistance of counsel closely. One can be ineffective not merely by not doing something they should have done but also for the lack of time they have based on carrying too heavy of a case load, based on ABA standards. Second, indigent defense attorneys must be given adequate resources for investigators, experts and other tools.</td>
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**JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, PLACE 9**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>How should the Court of Criminal Appeals address mental health issues of those who come before the court?</th>
<th>What opportunities are there, if any, to improve the state’s indigent defense system in criminal cases?</th>
<th>What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Court of Criminal Appeals?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Newell (R)</td>
<td>It can adopt dynamic standards to allow non-dangerous citizens suffering from mental illness who commit a crime to easily transfer out of the criminal justice system from a jail bed to a hospital bed so they can get the help they deserve. Violent offenders should also be treated for their illnesses, but in a secure facility for the safety of the community.</td>
<td>Creation of more regional public defender’s offices could help ensure a standard level of competent representation. Additionally, the Court of Criminal Appeals could pro-actively set out minimum standards for representation of indigent defendants in serious cases.</td>
<td>Mental health issues, mentioned above, are obviously pressing. Wrongful convictions based upon junk science or police misconduct are also very serious. Additionally, reforming bail practices so that the indigent are not incarcerated for extended periods of time prior to conviction unless there is a flight or safety risk is another significant to address.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon Birmingham (D)</td>
<td>My experience has taught me how important properly addressing mental health issues are to reducing recidivism. The CCA should help increase training for lawyers on these issues, and where appropriate, work to increase funding for courts across Texas for worthwhile mental health programs.</td>
<td>Justice shouldn’t depend upon a person’s access to resources-lessons we’ve learned from the Dallas County exonerations. We must increase funding through the legislature to help counties pay for reasonable and necessary costs of providing indigent defense. Second, we have to establish state-wide best practices to define and manage the case loads of indigent defense counsel.</td>
<td>From allowing a verdict to stand while a lawyer slept in court, to letting politics impact decisions, or reversals by the United States Supreme Court in death penalty cases, rulings from the CCA have contributed to the public’s skepticism of our criminal courts, and illustrate very clearly the need for change. If we don’t learn from history, we are doomed to repeat it.</td>
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</table>

“There’s no such thing as a vote that doesn’t matter.”

– President Barack Obama
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

4-year term. The 15-member SBOE sets policies and standards for Texas public schools, oversees the Texas Permanent School Fund, provides final review of rules proposed by the State Board for Educator Certification and reviews the commissioner’s proposed award of new charter schools, with authority to veto a recommended applicant. For more information on the candidates, go to VOTE411.org.

MEMBER, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>What is your philosophy for setting curriculum standards?</th>
<th>What changes, if any, do you recommend to prepare students for their civic responsibilities?</th>
<th>What is your position on charter schools in the public education system?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lani Popp (R)</td>
<td>I believe curriculum standards should be historically and scientifically accurate and age appropriate. We need to foster critical thinking skills so students are able to actively debate and question instead of being passive recipients of information. We need to discontinue requiring a single process for math calculations and allow students to use a variety of processes.</td>
<td>I believe students should have civics in their junior year in high school. Thus if they are 18 in the fall of their senior year, they will have an adequate understanding of our constitutions and the freedoms, rights, and responsibilities therein. I believe students should have to demonstrate competence in this area by answering questions from our citizenship test.</td>
<td>Having worked in an inner-city school district, I can see the benefit of charter schools for students who are more socio-economically disadvantaged. We need to make sure we are properly vetting charter schools, holding them to the same standards as other public schools. We also need to safeguard parent choice and must always promote the academic success of the student.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Bell-Meterreau (D)</td>
<td>Restore respect for teachers, public schools. Teach data-based science, technology, literature, art, music, history, vocations, civics, financial, statistical literacy, sex ed, SpEd, critical thinking. Show leadership, stop costly high-stakes testing, ideological influence on education; listen to students, teachers, parents, find common ground, equity, voice for diversity.</td>
<td>Teach history of voting rights, governmental branches, variety of governments, include democracies, etc. variation among counties, states, nations, worldwide, and basic principles of voting, jury duty. Note U.S. ranks 26th in eligible voter participation at 56% in 2016. Use mock debates and voting to develop civil discourse and constructive engagement/register all over-18</td>
<td>SBOE must use better judgment. I saw SBOE approve a proposal for a charter in a strip mall alongside toxic businesses; luckily Abbott nixed it. Some charters, like Ann Richards school, are great models, admitting by lottery; some charters don’t admit all students, siphon tax dollars from public schools, &amp; aren’t made to operate by same equitable standards as public schools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Berlin (L)</td>
<td>No response received by print deadline. See VOTE411.org for any later responses.</td>
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TEXAS STATE SENATOR

Elected to serve 4 years. Primary Duties: Creating, debating and voting on legislation that can become new laws or change existing ones. How do they impact your life? Taxes, funding for schools, redistricting. For more information on the candidates, go to VOTE411.org.

TEXAS STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>What criminal justice reform do you recommend, if any?</th>
<th>With the expected revenue shortfall, would you consider using the state’s “rainy day fund” to help finance education and/or other programs? Why or why not?</th>
<th>What are your priorities to support the many segments of the business community – including small businesses, the hospitality, travel and tourism industry, and others – that have been significantly impacted by the pandemic and are deeply concerned about liablility?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter P. (Pete) Flores (R)</td>
<td>I am completely in support of medical and adult use of cannabis. I plan on filing legislation on this issue. I have been extremely vocal in my intention to file and support the legalization of cannabis. I co-sponsored the Hemp legislation during the 86th legislation session. I believe we have many in jail that really should never have gone there. In that I mean, the mass incarceration of those who had low level cases involving marijuana.</td>
<td>Yes, I would use rainy day funds to help with our expected budget shortfall for public education. We made a promise with the last education funding bill we passed last session. I am also looking into using alternative ways to raise revenue such as the legalization of cannabis and possibly a limited number of destination gaming.</td>
<td>I am a small business owner myself and understand the struggles that these industries are facing. Priorities will be finding relief for all who are suffering with the pandemic because we are expecting lasting effects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roland Gutierrez (D)</td>
<td>No response received by print deadline. See VOTE411.org for any later responses.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jo-Anne Valdivia (L)</td>
<td>No response received by print deadline. See VOTE411.org for any later responses.</td>
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Texas State Senator, District 26

José Menéndez (D)

We need to have a common-sense approach to reform. I advocate for more community policing and integration between the community and law enforcement. I have visited with many who believe that with cooperation and training we can work together to rebuild trust and safety. I do expect that we will look to outlaw some practices such as chokeholds.

Texas State Representative

Trey Martinez Fischer (D)

In addition to the George Floyd Act and the Botham Jean Act, both of which I will proudly support, I am interested in additional transparency measures to ensure that officers’ complete personnel files, including disciplinary records, are accessible to the public and to other police departments in the state, even if an officer steps down before disciplinary determinations are made.

Texas State Representative District 116

Robert Litoff (R)

No response received by print deadline. See VOTE411.org for any later responses.

