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THINGS VOTERS SHOULD KNOW

★ PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED TO VOTE IN PERSON IN ALL TEXAS ELECTIONS

Those voting in person, whether voting early or on Election Day, will be required to present a photo identification or an alternative identification allowed by law. Please see page 2 of this Voters Guide for additional information.

★ EARLY VOTING

Early voting will begin on Monday, October 22 and end on Friday, November 2. See page 12 of this Voters Guide for locations and times. Any registered Harris County voter may cast an early ballot at any early voting location in Harris County.

★ VOTING BY MAIL

Voters may cast mail ballots if they are at least 65 years old, if they will be out of Harris County during the Early Voting period and on Election Day, if they are sick or disabled or if they are incarcerated but eligible to vote. Mail ballots may be requested by visiting harrisvotes.com or by phoning 713-755-6965. Your request must be received no later than Friday, October 26. For more information see page 3 of this Voters Guide.

★ A SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR VOTERS WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY HURRICANE HARVEY: YOU STILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE!

If you are living temporarily away from your permanent place of residence, you may still vote in the November 6 General Election. Here are your options:

1. If you are living outside Harris County, you may request a Ballot by Mail. See the information above and on page 3 of this Voters Guide to learn if you qualify to vote by mail and how to request, complete and return your ballot.

2. You may Early Vote at any one of the 46 Early Voting locations in Harris County, see page 12 of this Voters Guide for complete information about Early Voting. Highly Recommended.

3. You may Vote In-Person on Election Day by returning to the Polling Location for your HOME PRECINCT, this is the precinct for your permanent home address prior to Harvey. If you are unsure of your Precinct Number, go to www.harrisvotes.com, enter your name and permanent address to find your Precinct Number and Polling Place. On Election Day, you may only vote by returning to your home precinct.

★ Should you encounter any problems at the poll, you may always ask to cast a Provisional Ballot. You may also contact the County Clerk's office at 713-755-6965, the Texas Secretary of State Election Division at 1-800-252-8683, or the United States Department of Justice at 1-800-253-3931 if you believe that your right to vote is being unlawfully denied or impeded.

LWV/TEXAS EDUCATION FUND PROVIDES INFORMATION ON CANDIDATES FOR U.S. SENATE AND STATEWIDE CANDIDATES

Our thanks to our state organization, the League of Women Voters of Texas, for contacting all opposed candidates for U.S. Senator, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, Land Commissioner, Railroad Commissioner, Texas Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals, Court of Appeals and State School Board. LWV/TX provided candidate responses in both English and Spanish. We have included responses from these candidates exactly as provided by LWV/TX.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

The League of Women Voters Houston Education Fund wishes to thank all those who support our voter education and voter service work through their donations and volunteer time. Without them this Voters Guide would not be possible.

Special thanks to the Houston in Action initiative for providing funding that enabled us to produce Spanish and Vietnamese editions of the Voters Guide.

TAKING METRO TO THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY—RIDE FREE!

METRO is providing free rides to the polls on Saturday, October 27 for Early Voting and on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6, 2018. Get information by going to www.ridemetro.org or calling 713-635-4000.

ABOUT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AND THIS VOTERS GUIDE

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization. The League of Women Voters and the League of Women Voters Education Fund do not support or oppose any political party or candidate. For more than 90 years, the League’s mission has been to support active and informed citizen participation in government. The League believes that voting is a vital part of Making Democracy Work.

The League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund publishes the Voters Guide to help each voter cast an informed vote. Inside you will find information about the voting process, the duties and responsibilities of the offices that are included in this election, the names of candidates and their responses to selected policy questions.

This Voters Guide covers races and ballot issues that appear on the November 6, 2018 General Election ballot.

The responses provided by candidates are reproduced without editing or verification. Each candidate is personally and solely responsible for the content of his/her response. Candidates are listed in the order in which they will appear on the ballot. (More about the process used to assemble this Voters Guide can be found on page 4.)

No portion of this Voters Guide may be reproduced for use in political campaigns or advertising. Other proposed uses are permitted only with advance written authorization of the League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund.
**VOTING IN PERSON?**

YOU MUST BRING ONE OF THESE PHOTO ID's

1. **Texas driver license**
   - issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS);
   - current or have expired no more than 4 years

2. **Texas personal identification card**
   - issued by DPS; current or have expired no more than 4 years

3. **Texas Election Identification Certificate**
   - issued by DPS; current or have expired no more than 4 years

4. **Texas license to carry a handgun**
   - issued by DPS; current or have expired no more than 4 years

5. **United States passport**
   - current or have expired no more than 4 years

6. **United States citizenship certificate**
   - containing the person’s photograph

Voters who currently do not have an approved form of photo ID may apply for an Election Identification Certificate (EIC) at no charge with the Department of Public Safety. For more information:

**CALL (512) 424-2600**

**OR VISIT**

http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/electionID.htm

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Do not possess and cannot reasonably obtain one of these IDs? Bring one of the following supporting documents to the polling place. The election official will help you complete a form and you'll be able to vote.

- Valid Voter Registration Certificate
- Certified Birth Certificate (must be an original)
- Copy of or original Bank Statement
- Copy of or original Government check or paycheck
- Copy of or original current Utility Bill
- Copy of or original government document with your name and an address (original required if it contains a photograph)

If you have questions or concerns about acceptable form of ID, check before heading to the polling place by calling 713.755.6965 or visiting www.harrisvotes.com

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Voters who are unable to provide an acceptable form of photo ID or an acceptable supporting document may vote provisionally. Voters will need to sign a provisional affidavit and will have until Monday, November 12, 2018 to cure their ballot by bringing acceptable form of identification to the Voter Registrar.

**EXEMPTIONS:** Voters with a disability may apply with the county voter registrar for a permanent exemption to showing ID at the polls. Voters with a religious objection to being photographed or voters who do not have an ID due to certain natural disasters may apply for a temporary exemption to showing ID at the polls. Please contact your voter registrar for more details.
HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR ALL VOTERS

Where do I vote?
During the Early Voting Period: Monday, October 22, 2018 through Friday, November 2, 2018; you may vote at any of the designated Early Voting Locations. Go to page 68 for a list of these locations. They are posted online at www.harrisvotes.com or you can call 713-755-6965.

On Election Day, Tuesday, November 6, 2018 you must vote in the polling location designated for your precinct of residence. Polling locations for each precinct usually are listed in the newspaper the week of the election. This information is available online at www.harrisvotes.com or you can call 713-755-6965. Please note that your current polling place may be different from your polling place for previous elections.

Where do I find my Precinct Number?
Your Precinct Number (Pct. No.) is shown in the middle of the left side of your yellow and white Voter Registration Certificate (VRC). If you wish, you can confirm your precinct number by contacting the Voter Registrar at 713-274-VOTE (8683) or visiting “voter search” at hcvoter.net. Helpful tip: Knowing your precinct number will help you locate the correct polling place for voting on Election Day.

What identification will be required at the Poll?
Each voter will be required to show one of the following forms of photo identification at the polling location in order to cast a ballot.
- Texas driver license—unexpired or expired less than 4 years issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Election Identification Certificate (EIC) issued by DPS. For more information on the EIC application process please visit http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/electionID.htm.
- Texas personal identification card issued by DPS—unexpired or expired less than 4 years
- Texas concealed handgun license issued by DPS—unexpired or expired less than 4 years
- United States military identification card containing the voter’s photograph - unexpired or expired less than 4 years
- United States citizenship certificate containing the voter’s photograph
- United States passport—unexpired or expired less than 4 years

Voters who do not present a valid form of acceptable identification will be permitted to cast a provisional ballot. These voters have until Monday, November 12, 2018 to present acceptable identification at any office of the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector (Branch Offices: Mon.-Fri., 8:00 am–4:30pm; Main Office/Downtown: Mon.–Fri. 8:00am–5:00pm). Once this and all other requirements are met, the provisional ballot must be accepted.

Exemption / Exceptions to the photo identification requirements:
Voters with a disability may apply with the county voter registrar for a permanent exemption. The application must contain written documentation from either the U.S. Social Security Administration evidencing he or she has been determined to have a disability, or from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs evidencing a disability rating of at least 50 percent. In addition, the applicant must state that he or she has no valid form of photo identification. Those who obtain a disability exemption will be allowed to vote by presenting a voter registration certificate reflecting the exemption. Please contact the voter registrar at 713-368-VOTE (8683) for more details.

Voters who have a consistent religious objection to being photographed and voters who do not have any valid form of photo identification as a result of certain natural disasters as declared by the President of the United States or the Texas Governor, may vote a provisional ballot, appear at the voter registrar’s office within six (6) calendar days after Election Day, and sign an affidavit swearing to the religious objection or natural disaster, in order for this ballot to be counted.

What else may I take to the Poll?
If it’s handy, we recommend that you take your current yellow and white Voter Registration Certificate since it contains useful voter information. You can take this Voters Guide or other written or printed material for your personal use. Voters are not allowed to display or share any campaign material in the polling place. Voters may NOT access notes stored on electronic devices. Electronic devices, including mobile phones and tablets, may NOT be used for any purpose while at the polls.

Does your voting name have to match the name on your photo ID?
Texas law requires election officials to determine if a voter’s name as shown on the identification credential matches the name as shown on the official list of registered voters. If the names are not exactly the same but are “substantially similar” the voter will be asked to initial a box affirming the match. The voting process will then continue as usual.

What if I’ve registered but election workers cannot find my name?
The Precinct Judge will contact the Voter Registrar by telephone immediately. If your registration cannot be verified, you are eligible to cast a provisional ballot. This form will include space to describe your particular circumstances and will be reviewed by the ballot board that meets after Election Day. You will receive a letter explaining whether your provisional ballot was accepted or rejected.

What if I need assistance or have physical limitations that must be accommodated?
Voters with special needs will be accommodated at all polling places. No medical explanation is necessary and no proof of illness or disability is required. Voters may be assisted by any person of their choice as they cast their ballots. However, a voter may not be assisted by his employer or his employer’s agent, or an agent of his union. The helper will be asked to sign an oath of assistance. A voter may also be assisted by a poll worker. To serve voters with mobility deficits or other physical limitations, all polling places will have ramp access and at least one “DAU” (disabled access unit) eSlate voting machine that offers audio voting, puff-and-sip voting and a lower stance for those who use a wheelchair or prefer to sit. Curbside voting is also available for those whose health and safety require that they remain in their vehicles. The curbside voter should send a companion into the polling place with the voter’s identification and an eSlate machine will be brought directly to the vehicle.

How long may I take to vote?
Voters may take as much time as they wish at the eSlate machine. Once activated the ballot will not time out or expire. If you are having problems using the machine, you may ask a poll worker for assistance.

When can I vote?
You may vote:
- In person on Election Day at your assigned precinct’s polling place
- In person at designated times and locations during the Early Voting period, Monday, October 22, 2018 through Friday, November 2, 2018-see schedule on page 12.
- By mail if you are at least age 65, disabled, confined in jail but still eligible to vote, or if absence from the county will prevent you from casting a ballot during the Early Voting Period and on Election Day. For this election your application for a ballot by mail must be received in the County Clerk’s office by Friday, October 26, 2018. Applications must be mailed or hand delivered.

How do I vote by mail?
Some voters qualify to vote by mail. The request for a Ballot by Mail must be received by the County Clerk’s office no later than Friday, October 26. Except for mail ballots coming from overseas or military voters, all completed mail ballots must arrive at the County Clerk’s office by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, if carrier envelope is not postmarked, OR Wednesday, November 7 at 5:00 p.m., if carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. If you request a mail ballot and then decide to vote in person, you will be asked to relinquish your paper mail ballot when you arrive at the polling place. If your paper ballot is not available, you will still be able to vote in person, using the provisional ballot option.

What about a student who is registered to vote at the family home, but will be on campus during Election Season?
You may vote a full ballot in accordance with your former precinct details. See page 11 for instructions about recording your change of address with the County Voter Registrar. Failure to update your address information will affect your ability to vote in future elections. You will be able to vote in your new precinct 30 days after your notice has been received by the Voter Registrar.

May I vote if I have permanently changed my address and still live in Harris County?
You must complete a new registration form when you move to a new county. However, you may be eligible to vote a limited ballot in your new county (i.e. on measures in common between your former and new county) if you vote during the Early Voting period only. Your registration in your new county of residence must have been submitted by October 9, 2018 for you to vote in your new county of residence in this Election. See page 11 for instructions about registering to vote in your new county of residence. Failure to register in your new county of residence will affect your ability to vote in future elections.

What does the term “suspense” mean on a voter’s record?
The term “suspense” is used to designate those voters for whom the Harris County Voter Registrar does not have a current, confirmed address. An individual on the suspense list is still a registered voter and has the same rights as a non-suspense list voter. “Suspense” voters may cast a regular ballot after completing a Statement of Residence form.

For Military and Overseas Voters
Eligible Military Personnel, Spouses or Dependents of the Military, and Civilians Overseas now have the ability to complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) online. Please go to: www.harrisvotes.com or call 713-755-6965 for more detailed information.
VOTING FOR JUDGES IN TEXAS

Remember: All courts that appear on your ballot have jurisdiction to hear cases brought in Harris County.

Although in some states judges are appointed, most judges in Texas are elected. Voting decisions in judicial races are among the most important that a Texas voter makes.

Why are judicial elections important?

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

What should voters look for when electing judges?

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

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

How is the Texas court system organized?

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

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

Members of the Texas Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeal are elected for six-year terms, with three elected every two years. Vacancies on either of these two courts are filled by gubernatorial appointment until the next general election.

5 SIMPLE STEPS TO VIEW YOUR SPECIFIC BALLOT ONLINE

2. Select English, Spanish, Vietnamese or Chinese.
3. Click on “Find your Election Day Poll” and “View Voter Specific Ballot.”
4. Enter your name, your address or your Voter Registration Certificate Number.
5. Click on “Search.” Your precinct number, name, address, polling location and the words “Sample Ballot” will appear. Make sure your personal information is correct, then click on “Sample Ballot” to view your ballot just as it will look when you go to vote.
UNITED STATES SENATOR

6-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.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

Health care: What specific reforms, if any, would you propose in health care policy to address the cost of and access to health care?

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

Public Safety: What do you see as the best way to address mass shootings such as the ones in Santa Fe, Sutherland Springs, and Las Vegas?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of Congress, and what is your position on these issues?

TED CRUZ (R) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

BETO O’ROURKE (D)

Background: As a member of the City Council, I balanced a budget each year and ensured we were creating opportunity for everyone -- fighting for public schools, good paying jobs and a community that treated everyone with respect. As a Congressman, I’ve worked with both parties to writing legislation including laws that improve access to health care for veterans.

Health Care: As the least insured state, we should be working to ensure every Texan can see a doctor, afford their prescriptions, and get the care they need so they are healthy enough to go to school, work a job, and live to their full potential. We must also work together to end the maternal mortality crisis in this country. Finally, let’s lower prescription costs, safeguard Medicare, expand Medicaid, defend protections for those with pre-existing conditions and achieve guaranteed, universal health care.

Immigration: We need to rewrite our immigration laws to reflect our interests, our values, and the reality on the ground in Texas. Recognizing we are a nation of laws that can maintain order at the border without dehumanizing anyone, we have to put a stop to family separation, ensure that every separated family is reunified, pass the DREAM Act, provide immigrants with a fair path to work and citizenship, and ensure that everyone who comes to this country can contribute to their full potential.

Public Safety: Texas should lead the way in preserving the 2nd Amendment while ensuring people can live without fear of gun violence in our churches, schools, concerts and communities. Let’s require background checks for all gun sales and close all loopholes; give federal help to school districts to improve campus safety; stop selling weapons of war that are designed to kill people as effectively and efficiently as possible; and support research on gun violence to better understand and address its root causes.

Other Issues: Every child deserves access to a high-quality education. We must keep our tax dollars in our public school classrooms, ensure equity in funding, and empower teachers to teach to students -- not to high-stakes standardized tests. Prioritizing education also means finally paying our teachers a higher salary, ending the Windfall Elimination Provision, and taking care of our retired teachers. Let’s make sure higher education is affordable too, including access to student loans and training programs.

Website: http://betoforx.com | Facebook: http://facebook.com/betoorourke | Twitter: twitter.com/BetoORourke

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

ADVOCATES FOR HOME DISTRICT. THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS EQUAL LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS AND POWERS WITH THE SENATE; HOWEVER, ONLY THE HOUSE MAY ORIGINATE REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION BILLS. SHARES POWER WITH THE SENATE TO LEVY TAXES, BORROW MONEY, REGULATE INTERSTATE COMMERCE AND DECLARE WAR. 2-YEAR TERM.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Flooding is a key issue throughout Texas’ Second Congressional District. I have a detailed flood policy on my website, crenshawforcongress.com/flood-policy/. Additionally, I will work everyday to continue the vast economic expansion we have enjoyed in the last eighteen months. We do this by continuing to flatten and simplify taxes and remove burdensome regulation that create barriers to entry and expansion.

Security must be our first priority. Having an open border is not sustainable from a law enforcement or judicial standpoint. It is more than an immigration issue, it is a national security and economic issue. We must stem the flow of illegal immigration with a wall, where appropriate. We should be clear that we support and welcome legal immigrants, who are often forgotten about in immigration policy discussions.

Congress should look towards market based solutions that do not insert government between the doctor and patient. We should be clear that the Affordable Care Act was an overstep that did far more harm than good, and I believe it should be repealed and replaced. I believe protections for preexisting conditions is an issue where we can, and should, reach bipartisan agreement. I have more details on my webpage, crenshawforcongress.com.

The federal government should take the lead in protecting the integrity of our elections from foreign actors and other threats. The administration and the Congress have taken the lead in the right direction.


LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND | NOVEMBER 6, 2018 VOTERS GUIDE | WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG
APPROPRIATION BILLS. SHARES POWER WITH THE SENATE TO LEVY TAXES, BORROW MONEY, REGULATE INTERSTATE COMMERCE AND DECLARE WAR. 2-YEAR TERM.

ADVOCATES FOR HOME DISTRICT. THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS EQUAL LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS AND POWERS WITH THE SENATE; HOWEVER, ONLY THE HOUSE MAY ORIGINATE REVENUE AND

TODD LITTON (D)

Health Care. I hear concerns from people across our district about high drug costs and fears of losing coverage for preexisting conditions. I will protect and improve the Affordable Care Act and allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices. Our community’s resiliency and ingenuity have not been supported with urgent action. I will work across all lines—city, county, federal party lines—to get the resources and action we need NOW to protect our community from flooding.

Separating families and building a wall are bad policies and not in the spirit our country was founded. Soundbytes like “Build the wall” and “Abolish ICE” don’t make policy sense and make things more polarized. We need to pass the DREAM Act and fix our broken immigration system.

In Congress, I will work to allow Medicare to negotiate with drug companies, which should significantly reduce the high costs of prescription medications. I will also protect the millions of Americans with preexisting medical conditions who currently receive affordable health insurance. We can’t go back to the days when those with a preexisting condition were left behind. Instead, I’d work to allow counties to apply to expand access to Medicaid in states like Texas that have not.

Free and fair elections are the foundation of our democracy. The federal government should play the leading role in protecting America’s election integrity. I would take an aggressive stand against any enemy of the United States, especially Russia, meddling in our elections. When cyberattacks threaten various states’ election systems and spread lies that fuel division, our federal government must act aggressively to stop such actions and ensure we have free and fair elections in America.

Education: Duke University, B.A., English; The University of Texas, School of Law, J.D.; Rice University, M.B.A.; Experience: Civil Defense Lawyer, Hays, McCann; Financial Advisor, UBS; Director, Preschool for All, Executive Director; Citizen Schools Texas; Founder and CEO, C Change Consulting; Community: Chair, City of Houston Tower Commission; Southgate Civic Club and University Place Assoc; Boards: Usher at St. Anne Catholic Church, Coach at West U LL, ALP & other Board svc
Email: info@toddlitton.com | Website: http://toddlitton.com | Address: 4617 Montrose Suite C202 Houston, TX 77006 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/toddlittonforcongress/ | Twitter: twitter.com/toddlitton

PATRICK GUNNELS (L)

Issue number one is an overweening Federal Government that needs to be shrunken by about two-thirds in size. Issue number two is a coalition of democrats and Republicans who collude to stymie the President in every effort he’s making to drain the swamp.

Build the damn wall.

Congress should abolish all federal involvement in the health care system.

They should be aggressively supervising all federal elections for fraud and we should have a national voter ID law.

Education: BA Mathematics UT Austin | Experience: Software sales and mathematics instruction | Community: Making the world safe for whistleblowers | Email: pgunnels@gmail.com | Website: http://twitter.com/pgunnels | Facebook: http://pargunnels/twitter/twitter.com/pgunnels

SCOTT CUBBERL (I)

As a major global import/export center, the current and future tariffs are severely impacting the cost of goods. Our small businesses are struggling and they are being hurt the most. We need to protect our farmers and agricultural industry from these tariffs.

To discuss immigration as "amnesty" or "building a wall" ignores the totality of the border engagement issues. A comprehensive, integrated, strategic Border Engagement policy needs to consider: immigration, commerce/ trade, drugs, transportation, energy, agriculture, health care, justice and diplomatic issues. Complex problems cannot be solved with simplistic solutions.

There are three areas where we can all agree the Federal government should participate in National healthcare - all children ages 0-12/23 (depending on academic status) should be covered. Children should not be without due to just being born - no one should file for bankruptcy due to medical care. The Federal government should institute caps on medical expenses, Federal dollars to cover over-cap expenses - minimal health care should be available for the indigent

The Federal government’s role in elections is to ensure those who are eligible, can vote, and do so fairly and accurately. Since our transportation and communication systems have changed dramatically since voting occurred in the 1700’s, it is time for the Federal government to institute national standards and processes to ensure fairness in all States and territories. External auditing organizations should be used to ensure implementation and compliance

Education: Trinity University - 1988 - B.S. Business Administration: Acct/Fin Trinity University - 1988 - B.S. Computer Science Naval Post Graduate School - 2010 Homeland Security | Experience: Owner - Semper Fi Contractors - 1 yr US Department of Homeland Security - 11 yrs NY Office of Homeland Security - 3 yrs U.S. Marine Corps - 9 yrs Arthur Andersen - 3 yrs | Community: Spring Branch North Super Neighborhood - Super Neighborhood Alliance - Teach Sunday School @ Houston’s First Baptist Church - Hurricane Harvey Relief (HFRD) - Widows Assist | Email: info@cubberlfcongress.com | Website: http://www.cubberlfcongress.com | Address: P.O. Box 79891 Houston, TX 77279 | Phone: (713) 797-2618 | Facebook: http://scotecubberl/twitter/twitter.com/scotecubberl

JOHN CULBERSON (R)

The two most important issues facing District 7 are improving our flood-control network and growing the economy. As the member of the Appropriations Committee, I have secured billions of dollars for Harris County to strengthen our flood-control network, including a record-breaking disaster relief package for the victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria worth $141 billion. I also supported passage of the largest tax cut in U.S. history and helped repeal the oil export ban.

We need to secure our border and enforce our laws to better facilitate the legal movement of people and goods. As Chairman of the Subcommittee that funds federal law enforcement, I have increased funding to hire prosecutors and federal investigators to truly secure the southern border and fight human trafficking, I have also supported legislation to ensure that children are not separated from their parents. I also support streamlining our current visa system.

We need to make health care more accessible, affordable and portable. We should allow insurance companies to sell across state lines to provide more options to consumers. We should make it easier for small businesses to pool their resources to buy private insurance. I also support guaranteed coverage for pre-existing conditions and for allowing adult children to stay on their parent’s insurance until they turn 26. I will continue to fund research for juvenile diabetes, MS, and other diseases.

Under our Constitution, State law and local government regulate and control elections. Therefore, the federal government’s role is limited. I have supported federal grants to State and local governments to help them manage elections and to help them protect the integrity of the ballot box.

Education: Bachelor’s Degree, Southern Methodist University; Law Degree, South Texas College of Law | Experience: Current U.S. Representative, first elected in 2001. Former member of the Texas House of Representatives (1986-2001); Former civil defense attorney before election to Congress; Community: Member of Memorial Drive United Methodist Church and Associate Member of Second Baptist Church; Houston Astronomical Society; Houston Audubon Society; Email: JaniceC@CulbersonforCongress.com | Website: http://www.culbersonforcongress.com | Address: P.O. Box 41964 Houston, TX 77241 | Phone: (281) 304-0093 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/johnculberson | Twitter: twitter.com/johnculberson

LIZZIE PANNILL FLETCHER (D)

1. Healthcare: Cutting-edge advances take place here, but many in our community do not have access to quality healthcare. Ensuring access to & affordability of healthcare is vital—from improving the ACA to helping those across the aisle to bring down costs, especially of prescription drugs.

2. Infrastructure: We need flooding and transportation infrastructure improvements to keep our communities safe and move us forward. I will partner with cities, counties, and METRO to bring improvements & funding to our region.

We need comprehensive immigration reform that addresses the many needs in this complex system. It should be thoughtful, practical, and fair, strengthening our border security and protecting border communities, ensuring law enforcement can do its job to keep our communities safe, keeping the promises we made to Dreamers, ending the devastating separation of families at the border, and creating a pathway to legal status for those who contribute to our society.

Congress has an important role to play in helping ensure that all Americans have access to affordable care. Working together, Congress can address the failures of the ACA and improve it, can continue to expand Medicaid and subsidy programs that bring overall costs down for everyone, introduce common-sense, cost-saving measures like allowing Medicare to negotiate with drug companies to lower drug prices, and ensure continued protections for people with pre-existing conditions.

Our democracy depends on free and fair elections with true participation of our citizens. The Federal government is charged with protecting our constitutional rights, especially the right to vote. It is important that we fully restore and enforce the Voting Rights Act, and address systemic challenges and threats to our elections. Protecting the integrity of the process also includes working to eliminate partisan gerrymandering, and requiring transparency in our campaign finance system.

Education: B.A., History, Kenyon College (1997) J.D., College of William & Mary School of Law (2006) Experience: I am a litigation partner at AWA, which I joined in 2009 after starting my legal career at Vinson & Elkins and working in non-profit and private sector for six years. Community: I am currently a director of Writers in the Schools and Open Dance Project, past director of Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast, and community volunteer. | Email: info@lizziefletcher.com | Website: http://lizziefletcher.com | Address: 3262 Westheimer Road, PMB 636 Houston, TX 77098 | Phone: (281) 645-9388 | Facebook: http://facebook.com/LizzieForCongress | Twitter: twitter.com/Lizzie4Congress
STEVEN DAVID (D)

I believe that healthcare is the most important issue. Whether it is access, affordability, or coverage, residents are worried and suffering. I believe that these issues are the problem and that the solution to this problem is to strengthen the Affordable Care Act, and I commit to ensuring that our focus will be on the patient, and not the profit of companies. I also believe that we must address the cost of education in America. Collectively, Americans hold $1.2 trillion dollars in debt, and tuition fees are rising.

Education: B.S. Political Science Arizona State University | Experience: 5 years Database management, 10 years working on candidate or issues campaigns, 7 years working for the City of Houston as a financial and performance auditor. | Community: Interned at Montgomery County DA’s Office | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ChrisDuncanLPTexas

CHRIS DUNCAN (L)

As a Libertarian, I believe in the freedom for people to move wherever they like. I do not believe in separating families or submitting people to inhumane conditions. I do not believe in giving away taxpayer money to those who do not pay taxes, however, and I do not believe in government enabling good behavior. As long as immigrants are productive and law-abiding, I believe that they have just as much right to be here as we do. We are all immigrants, in fact.

Education: J.D., Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Texas Southern University | Experience: Attorney for 44 years, Former Judge of Justice Court for 25 years, Member of Congress for 13 years. | Community: Former President of Houston NAACP, Board Member of Houston Law Center - Juris Doctor Candidate Experience: Operations Analyst, Oil Field Sales Managers | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ChrisDuncanLPTexas

PHIL KURTZ (L)

I am endorsed by Americans for Legal Immigration and received a TRUE REFORMER rating from NumbersUSA. I support immigrants who want to come to America and become naturalized citizens. We must secure our borders and streamline our immigration policies. I propose, reducing or removing welfare, citizenship for military service (perhaps extended term for illegals), reduction of chain migration from 4 levels to 1 level, and Social Security, charge back deportation costs to the country of origin.

Education: MBA, Business Development, Burger Business School, University of Houston MBA, Master of Industrial Engineering, Cullen College of Engineering, U of H BSEE, Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, The University of Texas at Austin. | Community: Member of ACTS Core Team 3 years, 18. Justin Martyr Catholic Community, Mustard Seed Ministry, World's Trained Catechist & Confirmation Teacher: PhilKurtz4Congress2018@gmail.com | Website: http://philkurtz4congress.nationbuilder.com | Address: PO Box 1073 Kay, Texas 77492 | Phone: (281) 574-4652 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/TexasCongressionalDistrict9 | Twitter: twitter.com/PhilKurtz

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND | NOVEMBER 6, 2018 VOTERS GUIDE | WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG
APPROPRIATION BILLS. SHARES POWER WITH THE SENATE TO LEVY TAXES, BORROW MONEY, REGULATE INTERSTATE COMMERCE AND DECLARE WAR. 2-YEAR TERM.

ADVOCATES FOR HOME DISTRICT. THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS EQUAL LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS AND POWERS WITH THE SENATE; HOWEVER, ONLY THE HOUSE MAY ORIGINATE REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION BILLS. SHARES POWER WITH THE SENATE TO LEVY TAXES, BORROW MONEY, REGULATE INTERSTATE COMMERCE AND DECLARE WAR. 2-YEAR TERM.

KESHA ROGERS (I)

(1) Systemic poverty and (2) a lack of high wage productive jobs. We must end the post-industrial service economy and become a producer nation building great projects. This requires reinstating Glass-Stegall banking separation, issuing federal credit (as during the New Deal or Apollo) to build modern infrastructure, flood controls in Houston, high speed rail networks, foram, human space exploration of the moon, and fusion energy. A new Civilian Conservation Corps will train people for the work.

We must address the underlying economic cause for mass emigration. Free trade agreements like NAFTA have impoverished nations south of our border, allowing drug cartels and sweatshops to take over, and so they flee here. We need new trade deals that mutually benefit all countries involved, reducing poverty with big projects in global trade, transportation, power, water, and food self-sufficiency, while increasing police and military resources to eliminate the drug trade and human trafficking.

MICHAEL T. MCCAUD (R)

NO RESPONSE

MIKE SIEGEL (D)

Top issues: health care and infrastructure. Health care include access to insurance and access to quality hospital facilities. I will vote to support universal healthcare — for example, Medicare for All — and to fund rural hospital facilities. Top infrastructure needs include flood control and rural high speed Internet. I will fight to build Houston’s resiliency for 50, 100, and 500-year floods. And I will support every other difficult to get voted on for the reason why I will get them ignored, but I won’t forget about them.

People coming to the USA must do it legally. We should build the wall to keep out criminals who would harm our families. The number one role of the government is to keep us safe. I would make e-voting and back ground checks mandatory with two new conditions: 1) show up with your voter registration ID card, and 2) pay the fee for a new voter registration ID card. My first 100 days in office I will sign the bill and direct the Secretary of State to implement it. Separation, I will fight to keep families together.

AVA REYNERO PATE (R)

Job growth is vital in the 18th District. I will propose legislation that will give the Small Business & Trade Schools tax breaks who are willing to work with an individual seeking a trade that best fits them & their personality. I would even like to propose this to be an avenue for the troubled teen/adult & our veterans. I would like to see our veterans receiving the same healthcare benefits that are available to our President and to the House of Representatives & Senate Congress.

We must restore the integrity of our immigration systems that are guided by the law. It’s time to secure our borders by building the wall, this is not just about the illegal immigrant, but a national security threat. Our children are at risk when we allow our borders to be open to drug cartels & sex traffickers. There’s also the abuse of companies firing employees (citizens) in order to hire H1B workers that would be something I would address in Congress.

SHelia JACKSON LEE (D)

We faced a catastrophic event in 2017, Hurricane Harvey, which was the most significant natural disaster in the U.S. Our constituents across the city are still facing rebuilding of their homes and working to ensure that the infrastructure works against flooding. My most important task is to ensure the funding needed for rebuilding; identify dollars needed for the Corp of Engineers to match the Harris Co. Flood district; and to fix the Bayou system totally that will control future flooding.

We have a broken immigration system and the present administration has contributed to the ineffectiveness of that system. It is vitally important to pass comprehensive immigration reform to provide access to citizenship and to have real border security via improved technology and to work with other members of Congress to ensure a system that is both affordable and accessible that protects all consumers; and provides support for our hospital systems through expanded Medicaid.

One of the most important points of healthcare was that passed several years ago was a provision to provide insurance to individuals with pre-existing conditions. Unfortunately, the majority insisted on taking away that provision — a step toward war. The American people are smart enough figure out where they stand on various issues, and censoring social media speech is unconstitutional. The federal government must ensure that state systems for registration and voting adher to basic ballot security by enacting reforms that enhance and reinforce basic ballot security standards in federal elections. Actual voting should always be done using a verifiable paper record and require a state issued ID photo.

Texas just won a decision on 9/18/18 from the 5th Circuit court upholding voter ID in elections. SBB, it should make a model for the rest of the nation. Texas has documented multiple cases of voter fraud and the criminals must be prosecuted. If I need an ID to drive a car or get on an airplane, which is a much lesser affair, we can mandate ID to vote. CA allows illegals to vote making this critical to our path forward to true sovereignty.

The federal government should set policies and get out of the way. The older system of health insurance prior to 1976 and HMOs worked well – third party payers must be eliminated. We should be able to buy health insurance much like car and home insurance – clear description of coverage & costs. Cross state purchasing, etc. are great ideas, but the States should take the lead on managing these issues. I believe it to be a Tenth Amendment issue. The federal government needs to get out of the way because they work against flooding. My most important issue that any country that has taken the socialistic approach, we can mandate ID to vote. CA allows illegals to vote making this critical to our path forward to true sovereignty.

