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. Photo ID will not be required of voters who vote by mail.

● EARLY VOTING AND BALLOTS BY MAIL

Early voting will begin on Tuesday, February 20 and end on Friday, March 2. See the back page 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 harrivotes.com or by phoning 713-755-6965. Your request must be received no later than Friday, February 23. 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 March 6 Primary 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 68 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.

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

METRO is providing free rides to the polls on Saturday, February 24 for Early Voting and on Election Day, Tuesday, March 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 who are seeking to become their party’s nominee in the General Election and the responses to selected policy questions provided by candidates in races where there is more than one candidate running. This Voters Guide only covers races that will be decided by the Primary Election process. Currently only the Democratic and Republican Parties use the Primary Election process to choose their candidates for the November General Election.

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 and 46.)

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 IDs

- Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS); current or have expired no more than 4 years
- Texas personal identification card issued by DPS; current or have expired no more than 4 years
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS; current or have expired no more than 4 years
- Texas license to carry a handgun issued by DPS; current or have expired no more than 4 years
- United States passport; current or have expired no more than 4 years
- United States citizenship certificate containing the person’s photograph

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 current 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

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

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, February 12, 2018 to cure their ballot by bringing approved photo identification to the Voter Registrar.

EXEMPTION: 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 a 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, Tuesday, February 20, 2018 through Friday, March 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, March 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. Polling places within the same precinct may be different for the Democratic Party and the Republican Party.

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 713-368-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 www.bdxps.state.tx.us/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 photo identification will be permitted to cast a provisional ballot. These voters have until Monday, March 12, 2018 to present appropriate photo identification at any of the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector’s Branch Offices: Mon.-Fri., 8:00 am-4:30 pm; Main Office/Downtown: Mon.-Fri., 8:00 am-5:00 pm. 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 affidavitswearing 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, puffed-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, Tuesday, February 20, 2018 through Friday, March 2, 2018-see schedule on page 68
- By mail if you are at least age 65, disabled, confined in jail, 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, February 23, 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, February 23. 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, March 7 at 5:00 p.m., if carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. at the location of the election 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 45 for instructions about recording your change of address with the County Voter Registrar. Failure to update your address information will affect your ability 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 February 5, 2018 for you to vote in your new residence in this Election. See page 45 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 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. “Suspense” voters may cast a ballot after completing a Statement of Residence form.

For Military and Overseas Voters
Eligible Military Personnel, Spouses or Dependants 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.

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

How is the Texas court system organized?

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

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

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.

TEXAS PRIMARY ELECTIONS

- The Republican and Democratic Parties each conduct primary elections to select the candidates that will represent their party in the November General Election.
- The Libertarian and Green Parties will each choose their candidates at their party conventions.
- Texas has open primaries. Texas does not ask voters to select a party preference when they register to vote. ALL TEXAS VOTERS CAN PARTICIPATE in the primary election of their choice. Simply declare your party preference at the polls or when you attend a party convention.
- Once a voter has voted in a party’s primary election, that voter cannot participate in another party’s election, runoff primary election or convention during the 2018 election year.
- And don’t forget, voting in a party primary or participating in a party convention does not mean that you must vote for that party’s candidates in the November General Election. In November, any voter may vote for any candidate on the ballot.
- Be a Texas Voter!

[Note: This Voters Guide covers races that will be decided in a contested primary election, which at this time is the method used by the Democratic and Republican political parties. To learn more about how to participate in the selection of nominees for parties that use the convention process, please contact that party. Contact information for all Harris County political parties can be found on page 67.]
**DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION**

**UNITED STATES SENATOR • DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

6-YEAR TERM. MUST BE AT LEAST 30 YEARS OLD, A RESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR AT LEAST NINE YEARS, AND A RESIDENT OF TEXAS. ONE OF 100 MEMBERS OF THE U.S. SENATE WHICH HAS SPECIFIC POWERS TO ADVISE AND CONSENT TO PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND TREATIES AND TO TRY IMPEACHMENTS. POWERS THE SENATE SHARES WITH U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDE THE POWER TO LEVY TAXES, BORROW MONEY, REGULATE INTERSTATE COMMERCE, AND DECLARE WAR.

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

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

*Disaster planning:* Should the federal budget plan in advance for funding disaster relief for catastrophic events, such as hurricanes and flooding? Why or why not?

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

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

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

**BETO O’ROURKE** | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

**SEMA HERNANDEZ**

**BACKGROUND:** I do not have previous political experience. Instead, I offer a genuinely human approach to fixing our political system. I am a working-class, first-generation American. I can relate to the struggle of working Americans because I’ve lived it.

**DISASTER PLANNING:** Absolutely. By including this in the budget, the federal government will be prepared to handle the needs of impacted people. I live in an area impacted by Hurricane Harvey and have experienced the disaster firsthand. FEMA came to my area and offered disaster relief loans rather than grants. Putting people further into debt is not the answer. This system has to change.

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

**EDWARD KIMBROUGH** | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

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**UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE • DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

**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.**

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

*Identify what you think are the three most important issues directly affecting the people in your district and explain how you will address these issues, if elected?*

*What do you think should be done to help those who don’t receive employer-sponsored health insurance and cannot afford insurance through other currently available options?*

*What do you think is the appropriate role of the federal government in fostering a positive environment for job creation in the United States?*

**H.P. PARVIZIAN**

The first issue is Jobs and Economy. By improving our infrastructure including transportation we will increase jobs with living wages locally to allow our children and grandchildren to stay close to home. We must request a study from the Corp of Engineers on our current infrastructure, including our dam and reservoirs. A proposed solution taking into account our future growth to allow us to not only improve our district but also our City. I will also protect our environment and our City Green Spaces. The second issue is Healthcare for Children. I will fight to ensure every child has the opportunity for health care and ensure CHIP has no funding delays. The third issue is Equality for All. I will fight for equality for all. While in D.C. I am prepared to fight for the rights of all our citizens. Here in Houston I will work on uniling and stopping the divide that is only hurting the people. We will work together and focus on building this city as Texans as we did during Harvey.

**ALI A. KHORASANI**

Environment - I would draft science-centric legislation to use 21st century technology to innovate our flooding infrastructure. We must invest in smart urban planning to absorb water rather than redirecting it. We should leverage our community’s strength as a leader in energy to transition our country toward renewable resources. We don’t want to relive Hurricane Harvey over and over again. Healthcare - I support the Expanded & Improved Medicare for All Act, which ends for-profit healthcare and provides a public option. We must expand healthcare coverage to the millions uninsured and should reduce healthcare costs by expanding preventative care and negotiating prescription prices. Education - I support a bottom-up approach for education that prioritizes teachers and classrooms. We must eliminate standardized testing and shift focus to growth rather than proficiency. We must provide free public undergraduate and trades education and end drastic student debt.

We already pay twice as much of our tax dollars to healthcare as any other country, although American socialized healthcare only covers veterans (Veterans Affairs), the elderly (Medicare), and people in extreme need (Medicaid). I support Medicare for All so that personal income is not a determining factor in people’s healthcare outcomes for all Americans. As a stopgap measure, I would move to mandate Affordable Care Act Medicaid expansion for all states and to provide a public health insurance option in addition to the private plans on the exchanges.

Although unemployment has dropped back to normal levels, we still have record-high youth unemployment and must address the “not employed” people who have been out of the job too long to be considered unemployed. People are working longer hours for pay that has not increased relative to cost-of-living, and many of us have retained our “hyphenated” positions we worked during the Recession. The minimum wage hasn’t increased since 2007. Our government should play a central role in creating new jobs and ensuring that all workers can afford a basic standard of living. All that being said, there is plenty of work to be done, namely in repairing and rebuilding our infrastructure to be able to handle the storms and floods that are caused by climate change. We also should invest in public transportation, renewable energy, and high-tech industries to create jobs. At a minimum, our workers deserve a $15 wage per hour, and I will work to strengthen labor rights for our workers.
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.

5 SIMPLE STEPS

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.
Questions to Candidates:

Identify what you think are the three most important issues directly affecting the people in your district and explain how you will address these issues if elected.

Jason Westin
1. Healthcare: I know healthcare is a human right. In medical school, I helped run a clinic for those without healthcare. Their joy was because we saw them as worthy. In Congress, I’d be a champion to increasing access and reducing costs, and for making policy based on facts, not partisan fictions. My background makes me a natural fit to fight for healthcare, and I’d work towards a single payer system like Medicare for all to ensure no family is left behind. 2. Flood risk: Houston was just devastated by an unprecedented storm, and showed it’s amazing spirit. We must recover, rebuild, and get ready for future storms, and deal with our changing climate. The time for inaction is over, and my plan to strengthen our resilience will make us safer. 3. Prepare for the 21st century. For Houston to succeed, we must do more for our future, like investing in universal pre-K and making college affordable, improving our environment with clean water and air, and becoming an innovation hub.

Lizzie Pannill Fletcher
Infrastructure: I will work to plan for and invest in flooding and transportation infrastructure to address our needs—including improving Addicks and Barker reservoirs; completing Project Brays; and revising floodplain maps and partnering with cities, counties, and METRO to bring improvements and funding to our region. Healthcare: Even though cutting-edge medical advances take place here, many in our community do not have access to quality healthcare. Ensuring access to and affordability of healthcare will be one of my priorities in Congress—from improving the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to fighting for reproductive justice. Economy: Houston is home to industry giants, entrepreneurs, and small business owners whose initiative drives our economic prosperity. In Congress, I will work to ensure we have the tools to keep our economy strong—from investing in public education to supporting research and innovation in the medical and energy sectors to providing job training.

Alex Triantaphyllis
I will focus on: (1) promoting economic policies that help to create good jobs and strengthen wages to boost our economy to the benefit of everyone in the Houston region; (2) protecting and expanding access to high-quality, affordable healthcare; and (3) improving our infrastructure to support our economy and mitigate flood damage. However, there are many pressing issues facing our country and the 7th district. In Congress, I’ll also work to protect Social Security and Medicare, make college more affordable, increase transportation options, institute high-quality and affordable early childhood education, and fight climate change. I’ve laid out detailed policy goals and solutions for these and other issues on my website at www.AlexToForTexas.com.