Trey Martinez Fischer (D)

Unequivocally, yes. The state has stowed away billions of dollars in case of emergency, and that money is not helping anyone sitting untouched in the Texas Treasury Pool. I can think of no wiser investment than supporting our children’s futures and helping our state recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.
Texas Voters’ Bill of Rights

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

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

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

Ron Nirenberg
Mayor, City of San Antonio
Nelson W. Wolff
Judge, Bexar County
Jacquelyn F. Callanen
Electoral Administrator, Bexar County
Madhru Sridhar
President, League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area

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

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

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

If you do not possess and cannot reasonably obtain one of these IDs, fill out a declaration at the polls explaining why and bring one of the following supporting documents:
- Valid voter registration certificate
- Certified birth certificate (must be an original)
- Copy of or original current utility bill
- Copy of or original bank statement
- Copy of or original government check
- Copy of or original paycheck, Copy of or original government document with your name and an address (original required if it contains a photograph)

PROVISIONAL BALLOT

You have the right to cast a provisional ballot IF,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prepared by the League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area, January 2018
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 periodo 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 temprano durante el período de votación temprana dentro del territorio en donde se lleva a cabo la votación.
11. Tiene derecho de apelar cualquier incumplimiento de sus derechos electorales utilizando el procedimiento de presentación de quejas.
12. Tiene derecho de votar si no se encuentra encarcelado por una condena por delito grave y la inscripción electoral se realizó después de que su sentencia se haya cumplido por completo.
13. Tiene derecho de llevar consigo a la cabina de votación esta Declaración de Derechos Electorales así como cualquier otro documento de apoyo, incluso una planilla de muestra, una guía electoral o material de campaña electoral. No obedece llevarse los documentos al salir de la cabina de votación.
14. Tiene derecho de votar en su Puesto de Votación a cualquier hora entre las 7:00 a.m. y las 7 p.m. en los días de las elecciones Estatales y Federales. El horario de votación puede variar para Elecciones locales. Si está en la fila para votar al cierre del Puesto de Votación a las 7:00 p.m. tiene el derecho de votar.
15. Tiene derecho de que sus hijos lo acompañen a la cabina de votación.

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

Ron Nirenberg
Nelson W. Wolff
Jacquelyn F. Callanen
President, League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area

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

Los documentos de identidad aceptados son:

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

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

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

Certificado válido de Registro electoral:

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

PLANILLA PROVISIONAL

Tiene derecho de votar con una planilla provisional SI

Su nombre no aparece en la lista de electores registrados.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Preparado por la Liga de Votantes de Mujeres del Área de San Antonio, enero de 2018
**TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 117**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>What criminal justice reform do you recommend, if any?</th>
<th>With the expected revenue shortfall, would you consider using the state’s “rainy day fund” to help finance education and/or other programs? Why or why not?</th>
<th>What are your priorities to support the many segments of the business community – including small businesses, the hospitality, travel and tourism industry, and others – that have been significantly impacted by the pandemic and are deeply concerned about liability?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carlos Antonio Raymond (R)</td>
<td>Criminal justice reforms should be a top issue for the next legislative session. Locally in District 117, there was a COVID-19 outbreak in the Dominguez facility and many public health issues impacting the inmates and prison staff were uncovered. Various reform issues, to include improved communication procedures, access to health care, and improved air quality for inmates (via AC units), are issues to be discussed with TDCJ with the goal of statewide implementation.</td>
<td>No, fiscal responsibility is the only way. Decrease government spending on superfluous programs and then reinvest those funds towards meaningful ones.</td>
<td>Many small businesses in District 117 have been impacted negatively by the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is my priority to assist in creating a strong environment for businesses to thrive. I will continue to advocate for our small businesses and the tourism industry at the state level by facilitating discussions between state agencies and business owners. If there are opportunities to remove bureaucratic red-tape and fees to assist small businesses during the pandemic, I will advocate for them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip Cortez (D)</td>
<td>I believe in properly funding and focusing law enforcement towards the primary purpose of protecting the public, not helping generate revenue for their county or city. I also believe in decriminalizing non-violent drug related crimes.</td>
<td>The “rainy day fund” or Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF) should be in discussion for use during the next legislative session. As the name implies, the ESF was created for use during economic downturn years in the state. The COVID-19 pandemic has created the exact scenario that was envisioned when the ESF was created. Due to the shortfall in revenue predicted for the upcoming fiscal year, it is critical that the legislature employ all sources of revenue to avoid cuts to our public services.</td>
<td>Limit any and all legislation that places nonsensical regulations on businesses. Free market and buyers choice should dictate success of a business, not larger corporations that have the funds to assist small businesses during the pandemic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Quinones (L)</td>
<td>No response received by print deadline. See VOTE411.org for any later responses.</td>
<td>With the expected revenue shortfall, would you consider using the state’s “rainy day fund” to help finance education and/or other programs? Why or why not?</td>
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**TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 118**

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<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>What criminal justice reform do you recommend, if any?</th>
<th>With the expected revenue shortfall, would you consider using the state’s “rainy day fund” to help finance education and/or other programs? Why or why not?</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adam Salyer (R)</td>
<td>In our society today, people live in fear. The state must take a firm stand against violence. Too many times, so-called peaceful protests turn into riots where mob rule leads young people to violence. If we increase the minimum and maximum penalties for property destruction or physical harm to citizens 10-fold, we will stop this trend.</td>
<td>I believe that our state’s loss of revenue is as much a self-inflicted wound as anything else. The first step we must take is to reopen all businesses without restrictions on capacity. Let’s open our economy first and see how it rebounds. Then if need be we can take the extraordinary steps to our rainy-day fund.</td>
<td>Do you believe that you are not safe walking into a restaurant, so you must wear a mask, but then you are somehow safe when you sit down? Or are you safer in a restaurant than a bar? People do not socially distance on planes or buses. Still, cinemas are struggling to operate at a greatly reduced capacity for a virus that has had no serious impact on 99.5% of the population in Bexar County. We must stop restricting businesses based on capacity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties.
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<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>What criminal justice reform do you recommend, if any?</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leo Pacheco (D)</td>
<td>As a current member of the Legislative Criminal Jurisprudence Committee I have championed many reforms to correct social injustice in our state. The United States has 691 prisoners per 100,000 population. Yet Texas exceeds the US with 891 prisoners per 100K population. In Texas prisons, 67% of prisoners are Hispanic or Black. This metric clearly shows something is not right in Texas. As a member of the legislature I will work hard to look at legislation to reverse this model. Support expungement of criminal history for marijuana crimes.</td>
<td>Yes I support the use of the Economic Stabilization Fund, (Rainy Day Fund) for specific programs that support impacted citizens, small business, education and medical programs impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic. Texas has the largest rainy-day fund in the United States, estimated at $10 billion dollars. In 1988, the citizens of Texas approved a constitutional amendment that created the rainy-day fund for downturns such as recessions, or in this case an economic downturn cause by COVID 19.</td>
<td>District 118 is the most diverse legislative district in Bexar County; from the city of San Antonio, to small rural cities adjacent to San Antonio and vast farms and ranches. District 118 includes large, small, “mom and pop” establishments. I will not support legislation that allows liability or frivolous law suits that hurt small businesses in my district.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Jason Velasquez (L)</td>
<td>When criminals are incarcerated, they need to have access to programs to help them either get jobs once they are out or experience. Almost like a transition program that helps line up ex inmates with companies that are willing to hire them. Decriminalization of marijuana. Support expungement of criminal history for marijuana crimes.</td>
<td>I do believe that teachers do not get paid enough for what they do as well as get the support they need. My suggestion is to set up teacher boards with an outside mediator to help bridge the divide between what is needed and what is working. Our public schools need help with curriculum, resources and other items. We might need to see what funding we can either cut from other avenues instead of tapping into the rainy day fund. There is a lot of government wasteful spending. Support with resources is a big one. In my district alone very few small businesses applied to grants. Mostly due to the fact that many either did not know about them or felt like they would not receive anything. Forgiveness on permits or specific licenses or delay or payments would be helpful. Allow businesses to modify their business in a quicker timeframe so that they can navigate the day to day changes of this issue. Some bars have converted to actual restaurants just to stay open.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George B. Garza (R)</td>
<td>I believe education, intervention and self-help/leadership programs should be implemented and utilized in all detention facilities. Some people were never equipped with a strong core foundation to better prepare them the live a life</td>
<td>I believe the state of Texas could greatly benefit from utilizing the cannabis industry like so many other states have already. I would like to see Texas farmers and business capitalize before any other outside entities do. I also am a proponent for casino industries to help regenerate tourism and bring in much needed funds for the citizens of Texas.</td>
<td>My priorities are to be able to offer a tax vacation to those businesses that had to shutter during the shut-down. Then offer an incentive program for companies that stay open and offer health care options to their employees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth “Liz” Campos (D)</td>
<td>No response received by print deadline. See VOTE411.org for any later responses.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