The government must guarantee the sanctity of the vote, which is our most fundamental right in a democracy. I am very disappointed that my opponent, Rep. McCaul, has failed to take action to investigate foreign interference in our elections, even though he is Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee. We must strengthen the Voting Rights Act to protect against laws that disenfranchise voters based on race, sex, or national origin. I would also need an automatic voter registration and a holiday on election day.

To protect the integrity of our Federal elections we can create legislation that makes it a requirement to show legal I.D. of being a citizen of the United States of America. We must protect our elections from foreign influences.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, it is important to recognize that the 2016 election was violated by Russian influence. There are many issues including: protecting the integrity of the process and the voter count. I am involved in efforts to ensure that people are not unfairly purged from the voting rolls, to ensure that every eligible person can vote and make votingprecincts accessible to all people. I will request Dept. of Justice & Homeland Security on-site on Election Day.
## QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

### LUKE SPENCER (L)

**TERM LIMITS -** Voters in my district feel that Sheila Jackson Lee is a prime example of why term limits are needed. Once elected, even incumbents who are clearly incompetent cling to power. Limit US Representatives to 5 lifetime terms and US Senators to 2.

### VINCE DUNCAN (I)

1. Housing. Repair and Recovery In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey Remains one of the top Priorities of 80% of the Residents Of Congressional District 18. There are thousands and thousands of vacant homes in District 18. In some cases residents have reported it takes 3 months to get their homes back. In other cases, the skilled labor shortage 2. Job Security We lost businesses in Harvey that employed Residents of the District.

### PETE OLSON (R) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

### SRI PRESTON KULKARNI (D)

Hurricane Harvey devastated much of our community. We must increase emergency relief funding to help our neighbors should disaster strike, and also fight climate change to prevent such events in the future. We must also support education at every level - we should invest in our children so that all students are prepared for success in public universities, college, or vocational school debt-free, provide adequate resources to all our public schools, and increase pay for our hardworking teachers.

### JOHN B. MCCHELLIGOTT (L) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

### KELLEN SWENY (I)

Current immigration policy is ineffective. The failed strategies have fueled a rise of those living in the U.S. without legal status despite continually increased spending on enforcement. The way forward expands the visa work program and creates a path to legal status for those already here. Borders become more secure as smuggling and document fraud decrease and state and local communities benefit from a boost in economic activity, including $244 million in tax revenue from Dreamers in 2016.

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND | NOVEMBER 8, 2018 VOTERS GUIDE | WWW.LWHOUSTON.ORG
PHILLIP ARONOFF (R)

Healthcare Access- Block grant Medicaid payments to states, so that we can experiment with programs like the Health Savings Account solution. The issue isn’t coverage. The issue is access. With HSA accounts, for those who need it, they can see any doctor they want. Immigration Reform- Pass law to give a pathway of citizenship to those that fall under DACA. Implement a new rolling work visa program that makes it easier for immigrants to come here and work. (Bracero 2 - Houston Chronicle OP-ED)

Education/Degrees: University of Houston - Bachelor of Business- International Business | Professional Experience: 50 year entrepreneur in foreign trade and 14 years as a diplomat | Community Involvement: Harris County Housing Authority, Harris County Housing Finance Authority, President of the City of Houston public access television, Chairman of ADL - Houston, and more. | Campaign Public Email: info@aronoffforcongress | Campaign Public Website: http://aronoffforcongress.com | Twitter: twitter.com/AronoffKrug

SYLVIA R. GARCIA (D)

Our district urgently needs access to economic opportunity and affordable healthcare for all. 24% of families in our district live in poverty, and 38% lack a high school degree. To address this I will work to raise the federal minimum wage, advocate for increased funding for workforce training, and help bring jobs to our area. Our community also needs access to affordable healthcare, with 35% of people lacking health insurance. I will work tirelessly to defend and expand the Affordable Care Act.

Education: B.A., Social Work, Texas Women’s University; J.D., Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University | Experience: Former social worker, legal aid lawyer, Houston Municipal Judge, Houston City Controller, Harris County Commissioner, Current Texas State Senator for District 6 | Involvement: Served on more than 25 community boards, including the San Jacinto Girl Scouts, the Houston Hispanic Forum, the American Leadership Forum and the Battleship Texas Foundation. | Email: info@sylviarigarciad | Website: http://www.sylviarigarciad.com | Address: 5601 Irvington Blvd, Houston, TX 77009 | Phone: (832) 869-7529 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/SylviaRGarcia/ | Twitter: twitter.com/SenatorSylvia

CULLEN BURNS (L)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

JOHNATHAN GARZA (I) | WRITE IN CANDIDATE - UNABLE TO CONTACT

BRIAN BABIN (R) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

DAYNA STEELE (D)

Healthcare: The rural areas in southeast Texas lack basic healthcare infrastructure. Hospitals, clinics and family physician offices are closing. We need to create incentives for healthcare professionals to move to, and stay in the region. Jobs: We need a $15-an-hour minimum wage. Create tax incentives for companies that pay for retraining and re-education for people to stay current or reenter the workforce. Encourage partnerships with leading companies to create job opportunities.

Education: Texas A&M University Media Studies | Experience: Entrepreneur, Author, Public Speaker, Former Radio Disc Jockey | Community: For several years, my husband and I gave laptop computers to high school students trapped in poverty, to help give them a chance for their future. | Email: info@DaynaSteele36.com | Website: http://www.daynaSteele36.com | Address: 18044 Upper Bay Rd Houston, TX 77098 | Phone: (281) 339-7149 | Facebook: http://facebook.com/daynaSteele36 | Twitter: twitter.com/daynaSteele

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

ADVISORS FOR HOME DISTRICT, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS EQUAL LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS AND POWERS WITH THE SENATE; HOWEVER, ONLY THE HOUSE MAY ORIGINATE REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION BILLS. SHARES POWER WITH THE SENATE TO LEVY TAXES, BORROW MONEY, REGULATE INTERSTATE COMMERCE AND DECLARE WAR. 2-YEAR TERM.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Identify what you think are the 2 most important issues that affect the people in your district and give specific examples of measurable actions you will take to address these issues.

What do you think are the most important issues in the current immigration policy debate and what would you propose as the way forward?

What role should Congress play in ensuring that the American healthcare system is accessible and affordable across all demographic groups?

What is the appropriate role of the Federal government in protecting the integrity of American elections?

PHILLIP ARONOFF (R)

Healthcare Access- Block grant Medicaid payments to states, so that we can experiment with programs like the Health Savings Account solution. The issue isn’t coverage. The issue is access. With HSA accounts, for those who need it, they can see any doctor they want. Immigration Reform- Pass law to give a pathway of citizenship to those that fall under DACA. Implement a new rolling work visa program that makes it easier for immigrants to come here and work. (Bracero 2 - Houston Chronicle OP-ED)

Education/Degrees: University of Houston - Bachelor of Business- International Business | Professional Experience: 50 year entrepreneur in foreign trade and 14 years as a diplomat | Community Involvement: Harris County Housing Authority, Harris County Housing Finance Authority, President of the City of Houston public access television, Chairman of ADL - Houston, and more. | Campaign Public Email: info@aronoffforcongress | Campaign Public Website: http://aronoffforcongress.com | Twitter: twitter.com/AronoffKrug

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Education: B.A., Social Work, Texas Women’s University; J.D., Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University | Experience: Former social worker, legal aid lawyer, Houston Municipal Judge, Houston City Controller, Harris County Commissioner, Current Texas State Senator for District 6 | Involvement: Served on more than 25 community boards, including the San Jacinto Girl Scouts, the Houston Hispanic Forum, the American Leadership Forum and the Battleship Texas Foundation. | Email: info@sylviarigarciad | Website: http://www.sylviarigarciad.com | Address: 5601 Irvington Blvd, Houston, TX 77009 | Phone: (832) 869-7529 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/SylviaRGarcia/ | Twitter: twitter.com/SenatorSylvia

CULLEN BURNS (L)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

JOHNATHAN GARZA (I) | WRITE IN CANDIDATE - UNABLE TO CONTACT

BRIAN BABIN (R) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

DAYNA STEELE (D)

Healthcare: The rural areas in southeast Texas lack basic healthcare infrastructure. Hospitals, clinics and family physician offices are closing. We need to create incentives for healthcare professionals to move to, and stay in the region. Jobs: We need a $15-an-hour minimum wage. Create tax incentives for companies that pay for retraining and re-education for people to stay current or reenter the workforce. Encourage partnerships with leading companies to create job opportunities.

Education: Texas A&M University Media Studies | Experience: Entrepreneur, Author, Public Speaker, Former Radio Disc Jockey | Community: For several years, my husband and I gave laptop computers to high school students trapped in poverty, to help give them a chance for their future. | Email: info@DaynaSteele36.com | Website: http://www.daynaSteele36.com | Address: 18044 Upper Bay Rd Houston, TX 77098 | Phone: (281) 339-7149 | Facebook: http://facebook.com/daynaSteele36 | Twitter: twitter.com/daynaSteele

DURING THE EARLY VOTING PERIOD, MONDAY, OCTOBER 22 THROUGH FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2018, RESIDENTS OF HARRIS COUNTY MAY VOTE AT ANY DESIGNATED EARLY VOTING LOCATION IN HARRIS COUNTY.

FOR A MAP AND COMPLETE LISTING OF EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS, EARLY VOTING DATES AND TIMES, PLEASE REFER TO LAST PAGE OF THIS VOTERS GUIDE.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND | NOVEMBER 6, 2018 VOTERS GUIDE | WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG
Who can register?
You can register to vote if you meet all these qualifications:
- You are a United States citizen
- You are a resident of the county to which you submit the application
- You are at least 17 years and 10 months old, but you must be 18 years old by Election Day in order to cast your ballot
- You are not a convicted felon, but you may be eligible to vote if you have completed your sentence, probation, or parole
- You have not been declared by a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be either totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

How do I register to vote?
To register, you must complete, sign and submit a Voter Registration Application. Each Texas county has a Voter Registrar. In Harris County the Tax Assessor-Collector also serves as the Voter Registrar.

Application forms are available at all Harris County Tax Office substations as well as many libraries, government offices, high schools and post offices. Application forms may be downloaded at hctax.net, requested by emailing voters@hctx.net or requested by calling 713-274-VOTE (8683).

After you register, you should receive your Voter Registration Certificate (VRC) within 30 days. If you do not, you should call the Harris County Tax Office at 713-274-8683 to check on the status of your application.

Where do I register?
- You may register in person or by mail.
- You may register in person at 1001 Preston Avenue – 2nd floor, in downtown Houston; any of 16 Tax Office substations throughout the County (locations can be viewed at www.hctax.net); any Texas Department of Public Safety Office (DPS); or other state agency offices.
- If you prefer, you can mail your application to Ann Harris Bennett, Tax Assessor-Collector and Voter Registrar, P.O. Box 3527, Houston, 77253-9803.
- Voter registration drives are frequently hosted at various events where you can complete your voter registration application with a deputized volunteer voter registrar who will turn in the application for you.

What do I do if I change my address and still live in Harris County?
Change your address online at votetexas.gov/register-to-vote/did-you-change-something or in writing by completing a voter registration application form or by correcting the information on your current Voter Registration Certificate and returning it to the Harris County Voter Registrar.

You will be able to vote in your new precinct 30 days after your notice has been received by the Voter Registrar.

What do I do if I change my address and move to another county?
You must complete a new registration form with the appropriate election official when you move to a new county in Texas. This registration must have been submitted by Tuesday, October 9, 2018 for you to vote in accordance with your new residence in the November 2018 Election.

For how long is my registration effective?
The registration will remain in effect until you move or change your name, and a new certificate will be sent to you every two years without further application on your part. If you move, however, your registration certificate will not be forwarded to your new address. If you move within the same county or change your name, you must notify your voter registrar or election administrator in writing or online of your new address or your new name as soon as possible. Then a new certificate will be mailed to you.

VOTING BY MAIL
You may vote early by-mail if you are registered to vote and meet one of the following criteria:
- Away from the county of residence on Election Day and during the early voting period;
- Sick or disabled;
- 65 years of age or older on Election Day; or
- Confined in jail, but eligible to vote.

HOW TO SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR A BALLOT BY MAIL
Annual Application for Ballot By Mail (ABBM) – Applicants who are 65 years of age or older or are disabled qualify to apply for Annual Application for Ballot By Mail (ABBM). Choosing the ‘annual’ option ensures these applicants will receive a mail ballot for all elections held during a calendar year. Annual applications may be submitted starting the first day of a calendar year (January 1) and not later than the 11th day before Election Day.

Regular Application – Applicants who do not qualify to submit an “Annual” ballot-by-mail application, but who qualify to early vote, may submit an application for a single election starting the first day of the calendar year (January 1) and not later than the 11th day before Election Day. If the 11th day is a weekend or holiday, the deadline is the first preceding business day.

Send your application by:
- Regular mail to:
  - Harris County Clerk
  - Attn: Elections Division
  - P.O. Box 1148
  - Houston, TX 77251-1148
- Common or contract carrier to:
  - Harris County Clerk
  - 1001 Preston, 4th Floor, Rm. 440
  - Houston, TX 77002

If you submit your application for a ballot by mail using fax or email, you must also submit a paper copy of the application. It may be sent by mail or common carrier (see above) or hand delivered. You will have 4 business days from the day your fax or email is received by the early voting clerk to submit the paper copy of your application. For additional information or to check on status of your application, call the County Clerk’s Office at (713) 755-6965.
November 6, 2018 General and Special Elections Early Voting Schedule

United States of America, State of Texas, Harris County, City of Baytown, City of Houston, City of League City, City of Missouri City, City of Nassau Bay, City of Webster, Lone Star College System, Channelview ISD, Crosby ISD, Huffman ISD, Klein ISD, New Caney ISD, Sheldon ISD, Tomball ISD, Banister Utility District, Cypress-Keen Utility District, Parkway Utility District, Cypress Hill MUD No. 1, Harris County MUD No. 105, Harris County MUD No. 149, Harris County MUD No. 166, Northwest Harris County MUD No. 16, Harris County Water Control & Improvement District No. 89, Old Town Spring Improvement District, Timberlake Improvement District, The Woodlands Township.

Early Voting Hours of Operation
October 22 - October 26: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
October 27: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
October 28: 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
October 29 - November 2: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

For more information www.harrisvotes.com
GOVERNOR

4-YEAR TERM. THE GOVERNOR IS CHIEF EXECUTIVE WHICH MEANS THAT SHE/HE CARRIES OUT THE LAW. SHE/HE APPOINTS MEMBERS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, APPOINTS STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE OFFICIALS, STATE JUDGES, AND DISTRICT ATTORNEYS WHEN VACANCIES OCCUR, DELIVERS THE STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS, PROVIDES GUIDANCE TO THE LEGISLATURE, CALLS SPECIAL SESSIONS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND SETS THE AGENDA. THE GOVERNOR CAN VETO LEGISLATION (INCLUDING A LINE-ITEM VETO ON APPROPRIATIONS), SIGN LEGISLATION, OR ALLOW IT TO BECOME LAW WITHOUT HIS/HER SIGNATURE.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

BACKGROUND: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

HEALTH CARE: What specific reforms, if any, would you propose in state health care policy to address the cost of and access to health care for all Texans?

INFRASTRUCTURE: What specific measures do you propose to meet the state’s growing infrastructure needs (i.e. water, energy, and transportation)?

SCHOOL SAFETY: What can be done to ensure the safety of our children in schools?

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

GREG ABBOTT (R) NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

LUPE VALDEZ (D)

BACKGROUND: As a daughter of migrant farmworkers, I’ve dedicated my career to public service and working for the greater good. From 2005-2017, I served as Dallas County Sheriff, managing a $140+ million budget, and reformed a department that sorely needed it. I’m a proud veteran and spent most of my career as a federal agent.

HEALTH CARE: We have a health care crisis in Texas. An unregulated private health care system puts profit over people, while we remain the most uninsured state in the country. It’s time to accept Medicaid expansion, which would insure 1.5 million Texans. We must expand access to healthcare in rural communities, which have become medical deserts after Texas closed more rural hospitals than any other state in the country in the last 8 years. I will also fight tirelessly to protect women’s healthcare.

INFRASTRUCTURE: First, we need to stop focusing on harmful, job-killing bills and start paying attention to the issues that truly matter to Texans. We should promote public and private investment in renewable energies and make sure all communities have access to safe, clean drinking water. All over our state, Texans sit in traffic because we have failed to make adequate investments. This is why transportation funding must meet our needs today, so that we are ready for future growth.

SCHOOL SAFETY: We can’t talk about school safety without mentioning gun violence and how our governor is acting as if it is inevitable & isolated to schools. We are NOT powerless to stop the bloodshed, regardless of where it happens. Common sense measures to keep guns out of dangerous hands include universal background checks, making it a state offense to lie on a background check, “red flag” laws, closing the boyfriend loophole, and banning high capacity magazines & bump stocks.

OTHER ISSUES: Public Education: A child’s background, zip code, race, or how much money their parents make shouldn’t matter - every child deserves the chance to succeed. We need universal Pre-K for all Texas kids & to remove the caps on special education funding. We must pay & treat our teachers as professionals & make sure they are teaching to our children, not a standardized test. For any of this, the state must pay its fair share of public education & stop putting the load on local communities & taxpayers.

MARK JAY TIPPETTS (L)

BACKGROUND: I am bilingual and bi-cultural, and by profession, I am an International Legal & Business Consultant in Mexico and Latin America. I represented the Libertarian Party on the ballot in 2010 for Travis County Judge. In 2017, I was appointed to city council in Lago Vista, Texas. I know what it means to hold office and stand on principles.

HEALTH CARE: I believe government should not provide, control, nor require health care. I do not believe that people have a right to be provided with healthcare at other peoples’ expense. I will advocate the phasing out of Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIPS programs. I support free market based healthcare systems and health insurance. I oppose a “single payer” concept and the federal legislation known as the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Obama Care).

INFRASTRUCTURE: I support eliminating barriers to free market construction and maintenance of infrastructure. We should let market demand and willingness to fund dictate which routes are developed. I oppose costly projects intended to benefit land developers through the abuse of eminent domain. Never should unelected boards be charged with transportation planning; as such boards are not accountable to constituents or local authority. Toll roads should not be used to restrict people’s freedom of movement.

SCHOOL SAFETY: I support measures to restore decision-making regarding education to parents, teachers, and local education boards. I reject any involvement of the federal government in our local school systems, including funding. By doing this we can eliminate across the board standards that have turned our schools into little more than testing sites, rather than a place where students are developing skills, learning mechanism for handling challenges and disappointments, and being evaluated as individuals.

OTHER ISSUES: Drug Policy: I oppose the War on Drugs. Consistent with the principles of self-ownership, consenting adults ought not be restricted from partaking in activities that harm no one else. This includes possession, consumption and/or market transactions of substances for medicinal, recreational, or other purposes. Individuals seeking or providing medical treatment should not be subject to prosecution.
**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

**DESCRIPTION:** 4-YEAR TERM. THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IS POWERFUL BECAUSE OF HER/HIS POSITION AS PRESIDENT OF THE TEXAS SENATE WHERE SHE/HE APPOINTS THE CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES, APPOINTS SENATORS TO COMMITTEES, ASSIGN BILLS TO COMMITTEES, AND CONTROLS THE SENATE’S AGENDA. SHE/HE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF SEVERAL COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS, AND SERVES AS GOVERNOR IN THE GOVERNOR’S ABSENCE.

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

- Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?
- Health care: What specific reforms, if any, would you propose in state health care policy to address the cost of and access to health care for all Texans?
- Infrastructure: What specific measures do you propose to meet the state’s growing infrastructure needs (i.e. water, energy, and transportation)?
- School Safety: What can be done to ensure the safety of our children in schools?
- Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas Legislature, and what is your position on these issues?

**DAN PATRICK (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** Please refer to www.danpatrick.org/meet-dan for my biographical information.

**HEALTH CARE:** My stance on important issues facing Texas is detailed in my record as the Lt. Governor of Texas. Please refer to www.danpatrick.org, as well as my official website, www.ltgov.state.tx.us, for the most current information on my positions.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** My stance on important issues facing Texas is detailed in my record as the Lt. Governor of Texas. Please refer to www.danpatrick.org, as well as my official website, www.ltgov.state.tx.us, for the most current information on my positions.

**HEALTH CARE:** My stance on important issues facing Texas is detailed in my record as the Lt. Governor of Texas. Please refer to www.danpatrick.org, as well as my official website, www.ltgov.state.tx.us, for the most current information on my positions.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** My stance on important issues facing Texas is detailed in my record as the Lt. Governor of Texas. Please refer to www.danpatrick.org, as well as my official website, www.ltgov.state.tx.us, for the most current information on my positions.

**OTHER ISSUES:** My stance on important issues facing Texas is detailed in my record as the Lt. Governor of Texas. Please refer to www.danpatrick.org, as well as my official website, www.ltgov.state.tx.us, for the most current information on my positions.

**MIKE COLLIER (D)**

**BACKGROUND:** For many years I was a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers, leading teams of professionals performing financial audits and rigorous financial and operational analysis. I hold a BBA and an MBA from UT-Austin. Suzanne and I have been married 29 years and we have two sons who attended public schools (K-12) in Texas. Both graduated from UT-Austin.

**HEALTH CARE:** It’s time we expand Medicaid. It’s a good deal for Texas. We also need a Patient Financial Bill of Rights, including (1) absolute protection for Texans with pre-existing conditions, (2) protection against in-network vs. out-of-network surprise billing, (3) bills that are transparent and in plain English, and (4) mandatory disclosure if lower cost options (drugs and procedures) are available. And we must invest in women’s health, mental health, and children’s health, as we once did!

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** We have a revenue problem in Texas that we must fix. Otherwise we cannot invest properly in infrastructure. In so doing, we cannot increase taxes on homeowners, because we are over-taxed already. As Lt. Governor I will first step in solving this problem by closing a well-documented big-corporate property tax loophole (known as Equal and Uniform) which will recover $5 billion in missing revenues (per year). Other steps, if needed, will be the subject of my reelection campaign.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** I do not support arming teachers and “hardening targets.” The answer in my opinion is more counselors and trained psychologists who can develop relationships with students and react before, not after, a crisis develops. We also need a background check system that works, and red flag laws. Some physical security upgrades will no doubt be called for by local officials. The state should appropriate funds and enact legislation according to these principles.

**OTHER ISSUES:** We must increase investment in public education (smaller class sizes, special education teachers, pre-K, better pay for teachers and support staff), reform the charter model to achieve the original objective (enhance public school effectiveness), and end further discussion of vouchers. We must restore healthcare benefits taken away from retired teachers, and fund teacher retirement plans (TRS-Care and defined benefit pensions).

**KERRY DOUGLAS MCKENNON (L)**

**BACKGROUND:** I have 20+ years of management experience. I am National Chair of Outright Libertarians, have had two terms on the LP Texas executive board, and had two terms as the Platform Chair for LP Texas. I am the Libertarian Party Hall County Chair.

**HEALTH CARE:** TXDOT must prioritize TX’s infrastructure results that are fixes rather than patches. Water is the life-blood of Texas’ agriculture, energy and tourist industry. We must work with those industries and districts to ensure water in perpetuity. Energy and water go hand in hand. Our current guidelines are decades old, causing us infrastructure damage, loss of water, potential loss of energy, and loss of life and property. TX needs regulation and technology more modern than the mid 20th century.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** We have a constitutionally mandated public-school system in Texas which we must make safe while respecting individuals and their rights. We must empower local schools to determine their safety protocols as opposed to a blanket state-issued guideline. Some schools may allow teachers to carry arms for defense. Others may put in metal detectors. Many will find ways to have secure lockdown. There are free market options regarding public school safety, which I encourage schools to research.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**4 YEAR TERM. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IS THE CHIEF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE STATE, REPRESENTS THE STATE AND STATE OFFICIALS IN LEGAL MATTERS, ISSUES OPINIONS, COLLECTS CHILD SUPPORT, ADMINISTERS THE CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION FUND, ENFORCES THE OPEN RECORDS/OPEN MEETINGS ACTS, APPROVES PUBLIC BOND ISSUES, AND ENFORCES CONSUMER REGULATIONS.**

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

- Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?
- Responsibilities: Which responsibilities of the Attorney General’s office are your highest priorities for the next 4 years, and how do you intend to accomplish them?
- Consumer protection: What are the most important consumer protection issues facing Texas?
- Other issues: What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

**KEN PAXTON (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** The Texas Attorney General should be a check on power, not a rubber stamp. I learned about the rule of law from Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor. I teach at University of Texas Law School, and am a “Texas Super Lawyer” for being one of the most effective lawyers in Texas. Texas deserves an Attorney General who will fight for ALL Texans.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** The Texas Attorney General should be a check on power. I will stand up for the rule of law. The Texas Attorney General should not be a rubber stamp for anyone—whether in Washington D.C. or Austin. Nobody is above the law. I will fight corruption, work to protect pre-existing conditions in health care coverage, fight for public education, advocate for resources to treat the opioid crisis, and crack down on fraud.

**CONSUMER PROTECTION:** The Texas Attorney General’s office should fight fraud, cybercrime, and corruption to make sure everyone has a level playing field. I will make sure that small businesses and individuals are not the victims of fraud and deception. This includes ending partisan lawsuits and focusing on non-partisan consumer fraud investigations and making sure Texas is the leader in responding to fraud after natural disasters.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The Texas Attorney General has wide power to ensure justice. I will clean up the Attorney General’s office, ending the corruption, and addressing our most urgent problems—fighting the opioid crisis, protecting consumers from fraudulent and abusive businesses, reforming criminal justice, fixing the child support system, ending gerrymandering. I will make the office into one that fights for every single Texan.

**JUSTIN NELSON (D)**

**BACKGROUND:** The Texas Attorney General should be a check on power, not a rubber stamp. I learned about the rule of law from Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor. I teach at University of Texas Law School, and am a “Texas Super Lawyer” for being one of the most effective lawyers in Texas. Texas deserves an Attorney General who will fight for ALL TEXANS.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** The Texas Attorney General should be a check on power. I will stand up for the rule of law. The Texas Attorney General should not be a rubber stamp for anyone—whether in Washington D.C. or Austin. Nobody is above the law. I will fight corruption, work to protect pre-existing conditions in health care coverage, fight for public education, advocate for resources to treat the opioid crisis, and crack down on fraud.

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**MICHAEL RAY HARRIS (L)**

**BACKGROUND:** I have 20+ years of management experience. I am National Chair of Outright Libertarians, have had two terms on the LP Texas executive board, and had two terms as the Platform Chair for LP Texas. I am the Libertarian Party Hall County Chair.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** The Texas Attorney General should be a check on power. I will stand up for the rule of law. The Texas Attorney General should not be a rubber stamp for anyone—whether in Washington D.C. or Austin. Nobody is above the law. I will fight corruption, work to protect pre-existing conditions in health care coverage, fight for public education, advocate for resources to treat the opioid crisis, and crack down on fraud.

**CONSUMER PROTECTION:** The Texas Attorney General’s office should fight fraud, cybercrime, and corruption to make sure everyone has a level playing field. I will make sure that small businesses and individuals are not the victims of fraud and deception. This includes ending partisan lawsuits and focusing on non-partisan consumer fraud investigations and making sure Texas is the leader in responding to fraud after natural disasters.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The Texas Attorney General has wide power to ensure justice. I will clean up the Attorney General’s office, ending the corruption, and addressing our most urgent problems—fighting the opioid crisis, protecting consumers from fraudulent and abusive businesses, reforming criminal justice, fixing the child support system, ending gerrymandering. I will make the office into one that fights for every single Texan.
QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

**Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?**

**Coastal Planning: What measures would you implement to restore and protect the coast, wetlands, and the built environment to minimize damage from major storms?**

**Veterans: What are the most significant land-related issues facing Texas veterans and what can the General Land Office do to address those needs?**

**Other Issues: What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?**

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**GLENN HEGAR (R) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED**

**BACKGROUND:** As an innovative senior product strategist for successfully acquired startups to Fortune 100s, I’ve led large, diverse teams with products, programs, and internal businesses earning billions in revenue. Currently, I am a small business owner, focused on launching food companies into market, generating new food products, jobs, and entrepreneurs.

**REVENUE:** Cutting costs is no substitute for creating revenue. The Comptroller’s office should work to increase revenue with regular agency audits to understand/fix lost revenues; support local school finance reform; close loopholes in commercial valuations; increase small business growth and expansion; update outdated consumption taxes; fully implement Internet taxes after the SCOTUS Wayfair decision; sunset old sector abatements; reduce Texas’ $50B debt to free Texas finances up to serve its citizens.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** The Comptroller’s office can tie dollars to real world outcomes. It must be neutral, fair, and accurate about legislation & program values; increase revenue while stewarding cost; encourage large & small business growth; be a proactive voice defending Texans’ daily lives with innovative and forward-thinking management of her wallet. This includes Special Reports on economic opportunities in expanding ACA/Medicare or tackling school finance reform, so legislators make informed policy decisions.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Healthcare: the Comptroller should provide special reports on costs to Texas in not implementing the ACA / Medicaid expansion. Texas can carry the cost for uncompensated or underfunded care, no preventative care, or care pushed out to criminal justice and housing due to a broken ACA implementation and a failure by Republican leaders to have real data and prioritize this. We need to reclaim Texas’ dollars and use them here. It’s an outsized part of the budget and hampers prioritizing in other areas.

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**GEORGE P. BUSH (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** I’ve trained my entire life for this position. During my years at NASA & the US Army, I honed my skills in leadership, through fairness, integrity, and honor and will install those values in the eighteen Field Offices across Texas. As Comptroller I won’t use scare tactics against my fellow Texans to control them. Together we can Win! Two things I will not do: I will not waste taxpayer dollars and I will not cut corners to get a budget passed.

**REVENUE:** Your government’s principal function is to protect your freedom, your unalienable rights of Life, Liberty and Property, all crucial rights for building a free and prosperous society. My vision of government is one strictly confined to its constitutional role, a government that respects civil liberties, recognizes that the individual is more important than the State, exercises fiscal restraint and understands that government must pay its debts, believing in free markets.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** 1.) Creating a more fiscally transparent Texas Government through the use of technology. 2.) Form a better fiscal educational outreach system for Texans. To help educate and promote small business and consumers on taxes and business process for a better job creation. 3.) To faithfully execute my oath of office and safeguarding that I and no one in my administration performs any action that violates the constitutions of the United States of America or the State of Texas.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Four years ago I warned the Texas Pension system was insolvent and grossly under-funded, that it could not pay the money due its members. Now that warning has become a reality. As Texas Comptroller I have a plan to protect our State Pension Holders, and their families, ensuring their financial security by giving them the right to retire on their own terms and control their own futures.

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**BEN SANDERS (L)**

**BACKGROUND:** I’ve been a entrepreneur. I’ve run a business, a family business, and a startup. I know what it’s like to have to balance the books, to create jobs, and to make the hard decisions that are necessary to run a successful business. I understand the importance of entrepreneurship and the role that it plays in our economy.

**REVENUE:** The GLO must work to increase revenue with regular agency audits to understand/fix lost revenues; support local school finance reform; close loopholes in commercial valuations; increase small business growth and expansion; update outdated consumption taxes; fully implement Internet taxes after the SCOTUS Wayfair decision; sunset old sector abatements; reduce Texas’ $50B debt to free Texas finances up to serve its citizens.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** 1.) Creating a more fiscally transparent Texas Government through the use of technology. 2.) Form a better fiscal educational outreach system for Texans. To help educate and promote small business and consumers on taxes and business process for a better job creation. 3.) To faithfully execute my oath of office and safeguarding that I and no one in my administration performs any action that violates the constitutions of the United States of America or the State of Texas.

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**GEORGIO P. BUSH (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** I’ve run a conservative and efficient Land Office. I am saving taxpayer money while putting more money into the Public School Fund than ever before. The GLO has been a government office that works for the people during my first term.

**COASTAL PLANNING:** The restoration of McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge in Jefferson County is an example of what we are trying to do on the coast. Restoration to this area provides critical protection to Port Arthur and the oil and gas infrastructure of the state. The GLO, along with its partners, has identified approximately 60 similar, high priority projects.

**VETERANS:** The General Land Office offers several great veterans programs such as the home loan and health care assistance programs. I’m committed to continuously looking at all of these programs at the GLO and across this great state for ways to improve the lives of our military and each of their families. Any time a veteran needs help in getting an education, a job, or health care we should try and provide some form of assistance.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Continuing Hurricane Harvey relief - The Texas coast was devastated by Harvey last fall and we need to continue to fight for those affected. Helping Veterans- Ensuring that veterans have access to crucial services is a top priority for my agency. Saving the Alamo- My objective is to ensure the Alamo tells the heroic story of the battle better than ever before.

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**MIGUEL SUAZO (D)**

**BACKGROUND:** As a former US Senate staffer, I have worked on issues related to land use planning, education, veterans, environmental protection, and economic development. As an energy professional and attorney, I will provide direction on mineral leasing for supporting education, a key duty of the GLO, and also stewardship of our Texas lands.

**COASTAL PLANNING:** The Land Commissioner must be proactive in protecting the coast from natural and man-made dangers. I will use nature to protect it and ourselves; a central focus of my duty of the GLO, and also stewardship of our Texas lands.