Laura Moser
Infrastructure: Houston needs a massive investment in flood protection and infrastructure that only the federal government can fund: a dike system, natural coastal barriers, new reservoirs (and updates to the old ones), diversification of energy sources, buyouts, bayou widenings, and so on. Healthcare: Houston has the highest number of uninsured people in Texas, which has the highest number of uninsured people. We're spending too much money on healthcare, with too little to show for it. We need representatives who fight for the expansion of healthcare access and preventative care. It is the cost-effective thing to do. And it's the moral thing to do. Climate Change: All over the world, when human rights are an existential threat. We need a Congress to pass comprehensive climate-change legislation.

What do you think should be done to help those who don’t receive employer-sponsored health insurance and cannot afford insurance through other currently available options?

Jason Westin
Any healthcare proposal that I could support in Congress would require one basic starting point: healthcare is a human right. If a bill starts from healthcare as a privilege, we can start over or move on. The Affordable Care Act, or ObamaCare, was a great step forward to reduce the number of uninsured Americans to an all time low, but more needs to be done to deal with rising premiums, prescription drugs, and administrative costs that don’t make us healthier. Mr. Trump and Mr. Culberson supported the AHCA, or TrumpCare, which would have led to 50,000 TX7 residents losing insurance. The Tax Bill removed the ACA individual mandate, causing 30,000 TX7 residents to lose care and increase premiums 10%. We should work towards a single payer system like Medicare for all to ensure everyone has life saving care. This would make us healthier, avoid costly emergency uncompensated care, and give greater security to families who are now one fall or finding a lump away from financial ruin.

Lizzie Pannill Fletcher
Access to quality, affordable healthcare is a right, not a privilege, and we must strike a balance between restoring the individual mandate and improving means of entry into the health insurance market. Part of this means fighting for federal subsidies the current administration has withdrawn to make insurance affordable for those for whom insurance is now unaffordable. Another part is fighting for health care providers who provide affordable quality care, like Planned Parenthood, and gray eating politicians from politicizing providers. Other initiatives, including lowering both the eligibility age for Medicare and the income eligibility level for Medicaid and expanding initiatives to inform consumers about options like off-exchange purchasing, premium deductions, and group rate plans, may also help address this situation while we work to stabilize the markets and build upon the ACA to address affordability.

Alex Triantaphyllis
Congress should work to pass healthcare legislation that achieves the goal of providing high-quality, affordable healthcare coverage to everyone, which is both the right thing to do morally and a smart investment in the health and wellbeing of our community. I will work to create a sustainable healthcare system that reduces costs and responds to the needs of patients so we can save taxpayers money and improve the quality of care. We must also control costs without sacrificing quality. I’ll look at all avenues for achieving these goals, including the consideration of a public option.

Laura Moser
Forcing a massive segment of our population to seek basic medical treatments in the ER is not a healthcare system. We need to expand the income threshold for Medicaid so that more people qualify, lower the eligibility age for Medicare to 55, and provide a public option/Medicare buy-in option for anyone who wants it. This would be hugely freeing for employers and humane for employees.

What do you think is the appropriate role of the federal government in fostering a positive environment for job creation in the United States?

Jason Westin
The federal government has a powerful role in the US economy, but must also allow for innovation and ingenuity. The US economy is the strongest in the world because the American worker and the American middle class, and because of our innovative spirit. The government should ensure that workers are treated fairly, and that includes the ability to earn a living wage and to receive benefits to provide for their families, including retirement. The government should protect worker rights to organize and be free from discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, religion, race, disability, or any other factor. The government should not interfere with overburdensome regulations or restrictions, but should ensure that companies don’t pollute their environment or allow unsafe conditions. We need a tax policy that works for all, including small businesses and job creators giving incentive to hire American workers, and trade policies that are fair and promote job growth.

Lizzie Pannill Fletcher
For generations, the federal government has played an essential part in creating jobs and fostering growth. From creating actual jobs in infrastructure and other public works projects to enabling growth through new opportunities and marketplaces, the federal government has and should continue to help our economy and jobs grow. Today, the federal government can do many things to foster a positive environment for job creation while maintaining important protections for workers. Invest in public education. Make higher education affordable through grants, not loans. Facilitate life-long training and re-training. Invest in research and development that enables new technologies and industries to thrive. Invest in infrastructure projects. Create public-private partnerships. Expand access to capital and ensure sound monetary policy. And negotiate fair trade policies that allow our economy and our workers to thrive.

Alex Triantaphyllis
We must ensure that businesses have access to capital and are not overly burdened by unnecessary costs or regulations. We should expand access to quality workforce development programs, apprenticeships, and technical training. Federal policies can help create good jobs and strengthen wages to boost our economy to everyone’s benefit. I will prioritize access to good jobs at fair wages that support families. We must establish an environment that attracts investment and nurtures the growth of local businesses and workers. I’ve helped businesses to grow and create more jobs. I started a small business program that helps to start and grow enterprises, and I served on Mayor Turner’s Economic Opportunity transition team. I’ve worked in the private sector and advocated for better pay and working conditions for Houstonians. The federal government can also play a key role in enhancing our infrastructure, creating more jobs and making it easier for working families to afford their commute.
QUESTIONs TO candidates:

JOSHUA A. BUTLER

The top 3 issues affecting citizens in Congressional District 7 are: 1) Flooding; 2) Economics concerns - healthcare expenses, property taxes, and job availability; 3) Traffic Congestion. 1. Flooding and the lack of mitigation/control efforts have plagued the district for decades. There's no one in Congress actively making natural disaster funding a priority and citizens continue to be placed in harms way, while our governmental officials continue to do nothing about the problem. We need to unlock funding for the completion of research by the Army Corps of Engineers, while also assessing opportunities to expand the bayous capacity during torrential rain events. 2. Economic concerns span the socio-economical scale. From pensions to the cost of premiums for healthcare, and the overall concerns about taxation, congress has a responsibility to ensure our citizens are protected from costly outcomes to their financial stability. 3. Traffic issues continue to erode our quality of life.


JAMES CARGAS

Incumbent is not using the office to represent the district: (1) I will conduct oversight to ensure funds actually arrive in Harris County to complete all outstanding flood control projects that were unfunded for 18 years now that Harvey Disaster Aid has passed. (2) I will advocate for Houstonians in the renewable, electric and energy efficiency industries because Houston is not just the oil capital, but the capital of all energy. I am proud to live in the Energy Capital and will work hard to keep the title and jobs as the industry undergoes fundamental changes. (3) I will accelerated funding for biomedical research which has been flat for the past 18 years so our Texas Medical Center can maintain its world-class status. (4) I will pass comprehensive immigration policy that protects our Texas Medical Center can maintain its world-class status. (4) I will pass comprehensive immigration policy that keeps families together, and makes DACA permanent.


LEAGUE OFFERS VOTER INFORMATION RESOURCES ONLINE

USEFUL VOTER INFORMATION, INCLUDING THIS VOTERS GUIDE IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH, MAY BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG

ENTER YOU 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
What do you think should be done to help those who don’t receive employer-sponsored health insurance and cannot afford insurance through other currently available options?

The United States is the richest country in the world without universal healthcare, so there is no “quick fix” for people currently without healthcare coverage. We need to move quickly toward a “Single Payer” solution. This could be accomplished by gradually lowering the age eligibility requirements for our current Medicare system year by year until all Americans are eligible for benefits. This would effectively universalize the prescription and healthcare costs, streamline the administrative processes, and focus on providing universal healthcare coverage for everyone.

What do you think is the appropriate role of the federal government in fostering a positive environment for job creation in the United States?

The federal government plays a major role in fostering a positive environment in not only job creation, but over every aspect of America’s lives. Decisions made by the federal government have a direct impact on American lives. The response or lack thereof by the federal government will resonate throughout the country. The current administration is very much aware of just how powerful their stance and demeanor can impact the entire American culture, whether positive or negative. I believe that as far as a positive environment for job creation stands, the federal government should assure the American worker that all decisions being made in Congress, Senate, and through the highest office in the land, are not geared towards making corporations richer, and the worker poorer. American workers need to have confidence in knowing that they will have representatives in a federal government that will fight for fair pay, job safety, and job security.

What do you think is the three most important issues directly affecting the people in your district and explain how you will address these issues, if elected?

The United States has been a world leader in providing basic support for all of its citizens, regardless of wealth. Unfortunately, the Republican Party has attacked this safety net. The current “representative,” Michael McCaul, is worth $300 million and is apparently unconcerned about our health - he voted to cut health care for tens of millions of Americans and refuses to support the Children’s Health Insurance Program. If elected, I will fight for Medicare for All. There is substantial support in Congress or this initiative and if we succeed in 2018, we can make it a reality. Until then, we must work to support the Children’s Health Insurance Program and Medicaid, and make fixes to ensure that all Americans can access high quality, affordable health care. We must also immediately fund the Children’s Health Insurance Program to protect our children.

The lack of Health Care is a major issue for not only Texas, but citizens across the country. For far too long, the battle for health care has been at the forefront of bargaining tables. While these bargaining games are being played, many have died. As a Registered Nurse, health care and its accessibility and affordability is vitally important to me. I understand the domino effect of no healthcare. In addition to battling disease, citizens lose their jobs, homes, transportation, and ultimately their lives. We can do better as American representatives with creating a plan that works for all, including fine tuning the Affordable Care Act, and looking with an open mind into the single payer option. We must save CHIP, and expand Medicaid and Medicare. Children and adults alike are living in constant fear of losing health care. We must have representatives like myself who will not only repeal health care, but will fight for health care. I will fight for health care.

The appropriate role of the United States government as it relates to job creation, is to enact policies that provide a stable balance between the number of unemployed persons and the available jobs required by our labor force. Some different approaches to fostering a positive environment for job creation might currently include one or more of the following strategies: - Impinch Trump, and replace him with a President who can inspire us all with a more compelling fiscal vision. - Provide tax breaks and enact legislation to help support and grow the small businesses, which are the backbone of our economy. - Modify corporate taxation rates to facilitate increased job creation through increased spending. - Subsidize educational institutions that teach trade skills, and provide job training for their students. - Increase tariffs on imported goods from foreign nations so that American products have an advantage in domestic markets. - Enforce Equal Pay Act and Title VII.