– Thomas Jefferson
The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties.
### Texas State Representative District 121

<table>
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<th>Candidate</th>
<th>What criminal justice reform do you recommend, if any?</th>
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<th>What are your priorities to support the many segments of the business community – including small businesses, the hospitality, travel and tourism industry, and others – that have been significantly impacted by the pandemic and are deeply concerned about liability?</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Barbara Gervin-Hawkins</strong></td>
<td><strong>(D)</strong></td>
<td>Yes, I would consider using of the rainy-day fund to assist in helping finance public education and other critical programs. I would use these funds to ensure the state takes care of critical needs while we identify other long-term funding mechanisms.</td>
<td>I would work with the local chambers of commerce’s as well as the city and county to identify needs. Provide support to these industries to determine what is needed to bring them back on-line. As well as ensuring businesses have the support and access to capital they need.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shawn Huckabay</strong></td>
<td><strong>(L)</strong></td>
<td>I would prefer that we instead focus on cutting spending anywhere we can and enabling private individuals to use their own money and resources for the services they want. The purpose of government is to protect the right to life, liberty, and property of the people, but right now, government engages in many functions that fall well outside that. I would also say that government education of children is an active harm to them and should be abolished.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

**TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 121**

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<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>What criminal justice reform do you recommend, if any?</th>
<th>With the expected revenue shortfall, would you consider using the state’s “rainy day fund” to help finance education and/or other programs? Why or why not?</th>
<th>What are your priorities to support the many segments of the business community – including small businesses, the hospitality, travel and tourism industry, and others – that have been significantly impacted by the pandemic and are deeply concerned about liability?</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Steve Allison</strong></td>
<td>No response received by print deadline. See VOTE411.org for any later responses.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Celina Montoya</strong></td>
<td>We have inequities in our criminal justice system that we must address immediately. This means taking action: reforming our bail system, ending the death penalty, and not using prison as the first resort for people that commit low-level, non-violent crimes. We can support our local law enforcement and demand changes to police culture and union contracts. I support limits to qualified immunity laws, a database to track officers with a history of misconduct, and tougher accountability in contracts.</td>
<td>I support a one-time use of the “rainy day fund” to help finance public education, but we need a more sustainable solution for school finance. We need a complete review of our antiquated and imbalanced tax system. For years, the state has saddled homeowners with taking on the burden of funding our schools while relieving itself of the same responsibility. We need leaders who are committed to delivering real property tax relief by holding the state accountable to its most important functions.</td>
<td>Small businesses employ almost half of all private-sector employees in the state and are the lifeblood of our local economies. Preparing for the future means investing in career-training programs and a 21st century mentality. Texas needs leaders that will fight for equal pay for equal work, protect workers from discrimination, and support a living minimum wage. San Antonio is a community that relies heavily on hospitality and tourism, and we must do everything in our power to help them recover.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Texas State Representative District 122**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
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<th>What are your priorities to support the many segments of the business community—including small businesses, the hospitality, travel and tourism industry, and others—that have been significantly impacted by the pandemic and are deeply concerned about liability?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lyle Larson (R)</td>
<td>There is growing awareness of the urgent need for criminal justice reform due to systemic racism, mass incarceration, the school-to-prison pipeline, minimum sentencing mandates, and the growth of for-profit prisons. I support reforming cash bail, decriminalizing marijuana, and reducing penalties for low level, non-violent drug offenses and other mandatory minimums. I also increased funding for drug treatment and mental health programs and elimination of private prisons.</td>
<td>Yes, I support using the rainy day fund to help finance education, health care, and other programs for those affected by COVID-19 and associated job losses. A once in a century pandemic is exactly the kind of disaster the rainy day fund is intended for, and Texans should receive the support they need to weather the storm. Schools need funding for technology for online school and safety measures for in-person school. Those out of work need financial support for rent, food, and health care.</td>
<td>Our economy has been devastated, not just by the pandemic but by the mismanagement and leadership failures at the state level. Reopening too soon and delays in mandating masks prolonged the economic crisis and caused many small businesses to have to close a second time. Following public health guidelines is paramount to economic recovery. The state must also step in to provide small businesses the support they need to survive while infection rates are brought under control.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Texas State Representative District 123**

Diego Bernal (D) – Unopposed

**Texas State Representative District 124**

Ina Minjarez (D) – Unopposed

**Texas State Representative District 125**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>What criminal justice reform do you recommend, if any?</th>
<th>With the expected revenue shortfall, would you consider using the state’s “rainy day fund” to help finance education and/or other programs? Why or why not?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ray Lopez (D)</td>
<td>Eliminating low level possession charges, eliminating minimum sentencing, reducing parole officer caseload, studying the cost of keeping people in jail. And other reforms.</td>
<td>Absolutely, it is raining on our public schools even more so with the COVID-19 pandemic. I wrote a letter to the Governor this month asking for him to provide additional funding for ISD’s to combat the “COVID Slide”. Just like the “Summer Slide” when students often haven’t picked up a book since the end of the school year, the Coronavirus has effected our children’s learning environment. I would encourage extra funding and support to get them prepared for the next school year.</td>
<td>No response received by print deadline. See VOTE411.org for any later responses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Valdivia (L)</td>
<td>No response received by print deadline. See VOTE411.org for any later responses.</td>
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<td>No response received by print deadline. See VOTE411.org for any later responses.</td>
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</table>

“One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors.”

— Plato
**JUSTICE COURT OF APPEALS**

6-year term. Must be age 35-74 years, a U.S. Citizen, a Texas resident, licensed to practice law in Texas, a registered voter, and have at least 10 years experience as a lawyer or judge. Hears appeals on civil and criminal cases from lower courts in its district. See Voting for Judges, Page 12. For more information on the candidates, go to VOTE411.org.

**TEXAS CHIEF JUSTICE, 4TH COURT OF APPEALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Texas is one of the few states that elect judges in partisan elections. What changes in the judicial selection process would you recommend, if any?</th>
<th>What changes, if any, do you think are necessary to improve public confidence in the legal profession?</th>
<th>What training and practices do you recommend for trial judges to guard against implicit biases?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Renee A. Yanta (R)</td>
<td>I suggest the following: (1) Modify the selection process to require judicial candidates have at least 10 years of litigation experience and be board certified. (2) Judicial candidates run without political affiliations and during an apolitical election cycle.</td>
<td>Indeed, both bench and bar must reaffirm its commitment to the fair administration of justice; to keeping justice transparent, equitable and accountable; to be of service to those in need; to remove conscience and unconscious bias from the justice system; to acknowledge that institutional racism exists and, per our Oath &amp; Code, commit to policies that actually combat it.</td>
<td>DEI training is imperative for all trial and appellate judges, enabling judges to recognize implicit bias and modify their courtroom procedures. As Chief Justice, I am committed to expanding DEI initiatives at the court of appeals and will launch by February 2021 a “listening tour” to obtain feedback from all participants in the appellate process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebeca Martinez (D)</td>
<td>Since the Republic in 1836, Texans have grappled with this issue and, after thoughtful debate, have fought to guarantee fair and equal access to the courts. Twice, by constitutional amendment, we have returned our system from an appointed to an elected selection process, and I believe Texans should remain trusted to select and remove their judges. Thank you for your trust.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DISTRICT JUDGE CRIMINAL**

Elected to 4-year terms. Handle felony cases involving murder, assault, theft, drunk driving. For more information on the candidates, go to VOTE411.org.