**VETERANS:** The General Land Office serves several great veterans programs such as the home loan and health care assistance programs. I’m committed to continuously looking at all of these programs at the GLO and across this great state for ways to improve the lives of our military and each of their families. Any time a veteran needs help in getting an education, a job, or health care we should try and provide some form of assistance.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The most critical issue facing the next Land Commissioner is that of leadership. The Land Commissioner must elevate the profile of the key issues Texans face through the GLO and educate the public about these issues, especially with respect to the Alamo. The current commissioner has failed to demonstrate the managerial ability to achieve success for Texans on a range of issues. Texans must elect a leader with a proven record of success and I believe I am that leader.
**COMMISSIONER OF GENERAL LAND OFFICE**

FOUR-YEAR TERM. MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD, A U.S. CITIZEN, AND A TEXAS RESIDENT FOR AT LEAST 12 MONTHS. AMONG DUTIES: MANAGEMENT OF STATE LANDS AND MINERAL RIGHTS TOTALING 20.3 MILLION ACRES AND PROVIDING REVENUES FOR THE PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND; REPOSITORY OF STATE LAND DOCUMENTS; RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO OIL SPILLS THAT OCCUR ON “SUBMERGED” LANDS OUT TO 10.3 MILES IN THE GULF OF MEXICO. THE COMMISSIONER ALSO SERVES AS A CHAIRMAN OF SEVEN STATE BOARDS, INCLUDING THE SCHOOL LAND BOARD, THE VETERANS LAND BOARD, AND THE COASTAL COORDINATION COUNCIL.

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

Background: What training, experience, and background quality you for this position?

Coastal Planning: What measures would you implement to restore and protect the coast, wetlands, and the built environment to minimize damage from major storms?

Veterans: What are the most significant land-related issues facing Texas veterans and what can the General Land Office do to address those needs?

Other Issues: What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?
RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

6-YEAR TERM. THE RAILROAD COMMISSION 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.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:
Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?
Public Protection: What changes, if any, are needed to provide better protection to the public regarding rules and standards for the legal profession?
Mental Health: What should the Supreme Court’s goals be in the newly formed Judicial Commission on Mental Health?
Responsibilities: Which responsibility of a Texas Supreme Court justice is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?

ROMAN MCALENN (D)

BACKGROUND: I am trained as an urban planner, architect and historic preservationist; at first glance regulating the oil and gas industry in TX doesn’t seem like a good fit. The fact is that 88% of Texas live in cities. Oil & gas directly impacts urban life. My diverse experience will allow me to be a leader in this important statewide position.

NATURAL RESOURCES: Right now I plan to balance the commission. The current commission is entirely beholden to the industry. It is an open secret that commissioners accept campaign contributions 24/7, 365 days a year, from the industry. I will balance the commission by listening to and believing scientists, surface rights owners & municipalities and supporting them. Current commissioners deny the science behind climate change. I do not and I will lead on the absolute need to move to 100% renewables.

SAFETY: I would lobby to change the name of the commission to something that tells the public, & the commissioners themselves, what the commission is supposed to be doing. I would seek increased reporting requirements for wastewater injection wells. I will complete ride-alongs with employees in the field to see what is happening first hand on Texas land. I will hold public meetings all over Texas to hear from people what their concerns are. There are many professionals who have grave concerns.

OTHER ISSUES: Assiduous enforcement of existing regulations on all matters is crucial. Added costs to accomplish this should be absorbed by the industry. The health, safety, and welfare of all Texans here now, and God willing in the future, depends on true leadership. We must do better.

Website: http://www.mcallenfortexas.com/ | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/McAllenForTexas/ |
Twitter: twitter.com/RomanMcAllen

MIKE WRIGHT (L)

BACKGROUND: I have a BS in Engineering from the United States Military Academy (West Point) and a MBA from Harvard Business School. This educational background gives me the analytical ability to study complex situations and make rational decisions. I also have ten years of oilfield equipment manufacturing experience.

NATURAL RESOURCES: If a rule or regulation is requested to be waived but has the intended purpose of protecting natural resources or the environment, the operator would need to submit a plan to monitor the activities surrounding the natural resources or environment that the rule or regulation is intended to protect. This would allow early detection of any possible negative impact on natural resources or the environment before it becomes a major issue.

SAFETY: I would insist that all safety rules and regulations be followed. I would also want the Railroad Commission or the operators to conduct seismic studies when they conduct operations in areas with different geological formations than they have operated in the recent past or when they use higher pressures or greater volumes of water where no known seismic activity has occurred. There are many opinions about the effect of fracking operations and the disposal of water into wells.

OTHER ISSUES: Making sure there is a supply of water and finding an economical method for disposing of the water used in fracking and production are major issues. Desalination can provide the fresh water and possibly could be used to recycle brackish water that comes from fracking and production. Based on some tentative calculations, it appears that this can be done economically. The operators would pay for the work but be given some credit against the Oil & Gas severance tax/fee they currently pay.

Website: http://miweighthorninc.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/Mike-Wright-for-Railroad-Commission-17158597678044/

JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT, PLACE 2

6-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.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:
Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?
Public Protection: What changes, if any, are needed to provide better protection to the public regarding rules and standards for the legal profession?
Mental Health: What should the Supreme Court’s goals be in the newly formed Judicial Commission on Mental Health?
Responsibilities: Which responsibility of a Texas Supreme Court justice is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?

JIMMY BLACKLOCK (R) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

BACKGROUND: In 13 years as a Judge, I’ve presided over more than 750 jury trials and fought to make our court system more transparent, accountable and fair. As a community leader, I fought to expand affordable housing and end discrimination. As a lawyer, I sued polluters to protect our neighborhoods. These experiences help make my decisions more fair and just.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: Justice demands the highest standards, but rules alone do not ensure quality representation. Recent studies reveal an alarming amount of mental health and substance abuse issues among attorneys. This crisis creates standardless service to clients and drives up costs for everyone. The Court should lead the profession in addressing these issues, not only through discipline but also through prevention. I have a long history of speaking and advocating for recovery from drug and alcohol addiction.

Website: http://judgestevenkirkland.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/JudgeSK/ | Twitter: twitter.com/stevenkirkland

STEVEN KIRKLAND (D)

BACKGROUND: I have a BS in Engineering from the United State Military Academy (West Point) and a MBA from Harvard Business School. This educational background gives me the analytical ability to study complex situations and make rational decisions. I also have ten years of oilfield equipment manufacturing experience.

NATURAL RESOURCES: If a rule or regulation is requested to be waived but has the intended purpose of protecting natural resources or the environment, the operator would need to submit a plan to monitor the activities surrounding the natural resources or environment that the rule or regulation is intended to protect. This would allow early detection of any possible negative impact on natural resources or the environment before it becomes a major issue.

SAFETY: I would insist that all safety rules and regulations be followed. I would also want the Railroad Commission or the operators to conduct seismic studies when they conduct operations in areas with different geological formations than they have operated in the recent past or when they use higher pressures or greater volumes of water where no known seismic activity has occurred. There are many opinions about the effect of fracking operations and the disposal of water into wells.

OTHER ISSUES: Making sure there is a supply of water and finding an economical method for disposing of the water used in fracking and production are major issues. Desalination can provide the fresh water and possibly could be used to recycle brackish water that comes from fracking and production. Based on some tentative calculations, it appears that this can be done economically. The operators would pay for the work but be given some credit against the Oil & Gas severance tax/fee they currently pay.

Website: http://miweighthorninc.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/Mike-Wright-for-Railroad-Commission-17158597678044/

JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT, PLACE 4

6-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.

QUESTION TO CANDIDATES:
Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?
Public Protection: What changes, if any, are needed to provide better protection to the public regarding rules and standards for the legal profession?
Mental Health: What should the Supreme Court’s goals be in the newly formed Judicial Commission on Mental Health?
Responsibilities: Which responsibility of a Texas Supreme Court justice is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?

JOHN DEVINE (R) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

R.K. SANDILL (D) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED
Questions to Candidates:

Jeff Brown (R)

Background: I’ve been a judge for nearly 17 years, having served at all three levels of the Texas judiciary—six years as a district judge, six years on an intermediate court of appeals, and five years on the Supreme Court. I’m board-certified in civil trial law and have won three judge-of-the-year awards, including Texas appellate judge of the year.

Public Protection: I serve as Supreme Court liaison to the Texas Board of Law Examiners and to the Grievance Oversight Committee. In the first role, I’m constantly working to make sure we admit to the legal profession only persons of high moral character. In the second role, I’m constantly working to guarantee that grievances clients file against their attorneys are thoroughly and fairly investigated. We must assure that attorneys handle their responsibilities to the public with competence and integrity.

Mental Health: I co-chair the newly formed Judicial Commission on Mental Health.


Kathy Cheng (D)

Background: For seventeen plus years, I represented clients in complex commercial litigation, contested divorce cases and probate cases, tax matters, and real estate cases, which are potential types of cases that the Texas Supreme Court might hear.

Public Protection: Our founding fathers created a system of check and balance whereby the judiciary shall not be impartial. For almost a quarter of a century, the Texas Supreme Court has consisted of a panel of justices of one mindset as a result of straight ticket voting. In order for justice, fairness and equality to become a reality, the panel shall consist of justices of diverse background, experience and knowledge to be able to consider the applicable law from various perspectives and to apply it accordingly.

Mental Health: I’m a frequent speaker for different events occurring throughout the state of Texas. Ways of achieving such priority may include but not limited to conduct civic engagement events, generating a pamphlet detailing the roles of judges in the judiciary or be a frequent speaker for different events occurring throughout the state of Texas.

Website: http://chengejustice.com | Facebook: http://facebook.com/chengejustice | Twitter: twitter.com/chengejustice

Sharon Keller (R)

Background: For seventeen plus years, I represented clients in complex commercial litigation, contested divorce cases and probate cases, tax matters, and real estate cases, which are potential types of cases that the Texas Supreme Court might hear.

Public Protection: For seventeen plus years, I represented clients in complex commercial litigation, contested divorce cases and probate cases, tax matters, and real estate cases, which are potential types of cases that the Texas Supreme Court might hear.

Mental Health: The Texas Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals shall oversee the Judicial Commission on Mental Health only administratively as it does with the State Bar of Texas and the Board of Law Examiners.

Responsibilities: Educating the general public on how the judicial branch affects all Texans. Ways of achieving such priority may include but not limited to conduct civic engagement events, generating a pamphlet detailing the roles of judges in the judiciary or be a frequent speaker for different events occurring throughout the state of Texas.

Website: http://www.judgemandickkeller.com

William Bryan Strange III (L)

No response received

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 7

Questions to Candidates:

Background: What training, experience, and background qualifies you for this position?

Access to Justice: What recent technological developments provide opportunities to improve the state’s indigent defense system in civil and criminal cases?

Mental Health: What should the Court of Criminal Appeals’ goal be in the newly formed Judicial Commission on Mental Health?

Responsibilities: Which responsibility of a Court of Criminal Appeals judge is your highest priority and how do you intend to accomplish it?

Barbara Parker Hervey (R)

No response received

Ramona Franklin (D)

Background: My experiences as a former Harris County Assistant District Attorney, defense attorney in private practice and currently a district court judge have all uniquely crafted me with an uncommon legal background. Serving in all of these capacities have afforded me the opportunity of experiencing the legal perspective from all vantage points.

Access to Justice: One of the more recent advancements in Harris County has been the implementation of electronic filing. Electronic filing enables attorneys and other users to submit documents to multiple courts, utilize digital signatures, reduces court costs and creates a centralized location for documents. For almost a quarter of a century, the Texas Supreme Court has consisted of a panel of justices of one mindset as a result of straight ticket voting. In order for justice, fairness and equality to become a reality, the panel shall consist of justices of diverse background, experience and knowledge to be able to consider the applicable law from various perspectives and to apply it accordingly.

Mental Health: I’m a frequent speaker for different events occurring throughout the state of Texas. Ways of achieving such priority may include but not limited to conduct civic engagement events, generating a pamphlet detailing the roles of judges in the judiciary or be a frequent speaker for different events occurring throughout the state of Texas.


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6-YEAR TERM. A MEMBER OF THE COURT WITH FINAL JUDGMENT IN ALL CRIMINAL CASES. THE COURT MUST REVIEW ALL CASES IN WHICH THE DEATH PENALTY IS ASSESSED. IT ALSO EXERCISES

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

MICHELLE SLAUGHTER (R)

BACKGROUND: Having served as a district judge for the past several years, I have presided over thousands of criminal cases ranging from state-jail felonies to capital murder cases. Moreover, I have a proven track record of efficiency, transparency and saving taxpayer dollars, all while ensuring that the interests of justice are served.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: There is so much opportunity to improve access to justice with technology. One example is e-filing. With e-filing, courts are much more accessible to the indigent. Online forms and instructions can be developed to allow individuals to conduct their own court filings and legal documents if they want to represent themselves. In addition, through the use of video chatting apps (i.e. FaceTime), those without transportation can still appear and participate without fear of not being heard.

MENTAL HEALTH: The goal needs to be determining and implementing effective ways to provide justice in criminal cases involving mentally-ill defendants. While punishment is certainly a goal of the criminal justice system, so is rehabilitation. The cycle of criminal activity can only be broken if a defendant can be rehabilitated. Rehabilitation is especially difficult with mentally-ill defendants because the criminal justice system lacks the proper resources. That deficiency must be rectified.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Preserving and protecting an individual's constitutional rights must be the highest priority in the CCA. As a constitutional conservative judge, my opinions will inform the public of the constitutional issues at hand and my decisions will strictly adhere to the U.S. and Texas Constitutions. Transparency is another priority. Therefore, even if I am in the minority on a decision, I will not be afraid to issue critical dissenting opinions that call attention to constitutional violations.

http://JudgeMichelleSlaughter.com  | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/Judge-Michelle-Slaughter-405th-District-Court-Candidate-TX-CCA-Pi-8-162255907440413/?ref=bookmarks

MARK ASH (L) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

4-YEAR TERM. THE 15-MEMBER BOARD DECIDES CURRICULUM, STANDARDS, STUDENT TESTING, SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS, AND TEXTBOOKS FOR TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS. IT ALSO OVERSEES THE PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD DO NOT RECEIVE PAY, BUT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE COURSE OF OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

DISTRICT 4  LAWRENCE ALLEN JR (D)  |  RUNNING UNOPPOSED

STATE SENATOR

MEMBER OF UPPER HOUSE IN TEXAS LEGISLATURE. ADVOCATES FOR HOME DISTRICT. WITH TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LEGISLATES, CONFIRMS GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS TO ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL POSTS, PARTICIPATES IN THE INITIATION OF PROPOSALS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, AND TRIES OFFICIALS IMPEACHED BY THE TEXAS HOUSE. 4-YEAR TERM.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

PAUL BETTENCOURT (R)

Two issues facing the district are property tax and appraisal reform and the construction of a 3rd reservoir in the West Houston area. I will file legislation with Lt. Governor Patrick’s strong support to ensure that as values go up property tax rates are rolled back. After Hurricane Harvey a group of bipartisan Senators in impacted areas asked the Lt. Governor for interim charges on public policy issues about flooding. Hearings have been taking place all year and reports are expected out soon.

Education: Bachelor of Science graduate of Texas A&M University in Industrial Distribution  |  Experience: Senator Bettencourt is the President and CEO of Bettencourt Tax Advisors, LLC and a Texas State Senator representing District 7  |  Community: Senator Bettencourt and his wife are active members of St. John Vianney Catholic Church where he is a fourth degree member of the Knights of Columbus  |  Email: info@paulbettencourt.com  |  Website: http://www.paulbettencourt.com  |  Address: 1 E Greenway Plaza, Ste 225 Houston, TX 77046  |  Phone: (713) 354-9008  |  Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/votebettencourt  |  Twitter: twitter.com/teambettencourt

DAVID ROMERO (D)

Education and Flooding: Education: Increase funding to school districts without having to raise taxes, Eliminate standardized testing, Better health care for current and retired individuals involved in education, and Develop a state wide fair pay increase system. Flooding: Implement a plan that will not only fix flooding in our area but it will also address drought issues in Texas. If New Orleans can have a water pumping system why don’t we? Texas A&M has an innovative way to store it.

Education: Associates Degree in Paralegal Studies; Bachelors in Human Resource Management  |  Experience: Franchise owner and Managing Partner of Texas Roadhouse Litigation Paralegal  |  Community: Current President of Home Owners Association  |  Email: davidromeroesates@yahoo.com  |  Website: http://www.davidromeroesates.com  |  Address: 1934 Fm 2920, Houston, Texas 77084  |  Phone: (832) 773-9515  |  Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/davidromeroesates7  |  Twitter: twitter.com/davidromero7

TOM GLASS (L)

1) You never own your own home if you pay property taxes. We should eliminate property tax, starting 1) You never own your own home if you pay property taxes. We should eliminate property tax, starting with school property tax. In the interim, we should replace it with a tax on real property, an approach that will not only eliminate property tax but also make our property appraisal process a system that sets property value at the purchase price. 2) The federal government violates the constitution every day, spying on us, grooping us at the airport, and allowing the federal government to violate the constitution every day, spying on us, grooping us at the airport, and allowing the federal government to violate your rights.

Education/Degrees: Texas A&M, B.S. in RISK WITHOUT FEAR; MBA of University of Houston Law School; J.D. | Professional Experience: EnventMobile, 27 years in Information Technology. First job in Houston: Cameron Iron Works, oil service. (1981-82) | Community Involvement: Active participant in Texas legislative process since 1986.Founded and lead Texas Constitutional Enforcement and Protect the Texas Grid  |  Campaign Public Email: info@tomglass.org  |  Campaign Public Website: http://tomglass.org  |  Campaign Public Address: 22915 Three Pines Dr Hockley, Texas 77447  |  Campaign Public Phone: (713) 497-2969  |  Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/TomGlasterTXSenate

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND  |  NOVEMBER 6, 2018 VOTERS GUIDE  |  WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG
MEMBER OF UPPER HOUSE IN TEXAS LEGISLATURE. ADVOCATES FOR HOME DISTRICT. WITH TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LEGISLATES, CONFIRMS GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS TO ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL POSTS, PARTICIPATES IN THE INITIATION OF PROPOSALS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, AND TRIES OFFICIALS IMPEACHED BY THE TEXAS HOUSE. 4-YEAR TERM.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

RANDY ORR (R)

Infrastructure( Flooding,water quality), High property taxes If elected I would be involved with the intent of making sure the money is being used as appropriated in district 15. I would not leave the EPA alone until the haze-mite sites along the San Jacinto River are completely removed. I believe senior adults (65 and above) property taxes should be frozen. I believe the state must take a more actively role in helping the local taxing entities.

JOHN WHITMIRE (D)

Healthcare: I will continue to advocate for Medicaid expansion and use my seat on Senate Finance to advocate for increased funding and access for our many critical health and human services including mental health, women’s reproductive care, and services for our disabled children and elderly. Education must be our top priority and we must invest general revenue instead of relying on property taxes to fund education. I will continue to oppose vouchers and support a quality and equitable system.

GILBERTO "GIL" VELASQUEZ, JR. (L)

Education: High school degree Fifty two hours college credit | Experience: Thirteen years as precinct chairman State delegate since 2006 National delegate in 2008 Work with several campaigns Former commissioner and president for ESD 6 for 6 years | Community: Public servant, 45 years | Email: info@ritalucido.com | Website: http://www.johnwhitmire.com

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Questions to Candidates:

What specific reform do you believe must be met in order to justify spending reserves in the Economic Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund)?

What will you do as a member of the Texas Legislature to ensure that all children living in Texas receive a quality education?

How can the state of Texas be best partner with local governments and private providers to ensure Texans have access to mental health and addiction treatment services?

E. Sam Harless (R)

Flooding. We need to fund additional reservoirs. Our exiting bayous need to be cleaned out and made deeper and wider where possible. Create more retention ponds. Our existing flood plain maps are outdated and need updating. I would work with our county and federal officials and be a vocal advocate for projects in district 126. Also, prioritize public education - our students and teachers need to feel they matter, we must need to make sure they are adequately and equitably funded.

I think the Stabilization Fund should only be spent in emergencies. Hurricane Harvey is a perfect example. We cannot stand by and do nothing while homeowners property is flooded. In Harris County we have had major flooding in the past 3 years. It is time to act.

I believe we need equitable funding for all public schools. The State should pay its fair share to educate our children. Currently, the State only pays about 37% to educate our children, while property owners pay the balance.

I think the State needs to increase mental health funding. If we properly fund mental health care at an early age fewer people with mental health issues would be incarcerated which in turn would save the state money in future budgets.

Natali Hurtado (D)

Securing funding for flood mitigation projects to help create a third reservoir, conduct buyouts, update existing flood plain maps and updating existing infrastructure. I would work with county and federal officials and be a vocal advocate for projects in district 126. Also, prioritize public education - our students and teachers need to feel they matter, we need to make sure they are adequately and equitably funded.

I believe things such as emergency matters - example being relief from natural disasters is a jump start to use from the Rainy Day Fund. I also believe using funding for public education to help school districts secure enough teachers and administrators is critical. In order to ensure permanent funding I strongly believe that Texas should legalize gambling as a revenue source. I also believe closing loopholes that allow big businesses to circumvent their tax contribution is necessary.

I would immersse myself into understanding the school finance system and what is needed to make a system that makes sense. I would work hard in making sure our schools, teachers, and students are being equitably and adequately funded. We need to recognize that our children are our future and require top priority when it comes to funding allocation. We need to be sure our teachers and administrators have the tools necessary to be successful and not be met with unfunded mandates.

Opening access to health care for all will ensure that people are not met with unnecessary burdens when seeking care. Currently our governor has chosen to refuse expanding Medicaid which has prevented Texans from receiving federal money. This money should go back to Texans to help them get the preventative care they need. We should be prioritizing Texans health and not playing party politics.

Dan Huberty (R)

Flooding after Hurricane Harvey devastated our community. It will be years before it is fully restored. Until then, recovery will remain my number one priority, like preventing future flooding; creating and authority to oversee the watershed, and modernizing policies and protocols of state agencies. I will also continue to fight for our public schools. Public School Finance Reform was a major topic last session but full reform must be implemented. I will again champion those measures.

The ESF exists to ensure obligations are met during economic downturns and I have voted to use this fund several times. Hurricane Harvey resulted in significant costs for property damage at our schools, additional healthcare costs and potential flood mitigation. Next session, we will ensure we meet our statutory credit obligations and make smart decisions to utilize remaining resources. The legislature needs to remove restrictions to create additional revenue from current investment practices.

As the Chairman of the House Public Education Committee, I will continue to fight for efficiency and equity in our public schools. Public School Finance Reform was a major topic in the 85th Legislative Session and led to the Commission I served on this interim. Small steps were taken then but full reform must be implemented to fully fix the issues and next session, I will utilize the recommendations of that Commission to again champion these measures for all Texas students.

Mental wellness is critical at all levels of a persons life. But, as I am focused on our youth, it is critical we put resources into our schools. This can be done by increasing the number of counselors in our middle and high schools to limit each to no more than 250 students. Also, social workers can help school age children or their parents by providing resources at schools or our 20 ESCs across Texas. The more we can help our children adapt to the world, the better it will be.

Ryan Woods (L) | No Response Received

State Senator District 126

Briscoe Cain (R) | Running Unopposed

State Senator District 128

Dennis Paul (R)

The most important issues facing our district is flooding. I have been drafting legislation that would create state review for drainage to ensure that drainage of an entire watershed is reviewed and any work done in that region is evaluated as a whole watershed. We will also be looking at creating a state funding source that could provide loans to cover drainage. The second most important issue in the district is property taxes and how can we revamp our school funding.

The Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF) was established to try and collect additional tax dollars when times are good and save those funds for when the budget is tight. It needs to be used for what those tax dollars where collected to due. When it has grown to an amount that covers those costs, it can be used as a one-time issue to fund some items that the state need to fund, such as when it was used to put $2B into the state’s water plan.

Texas has continued a continued effort to fund public education in Texas. K-12 education is approximately 45% of the state’s budget and is our number one expense. Over the last two sessions I have been in the legislature we have also put in place rules that will help determine how those education dollars are being spent and to make sure that the children are receiving the proper education. The A-F grading system is a good way that parents can see how their child’s schools are performing.

We can evaluate our entire current plan and meet with the local officials and our private partners to see what may be the best fit for our mental health and addiction treatment centers and develop a plan to do meet those needs. During the 85th Legislative session, many things were done to improve funding for mental health facilities. Funding increased to $3.6 billion for Medicaid/CHIP and almost $7.2 billion across the board and SB 1326 and SB 292 passed.

Education: Graduate of the University of Houston, BScE, MScE | Experience: Engineer for 32 years; has owned small business in HD 128 for 16 years | Community: Actively worked as a grassroots volunteer serving as a local precinct chair for 16 years and State Republican Executive Committee for 8 years | Email: paulhoffman129@gmail.com | Website: http://dennispaul.com | Address: 626 1/2 Barringer Ln Suite A Webster, TX 77598 | Phone: (832) 479-7638

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/DennisPaulHD128 | Twitter: twitter.com/DennisPaul129

League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund | November 6, 2018 Voters Guide | www.lwhouston.org

Race Continued Page 22
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

**2-YEAR TERM. THE HOUSE IS ONE OF TWO CHAMBERS THAT MAKE UP THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE. THE REPRESENTATIVE IS ONE OF 150 REPRESENTATIVES. THEY MAKE AND VOTE ON LAWS, DECIDE WHERE THE MONEY GOES WITHIN THE STATE GOVERNMENT, SERVE ON COMMITTEES SUCH AS BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, ELECTIONS, HIGHER EDUCATION, ENERGY RESOURCES, ETC. BILLS FOR RAISING MONEY MUST ORIGINATE IN THE HOUSE. ONLY THE HOUSE CAN IMPEACH A STATEWIDE OFFICER.**

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES: Identify what you think are the 2 most important issues that affect the people in your district and give specific examples of measurable actions you will take to address these issues.**

**ALEXANDER JONATHAN KARJEKER (D)**

If we don't build flood infrastructure to protect our homes, then our children might not get to grow up here. When we pay for taxes, it is time Austin helps foot the bill. I will fight for those state dollars. Voters also want real accountability in our election system. Incumbents should know that when they choose party over community and take voters for granted, they'll lose. I will fight to open up elections so you get real choices on the ballot instead of the "least worst" candidate.

**JOSEPH MAJSTERSKI (L)**

Flooding is one of the most serious concerns people in our district have. We need to look into drainage patterns and understand why some neighborhoods always flood while others almost never do, and use that information to make changes. A more general concern is an overabundance of laws governing personal and economic activity. I want to look into eliminating excessive existing laws and simplifying life for people in my district and across the state.

**TOM OLIVERSON (R)**

The two biggest issues my constituents are concerned about are flooding and rising property taxes. To curb flooding in our district we need 1) a third reservoir 2) give homeowners and local businesses better information about the real risks of flooding 3) expand flood insurance options in the market. To tackle rising property taxes, I will file legislation to remove the day to day funding of schools (M&O taxes) from property taxes and save homeowners an average of 30%-40% on their tax bill.

**FRED INFORTUNIO (D)**

The future of the state economy depends on the attractiveness of the state education system. The extended and aggressive burdening of the real estate tax base is unfair and reversed.

**ROY ERIKSEN (L)**

1. Flood Mitigation - Permanently allocate money to the rainy day fund for natural disasters. Purchase additional funds specifically earmarked for health insurance premiums, insurance costs for our teachers will effectively decrease and allow health insurance to be more affordable for our teachers.

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2 YEAR TERM. THE HOUSE IS ONE OF TWO CHAMBERS THAT MAKE UP THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE. THE REPRESENTATIVE IS ONE OF 150 REPRESENTATIVES. THEY MAKE AND VOTE ON LAWS, DECIDE WHERE THE MONEY GOES WITHIN THE STATE GOVERNMENT, SERVE ON COMMITTEES SUCH AS AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, ELECTIONS, HIGHER EDUCATION, ENERGY RESOURCES, ETC. BILLS FOR RAISING MONEY MUST ORIGINATE IN THE HOUSE. ONLY THE HOUSE CAN IMPEACH A STATEWIDE OFFICER.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

SYED S. ALI (R)

1. Employment Actions- Bring more employers to the area like, national corporations. Developed a city-based business plan, providing a management level and financial support to established. 2. Safety/security and education Actions- Guide the people of the district, how to establish family structure. The more important, we get to education, such as technical trades, etc...

ALMA A. ALLEN (D)

Education and air quality are the most important issues in the district. Despite the construction, we need to address lack of resources for students and teachers, the state requires districts to constantly fight for funding. We need to reign in on unfunded mandates. Regarding air quality, we need to give the TCEQ the teeth to deny permits when an area has been oversaturated with facilities that pollute our neighborhoods.

MIKE SCHOFIELD (R)

People are concerned about getting local property taxes and state spending under control. I continue to push my bill HB 201 that reduces property taxes by a percentage of your home’s value – rather than the current flat $25,000 – so that the amount that is exempt from taxation automatically rises as the appraisal rises. Also, I’ll fight to ensure that our budget is balanced. I’ll fight for a constitutional amendment to cap growth in state spending, so government stops taking more of your money.

GINA CALANNI (D)

Public education is the number one issue in Texas House District 132. If elected I will focus on public school finance reform to ensure that our public schools are properly funded. The second most important issue is flood control. We need to build a third reservoir and provide other mitigation as well. We also need to create a task force that evaluates each Texas county’s before and after a catastrophic weather event plan of action. We need to keep our communities prepared, informed, and safe.

DANIEL AREVALO (L) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

JIM MURPHY (R)

Public safety is the top priority at any level of our criminal justice system is effective and push for fair and reasonable sentencing laws which impact Public Safety. Having a strong economy that provides opportunities for meaningful employment, attracts investment, and generates additional income to keep offenders out of prison is our second priority mission. Expanding workforce training, establishing reasonable taxes and regulations will continue to be my focus.

For the Texas Legislature to access reserves in the Economic Stabilization Fund the requirements that should be met are the following: it should not be used for on-going expenses, it should only be used for emergency related items, it should be a one-time expense, and it should not be reused. If the Rainy Day Fund is accessed it should be done only with a super majority of the Texas Legislature.

Adequate funding is certainly a consideration in ensuring that every child has a quality education but this is a larger issue that should include expanded career counseling, parental training, and performance measures. There are bright spots in the world of public education but we cannot have children falling through the gaps.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

How can the state of Texas best partner with local governments and private providers to ensure Texans have access to mental health and addiction treatment services?

Texas needs to fund treatment at a higher level, while also reducing the number of people that they funnel into our criminal justice system. We need to do better at providing diversion programs that address mental health and addiction. Often, people cry out for help when they end up in the criminal justice system. We need to help our first responders by providing them more options when they encounter people that need intervention.
1. Public Education Finance Reform: The public education finance system in Texas is broken and must be reformed. I will push for state aid to increase state funding for public education so that property owners are not bearing this burden with increased property taxes. I support increased funding for flood control, state buyout of undeveloped wetlands and creation of a state agency to coordinate federal, state and local spending. Education: B.A. University of Texas Austin 1988 J.D. University of Texas Austin 1991. Experience: Attorney, Private Practice 1991-present. Community: Member, St. Martin Episcopal Church; Board of Directors, Faith in Practice; Volunteer, Interfaith Ministries (Refugee Services, Meals on Wheels). Email: marty@schexnayder2018.com. Website: http://schexnayder2018.com. Address: 5161 San Felipe Suite 320 #26 Houston, TX 77056. Phone: (713) 907-9393 Facebook: http://facebook.com/SchexforTX133. Twitter: twitter.com/SchexforTX133

2. DISTRICT 134

ELECTION INFORMATION

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Identify what you think are the 2 most important issues that face your district and give specific examples of measurable actions you will take to address these issues.

What specific criteria do you believe must be met in order to justify spending reserves in the Economic Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund)? What requirements should there be to ensure that permanent funding solutions are developed going forward?

What will you do as a member of the Texas Legislature to ensure that all children living in Texas receive a quality education?

How can the state of Texas best partner with local governments and private providers to ensure Texans have access to mental health and addiction treatment services?

MARY SCHEXNAYDER (D)

Excellence in education—I have supported access high quality education pre-K through 12th grade. I voted to reduce testing, and also fight to improve outcomes in our schools. Advocating for women and children— I pushed for laws to protect victims of human trafficking and hunt down predators, expand access to cancer screenings, and promote maternal and fetal healthcare. I want to continue providing more resources to improve education, healthcare, and public safety.


SARAH DAVIS (R)

Excellence in education—I have supported access high quality education pre-K through 12th grade. I voted to reduce testing, and also fight to improve outcomes in our schools. Advocating for women and children— I pushed for laws to protect victims of human trafficking and hunt down predators, expand access to cancer screenings, and promote maternal and fetal healthcare. I want to continue providing more resources to improve education, healthcare, and public safety.


ALLISON LAMI SAWYER (D)

The state of public school funding is insurmountable, with too much of the burden falling on local residents and school districts. I want to increase the state’s share of funding so we can reduce the local burden, and reduce local property taxes. While we need to give our community the tools to deal with disasters after the happen, we also need to try to prevent them in the first place. I want to invest in resilient infrastructure to prevent flooding and other disasters, which will save money.


GARY ELKINS (R) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

Public Education: We can raise education funding by $5 Billion per year by closing one corporate property tax loophole. And we must reverse the law that sends charter schools more money for standard results with less accountability. Access to Healthcare: We must accept the Medicare expansion in Texas to lower overall costs and we MUST improve Women’s access to healthcare by reversing the attacks on women’s health services organizations.

Education: Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin, and I have a Graduate Certificate in Subsea Engineering from The University of Houston. Experience: 25 Years as an Engineer, Engineer Manager, and Project Manager in The Oil and Gas Industry. Community: Founder and Chair of Independent School District. Email: allisonfortexas@gmail.com. Website: http://www.allisonfortexas.com. Phone: (512) 560-7753

PAUL BILYEU (L)

Education and property tax reform Over the course of 5 years, eliminate ad valorem/property tax in the State of Texas and abolish article 7 of the Texas Constitution which calls for government to provide “free” education to the children of our state. Why do we pay government to provide services we can pay for ourselves using the free market? The middle man (government) adds ridiculous layers of bureaucracy and inefficiency to these services. Remove them from the equation.


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**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

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**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

Identify what you think are the 2 most important issues in your district and give specific examples of measurable actions you will take to address these issues.

What specific criteria do you believe must be met in order to justify spending reserves in the Economic Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund)? What requirements should there be to ensure that permanent funding solutions are developed going forward?