The federal government plays a major role in fostering a positive environment in not only job creation, but over every aspect of America’s lives. Decisions made by the federal government have a direct impact on American lives. The response or lack thereof by the federal government will resonate throughout the country. The current administration is very much aware of just how powerful their stance and demeanor can impact the entire American culture, whether positive or negative. I believe that as far as a positive environment for job creation stands, the federal government should assure the American worker that all decisions being made in Congress, Senate, and through the highest office in the land, are not geared towards making corporations richer, and the worker poorer. American workers need to have confidence in knowing that they will have representatives in a federal government that will fight for fair pay, job safety, and job security.
MATT HARRIS
1) Economic opportunity and fairness - Extreme inequality is unnatural, bad for people, and ultimately bad for business. We need to re-align our tax system to shift taxes from work and productive activity and onto natural resource privileges and other forms of monopoly and corporate power.
2) Sustainability - We need incentives to move away from carbon extraction to renewables.

KEVIN NELSON
First, affordable health care. This issue is discussed in further detail below. Second, tax fairness. I believe the wealthiest members of our society should bear more of the tax burden, and there should be tax relief for working people. Ideally, that would include making the payroll tax progressive. Third, general political dysfunction and loss of confidence in the political system. This cannot be fixed overnight, but there are several steps we can take to address the problem. Congress should reform its own internal procedures so that obstructionism is no longer so easy. We also need campaign-finance reform, including stronger disclosure and independence requirements for so-called Super PACs.

TAMI WALKER
1. Lack of access to healthcare. (See Q2) 2. Voter suppression and money in politics. I would enact campaign finance reform to prevent corporations and special interests from buying elections and influencing the votes of lawmakers.

Questions to Candidates:

What do you think is the appropriate role of the federal government in fostering a positive environment for job creation in the United States?

The main role for the federal government is to create a tax structure that fosters real productivity and stops rewarding speculation and other forms of wealth extraction from the truly productive elements of the economy. Our present tax system serves to concentrate wealth into a rentier class that produces nothing, while lowering wages and opportunity for most people. Taxes focused on natural resource privileges are the best taxes. These would include taxes on the electromagnetic spectrum, mineral control, pollution, fishing rights, timber, and traffic congestion. (The property tax should be converted to land-only taxes although that is mainly a state issue.) Taxes that weaken other forms of monopoly privileges and peculiar corporate powers are also powerful beneficial tools. Internet neutrality must be restored, either through regulation, or through taxes. Taxes on estates should be increased, not decreased. In no moral universe does dynamic wealth make sense. Taxes on wages /

What do you think is the appropriate role of the federal government in fostering a positive environment for job creation in the United States?

We should extend the Affordable Care Act instead of undermining it. I strongly support expansion of Medicaid. The federal government should provide increased incentives for states to participate. I also support enactment of the public option that was part of the Affordable Care Act as originally proposed. This would create more choice and more competition. Increased competition between private insurers would also be helpful, and there are various ways the federal government could encourage it.

Education/Degrees: B.S. Chemical Engineering, U. P., Fulbright certificate for post-grad study at U. Karlsruhe, Germany | Campaign Website: http://www.MattHarrisForTX10.com | Facebook: http://Matt Harris for Congress TX10 | Twitter: twitter.com/MattHarrisTX10

What do you think is the appropriate role of the federal government in fostering a positive environment for job creation in the United States?

First, the overall tax burden should be kept at a reasonable level. Second, we should invest in education, which will bring substantial returns in employment down the road. Third, the federal government should not run a large and chronic budget deficit. Fourth, monetary policy should follow a careful path that encourages growth without encouraging inflation.

Education/Degrees: Graduate of Lubbock High School; B.S. from Texas A&M; graduate degrees from University of Texas at Austin and Stanford | Campaign Website: http://www.kevinnelsonforcongress.com

What do you think is the appropriate role of the federal government in fostering a positive environment for job creation in the United States?

I believe we should pursue Healthcare for All Americans, through an expanded single payer Medicare System. If that cannot be accomplished immediately or if it must be phased in, I would propose that we stabilize the Affordable Healthcare Act with marketing to young people, reinstated mandates, cost sharing reduction (CSR) payments, and a reinsurance program similar to Medicare Part D to address high cost patients. I would also support safe importation of prescription drugs to reduce cost and the regulation of pharmaceutical companies to reduce advertising and price gouging. We should protect Medicaid programs serving vulnerable children, adults with special needs and the elderly and we should fund Planned Parenthood to make reproductive care more accessible. I would support legislation and policies to save rural hospitals and emergency services.

Education/Degrees: B.S. in Accounting from Southwestern Oklahoma State University; J.D. from University of Texas School of Law | Campaign Website: http://www.tamwalkerforcongress.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/WalkerForTX10/ | Twitter: twitter.com/WalkerforTx10

What do you think is the appropriate role of the federal government in fostering a positive environment for job creation in the United States?

We should implement a comprehensive infrastructure plan to rebuild crumbling roads and bridges, build flood control and sea walls, light rail in cities, water treatment facilities, and internet in rural areas. We should enact tax incentives to encourage companies to: manufacture and invest in America; develop products and jobs of the future through research and technology; lessen their carbon footprint; provide profit or stock sharing programs to employees; and develop and utilize more clean energy, such as wind and solar. We should develop trade deals that allow the United States to benefit from and contribute to the global economy. We should promote STEM and job training programs in high schools and community colleges for trade and medical skills and phase in a higher minimum wage. We should support labor unions and fund public education. We should enact immigration reform to address labor shortages and skill gaps.
Provisioning affordable health care was the primary goal of the Affordable Care Act which I worked extensively on and is being attacked by the Trump administration with no viable alternative plan. Therefore, I believe the state of Texas should accept the expanded Medicaid to be able to provide needed health insurance to working families. Additionally, we should make the CHIP program permanent and insure that Medicare and Medicaid funding are not diminished by an excessive tax bill that increase the national debt by over $1 trillion dollars. We must also support our thoroughly qualified neighborhood health clinics that provide excellent health care service by using Medicaid, Medicare and fee for service.

Healthcare is of prime importance to all Americans. It is in our best interest to enhance our efforts in preventative medicine, while at the same time ensuring that all Americans have affordable and effective access to an efficient healthcare system. I will coordinate with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to design legislation that would decrease gaps in healthcare services to those citizens who are experiencing difficulties affording it. I will propose and support legislation that will reduce the cost of healthcare and increase the efficiency of the system. I will also initiate and collaborate on healthcare studies with the top Tier One Research institutions in the United States, to come up with recommendation that will benefit those who are the least, the last and the lost. The findings will be used to assist legislators in developing effective healthcare policies to help the economically disadvantaged and the working poor.

We need a truly universal health care system, such as Medicare for All, which will bring down health care costs for everyone in the district and make sure no man, woman, or child is left without health care, just as in all other developed nations. All Americans should have access to health care through either the work, VA, Medicare, or Medicaid. If they do not have one of those options, then they should be given the ability to join Medicare or a similar program. As Obamacare continues to be weakened by the current Congress, we should take this opportunity to address the biggest problem: sharply rising health care costs, which are often twice as expensive for the same procedures as in Europe, while achieving lower life expectancies.

The federal government must help encourage innovation and investment in the sectors of the future, including renewable energy. It must make long term plans to mitigate the effects of automation on the workforce and make investments in specific areas that help create good jobs in the future. Many of the technologies we use every day, such as GPS and the internet, were made possible through federal government investments in science and we can continue to do this as we adapt to disruptive long term trends. The federal government must ensure that all new jobs will adhere to our high labor standards, and that the rights of existing workers are protected from exploitation by employers. Tax incentives should favor true innovators and entrepreneurs, not just industries with large lobbying firms, and should be tied to the creation of middle class jobs.
MARGARITA RUIZ JOHNSON

Harvey and its direct and non-intended consequences, in Pearland is the annexation without consent of the community affected, and the problems with pollution from an old garbage dump and its affect on the residents, in Fort Bend they are having problems of pollution, also. I will closely monitor what, if anything, the local government is doing to remedy these problems and will facilitate coordination with state and federal agencies to remedy these situations with a win/win for all affected.

All citizens should have access to medical care, and therefore, all citizens should have medical care via local health centers, the expansion of Medicaid at the State level, the expansion of Medicare at the federal level, making health care available to more seniors, and bringing the age down to 60 years old, local health cooperatives that are non-profit, the expansion of CHIPs for needed children with contribution from the state and federal level expansion, and any other creative ideas that can be incorporated to cover all of our citizens. The Republicans and Democrats in Congress need to get together to come up with a formula using all these current programs, which by the way are accepted by US Citizens, and are very popular, and bring every one in, and have 100% coverage for all of our citizens.

I believe that healthcare is not a commodity. Free markets will always find that sick, poor and elderly people aren’t profitable. Each of us might one day find ourselves, or our loved ones in one of those categories. That is why last year I organized, with the help of the progressive grassroots, a rally advocating for Medicare for All in Fort Bend County. Government’s primary role should be to protect labor rights, safety and ensure equal access for the American worker. It should also actively look for retraining opportunities for workers in emerging industries, and ensure enforcement mechanism to require pay equity for female workers.

STEVE BROWN

(1) The absence of an advocate for all constituents: Parts of this District have higher levels of poverty than in the inner city of Houston. With access to life-saving social programs harder to obtain outside the loop, the incumbent time and time again votes against the interests of working and middle-class families – once elected I will champion access to the Promise of America and be an advocate all of my constituents can be proud of. (2) Lack of live-saving infrastructure: I am the only candidate in this race with experience working for both the Texas Department of Transportation and Houston METRO. I understand the need for investment in multimodal forms of transportation. Specifically, I’ll work to build commuter rail lines into Fort Bend and Brazoria Counties. I also, I will be an advocate for regional flood control measures and green infrastructure development. (3) We will work to restore the Voting Rights Act requiring the preclearance of electoral changes before they take effect.