**DISTRICT JUDGE CRIMINAL, 175TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Catherine Torres-Stahl (D) – Unopposed

**DISTRICT JUDGE CRIMINAL, 379TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Ron Rangel (D) – Unopposed

**DISTRICT JUDGE CRIMINAL, 399TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>What are your thoughts about plea bargains?</th>
<th>How should a party’s financial situation be considered in regard to pre-trial release?</th>
<th>What do you think about the functioning of the justice system during the pandemic? Are there any parts of that process you would like to see continued when the pandemic is over?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walden Shelton (R)</td>
<td>Plea Bargains are necessary for the efficient administration of justice. They are the result of negotiation between the State and the Defense based on the merits of the case. Plea agreements should be followed unless the agreement is unjust to either party or repugnant to the community. I have followed the plea agreements in over 99% of the cases that were resolved by plea agreements in the course of my 9 ¾ years sitting as a Judge.</td>
<td>Bail (1) is to guarantee the appearance of the Defendant for trial and hearings; (2) to keep the defendant from committing another offense while free on bail; and (3) to keep the defendant from interfering with witnesses in the case. Bail should be set to guarantee those guidelines and not as a weapon of oppression and individualized to the Defendant.</td>
<td>Sitting as the Visiting Judge in the Auxiliary Court in Bexar County during the pandemic, I held court every day when other courts were closed in person for the first few months of the pandemic followed by the use of Zoom. I would like to see the use of electronic documents continue after the Courts go back to normal. The electronic document process is more efficient and more convenient for the parties and the Court. The continued use of Zoom could be useful in limited circumstances.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What are your thoughts about plea bargains?

Frank J. Castro (D)

There are so many cases in criminal courts that I believe they are a good & efficient way to resolve many cases. Not every case should go to a jury & plea bargains are sometimes a way to have a defendant avoid prison & get mental health counseling, drug & alcohol treatment or anger classes. A defendant always has the option of a jury trial but as a current judge, former defense attorney & prosecutor I can assure you both the State & Defense have risks by going to a trial & not working it out.

How should a party’s financial situation be considered in regard to pre-trial release?

It is considered along with a person’s criminal history & future risks of danger to the victim & community, however, finances should only be considered to ensure a person will show up to court & not as a means to hold one in custody. I preside over felony cases, however, a majority of misdemeanor cases could probably do without the cash bail system but that is something for lawmakers to consider. As a former defense attorney sadly I have seen some clients plead guilty just to get out of jail.

What do you think about the functioning of the justice system during the pandemic? Are there any parts of that process you would like to see continued when the pandemic is over?

I believe the Bexar County justice system is truly doing a great job in making sure cases are moving so that victims & defendants can have their cases heard in a safe manner. Online hearings on Zoom have been convenient for some attorneys, victims, and defendants so this is something I will consider continuing in appropriate situations. In addition, being able to sign documents online by Adobe sign has allowed work to be done more efficiently and this will be something I will continue to use.

Melisa Skinner (R)

Plea bargains are a necessary part of the efficient administration of justice in the Criminal Justice System. Every defendant has the right to take responsibility for criminal offenses and waive a trial by jury in order to move towards disposition. It is incumbent upon the judge to accept or reject a plea bargain and, it should be rejected if, after a review of the offense and the history of the defendant, it is apparent that the plea bargain does not serve justice.

How should a party’s financial situation be considered in regard to pre-trial release?

Judges must follow the law. As is proscribed by the law in the State of Texas, a person’s financial situation should be considered along with the circumstances of the alleged offense, the assurances of the defendant’s presence to answer to the allegations, as well as the safety of any victim and the safety of the community. At no time should a person’s financial situation be used as an instrument of oppression.

What do you think about the functioning of the justice system during the pandemic? Are there any parts of that process you would like to see continued when the pandemic is over?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have struggled to move the Justice System forward despite many obstacles and with a view towards safety. Therefore, instead of in person proceedings, we have conducted most of our business by Zoom. We can effectively continue some hearings by this method if the parties agree and the proceeding is open to the public as is required. However, in order to protect the constitutional rights of criminal defendants, some proceedings must be conducted in person.

Michael Mery (D)

As judge of the 144th Judicial District Court, I will scrutinize every plea bargain to make sure that justice is achieved in each case. I will never shirk my responsibility to assess a sentence that takes into account the rights of victims and enables restorative justice for the victim and rehabilitation for the offender. While plea bargains are essential tools for effecting efficient disposition of cases, a judge’s primary responsibility is to work for justice.

How should a party’s financial situation be considered in regard to pre-trial release?

In our system, a person is presumed innocent until proven guilty. Judges are required to weigh many factors in determining the proper conditions of pretrial release. Among those factors is a person’s financial situation. We cannot permit a system in which those with financial means are released pretrial while those without means are not. As judge, I will see to it that all individuals are given an equal opportunity for pretrial release, regardless of their race, gender or financial situation.

What do you think about the functioning of the justice system during the pandemic? Are there any parts of that process you would like to see continued when the pandemic is over?

Bexar County adapted to the pandemic remarkably well. As a sitting State District judge, I am proud of the way we all continued to work hard to achieve justice in both the civil and criminal arenas. Remote hearings were the means by which we accomplished the resolution of many matters. I would like to see the continued use of remote hearings in appropriate circumstances.

“Voting is as much an emotional act as it is an intellectual one.”

— Monica Crowley
VOTERS GUIDE • 2020 General Election Edition

Some of the different case types heard in civil courts include malpractice, damages, breach of contract and personal injury.

District Judge Civil

Candidates:

Joseph P. Appelt (R)

The courtroom is a special place and when possible cases should be heard there, in person. Jury trials and complex non-jury trials should be heard in the courtroom, with real interaction between the people. However I believe the court and justice system can hear and decide non-evidentiary matters, cases where the parties have reached an agreement, and preliminary legal procedures efficiently by remote means; better serving Bexar County residents.

I'm in my 27th year as a sole practicing attorney and my 7th year as Municipal Court Judge. During this time I have developed a general practice, acquiring valuable knowledge and experience in many areas of law including business disputes, contracts, family law, and injury. However, the majority of my cases, approximately 60%, involve family law matters such as custody and support. I have tried hundreds of cases to the court and dozens to jury.

Experience matters. In my 27 years as an attorney I have tried hundreds of cases encompassing a variety of legal disciplines including business disputes, contracts, and family law. When necessary I have appealed cases all the way to the Texas Supreme Court. In addition, in my 7 years as Municipal Court Judge I have presided over hundreds of cases and reached verdicts in dozens of trials. I have the unique qualification and experience trying cases as both an attorney and Judge.

Jacqueline “Jackie” Valdes (D)

One of the major factors bringing juveniles before the juvenile court is the need for additional support and supervision at home. The children that come before the juvenile court come from all walks of life, each having varying degrees of hardships. It is important for the court to consider all factors in a child’s life when making decisions and be attentive to each child's needs in an attempt to provide a relevant and effective treatment plan.

When the State files a Petition for Waiver of Jurisdiction and Discretionary Transfer to Criminal Court, the court has the discretion to grant the Petition after a hearing, only if certain requirements are met. The statute requires the court to take into consideration certain factors regarding the offense and the juvenile. As judge, I will abide by the statute. The Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits candidates from making public comments which suggest the candidate’s probable future decisions.

As a prosecutor in Bexar County assigned to the Juvenile Section for over 10 years of my career, I have participated in countless juvenile cases as the lawyer for a party. This experience gives me keen insight into our juvenile justice system and the youth that come before the court. As a judge, I would be dedicated to helping the children before the court get the resources they need for their rehabilitation while taking into consideration the safety of the children and the community.

For more information on the candidates, go to VOTE411.org.

For more information on the candidates, go to VOTE411.org.
The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties.