What will you do as a member of the Texas Legislature to ensure that all children living in Texas receive a quality education?

How can the state of Texas best partner with local governments and private providers to ensure Texans have access to mental health and addiction treatment services?

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**GENE WU (D)**

The two most important issues for the entire state, including my district, are inexorably linked: (1) the inadequate funding of public education and (2) the rapid rise in local property taxes. Over the past decade, the Texas Legislature has continuously decreased its proportional share of the cost of public education. In response, local school districts have had no choice but to continuously increase local property taxes to make up the difference. The state must own up to its share.

A wise man once said: “Save when times are good. Spend when times are bad.” The ESF was not created solely for disaster recovery or the Legislature has done its best to ensure that funds are not raised for more of the same purpose. The point of the fund was to stabilize our state’s spending during ECONOMIC downturns. Instead, what the Legislature has done is cut education, healthcare, transportation, and other vital services. The ESF should be used to ensure our students are properly educated; our seniors take care of; and vital services are performed.

First, the Legislature must ensure that all Texas children have access to high quality Pre-K education to ensure that a solid foundation is built for every student. Second, we must approve an education budget that properly funds all schools according to their needs. Schools must be able to hire the right type of teachers that they need, and have the ability to properly equip their classrooms. Lastly, we need to provide wrap-around services like counseling, mental healthcare, and other services.

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**LEE SHARP (L)**

Low income housing, Very large 100% income limited apartment complexes, with huge amounts of government funding, only long enough to keep good enough for the press release. After that, they receive no ongoing maintenance, and rapidly become a problem for both the apartment residents and the neighbors. Safety and security. The trust in the police to keep people safe is essentially gone. And most people feel the city sees us as a dumping ground at best, and a problem at the worst.

It seems that if funds are needed for state programs, it is justified. But if it is needed by the large amounts of money going to the homeless, so badly needed at this point. Most people are offended that anyone tried to deny rainy day funds after the worst recorded rain in history! For permanent funding, we need to inspect funds cease to more of the same purpose. The flood bonds in Houston are only a month old and people are already talking about how to divert them! This needs to stop!

My fiancé is a teacher and has worked for public schools in three districts, and a charter school. She faces that the large amounts of money going to school districts never actually reaches the classrooms. But also, we have classrooms with people who do not want to be there and do not want to learn. One person can disrupt classes and steal learning opportunities from those who do want to learn. We need alternatives for disruptive students so others can thrive.

The state needs to prioritize early intervention and support for mental health and addiction issues. Instead of waiting to treat people until they are adults, we must push away the stigma of mental illness and addiction, and get treatment started when people are young. Texas must also provide support outside of local jails and prisons. Treating mental health and addiction as merely criminal issues reinforces the existing system where few people even get the help they need.

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**DWAYNE BOHAC (R)**

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**ADAM MILASINCIC (D)**

1) Supporting our schools: Restore the state’s share of public school funding to at least 50 percent to repair the still-devastating effects of the $4 billion state funding cut in 2011. 2) Flood control: Toughen rules for new construction to preserve green space and protect existing homes; spend from Rainy Day Fund to fix Addicks Reservoir risks; enact protections to reduce emissions and tackle climate change; block irresponsible Big Greenville greed over paving on Pine Crest Golf Course.

I support responsibly using the Rainy Day Fund for its original purposes, including 1) responding to natural disasters; 2) preventing catastrophic failures of safety-related infrastructure such as Addicks Reservoir; and 3) preventing sharp sudden cuts to school and healthcare funding and thereby avoiding economy-destructing outcomes such as hospital closures or mass teacher layoffs. The existing constitutional requirement for 2/3 approval to spend from the Fund ensures against perennial use.

I have fought for increased funding for public education, retired teachers and teacher salaries. Last session I co-authored a bill that would have added $1.6 billion for public education, and I will continue to push to increase the state’s share of education funding. I also support abolishing the failing “Robin Hood” school finance scheme so that our local school tax dollars stay in our districts. And finally, we must limit standardized testing and stop forcing teachers to “teach to the test.”

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**DEMETERSH WALKER**

Identify what you think are the 2 most important issues in your district and give specific examples of measurable actions you will take to address these issues.

To justify spending reserves in the Economic Stabilization Fund, a clear and present threat to our students is properly educated; our seniors are properly taken care of; and vital services are performed. The point of the fund was to stabilize our state’s spending during ECONOMIC downturns. Instead, what the Legislature has done is cut education, healthcare, transportation, and other vital services. The ESF should be used to ensure our students are properly educated; our seniors are properly taken care of; and vital services are performed.

First, the Legislature must ensure that all Texas children have access to high quality Pre-K education to ensure that a solid foundation is built for every student. Second, we must approve an education budget that properly funds all schools according to their needs. Schools must be able to hire the right type of teachers that they need, and have the ability to properly equip their classrooms. Lastly, we need to provide wrap-around services like counseling, mental healthcare, and other services.

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**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND | NOVEMBER 6, 2018 VOTERS GUIDE | WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG**

**WRITE IN CANDIDATE**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND | NOVEMBER 6, 2018 VOTERS GUIDE | WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG**

**WILLIAM Z. FAVRE**

1) Reverse the draconian school-funding cuts my opponent enacted; investing state funds in students and teachers should be our #1 priority and would lessen burdens on property taxpayers. 2) Oppose all efforts to privatize or divert funds away from public schools. 3) Fix recapture to reflect 2018 realities and stop penalizing districts that are “property rich” on paper but have many under-served students. 4) Stop excessive standardized testing. 5) Donate my House salary to local scholarships.

Texas has the nation’s highest uninsured rate and highest number of uninsured people, opting into the ACA would enable more than 400,000 Texans to receive mental-health or addiction treatment. Further, Texas has only 4.1 psychiatrists/100k people; the average is 25/100k. Loan repayment and similar incentives would lessen workforce shortages. The best models, such as Haven for Hope, involve matching funds and local coordination so each community can tailor services to its unique needs.
2-YEAR TERM. THE HOUSE IS ONE OF TWO CHAMBERS THAT MAKE UP THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE. THE REPRESENTATIVE IS ONE OF 150 REPRESENTATIVES. THEY MAKE AND VOTE ON LAWS, DECIDE WHERE

Education: BS speech communication Texas Southern University | Experience: Former Houston City Councilman District 8 Current State Representative District 139 | Community: Former Director of Phoenix Outreach Youth Center; Program Director DARE PLUS Texas; Sickle Cell Association of Houston Board Member | Email: Jarvisjohnson@yahoo.com | Website: http://Jarvis.johnson.org | Address: 2806 Gregg at Houston, TX 77028 | Phone: (404) 715-4661

The mental health of all Texans is the responsibility of all levels of government. We must ensure our children have access to mental health professionals at school to address their needs, and to prevent another school shooting. We must fund our state hospitals to ensure local jails are not being used as mental health holding facilities. By addressing the the mental health needs of Texans, we will also ensure that tax dollars are not being spent on jailing those experiencing mental illness.

The state should protect and expand access to mental health services. This can be accomplished by investing sufficient resources into programs like Medicaid, providing mental health resources to those in the criminal justice system, providing schools with greater access to social workers, and supporting similar initiatives.

When a natural disaster is declared in our state, the Rainy Day Fund should be eligible to meet funding needs. In the case of Harvey, I believe the Rainy Day Fund should have been tapped to meet short term and intermediate needs of individuals and local government entities that were subjected to waiting on Congress to act. In addition, the intent behind the fund was to ensure sustained essential funding during times of an economic and budget shortfall.

First, I will continue to focus on expanding vocational opportunities for the children in this state. Second, I will advocate for school finance reform, and push for rainy day funds to be allocated for school funding. Quality education also means quality teachers, and the State needs to do more than just talk about giving teachers raises. Lastly, the State cannot put the responsibility of Public Education completely on local communities.

The ESF is meant to help the state cope with economic downturns in oil and gas. However, the state has been reluctant to touch this fund, even when critical needs in areas such as the school finance system, healthcare, disaster recovery, and other areas persist. Lawmakers should not kick the can down the road. Finding long-term funding solutions will require the state to re-evaluate its spending priorities and invest more heavily in items that provide for the day-to-day well-being of Texans.

Helping provide quality education to my constituents is one of my main concerns. I support having full-day pre-K for all Texas children and making sure that the state pays its fair share rather than pushing the cost of education onto local government.

People in my district need good paying jobs and the skills to take advantage of them. I have previously filed legislation to allow local junior colleges to offer Baccalaureate degrees in various technical fields. I will continue to support initiatives that strengthen our workforce. We also need to address the fallout from Hurricane Harvey. Homes and businesses were devastated and we should explore tapping the ESF in order to help our communities bounce back and prepare for the next storm.

The government must do its part in increasing access to healthcare providers by providing funds in the form of increased appropriations to spend on partnership programs and grants. Many mental health and addiction treatment services can only operate as many people as they have funding for and in Texas we are seeing a greater demand for these services. As Chair of the Urban Affairs Committee, we held a hearing to study the overlaps among housing instability, homelessness and mental illness.

Education: Currently enrolled at the University of Houston | Downtown | Email: claytonhuntlibertarian@gmail.com | Website: http://claytonhuntlibertarian.com | Phone: (832) 463-0612 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ClaytonHuntLibertarian | Twitter: twitter.com/Huntlibertarian

Right now the number one mental health provider in Harris County is the Harris County Jail. I would imagine the same is true for addiction treatment services, because we have a system set up to criminalize mental health issues and criminalize drug addiction. We need to revolutionize how we address mental health issues and how we address drug addiction, and the first step to doing that is ending the failed War on Drugs.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

2-YEAR TERM. THE HOUSE IS ONE OF TWO CHAMBERS THAT MAKE UP THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE. THE REPRESENTATIVE IS ONE OF 150 REPRESENTATIVES. THEY MAKE AND VOTE ON LAWS, DECIDE WHERE QUESTIONS TO

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Identify what you think are the 2 most important issues that affect the people in your district and give specific examples of measurable actions you will take to address these issues.

What specific criteria do you believe must be met in order to justify spending reserves in the Economic Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund)? What requirements should there be to ensure that permanent funding solutions are developed going forward?

What will you do as a member of the Texas Legislature to ensure that all children living in Texas receive a quality education?

How can the state of Texas best partner with local governments and private providers to ensure Texans have access to mental health and addiction treatment services?

SHAWN NICOLE THIERRY (D)

I have a number of priorities to accomplish while in office, and protecting senior citizens is a primary area of focus. I also believe that my constituents and the citizens of the Houston area are in desperate need of better housing reform. Substandard housing is another housing issue my constituents are currently facing.

If no other local fund is able to support a city during a time of a crisis, then the Rainy Day Fund should be used to help supplement any economic hardships. Cities should also look towards creating a local Rainy Day Fund within their budget, if already unavailable, to offset the need to access the state’s.

Public education is an issue I hold close to my heart, and reforming the Texas public education system is one of my top legislative priorities. During the last legislative session, I worked to address issues of homelessness in higher education, teacher expenses for the classroom, & increased accountability for prejudicially motivated offenses that occur on school grounds.

Even though funding may increase for these services, it doesn’t guarantee an increase in its access. Texas will need to partner with various organizations to not only educate the public about the services but increase the number of specialists who are available to assist the needs of those who are seeking help. I remain committed to reforming the Texas healthcare system and will continue to advocate for legislation that recognizes and promotes the idea that healthcare is a basic human right.

JJ CAMPBELL (L)

The two issues from which nearly all other issues stem today are political corruption and political correctness. I believe that the easiest solutions to this are near absolute transparency, open mandatory debates, and voting holidays. The last is straightforward. Open mandatory debates is at least one debate for each office with every candidate participating. Near absolute transparency is that elected and appointed politicians have monitored communications and wear body cams.

The Rainy Day Fund should be used when there is a powerful opportunity to correct a short-term problem and give our local economy the boost needed to get back on track. Any use of it should come with a built-in refund plan paid for by the beneficiaries of the initial disbursement. It isn’t a loan, but we should look at it as a prepaid bond, not a slush fund. Specific criteria should be flexible and include clear and measurable objectives with a plan for recouping the cost from beneficiaries.

I support innovations that will make a Texas education one of the greatest in the world. Education in all forms, including the technical trades, are the best way for our children to improve their station in life. To do this, we must reach out for greater partnerships with local businesses so that our children know how to do math, but also know where and why to do math. Such positive change can only come when the government creates the necessary infrastructure and then gets out of the way.

Convert existing funding into grants for privately run programs instead of poorly run federal ones. Make it legal again for people to help people. Reduce the stigma behind mental health care. Protect and improve medical freedom. Transition from a penalty based legal system to a recovery and rehabilitation based system. End the war on drugs—medical marijuana reduces overdose deaths and dependency while also funding addiction recovery programs among other things.

THOMAS WANG (R)

After 27 years of status quo reactive band-aids, I WANT TO GO TO THE ROOTS OF PROBLEMS AND SOLVE THEM AT THEIR CORE, (1) Reform Affordable Housing (AP) Through Sustainable Home Ownership Initiatives By Providing Pathways To Home Ownership And Ending Generational Renters. Reduce property tax burden to homeowners and stop involuntary displacement. (2)Public Education Funding Reform - see details below. see www. HoustonUnited.com

Current triggers and methods to use ESF should be maintained. Additionally, any State of Emergency, like Harvey, should trigger an automatic Special Session to allow the state to consider the use of the ESF. Using the ESF for on-going problems is a mis-application of the ESF and results from not addressing an issue honestly. Funding ESF should come from the general funds. Additional funding should be dedicated for the negative economic impact of changing climate. see www.HoustonUnited.com

I eliminate ‘property tax basis’ from all public education funding; instead, appropriate general funds based on sound socio-economic data-driven per-pupil concept ensuring equitable distribution of resources for all students regardless of where they live or background, removing the “education gap” between rich/ poor and urban/rural communities and jump-start a renewed effort to create the best public education system in the country. Expand Vo-Ed. No patchwork – a complete overhaul is demanded.

In Harris County, much of the mental health care and addiction treatment is funded by Harris County Health District, the Harris County Jail system and The City of Houston. This is also generally the model statewide and is grossly inadequate. (1) The state must increase funding for these problems and (2) current & future Economic Development Districts (like TIRZs & Management Districts) should be mandated to provide dedicated funds in conjunction with the affordable housing programs.

GARNET F. COLEMAN (D)

Criminal Justice: Pass the parts of the Sandra Bland Act that did not pass including bail reform, preventing jailing for fine-only offenses, and strengthening Texas’ racial profiling laws. Eliminating racial inequality in healthcare and education: I will continue to fight for better healthcare for all and work to eliminate disparities in health outcomes, mental based on race/ethnicity including in maternal and infant mortality. Fight for quality-full-day Pre-K, and increased public education funding.

The Economic Stabilization Fund should be used according to its original purpose. Which is too smooth out dips in incoming state revenues, so that vital services that Texans depend on such as education, healthcare, and transportation do not get cut.

Education has been and always will be the great equalizer for women, people of color and people with limited income. That is why I have filed a bill to increase quality full-day Pre-K. We need to increase state funding for public education. The goal for every child should be to attend and finish a 4-year college or complete skills training. We must make a quality education affordable. That is why I voted against tuition deregulation in 2003 and have supported legislation to reinstate it.

As chair of the House Committee on County Affairs I have worked to ensure that the State of Texas provides financial help to local governments to provide these services. Last session I helped to secure $92.5 million in matching grants for local healthy community collaboratives to help those suffering from addiction, mental health, and homelessness. I have also worked with our Federal partners to provide billions to local governments to provide these services through the 115 waiver.

Education: University of St. Thomas | B.A., Political Science | Experience: 20 years in the Texas Legislature | Community: I currently sit on the Ensemble Theater and Undermin’s museum advisory boards. | Email: garnet.coledman@gmail.com
Website: http://garnetcoleman.com | Address: P.O. Box 88140 Houston, TX 77286 | Phone: (713) 522-8534 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/Representative-Garnet-Coleman-173213499374393 | Twitter: twitter.com/gcoleman
Ryan T. McConnicco (R) — No response received

Jessica Cristina Farrar (D)

Access to quality, affordable health care is essential to the well-being of all Texans. Texas should expand Medicaid to provide more access to health care, which will reduce costs to local taxpayers and help lower the state’s high maternal mortality rate. Public schools must be supported and constantly improved so students can obtain the best education to ensure their success. A school is the anchor of a neighborhood. Families should not have to ensure their success. A school is the anchor of a neighborhood. Families should not have to

Money from the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF) should be used for the reasons the fund was originally created: to prevent sudden, massive cuts to health care, schools, and other services that rely on state funds. In the past, the ESF has been used for closing shortfalls in ongoing programs like Medicaid. The legislature must ensure funds are prioritized for essential services, not use the ESF to mask state obligations.

The legislature has continuously reduced the amount of funding provided to school districts, requiring the districts to increase the tax rate to generate the revenue needed to make up for the decrease in funding. I will continue to support and push for an increase in the state funding for public education, as the legislature needs to adjust the amount of money given to each district per student. I am open to reviewing alternative funding methods that are based on a taxpayer’s ability to pay.

Texas has a severe lack of mental health providers, especially in rural and under-served areas. In a time with high substance abuse rates, mental health needs due to suicide and substance abuse, and Texans purposefully seeking out the criminal justice system to obtain mental health care, Texas must increase access to mental health services by providing incentives to practice in under-served communities and funding to support local initiatives to improve access to care.

Judy Hubert Vo (D)

Education, property taxes & health care are top issues. The state’s share of funding for public education is down to 38% from 45% 10 years ago. The burden to cover unfunded mandates, growing student populations and inflation has shifted to local taxpayers. The state must adequately & equitably fund public education. Expanding Medicaid, like 53 other states have, would bring back our federal tax money to cover more working families & contain costs for hospitals & county/city health facilities.

The Rainy Day Fund should be used for emergencies not ongoing ordinary expenses. As Harvey it literally rained and the fund should have been tapped to help recovery.

I will work for adequate funding to ensure students have both good teachers and essentials needed for quality learning. I want to make sure every student graduates ready for college &/or career. Students must graduate with the knowledge required by a rigorous curriculum but providing career and technical skill training opportunities in a wide variety of occupations is a necessity in the educational system of today.

There are a lot of non-private providers in these fields that do amazing work on limited budgets. Perhaps the state should, after thorough vetting, help to fund those that have shown success.

Aaron Close (L)

_property_tax_increases, freeze property values at the amount that the property was purchased at. Flood Control Do the repairs on Addicks and Barker Reservoirs that had been recommended by the Corp of Engineers years ago

Only one-off events, like Hurricane Harvey. New tax revenue from unexpected sources like the recent growth in Texas Oil and Gas output needs to be put into the fund to help grow it. Thus ensuring that the budget doesn’t continue to grow then pull funds from the fund when one time or short-term revenue increases go away.

As a parent of public school graduates, proper funding of public education is extremely important to me. Current formulas are extremely complicated and unfair to many districts. I will fight to fix the broken funding systems and put in place a system that is fair to all of our districts. I will work to make sure our schools are properly funded while protecting taxpayers at the same time. I will also continue to support proper funding for Texas’ legal obligations to our retired teachers.

A massive refocus away from the criminality of addiction, to the treatment is needed. Huge amounts of money are spent enforcing minor drug offenses instead of helping to treat those with addiction or mental illness. Simply refocusing the same money could dramatically improve outcomes.

Valorie Swanson (R)


I will push to have a portion of the Rainy Day Fund allocated to flood mitigation infrastructure since this is one type of project for which I, as a conservator legislative, fought to save the Fund. Flood recovery and mitigating future funding has been my number one issue since Harvey. While the Economic Stabilization Fund should always be kept strong, spending a portion of the money on permanent infrastructure to mitigate flooding is the type of emergency, one-time expense that it is for.

As a parent of public school graduates, proper funding of public education is extremely important to me. Current formulas are extremely complicated and unfair to many districts. I will work to make sure our schools are properly funded while protecting taxpayers at the same time. I will also continue to support proper funding for Texas’ legal obligations to our retired teachers.

Ensuring that Texans have access to quality mental health and addiction treatment services is extremely important. Our county jail has become the largest mental health treatment facility in the state. I support programs that try to get treatment to people with mental health needs and keep them out of our county jail. Addiction treatment programs must be tailored to help get people so they can return to living a productive life. These programs also help stop child abuse and domestic abuse.

Michael Shawn Kelly (D)

1. Public Schools ...our state legislature must properly fund our schools so that they do not rely so heavily on school property taxes. Additional state funding tied to hiring more teachers in order to decrease the ratio of students/teacher is critical. 2. Most immigration issues are not under to auspices of our state government but we need to avoid laws which exasperate the hardships of productive, taxpaying people who have been living here for years and are part of the fabric of society.

Public School Funding should be sourced mainly through our State, not property taxes. Eliminating business tax loopholes and abatements would be a starting point, along with more realistic fines for pollution violations. At the moment it is often cheaper to disregard pollution regulations and pay the fine than to pay for measures which would put the violating company’s procedures up to code. As stated above targeted funding to hire more teachers to reduce the student / teacher ratio is critical.

The State of Texas funds mental health/ addiction treatment services with Medicaid and CHIP funds. Unfortunately, when our zealous legislators wished to show how much they hated Obama by rejecting Medicaid Expansion, they walked away from over 100 billion dollars of funding which Texas citizen’s have paid or will pay through federal taxes. When you consider 64% of teens do not receive treatment for depression, it is obvious the juvenile actions of nói không trúng. làm thế nào để có được một hệ thống giáo dục chất lượng cho tất cả mọi trẻ em? Estado de Texas prove debe mejorar las siguientes áreas: 2. Los legisladores deben mejorar el sistema educativo para que todos los estudiantes tengan acceso a una educación de calidad. 3. Los legisladores deben trabajar en la mejora de la atención mental y el tratamiento de adicciones, especialmente en áreas rurales y subdesarrolladas. 4. Los legisladores deben mejorar la seguridad y la propiedad en las comunidades. 5. Los legisladores deben proteger los derechos del 2º enmendamiento y mantener el flujo de control de la frontera. 6. Los legisladores deben proteger el derecho religioso y la libertad. 7. Los legisladores deben empoderar a los maestros y padres de familia en la educación. 8. Los legisladores deben cumplir con los compromisos a los jubilados. 9. Los legisladores deben reducir el gasto y controlar el aumento de los impuestos. 10. Los legisladores deben trabajar en la mejora de la seguridad y la propiedad en las comunidades. 11. Los legisladores deben proteger los derechos del 2º enmendamiento y mantener el flujo de control de la frontera. 12. Los legisladores deben proteger el derecho religioso y la libertad. 13. Los legisladores deben empoderar a los maestros y padres de familia en la educación. 14. Los legisladores deben cumplir con los compromisos a los jubilados. 15. Los legisladores deben reducir el gasto y controlar el aumento de los impuestos.
SARAH BETH LANDAU (D)

BACKGROUND: I have practiced law for 20 years, most of them as an appellate specialist. I clerked for a federal judge after law school, practiced civil as well as criminal, public and private, state and federal, appeals and trials. Currently, I am a Harris County Public Defender and an adjunct professor of appellate litigation at Texas Southern University.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: The implementation of electronic filing supports broader access to justice. On the criminal side, creation of the Public Safety Assessment for scoring people who are arrested to determine whether they can be released on a personal release bond rather than a cash bond can help indigent defendants be released from jail.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The highest priority for any judge must be justice and fair treatment for all who come before the court. Cases cannot be prioritized according to whether they involve a large law firm instead of a public defender or whether they are civil or criminal. All cases are important. The court belongs to the people and must follow the law without fear or favor. Having justices with diverse professional and personal experiences helps the court eliminate blind spots that can lead to poor decision-making.

TERRY YATES (R) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

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MICHAEL MASSENGALE (R)

BACKGROUND: Over 9 years of experience as an appellate judge, with hundreds of written opinions and a proven record. Board certified in civil appellate law. Experienced trial attorney and former partner of Baker Botts L.L.P. Former Federalist Society Houston chapter president. Honors graduate of The University of Texas School of Law. Eagle Scout.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: I’m proud to serve by the Texas Supreme Court’s appointment as a member of the Texas Access to Justice Commission and as a member of and senior judicial advisor to the Children’s Commission. The internet allows widespread, low-cost dissemination of training videos and forms that greatly improve indigent defense, both for appointed counsel and self-represented litigants. Following the example of the Florida Justice Technology Center, we can do more to make legal services accessible to all Texans.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Writing accessible, well-reasoned, and correctly decided judicial opinions is the most important responsibility of a Justice, Court of Appeals. It is carefully review the legal arguments presented to us and to write opinions that not only explain the outcome to the litigants before us, but also to provide guidance to people, lawyers, and other judges to improve the stability and predictability of the Rule of Law. My record shows that I am a highly effective judicial author with an exceptionally low reversal rate.
QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

Access to Justice: What recent technological developments provide opportunities to improve the state’s indigent defense system in civil and criminal cases?

Responsibilities: Which responsibility of a Justice, Court of Appeals, is your highest priority and why?

Jennifer Caughey (R)

Background: Since my appointment to this seat, I have authored 100 opinions and contributed to many more. I have given every case due time and respect and faithfully applied the law as it is written. My prior experience—including my rigorous law firm practice, judicial clerkships, and education (Princeton and Harvard Law)—prepared me well for this role.

Access to Justice: I am still learning how to improve the indigent defense system. Technology can help. For instance, we can create certain forms and rules easily available online, so defendants will not miss deadlines or fail to meet procedural hurdles. Technology could also provide access to information and laws concerning legal theories, claims, and defenses.


Jerry Zimmerer (D)

Background: I worked as a law clerk at the U.S. Supreme Court, built a successful appellate practice at Bracewell, and became Board Certified in Civil Appellate Law. I have served on the court for 6 years, earning high ratings from the lawyers who appear before me. Appellate lawyers across Texas recently elected me as chair of the State Bar Appellate Advisory Committee and am Chair of the Amicus Committee of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association.

Access to Justice: I chair the Rules and Legislation Committee for the Texas Access to Justice Commission. Our projects include: revising the Code of Judicial Conduct to show judges and clerks how they can help indigent parties access the court system; and revising State Bar rules so attorneys who are retired or licensed out-of-state can provide free legal advice. Also, my court’s website provides information about the appellate pro bono program, which matches indigent parties with volunteer lawyers.


Brett Busby (R)

Background: I worked as a law clerk at the U.S. Supreme Court, built a successful appellate practice at Bracewell, and became Board Certified in Civil Appellate Law. I have served on the court for 6 years, earning high ratings from the lawyers who appear before me. Appellate lawyers across Texas recently elected me as chair of the State Bar Appellate Section.

Access to Justice: I chair the Rules and Legislation Committee for the Texas Access to Justice Commission. Our projects include: revising the Code of Judicial Conduct to show judges and clerks how they can help indigent parties access the court system; and revising State Bar rules so attorneys who are retired or licensed out-of-state can provide free legal advice. Also, my court’s website provides information about the appellate pro bono program, which matches indigent parties with volunteer lawyers.


Marc Brown (R)

Background: I was a prosecutor for 22 years, a trial judge for 3 years and have been on the Court of Appeals for 5 years. I have authored over 300 opinions while on the Court of Appeals. For 23 years I only practiced criminal law. Now I handle an even mix of criminal and civil cases. I am the only judge/candidate with extensive criminal law experience.

Access to Justice: E-Filing and paperless files provide an opportunity to improve indigent defense. These innovations cut costs dramatically. Access to the E-File system is widely available at libraries and on mobile electronic devices. Once the availability of the system is more widely known, it can only help with indigent defense. I also believe that all appellate court arguments should be available for viewing online. This would make the process more transparent and serve to teach.

Responsibilities: My highest priority is to achieve a just result, based on the law and the record before me, in each case. Justice does not play favorites. The cases we handle will be the only appeal the parties who need. Video conferencing, to allow attorneys to appear in court for brief hearings without traveling to the courthouse, is an underutilized tool.

Website: http://www.marcbrown.com

Charles Spain (D)

Background: I am board certified in civil appellate law (Texas Board of Legal Specialization) and have worked for the Texas Supreme Court and the Texas Courts of Appeals as an attorney for a total of 23 years. I am a judge for the City of Houston, first appointed in 2010. I am a frequent author and presenter for educational courses for both judges and lawyers.

Responsibilities: My highest priority is to achieve a just result, based on the law and the record before me, in each case. Justice does not play favorites. The cases we handle will be the only appeal for most of the parties who come before us. As Judges, these cases deserve our full attention. Each case is important to someone. The decisions I make will impact someone’s life in some way. I try to never lose sight of that. There are no small cases, only small records.

Website: http://spainforjustice.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/JudgeSpainForJustice/notifications/

Pete Kelly (D)

Background: Practicing for 28 years, and Board Certified in Civil Appellate Law. Have represented individuals and families in every appellate court in the State of Texas and in the US Fifth Circuit; among other leadership positions, am on the Texas Supreme Court Advisory Committee and am Chair of the Amicus Committee of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association.

Access to Justice: The widespread ability to access the internet and communicate through it allows the dissemination of forms, advice, and case-specific information to the parties who need. Video conferencing, to allow attorneys to appear in court for brief hearings without traveling to the courthouse, is an underutilized tool.

Website: http://www.PeterKellyforJustice.com

Marti Brown (R)

Background: Practicing for 28 years, and Board Certified in Civil Appellate Law. Have represented individuals and families in every appellate court in the State of Texas and in the US Fifth Circuit; among other leadership positions, am on the Texas Supreme Court Advisory Committee and am Chair of the Amicus Committee of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association.

Access to Justice: The widespread ability to access the internet and communicate through it allows the dissemination of forms, advice, and case-specific information to the parties who need. Video conferencing, to allow attorneys to appear in court for brief hearings without traveling to the courthouse, is an underutilized tool.

Website: http://www.PeterKellyforJustice.com
6-YEAR TERM. HEARS APPEALS ON CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES FROM LOWER COURTS IN ITS DISTRICT.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

Access to Justice: What recent technological developments provide opportunities to improve the state’s indigent defense system in civil and criminal cases?

Responsibilities: Which responsibility of a Justice, Court of Appeals, is your highest priority and why?

MARGARET “MEG” POISSANT (D)

BACKGROUND: I have practiced law in Texas for 33 years, litigated and tried cases in most of the 10 counties in this race, in all areas of the law, civil and criminal. I am rated Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent, handled appeals, was appointed by the State Bar to chair a committee, member TX Trial Lawyers, HTLA, HBA, many community associations & Boards.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: Access to computers at the Harris County Law Library, which allow individuals to access legal cases and precedent, is a step toward assisting Texans to research the law. The e-filing systems, the District Clerk and County Court webpages, allow individuals to search case information without charge. I am a member of Houston Volunteer Lawyers, which provides pro bono services to indigent client needing representation. The Texas Indigent Defense Commission (Innocence Project) also provides services.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The highest responsibility of a Justice of the Court of Appeals is to ensure that the law (both procedurally and substantively) is applied correctly to the facts and circumstances presented, and to explain the result in a well-reasoned opinion written in clear language. I strive to perform that work fairly while also participating in larger efforts, including those undertaken by the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health, to work towards improvement of the justice system in Texas.

JOHN DONOVAN (R)

BACKGROUND: I have 6 years experience as a Justice on the 14th Court of Appeals and 14 years as a Texas District Court trial judge presiding over thousands of varied and complex lawsuits. I am certified in trial law. I serve on the State Bar of Texas Court Rules Committee. I received my law degree with honors, JD cum laude from South Texas College of Law 1984.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: Now that briefs, records and files are electronically filed with the 14th Court of Appeals, all parties have access to briefs, records and files on file with the 14th Court of Appeals through the 14th Court of Appeals website or through contacting the 14th Court of Appeals personnel and requesting digital copies of records on file with the court.

RESPONSIBILITIES: All parties should have equal access to courts in a fair and timely manner.

MARTHA HILL JAMISON (R)

BACKGROUND: Appellate justice since 2010. General Counsel to the Harris County Tax Office, ten years as a Harris County civil district judge. Ten-year Mediator. Training: Journalist and civil lawyer. Characteristics: Hard-working, patient and fair. This difficult job requires the depth and breadth of legal experience that I bring.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: Confidence in DNA testing is both a blessing and a curse. The testing is not available in all cases and is not cost-effective in others. The “magic bullet” remains a defendant’s ability to hire a good lawyer. The willingness of lawyers to provide low-fee or pro bono legal services is very important where court appointment is not available. Outcomes can be greatly affected when defendants better understanding their rights and the justice system procedures early on in the process.

RESPONSIBILITIES: In most cases, the decision of our intermediate court of appeals is the final decision the parties will receive (the high courts do not to accept all cases). My responsibility as a Justice on the court is to interpret the law as it is written, even if I don’t personally like it, and to explain my reasons for the decision in an accessible manner. I have demonstrated my ability and willingness to handle difficult, even politically-charged, cases and to apply the rule of law in a consistent manner.

FRANCES BOURLIOT (D)

BACKGROUND: I have represented individuals at the trial and appellate level for my entire career. As a criminal defense attorney, I represented death row inmates in state and federal court. Next, as an assistant public defender, I was in the appellate and felony trial division with a focus on mental health cases. I am now with a small civil litigation firm.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: A system which automates attorney appointments and monitors attorney compliance improves the indigent defense system by increasing transparency and ensuring fair representation for indigent criminal defendants. Similarly, the bail reform system in Harris County will provide the courts with certain criteria, formulas, and documentation that make the bail system more transparent and help ensure that bail for indigent criminal defendants is not being set at an arbitrarily excessive amount.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The greatest responsibility of an appellate Justice is to ensure that the law (both procedurally and substantively) is applied correctly to the underlying facts and also to ensure that the law is being applied in a fair and neutral manner to all parties, regardless of that party’s socio-economic status, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, physical or mental disabilities, or any other factor.