LEITITIA PLUMMER

Healthcare affordability, access and coverage; infrastructure development; and tax relief are the most critical issues affecting the District. If elected I will spend the bulk of my time and energy focused on these three priorities. Healthcare: Single payer has been a hot topic this year because of the Medicare for All bill. I believe that healthcare is not a commodity. Free markets will always find that sick, poor and elderly people aren’t profitable. Each of us might one day find ourselves, or our loved ones in one of those categories. That is why last year I organized, with the help of the progressive grassroots, a rally advocating for Medicare for All in Fort Bend County.

As a small business owner, I am intimately aware of this dilemma. I believe my solutions of a Public Option, a National Insurance Exchange, and the expansion of Medicaid are the prescriptions for what ails our health system – especially for those who don’t qualify for employer sponsored insurance. Access to capital is the engine of the entrepreneur’s dream. Right now, job creation in this country has been left largely to the Federal Reserve through its maintenance of interest rates – setting a baseline for liquidity in our economy. Before leaving office, former Chairman Ben Bernanke said the Federal Reserve had been as creative as it could in fostering full employment, and that the onus was now on Congress to enact fiscal policies that would fill the rest of the gap. Sadly, Chairman Bernanke’s words fell on deaf ears. The Federal government should take an activist approach to job creation. It is my belief that many programs of the so called “Great Society” were heading in the right direction by incorporating local community with federal dollars to achieve maximal employment in their areas. As we approach the 50th anniversary of the end of that endeavor, I’ve been thinking of it quite often. I think the programs would serve as blueprints for my office.
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:

What do you think should be done to help those who don’t receive employer-sponsored health insurance and cannot afford insurance through other currently available options?

What do you think is the appropriate role of the federal government in fostering a positive environment for job creation in the United States?

Tahir Javed

We must first and foremost—protect and defend Obamacare from Trump and the Republican held Congress. We also need to affirm health care is a right of all Americans, no matter their ability to pay. And we then need to match law with our progressive values—we need Medicare for All.

Government doesn’t create jobs, but it can invest in stimulating our economy. We need greater federal investment in schools, roads, and healthcare to move our community forward. Better jobs. Better schools. Better hospitals and clinics. Better neighborhoods. It starts today with #AfterHarvey, we’ve used all of these things in this district for a long time. The good news is these are all good-paying jobs, the kind of jobs which transform lives and neighborhoods, and which foster strong communities.

In our district, the linkage between low-paying jobs, limited access to quality healthcare and overcrowded schools is what is holding us back – we need a dramatic change in approach if we want meaningful results.

Education/Degrees: Bachelor’s Degree Economics | Campaign Website: http://javedforcongress.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/javedforcongress | Twitter: twitter.com/javed4congress

Sylvia R. García

The simplest answer is that the federal government must do more to bring down the cost of healthcare. The most effective ways to do so are to protect the Affordable Care Act and expand access to quality, affordable healthcare. Congress must also increase the amount of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) to better meet the healthcare needs of all Americans, particularly our most vulnerable populations such as indigent or unauthorized individuals. FQHCs service persons of all ages regardless of the ability to pay or health insurance status and are the most effective solution to serving folks who are not currently covered by an employer sponsored plan. And, for those covered under Medicare and VA Health Benefits, Congress must protect and not cut those benefits to ensure that all seniors and veterans have a good quality of life.

Congress should support funding for large-scale infrastructure projects, such as school modernization, water and energy systems, and transportation—including highways, public transit, and airports—necessary to bring more infrastructure into our nation’s infrastructure fund and that would generate good jobs. We also must pursue policies to promote family leave, a living wage, employee health and safety and drive environmental sustainability. We must support strong labor-management partnerships to provide flexible and family-friendly careers that allow for employee growth and help management govern effectively and transparently.


Hector Morales

Education- Our public schools are struggling to meet the needs of our community. If we want to empower our students and parents to make decisions about their schools, we must first address the learning gaps. We will ensure that a student going to one public school has the same access to resources and success as a student who goes to a school across the district. Energy: Refineries in Pasadena have dominated the skyline for decades in the name of “good paying jobs”. These “good paying jobs” have cost countless people their health and their lives. We can have great paying jobs and a clean environment by moving towards a renewable energy economy. Health: Our current healthcare system is costly, ineffective, and leaves too many people one illness away from a bankruptcy. In our community, far too few people have access to any medical coverage. We know that a healthy person is better able to contribute to society, so we will guarantee healthcare by extending Medicare to all.

The government has a responsibility to ensure that workers’ rights are being protected while simultaneously ensuring that businesses have the ability to flourish. Tax policy is not a “one size fits all” issue. Small businesses are extremely burdened with policies that tax them more relative to large corporations, more so with healthcare costs. However, a business that seeks to expand must be responsible for ensuring that they are providing livable wages to their employees as well as providing them with employer-based healthcare coverage. At that point the role of the government is to ensure that subsidies are more readily available to small businesses to help them cover some of the costs involved with growing but also have a built in “scale back” effect where the amount of the subsidy is lessened over time. This method would provide a safety net for businesses to grow, allow employees to have benefits, and give businesses time to adapt to changes over time.

Education/Degrees: B.A Government (2009); The University of Texas at Austin-PD Government (Current); The University of Houston | Campaign Website: http://www.hectormorales29.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/Morales729 | Twitter: twitter.com/morales29

Roel Garcia

Voter Apathy - Too many of our citizens don’t vote. This needs to change. We will have monthly voter registration drives. We will have monthly events where voters can directly meet with leaders in elected positions. We will communicate with the community weekly about what is happening in Washington (email, social media, civic clubs, etc.) Jobs/Economy - We support open markets and trade. We reject the isolationist economic policies of the current administration. We support finding the balance in immigration to ensure that businesses have the labor they need while preserving the economic security of those we will serve here. We will advocate for the tax law to encourage corporations pay their fair share. Healthcare – We will protect and improve Obamacare. We will work to expand Medicaid. We will fund and support innovative programs which incentivize communities to eat healthier, live more active lifestyles, receive receive preventative care, and supply women’s health services.

I am in favor of moving toward a single-payer health care program. We must figure out a way to bring the cost of healthcare and prescriptions drugs down. If the core of Obamacare is gutted during the current administration we need to fund programs which provide necessary preventative care and health screenings. Obamacare was a step in the right direction. The ideal solution was to let the markets stabilize and expand Obamacare further. Unfortunately, the uncertainty in the market and the recently repealed individual mandate have left the future of the unclear. We will support efforts to move toward universal care. Additionally, our office will work to influence a cultural shift in health in the 29th District. Insurance alone will not solve the healthcare crisis. Our is the only campaign that has the potential to dramatically influence this change. We will champion healthy living by supporting green space, community gardens, and fitness-based businesses.

Education/Degrees: Columbia University - B.A. Political Science 2007; University of Texas School of Law | J.D. 2011 | Campaign Website: http://www.roelgarci.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/roelgarciaw | Twitter: twitter.com/roelgarciaw

Race continued page 14
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. “Suspense” voters may cast a ballot after completing a Statement of Residence form.
QUESTIONs TO CANDIDATES:

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

ELECTION LAWS & VOTING RIGHTS: What specific measures, if any, would you take to improve voter registration, access to voting, voter turnout and the redistricting process? Why?

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

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

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

LUPE VALDEZ

BACKGROUND: I’ve spent my career working for the greater good. From 2005-2017, I served as Dallas County Sheriff, managing a $140+ million budget, bringing sincere reform & saving taxpayer dollars. I’ve also been an officer in the Army and federal investigator.

ELECTION LAWS & VOTING RIGHTS: Red & blue states across the country are reforming election laws. To modernize our elections, I support automatic voter registration, an independent redistricting commission, repealing discriminatory voter ID laws, shedding light on dark money, and any practical steps that protect the integrity of our elections and make it clear we want the people’s voice to be heard.

HEALTH CARE: I am committed to adopting the Medicaid expansion, adequately funding state mental health facilities, stopping the attacks on women’s healthcare, and ending the medical deserts in urban and rural Texas, where maternal mortality rates are unacceptable. As governor, I’ll wield the bully pulpit to press Congress to build on the ACA and protect our healthcare from sabotage.

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

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

Education: Master’s of Criminology, UT-Arlington; Bachelor’s in Business Administration, Southern Nazarene University | Website: http://www.lupecaldez.com | Facebook: http://facebook.com/LupeForTexas | Twitter: twitter.com/LupeValdez

ADRIAN OCEGUEDA | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

ANDREW WHITE

BACKGROUND: I’ve been a proven entrepreneur for twenty years and led hundreds of employees. My style of leadership involves tackling complex issues using data and building consensus and I am committed to standing up against the extremism in our state.

ELECTION LAWS & VOTING RIGHTS: Texas has one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the nation, in part, because our state has made voting so difficult. We do not have a voter fraud issue - the data doesn’t support that accusation. The voter ID law needs to be changed, because voting should be easy. Our state should allow automatic registration whenever a citizen interacts with a government entity.

HEALTH CARE: Texas has the highest rate of uninsured Americans in the country. And yet, Gov. Abbot refuses to cash a check for $6 billion per year from the federal government to expand Medicaid. I will expand Medicaid so we can stop treating the uninsured in expensive emergency rooms. I will also increase funding for mental health, which will reduce the pressure on hospitals and jails.

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

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

Education: Andrew earned a Bachelor’s of Arts degree in Religious Studies from the University of Virginia in 1994. He received his Masters in Business Administration degree from the University of Texas in 2003. | Website: http://andrewwhite.com | Facebook: http://fb.com/andrewwhite | Twitter: twitter.com/andrewwhite

TOM WAKELY

BACKGROUND: As a life long community activist who has fought for social, economic and environmental justice for over 40 years I bring a wealth of practical experience to the issues facing Texans today: income inequality, universal healthcare and global warming.

ELECTION LAWS & VOTING RIGHTS: Every Texan needs to be automatically registered to vote when they turn 18. In addition, I believe TX needs to join Oregon, Washington, Colorado & conduct all elections by mail. Vote by Mail should solve the access to voting problem & substantial increase voter turnout. An independent bi-partisan commission needs to be in charge of redistricting.

HEALTH CARE: I support Medicare-For-All Texans.