### DISTRICT JUDGE CIVIL, 57TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**Antonia “Toni” Arteaga (D) – Unopposed**

**DISTRICT JUDGE CIVIL, 73RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**David A. Canales (D) – Unopposed**

**DISTRICT JUDGE CIVIL, 131ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**Norma Gonzales (D) – Unopposed**

**DISTRICT JUDGE CIVIL, 166TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**Laura Salinas (D) – Unopposed**

**DISTRICT JUDGE CIVIL, 407TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

***Nicole Garza (D)***

As our courts have been forced to innovate and use technology in creative ways during the pandemic, we have seen its effect on travel, time and expenses. However, we know that not everyone has access to this technology and we also know that in some cases, it just is not an adequate substitute (as is the case during a trial). Technology should not become yet another impediment to the access of justice for our county’s most vulnerable.

**What do you think about the functioning of the justice system during the pandemic? Are there any parts of that process you would like to see continued when the pandemic is over?**

**In what areas of the law do you have the most experience? How many trials have you participated in as an attorney?**

**What makes you the most qualified candidate for this position?**

While I possess the experience required to efficiently assist in the administration of justice, what qualifies me most is the belief that access to equitable justice should be a reality for every resident of this county. Justice is inclusive and should not be based upon how much money someone has or the color of their skin. The court belongs to the people it serves, not the inverse.

***Stephani Walsh (R)***

The judiciary stepped up and met the needs of the people in responding to and creating a virtual courtroom setting in an emergency situation. Is it ideal? NO. A return to “in person” judicial system is necessary as “appearances and testifying” in court virtually has a lack of transparency and allows for manipulation. Many of the hearings involving only attorneys can continue as virtual without concern as well as long distance testimony in non-jury matters saving costs of travel and time.

**What do you think about the functioning of the justice system during the pandemic? Are there any parts of that process you would like to see continued when the pandemic is over?**

**In what areas of the law do you have the most experience? How many trials have you participated in as an attorney?**

**What makes you the most qualified candidate for this position?**

Experience matters and I surpass my opponent on all measures with my years as an attorney, my years as a judge, the type of judicial experience in that the court over which I presided for four years is the same type of court currently sought and I am Board Certified in Family Law, the largest part of the civil docket. My emergency room nurse experience provided me with an unique skill set which helped me immensely while presiding as Judge of the 45th District Court from 1-1-15 to 12-31-2018.

***Tina Torres (D)***

The justice system got rattled during the pandemic. Technology, thankfully, created opportunity and great advances for the legal world. Platforms like Zoom brought efficiency and money-saving remedies for attorneys, litigants, and the Courts. However, of utmost importance is due process for all individuals, and that due process cannot be compromised. We must carefully consider many issues when implementing technology in the future, including digital inclusion to digital literacy to name a few.

I have vast experience in the area of consumer and commercial litigation (on which I focused my practice during my first ten years as an attorney) but also have extensive experience in the area of family law, including custody, divorce, and modifications, which I’ve focused my practice on for the past 14 years. As a civil litigator, I tried more than 100 jury and non-jury cases. As a judge, I presided over 100 jury and non-jury cases.

**What do you think about the functioning of the justice system during the pandemic? Are there any parts of that process you would like to see continued when the pandemic is over?**

**In what areas of the law do you have the most experience? How many trials have you participated in as an attorney?**

**What makes you the most qualified candidate for this position?**

I am the most qualified candidate for this position because of my diverse experience in many areas of civil litigation — from consumer and commercial litigation to small business defense to family law. This diverse experience equips me with a broad understanding of the issues that come before the 407th District Court on a daily basis. I am also the most qualified candidate for this position because of my judicial temperament for which I received high marks when I served in County Court 10.
### BEXAR COUNTY SHERIFF

The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer for unincorporated Bexar County. The sheriff investigates, enforces judgments, is responsible for how the county jail operates, and needs to have a good working relationship with the city police, the FBI and the District Attorney. For more information on the candidates, go to [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>What is the biggest challenge facing the Bexar County jail, and how would you address it?</th>
<th>How do you understand the slogan “defund the police,” and what do you think about it?</th>
<th>Do you think reforms are needed in the training of sheriff’s deputies, and if so, what kind?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gerard C. “Gerry” Rickhoff (R)</td>
<td>The Bexar County Jail suffers from mismanagement and a lack of leadership that has resulted in 238 vacant positions in the Bexar County Sheriff’s Office. The incumbent sheriff’s failure to recruit new cadets and attract veterans from other agencies has led to as many as three overtime shifts per week for some officers and morale at an all time low. I would implement steps to increase community recruitment outreach to fully staff the Sheriff’s Office and create training that utilizes mentoring.</td>
<td>“Defund the Police” is a mantra that undermines the already overworked and underpaid law enforcement officers in our nation, state, and county. I believe we must properly compensate officers for their hard work. I also think we must perform a comprehensive review of our local law enforcement practices and determine the best way to utilize our resources including out of the box thinking to how we deal with individuals suffering from mental health issues.</td>
<td>Yes, there has been an exodus of deputies at the BCSO, leaving 238 unfilled positions in the ranks. This is a direct failure of the incumbent’s leadership. By failing to adequately recruit and properly train new deputies, the incumbent is forcing deputies who remain to work up to three overtime shifts per week. We must help all deputies succeed by giving them the necessary training, provide mentoring to new deputies and focus on the continuous improvement of the entire BCSO.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Javier Salazar (D)</td>
<td>Law enforcement agencies across the nation are facing attrition and staffing shortages, and the Bexar County Jail is affected. This, plus a worsening mental health crisis in which jails are being over-used to house people who would be better served in mental health facilities. COVID-19 has made the issue worse. While our cases are minimal, it has had an effect. Proactive recruitment, working with mental health stakeholders, and implementing COVID-19 best practices have worked well for us.</td>
<td>I appreciate the call for reallocation of resources, and agree that government functions should be reviewed regularly for inefficiencies and outdated practices. However, cutting funding when crime is rising is not in the best interest of public safety. As Sheriff, I have instituted mental health resources and training. I have revamped use of force policies, stopped no-knock warrants, instituted body cameras and increased training and accountability.</td>
<td>Reforms are needed and I’m proud of what my administration has accomplished in that regard. I doubled the number of annual in-service hours, instituted a mandatory ethics training, alcoholics anonymous and family violence prevention in an effort to proactively use training to curb negative off-duty behaviors by deputies.</td>
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### BEXAR COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

The tax assessor-collector assesses and collects taxes on property. Other responsibilities include registration of motor vehicles and boats. For more information on the candidates, go to VOTE411.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>What aspect of the tax assessor-collector’s duties would you like to see improved?</th>
<th>What are your priorities for this office?</th>
<th>How would you inform senior citizens, disabled citizens, and disabled veterans of the special tax payment plans available for them other than on the tax assessor’s website?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stephen David Pennington (R)</td>
<td>– Incentivizing homeownership through valuation lock zones – Elimination of personal property tax for businesses with under $1.18 million in gross revenue (in line with state franchise tax threshold) – Exploration of commercial “homestead” exemption for businesses based in Bexar County.</td>
<td>– Modernize online systems, including the ability to complete basic (most) transactions online – Simplify appeals process for property valuations (Online with one-click or via postcard) – Online appointment scheduling – Establish portal for bank auto-drafts for accounts not paid in escrow – Automatic enrollment for homestead/senior exemption for most taxpayers – Dedicated service area for active duty military/veterans/first responders – Build Precinct 4 substation – Better employee training.</td>
<td>In addition to automatically enrolling senior citizens, disabled citizens, and disabled veterans for their appropriate exemption, Mr. Pennington will establish monthly payment plans that will be available to ALL taxpayers and citizens. Stephen will partner with community stakeholders including homeowners associations and neighborhood coalitions not only to communicate information but obtain regular feedback on how the tax office can better serve our constituents.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albert Uresti (D)</td>
<td>We are improving internet and phone options and want to allow all transactions to be done online or by phone from the comfort of your home. We also want to allow all transactions to be done at any of our four locations. We continue to make improvements to ensure the safety of our citizens and employees against the Coronavirus when conducting business at the Tax Office. We built the county’s only Drive-Thru in 2019 and want to build another one. We want to improve accessibility for citizens.</td>
<td>Our priority and public mission is, “Working to Help Keep Families In Their Homes” with an emphasis on helping our Senior Citizens, our Disabled, our Veterans, and ultimately our Children”. This commitment led to the only 10-Month Payment Plan in Texas, a plan we received awards for from the National Assn of Counties (NACo), the Texas Assn of Counties, and LULAC. We also want to remain the #1 Tax Office in Texas by providing the best customer service possible. Safety will remain a high priority.</td>
<td>We have the most property tax payment plans, including the only 10-Month Payment Plan in Texas for our Senior Citizens, Disabled Citizens, and Disabled Veterans. We received a national award from NACo in 2019 for our strong outreach program designed to inform the three groups above about the special tax payment plans and incentives available to them. Our outreach includes media, mass mailings and emails, research, citizen screening, community events, homeowner associations, and personal visits.</td>
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</table>