BILL BOYCE (R)

BACKGROUND: I bring 30 years of extensive appellate experience to the bench as former a law clerk to a federal appellate judge; an associate and partner practicing appellate law at Fulbright & Jaworski LLP; and a Justice on the 14th Court of Appeals since 2007. I am certified in civil appellate law; as a lawyer I argued more than 60 cases in appellate courts.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: The issue of legal services for indigent parties overlaps significantly with the need to address the circumstances of persons with mental illness and IDD, who often find themselves involved with the justice system. As vice-chair of the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health, I am actively working with stakeholders across Texas to look for ways to improve the administration of justice for persons with mental illness and IDD, including greater access to and use of telepsychiatry.

RESPONSIBILITIES: My highest priority is to decide cases by applying the governing legal standards in light of the facts and circumstances presented, and to explain the result in a well-reasoned opinion written in clear language. I strive to perform that work fairly while also participating in larger efforts, including those undertaken by the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health, to work towards improvement of the justice system in Texas.

MEAGAN HASSAN (D)

BACKGROUND: I am a partner in a Constitutional/civil rights firm where we litigate cases involving the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 8th, and 14th Amendments in state, federal, and appellate courts; through our work, we have established new procedures and clearly established rights in federal appellate cases. I also represent indigent defendants in criminal matters.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: (1) Locally: a) bail reform in Harris County that will permit appellate review of potentially excessive bail for indigent criminal defendants, and b) a more efficient and equitable appointment system for indigent criminal defendants to ensure fair representation and equitable, competent defense; and (2) statewide: a forms database in the areas of family and probate law for those who are not able to afford attorneys and have no choice but to represent themselves in court.

RESPONSIBILITIES: My highest priorities are to protect the rule of law and the People's constitutional rights by bringing a new viewpoint (based on my particular experience) to appellate deliberations, paying attention to details, and honoring the People’s reasonable expectations based on existing law. Many of the current Justices have similar legal backgrounds to each other; therefore, the Court can only benefit from a balance of viewpoints and practical experience on each case.

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Note: District Court races are listed by the type of court, rather than ballot order, to make it simpler to directly compare candidates.

### JUDGE – CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

**PRESIDES OVER CIVIL ACTION TRIALS INCLUDING WORKMAN’S COMPENSATION, BREACH OF CONTRACT, PERSONAL INJURY, DAMAGES AND CONTESTED ELECTIONS. 4-YEAR TERM.**

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

**What will you do to ensure that all parties involved in cases before the court will have an opportunity to have their interests adequately represented and considered?**

**What will you do to ensure that cases before your court are heard in a timely manner?**

**How will you ensure impartiality in your court given the current system of financing judicial campaigns, which allows donations from those who may later bring cases before your court?**

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**JEFF SHADWICK (R)**

In District Court, only in very rare cases are the litigants inadequately represented. In those cases, I am happy to make sure to explain the process and refer the litigants to services the bar association offers. Whether represented “adequately” or not, I always consider every aspect of each case even if not raised by counsel. My 37 years of active law practice, including 9 on the bench, have fully prepared me to treat everyone fairly and impartially.

Education: BA, History, University of Kansas 1979; JD, Baylor School of Law 1981 | Experience: Judge of the 55th District Court 2008 to present. Commercial litigation private practice since 1981 primarily in banking, oil and gas, and construction | Community: Served two terms on HSD School Board including Board President in 2001. Active at West U Baptist Church; Email: jfshadwick@att.net | Address: 3603 Deal St, Houston, TX 77025 | Facebook: http://jfshadwick16 | Twitter: twitter.com/jfshadwick

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**LATOSHA LEWIS PAYNE (D)**

I will be fair and will bring a unique and different perspective, as shaped by my experiences, that will ensure all parties have an equal opportunity for justice under the law. I will make sure all litigants have an opportunity to be heard in oral hearings. I would allow pro se litigants to obtain a pro bono lawyer to assist them during their case. I will provide clear and understandable court procedures, which will be available in the courtroom in several languages. I will follow the law.

Education: University of Texas School of Law; Tulane University, H. Sophie Newcomb Women's College, Environmental Studies & Political Science; Thomas J. Watson Fellow; Cypress Creek HS | Experience: 18-year civil trial; Jury and bench trials in personal injury and contract, among others; Elected Partner at Intl firm in 7.5 years; Co-founder, woman-owned law firm | Community: Texas Executive Women (2018 President); Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Houston (Past Board); Over 1800 pro bono hours; Election Protection Legal Volunteer for past 13 yrs | Email: vote4judge@latoshalewispayne.com | Website: http://www.latoshalewispayne.com | Address: 1010 Lamar Suite 400 Houston, TX 77002 | Phone: (281) 954-1372 | Facebook: http://facebook.com/latoshalewispayneforjudge55th | Twitter: twitter.com/voteatasha55th

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**MICHAEL LANDRUM (R)**

It is now and always has been my policy and practice to encourage full participation by all parties. I allow oral hearings in any matter where requested, and no proceeding is ever convened unless all parties have received notice and afforded an opportunity to participate. I prepare thoroughly for all hearings. I have worked with the Houston Bar Assn to help people without opportunity to participate. I prepare thoroughly for all hearings. The partisan election of judges is a reality in Texas. I realize that, to some, it may seem that partisanship and political contributions could influence a judge’s rulings. To avoid the appearance of any impropriety, I refuse contributions from parties with cases before me. I allow ample time for each side to present their views, and I make certain to describe the reasoning that underlies difficult or close decisions. My decisions are made without any consideration beyond the law and evidence.

Education: University of St. Thomas, Bachelor of Arts; 1973; University of Texas, Doctor of Jurisprudence; 1976 | Experience: Judge, 113th District Court, 2013 to present; private practice attorney, civil trial and appellate law, 1976-2013; Harris County Tax Court Master, 1984-2010; Arbitrator | Community: Adjunct Faculty, Houston Young Lawyers Association; Member - minority opportunity in law practice; others | Email: judge@judgelandrum.com | Website: http://www.judgelandrum.com | Address: P.O. Box 19422 Houston, TX 77224-9422 | Phone: (713) 961-5100 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/JudgeLandrum/

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**RABEEA COLLIER (D)**

Through my nearly 12 years as a trial lawyer, I have effectively represented individuals, non-profits, and small and large corporations in over 250 matters. I understand that trials are about giving the parties an opportunity to present their case to a community of their peers. As judge, I am committed to ensure that everyone gets their fair day in court. I plan to be well-versed in the parties’ arguments and facts to a degree that will inspire confidence and competence.

Education: J.D., Thurgood Marshall School of Law; B.A., University of Texas at Austin; Kingwood High School | Experience: With over 11 years of civil trial experience, I have also handled appeals in the 1st and 14th Court of Appeals and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit. | Community: I have served on the board of the Association of Women Attorneys and Harris County Democratic Lawyers Association. For over a decade, I’ve mentored youth interested in law. Email: rabea@rabeacollieforjudge.com | Website: http://rabeacollieforjudge.com | Address: 12 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1100 Houston, Texas 77046 | Phone: (713) 940-0663 | Facebook: http://facebook.com/rabeacollieforjudge | Twitter: twitter.com/RabeaCollie

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**RANDY WILSON (R)**

All parties and lawyers are welcome to present any pleadings, motions, and evidence. Anyone can request an oral hearing to present their position.

Education: B.A., Univ. of Tex, Arlington 1974; J.D., summa cum laude, Univ. of Houston 1977 | Experience: Associate of Mandell & Wright 1977-1980; Partner at Suman Godfrey 1980-2003; Judge, 17th Dist. Court 2003-present. | Community: Board of Directors of Star of Hope, LifeHouse of Houston and Main Street Ministries | Email: randywilson@aol.com | Website: http://www.judge randy wilson.com

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**JEFF SHADWICK (R)**

I conduct a regular docket, work all day, and am ready to rule thanks to thorough preparation. I have a policy of ruling on Friday before I go home on anything I heard during the week.

Contributions do not impact my rulings at all, nor do they provide special access to me or my staff. Because I had adequate funds in my campaign account, I did no additional fundraising this year. I believe money in judicial campaigns is overrated and has little impact in a county as large as ours.

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**LATOSHA LEWIS PAYNE (D)**

I will change the court procedures by automatically setting cases for trial after a defendant has answered and by allowing parties to set their summary judgments for oral hearing. I will provide an adequate amount of time and remain flexible in setting oral hearings. I will also make decisions on motions presented to the court in a timely fashion. I will reduce the number of cases awaiting trial and total pending cases, so that more Harris County citizens can obtain justice in civil courts.

I will voluntarily comply with the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act and I will follow Texas law in cases in which disqualification is required or recusal is appropriate. I will decide cases based on the facts and the law. I will never let a campaign contribution affect my rulings.

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**MICHAEL LANDRUM (R)**

I keep one of the busiest trial schedules in our county. Most days, I arrive at the courthouse before 7:00 AM to do research and complete paperwork before formal proceedings commence. I encourage attorneys to call the Court to discuss disputed issues informally in conference calls including all parties; this saves time for the attorneys and money for their clients. I strive to rule promptly on all matters and to render clear, impartial decisions in accordance with the law.

The partisan election of judges is a reality in Texas. I realize that, to some, it may seem that partisanship and political contributions could influence a judge’s rulings. To avoid the appearance of any impropriety, I refuse contributions from parties with cases before me. I allow ample time for each side to present their views, and I make certain to describe the reasoning that underlies difficult or close decisions. My decisions are made without any consideration beyond the law and evidence.

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**RABEEA COLLIER (D)**

I am committed to streamlining the processes of the 113th Civil District Court in order to timely resolve cases. The length of time it takes to resolve a case directly impacts the cost to the litigants and the taxpayers. I have tried cases to verdict as an attorney for both, plaintiffs and defendants and on behalf of both, individuals and businesses. As such, I have a balanced and fresh perspective along with the necessary experience on day one to get a case ready for trial in a timely manner.

Litiants must be confident that they are getting an unbiased judge. The ABA noted that the fact that a lawyer or litigant in a proceeding contributed to a judge's campaign does not in and of itself disqualify a judge. However, the size and timing of the contributions, the degree of involvement, and other factors may raise questions as to the judge's impartiality. In light of this and my strong belief in avoiding the appearance of impropriety, I intend to recuse myself as the circumstances warrant.
TANYA GARRISON (D)

Respect for all parties is an absolute priority. Consideration of all sides of an argument is also crucial to running a fair court. I will work to ensure that all parties have an opportunity to make their case. I will also encourage and support pro bono legal representation for parties that do not have the financial ability to pay for such services. This is particularly important for lower income lawyers who cannot use their pro bono legal service as an opportunity to gain invaluable courtroom experience.

Education: Bachelor of Science - Oklahoma State University, 1997 Juris Doctorate - University of Houston, 2000 | Experience: Attorney with Weycer, Kaplan, Pulaski & Zuber, P.C., 2000-present | Community: Past President of Houston Young Lawyers, Recipient of Outstanding Young Lawyer, Board of Directors HYLVP; American Board of Trial Advocates, Girl Scouts, VA Pro Bono volunteer. | Email: tanyagarrison157@yahoo.com | Website: http://www.tanyagarrison.com | Address: 11 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1400 Houston, TX 77046 | Phone: (713) 961-9045 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/tanyagarrison157 | Twitter: twitter.com/tanyagarrison5

SCOT “DOLLI” DOLLINGER (D)

Everyone has a right to be treated fairly no matter what. For the last 30+ years, I have worked in over 80 counties all over Texas helping people get justice. So, I know how to run a fair court. I am patient, I listen, I learn. I love justice. Truth matters. I have a burning desire to do what is right in every case, every time. I believe in separation of church and state and resolving cases without bias, sympathy or prejudice. It’s about justice for all, not justice for some.

Education: Northwestern University - Bachelor of Science in Speech - 1984, Emory University School of Law - Juris Doctor - 1987 | Experience: 30+ years of practicing civil trial law both as a defense and plaintiff lawyer -- Board Certified in Civil Trial Law – Texas Board of Legal Specialization. | Community: Over the last 10 years, donated over 1,000 hours in free legal services. My wife and I give to multiple charities, attend church regularly striving to help others. | Email: scot@callthelaw.com | Website: http://www.dollid4judge.com | Address: 700 Gemini, Suite 120 Houston, TX 77058 | Phone: (281) 387-9055 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/dollid4judge | Twitter: twitter.com/dollid4judge

SHARON HEMPHILL (R)

To ensure that all parties have an opportunity to have their interests represented adequately and considered I will try to work with litigants and their counsel to work out convenient dates for hearings and trials and try to provide sufficient time for their case to be heard. I must judge the law. The judge must be just, impartial and fair which includes being considerate of all persons, situations and issues. These issues are paramount for litigants to have confidence in our legal system.

Education: B.S. University of Ill, Urbana J.D. University of Houston, Law Center; LL.M. University of Houston, Law Center (Masters of Laws); Board Certified; Rice University, Languages | Experience: Briefing Attorney, Supreme Court of Texas; Exec. Editor of the South Texas Law Review; Trial and Appellate lawyer; Mediator Trainer | Community: Ann.A.U.W. Women, AAWU, Center Arts League Board Member; Volunteer Acres Homes, for legal assistance to underprivileged; APAC; Latin Women’s Initiative; Email: sharonhemphillforjudges@gmail.com | Website: http://sharonhemphill4judge.com | Address: PO 12190 Spring, tx 77391 | Phone: (713) 545-1234 | Facebook: http://sharonhemphill4judge

DEBRA IBARRA MAYFIELD (R)

Having had the honor to serve as a judge at two different levels of the judiciary, I am committed to ensuring both sides have their day in court, to treating both sides with dignity and respect, and to applying the law equally to both sides. As Judge, I have a duty to the public to communicate an understanding of our court system, and I publish clear procedures on my website, make legal forms available to the public, inform litigants of pro bono resources, and explain procedure, when necessary.

Education: Texas A&M University (B.A.); South Texas College of Law Houston (J.D.) | Experience: Civil Defense Firm (Partner); Harris County Civil Court at Law No. 1 (Judge); 165th District Court (Judge); In-house Counsel Enterprise Products; 190th District Court (Judge) | Community: Board, Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans (AAMA); Board, Association of Women Attorneys; Past-President, Mexican American Bar Association of Houston | Email: debra@debramyfield.com | Website: http://debramyfield.com | Address: P.O. Box 1591 Houston, TX 77251 | Phone: (713) 256-4069 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/debramyfieldcampaign | Twitter: twitter.com/DebraIMayfield

BEAU MILLER (D)

I will combine legal knowledge with a strong work ethic, common sense, and an understanding of the world outside the law. I will listen carefully and take the time to understand how parties have ended up in court and how a decision will affect them. My commitment to the rule of law will not allow a relationship to influence the outcome of a case. I will not allow a relationship with a donor, or anyone else, to cloud my impartiality and I will, where appropriate, recuse myself. My primary obligation is to ensure justice is always done in every case.

Education: Juris Doctorate from The University of Texas School of Law, Austin, Texas in 2001. Bachelor of Music Education from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1995. | Experience: Taught high school band; clerked for U.S. District Court Judge Ricardo H. Hinojosa; attorney at Bean & Bean LLP, Vorys, Seybert, Seymour and Pease LLP, and now Spagnoletti & Co.; Community: Serve on the State Bar of Texas Minority Counsel Program and founder member of LIVE Consortium, a nonprofit that educates Houstonians about stigmas associated with HIV/AIDS. | Email: info@votebeaumiller.com | Website: http://www.votebeaumiller.com | Address: P.O. Box 56386 Houston, Texas 77256 | Phone: (832) 539-3497 | Facebook: http://votebeaumiller | Twitter: twitter.com/votebeaumiller
CANDIDATES:

WESLEY WARD (R)

For the past six years, I have led the civil district courts in various matters of efficiency (consistently at or near the top in lowest docket count, least old cases, most jury trials conducted). Making sure that justice moves promptly ensures that all parties have a fair opportunity to get their day in court and have their grievances addressed. If I am re-elected I will continue to make sure that the 234th is a place where everyone receives fair and efficient justice.

LAUREN REEDER (D)

People end up in disputes before civil district courts for a variety of reasons. Not all individuals and companies have access to and can afford expensive attorneys. Regardless of status, every party involved in a case before my court will be respected, their interests heard, and their positions diligently considered. When necessary, I will appoint competent attorneys to represent a party's interests, and I will not give preferential treatment to any litigant, attorney, or party.

DAN HINDE (R)

I have focused on this issue since becoming a judge in 2008. As a result, 65% of my cases are less than 1 year old, and 64% of the cases in my court are resolved in less than a year (both figures are higher than the average for all courts). How? I set figures are higher than the average for all courts). How? I set

CORY SEPOLO (D)

During my career I evaluated the performance of over 100 judges. I studied judicial temperament & learned best practices for managing court. I love the law & will spend the hours required to prepare for hearings, trials and rulings. I will be timely and not require litigants to wait on me. I will eliminate unnecessary court appearances. I will allow matters to be heard by submission or telephone. I will not delay justice.

BRENT GAMBLE (R)

I have consistently received high ratings for preparedness and courtesy to those appearing before me. For almost 20 years I have and will continue to work hard to make sure the law is applied fairly and equally in every case.

How will you ensure impartiality in your court given the current system of financing judicial campaigns, which allows donations from those who may later bring cases before your court?

I will always support the voluntary campaign limits that our system encourages. Those limits make sure that no individual can unfairly influence our judicial elections. I am proud to be supported by a VERY broad base of attorneys, law firms, and other members of our community, from all backgrounds, practice areas, sides of the docket, walks of life, political persuasions. I proudly put my record of fair and strong justice to the voters, and I am confident that my impartiality is second to none.

What will you do to ensure that all parties involved in cases before the court will have an opportunity to have their interests adequately represented and considered?

See above. My track record shows that I am a Judge who rules promptly and fairly and provides a fair and efficient forum for resolving disputes in our community.

What will you do to ensure that cases before your court are heard in a timely manner?

I will voluntarily comply with the contribution and spending limits in the Campaign Finance Act. In court, I apply the law fairly and equally to all parties based on the facts and evidence, regardless of the political activity of the parties or their attorneys.
PRESIDES OVER CIVIL ACTION TRIALS INCLUDING WORKMAN’S COMPENSATION, BREACH OF CONTRACT, PERSONAL INJURY, DAMAGES AND CONTESTED ELECTIONS. 4-YEAR TERM.

**DEDRA DAVIS (D)**

Time management is crucial. I’ll provide the attorneys adequate time to present their cases. I’ll come to trial prepared. I’ll closely listen to the evidence and arguments of counsel. Cases will be handled fairly and accordingly to the laws.

Education: South Texas College Of Law, Doctor of Jurisprudence Texas Tech University, Bachelors Of Arts in Political Science | Experience: Over 30 years of legal experience. Ten as a civil litigation paralegal, and almost 22 as a civil litigation attorney. | Community: Texas Accountants and Lawyers for The Arts League of Women Voters Houston ACLU NAACP Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Urban League | Email: DeDraDavisEsq@aol.com | Website: http://www.DeDraDavisForJudge.com | Address: 2425 West Loop South, Ste. 290 Houston, TX 77027 | Phone: (713) 981-3861

**SYLVia MATTHEWS (R)**

Unlike criminal court, counsel is generally not provided in civil court. When a self-represented party appears, I make sure they know about free or low cost resources that may be available to them. There are two sides to every story. Before I decide an issue, I make sure both sides have an opportunity to be heard. Hearing from both sides helps me make a fair decision.

Education: University of So Carolina, JD, May 1988. The College of Charleston, B.S. cum laude in mathematics, 1983. Board Certified in Civil Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Spec. | Experience: Served as Judge of the 281st Civil District Court for 10 years. Before taking the bench, over 20 years of experience handling civil litigation. | Community: Association of Women Attorneys; President, Texas Association of Civil and Appellate Specialists; Leadership Texas, Class of 2005.St. John the Divine Episcopal Church. | Email: info@judgesylviamatthews.com | Website: http://www.sylviamatthews.com

**CHRISTINE WEEMS (D)**

If a party is pro se - particularly on a potentially complicated matter, I would make sure that they are aware of all of the resources at their disposal - like Texas Volunteer Lawyers, law school clinics and other legal aid options. If they are represented by counsel, I would ensure that all lawyers had the opportunity to present their case and to the extent necessary - preserve their error.

Education: BA University of Texas at Austin JD South Texas College of Law | Experience: 18 year attorney board certified in personal injury trial law. Passed bar exams in Texas, California and New York. | Community: Founding member of Core Men Running Productions - an award winning theatre company, ADR competition coach at University of Houston, lifetime member of the Girl Scouts. | Email: info@weemsforjudge.com | Website: http://www.weemsforjudge.com | Address: 1300 McGowen Street Suite 220 Houston, TEXAS 77004 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/weemsforjudge/

**MICHELLE FRAGA (R)**

I will come to the bench prepared; open minded; listen to the evidence; apply the law fairly and ensure that parties have adequate time to present their cases and schedule trials and hearings timely. To ensure that cases are heard in a timely manner I would dismiss frivolous lawsuits, limit continuances, set quick trial dates, make the best use of technology and hold attorneys responsible for their cases.

Education: Cy-Fair High School, 1993 University of Houston -1998 South Texas College of Law Houston -2004 | Experience: Harris County Attorney’s Office Harris County Sheriff’s Office Fraga Law Office | Community: MD Anderson; Children’s Museum | Email: info@fragajudgedallas.com | Website: http://www.fragajudge.com | Address: 4001 N. Shepherd #209 Houston, TX 77018 | Phone: (832) 767-5833 | Facebook: http://fragajudge

**DONNA ROTH (D)**

I will read the material presented by the parties and be prepared. I will give all parties the time needed to adequately prepare and present their respective positions. I will allow and require additional briefing when there is an important issue. I will rule on the merits and not necessarily on the “gotcha” procedural pitfalls. I will treat all people in the same manner in which I would want to be treated. I will be accessible to those who need to be heard. In the last 15 years I have handled a busy trial docket in my own practice. I often work 12-15 hour days and most weekends. I will work as hard from the bench. There is no reason for a 6-8 week wait for a hearing. If the courtroom is busy, find alternatives, i.e. judge’s chambers, jury rooms, private conference rooms, or law school courtrooms. I will ensure that rulings on contested matters are rendered no more than 2 weeks after they are heard. Trial settings need to be realistic.

Education: St. John’s University, Bachelor of Arts, 1983; South Texas College of Law-Houston, Doctor of Jurisprudence, 1987 | Experience: 1987 - 1991, Associate, Thorl & Associates; 1991 - 1994, Partner, Thorl, Roth & Garriga; 1994 - Present, Managing Partner, Roth & Associates | Community: I mentor a group of 4th grade students. After months of practicing I take all of them to the downtown courthouse and assist them with The Case of the Missing Cookies. | Email: dchot@rothpractice.com | Website: http://www.electronickarson.com | Address: 606 Sawyer, Suite 400 Houston, TX 77007 | Phone: (713) 654-2143 | Facebook: http://Donna Roth for Judge Twitter: twitter.com/Roth_for_Judge

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND | NOVEMBER 6, 2018 VOTERS GUIDE | WWW.LWVHOUstON.ORG**
What criteria will you use when making the final decision about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants? Please discuss selecting attorneys from the Public Defender’s Office vs the selection of private attorneys.

Catherine Evans (R)

The Fair Defense Act Management System of the Bd. of Crim. District Court Judges dictates how attorneys are appointed. I must & do follow this protocol in appointing both public & private defenders. Operating with mandated max. caseseloads, the PD’s Office can only handle a small fraction of the indigent workload, & the remainder must be handled by appointed private attorneys. I chair the committee on indigent defense & work to ensure a pool of well-qualified attorneys & a fair appointing method.

Questions to Candidates:

What is the appropriate role of the court in ensuring that immigrant defendants receive equal treatment, fairness and due process under the law?

Judges must ensure that all persons receive equal treatment, fairness and due process under the law and that necessarily includes immigrant defendants. One of the fundamental issues is to make sure that criminal defendants can communicate with the court and his/her attorney. Defendants that best communicate in another language are provided with court-appointed translators during ALL courtroom proceedings, and I make every effort to appoint attorneys that are fluent in that preferred language.

Do you favor a cash bail or a risk-based supervision system to guarantee a defendant’s appearance in court? Why?

In 2017, I voted to change the bond system in felony cases. We crafted a hybrid that combines risk-based supervision & cash bail to ensure defendants’ appearance in court. I rely on a data-driven pre-trial risk assessment to consider whether a charged defendant is appropriate for release on personal recognizance (no cash) or a cash bail. I am ALWAYS mindful of public safety. When appropriate, I use GPS monitors, house arrest, & alcohol/drug monitoring tools instead of jail.

Jesse McClure (R)

I will use what is commonly referred to as “the wheel” when appointing counsel to represent the indigent - the wheel is the list of attorneys approved to handle appointed cases. Attorneys from the Public Defender’s Office are on the wheel, so it is inevitable that they will defend citizens in my court. I will, almost without exception, appoint the next attorney up on the list when the need for counsel arises. If specialized knowledge or language skills are needed, I will consider those.

Fundamental constitutional rights apply to all persons accused of crimes regardless of their immigration status. Courts should make sure that immigrants have access to competent counsel - as well as translators and investigative resources if needed. Additionally, it is not the function of state judges to enforce federal immigration policy.

Vaneisa Velasquez (R)

I appoint both public defenders and lawyers that are qualified under the Fair Defense Act to represent indigent defendants. I consider the nature of the offense, the defendant and the availability of quality attorneys on both sides.

All courts should ensure that any person, immigrant or non-immigrant, is entitled to full, fair, equal treatment and quality representation. No person should be treated differently just because of their immigration status.

Chuck Silverman (D)

My decision will be grounded in justice and fairness. Indigent defendants are entitled to zealous representation and in some instances that requires additional resources that are more readily available through the Public Defender’s Office. Attorneys in private practice who take court appointments do an excellent job of representing their clients when they have the time and resources needed for a proper defense. The decision will be made on a case by case basis following a defendant’s request.

Americans understand that the right to due process under the law is a cornerstone of our commitment to freedom and fairness. Ensuring that every person in the US, regardless of their immigration status, is guaranteed equal treatment and due process means that an individual should be able to appeal an unfair administrative decision and to receive the same treatment among both immigration and criminal laws.

If a nonviolent defendant poses no flight risk then the defendant should be allowed to be released from jail with a personal bond. There are measures to gauge the person’s likelihood to abscond, and creative bond conditions that ensure the defendant is doing the right things while out on bond. Many nonviolent and low level defendants are sitting in jail simply because they cannot afford bond. This type of means based system is extraordinarily costly to the County and unfair to defendants.
Questions to Candidates:

What criteria will you use when making the final decision about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants? Please discuss selecting attorneys from the Public Defender’s Office vs the selection of private attorneys.

Renee Magee (R)

I use the computer algorithm developed by the fair defense act to select appointed atys in my court. The public defender’s office is on this algorithm.

ABIGAIL ANASTASIO (D)

All attorneys appointed to cases in my court will meet the criteria required by the Fair Defense Act, including extensive trial experience, passing an examination, and approval by the majority of sitting judges. There are competent and hard working defense lawyers from both the Public Defenders Office and the private bar and I plan on utilizing both. The law provides for funding to aid attorneys in their clients’ defense, thus all defendants in my court will receive quality representation.

Stacey W. Bond (R)

Qualifications are the most important criteria when selecting lawyers to represent indigent defendant’s requesting counsel. I would review a list of attorneys generated by our Fair Defense Act Management System and choose those lawyers I know who: 1) are highly skilled in trying criminal cases, 2) have experience and expertise with the charged offense, and 3) will handle the case professionally and treat their client respectfully. I use the PD Office on complex cases or ones with co-defendants.

Jason Luong (D)

I would ensure that only qualified and approved attorneys are appointed to represent indigent defendants. I would also ensure that attorneys are appointed in a fair and impartial manner. I favor using both the Public Defender’s Office and private attorneys. Having both the Public Defender’s Office and private attorneys representing indigent defendants provides the highest quality of representation for the citizens of Harris County.

Denise Collins (R)

We are required under the Fair Defense Act to choose from an approved qualified list of private attorneys and the Public Defender’s Office. The Public Defender appears on the list along with nine other private attorneys from the approved list. We then choose from that list for each case. I use both as term attorneys from the approved list who only take appointed cases in my court on a term basis. We have daily, weekly and yearly terms.

What is the appropriate role of the court in ensuring that immigrant defendants receive equal treatment, fairness and due process under the law?

Justice is blind and I apply the law equally and fairly to all litigants. I do not grant immigrant defendants any greater or lesser treatment under the law.

The proper role of the court is to ensure all people receive fair and equal treatment regardless of their immigration status. Immigration status can be significantly impacted by criminal court proceedings, so it is important that the court ensures immigrant defendants receive due process under the law. The court must ensure a defendant knows his or her rights and make him/her aware of any immigration consequences that may result.

A judge’s role is to follow the law. This requires impartiality. Ensuring equal treatment, fairness and due process are constitutional requirements that apply to all defendants appearing in court. A judge might have an opportunity to appropriately aid immigrant defendants in the appointing of counsel. If at all possible, I would appoint attorneys who speak the same language as the defendant. This benefits the defendant as it allows them to communicate with counsel and court freely.

A combination of both. Risk-based assessments combined with judicial oversight, discretion and supervision make up the best approach when dealing with low level offenders who don’t pose a great risk and are generally good candidates for a pre-trial release bond. Higher risk defendants should have cash or surety bonds commensurate with risk assessments and all the other factors allowed under the law to be considered.

Do you favor a cash bail or a risk-based supervision system to guarantee a defendant’s appearance in court? Why?

I favor the law in setting bail under TCPP 17.15, which includes the factors I consider when setting bail. I favor a risk based supervision system, however, I do employ a cash bail system as well, because these two ideas are not mutually exclusive.

I follow the law in setting bail under TCPP 17.15, which includes the factors I consider when setting bail. I favor a risk based supervision system, however, I do employ a cash bail system as well, because these two ideas are not mutually exclusive.

I favor a risk-based assessment in order to determine low risk persons who should be granted personal recognizance or reduced bonds. I believe that personal recognition bonds should be more widely used as the indigent and those with low income have been treated disparately by the criminal justice system. By allowing a risk-based system, it also enables individuals to use these resources towards their defense.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND  |  NOVEMBER 6, 2018 VOTERS GUIDE  |  WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG 37
What criteria will you use when making the final decision about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants? Please discuss selecting attorneys from the Public Defender’s Office vs the selection of private attorneys.

GREG GLASS (D)

Having been a Board Certified (Criminal Law) attorney since 1983, I know the great majority of defense attorneys and am aware of the abilities of most. The attorneys I would appoint are intelligent, motivated and conscientious and do good work for their clients. I would favor the Public Defenders Office in cases that require extraordinary resources, as that Office has in-house investigators and other resources at its disposal, which can keep the costs down compared to private attorneys.

From the bond, we usually know if a defendant is undocumented. However, that fact makes no difference. They are given the same legal safeguards as citizens.

Do you favor a cash bail or a risk-based supervision system to ensure that immigrant defendants receive equal treatment, fairness and due process under the law?

MIKE MCSPADDEN (R)

I created a public defender system by selecting six qualified private attorneys on a one-year contractual basis. These attorneys feel strongly about defending the indigent. One attorney has been working in our court for 25 years providing excellent representation. I use public defenders when there’s a conflict with one of the six attorneys. The Public Defender’s Office has attorneys with the skills and dedication to provide indigent people with first class legal representation.

I prefer risk-based. Our public would be alarmed to know about the social experiment that has been playing out in our county criminal law courts. Giving most defendants a no-cash bond has not worked. Many people do not show up and/or they commit crimes while out on no-cash bonds.

What is the appropriate role of the court in ensuring that immigration defendants receive equal treatment, fairness and due process under the law?

BRIAN WARREN (D)

One of the overlooked responsibilities of a judge is determining whom to appoint to indigent defendants. I have the pleasure to work with many different lawyers over my 17 years in criminal law and know most the lawyers working in criminal law intimately. My test for appointing attorneys would be simple; I had a loved one charged with a crime I would feel confident in this lawyer’s abilities to represent them. I strongly support appointing lawyers from the PDO’s Office.

The courts should be the standard for impartial justice in our communities. Our judges must strive to counter dangerous stereotypes regarding immigrants and ensure our courts are places of justice for all persons. I believe courts should be staffed with a native Spanish speaker. Not to just ensure that defendants are able to communicate effectively with the court, but to ensure that witnesses, family members, and victims are well informed as to what is happening in court.

Whether or not a person is an immigrant, their sex, race, or national origin should never be a factor in who receives fair and equal treatment under the law. In fact, our Constitution is designed to protect the most vulnerable among us, and it is the responsibility of judges to ensure equal protection and due process under the law for everyone. In the case of immigration defendants, they must be represented by counsel, and understand the impact of a criminal charge on their status in the U.S.

Do you favor a cash bail or a risk-based supervision system to ensure that immigration defendants receive equal treatment, fairness and due process under the law?

FRANK AGUILAR (D)

I appoint private attorneys and the Public Defender’s Office to represent indigent defendants. I select lawyers to cases based on their competence level. The competence of every lawyer seeking appointment is assessed through a process that evaluates their experience in handling criminal cases. This includes how many trials and appeals they have handled and the seriousness of the cases. I also consider their reputation in the community for competence. I don’t appoint incompetent lawyers.

The Code of Criminal Procedure says judges SHALL give priority to the Public Defender’s Office (PDO). My procedure is to follow the FairDefense Act Management System (FDAMS) as strictly as possible, taking into consideration priority given to the PDO, by statute, the ability of attorneys randomly pulled on the FDAMS list and the pending caseload of those attorneys. By following the FDAMS protocol and this criteria, ideally, indigent defendants are provided the best possible representation.

A judge’s job is effectively and efficiently manage the cases assigned to the court. This most certainly, and most importantly, in all situations and for all individuals, includes treating everyone equally and fairly. Our job is to follow the law regardless. If we do that then we are ensuring due process and fairness to everyone.