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

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

Education: Alamo Height High School, San Antonio Loretto Height College, Denver Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago | Website: http://texasfortom.com | Facebook: http://www.texasfortom.com | Twitter: twitter.com/TexasForTom

JEFFREY PAYNE

BACKGROUND: I offer common sense, business sense and the commitment to our big and diverse state to create the best atmosphere for our citizens and our states economy. I have years of experience as a mediator which a speaker noted will save us well with our legislature.

ELECTION LAWS & VOTING RIGHTS: I would encourage the legislature to abandon the Voter ID law which was designed to restrict voting not prevent fraud. Additionally, I would veto any legislation that made it more difficult for Texans to vote.

HEALTH CARE: We need to improve Women’s Health Care in Texas. The current state sponsored clinics are a sham and do not provide adequate care or information for Texas women. Healthcare should be a right not a privilege and as Governor I would work to encourage new initiatives to provide quality health care for all Texans. I would accept all Medicaid funds offered by the US Government.

INFRASTRUCTURE: Texas needs an abundant supply of clean water. We need to improve our water resources and expand them. Our education system must be funded in accordance with the Texas Constitution. To do that we must insist that corporate citizens pay their fair share of property taxes. Renewable energy must be a priority. We need to encourage minority owned businesses and other small businesses with the same tax advantages given large corporations. Tuition at State schools must be affordable & we should institute a system that keeps students from going into massive debt. I would explore an Income Sharing Agreement (ISA) as an option. Livable Wage legislation to improve Texans lives.


RACE CONTINUED PAGE 16

THE LEAGUE IS HAPPY TO PROVIDE THIS VOTERS GUIDE FREE OF CHARGE

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WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG OR SENT TO: PO BOX 52987, HOUSTON, TX 77052.
GOVERNOR • DEMOCRATIC PARTY

FOUR-YEAR TERM. MUST BE AT LEAST 30 YEARS OLD, A U.S. CITIZEN, AND A TEXAS RESIDENT FOR AT LEAST 12 MONTHS. AMONG DUTIES: LAWYER FOR THE STATE; DEFENDS THE LAWS AND CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE; REPRESENTS THE STATE IN LITIGATION; APPROVES PUBLIC BOND ISSUES; ENFORCES HEALTH, SAFETY AND CONSUMER REGULATIONS; COLLECTS COURT-ORDERED CHILD SUPPORT; ADMINISTERS CRIME VICTIMS’ COMPENSATION FUND.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

ELECTION LAWS & VOTING RIGHTS: What specific measures, if any, would you take to improve voter registration, access to voting, voter turnout and the redistricting process? Why?

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

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

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

JOE MUMBACH
BACKGROUND: 68 years in the school of hard knocks. Also I was a single parent with 2 daughters from 1979 to 1990. I have been self-employed for most of my adult life. I did work for the City of Pasadena for 10 years, mostly in Utilities and Engineering.

ELECTION LAWS & VOTING RIGHTS: Voter ID laws should encourage people to vote; not discourage them. I could envision voter registration on election day with a valid driver’s license and maybe a dye marker on a thumb or finger. Something like that. Also the time for national census and redistricting is close by. I will end the gerrymandering and return to honest district lines.

HEALTH CARE: We have established our own in-state marketplace options from the beginning. My preference would be for Medicare for all. But at the very least we should have made it easier for people to get coverage from Day 1. CHIP has been an effective program, even without the heartfelt assistance from the state. I would prefer to combine CHIP and Obamacare, Medicare into 1.

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

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

EDUCATION: 3 years of college at the University of St. Thomas, Houston and some additional classes at Lamar University, Beaumont, and the University of Houston, Main Campus | Website: http://www.joefortexas.us | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/Joe-For-Texas-1861358291964039 | Twitter: twitter.com/realjoemumbach

GRADY YARBROUGH | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

JAMES JOLLY CLARK | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

CEDRIC DAVIS SR.
BACKGROUND: I am a former Mayor, Police Chief, School Board Trustee, and EDC Board Director. I am accessible, influential, and energetic political leader. I have spearheaded new school, roadway, and social projects. I have a B. Sc. in CJ, in Grad. Studies for MBA.

ELECTION LAWS & VOTING RIGHTS: Drop voter ID law, fairly redistrict voting maps, explore more technology for electronically registering and voting. I believe this measure ensures equity, not suppression.

HEALTH CARE: Seek the $100 Billion of Medicaid Expansion refused by Gregg Abbott, drop lawsuit over women productive rights and restore proper CHIP funding for children and mothers. We would welcome Planned Parenthood as a means of women affordable health care.

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

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

EDUCATION: Sam Houston State University (B.Sc. CRJ); Mayor Davis is completing his graduate studies in Public Administration at Tarleton State University to obtain his (M.P.A.), he holds a Master Peace Officer license. | Website: http://www.mayoredriccdavis4txgov.org | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/MayorCedrickDavissr | Twitter: twitter.com/Cedrick4Texas

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

ATTORNEY GENERAL • DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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: LAWYER FOR THE STATE; DEFENDS THE LAWS AND CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE; REPRESENTS THE STATE IN LITIGATION; APPROVES PUBLIC BOND ISSUES; ENFORCES HEALTH, SAFETY AND CONSUMER REGULATIONS; COLLECTS COURT-ORDERED CHILD SUPPORT; ADMINISTERS CRIME VICTIMS’ COMPENSATION FUND.

ATTORNEY GENERAL • RUNNING UNOPPOSED

JUSTIN NELSON

BACKGROUND: Attorneys who have practiced in the criminal, civil, and administrative matters for 15 years.

LIFE & RELATIONSHIPS: Married 28 years, two wonderful sons, one fabulous daughter-in-law.

HEALTH CARE: We should have established our own in-state marketplace options from the beginning. Also I was a single parent with 2 daughters from 1979 to 1990. I have been self-employed for most of my adult life. I did work for the City of Pasadena for 10 years, mostly in Utilities and Engineering.

ELECTION LAWS & VOTING RIGHTS: Voter ID laws should encourage people to vote; not discourage them. I could envision voter registration on election day with a valid driver’s license and maybe a dye marker on a thumb or finger. Something like that. Also the time for national census and redistricting is close by. I will end the gerrymandering and return to honest district lines.

HEALTH CARE: We have established our own in-state marketplace options from the beginning. My preference would be for Medicare for all. But at the very least we should have made it easier for people to get coverage from Day 1. CHIP has been an effective program, even without the heartfelt assistance from the state. I would prefer to combine CHIP and Obamacare, Medicare into 1.

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

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

EDUCATION: 3 years of college at the University of St. Thomas, Houston and some additional classes at Lamar University, Beaumont, and the University of Houston, Main Campus | Website: http://www.joefortexas.us | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/Joe-For-Texas-1861358291964039 | Twitter: twitter.com/realjoemumbach

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND | MARCH 6, 2018 VOTERS GUIDE | WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG
COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS • DEMOCRATIC PARTY

FOUR-YEAR TERM. MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD, A U.S. CITIZEN, AND A TEXAS RESIDENT FOR AT LEAST 12 MONTHS. AMONG DUTIES: REGULATES FUEL PUMPS AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEVICES; REGULATES PESTICIDE USE AND APPLICATION; CERTIFIES ORGANICALLY PRODUCED PRODUCTS; FACILITATES TRADE AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

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

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

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

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

TIM MAHONEY

BACKGROUND: With a background in public policy and law, I understand there has to be a systemic change in how Texas engages citizens in our economic efforts. For example, what planning was done for hurricane Harvey? For options, we need effective forecasts.

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

IMMIGRATION: The 2006 report should be updated; such information should be one of the

Questions to candidates:

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

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

OTHER ISSUES: What other issues do you address the concerns of developers and homeowners who want to build in these coastal areas?

MIGUEL SUAZO

BACKGROUND: I am the most qualified and experienced person on the ballot with a proven record of success. I actually work on issues related to the GLO and have for over 15 years. I am a proven leader and can bring in groups Democrats need to turn TX blue in 2018.

COASTAL PLANNING: Short term, we need to care for those devastated by Harvey. Simultaneously, we must identify the projects that will most protect the coast. Protect estuaries, guard against encroachment of fresh and brackish water. Restoring oyster habitats, preventing brackish water invasion of fresh water habitats, combating invasive species, building berms and sand dunes.

TEX MORGAN

BACKGROUND: I hold 2 BS degrees & a MBA. I’ve served as a chief engineer, CEO & transit trustee. I’ve a business & engineering background, no-nonsense attitude; Eagle Scout; no conflicts of interest. I’m beholden solely to the people of Texas, where I grew up.

COASTAL PLANNING: 1st-efficiently restore destroyed properties, building up & bright, or buying out (Harvey victims still homeless!) 2nd-abate destroying & reclaim wetlands, marshes, prairielands & floodplains. Build Coastal Spine & curved sea walls to cut storm surge. Restore, add, & expand dunes, beaches, groynes, Attack dead zones with water mega-pumps. Engineer & oblige porous parcels.

COMMISSIONER OF GENERAL LAND OFFICE • DEMOCRATIC PARTY

FOUR-YEAR TERM. MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD, A U.S. CITIZEN, AND A TEXAS RESIDENT FOR AT LEAST 12 MONTHS. AMONG DUTIES: COLLECTS TAXES AND FEES OWED THE STATE; REPORTS THE STATE’S FINANCIAL CONDITION TO THE LEGISLATURE AT THE END OF EACH FISCAL YEAR AND PROVIDES ESTIMATES OF REVENUE FOR THE COMING YEAR; PROVIDES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND BUSINESSES; AUDITS THE PERFORMANCE OF TEXAS SCHOOLS.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

BACKGROUND: Questions to candidates:

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

OTHER ISSUES: What other issues do you address the concerns of developers and homeowners who want to build in these coastal areas?

KIM OLSON

BACKGROUND: With a background in public policy and law, I understand there has to be a systemic change in how Texas engages citizens in our economic efforts. For example, what planning was done for hurricane Harvey? For options, we need effective forecasts.

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

IMMIGRATION: The 2006 report should be updated; such information should be one of the

Questions to candidates:

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

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

OTHER ISSUES: What other issues do you address the concerns of developers and homeowners who want to build in these coastal areas?