### BEXAR COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Elected to 4-year term. Each of the four commissioners represents a quarter of the population in Bexar County. The court makes decisions about the budget, tax and revenues and also handles personnel decisions. They are responsible for building and maintaining roads and bridges. For more information on the candidates, go to VOTE411.org.

### BEXAR COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>What are your ideas for dealing with the huge population growth expected between now and 2040?</th>
<th>What, if any, additional measures should the county take against the spread of COVID-19 in the county?</th>
<th>What are the biggest issues in the precinct you want to represent?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gabriel Lara (R)</td>
<td>Most of the growth is coming to unincorporated areas of the county. We must have a fire and police system in place that will provide efficient and effective public safety services. We must have a healthcare system second to none and easily accessible to all residents of Bexar County. Our roads and bridges must be built to accommodate the growth. We should have community centers in the four quadrants of the county that also provide a place for families to gather.</td>
<td>None. But, we should reserve funds and be prepared should we experience any additional waves. We must also provide personal protective equipment to our healthcare workers.</td>
<td>Property taxes, flooding, streets, and other services are big issues in Precinct 1. We must work with our state lawmakers to lessen the burden on our citizens, especially our seniors, when it comes to property taxes. There are communities without paved roads; areas that have low water crossings; areas with no internet service; areas with no medical services (medical facilities, hospitals). We need more high-tech and high paying jobs in our area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties.
Rebeca “Becky” Clay-Flores (D)

Half of the expected population growth is due to new births; therefore, we need to ensure that social service organizations have adequate funding for quality education, access to healthcare, and affordable housing. We need to support job training and professional advancement for the parents to be able to maintain their families and be civically engaged. We should plan walkability for neighborhoods in order to be good stewards of land and development, which will help with congestion and traffic.

I believe strongly in partnerships to better use funding and utilize what we already have. We are Military City, USA. Our local military members are engaged citizens of our community and would stand ready to serve if asked and if available. Many special units have medical training. We should partner with them to help as lab techs for testing and for processing the results quicker. One major complaint has been receiving results up to two weeks later. By then, it may have spread and be too late.

I’ll focus on community economic development by ensuring small, minority, women, and veteran owned businesses know how to bid for contracts and partner with large companies. I’ll also work on property tax relief for small businesses and residential homes. Commissioners are over mental health and jails. In Texas, jails are the number one provider of mental health services. The school to prison pipeline must end by investing in education and mental health rather than in correctional facilities.

BEXAR COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2

Justin Rodriguez (D) – Unopposed

BEXAR COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 3

Trish DeBerry (R)

TRISH’S INFRASTRUCTURE AGENDA Our roadways are economic arteries moving people and goods — they will be my first priority. We have to keep pace with road building and road expansion. To do that, we will put our transportation dollars where they matter most, and Precinct 3 must get its fair share. We need better coordination and resource allocation between the local transportation entities (MPO and RMA) We should not be not be working against each other or performing redundant functions.

To help Bexar County recover from the COVID damaged economy, we need leaders with real world experience. Businesses are over-regulated with too many fees and taxes. If we want small businesses to grow and create jobs, we must limit the burden of restrictions on how they run their businesses. To bring businesses to Bexar County, and to help existing businesses expand, we must offer incentives. However, I will ensure any incentives offered are tied to ensuring a clear return on our investment.

Bexar County Commissioners Court isn’t a blank check or an ATM for special interests. I know every dollar spent belongs to you. As your next Precinct 3 County Commissioner, I will fight to ensure your tax dollars are used for basic services including: Public Safety, Property Tax Reform, Debt Reduction and Budget Controls. PROPERTY TAX REFORM PLAN Reduce the County Tax Rate. Fight for fair and accurate property valuations. Demand County Appraisal Board be elected, not appointed.

Christine Hortick (D)

In order to meet the growing demands of an expanding population, we as a community need to find innovative ways to travel within the City and the County. It is crucial that we guarantee that resources are adequately reserved and distributed to create new infrastructure that alleviates traffic and drainage issues. Together, we must also work to ensure equitable, affordable housing is available for all, especially for our senior citizens so they can age in place.

Bexar County should be working with the public and private sector to increase the availability of rapid testing. With results available quicker, residents will have the most up-to-date information regarding their COVID-19 status and are thus able to take immediate steps to quarantine, alert those that they have come in contact with, and make informed healthcare decisions.

Supporting small businesses must be one of our top priorities as we move toward economic recovery during and after the pandemic. These businesses make up the economic backbone of our community, creating meaningful jobs and career opportunities, and serve as the engines that drive local spending. Also, addressing the cause of skyrocketing property tax bills is crucial. Educating the public as to why their tax bills are so high lays the groundwork for developing a plan to reduce our tax burden.
The Justice of the Peace presides over the justice court in cases involving misdemeanors, small civil disputes, landlord/tenant disputes and more. They also conduct inquests and may perform marriage ceremonies. For more information on the candidates, go to VOTE411.org.

BEXAR COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

The Justice of the Peace presides over the justice court in cases involving misdemeanors, small civil disputes, landlord/tenant disputes and more. They also conduct inquests and may perform marriage ceremonies. For more information on the candidates, go to VOTE411.org.

BEXAR COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>What do you think about the functioning of the Justice of the Peace courts during the pandemic? Are there any parts of that process you would like to see continued when the pandemic is over?</th>
<th>Do you think citizens are able to adequately represent themselves in the Justice of the Peace court? What, if anything, should the Justice of the Peace do to facilitate self-representation?</th>
<th>What makes you the most qualified candidate for this position?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roberto Robbie Vazquez (D)</td>
<td>No response received by print deadline. See VOTE411.org for any later responses.</td>
<td>We could ask law students and professionals to start volunteering</td>
<td>Because I'm well educated and I have more experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhett R. Smith (L)</td>
<td>Using the internet (online) to serve Bexar County</td>
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BEXAR COUNTY CONSTABLE

Elected to 4-year term. A county constable in Texas has the following duties: Serves as a licensed peace officer and performs various law enforcement functions, including issuing traffic citations. Serves warrants and civil papers such as subpoenas and temporary restraining orders; Serves as bailiff for Justice of the Peace Court. For more information on the candidates, go to VOTE411.org.