I preside over a district court hearing only felony cases all the way up to death penalty capital murder cases. For felony cases, there is a place for both cash bail and risk-based supervision. First and foremost, each case and situation is different and should be treated that way. We currently use an objective risk assessment tool called the Public Safety Assessment to help us determine what is appropriate for an individual. I am in favor of using what is best for the individual situation.

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JUDGE – CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

PRESIDES OVER ONE OF THE 22 COURTS IN THIS DIVISION WITH JURISDICTION IN ALL CRIMINAL ACTIONS INVOLVING FELONIES PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT OR DEATH AND IN MISDEMEANOR CASES INVOLVING OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT. 4-YEAR TERM.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

What criteria will you use when making the final decision about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants? Please discuss selecting attorneys from the Public Defender’s Office vs the selection of private attorneys.

CHRIS MORTON (D)

I have a preference for the Public Defender’s Office because I know the quality of work within that office is very high. When we must appoint private attorneys they must have demonstrated the highest ethics and standards within the Criminal Bar. They must also be willing to try to trial and defend their client’s right regardless of whether retained by the client or appointed by the court.

The 14th Amendment requires equal treatment and due process for “any person” in all States’ jurisdictions. Furthermore, there can be no justice without fairness. It is the highest role of a court to ensure such treatment to all persons. This is especially true for our immigrant defendants who face collateral consequences within our criminal justice system much higher than those faced by normal birth citizens.

I favor a risk-based supervision system because the cash bond system used here in Harris County is extremely unfair to accused persons without financial means as well as their families. Once again, there can be no justice without fairness.

What is the appropriate role of the court in ensuring that immigrant defendants receive equal treatment, fairness and due process under the law?

KRISTIN M. GUINEY (R)

For our criminal justice system to properly function, all individuals charged with crimes must have access to competent counsel. All indigent defendants in my court are assigned competent counsel who have an established record of providing a strong defense to those charged with crimes. We assign attorneys from the Public Defender’s Office as well as private attorneys who have met the qualifications adopted by the Board of Criminal Judges.

The law requires fair and equitable treatment for everyone. Immigrant defendants are treated no more leniently nor harshly than anyone else who is charged with a crime who appears in my court. The right to due process under the law is fundamental to our commitment to freedom and fairness for all.

I generally prefer a risk-based supervision system to guarantee a defendant’s appearance in court; however, an indigent defendant would effectively be denied bail if the fees for supervision are too high. A cash bail system is only fair if the bail amount is determined on an individual level, based on the unique financial situation of the accused, precisely calculated to ensure his/her appearance in court, and not so high as to prevent release altogether. Which system to use depends on the case.

Do you favor a cash bail or a risk-based supervision system to guarantee a defendant’s appearance in court? Why?

JOSH HILL (D)

A truly neutral judge should not select the lawyer for one of the parties appearing before the court, just as a referee does not choose which teams play before him/her. Utilizing the Public Defender’s office alleviates this issue to a degree, but there are limits to the number of cases that the Public Defender’s office can accept. Ideally, the ability to select counsel for indigent defendants should be removed from judges altogether absent unique circumstances or conflicts of interest.

Defenders cannot be used, without favor, Judges should appoint private attorneys working down from the top of the current list of counsel who have been pre-qualified, and should not cherry pick attorneys to reward friendships or campaign contributors.

The court’s most important job is to ensure that everyone, including immigrant defendants, receives equal treatment, fairness, and due process under the law. The court must take extra precautions to ensure that immigrant defendants are notified of all potential immigration consequences associated with the case against them. The court must also explain to immigrant defendants the unique additional rights they possess, including the right to have their consulate notified of the pending charges.

Bail reform must use common sense. Someone should not be incarcerated while their case is pending because they lack the ability to pay a cash bond. We currently use a risk screening test and individualized assessment to determine the appropriate bond for every defendant. I have increased the amount of pretrial release (personal recognizance) bonds for low level offenders. I consider all relevant factors such as community safety, threat level of the accused, previous record and flight risk.

KATHERINE CABANISS (R)

Every criminal defendant is entitled to representation by an attorney. Those defendants who are indigent and unable to obtain an attorney will have an attorney appointed to them. I appoint qualified, skilled, and experienced attorneys, chosen from the list of attorneys who have been approved as qualified in my jurisdiction. I appoint attorneys from the PD’s Office as well as private attorneys.

All persons, regardless of immigration status, deserve equal treatment and due process when charged with a crime. As the judge in the 248th District Court, I have state jurisdiction, rather than federal. Immigration laws and their violation are federal matters, and not subject to the jurisdiction of a state district court.

Katherine County courts use a pretrial risk assessment tool when determining bond amounts. Defendants are interviewed and scored at their level of risk. Bond amounts are then set according to factors required by law. Pretrial release bonds are granted when the risk assessment is low and the factors so warrant. Risk-based supervision rather than cash bail is appropriate in certain cases because a defendant who is otherwise low risk should not be detained solely because of an inability to pay.

HILARY UNGER (D)

With taxpayer funding, the Public Defender’s Office employs well qualified lawyers, investigators, mitigation specialists, social workers, and immigration specialists, so Judges should appoint Public Defenders whenever possible. Public Defenders cannot be used, without favor, Judges should appoint private attorneys working down from the top of the current list of counsel who have been pre-qualified, and should not cherry pick attorneys to reward friendships or campaign contributors.

Due process requires judges to admonish all defendants of the importance of obtaining competent legal advice regarding the immigration consequences of any plea. Fundamental fairness compels judges that should decline to accept pleas where defense counsel has not had an opportunity to complete their due diligence in this regard. At the same time, judicial admonishments should not be utilized to elicit information that might be prejudicial in subsequent criminal or immigration proceedings.

Cash bail systems often leave the poor in jail while those with the financial means to post bond are released, whether or not they pose a greater risk to society. A risk-based system would better meet the competing goals of preserving the presumption of innocence, imposing the least restrictive condition on release, protecting the public, and ensuring that people return to court in neutral and fair way. Even so, such a system still would require a firm commitment to equality and consistency.

TAMMY J. THOMAS (D)

Guided by the Fair Defense Act and governing local rules, my criteria will always be to identify the most competent, experienced and effective attorney for the particular type of case pending against the defendant, regardless as to whether the available attorney happens to be an employee of the Public Defender’s Office or a private practice attorney. I recognize that there are very high quality attorneys and also knowledgeable attorneys in both categories.

The appropriate role of the criminal district court to ensure that immigrant defendants receive equal treatment, fairness and due process is to judge them based solely on the facts of the case and to apply the law impartially, not considering illegal status of the immigrant’s presence here or the circumstances by which he came here. These issues are irrelevant to the issues relating to whether state law was violated or not. As a prosecutor, I viewed immigrant victims in the same manner.

Both play useful roles guarantee the defendant’s appearance in court. Bail should never be an instrument of oppression; the poor should not be punished for being poor. If the circumstances of the offense, the defendant’s life circumstances and public safety considerations suggest that he is capable of awaiting trial outside of jail, the court should allow supervised release. But if public safety is in jeopardy and/or there is real evidence of flight risk, a cash bail would be in order.
JUDGE – CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

PRESIDES OVER ONE OF THE 22 COURTS IN THIS DIVISION WITH JURISDICTION IN ALL CRIMINAL ACTIONS INVOLVING FELONIES PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT OR DEATH AND IN MISDEMEANOR CASES INVOLVING OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT. 4-YEAR TERM.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

What criteria will you use when making the final decision about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants? Please discuss selecting attorneys from the Public Defender’s Office vs the selection of private attorneys.

What is the appropriate role of the court in ensuring that indigent defendants receive equal treatment, fairness and due process under the law?

Do you favor a cash bail or a risk-based supervision system to guarantee a defendant’s appearance in court? Why?

LORI CHAMBERS GRAY (D)

There are many well qualified attorney’s also Harris County has an excellent Public Defender’s Office. First, the –Public Defender’s Office is fully staffed. On the other hand due to the volume of cases assigned there may be instances that the Public Defender’s Office may be overloaded. In that instance, a private court appointed attorney may be better able to handle a particular case. All of these factors including experience are factors a judge would have to weigh.

Education: A.A. Lon Morris College B.A. Unive. of North Texas M.A. TSU Juris Doctor South Texas College of Law | Experience: I am the founder and principal attorney of the Law Office of Lori Chambers Gray. I have practiced Criminal law for 29 years | Community: I am volunteer at the Star of Hope have organized clothing & food drives and volunteer guest speaker to students in schools and university’s | Email: lorigraylaw@gmail.com | Website: http://Lorigrayforjudge.com Address: 11500 Northwest Freeway Suite 340 Houston, TX 77091 | Phone: (713) 457-1708

CHARLES JOHNSON (R) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

AMY MARTIN (D)

I will use the randomized appointment "wheel" to ensure that all qualified attorneys have an equal chance of appointment. I will make appointments without regard for friendship or favoritism.

There are many seasoned and talented attorneys both in private practice and in the Public Defender’s Office, and I will use both as resources. My primary consideration in making appointments will always be effectiveness and efficiency.

Education: J.D., University of Texas School of Law, Austin, Texas B.A., Psychology & Sociology, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, High School, St. Agnes Academy | Experience: Licensed 2003, Briefing attorney, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals 2004-2005 | Private practice 2005-present | Qualifed for Death Penalty cases, 2nd & 11th Judicial Regions | Community: Volunteer at Houston Food Bank, Buddhist Global Relief Walk to Feed the Hungry, Wesleyan University Alumni volunteer/interviewer, AMICUS (non-profit) intern host & instructor | Email: amymartinforjudge@gmail.com | Website: http://www.amyamjudge.com | Address: 1321 Upland Dr. Suite 9536 Houston, TX 77043 | Facebook: http://facebook.com/amyamjudget

JUDGE – CIVIL DISTRICT COURT – FAMILY AND JUVENILE

FAMILY – PRESIDES OVER MATTERS RELATING TO FAMILIES AND CHILDREN, LIKE DIVORCE, CHILD CUSTODY, CHILD SUPPORT, VISITATION RIGHTS, PROTECTIVE ORDERS AND THE EMANCIPATION OF MINORS.

JUVENILE – PRESIDES OVER MATTERS INCLUDING CRIMINAL MISCONDUCT, JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND ISSUES OF NEGLECT INVOLVING ADOLESCENTS (UNDER 18 YRS OLD). 4-YEAR TERM.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

What will you do to ensure that all parties involved in cases before the court will have an opportunity to have their interests adequately represented and considered?

What will you do to ensure that cases before your court are heard in a timely manner?

In cases involving immigrant families, especially children and juveniles, what will you do to ensure that federal immigration policies do not interfere with the cases before your court?

ROY L. MOORE (R)

Since March of 2007, the procedures in the 245th Family District Court have always included the fair and equal treatment of attorneys, litigants and witnesses, regardless of race, creed, ethnicity or sexual orientation. All parties are given ample opportunity to have their cases heard in an efficient, timely and professional compassionate manner where the Rule of Law of this great state and these United States are applied.

To continue the efforts that I started in 2007 to promote efficient, timely and a professional courtroom environment for all, including the use of telephone conferences, electronic communication (email), preferential settings, extensive pre-trial conferences for jury trials to name a few. A very important part of the efficiency of the 245th is consistency. The attorneys know what is expected and thus can provide and receive the most effective service and administration of justice.

In the over 11 years that I have been either the Associate Judge or Presiding Judge of the 245th Family District Court, I have not seen an example where "federal immigration policies" would interfere with the cases before me. While issues that involve "federal immigration policies" come before me, it does not interfere, hinder or delay the application of the Rule of Law in Texas or the application of the Texas Family Code.

Education: South Texas College of Law, J.D., Southern Methodist University, B.S. | Experience: District Judge – 245th District Court Associate Judge – 245th District Court Adjunct Professor – South Texas College of Law Moore, L.L.P. Community: Board Certified – Family Law Texas State Bar JAG Corps – Captain Board of Trustees – The Fay School Gulf Coast Family Law Specialists Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists | Email: royamore@att.net | Address: 2525 Virginia Street Houston, TX 77009 | Phone: (713) 851-3597 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/groups/5650385913/theNerdbookmarks

TRISTAN H. LONGINO (D)

I have pledged to accept only 110th the limit for campaign contributions from attorneys practicing in the court to limit influence of money. I will push for county-funded translators to help non-English speakers. I will not seek the endorsement of, or contribute thousands to, discriminatory hate groups; my opponent–and other Republicans–have been endorsed by the Conservative Republicans of Texas, an anti-LGBT hate group per Southern Poverty Law Center.

I would implement staggered hearing times throughout the day to avoid inefficiencies in the docket-call process and to limit the time spent waiting for one’s hearing. After a hearing/trial, I would give renditions immediately, not weeks or months later. I would investigate avenues for use of video conferencing, which would allow more cases to be heard in a day at less expense to the parties involved.

Immigration status should not be reported to authorities by the family courts-doing so deprives non-legals/children of access to courts and turns residency into a weapon to be used by the opposing party. The court should warn legal residents of their rights, including to remain silent, should a line of questioning or a request to their residency. Unauthorized minor cases should be compassionately heard and impartially decided without being politicized.

**FAMILY – PRESIDES OVER MATTERS RELATING TO FAMILIES AND CHILDREN, LIKE DIVORCE, CHILD CUSTODY, CHILD SUPPORT, VISITATION RIGHTS, PROTECTIVE ORDERS AND THE EMANCIPATION OF MINORS.**

**JUVENILE – PRESIDES OVER MATTERS, INCLUDING CRIMINAL MISCONDUCT, JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND ISSUES OF NEGLECT INVOLVING ADOLESCENTS (UNDER 18 YRS OLD). 4-YEAR TERM.**

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

- **What will you do to ensure that all parties involved in cases before the court will have an opportunity to have their interests adequately represented and considered?**
- **What will you do to ensure that cases before your court are heard in a timely manner?**
- **In cases involving immigrant families, especially children and juveniles, what will you do to ensure that federal immigration policies do not interfere with the cases before your court?**

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**CHARLEY PRINE (R)**

I immediately implemented a program to appoint an experienced lawyer to represent a party in all cases the law allows when I first took the bench. I reduced the number of these appointees continually. Every person who chooses to act as their own attorney is given equal time to call witnesses, present exhibits, and present their legal arguments to the judge.

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**ANGELA GRAVES-HARRINGTON (D)**

I understand how intimidating it can be to walk into a courtroom for the first time, especially as a pro se litigant. Litigation can be a very perplexing process. As the judge, I will advise pro se litigants of their options for legal representation. I will also preside over every case in a fair and impartial manner. I will follow the law and will establish a tone of civility and respect for everyone who enters my courtroom, holding myself and my staff to those same standards.

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**JOHN SCHMUDE (R)**

I implemented an Express Docket, which allows parties who require 5 minutes or less of the court's time to have their cases heard before the court's docket. This saves parties time and money, and it increases efficiency by reducing the number of cases heard on the main docket. I also ensure that all requests for a temporary orders hearing (when a TRD has been filed) be set no more than 28 days after filing, which ensures that parties will be heard before expiration of a TRD plus an extension.

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**JANICE BERG (D)**

I will try to accommodate lawyers who may need to appear in several courts on the same day by offering staggered docket calls. At the same time, I will expect all lawyers to be considerate of others’ time by promptly alerting other parties and the court of multiple settings and scheduling issues. I will consider more motions by submission or by conference call so that lawyers can address non-evidentiary issues without needing to appear at the courthouse.

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**MELANIE FLOWERS (R)**

The laws that control family courts are not influenced by federal immigration policies. Family courts, and the cases within, are influenced solely by the Texas Family Code, which is written by the State Legislature. The family courts have no authority over immigration, nor do federal immigration policies have any authority over marriage and child custody laws in Texas. Hence, I will simply follow the law of the court that I serve and not step outside of my authority.

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Education: BA, Columbia University, New York. 2003 JD, University of Houston Law Center, Houston, 2008 | Experience: 2012-Present, Founder, Law Office of Janice L. Berg; 2010-2012, Family Law Associate, Schlanger, Silver, Barg & Paine, LLP | Community: Anti-Defamation League, GLBT Caucus; Burta Rhoads Raborn Family Law Inn of Court; ACLU NAACP, Southern Poverty Law Center; Planned Parenthood | Email: bers@janiceberg4judge.com | Website: http://www.janiceberg4judge.com | Address: 106 Avondale Street, Houston, TX 77006 | Phone: (713) 933-9100 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/janicebergfor247 | Twitter: twitter.com/janiceforjudge/
FAMILY – PRESIDES OVER MATTERS RELATING TO FAMILIES AND CHILDREN, LIKE DIVORCE, CHILD CUSTODY, CHILD SUPPORT, VISITATION RIGHTS, PROTECTIVE ORDERS AND THE EMANCIPATION OF MINORS.

257TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (FAMILY)

308TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (FAMILY)

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

What will you do to ensure that all parties involved in cases before the court will have an opportunity to have their interests adequately represented and considered?

What will you do to ensure that cases before the court are heard in a timely manner?

In cases involving immigrant families, especially children and juveniles, what will you do to ensure that federal immigration policies do not interfere with the cases before your court?

SANDRA PEAKE (D)

Since I have personally experienced discriminatory practices throughout my adult life, I consider myself very sensitive to body language and other non-verbal signals that would suggest hostility to or prejudice towards an individual. I will not tolerate the display of bias or argument intended to deliberately inflame or humiliate those who appear before the court and endeavor to ensure each litigant has an opportunity to be heard without bias so that they can have their day in Court.

Education: B.A., University of Houston J.D., University of Houston College of Law
Experience: Engaged in the full time practice of law with a concentration in the areas of family law, and family related law such as consumer bankruptcy and probate for past 35 years.
Community: Texas Spanish Cypress Chapter Links, Blue Triangle Multi- Cultural, Delta Sigma Theta Public Service Sorority, volunteer and referral attorney for non-profits.
Website: http://sandrapeakecampaign.com | Address: 9660 Hillcroft Suite 435 Houston, TX 77096 | Phone: (713) 723-5082 | Facebook: http://sandrapeakecampaign | Twitter: twitter.com/sandrapeake3

ANGELINA D.A. GOODEN (R)

As a current Judge, I allow every litigant the full opportunity to present and/or defend their case which is an essential element of a fair trial. I do not put time limits on final trials. A list of agencies that provide pro bono representation in Harris County is available for pro se litigants. All litigants can retain his or her own attorney or represent themselves.

The 280th Court hears all family protective orders filed in Harris County. The Texas Family Law Code mandates that all applications for protective orders be set for hearing within 14 days of filing, except those filed by the District Attorney which must be set within 20 days of filing. Because of the exigent nature of these cases, it is imperative that they are timely set and resolved as quickly as possible. As the Judge, I strive to complete all cases on my docket on the day they are set.

Experience: Current Judge of 280th Court. 27-year Family Law Attorney. Served as Special Master, Mediator, Amicus & Ad Litem for the City of Houston, TX. Commissioner, Former Church, Deaconess, Former Church Attorney, Teen Girls Mentor, Former Legal Advisor to Ft. Bend Black Nurses Assoc.
Website: http://glorialopez.com | Address: P. O. Box 34901 Houston, TX 77234

BARBARA J. STALDER (D)

I will have knowledgeable & bilingual staff who will assist litigants & attorneys in obtaining timely dates for hearings within the statutory requirements. I will also give litigants & attorneys sufficient time to put on their case and present their evidence. I will treat every person with respect and listen objectively to the evidence. I will render a ruling solely based on the merits of each case. I will also utilize any and all tools available to make the court safe and efficient.

The 308th Family Court is open and available to litigants everyday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. This court encourages contested cases to be mediated and provides free mediation services through the Harris County Domestic Relations Office. On Enforcement issues, indigent litigants are provided free paid representation. For litigants without attorneys, the court refers them to the Houston Bar Association Help Desk which is located on the 17th floor in the same building as the 308th.

Education: BA history, minor political science University of Houston, JD/University of Houston Law Center | Experience: I am a lawyer and mediator working exclusively in family law with a specialty in DV. Upon graduation from UH Law Center in 2003 I received an E.U.J post grad fellowship where I: (1) Community - Texas Bar mbr, Texas Family Law mbr, HBA member, HBA family law mbr, HBA Juvenile law mbr, Texas Bar Divorce law section mbr, LGTB mbr, Animal law section mbr. TDSR pro bono aty | Email: barbarastaldercampaign@gmail.com | Website: http://barbarastaldere.com | Address: 5205 Broadway #501, Pearland, TX 77581 | Phone: (832) 736-8736 | Facebook: http://barbarastalderejudg3280th | Twitter: twitter.com/stalderejudge

JAMES LOMBARDINO (R)

The 308th Family District Court is open and available to litigants everyday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. This court encourages contested cases to be mediated and provides free mediation services through the Harris County Domestic Relations Office. On Enforcement issues, indigent litigants are provided free paid representation. For litigants without attorneys, the court refers them to the Houston Bar Association Help Desk which is located on the 17th floor in the same building as the 308th.

The 308th Family District Court allows hearings with three business days notice on non-emergency hearings and same day hearings on emergency hearings. Contested trial settings are generally scheduled within six months of filing. Agreed Divorces and Agreed Orders are heard daily from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. If a pro se party lives out of state and is unable to travel to Harris County, and Agreed Orders are heard daily from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. If a party lives out of state and is unable to travel to Harris County, or if the party is in the military, this court will generally allow a party to appear by telephone.

Education: BBA in Economics and Finance from the University of Houston, Main Campus. JD from the South Texas College of Law. | Experience: Assistant District Attorney, Harris County Texas; Partner at Sacramento & Deeg law firm, 1989-1992; Principal, Lombardino & Associates, 1992-2010; District Judge, 2011-present | Community: Founding Father, Crime Stoppers Houston; President, Downtown Exchange Club; President, Ecuadorian-American Chamber of Commerce; Former Board Annunciation Greek Orthodox School | Email: jlm@lombardino4judge.com | Website: http://www.lombardino4judge.com | Address: PO Box 3893 Houston, TX 77253 | Phone: (713) 252-7606 | Facebook: http://jameslombardino | Twitter: twitter.com/jtlombardino

GLORIA LOPEZ (D)

I will appoint ad litems that advocate for the client. I will not use appointments as a method to reward my supporters. I will also consider each person’s testimony and evidence in a fair manner—without bias due to their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or which attorney represents them.

Decluttering the current docket will help cases, before the court, be heard in a timely manner. Providing attorneys and parties the opportunity to schedule a conference call to settle/address non-emergency hearings and same day hearings on emergency hearings. Contested trial settings are generally scheduled within six months of filing. Agreed Divorces and Agreed Orders are heard daily from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. If a party lives out of state and is unable to travel to Harris County, or if the party is in the military, this court will generally allow a party to appear by telephone.

This court hears Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) matters to determine if foreign born children have been abused, abandoned or neglected. On such a finding this court enters a Dependency Order which can be used to petition the federal government for SIJ status. Regarding divorces and custody of children, this court generally does not consider the legal status of the parties or of the children, unless there is a likelihood of international abduction or kidnapping.


LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND | NOVEMBER 6, 2018 VOTERS GUIDE | WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG
FAMILY – PRESIDES OVER MATTERS RELATING TO FAMILIES AND CHILDREN, LIKE DIVORCE, CHILD CUSTODY, CHILD SUPPORT, VISITATION RIGHTS, PROTECTIVE ORDERS AND THE EMANCIPATION OF MINORS.

JUVENILE – PRESIDES OVER MATTERS, INCLUDING CRIMINAL MISCONDUCT, JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND ISSUES OF NEGLECT INVOLVING ADOLESCENTS (UNDER 18 YRS OLD). 4-YEAR TERMS.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

What will you do to ensure that all parties involved in cases before the court will have an opportunity to have their interests adequately represented and considered?

What will you do to ensure that cases before your court are heard in a timely manner?

In cases involving immigrant families, especially children and juveniles, what will you do to ensure that federal immigration policies do not interfere with the cases before your court?

SHERI Y. DEAN (R)

My commitment is to be a prepared, knowledgeable Judge, who consistently follows the law, after listening to the facts and circumstances presented in each case. I will make sure that every person leaves with a sense that, regardless of the outcome, they were treated with kindness and respect during the process. Being known as a Judge who uses discretion carefully and avoids injustice is important to me. I will continue to use judicial constraint while ruling in a decisive and timely manner.

Education: University of Texas - Austin BBA’76; South Texas College of Law JD’82 | Experience: Family Law Firm of Sheri Y. Dean & Associates 1992 -2010; Presiding Judge - 309th Family Court 2010 to Present | Community: Board of Directors Houston Bar Association 2016-2017, Member Texas Bar Foundation | Email: dean4judge@gmail | Website: http://www.deanJudge.com | Address: 12537 Area Blvd #506 Houston, Texas 77058

LINDA MARIE DUNSON (D)

As a judge I must be impartial. However, I will make sure that the litigants respect each other and treat each other in a dignified and courteous manner in the courtroom. One of my duties will be to make sure all parties have a fair opportunity to present their case. I will not allow ex parte communications. I will ask for clarification when needed. I will ensure that all who come before the court are treated fairly, justly and impartially, without being discrimination or prejudice.

Education: B.S. Psychology/Sociology, Juris Doctor, LL.M Tax, U.S. Customs Broker, Basic Mediation Certificate, Advanced Family Law Mediator, State Bar Trial Academy, Texas Lawyers Care | Experience: The ability to read, comprehend and interpret complex laws, 16 years of practice centered on family law matters. I am a mediator with management & psych/sociology background | Community: Houston Bar Association Family Law Section; Member Capital Area Commission on Children’s Rights | Email: Dunson4Judge@gmail | Website: http://dunson4judge.com | Facebook: http://facebook.com/Dunson4Judge | Twitter: twitter.com/Dunson4Judge

LISA A. MILLARD (R)

I have been your Judge for the past 24 years. I have extensive experience in handling complex property and custody cases, as well as CPS cases, adoptions, contempt cases and paternity cases. Being a good judge requires knowledge of the law, the rules of evidence and procedure, an even temperament, patience and empathy. For the last 24 years I have always had a policy of putting children first. I treat everyone that comes before me with dignity, respect and fairness.

I have consistently had the lowest amount of cases pending in the last 24 years (according to the Harris County District Clerk statistics). Many cases can be heard within three months. Mediation is used, so the parties may attempt to resolve their own cases. Due to Hurricane Harvey, many cases have needed continuances in order to resolve their property issues. The 310th always is there when the parties are ready and prepared to have their cases heard. My excellent staff assists as well.

Education: Doctor of Jurisprudence, South Texas College of Law; Bachelor of Science, University of Houston; Spring Woods Senior High School | Experience: I have been your Judge of the 310th Family District Court for the past 24 years. I have experience in handling property and custody cases. I have heard over 25,000 cases. | Community: Houston Bar Association Family Law Section; Harris County Juvenile Board; Board of District Judges incl. Chair, Purchasing Agent Comm; St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church | Email: info@heath4judge.com | Website: http://www.heath4judge.com | Facebook: http://facebook.com/LisaAMillard

SONYA HEATH (D)

I believe it is important to bring about change that assures fairness and equity regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, immigration status, socioeconomic status, and political affiliation. I am going to give everyone the same treatment, and to extent they are a member of a group historically discriminated class, all persons will have an opportunity to be heard.

Education: J.D. at TSU’s Thurgood Marshall School of Law (2019); B.B.A. at University of Houston-Downtown, dual majors in Accounting (2004) and Administrative Management (2005) | Experience: LAW OFFICE OF SONYA HEATH; U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT, CIA ATTORNEY; CRAIG WASHINGTON LAW FIRM; FIRST COURT OF APPEALS, JUDICIAL INTERN; HIRSCH & WESTHEIMER | Community: Rotary Club of University Area Houston; Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, Wine Garden Committee; First Methodist Houston Downtown; Mexican American Bar Association of Houston | Email: info@heath4judge.com | Website: http://www.heath4Judge.com | Address: P O Box 811 Houston, TX 77001 | Phone: (832) 310-4320 | Facebook: http://facebook.com/sonyahheathlaw | Twitter: twitter.com/sonyahheath64

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE ACCESSED ONLINE AT WWW.VOTE411.ORG. YOU SIMPLY ENTER YOUR ADDRESS TO SEE SIDE-BY-SIDE ALL OF THE VOTERS GUIDE RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM CANDIDATES FOR THE RACES THAT WILL APPEAR ON YOUR BALLOT.
FAMILY – PRESIDES OVER MATTERS RELATING TO FAMILIES AND CHILDREN, LIKE DIVORCE, CHILD CUSTODY, CHILD SUPPORT, VISITATION RIGHTS, PROTECTIVE ORDERS AND THE EMANCIPATION OF MINORS.

JUVENILE – PRESIDES OVER MATTERS, INCLUDING CRIMINAL MISCONDUCT, JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND ISSUES OF NEGLECT INVOLVING ADOLESCENTS (UNDER 18 YRS OLD), 4-YEAR TERM.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Alicia Franklin York

What will you do to ensure that all parties involved in cases before the court will have an opportunity to have their interests adequately represented and considered?

I promptly assign matters to my Associate Judge and myself per time estimates. I reduce the number of hearings in my court by allowing parties to reset their first trial setting by Rule 11 Agreement, allow phone conferences on appropriate matters, and allow certain appropriate matters be considered by submission. I preferentially set matters that warrant it such as out of town travel. I offer uncontested dockets every day, twice a day. I am patient and listen to all parties in hearings/trial.

What will you do to ensure that cases before your court are heard in a timely manner?

See the aforementioned response. Additionally, I hear matters involving Child Protective Services at 8:00 a.m. once a week so that those cases are heard timely and so other cases on the docket are heard timely. My Associate Judge and I come to work everyday timely and stay late as necessary to hear cases. I supervise my court coordinator who manages all cases, sending out scheduling orders and trial/dismissal notices so that cases are litigated timely. We dismiss cases not prosecuted timely.

In cases involving immigrant families, especially children and juveniles, what will you do to ensure that federal immigration policies do not interfere with the cases before your court?

I follow the Texas Family Code which is the controlling authority over myself as a Judge in a State District Family Court. I make the findings necessary to address children in State Court rather than making findings the Immigration Court may or may not make. I only consider factors as it correlates to best interest of a child as permitted by state law. I do not legislate from the bench to create new law. I apply state law fairly to all children and families before the Court.

Alicia Franklin York

David Farr

David Farr

Germaine Tanner

Clinton “Chip” Wells

Candace Davis

Did you know that in Texas, employees who don’t have two consecutive hours off during voting hours are entitled to paid time off for voting on Election Day?
**JUDGE - CIVIL DISTRICT COURT – FAMILY AND JUVENILE**

**FAMILY** – PRESIDES OVER MATTERS RELATING TO FAMILIES AND CHILDREN, LIKE DIVORCE, CHILD CUSTODY, CHILD SUPPORT, VISITATION RIGHTS, PROTECTIVE ORDERS AND THE EMANCIPATION OF MINORS.

**JUVENILE** – PRESIDES OVER MATTERS, INCLUDING CRIMINAL MISCONDUCT, JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND ISSUES OF NEGLECT INVOLVING ADOLESCENTS (UNDER 18 YRS OLD). 4-YEAR TERM.

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

What will you do to ensure that all parties involved in cases before the court will have an opportunity to have their interests adequately represented and considered?

What will you do to ensure that cases before your court are heard in a timely manner?

In cases involving immigrant families, especially children and juveniles, what will you do to ensure that federal immigration policies do not interfere with the cases before your court?

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**GLENN DEVLIN (R)**

I always am concerned that each party has an attorney. When needed I appoint counsel.

Education: BA political science university of North Dakota, JD south Texas college of law | Experience: Atty since may 1980, judge since 2010 | Email: Gndevlin4@aol.com | Address: 2703 rosk Houston, Tx 77003

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**NATALIA OAKES (D)**

The court regularly has a Spanish interpreter. The court coordinator can request deaf interpreters and any other foreign language for the parties who appear in the court. The court accommodates parties and families with disabilities. If a person is indigent, that person can get an appointed lawyer to represent his/her interests. A judge is a public servant. Sometimes due process suffers under the guise of docket efficiency. I intend to give every person their due process.

Education: Sophie Newcomb College of Tulane University, B.A. in English Literature with a Teacher’s Certificate. Thurgood Marshall School of Law of TSU, J.D. | Community - 2009-present, Board of Directors of the Crisis Cole Children’s Fund. Participate in Career Day at local middle and elementary schools Hellenic Cultural Center of Southwest | Email: NataliaForJudge@gmail.com | Website: http://www.NataliaForJudge.com | Address: 5173 Woodway Drive, #173 Houston, TX 77057 | Phone: (713) 984-2829

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**JOHN F. PHILLIPS (R) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED**

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**MICHELLE MOORE (D)**

I will give all litigants and attorneys adequate time to present their case. I will listen to the evidence and argument of counsel and decide cases fairly and accordingly to the law. I will inform the litigants he/she may be entitled to a court appointed attorney if they qualify according to the law. I will also inform litigants of volunteer and pro bono legal aid services that may be able to assist them. Lastly, I will maintain a list of qualified court appointed attorneys.

Education: Northbrook High School c/o 1998, Prairie View A&M University, B.S. Criminal Justice 2001, University of Houston Law Center, JD 2006 | Experience: Cameron County District Attorney’s Office, Child Abuse Division, Texas County District Attorney’s Office, Child Abuse Div., Harris County Attorney’s Office, Child Abuse Div. | Community: I have participated in various back to school drives and Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts. I have participated in food banks and I have volunteered at my children’s school. Email: michellemoorefor314@gmail.com | Website: http://www.michellemoorefor314.com | Address: P.O. Box 90492 Houston, TX 77292 | Phone: (832) 379-7979 | Facebook: http://facebook.com/michellefor314 | Twitter: twitter.com/michellefor314

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**MICHAEL “MIKE” SCHNEIDER (R)**

We have always done this. All parties in the 315th State District Court are given an opportunity to have their interests represented and considered. That is the bedrock principle of our system. It starts with running a court efficiently and making sure a diverse pool of attorneys in the court are held to high standards when it comes to their representation, training and education. It means holding the myriad of agencies we deal with accountable and partnering with the community.