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND | MARCH 6, 2018 VOTERS GUIDE | WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG
RAILROAD COMMISSIONER • DEMOCRATIC PARTY

6-YEAR TERM. MUST BE AT LEAST 25 YEARS OLD, A TEXAS RESIDENT, AND A REGISTERED VOTER. REGULATES THE ENERGY INDUSTRY, INCLUDING PREVENTING POLLUTION, WELL PLUGGING AND SITE REMEDIATION, PIPELINE SAFETY AND DAMAGE PREVENTION, SURFACE MINING OF COAL AND URANIUM, GAS UTILITY RATES, AND ALTERNATIVE FUELS.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

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

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

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

Roman Mcallen

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 Texans live in cities. Oil & gas directly impacts urban life.

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

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

OTHER ISSUES: Assiduous enforcement of existing regulations on all matters is crucial. Added costs to accomplish this can and should be absorbed by the industry. The health, safety, and welfare of all Texans here now, and God willing in the future, depends on this commission to do the right thing and it cannot do so as long as it continues to pander to the industry.

Education: University of Houston Downtown, Bachelor of Business Administration; University of Texas Austin, Master of Architecture | Website: http://www.mcallenfortexas.com/ | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/McAllenForTexas/ | Twitter: twitter.com/RomanMcAllen

Chris Spellmon

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

SUPREME COURT • DEMOCRATIC PARTY

6-YEAR TERM. MUST BE AGE 35-74 YEARS, A U.S. CITIZEN, A TEXAS RESIDENT, LICENSED TO PRACTICE LAW IN TEXAS, A REGISTERED VOTER, AND HAVE AT LEAST 10 YEARS EXPERIENCE AS A LAWYER OR JUDGE. HEARS FINALS OF DECISIONS ON CIVIL CASES AND ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE, ISSUING WRITS OF MANDAMUS/HABEAS CORPUS, AND CONDUCTING PROCEEDINGS FOR REMOVAL OF JUDGES.

PREVOCED JUDGE

Maria T. (Terrri) Jackson

RUNNING UNOPPOSED

Kathy Cheng

RUNNING UNOPPOSED

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION • DEMOCRATIC PARTY

4-YEAR TERM. MUST BE 26 YEARS OLD OR OLDER, A U.S. CITIZEN, A TEXAS RESIDENT, AND A REGISTERED VOTER. OVERSEES CURRICULUM STANDARDS, INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, NEW CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATIONS, AND THE TEXAS PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND; APPOINTS BOARD MEMBERS TO MILITARY RESERVATION/SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

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

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

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

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

Lawrence Allen Jr

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

Steven A. Chambers


ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE ACCESSED ONLINE AT WWW.VOTE411.ORG.
HANK SEGELKE

1) Infrastructure: The Legislature has to invest in building additional flood/storm mitigation, upgrading highways and bridges, and modernizing government buildings like DPS stations, community clinics, and schools. These areas are the “skeleton” of our economy. 2) Employment: The Legislature has to cut back on regulation, get away from licensing requirements that aren’t necessary, and focus on apprenticeships that teach real-world skills. These actions would strengthen the “muscles” of our economy. 3) Education: At all levels (K-12, college/university, and apprenticeships), the Legislature has to provide adequate funding for citizens to learn and to improve their skills, not merely in industry and business but also in the arts. I will work to find the best solutions to these issues, find adequate funding in the current budget, and hold the programs accountable for achieving good results.

JOHN WHITMIRE

Healthcare. I will continue to advocate for Medicaid expansion in Texas and will continue to use my seat on the Senate Finance to push 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. Education. The state must step up and make funding public education our top priority. We rely too heavily on property taxes to fund public education when we should be funding it with general revenue. I will also continue to oppose vouchers in any form and will work to reform our school finance system so that all of our public schools are adequately and equitably funded. Criminal Justice reform. We must continue to provide alternatives to incarceration and treatment programs to low-level offenders with particular focus on keeping our juvenile offenders in the community with the services they need. Bail bond reform continues to be a top priority as well as indigent defense.

DAMIAN LACROIX

My top 3 legislative priorities that I would like to accomplish while in office are: a. Building a 21st century public education system based on STEAM b. Establishing a state sponsored single-payer healthcare system c. Equity for all To achieve my legislative priorities will require a Democrat majority in the Texas Senate and House. I believe Texas will never turn blue until the largest county in the state, Harris County, consistently votes Democrat in non-presidential election years. Thus, I will utilize any goodwill and name recognition from winning the primary on GOTV efforts in the 2018 General Election. In this regard, I will devote substantially all my time from winning the primary on GOTV efforts in the 2018 General Election. In this regard, I will devote substantially all my time from winning the primary on GOTV efforts in the 2018 General Election. I will work to increase the number of apprenticeships in the trades (building, plumbing, electrical, etc.), with skills-acquisition counting toward graduation requirements. Last, I want every K-12 student to have daily physical exercise, daily art and music, and regular access to medical care.

David Romero | Running Unopposed

Questions to Candidates:

Identify what you think are the three most important issues directly affecting the people in your district and explain how you will address these issues if elected.

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

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

What role should the Texas Legislature play in addressing the problem of human trafficking in our state and in providing funding for programs that support victims?

First, let’s call human trafficking what it really is: Slavery. Modern-day slavery, right here in our State. The Legislature has to pass laws which punish slavery with serious prison time and crippling fines. The Legislature should also pass laws which allow enslaved persons to sue for damages, including compensatory (with no limit on pain and suffering awards) and punitive damages. Civil asset forfeiture should also apply upon conviction where the victim has not sued.

I strongly support public education as a place where children learn information, skills, and citizenship. But in the 21st century, it’s appropriate to ask whether we can do some things differently. I will work to increase the use of the internet so that all students, even those in the most remote areas, can learn from and benefit from the best teachers in the State, including in subjects which their local districts may not offer. I’m open to looking at changes to when school is open, including later start times for teenagers and starting the school year in January instead of August. I especially want to increase the number of apprenticeships in the trades (building, plumbing, electrical, etc.), with skills-acquisition counting toward graduation requirements. Last, I want every K-12 student to have daily physical exercise, daily art and music, and regular access to medical care.

We must reform our public school finance system to ensure all school children, regardless where you live, receive a quality and equitable education. We must invest more state dollars in public education and continue to fight off vouchers by any name. We must also increase teacher pay.

The Legislature must continue to fund prevention programs and public awareness campaigns. We must increase funding for services for victims of human trafficking to help in recovering from this horrendous crime. We must also strengthen the penalties for human traffickers. The Senate Criminal Justice Committee, which I chair, will be having interim hearings on human trafficking awareness and prevention and will be making recommendations to the Legislature for next session.

I plan to push to legalize marijuana and casino gambling, charge a vice tax on those industries and use the tax revenues to fund the public education system.

The Texas Legislature plays an important role in addressing human trafficking. Specifically, by enacting laws that provide for strict and harsh consequences to human traffickers and by creating a fund to assist victims of human trafficking.

Important Note to All Voters: Texas Law Does Not Allow Voters to Access Information or Personal Notes Using Electronic Devices (Such As Mobile Phones or Tablets) While at the Polling Place. However, You May Take Printed or Handwritten Notes Into the Voting Booth, Including a Printed Copy of This Voters Guide.
STATE SENATOR • DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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:

IDENTIFY WHAT YOU THINK ARE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES DIRECTLY AFFECTING THE PEOPLE IN YOUR DISTRICT AND EXPLAIN HOW YOU WILL ADDRESS THESE ISSUES, IF ELECTED?

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

What role should the Texas Legislature play in addressing the problem of human trafficking in our state and in providing funding for programs that support victims?

FRAN WATSON

Access to affordable inclusive healthcare. While District 17 is home to one of the largest healthcare centers in the world, people in rural parts of the District are have issues accessing the care needed. Working on medicare expansion to bring federal dollars to the state could not only provide communities access to health care, but ensure that regardless of location, services, including telemedicine, would be available. Traffic continues to be an issue in District 17. While there are some large scale construction projects on the horizon to relieve the congestion, construction is not the only solution. I will work to strengthen access to public transportation and address the issue of affordable housing, as residents must move further out for housing, which means a longer commute times. Storm Preparedness. I will work to invest in the completion of local flood-prevention projects, and call on ecologists and environmentalists in addition to engineers for flood solutions.

Education/Degrees: Juris Doctor, Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University Bachelor of Science, Psychology, University of | Campaign Website: http://www.frankwatsonfortexas.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/frankwatsonfortexas

RITA LUCIDO

Education funding in TX relies on a non-sustainable formula that punishes districts for healthy property tax revenue & allows the state to not contribute equitably to districts on a per student basis. This system contributes to higher property taxes, our overcrowded classrooms & scarcity of resources for many students. Neighborhoods all over SD17 were hard hit by the flood last fall & many people are still not in their homes & businesses aren’t fully up & running, while Texas sits on $10 billion of our money & state government refuses to do its part in the recovery effort. SD17 wants creativity & leadership in Austin to get the community back to normal. SD17 residents want leadership in the TX Sen to take care of real issues, not distractions and silly ideological bills. I’m repeatedly told that last session’s “bathroom bill” was an embarrassment & unnecessary waste of their money. SD17 residents want state government to get back to important issues like education & infrastructure.

Education/Degrees: BA Trinity University, San Antonio, TX -1979; JD University of Houston Law Center -1982 | Campaign Website: http://rlucido.com | Facebook: http://twitter.com/rlucido

AHMAD R. HASSAN

Economics, healthcare, and education. I am a leader in Harris County economic development on the global market. It is also important to me that our senior citizens and children are well taken care of under a healthcare bill.

Education/Degrees: PHD, and Law degree

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DEMOCRATIC PARTY

MEMBER OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE. ADVOCATES FOR HOME DISTRICT. ORIGINATES ALL BILLS FOR REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR OPERATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT. WORKING WITH STATE SENATE LEGISLATES, INITIATES PROPOSALS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, BRINGS ANY CHARGES OF IMPEACHMENT FOR TRIAL IN THE SENATE. 2-YEAR TERM.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

IDENTIFY WHAT YOU THINK ARE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES DIRECTLY AFFECTING THE PEOPLE IN YOUR DISTRICT AND EXPLAIN HOW YOU WILL ADDRESS THESE ISSUES, IF ELECTED?