BEXAR COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT I

Ruben C. Tejeda (D) – Unopposed

BEXAR COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>How do you see the role of the constable in Bexar County?</th>
<th>What law enforcement experience and other qualifications do you have for this position?</th>
<th>In what way, if any, do you think a deputy constable’s training should differ from that of sheriff’s deputies?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Pena Jr. (R)</td>
<td>No response received by print deadline. See VOTE411.org for any later responses.</td>
<td>I have over 26 years of law enforcement experience combined with the Bexar County Sheriff’s Office and the Constable's Office. I have a Master Peace Officer License and specialized in D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program as an instructor. I have been certified as a Crisis Intervention Officer for the last 10 years. During my tenure as a Peace Officer I have been assigned to the Detention Center, Court Security, and Patrol Division with a specialty in Community Policing.</td>
<td>I believe Deputy Constables and Deputy Sheriffs should receive the training required to complete their duties. These duties are similar by serving as licensed Peace Officers by which Texas mandates each role of the two agencies to be parallel. However, the Sheriff’s Office focuses more on the Criminal aspect and the County Jail, County and District Courts. The duties of a Deputy Constable focus more closely on Civil Processing and court security for the Justice of the Peace Courts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leticia R. Vazquez (D)</td>
<td>The Constable is a Peace Officer that has statewide jurisdiction to execute any criminal process and countywide jurisdiction to execute any civil process. A Constable also has duties related to keeping accounts of the financial transactions of the office and is responsible for property seized or money collected by court order. A Constable supports all elected officials and stands behind the decisions, laws, and works of the organizations and stand up for what is right for the citizens.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BEXAR COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 3

Mark Vojvodich (R) – Unopposed

“Not voting is not a protest. It is a surrender.”

– Keith Ellison

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties.
BEXAR COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>How do you see the role of the constable in Bexar County?</th>
<th>What law enforcement experience and other qualifications do you have for this position?</th>
<th>In what way, if any, do you think a deputy constable’s training should differ from that of sheriff’s deputies?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Larry Ricketts (R)</td>
<td>Constables were the first Peace Officers in America. We have the same training as any Peace Officer and also our primary job is civil process. We do warrants, patrol, and arrests. Because we are already in our areas we can respond more quickly than other agencies. We also save taxpayers a tremendous amount of money because of the pay differential. Precinct 4 has a large amount of rural area and depends on Constables and Sheriffs.</td>
<td>I served as a Special Forces Officer in Viet Nam as a commander. I served 20 years in the Elevator trade as a superintendent. I was a Captain at Precinct 4 under the previous Constable, with 23 years experience. I already have the knowledge about how and what to do as a Constable.</td>
<td>As I stated before, we have the same training as all other Peace Officers plus we do civil process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathryn Brown (D)</td>
<td>No response received by print deadline. See VOTE411.org for any later responses.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VOTE! IT IS IN YOUR BEST INTEREST**

This election is not about someone else. This election is about YOU and YOUR family. The decisions made by your elected officials in Washington, in Austin, and in Bexar County affect us all:

- When the issue of downsizing the economy comes up, remember, it’s not somebody else’s job they are talking about – it’s YOUR job.
- When the issue of pre-existing conditions comes up, it’s not somebody else’s health care coverage they are talking about – it’s YOUR health care.
- When the issue of tuition tax credits comes up, it’s not someone else’s education they are taking money from – it’s YOUR children’s education.

If you care about your neighborhood schools, potholes on your street, the safety of your communities….VOTE!!!

AND then hold your elected officials accountable. In the past five years, Bexar County elections have averaged a turnout of between 11-16% of voters for municipal elections. Runoffs and special elections attract even lower numbers. Most other elections come closer to the lower range, though presidential elections draw more voters. That means 84-89% of voters are opting out of most elections. Will you allow a fraction of the registered voters decide your and your family’s future?

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

- Campaigning for a seat on the Massachusetts Governor’s Council on the day of the primary in 1988, Herbert Connolly lost track of time – and got to his polling place too late to vote. When the ballots were counted that night, he’d lost by one vote.
- A Lansing, Michigan, school district bond issue was defeated in 1989 when the final recount produced a tie vote. As a result, the school district had to reduce its budget by $2.5 million.
- Marcus Morton was elected governor of Massachusetts in 1839 by one vote out of 102,066 cast.

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

- Congress voted to admit Texas to the union in 1845 by a two-vote margin.
- Women won the right to vote in 1920 by the passage of the 19th amendment to the Constitution. Tennessee was the last state needed to pass the amendment. One 24-year representative, Harry Burn, changed his vote, and the Tennessee legislature ratified the amendment by a vote of 49-47.
- A tie vote in the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1997 defeated a bill to reinstate the death penalty. The tie came about when one representative, who had voted earlier for the death penalty, changed his mind.
- One vote in the U.S. Senate saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment conviction in 1868.
- In 2003 Vice President Dick Cheney, as president of the Senate, cast the deciding vote on a Senate tax-cut package amendment that reduced income taxes on capital gains and corporate dividends.
**PROPOSITIONS**

**How the League gathered the data**
The information about the propositions was researched, written, and edited by League volunteers who contacted supporters and opponents for each proposition.

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO – PROPOSITION A**

**Sales and Use Tax for the “Pre-K 4 SA” Early Childhood Education Program**

“Renewed adoption of a sales and use tax at the rate of one-eighth of one percent for the purpose of continued financing of authorized programs of the San Antonio Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation for a maximum period of eight years.”

**Explanation**

Proposition A will renew funding for San Antonio’s Pre-K 4 SA for another eight years. A one-eighth of a cent sales tax has funded the program since voters first approved it in 2012. The goal of Pre-K 4 SA is to improve the education of San Antonio’s youngest learners in order to improve the knowledge and skills of the San Antonio workforce within one generation. The four program elements include:

- Demonstration schools serve over 2,000 four-year-olds in full-day prekindergarten programs with well-researched content and teaching methods.
- Parent trainings help parents to engage with school staff and build leadership skills.
- Professional learning is offered free to all San Antonio early childhood teachers (birth through 3rd grade).
- Grants sharing successful teaching methods with public, private and parochial San Antonio schools have increased preschool access to 13,000 additional students and improved programs and facilities.

**Impact on Taxes**

If not approved:

- The existing sales and use tax would be reduced by 12.5% or one eighth of one percent (1/8 of 1¢). In May 2022, there would be an opportunity to consider another ballot measure.

**ARGUMENTS FOR**

- Pre-K 4 SA earned top honors in the two most recent national studies of 40 large city prekindergarten programs, one of only three cities to have met all quality benchmarks, and is studied by other cities.
- Pre-K 4 SA students have been studied through third grade. Study findings show graduates:
  - Exceed national norms for kindergarten readiness.
  - Exceed state averages in reading and math.
  - Have significantly better attendance.
  - Are significantly less likely to need special education services.
- Pre-K 4 SA goes beyond programs like Head Start and the state-funded half-day pre-K programs.

**ARGUMENTS AGAINST**

- The one-eighth of a cent sales tax could be used to address other pressing needs facing the city as determined by city government or through a local referendum.
- Most Bexar County traditional public school districts offer full-day programs for eligible students now. There were very few area schools offering full day pre-K when voters first approved funding this program with tax dollars.
- The tax dollars could be spread to serve more prekindergarten children by supplementing existing programs, thereby improving educational outcomes for all San Antonio children.

**“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
### PROPOSITIONS

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO – PROPOSITION B**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Use</th>
<th>Fraction</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VIA</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Permanent use already approved by voters. To support public transportation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Transportation District</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>Permanent use already approved by voters. To support transportation improvement projects carried out by VIA, City of SA, and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). Half of these funds go to VIA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwards Aquifer &amp; Greenway Trails</td>
<td>1/8</td>
<td>To support Edwards Aquifer Protection Plan and Greenway Trails programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-K 4 SA</td>
<td>1/8</td>
<td>To support full-day, prekindergarten for over 2,000 four-year-old children, teacher training, and grants to expand the programs citywide.</td>
</tr>
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**ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT – PROPOSITION A**

(Previously Created with Voter Approval by VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority)

To provide enhanced public transportation and public transportation mobility options, the Advanced Transportation District (“District”) will utilize a one-eighth of one percent (1/8 of 1%) sales and use tax. The one-eighth of one percent (1/8 of 1%) sales and use tax proceeds shall be used for advanced public transportation services, operations, passenger amenities, equipment and other innovative, advanced public transportation purposes or public transportation mobility enhancement purposes.