Education: B.A., Political Science, Texas A&M University; Visiting student, University of Texas School of Law; J.D. | Experience: Asst. Harris Co. Attorney, 1999-06; Judge, 315th District Court, 2006 to now; Visiting Justice, 1st Court of Appeals, 2016; Adjunct Assoc. Research Scholar, Columbia University | Community: Co-Chair, My Brother’s Keeper; Commissioner, TX Supreme Court, TX Children’s Commission; Chair, Juvenile Law Section, HBA; Chair-Elect, Juvenile Law Section, State Bar of Tx. | Email: info@mikeschneider.org | Website: http://www.mikeschneider.org | Address: P.O. Box 4212 Houston, Tx 77201 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/judgeschneider | Twitter: twitter.com/JudgeSchneider

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**LEAH SHAPIRO (D)**

In the 315th District Court, the first step to ensuring all interests are adequately represented begins with improving the current system of court appointments, including appropriately distributing cases to the Public Defender’s Office. Equal and fair treatment must come in the form of guaranteeing dedicated and qualified counsel for youth and families, including efficient appointments of guardians ad litem to protect the best interest of the child in child welfare matters.

First, I will immediately address cases that have been pending for a significant amount of time without any progress. Handling cases in a timely manner better serves the interest of all involved. I will work with all parties to ensure everyone receives time to properly investigate and negotiate between settings, with a goal to prioritize consistency, predictability, transparency, and efficiency in the provision of due process.

I will treat every child and family, regardless of immigration status, fairly and equally. I will uphold my oath to follow the law, specifically the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, which guarantees due process for everyone inside our country’s borders. And if elected, as a member of the Harris County Juvenile Board I would work proactively to create family visitation policies and protocols that mitigate fears of immigrant parents apprehensive of visiting children in detention.
ED EMMETT (R)
The most important aspect of being county judge is keeping the community safe in my role of Director of Homeland Security/Emergency Management. I will continue making sure Harris County has the best Office of Emergency Management and my office, working with other county officials, have made resilience top priority. The financial health of the nation’s third largest county must be assured so we can continue to improve transportation, criminal justice, mental health, indigent health care, etc.

Education: B.A. (Economics), Rice University M.A. (Public Affairs), University of Texas | Experience: Texas House of Representatives - 4 terms Interstate Commerce Commission President, National Industrial Transportation League The Emmet Company Harris County Judge since 2007 | Community: Houston/Galveston Area Council, Juvenile Board, TXDOT Freight Advisory Council, Urban Counties Policy Chair, Large Urban Counties Vice Chair, CEO Ryan White Planning Council | Email: info@edemmett.com | Website: http://www.edemmett.com | Address: 2726 Bissonnet Suite 240-144 Houston, TX 77005 | Phone: (713) 474-9608 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/edemmett2018 | Twitter: twitter.com/edemmett

LINA HIDALGO (D)
Government accountability: Outreach so everyone knows this position is not a judge, but the executive who helps control the County’s budget. Run a public audit and publish transparent metrics. Share key information like which areas are in a flood zone, whether dams will be released. Flooding. Strengthen and enforce drainage regulations. Rather than waiting for 3 500-year floods and $125 billion in damages, proactively implement solutions like coastal barrier to protect from the next Hurricane.

Education: B.A. Political Science, Stanford University. Pursuing joint graduate degrees in Law (NYU) and Public Policy (Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government). | Experience: Admin human rights projects for nonprofit Internex; Network; Spanish-English interpreter, Texas Medical Center; researcher, Harvard Program on Criminal Justice. | Community: Volunteer with Texas Civil Rights Project and Migrants Rights Collective locally and Urban Justice Center, Orleans Public Defenders, and Jails Action Coalition nationally. | Email: admin@linahidalgo.com | Website: http://www.linahidalgo.com | Address: PO Box 85392 Houston, TX 77028 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/Lina4HC | Twitter: twitter.com/Lina4HC

ERIC GATLIN (L) | UNABLE TO CONTACT

CLYDE RAYMOND LEUCHTAG (R)
I will continue my past record of vigorously guarding the due process rights of litigants and of allowing all parties to be heard and have their day in court, including self-represented parties (pro se) who do not have an attorney. We will again provide resource guides and helpful forms for litigants and their attorneys. I will also continue to research and understand the law to ensure that justice is done in each case regardless of who has more resources to hire a high-powered attorney.

I will continue where I left off -- making continuous improvements to court operations, including * more customer friendly procedures and rules, * multiple hearing dockets each day in order to reduce waiting time, * more efficient and less costly procedures to save litigant and tax-payer money, * creation of new template forms to assist litigants reach agreement before trial, and * continually soliciting online feedback from attorneys and litigants on ways to improve procedures and forms.

Education: South Texas College of Law, J.D., magna cum laude (top 5%), May 1990. Rice University, B.A., Managerial Studies and Organizational Psychology, May 1985 | Experience: Former Judge of County Civil Court #1; Civil Adjudications Officer - Houston Municipal Courts; Asst Harris Co Attorney; Attorney, Shell Oil Company; Associate, Baker Botts LL | Community: Volunteer Police Officer Pos 6; Board, Generation One; CSP Advisory Team, Loving Houston; Founding Member, This One Generation Partnership; Mock Trial and Mock Court Volunteer | Email: Judge@CllyLeuchtag.com | Website: http://www.JudgeClyde.com | Address: PO Box 360 Houston, TX 77001 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ClydeLeuchtag

GEORGE BARNSTONE (D)
As judge of Harris County Civil Court at Law No. 1, I am setting up a program with South Texas College of Law to provide free representation to pro se litigants in this court.

All cases are set for trial within six months of their being assigned to the court.

As the judge of Harris County Civil Court at Law No. 1, I have received campaign contributions from attorneys who appear before me. I have not ruled in favor of roughly 2/3rds of the cases brought by lawyers who have contributed to my campaign.
ERIN SWANSON (R)

People come to court at their toughest times in life and deserve to be respected and treated fairly, no matter their race, gender, religion, or background. I will be fair and follow the law. I believe everyone deserves their day in court. The justice system is complex and overwhelming to many. I will be extra patient and give clear explanations to people representing themselves. I will give out info on pro-bono legal groups that provide free or discounted legal representation.

JIM F. KOVACH (D)

My goal is to make the Court available to people who cannot take off work and spend a whole morning driving downtown for minor proceedings that could be handled more efficiently. I have practiced in the courts at Law for 26 years. Having handled hundreds of cases in this Court I am familiar with the problems that prevent parties from having full access. We can improve access to the Courts and make them efficient and user friendly by using current technology like Skype and Facetime.

LINDA STOREY (R)

Each side has an equal amount of time to represent their claims and defenses before the court, whether or not they are represented by an attorney, I always make sure that an unrepresented, pro se, party has time to fully explain their case.

JUDGE • COUNTY CIVIL COURT

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND | NOVEMBER 6, 2018 VOTERS GUIDE | WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG
MUNICIPAL AND JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS MAY BE APPEALED TO COUNTY CRIMINAL COURTS AT LAW. 4-YEAR TERM.

EXCLUSIVE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION OVER MISDEMEANORS WHERE THE FINE ALLOWED EXCEEDS $500 OR CONFINEMENT IN THE COUNTY JAIL DOES NOT EXCEED ONE YEAR. DECISIONS FROM THE COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT AT LAW NO. 01

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

What criteria will you use when making the final decision about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants? Please discuss selecting attorneys from the Public Defender’s Office vs. the selection of private attorneys.

PAULA GOODHART (R)
In Harris County, we are required to comply with the Texas Fair Defense Act and only permit attorneys who have met rigorous standards to represent the indigent. Every lawyer qualified to represent indigent clients must have demonstrated experience in criminal matters then pass a rigorous test. If an attorney wishes to represent Spanish speaking indigent clients they must take and pass a Spanish proficiency test. The PDs office specializes in misdemeanor matters involving mentally ill clients.

What is the appropriate role of the court in ensuring that immigrant defendants receive equal treatment, fairness and due process under the law?

The appropriate role of every judge is to ensure due process for every and each accused individual who appears before the court, regardless of their citizenship status. Due Process is fundamental to the fair administration of justice and should never be compromised. I ensure that anyone who appears in court who does not speak English is entitled to a certified interpreter to ensure they fully understand the proceedings. Spanish speaking indigent defendants receive Spanish speaking counsel.

Do you favor a cash bail or a risk-based supervision system to guarantee a defendant’s appearance in court? Why?

Bail should never be an instrument of oppression. Texas law allows for cash, surety and personal bail. I took an oath and follow Texas law and make individualized bail decisions to ensure a person appears and does not commit new crimes. Factors to consider are a person’s ability to pay, the circumstances of the case and public safety to name a few. Sometimes a sufficient surety is release on a personal bond with supervision and other times the sufficient surety results in payments of court.

ALEX SALGADO (D)
I support increased funding to the Public Defender’s Office and believe that a Judge should appoint counsel to those who express the need and cannot afford an attorney on their own. Judges should evaluate the Public Defender’s office, and defense attorneys, to find out if they are zealously representing their clients, and thus make the decision on who should be utilized as court appointed attorneys. Judges should ensure proper legal representation is afforded to all who come before the court.

As a descendant of immigrants and a supporter of immigration rights, to take advantage of a person only because they are “undocumented” is not fair and I believe unethical. All people who come before the court should be treated with respect, dignity, and given due process under the law just as any other person. There is no room for treating undocumented immigrants unfairly in the criminal justice system and the Court should treat all people before them equally.

BILL HARMON (R)
I generally give defendants 30 days to try to hire a lawyer and if they have been unable to hire one in that time frame, then I will appoint a lawyer to represent them. I use private attorneys who have much more experience than the lawyers in the PDS office and the PDs in misdemeanor courts can only handle mental health cases.

Immigration status should not be taken into consideration period in the assessment of punishment

Pre-trial release conditions are supposed to ensure that a defendant comes to court and are meant to protect against defendants deemed to be a risk to public safety. Because a cash bail system can penalize low risk defendants and risk-based supervision for violent crimes is structured as a safeguard for victims and the community, input from the prosecutor and defense attorney are important. A judge’s favored approach should be judiciously determined on a case-by-case basis, weighing all factors.

RONNISHA BOWMAN (D)
All clients are entitled to zealous representation; therefore, when assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants the criteria is competent advocacy as if the client had paid the highest fee. The lawyers assigned cases must work diligently to ensure the client’s interest and constitutional rights are being protected at all times. The public defenders office is an extensive law group that includes pretrial, trial, and appellate attorneys. Private attorneys are responsible for all the work.

The appropriate role of the court is to always follow the local, state and federal laws. Federal law prohibits discrimination of immigrants based on national origin which means defendants should not be treated differently because of their ancestry, accent, birthplace, culture, customs, language or name. In the performance of their duties, judges are obligated to ensure that all defendants receive equal treatment, fairness and due process under the law regardless of their national origin.

NATALIE C. FLEMING (R)
If an individual meets the indigence standard, they are appointed qualified attorneys to represent them. Often, regardless of indigence, when appropriate and depending on the individual’s personal circumstances, I appoint attorneys in the interest of justice. The County operates under a hybrid appointment system. Defendants with mental health issues and on certain appeals, are appointed attorneys from the Public Defender’s Office. Qualified private attorneys are appointed to indigent defendants.

Pre-trial release conditions are supposed to ensure that a defendant comes to court and are meant to protect against defendants deemed to be a risk to public safety. Because a cash bail system can penalize low risk defendants and risk-based supervision for violent crimes is structured as a safeguard for victims and the community, input from the prosecutor and defense attorney are important. A judge’s favored approach should be judiciously determined on a case-by-case basis, weighing all factors.

Every judge takes an oath to follow the law. All individuals, including immigrants are entitled to the same protections under the law. In my court every individual receives equal treatment, fairness and due process under the law. Certified Spanish speaking attorneys are appointed to indigent defendants with Spanish as their primary language to ensure that they have a full understanding of the proceedings before them.

Pre-trial release conditions are supposed to ensure that a defendant comes to court and are meant to protect against defendants deemed to be a risk to public safety. Because a cash bail system can penalize low risk defendants and risk-based supervision for violent crimes is structured as a safeguard for victims and the community, input from the prosecutor and defense attorney are important. A judge’s favored approach should be judiciously determined on a case-by-case basis, weighing all factors.

I favor, and the law provides for a combined system of pretrial release. I believe that the current combined system promotes attendance in court because these released on bail and those who are low risk and are released on personal bail, have a higher rate of appearing in court. Further, I believe that a pretrial release system that is risk-based also promotes public safety. The law requires that I consider many factors in determining appropriateness of pretrial release and I follow the law.
**JUDGE, COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT**

**EXCLUSIVE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION OVER MISDEMEANORS WHERE THE FINE ALLOWED EXCEEDS $500 OR CONFINEMENT IN THE COUNTY JAIL DOES NOT EXCEED ONE YEAR. DECISIONS FROM THE MUNICIPAL AND JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS MAY BE APPEALED TO COUNTY CRIMINAL COURTS AT LAW. 4-YEAR TERM.**

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

**What criteria will you use when making the final decision about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants? Please discuss selecting attorneys from the Public Defender’s Office vs. the selection of private attorneys.**

**What is the appropriate role of the court in ensuring that immigrant defendants receive equal treatment, fairness and due process under the law?**

**Do you favor a cash bail or a risk-based supervision system to guarantee a defendant’s appearance in court? Why?**

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**ERICA HUGHES (D)**

I will look at experience, case load, and frequency of attorney assignments. Legal services from an attorney can be expensive. When an individual cannot afford an attorney, one should be appointed using staff attorneys from the public defenders office and appointments to attorneys in private practice. The selection process to appoint an attorney should be unbiased and not decided based upon who has donated to the Presiding Judges campaign.

Education: Prairie View A&M University- Bachelor of Science Electrical Engineering, Thurgood Marshall School of Law- Juris Doctor of Law | Experience: Solo Practitioner- The Hughes firm PLLC, Adjunct Faculty Paralegal Program- San Jacinto College, Judge Advocate General- U.S. Army | Community: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Higher Dimension Church, Paralegal Gator Club, | Email: ehughes@gmail.com | Website: http://ericahughesjudge.com | Address: 3007 Caroline St. Houston, TX 77002 | Facebook: http://HughesFoljuge Twitter: twitter.com/hughes4Judge

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**JOHN CLINTON (R)**

The Local Rules, which govern my court and all county criminal courts, require the Public Defender’s Office be assigned to represent all defendants who suffer from mental health problems. The Rules require private attorneys be assigned to represent all other indigent defendants. Attorneys who represent indigent clients must meet certain criteria, plus they must pass an exam, and be approved. A computer program randomly selects available attorneys and presents a list to the Judges needing them.

Education: Criminal Justice Degree at University of Houston. Law Degree at Thurgood Marshall School of Law | Experience: 30 years as a Sergeant in the Houston Police Department/ 23 years as a licensed Attorney / 8 years as the Presiding Judge of Harris County Criminal Court 1A. | Community: Member of the Domestic Violence Policy Committee/ Work With MADD with the High Schools-Shattered Dreams programs/ Judge for the no refusal weekends/ Mentor all the Law Schools | Email: johnwclintonjr@sbcglobal.net | Website: http://JohnClintonForJudge.com | Address: 5915 Inway Dr. Spring, TX 77389 | Phone: (713) 755-6192 | Facebook: http://John W Clinton

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**SHANNON BALDWIN (D)**

I will appoint attorneys from the “wheel”, The “wheel”(computer selection) randomly selects attorneys from a pool of qualified attorneys who have passed the appointment exam. Overall, any attorney assigned in my court - public defender or private - will be qualified, professional, able, energetic and a zealous advocate for their client. I will demand no less. The law demands no less.

The judge is the gatekeeper for following the law and protecting rights. Immigrant defendants deserve competent representation in court. I would support assigning competent attorneys to courts to advise immigrants on their immigration consequences. I would like to partner with the Public Defender’s office to appoint said immigration attorneys. This would ensure that we are following the law as to the rights of immigrants.

I don’t favor either as I am required to follow the current law. At present we have a cash bail system that favors the rich over the poor. I will follow the law and make sure that bail bonds are not punitive and that poor people are not forced to stay in jail or take plea bargaining because they can’t afford a bond. The ability to pay a cash bond will not make Harris County safer nor ensure a defendant returns to court. Again, I will follow the law in assessing bonds strictly.

Education: BS Law Enforcement & Police Science JD John Marshall Law School | Experience: Over 22 years as a trial lawyer in Criminal Law. Jury trials from Capital Murder down to the lowest class C misdemeanor. Currently a defense attorney and former prosecutor. | Community: Former Officer US Army Reserves; Member Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; Volunteer Attorney to Seal & Expunge Criminal Records; Voter registration projects; and speaker to students | Email: shannonbaldwin4judge@gmail.com | Website: http://www.shannonbaldwin4judge.com | Address: 2411 Emancipation Ave. Suite 202 Houston, Texas 77004 | Phone: (713) 684-6800 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ShannonBaldwin4Judge | Twitter: twitter.com/baldwin4Judge

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**XAVIER ALFARO (R)**

Such decisions are dictated by local judicial rules. I will follow those rules. Public defenders in Harris County can only be assigned to certain types of cases here. Overall, any attorney assigned in my court - public defender or private - will be qualifed, professional, able, energetic and a zealous advocate for their client. I will demand no less. The law demands no less.

The proper rule is simple. It is the law. Everyone in my court will receive equal and fair treatment and due process no matter their immigration status.

A mix is wise. Risk assessments when combined with judicial discretion can be valuable when dealing with low-level offenders who are good candidates for pretrial release. At the same time, though it should never be used to punish or take advantage of someone’s economic situation, cash bail should be available when dealing with a defendant with a violent record, especially if there is a question of public safety or future appearances before the court.

Education: B.A. Government, University of Texas; J.D. St. Thomas University School of Law. | Experience: Started in brokerage and banking industry, went to work as a prosecutor at the Harris County District Attorney’s Office early in law career. Now in private practice. | Community: Frequent speaker to youth groups on justice system, heavily involved in church and charity work with his wife, Angie. | Email: info@xavieralfaroforjudge.com | Website: http://xavierforjudge.com | Address: 4101 Washington Avenue Houston, TX 77007 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/xavieralfaroforjudge

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**DAVID M. FLEISCHER (D)**

David will focus heavily on the competence of the lawyer to provide effective representation as well as the total caseload of the attorneys. For example, clients with potential immigration issues must have a lawyer with some immigration knowledge. Next, whether it is a private or PDO attorney, if they are overloaded with cases, their representation will suffer.

David’s role will be that of gatekeeper to ensure everyone is treated equally and fairly. It is important that undocumented persons understand that decisions made in haste, can have long-term impact that can affect their immigration status. Undocumented persons should not be excluded from programs aimed at education and rehabilitation due to their status. Utilization of these programs can help close the revolving door of criminal justice and allow one to become a productive member of society.

We must strive to ensure that justice is sought and provided to everyone, equally, without regard to status, economic position, color, gender or orientation. Cash bail systems are discriminatory because indigent defendants cannot afford bail to be released. The current system encourages defendants to plead guilty; even if pleading to a crime they did not commit, just to get out of jail. This can lead to a criminal record and cause one to become unemployable. This needs to be reformed.

Education: David Fleischer received a B.S from University of Houston and received his J.D. from Western Michigan Cooley Law School. | Experience: David has been practicing for almost 14 years and has represented thousands charged with felonies or misdemeanors. He is fluent in Spanish and represents many minorities. | Community: Actively involved in many organizations; is a member of League of Women Voters, Association of Women Attorneys, Volunteers for 6 years for State Bar Tex Grievance Committee. Email: fleischology@hotmail.com | Website: http://www.fleischerforjudge.com | Address: 5314 Braeburn Dr Bellaire, TX 77401 | Phone: (713) 828-2033 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/davidfleischercountycriminalcourt | Twitter: twitter.com/fleischology
MUNICIPAL AND JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS MAY BE APPEALED TO COUNTY CRIMINAL COURTS AT LAW. 4-YEAR TERM.

EXCLUSIVE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION OVER MISDEMEANORS WHERE THE FINE ALLOWED EXCEEDS $500 OR CONFINEMENT IN THE COUNTY JAIL DOES NOT EXCEED ONE YEAR. DECISIONS FROM THE COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT AT LAW NO. 08 OR 07 CAN BE APPEALED TO THE COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT AT LAW NO. 16.

Candidates:

LINDA GARCIA (R)
As a judge, I used private attorneys and the PD’s office to make sure indigent defendants received excellent representation. The PD’s Office was assigned to certain mentally ill defendants and for appeals. For all other cases, I selected lawyers through the Fair Defense Act Management System, by choosing from a randomly-generated list of attorneys who are certified based on legal experience and passing a qualifying exam. I plan to use this experience to ensure quality indigent defense.

KELLEY ANDREWS (D)
Attorneys appointed to represent indigent clients should be not only qualified, but also willing to put in the work and the time necessary to investigate their clients’ cases, and not have caseloads so taxing that they are unable to provide proper representation. I would select attorneys from both the private sector and the Public Defender’s Office and I would base my selection on each attorney’s reputation with regard to representing those people that are eligible for court appointed attorneys.

PAM DERBYSHIRE (R)
As the Presiding Judge of Harris County Crim. Court No. 7 I follow the law set by the Texas Legislature in Senate Bill 7 (a random method of attorney selection). An indigent defendant is appointed an attorney on their first court appearance in Court No. 7 from a list of certified attorneys. These attorneys must be licensed and experienced. If a defendant has a history of mental illness, an attorney who specializes in mental health cases is appointed from the Harris Co. Public Defender’s Office.

ANDREW A. WRIGHT(D)
The Courts should have a limited role when assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants to reduce the chance of undue influence. Courts should establish criteria for those who want to get on a list and make sure the attorneys are qualified, but have an independent system/administrator actually assign the attorneys.

CANDIDATES:

What criteria will you use when making the final decision about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants? Please discuss selecting attorneys from the Public Defender’s Office vs. the selection of private attorneys.

A judge should ensure that every defendant is provided due process, equal treatment, and fairness by following the law. For immigrant defendants, this may include appointing an attorney who speaks their language or providing an interpreter during court proceedings. The Court must also ensure that an immigrant defendant has been apprised of, and fully understands, the potential immigration consequences from their criminal case.

What is the appropriate role of the court in ensuring that immigrant defendants receive equal treatment, fairness and due process under the law?

I am a believer in equal justice as all judges should be. If I am elected, I will be duty bound to follow the law which, with regard to immigrant defendants, means the 14th Amendment of the Constitution. The 14th Amendment specifically addresses this question with the requirement that no state shall “...deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

Do you favor a cash bail or a risk-based supervision system to guarantee a defendant’s appearance in court? Why?

No one should ever be stuck in jail simply because they cannot afford to pay bail. I favor a risk based system vs. a preset bail schedule system because it best serves the interests of justice especially when we are discussing people charged with low level/non violent crimes. The safety of the community is truly taken into consideration during the risk assessment process, likely even more so then when bail is set pursuant to a predetermined bail schedule.

My “Democrat Socialist of America” supported opponent was fired from the Public Defender’s Office for threatening & harassing a female co-worker and cheating on his time sheets. For this reason, I want to have some control over the quality of attorneys I select for appointed cases. The current system allows private attorneys to represent these cases if they have the experience required, pass an exam selected. There are a lot of qualified attorneys at the PD’s Office.

As a prosecutor, I handled every case the same way. I believe justice is color blind and gender neutral. It does not matter where you come from either. A judge is there as a referee, not to advocate for either side. As a judge, I will apply the law equally and fairly to everyone in my courtroom regardless of the color of their skin, country of origin, religion, gender, or politics. Politics have no place in our courtrooms.

I support judges having the discretion to set bond conditions and determine if a cash bond or PR bond is appropriate for a defendant. Each case needs to be evaluated on the facts presented. For the most part, misdemeanor cases are going to be PR bond but I want to determine the bond conditions to protect the public and victims. My goals are to keep the public and victims safe and to aid in the determination to avoid jailing people for being poor. Each decision will be made on a case-by-case basis to promote public safety and fairness to the defendant.
JUDGE, COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT

EXCLUSIVE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION OVER MISDEMEANORS WHERE THE FINE ALLOWED EXCEEDS $500 OR CONFINEMENT IN THE COUNTY JAIL DOES NOT EXCEED ONE YEAR. DECISIONS FROM THE MUNICIPAL AND JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS MAY BE APPEALED TO COUNTY CRIMINAL COURTS AT LAW. 4-YEAR TERM.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

What criteria will you use when making the final decision about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants? Please discuss selecting attorneys from the Public Defender's Office vs. the selection of private attorneys.

What is the appropriate role of the court in ensuring that immigrant defendants receive equal treatment, fairness and due process under the law?

Do you favor a cash bail or a risk-based supervision system to guarantee a defendant's appearance in court? Why?

FRANKLIN BYNUM (D)

Currently, the Public Defender's Office has a limited role in the misdemeanor courts, handling only mental health appointments. I worked as a mental-health public defender in Court 8. I have seen in the trenches what the statistics confirm: the Public Defender's Office provides better representation and secures better results for their clients. I will work to use the Public Defender's Office in more cases and improve the appointment system by eliminating favoritism and raising stagnant pay.

In the past ten years, federal police have, for the first time, inserted themselves directly into the booking process of our local county jail and the hallways of our courthouses. I was the immigration law specialist at the Public Defender's Office. The courts must adapt pretrial procedures to ensure that immigrants are not unfairly disadvantaged.

I favor a system that follows long-standing constitutional rules making pre-trial release the norm, and pre-trial detention the rare exception. The system promises people are presumed innocent, but then the judges in charge of the system use jail to coerce pleas and have turned our criminal courts into a debt mill. That must stop. I favor a system of reasonable pre-trial conditions and personal bonds.

Education: BA, The University of Texas at Austin, 2003 JD, University of Southern California, 2008 Board Certified in Criminal Law, and also a licensed Texas Peace Officer. | Community: Former board member, Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association | Experience: Criminal defense lawyer in private practice, 2008-2011 | Phone: (713) 528-3479 | Facebook: http://facebook.com/franklinjjudge | Twitter: twitter.com/franklynj

JOHN WAKEFIELD (R)

I believe in a mix of the two. The Public Defender's Office has an excellent roster of attorneys and support staff, including both appellate and immigration specialties. Additionally, our list of approved private attorneys is filled with some of the best criminal defense lawyers in all Texas. I have worked with nearly all of them as an ADA and know that they provide outstanding legal service to our indigent population. I want to utilize the best of both worlds in indigent defense.

Non-citizens often have heightened stakes in their cases due to the risk of immediate deportation upon conviction. No immigrant should plead guilty or go to trial until an immigration attorney or other expert has fully examined and explained the ramifications of a guilty plea. The Judge's duty is to ensure that defendants have been fully informed about their rights and risks and that appropriate counsel and experts have been retained or appointed that will properly vet those concerns.

I do not favor one over the other because cash bail alone does not guarantee appearance, and I am wary of the detention of anyone based solely on a risk-based computer algorithm. For misdemeanors, I believe in a more balanced approach that presumes a Personal Recognizance bond but allows the Judges and Magistrates to raise a cash bond based on heightened risk assessments. Additionally, deference should be given to the elected Judges for setting bond for offenders who re-offend while on bond.

Education: South Texas College of Law, Doctorate of Jurisprudence; Purdue University, Bachelor of Arts; Akin Community College Law Enforcement Academy | Experience: I am currently a Felony Chief Prosecutor and have been an ADA in Harris County for 11 years. I am Board Certified in Criminal Law, and also a licensed Texas Peace Officer. | Community: I am a Board Member and Team Referee for the Sand Creek Swim Team where I am the team rep for the Northwest Aquatic League. I have also volunteered at the Special Olympics. | Email: john@johnjwakefield.com | Website: http://www.johnjwakefield.com | Address: P.O. Box 35208 Houston, TX 77052

TORIA J. FINCH (D)

My criteria will be in accordance with Rule 24 of the Alternative Plan For the Appointment of Counsel to Indigent Defendants Under the Texas Fair Defense Act. I will appoint attorneys from both the private bar and the public defender's office to indigent defendant cases.

The court is the leader in ensuring that immigrant defendants receive equal treatment, fairness, and due process under the law. The court should exercise its appointment powers to ensure that immigrant defendants have access to competent immigration counsel prior to taking a plea. The court should properly and regularly admonish immigrant defendants on the collateral consequences of their plea to ensure that their plea is informed and voluntary, and that they have the same disposition options.

Although I will follow the laws that are currently in place, I am in favor of a risk-based supervision system over a cash bail system for the simple fact that money is not an accurate indicator that a person will either return to court or remain in compliance with their conditions of bond. The cash bail system has the effect of penalizing the lower income community which results in our lower income defendants remaining incarcerated and entering into involuntary plea agreements.

Education: Juris Doctorate; Paralegal Certificate; Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing | Experience: Managing Partner/Criminal Defense Attorney; Former Harris County Assistant District Attorney; Former Travis County Assistant Juvenile Public Defender | Community: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Harris County Democratic Party, Texas Democratic Women, Houston Lawyers Association, Houston Association of Women Attorneys | Email: ToriaJF@att.net | Website: http://www.votetoriachin.com | Address: 2816 South Loop West Suite 420 Houston, TX 77054 | Phone: (832) 834-5927 | Facebook: http://facebook.com/toria Finch | Twitter: twitter.com/toriafinch

DAN SPJUT (R)

I look to the qualifications of the individual attorney, as well as their level of experience in criminal law.

The role of the court is to treat all defendants the same. Everyone that appears in my court is treated with dignity and respect.

There is an appropriate role for both types of release. I believe that no defendant should be kept in jail on a misdemeanor charge simply because they cannot afford bail.

Education: Criminal justice degree - University of Houston downtown South Texas college of law | Experience: Houston police officer 27 years, retired in 2007 as a Lieutenant in the Gang Division Private law practice 2007-2014 Currently Judge, Harris county criminal court #10 | Website: http://DanskjutforJudge

LEE HARPER WILSON (D)

If elected, I would like to eventually have the Harris County Public Defender's Office serve all indigent defendants in Harris County Criminal Court at Law Number Ten. Until then, I would use the "wheel" system to appoint private lawyers to handle court appointed cases. Private lawyers on the "wheel" have been vetted and are qualified to deal with needy defendants.

All persons in court are entitled to same rights as native born or naturalized United States Citizens. If elected, there would be no difference in bond decisions, community supervision (probation) conditions or punishment.

I strongly favor a risk-based supervision system in guaranteeing a defendant’s appearance in court. Currently, Harris County Criminal Court Number Ten is a willing defendant in the pending federal lawsuit altering the unfair “wealth based” cash bail system. If elected, on my first day in office, I would voluntarily remove the Court as a defendant. The Harris County District Attorney's Office and the Harris County Sheriff’s Department have likewise removed themselves as willing defendants.


TAKE METRO TO THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY—RIDE FREE!
METRO is providing free rides to the polls on Saturday, October 27 for Early Voting and on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6, 2018. Get information by going to www.ridemetro.org or calling 713-635-4000.
Questions to Candidates:

What criteria will you use when making the final decision about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants? Please discuss selecting attorneys from the Public Defender's Office vs. the selection of private attorneys.

What is the appropriate role of the court in ensuring that immigrant defendants receive equal treatment, fairness and due process under the law?

Do you favor a cash bail or a risk-based supervision system to guarantee a defendant's appearance in court? Why?

Aaron Burdette (R)

I will ensure that each attorney is qualified and meets the requirements set forth by the Texas Fair Defense Act. The Public Defender's Office does not normally represent indigent defendants charged with misdemeanors, unless there are mental health issues present. Therefore, if mental health issues are present, I will appoint an attorney with specialization and training in handling mental health cases, or use the Public Defender's Office, depending on availability.

Sedrick T. Walker II (D)

I would randomly and impartially make selections from the county's list of attorneys qualified to accept court appointments. Due to the county's large caseload, I would continue to use a blend of appointing private attorneys and the public defender's office (especially for defendants with mental health issues). The public defender's office is a great asset to the community, but it simply does not have enough attorneys to take on every indigent case in the county at the moment.

John Spjut (R)

I will follow state law and current practice. In misdemeanor courts, judges utilize a neutral, random assignment system pursuant to state law. To be placed on the list for assignment, attorneys must meet specific requirements: demonstrate proficiency in criminal law, have considerable trial experience and years of legal experience. Judges review applications and may remove attorneys who do not maintain compliance. PD's attorneys must meet specific requirements: demonstrate knowledge and skills necessary to represent clients, maintain a law office with a concentration in Criminal, Juvenile and Immigration law. They should have a good record of attendance and participation in court proceedings, and the ability to represent clients effectively.

Cassandra Hollemon (D)

The attorney's temperament, diligence in working cases, regularity in communicating with clients, and experience in the particular type of case the indigent defendant is charged with will play an important role in my decision as it relates to appointing an attorney. The selection of attorneys from the Public Defender's Office and private attorneys will depend heavily upon the type of case and resources needed for the indigent defendant to receive fair and equal representation.

Jessica Padilla (R)

My primary criteria in assigning attorneys to indigent clients would be to insure experienced, hardworking, ethical attorneys are appointed. In the misdemeanor courts the Public Defender's Office handles cases involving mental health issues. Private attorneys, who meet the qualifications and standards of the Fair Defense Act and who have passed testing, are appointed to handle the majority of the indigent cases. Further, before appointing an attorney I would check their caseload.

The appropriate role of the court is to treat all defendants the same, regardless of race, gender, religion, national origin, or age. I will ensure that all defendants who appear in court receive fair treatment and due process.