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

What role should the Texas Legislature play in addressing the problem of human trafficking in our state and in providing funding for programs that support victims?

NATALI HURTADO

Education is a very important issue in district 126. I plan to fight on behalf of teachers and administrators making sure they are receiving the necessary tools to ensure a quality education for our children. Allowing the state to not contributing proper funding and reworking the school finance formula is an excellent place to start. Healthcare is another key issue in our district. Making sure people are not having to choose between buying their medicine or getting basic necessities for home is critical. By expanding Medicaid and accepting federal funding that comes along with this expansion can easily help so many people thrive. Lastly, I believe getting a hold on our property taxes is critical. Homeowners are having to carry the load for big corporations that feel they don’t need to pay their fair share - this has to change. By working with others, we can close the current loopholes that are in place that benefit big corporations and stop burdening homeowners with increasing taxes.

Education/Degrees: Masters in Public Policy & Administration - University of St. Thomas Double BA Psychology & Political Science - University of Houston | Campaign Website: http://NataliforTexas.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/NataliforTexas

RACE CONTINUED PAGE 21
MEMBER OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE. ADVOCATES FOR HOME DISTRICT. ORIGINATES ALL BILLS FOR REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR OPERATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT. WORKING WITH STATE SENATE LEGISLATES, INITIATES PROPOSALS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, BRINGS ANY CHARGES OF IMPEACHMENT FOR TRIAL IN THE SENATE. 2-YEAR TERM.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES: Identify what you think are the three most important issues directly affecting the people in your district and explain how you will address these issues, if elected?

UNDRAI F. FIZER

We live in a very thriving district, in all areas. I do believe that we could be more culturally inclusive and inviting. The present political climate has left a “bad taste” in the community. Also, for this to be a thriving community; we are experiencing very negative discriminatory problems at certain schools. I believe this needs to be addressed. Our healthcare program for our seniors and individuals with preexisting conditions are finding themselves in a dilemma and we need to fix that. Many of our established neighborhoods need to be protected more from flooding issues as well. Therefore, in the midst of a beautiful, outward presentation, we have yet to determine what intricate CORE VALUE we are living from; the CORE VALUE that empowers us to be a COMMUNITY. With the resident dynamic changing drastically; we need to address the ever-present needs to upgrade community, family, and educational involvement for ALL PEOPLE, and not just “the SOME!”

GINA CALANNI

Public Education and Financing, Flood Control, and Sex trafficking. We need to increase the amount of funding our public education while at the same time addressing our growing property taxes. The amount of money raised each year by our school has gone up in line with the amount of special education students per school or district. We have to make sure our schools have the resources and funding needed to excel and work hard to make this happen. I will vote for increased funding to our schools and make sure that early education and special education classes thrive and are given adequate resources to succeed. Education/Degrees: Shadydale Elementary School B.C. Emore Middle School Forest Brook HS ’85 Latin University of Theology; D.Div. Religious Education United Graduate College and Seminary: Ph.D. Humanities

CARLOS PENA

First of all, I believe in listening to the front-line experts on this issue—the school teachers themselves. Teachers must be empowered and we must understand existing obstacles to effective education under the current system. We must also seek to address all real or perceived problems inherent in a system that all too often pushes ideas onto teachers from the top down. It is imperative that we identify and incorporate best practices for improvement from other Texas school districts; those from around the world and incorporate as applicable. For example, there are systems that aim to teach to the “whole child” that are receiving positive reviews and outcomes. This approach emphasizes both subject matter proficiency along with practical application and stimulates students’ natural curiosity. It is equally important to recognize that children learn best when they are healthy, properly fed, and grow up in stable environments. Education/Degrees: St. Mary’s Law School (Doctor of Jurisprudence), St. Mary’s School of Business (Master of Business Administration), University of Texas - El Paso (Bachelor of Science in Electrical/Computer Engineering)

Human trafficking in Harris County and Texas at large is a very real legal and humanitarian issue. Action must be taken sooner rather than later. Human trafficking must be attacked at every opportunity—at countries of origin as well as trafficking destinations. Stiff criminal penalties and civil remedies against anyone participating in the human trafficking chain or who aid and abet in such trafficking should be pursued. Moreover, victims must be effectively represented and efforts to detect, prevent and prosecute traffickers must be closely coordinated by Texas with other countries, the federal government, other states and local governments by law enforcement, activist organization, and related social governmental agencies to address victims’ specific needs and to ensure they are placed back with family as soon as possible. In addition, traffickers found guilty of such crimes should be required to pay court costs and contribute to reimbursing taxpayers and compensating victims.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND | MARCH 6, 2018 VOTERS GUIDE | WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG
MEMBER OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE. ADVOCATES FOR HOME DISTRICT. ORIGINATES ALL BILLS FOR REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR OPERATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT. WORKING WITH STATE SENATE LEGISLATES, INITIATES PROPOSALS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, BRINGS ANY CHARGES OF IMPEACHMENT FOR TRIAL IN THE SENATE. 2-YEAR TERM.

What role should the Texas Legislature play in addressing the problem of human trafficking in our state and in providing funding for programs that support victims?

Houston is a trafficking hub. There are plenty of professionals in this city who know how to train people to recognize a trafficked individual. There are programs that foster emotional recovery and that seek to teach these survivors skills that earn more than minimum wage. The state has to demonstrate a serious intent to deal with trafficking by including stiff legal penalties for the purveyors of this evil act. Again money and laws are the way to go.

Funding for Infrastructure/Flood Control.

The State should fully support and fund both enforcement measures designed to arrest and prosecute sex traffickers, as well as programs that support victims. In this regard, I believe SB4 (the so-called “sanctuary city” law) should be repealed as it discourages victims of sex trafficking, who may otherwise be in this country without legal documentation, to seek protection from law enforcement authorities.

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

I was a fellow victim of Harvey, and I was displaced much like many of my neighbors for 90 days. I've been very disappointed from the State of Texas, the City of Houston, Harris County, and FEMA's level of response. Crime in our neighborhoods have risen substantially since the hurricane. I would like to get law enforcement agencies more involved in the communities in order to provide greater coverage and support, but also to help the public get to know those that keep them safe a little better. The LGBT Community has long since been targeted not only by the public, but also by our very own government. I would like to raise more awareness of the community itself, as well as key subjects discussed by the community, while also promoting anti-discrimination.

For all questions:

1) District 133 was profoundly impacted by Harvey. We desperately need a flood prevention plan that includes a third dam. The state needs to pay 500 million, more money to the construction of this dam to prevent future catastrophe. 2) Our children’s education is suffering because the Algebra 2 was waived as a graduation requirement. The state tests passing grades with these waives so that our children will not be competitive with other states. We rank 43rd. 3) Women’s health is a backburner issue and Texas ranks 49th in health. The district needs to take a stand and support Medicaid expansion, increased money for public health education, and support money for planned parenthood as well as teaching our children pregnancy prevention beyond the failed celibacy approach.

MARTY SCHEXNAYDER


Funding for Infrastructure/Flood Control.

Advocate teacher salary increases and an end to high-stakes testing. Third, I will support state funding, which will also allow school districts to transfer $5 billion of the “rainy day” fund to public education funding, which is currently underfunded by the State. This will make sure that in the event of a natural disaster, there will be a specific agency to provide immediate assistance. I would like to get law enforcement agencies more involved in the communities in order to provide greater coverage and support, but also to help the public get to know those that keep them safe a little better. The LGBT Community has long since been targeted not only by the public, but also by our very own government. I would like to raise more awareness of the community itself, as well as key subjects discussed by the community, while also promoting anti-discrimination.

1) I will urge the repeal of the law that removed Algebra 2 as a graduation requirement. I will urge that the state go back to previous levels of funding for public education so that children with “special needs”, i.e. any child with an ADA diagnosis can get the special services that they need. I will also urge a restructureing of Robin Hood even if it means dipping into the rainy fund. 2) Senate Bill 4, and the never-ending flood of anti-immigrant and anti-LGBTQ bills filed every session.

SAM TEJAS

Education/Degrees: Attended Houston Community College and University of Houston. Majored in Criminal Justice.

I grew up in a family where my father was working for the federal government, and my mother was a school teacher. I got my education by attending Catholic private schools most of my life. My mother taught in public school for a short time, and I am a strong believer that the federal government has no responsibility in educating our kids, rather that it is a responsibility of our state and local governments. We must reduce the size of our classes, and add more teachers in the classroom. To do so, a teacher can communicate more directly to the students one by one, and get a more personal connection to each child. We have multiple cultures within our communities that each need their own respect, and that needs to start with the children. We need to support and promote diversity by allowing our children to be in an educational system that doesn't focus on any particular religion.

1) Invest in public schools as our #1 budget priority. Restore the state’s share of public funding to at least 50 percent and use Rainy Day funds to repair the still-devastating consequences of the funding “gap” created by the $4 billion school funding cut in 2011. 2) Enact flood control solutions. Combating carbon emissions to reduce Texas’ contributions to climate change. Toughen rules for new construction to protect existing homes. Create and properly fund a 13-county regional Flood Control District to accept responsibility for all storm water issues. 3) Stop all the hate. No more discrimination. No more dividing families. Diversity is one of Houston’s greatest strengths, immigrants make our city great, and we deserve leaders who will resist the culture of hate that Trump has stoked. We must resist and repeal discriminatory laws such as the “Show Me Your Papers” Senate Bill 4, and the never-ending flood of anti-immigrant and anti-LGBTQ bills filed every session.

1) Restore the state’s share of public funding to at least 50 percent of the total cost of public school education, thereby supporting our students and relieving the burden on local property taxpayers. 2) Fix the recapture system to reflect 2018 realities and to stop penalizing districts, including Spring Branch ISD, that are socially “property rich” but in reality have large populations of students from lower-income families. 3) Provide funds to local districts for full-day pre-K. 4) Stop the overuse of standardized testing so that more classroom time can be spent on lessons rather than test preparation and so that teachers and schools can be assessed on fairer, more reliable criteria. 5) Support “vouchers” and other schemes to privatize or defund our public schools. For example, Cy-Fair ISD receives $80 in state funding for facilities, but the state just gave $60 million in facilities funding to unproven startups. That’s not fair and must change.