The District’s local sales and use tax will increase by a rate of one-eighth of one percent (1/8 of 1%) to a rate of three-eighths of one percent (3/8 of 1%), with such increase to begin on January 1, 2026. This is a reallocation of an existing sales and use tax resulting in no net tax increase.

“The increase by one-eighth of one percent (1/8 of 1%) of the local sales and use tax rate to three-eighths of one percent (3/8 of 1%) to begin on January 1, 2026.”

**Background information:**
Voters decide how 1% of the sales and use tax is used.

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</table>
Proposed Use of 1% Sales and Use Tax

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<tr>
<td>Requiring Voter Approval</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Force Development</td>
<td>1/8</td>
<td>Use funds redirected from Edwards Aquifer and Greenways Trail programs. To improve the skills of San Antonio workforce.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Transportation District</td>
<td>1/8</td>
<td>Permanently use funds redirected from Edwards Aquifer and Greenways Trail programs. To continue to support transportation improvement projects carried out by VIA, City of SA, and TxDOT. This is in addition to the existing 1/4th of 1% permanently allocated to the ATD. Half of the proposed 1/8th of 1% will also go to VIA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-K 4 SA Reauthorizing for 8 years</td>
<td>1/8</td>
<td>To continue to support full-day, prekindergarten for over 2,000 four-year-old children, teacher training, and grants to expand the programs citywide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Use Already Approved by Voters</td>
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San Antonio Proposition B Arguments

ARGUMENTS FOR
- Program offers opportunities for skills training, certifications, and academic degrees for workers in low-skill, low-paying jobs.
- It provides support for workers displaced by economic downturn and lack of skills.
- A skilled labor force will benefit local businesses and attract new businesses to the city.
- Skilled jobs with healthcare benefits offer workers income stability, which will translate to better quality of life for the entire city.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST
- Program offers insufficient support for workers wanting to enter program but also needing an income during training.
- Program makes no provision to retain successful trainees in San Antonio. Taxpayer investment would be lost as trainees move to places with the highest paying jobs, which may be outside the city.
- The rush to bring the program to the voters raises concerns that adequate consideration has not been given to oversight and management of the tax dollars.
- The EAPP funding is not secure or guaranteed because the funding can be adjusted based on City financial capacity or other budget needs. Also, the future of linear parks is threatened by lack of commitment from any governmental body to continue maintenance and planned expansion of Greenway Trails program.

Advanced Transportation Proposition A Arguments

ARGUMENTS FOR
- Plan expands late night and weekend service and increases frequency on most-traveled routes.
- Improved schedules and expanding the reach offer reliable transportation for workers, especially front-line workers and essential employees during this pandemic. Improved service benefits all Bexar County residents whether or not they use the transit system.
- Improved public transportation to support anticipated population increase offers hope of reduced congestion on area highways.
- VIA is underfunded compared to other cities in Texas.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST
- This permanent allocation of tax dollars has no time limit or maximum dollar amount stipulated in the proposition.
- Proposition does not include reauthorization by voters; therefore, there is no accountability.
- VIA ridership is low, and this calls into question the need for more tax dollars.
- Proposed uses for collected dollars are vague.

Impact on Taxes: City of San Antonio Proposition B & Advanced Transportation District Proposition A

City of San Antonio Proposition B, Advanced Transportation District Proposition A – Both Not Approved
The existing sales and use tax would be reduced by 12.5% or one eighth of one percent (1/8 of 1%). In May 2022, there would be an opportunity to consider another ballot measure.

City of San Antonio Proposition B Approved, Advanced Transportation District Proposition A Not Approved
The existing sales and use tax would be reduced by 12.5% or one eighth of one percent (1/8 of 1%) beginning January 1, 2026. In May 2022, there would be an opportunity to consider another ballot measure.

City of San Antonio Proposition B Not Approved, Advanced Transportation District Proposition A Approved
The existing sales and use tax would be reduced by 12.5% or one eighth of one percent (1/8 of 1%) through December 31, 2025. On January 1, 2026 the sales and use tax would increase by 12.5% or one eighth of one percent (1/8 of 1%) and be redirected permanently to VIA Metropolitan Transit to provide an improved transportation service.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties.
FIND OUT WHERE TO VOTE/EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

You can vote at any polling location, both during Early Voting, Oct. 13-30, and on Election Day, Nov. 3. 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, bit.ly/bexelex, after Early Voting is completed, and in the San Antonio Express-News the day before the election.

EARLY VOTING CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>8 a.m. – 6 p.m.</td>
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EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

Bexar County Election Department
(Deaflink Available)
1103 S. Frio

Alzafar Shrine Auditorium* 901 N. Loop 1604 W
AT&T Center* 1 AT&T Center Parkway

Brookhollow Library 530 Heimer Road

Castle Hills City Hall (Community Room) 209 Lemonwood Drive

Claude Black Center 2805 East Commerce

Cody Library 11441 Vance Jackson

Collins Garden Library 200 North Park

Cortez Library 2803 Hunter Blvd.

Copernicus Community Center 5003 Lord Road

Old Converse City Hall 405 S. Seguin Road

Encino Park Library 2515 East Evans Road

Fair Oaks Ranch City Hall (Council Chambers) 7286 Dietz Elkhorn

Frank Garrett Multi Center 1226 NW 18th St.

Granados Adult And Senior Center 500 Freiling

Great Northwest Library 9050 Wellwood

Harlandale Civic Center 115 W. Southcross

Helotes City Hall 12951 Bandera Road

Henry A. Guerra, Jr. Library 7978 W Military Drive

John Igo Library 13330 Kyle Scale Parkway

Johnston Library 6307 Sun Valley Drive

Julia Yates Semmes Library at Comanche Lookout Park 5060 Judson Road

Kirby City Hall 112 Bauman St.

Las Palmas Library 515 Castrovile Road

Leon Valley Conference Center 6421 Evers Road

Lion’s Field 2809 Broadway

Maury Maverick, Jr. Library 8700 Mystic Park

Memorial Library 3222 Culebra

Mission Library 3134 Roosevelt Ave.

Northside Activity Center 7001 Culebra

Northwest Vista College (Mountain Laurel Hall) 3535 N. Ellison Drive

Our Lady Of The Lake University 411 S. W. 24th St.

Palo Alto College (Performing Arts Center) 1400 W. Villaret Blvd.

Parman Library at Stone Oak 20735 Wilderness Oak

St. Paul Community Center 1201 Donaldson Ave.

San Antonio Community College (Victory Center) 1802 N. Main

Schaefer Library 6322 US Hwy 87 E

Shavano Park City Hall (Council Chambers) 900 Saddlcrest Court

Somerset City Hall 7360 E. 6th, Somerset

Southside ISD Admin Bldg (Board Room) 1460 Martinez-Losoya

Southside Lion’s Community Center 3100 Hiawatha St.

Southwest ISD Admin Bldg 11914 Dragon Lane

Thousand Oaks/El Sendero Library 4618 Thousand Oaks

Tobin Library at Oakwell 4134 Harry Wurzbach

Universal City Library 100 Northview Drive

University of Texas at San Antonio (Main Campus) 1 UTSA Blvd.

Windcrest Takas Park Civic Center 9310 Jim Seal Drive

Wonderland Mall Of The Americas at Crossroads 4522 Fredericksburg

*Voting Megacenter