I support the use of PR bonds, a risk-based assessment, and the use of the Pretrial Services Department for defendants who are charged with non-violent misdemeanor offenses, pose no risk of committing new crimes while on bond, and will appear in court. The function of bail is to ensure that an accused person will appear in court, and the future safety of the victim and community is to be considered. A risk based assessment addresses these concerns more than a standardized cash bail schedule.
JUDGE, COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT

EXCLUSIVE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION OVER MISDEMEANORS WHERE THE FINE ALLOWED EXCEEDS $500 OR CONFINEMENT IN THE COUNTY JAIL DOES NOT EXCEED ONE YEAR. DECISIONS FROM THE MUNICIPAL AND JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS MAY BE APPEALED TO COUNTY CRIMINAL COURTS AT LAW. 4-YEAR TERM.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

What criteria will you use when making the final decision about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants? Please discuss selecting attorneys from the Public Defender’s Office vs. the selection of private attorneys.

What is the appropriate role of the court in ensuring that immigrant defendants receive equal treatment, fairness and due process under the law?

Do you favor a cash bail or a risk-based supervision system to guarantee a defendant’s appearance in court? Why?

RAUL RODRIGUEZ (D)

The overall criteria should be based on a combination of education and experience. While the Public Defender’s Office’s involvement at the Courts at Law level is mostly limited to mental health situations, their attorneys are vetted upon employment and trained to competently handle the cases assigned to them. When assigning private attorneys, a judge should adhere to a selection process designed to ensure that qualified attorneys are randomly chosen without any type of favoritism or bias.

Education: South Texas College of Law-Houston, Doctor of Jurisprudence, 1991 | University of Houston, Bachelor of Business Administration, 1982 | John H. Reagan High School | Experience: Municipal Court Judge (12 yrs); Presiding over arraignment/trial docket | Address: 8000 Longpoint Rd. #55602 Houston, TX 77055 | Phone: (832) 538-0380

MIKE FIELDS (R)

I currently use the Harris County random attorney assignment plan. I favor using either a separate and independent court appointment manager system or the Public Defender’s Office. Judges should play no role in appointing lawyers.

A judge should take an active role in ensuring that all who come before the court are treated equally under the U.S. Constitution, Texas Constitution and laws of the State of Texas.

I favor a risk based supervision system. All persons should be treated fairly, with respect to bond, irrespective of wealth. A risk based system provides that fairness. Two persons with the same criminal history, charged with the same crime should not be treated differently because one can afford money bail and the other cannot.

Education: Texas A&M University, Bachelor of Arts, 1977 | Rice University, Master of Arts, 1979 | Experience: Associate District Attorney (20 years); Presiding over arraignment/trial docket | Address: 8011 South Loop E, Houston, TX 77087

DAVID L. SINGER (D)

I favor a fully funded and independent Public Defenders Office. I feel this is the best way to maintain a high standard for indigent defense. I also believe it is the duty of every judge to make sure every lawyer who takes on indigent defense be competent, and render effective assistance of counsel.

Race and ethnicity should play no role in deciding cases. The Court must ensure that cases are resolved with only the facts and the law being considered. A judge is also in a unique position to assure that the rights of everyone that come before the Court are protected. This would be my focus in every case, and for every defendant.

I favor a hybrid system where those that can afford a cash bond pay their bond and other indigent and poor defendants charged with misdemeanors can get released without paying bail. I think changing the system to a “risk-based supervision system” in all cases is a bad idea. Those that can pay should bear the burden of the administrative cost of their release and guarantee of their performance in Court. And poor people shouldn’t have additional or unnecessary burdens placed on their release.


ROGER BRIDGWATER (R)

I would apply the Rules of Court (ROC) established by Harris County Criminal Courts at Law to determine if a defendant is indigent & entitled to legal representation provided by tax payers of Harris County. If a Defendant is found indigent, I would assure the attorney meets ROC standards of qualification & appoint either attorneys from the Public Defender’s Office or Private Attorneys under the Fair Defense Management Act to provide high quality legal representation to every indigent person.

As Judge, I would assure a non-citizen defendant would have advice from counsel about the potential negative immigration consequences resulting from their being convicted of a criminal offense. Additionally, if they are found indigent, they receive an appointed attorney who meets ROC standards of qualification either from the Public Defender’s Office or a Private Attorney under the Fair Defense Management Act to provide high quality legal representation.

Since 2017 the Harris County ROC Bail Schedule has utilized the Arnold Foundation Public Safety Assessment. This tool utilizes 29 categories. For 7, bail ranges $500 to $2K. If an arrestee in one of categories can’t pay for bond, they are entitled to free bond. However, if range is higher, they must be provided a hearing to see if their inability to pay justifies a reduction but there is no “fundamental due process right to be free from any form of wealth-based detention”. I favor the hybrid.

Education: University of South Florida B.A. Political Science (1980), South Texas College of Law-Houston, Doctor of Jurisprudence, 1991 | University of Houston, Bachelor of Business Administration (1982-1984) Assistant District Attorney, Harris County D.A.’s Office (1984-1996) | Address: 7841 Katy Freeway, #133 Houston, TX 77024 | Phone: (713) 504-7591 | Website: http://rogerbridwater.com

TONY JONES (D)

I believe it would be important to identify the needs of the accused (mental health/substance abuse issues) so that a decision can be made about which path provides the greater access to resources. The public defender’s office has access to resources that most private attorneys could only hope for. It will be beneficial to do a cost-benefit analysis to determine the most effective use of county funds for indigent defense while ensuring that those accused have quality representation.

The appropriate role of ensuring that immigrants receive fair and impartial due process is to ensure that all individuals who could be affected are provided with the resources to make informed decisions about their cases. I would like for attorneys with specialized knowledge and certification in immigration law to provide a consultation to advise of potential consequences.

I think that a risk-based assessment is a more holistic evaluation tool. There is no evidence that substantiates the premise that a cash bail system is a more effective way of ensuring an individual’s appearance in court or protecting society. A person charged with murder(if they can post bail) will be released while a low-level, non-violent offender is given an excessive bond, remains in custody and loses his/her job. Penalizing poor people does not make our communities any safer, PERIOD.
Trustee Courts 3 and 4 also have jurisdiction over involuntary commitments to mental health institutions and forced medications.

Guardians and Appointment of a Guardian), and issues involving trusts. Probate Courts have jurisdiction over lawsuits by or against Executors, Administrators, Guardians, and Trustees. Courts 3 and 4 also have jurisdiction over involuntary commitments to mental health institutions and forced medications.

Questions To Candidates:

What skills do you possess that make you especially well-qualified to serve as a Probate Court Judge?

What will you do to ensure that the interests of all parties in the cases before the court are addressed and protected?

What will you do to assist guardianship applicants as they navigate newly enacted requirements, e.g. completion of a guardianship course? How will you implement these new requirements in emergency guardianship cases?

Loyd Wright (R)

As an attorney with over 27 years experience in probate, trust, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, I have developed a reputation for handling the matters entrusted to me with diligence and integrity. I often represented executors, administrators, trustees, guardians, and beneficiaries in complex probate proceedings, and recovered millions of dollars in assets lost through fraud. The experience I garnered over the last 35 years has served me well in my more than 7 years as Probate Judge.

We are sending a letter to applicant’s attorney explaining the steps to achieve registration and assist the attorney/applicant in navigating the JBCC website. Upon receipt of information from the JBCC, the court is creating audits as a checklist to know if case is ready for hearing. If applicant does not understand English, training is made available in applicant’s language. In emergency cases, training is temporarily waived but the criminal background check remains. We constantly contact JBCC.

Jerrry Simoneaux (D)

I have protected families in probate matters for over 17 years in trial courts, courts of appeals and the Texas Supreme Court. I am a former probate court staff attorney, a current associate municipal court judge and a full-time managing partner in a probate law firm. I have published articles and taught continuing education courses on probate and guardianship matters for many years. I have a plan for making the court run more efficiently and protecting the most vulnerable among us.

As a staff attorney, I created a free program for newly appointed guardians to help them understand their new duties. The new guardian certification law is challenging especially those whose first language may not be English. Attorneys who represent guardianship applicants should be able to help with the new requirements. I would like to restart the new guardian orientation program because it is helpful to be able to ask questions and a side-benefit is connecting with other new guardians.

Ray Black (R)

Twenty-five (25) years handling complex probate, trust, guardianship, and fiduciary law issues. Certified as an ad litem as well as a mediator. Regularly appointed as attorney ad litem, guardian ad litem, and guardian, and administrator. Experience representing individual beneficiaries, fiduciaries (including several trust companies), and probate litigants. Handled contested matters, including trials to both juries and judges. Regular author/speaker at probate CLE seminars.

Preparation is key to effective decision-making. In advance of hearings or trials, I will review the filings and relevant law on matters that come before me. I will actively participate and engage counsel in discussions geared toward addressing and solving the problems brought to my attention. I will give each party ample time to present his/her/its arguments, and will be fair and courteous to all. In the end, I will rule based on the law and the facts as they are presented to me.

Because the newly enacted requirements were rolled out state-wide, a severe backlog of applications and registrations have overwhelmed the system. Therefore, the agency overseeing the new requirements has prioritized new applicants for guardianship who must complete training before existing guardians who are only required to register. The resulting delays require that I be patient and creative when it comes to helping those with true emergencies cases.

Michael Newman (D)

I am knowledgeable in probate, guardianship, and trust related litigation and estate administration. I have been licensed since 1980 and I have represented hundreds of clients in all types of fiduciary, guardianship, probate, and trust related cases. I have tried cases in all four Texas County Statutory Probate Courts. I am knowledgeable in substantive probate issues, trial procedure and evidence. The issues I would be ruling on if elected are the precise issues I have been handling.

I will apply my extensive knowledge and experience to all cases before the court to ensure fair and accurate rulings. I will be prepared and pay attention. I will treat everyone fairly and with respect. I will be impartial and not play favorites or prejudices matters. I will be patient, compassionate, and follow the law. I will not discriminate based upon race, sexual orientation, economic circumstances, gender, ethnicity or religion. I will make timely rulings based upon case facts.

I would implement and offer regular CLE seminars to assist guardianship applicants and their lawyers regarding newly enacted requirements. With regard to implementation of requirements in emergency guardianship cases, I would review and decide on a case by case basis to ensure compliance.
JUDGES • COUNTY PROBATE COURT

JURISDICTION OVER DECEdent’S ESTATES (PROBATING WILLS, DETERMINING HEIR-SHIP, APPOINTING EXECUTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS), GUARDIANSHIPS (INCLUDING DETERMINING THE NEED FOR A GUARDIAN AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN), AND ISSUES INVOLVING TRUSTS. PROBATE COURTS HAVE JURISDICTION OVER LAWSUITS BY OR AGAINST EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, GUARDIANS AND TRUSTEES. COURTS 3 AND 4 ALSO HAVE JURISDICTION OVER INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS TO MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTIONS AND FORCED MEDICATIONS.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

What skills do you possess that make you especially well-qualified to serve as a Probate Court Judge?

RORY ROBERT OLSEN (R)

Twenty plus years experience as a lawyer and two decades as a probate judge.

JASON COX (D)

I have substantial probate experience, with clients ranging from large financial institutions to indigent individuals. In my practice, I emphasize finding solutions over engaging in legal combat for the purpose of combat alone. This approach requires the ability to look at an issue from many angles and to set aside your own biases - qualities that are essential in a judge. My longtime volunteer work also demonstrates my compassion and desire to help those going through difficult times.

What will you do to ensure that the interests of all parties in the cases before the court are addressed and protected?

Everyone who enters a Texas courtroom deserves to be treated fairly, and with courtesy and respect; probate courts in particular require a judge with an enthusiasm for public service. This Court has an excellent staff with whom I will work to ensure that any party who appears in this Court can expect impartial treatment, efficient use of their and their attorney’s time; and a Court that’s reviewed their case and is prepared to work with them to move it toward a resolution.

What will you do to assist guardianship applicants as they navigate newly enacted requirements, e.g., completion of a guardianship course? How will you implement these new requirements in emergency guardianship cases?

My court has procedures in place to assist the applicants. These procedures are administered by my well-trained and highly competent staff. The law provides for temporary guardianships that can be heard quickly in emergency situations. We will hear these cases as are provided for by law.

CHRISTINE RIDDLE BUTTS (R)

Serving clients in a private practice enabled me to learn a great deal about probate, guardianship, and mental health matters. More importantly, private practice has given me a balanced view into how the loss or incapacity of a loved one impacts families. Interacting with everyday heroes, or those who dedicate their lives to take care the incapacitated, has enabled me to develop the following core values: honesty, diligence, reliability, compassion, efficiency, perseverance, and optimism.

JAMES HORWITZ (D)

The qualifications for a successful judge include experience, knowledge, wisdom, and compassion. For more than four decades I have been a trial lawyer handling probate as well as criminal, family, civil, juvenile, corporate and appellate trials. This very broad range of experiences have provided me with the acquired wisdom to make me uniquely qualified to be a probate judge. Sometimes judges have to make equitable decisions when the law fails. And for that, there is no substitute for wisdom.

The Guardianship Handbook was created and published by the staff of Probate Court 4. Recent updates explain new changes in the law including: the Ward’s Bill of Rights, instructions for guardianship certification, and notification of family members. It is published on the court’s website and given to every person appointed as guardian. The Guardianship Handbook is also available in Spanish and Hindi. In emergencies, a guardian may be appointed immediately and be certified within 30 days.

LEAGUE OFFERS VOTER INFORMATION RESOURCES ONLINE

USEFUL VOTER INFORMATION, INCLUDING THIS VOTERS GUIDE IN ENGLISH, SPANISH AND VIETNAMESE, MAY BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG

ENTER YOUR ADDRESS AND COMPARE RESPONSES FROM OPPOSING CANDIDATE THAT WILL APPEAR ON YOUR BALLOT AT: WWW.VOTE411.ORG

YOU MAY ALSO FIND US AT: FACEBOOK.COM/LWVHOUSTON AND TWITTER.COM/LWVHOUSTON
FOUR-YEAR TERM.

MAINTAINS THE RECORDS OF COMMISSIONERS COURT, PROBATE COURTS AND COUNTY CIVIL COURTS-AT-LAW; RECORDS VITAL DOCUMENTS SUCH AS PROPERTY RECORDS, MARRIAGE LICENSES, DUTIES INCLUDE CUSTODIAL CARE AND SAFEKEEPING OF ALL COURT RECORDS FOR THE DISTRICT COURTS AND COUNTY COURTS AND ACCOUNTING FOR ALL MONEY PAID IN AS DEPOSITS ON CIVIL CASES.

CHARITY

Besides continuing our expansive Public Service Announcements program, that includes billboards, metro signs, op-eds, radio & television commercials, civic club speaking engagements, we are implementing Jury Pay Cards to expedite paying jurors while eliminating most checks. We modernized Jury Appreciation Week. We are expanding online check in for jurors to the courthouse as well as creating reminder notices. We continue to advocate for free parking for jurors to commissioners court

Since taking office in 2011 we placed many services online, such as: e-subpoenas, e-filing for most courts (except Juvenile), free background checks, enrollment jury duty online; we are rolling out more online services like: e-citations, electronic jury notifications, official e-notifications, & online scheduling for hearings. This is in addition to physical improvements to the justice complex, including: Child Support Kiosk, expanded passport offices/locations, & more public computers!

Thanks to the technology we put into the courthouse, during Harvey, we never ceased operations: we were accepting filings & rescheduling jury duty in the middle of the storm. Because we had practiced our disaster plans, we had our folks physically back at the courthouse within days after the storm. We had jury duty back up in 6 weeks. We are already beta-testing online self-service options for attorneys to pick their own dates online. Every Storm is different, but technology saves us.

Community: Sam Houston Area Council (Boy Scouts)–Board Member; Helping a Hero–Board Member; Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo–Ex-Officio Board Member; Rotorian | Email: campaign@christiansel.org | Website: http://www.christiansel.org
Address: 1 east greenway plaza houston, TX 77046 | Phone: (713) 536-3398 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/christiansel | Twitter: twitter.com/txaustindan

Marilyn Burgess

Jury duty can be intimidating & inconvenient. I will streamline it and respect prospective jurors’ time using technology. I will employ an electronic jury summons that allows citizens to receive examine our current machines are vulnerable, and the software is outdated. Stan Stanart refuses to make necessary changes.

The Libertarian Party has, for long, commented on the need for voting centers require electronic voting machines. Unfortunately, our current machines are vulnerable, and the software is outdated. Stan Stanart refuses to make necessary changes.

Experience: Administrative experience in the area of Quality/Document Control | Community: Served as missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for two years, from 2008 to 2010 | Email: AbelChirino@hotmail.com
Website: http://www.abelchirinogomez.com | Address: 10046 Timberlakes Dr Houston, TX 77080 | Phone: (346) 702-9852 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/Abel-Chirino-Gomez-for-Harris-County-Clerk | 327-6278-4475

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/vote4burgess/
COUNTY TREASURER

THE COUNTY TREASURER IS CHIEF CUSTODIAN OF COUNTY FUNDS AND RECEIVES ALL MONIES BELONGING TO THE COUNTY. THE TREASURER KEEPS AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE FUNDS IN DESIGNATED DEPOSITIES AND DISBURSES THE FUNDS AS COMMISSIONERS COURT MAY REQUIRE OR DIRECT, NOT INCONSISTENT WITH CONSTITUTED LAW. THE TREASURER ALSO SERVES THE FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT AND THE PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY. THE TREASURER IS ELECTED FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM.

COUNTY SCHOOL TRUSTEE

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTS TO ESTABLISH POLICIES GOVERNING THE OPERATION OF HARRIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. AS A GOVERNMENTAL BODY, IT CAN TAKE ACTION ONLY BY MAJORITY VOTE AT A LEGALLY CALLED PUBLIC MEETING. THE BOARD ELECTS THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT AS ITS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO ADMINISTER THE ORGANIZATION. FOUR YEAR TERM.
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND | NOVEMBER 6, 2018 VOTERS GUIDE | WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

MEMBER OF COMMISSIONERS COURT: CONTROLS COURTHOUSES AND JAILS; APPOINTS/EMPLOYS PERSONNEL, DETERMINES COUNTY TAX RATES, ADOPTS BUDGET, CALLS BOND ELECTIONS, SETS VOTING PRECINCT BOUNDARIES, LETS CONTRACTS, AND BUILDS/MAINTAINS ROADS, BRIDGES, LIBRARIES AND PARKS. WITHIN OWN PRECINCT DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND PARKS, ROAD AND BRIDGE PROGRAMS. 4-YEAR TERM.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Identify what you think are the 2 most important issues affecting the residents of Harris County and give specific examples of measurable actions you will take to address these issues.

What will you do to ensure that there is transparency and equitable distribution of flood recovery and planning funds including those from the recently approved Harris Flood Control bond?

What can Harris County do to ensure that mental health services are available and affordable throughout all areas of the county?

In addition to flood control and roads, what other projects would you support to address Harris County’s current and future infrastructure needs?

JACK MORMAN (R)

Working with thousands of citizens and many community groups, I helped craft a fair, comprehensive flood control plan and am proud that the voters approved it by an overwhelming 89%. These funds will help us continue the fight against flooding. Another important issue is servicing Pct. 2’s infrastructure. I’m responsible for maintaining 1,900 miles of roads, 50 parks and 16 community centers. I have 380 of the best team members helping me to successfully serve the citizens of Pct. 2.

Many future drainage projects cross precinct lines, so I am proud that there has been unprecedented cooperation with all the Commissioners. We’ve been able to provide this assistance to other parts of the county. I will continue to work to get Harris County to be more fiscally responsible and to ensure that these funds are used efficiently.

I have supported the flood bond, but still have serious reservations about how the funds will be allocated. My flood protection plan, available at AdriaGarcia.com, requires spending decisions to be made in public, with full visibility including public hearings with both expert and community testimony. All debate and decisions by commissioners must be made in public session. My plan calls for industry to pay its fair share and includes specific recommendations to assess all projects with an equitable lens.

I supported the flood bond, but still have serious reservations about how the funds will be allocated. My flood protection plan, available at AdriaGarcia.com, requires spending decisions to be made in public, with full visibility including public hearings with both expert and community testimony. All debate and decisions by commissioners must be made in public session. My plan calls for industry to pay its fair share and includes specific recommendations to assess all projects with an equitable lens.

ADRIAN GARCIA (D)

I am running for Commissioner in Precinct 2 because no one in county leadership is helping us— and we need someone on our side for a change. I’ll focus on education, jobs, and help growing our infrastructure. I’ll start by reversing cuts to after-school programs made by our current commissioner and promote early childhood education. I’ll add job skills training to prepare our residents for family-sustaining jobs. And I’ll fight tooth and nail against polluters to protect the health of our families and children.

Education: Graduate of Baylor University and Baylor University Law School | Experience: I began by cleaning out trash cans at my dad’s tire shop. In 2010, I was elected as Pct. 2 County Commissioner. I was re-elected in 2014 and look forward to continued service. | Community: I was raised in Pct. 2, where my wife and I live. I’ve served on the Houston-Galveston area Council. | Email: mormancampaign@gmail.com


R. JACK CAGLE (R)

Public safety and preparing for growth are the most important issues facing Harris County. The county continues to increase provision (within budget) for law enforcement, fire and first responders. We must provide the growth of the county with adequate funding and protection, greenspace arrangements and park space for our residents. I have, am and shall strategically prepare the precinct for the next generation.

Education: Baylor School of Law, Doctor of Jurisprudence, 1986. Rice University, BA Triple Major, History, Economics & Managerial Sciences, 1983. | Experience: Judge: Harris County Civil Court at Law #1, 2000-2011, Staff litigation Counsel; Probate Court #3, Assoc. Judge, 311th Family District Court, Private law practice, 1986-2000. | Community: Commissioner Cagle enthusiastically participates in accessible public art and culture through Fun4Seniors, Shakespeare in the Shade, and many other public programs. | Email: campaign@adrangarcia.com

Web site: http://adrangarcia.com | Address: P. O. Box 56386 Houston, TX 77256 | Phone: (832) 429-5465 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/AdrianGarciaHTX | Twitter: @AdrianGarciaHTX

PENNY SHAW (D)

Our exposure and vulnerability to flood events puts our families, property and businesses at risk of destruction and loss. I will ensure that there is ongoing flood prevention work. I will seek state and federal funds to continue fixing our retention and conveyance issues, including to build a reservoir. I will demand plans, and shelters to protect against loss and injury during floods. I will advocate and vote for criminal justice reform and not waste anymore of our tax dollars.

Supporting a county-wide, comprehensive, expert devised flood prevention plan that addresses all 23 watersheds and tributaries across the county, one that can be put into action quickly for immediate flood prevention. All flood prevention plans will be made open and accessible to the public, including updates on spending and projects completed or in-progress. The most vulnerable flooding areas require special attention and priority funding. I will vote for fair allocation of flood funds.

Voters approved the $2.5 billion flood control bond by a historic 86%. I will ensure those dollars are spent according to the comprehensive flood plan laid out in our open public meetings. I support transparency by providing citizens with reasonable, timely financial data and the means to review tools and analysis of Harris County revenues and expenditures. The public can follow our projected projects and recently approved actions by visiting the Harris County Flood Control website at www.hcfcd.org.

The State of Texas, in collaboration with major relevant agencies, created a 5-year plan to assess, address, and apply funds to medical health care. Harris County has not fully assessed the current county-wide need and shortfall of funds and facilities for mental health care. As Commissioner, I will utilize those State resources and support a county study to fully identify needs, and support adequate funding to make proactive and responsive mental health care available and accessible to all.

Access State and Federal agency available funding for repair and maintenance of countywide infrastructure to meet ever increasing financial demands. I support reasonable, safe, and sustainable infrastructure projects that meet the growing population and community needs; I support projects to implement an early flood warning system; projects to improve traffic mobility, building community centers in neighborhoods that do not have any; and improved public transportation models.

AMENDMENT XIV

JULY 1, 1948

AMENDMENT XV

JUNE 23, 1948

AMENDMENT XVI

JULY 1, 1971

AMENDMENT XIX

AUGUST 14, 1920

AMENDMENT XX

JANUARY 23, 1954

AMENDMENT XXV

JUNE 1, 1971

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES WAS AMENDED TO GIVE OR BROADEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

- Male citizens, 21 years of age
- Male citizens, regardless of race, color, former servitude
- Women citizens, 21 years of age
- Tax on registering to vote (pOLL tax) eliminated
- Voting age lowered to 18

The Constitution of the United States was amended to give or broaden the right to vote.
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

HAS JURISDICTION OVER CRIMINAL MISDEMEANOR CASES PUNISHABLE BY FINE ONLY. E.G. ASSAULT, BAIL JUMPING, CRIMINAL MISCHIEF, BAD CHECK WRITING, PUBLIC INTOXICATION, THEFT. HEARS CIVIL CASES INVOLVING UP TO $10,000. HANDLES MISCELLANEOUS COMPLAINTS, PERFORMS MARRIAGES, ISSUES COMMITMENT PAPERS FOR THE MENTALLY ILL, ISSUES SEARCH AND ARREST WARRANTS. JUDGES ARE ELECTED TO A FOUR-YEAR TERM.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

What skills do you possess that make you the most qualified to serve as Justice of the Peace?

What changes, if any, are needed in court processes and procedures in your precinct to make the court more efficient and effective in fulfilling its duties?

“DC” CALDWELL (R)

I have diverse life experiences my opponent does not have: I married; I am a devoted parent; I am technologically savvy; I developed Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps core values (moral character traits) in military leadership development training, namely: Integrity first, Service before self, and Excellence in all we do; Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Honor, Personal Courage; Justice, Judgment, Dependability, Decisiveness; Task, Initiative, Endurance, Bearing, Unselfishness, Knowledge, Enthusiasm; etc.

Education: Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law 2016-present; Parker University College of Chiropractic 2013-14; Texas A&M University B.S. Civil Engineering, 2008; | Experience: Spanish Bilingual Presiding Precinct Judge; Innocence Project Legal Intern; Certified Teacher; endorsed for Elementary & Secondary Generalist ESL, Science / Math, Special Ed. | Community: TSU Federalist Society, President; Earl Carl Institute, Pro Bono Law Clerk; TMSL Student Affairs, Ambassador; Church of Jesus Christ, Ministering Brother; Elections, VDVR; etc | Email: dcaldwell62086@student.tamu.edu | Website: http://dcaldwell.wordpress.com | Address: 3711 Southmore Blvd Apt 714 Houston, TX 77004 | Phone: (281) 797-7772 | Facebook: http://fb.com/daniellocaudwell | Twitter: twitter.com/caldfwleeas

SHARON M. BURNEY (D)

I have been a practicing attorney in private practice for eleven years. Prior to practicing law I was an educator. I worked at Houston Independent School District as a teacher and administrator for twenty four years. Working as an attorney and educator has allowed me to develop knowledge of the law and legal procedures. I also developed communication skills at a level that most people can understand. And I have developed the character needed to serve people.

Education: JD in Law from Thurgood Marshall School of Law 2007 / MS in Future Studies from University of Houston 1997 / BS in Business from University of Houston 1981 | Experience: I am currently in private practice as an attorney licensed by the State Bar of Texas for 11 years. I worked as a teacher and administrator at HISD for 24 years prior to law. | Community: Works with Shape Community Center to sponsor political, health, and educational awareness. | Email: sharon_burney@yahoo.com | Website: http://www.ElectSharonBurney.com | Address: 5445 Almeda Suite 400 Houston, TX 77004 | Phone: (346) 267-7735 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/sharon.burney.773 | Twitter: twitter.com/Burney2018

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DAVID SOLOMON FLANAGAN (R)

I am confident that I am the most qualified candidate because of my principles and values which has allowed me to lead with integrity, honesty and fortitude. These qualities will allow me to stay grounded in doing what is right and just for all! The justice of the peace court was designed for ordinary people, and I am an ordinary person ready to work with the people to make an extraordinary impact!

Education: Bachelors of Applied Arts and Science, Lamar University Masters in Special Education, The University of Texas | Experience: After faithfully serving my country in the United States Air Force, I worked as a process operator in the oil and energy industry. An advocate for special needs individuals. | Community: I am an avid supporter of community organizations that help at-risk youth and children with disabilities. I currently sit on an advisory committee with Open Hearts. | Email: david-flanagan@att.net | Address: 9391 Ledbetter St Houston, Texas 77087 | Phone: (409) 256-9077 | Twitter: twitter.com/davidxflanagan

JEREMY L. BROWN (D)

The JP Court is uniquely distinct from other courts, and the experience I have through the practice of law, policy and community engagement matches well with the justice of the peace position. This experience has led to my understanding that there are systematic issues in our justice system that you must fix not only in your courtroom but similarly situated courtrooms across the County as well as the State.

Education: Morehouse College Degree: Business Finance; University of Oklahoma J.D Degree | Experience: Advisor for Harris County Commissioner Precinct 1; District Director for Texas State Senator Agenda Director for Houston City Councilman Attorney at Frye and Associates | Community: Houston Downtown Management District- Board Member; Jones Memorial United Methodist Church- College Ministry Chair | Address: 5445 Almeda Suite 307 Houston, TX 77004 | Phone: (713) 256-6495 Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/jeremy.l.brown.35

Continuing from the points listed in the previous question: The judge should advise and consult with county IT staff on how to redesign the JP site for better user and accessibility. The judge should also make the website more user friendly (intuitive to navigate) and include information on e-filing. The judge should have pretrial appearance times available on an open calendar and a video calling option.

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“DC” CALDWELL (R)

My overall vision as Justice of the Peace is to empower our youth by restoring the dynamics of family values with civic and community engagement. Therefore, I would ensure that we implement effective civic engagement programs for youth and adults, and provide public forums for the purpose to educate the community about the plethora of services the People’s Court provide to the community.

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Voters may cast their vote for or against each proposition

City of Houston, Proposition A  
(Relating to the Creation of a Dedicated Funding Source to Enhance, Improve and Renew Drainage Systems and Streets)  
Shall the Houston City Charter be amended to establish a Dedicated Pay-As-You-Go Fund, to be used for the enhancement, improvement, and ongoing renewal of Houston’s drainage and streets, funded annually from the following sources: (i) developer impact fees; (ii) drainage charges, to property owners or users, to recover costs of providing drainage to benefitting real properties; (iii) a portion of the City’s ad valorem tax levy; and (iv) third-party contracts, grants, or payments earmarked or dedicated to drainage or streets?

Proposition A Explanation  
This proposition continues the funding authorized by voters in 2010 for the ReBuild Houston Street and Drainage Program. The proposition requires that funding collected for ReBuild Houston can be used only for flooding, drainage and street projects and cannot be diverted to general operating budget. The proposition does not authorize new taxes.

City of Houston, Proposition B  
Shall the City Charter of the City of Houston be amended by adding a separate section that reads as follows: The City of Houston shall compensate City firefighters in a manner and amount that is at least equal and comparable by rank and seniority with the compensation provided City police officers including: a. Persons employed in the following firefighter classifications shall receive the same base pay as persons of like seniority employed in the following, similarly numbered police officer classifications: Firefighters - 1. Probationary firefighter, 2. Firefighter, 3. Engineer/Operator, 4. Captain, Inspector, Investigator, Communications Captain, Mechanic, 5. Senior Captain, Senior Inspector, Senior Investigator, Communications Senior Captain, Shop Supervisor, 6. District Chief, Assistant Arson Investigator, Chief Inspector, Chief Communications Officer, Master Mechanic, 7. Deputy Chief, Arson Investigator, Assistant Fire Marshal, Deputy Chief Communications Officer, 8. Assistant Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, 9. Executive Assistant Fire Chief, Police Officers-1. Probationary Police Officer, 2. Police Officer, 3. Senior Police Officer, 4. Sergeant, 5. Lieutenant, 6. Captain, 7. Captain (with an additional 15% for parity), 8. Assistant Police Chief, 9. Executive Assistant Police Chief; a. In the event the title of any of the above classifications shall be changed, the new classification most similar in terms of qualifications and duties to the old shall be substituted therefore, to achieve pay parity; b. Firefighters employed in fire suppression shall receive the same incentive pay as police officers, of like seniority, employed as patrol officers; c. Firefighters shall receive the same training pay as police officers of like seniority; d. Firefighters employed as arson investigators shall receive the same investigative incentive pay as police officer investigative personnel of like seniority and investigative experience; e. Firefighters who serve as Field Training Officers shall receive the same Field Training Officer training pay as police officers who serve as Field Training Officers; f. Firefighters shall receive mentoring pay in the same amount and on the same basis as police officers; g. Firefighters classified as arson investigators, inspectors, communications captain, senior inspectors, senior investigators, communications senior captain, assistant arson investigator, chief inspector or chief communications officer shall receive the same weekend premium and shift differential pay in the same amount and on the same basis as police officers qualified to receive such pay; h. Firefighters shall receive educational incentive pay in the same amount and on the same basis as police officers entitled to receive such pay, i. Firefighters shall receive college tuition reimbursement in the same amount and on the same basis as police officers entitled to receive such reimbursement; j. Firefighters shall receive the same clothing allowance (or similar benefit) paid to police officers, in addition to any protective clothing and equipment provided by the City; k. Firefighters shall receive the same equipment allowance (or similar benefit) paid to police officers; l. The City shall make the same contribution to the Houston Professional Firefighters Association Medical Trust that it does to the Texas Police Trust; m. To the extent that the names of any of the forms of pay or benefits identified above are changed, the requirement of parity for firefighters to police officers shall continue to apply; In addition, if any new form of pay or benefit is provided to police officers, the same shall also be provided to firefighters?

Proposition B Explanation  
This proposition amends the City Charter to require pay equity for Houston police officers and Houston firefighters, e.g. equal pay across both departments for comparable job titles, experience and achievements. Current internal policies and procedures of the two departments regarding management decisions, work schedules, education requirements, and promotions are not addressed and would not be required to be the same across the two departments. This proposition does not authorize new taxes or address funding issues.