The Texas Legislature should (1) reduce criminal penalties for the offenses commonly committed by trafficking victims so they do not become stigmatized and unemployable, (2) create an easy path to expunging the criminal records of trafficking victims and create a legal presumption that any prostitution defendant under 18 is a trafficking victim, (3) support legal aid programs so that victims have better access to attorneys and court translators, (4) increase state funding to provide victims with transition services (such as medical care, job counseling, and temporary housing) to ease the path back to a normal life, and (5) properly fund the state’s child welfare system so that fewer wards of the state become trafficking victims.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES: Identify what you think are the three most important issues directly affecting the people in your district and explain how you will address these issues, if elected?

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

What role should the Texas Legislature play in addressing the problem of human trafficking in our state and in providing funding for programs that support victims?

JENIFER RENE POOL

1. Flood mitigation, reservoir repairs and infrastructure repairs; I propose to reallocate funds from the budget for the safety of all of District.138. 2. Education; I propose properly funding schools and higher education. 3. Medical care for all Texans and raising Texas from third world Infant mortality I propose supporting Medicaid and A.C.A. expansion; CHIPS, improving Infant mortality through adequate local medical care.

Election/Degrees: BS - BUSINESS MANAGEMENT | Campaign Website: http://jeniferfortexas.com | Campaign Address: 401 Studewood #205 Houston, TX 77007 | Facebook: http://jeniferrenepool | Twitter: twitter.com/jeniferrenepool

JARVIS D. JOHNSON

1. Education reform- during the 85th legislation I wrote legislation and passed a bill that would put vocational education back into schools to give children an alternative choice if they were not going to college. This legislation also will address the shortfall that Texas has with skilled labor. I also wrote legislation to use compensatory education allotment for school districts guidance and counseling program. I wrote HB 315 that would make grants available to school districts to provide services to students that reside in care and treatment facilities. 2. Criminal justice reform- I wrote HB 625- relating to regular psychology examinations of peace officers. L.E.O. are at the highest rates of suicide of any workforce in the country. I also wrote legislation that would require L.E.O to have physical fitness training and testing. Officers are at the highest rate of obesity and heart disease in the country of any workforce in country 3. Health care.

Election/Degrees: BS speech communication Texas southern university | Campaign Website: http://Jarvis.johnson.org

RANDY BATES

Education: Statistics say that our education system is among the worst in the nation and that is unacceptable. We must start working towards a more stable, productive, and inclusive educational system that meets the variety of needs of our constituents. Fiscal Responsibility: I believe that the way Texas allocates and spends money can be improved. Drastic cuts to education funding and health care lead to long term consequences that we have no real plan to address. Seniors: Our seniors are the core of our district and deserve to be treated as such. The law should protect our senior citizens from abuse, unsafe housing/living conditions, access to quality healthcare, no matter where they live. We will accomplish this by working across the aisle. I’ve been successful working with republicans. A majority republican Board of Trustees of the Lone Star College System elected me 4 times, as their Chairman.

Election/Degrees: The Ohio State University Bachelor of Science, Business Administration Thurgood Marshall School of Law Doctor of Jurisprudence | Campaign Website: http://randybatesfordistrict139.com

ARMANDO LUCIO WALLER

In District 142 we are affected by: 1. Lack of employment 2. 2nd chance programs 3. Education I would address these issues by directly working with hiring entities in the district and holding job fairs to make sure people are properly trained to receive quality pay. For those that are getting out of the penal system we would allow them to have jobs lined up so that they can provide for their families. Without these types of chances those coming out of the system will be unable to provide and eventually turn back to their life of crime. For the last 10 yrs the current legislator has had years of passing legislation directly affecting schools in the district. I would work with administration and create programs that focus more on academics and strengthening areas were kids may be weak. I would also want to work with teachers and work on increasing teachers pay in order to get cream of the crop teachers. I will also work to pass laws in order to make it mandatory to for teachers to have proper certification to teach students.

Election/Degrees: Degrees in Finance and Banking | Campaign Website: http://www.richardbonton.org | Facebook: http://RichardBonton142

SENFRONIA THOMPSON

More public education/outreach on human trafficking. State Legislators should send bills to the governor’s desk would require tougher laws to be created. The main offenders are truck drivers, they would receive training on the issue and mandate new places from strip clubs to abortion clinics to hospital emergency rooms that must post signs aimed at reaching potential trafficking victims.

HAROLD V. DUTTON JR

The biggest issues are public education, criminal justice, housing. To improve education at the campuses in District, I will stay on HISD to treat this side of town equally. Criminal justice requires me to change laws that are themselves discriminatory. To improve housing in the area requires me to work with many groups to make the tax credits for building houses work for our benefit.

Election/Degrees: BBA and J.D | Campaign Email: harold_dutton@yahoo.com | Facebook: http://HaroldDuttonCampaign
Shawn Nicole Thierry

1. Ending maternal mortality in Texas: Texas leads the nation in the number of women who die due to complications in childbirth; Harris County’s rate exceeds that of 56 other countries; and African American women are disproportionately impacted, at a rate three times as high. To combat this epidemic, I filed legislation during the special session and sponsored SB 17, which passed in August 2017, and adds a labor and delivery nurse, and a critical care doctor, to The Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force.

2. Protecting senior citizens: I filed HB 959, the Financial Elder Abuse and Exploitation Prevention Act, which created penalties for those who prey on the elderly, through financial and other scams, and mandated that banks report any suspected financial abuse. 2. Housing Reform: I authored HB 3919, which sought to crack down on substandard/unsafe rental properties.


Mary Ann Perez

In order to continue attracting the best and brightest, teacher’s pay must reflect the professionalism required. By reducing class size, not only will students benefit from more individual attention, but teachers will suffer less burn out. Measures must be initiated to save and improve our failing schools. We cannot allow schools, like prisons, to be privatized. If fewer than 30% of constituents are engaged, we must have a path to the middle class for the remaining 70%. It is imperative that vocational training for students and retraining for displaced workers be made available. Our people need careers, not dead end jobs. We first, need to save the schools in danger of being shut down. Second, we must partner with community colleges and Union apprentice programs to provide students with training.

Education/Degrees: Doctor of Jurisprudence Bachelors - Business Administration

Daniel Espinoza

Education/Degrees: University of St. Thomas / B.A. Political Science | Campaign Website: http://garnetcoleman.com | Facebook: /garnetcoleman | Twitter: twitter.com/garnetcoleman

Garnet F. Coleman

In no particular order. Pass the parts of the Sandra Bland Act as it was originally filed that did not pass last session which includes 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 to increase access to and quality of healthcare for all Texans and work to eliminate disparities in health outcomes based on race/ethnicity including in maternal and infant mortality. I will continue to fight for quality full-day Pre-K, increased public education funding, ending tuition deregulation, protecting the top 10% rule, and increasing state funding for our community colleges and universities. Also, increasing the number of affordable housing options in district 147 and our communities of color.


ANA HERNANDEZ | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

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

I am a proud product of the public education system and my mother was a dedicated, passionate teacher, so reforming the Texas public education system is one of my top legislative priorities. I am a staunch advocate for public education and am vehemently opposed to the voucher system. As a mother myself, I understand the value of advocating for individuals most directly impacted by education policy- the students and teachers. During the last legislative session, I worked to address issues of homelessness in higher education, teacher expenses for the classroom, and increased accountability for prejudicially motivated offenses that occur on school grounds. I also believe, taxpayer dollars need to be utilized to their full extent, to enhance and upgrade the current conditions of our public school system for ALL children. Children are one of our most vulnerable populations, and ensuring a safe educational environment is key to a successful future for all of our children.

Education/Degrees: University of St. Thomas / B.A. Political Science | Campaign Website: http://garnetcoleman.com | Facebook: Garnet Coleman | Twitter: twitter.com/garnetcoleman

Mary Ann Perez

What role should the Texas Legislature play in addressing the problem of human trafficking in our state and in providing funding for programs that support victims?

Human trafficking involves both sex and labor victims. As Texas’ 4th largest city, filled with diverse ethnic groups, many of Houston’s victims are suffering in plain sight. It is estimated approximately 79k Texas minors and youths are victims of sex trafficking-at a cost of $6,800,000,000 to the State. Totally, there are approximately 313k victims of sex trafficking state wide. 234k victims of labor trafficking are economically exploited by nearly $600,000,000. State funding must be made available to investigate violators, enforce laws and retrain victims. Awareness programs must be funded so that victims are made aware of community efforts to rescue them, as well as protect youth from being enticed or forced into this circle of shame. Violators & exploiters must be prosecuted, as a deterrent to others. Exploited immigrants, must be protected and given leniency in immigration status investigations. Consumers must be trained, to recognize and report the businesses they suspect.

Education/Degrees: University of St. Thomas / B.A. Political Science | Campaign Website: http://garnetcoleman.com | Facebook: Garnet Coleman | Twitter: twitter.com/garnetcoleman

Roy Owens

First, Texas House District 146, located in South Central and Southwest Houston, suffers from great economic disparity. In the less affluent areas, chronic unemployment and the vices that follow plague the district. More than 1 out of 10 Texans living in poverty resides in HD 146 (almost twice the rate living in poverty throughout TX). Second, our constituents need JOBS. We must encourage local businesses to hire residents, especially those from economically depressed areas. Procurement opportunities on state funded projects should reward vendors, contractors and grant recipients, for using local wage earners, especially those residing in economically depressed areas. Third, Hurricane Harvey taught our district ( and other parts of the gulf coast) that our bayou systems are in desperate need of improvement. Through state funded infrastructure programs, we can put Texans to work.

Education/Degrees: Texas Southern University/ Construction Management | Campaign Website: http://Just4Owens.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/Just4Owens

Ricardo Soliz

I will support any legislation that primarily places school children first. Education is the building block of the future. My support would include meals for children and proper pay for educators. I would support a solid infrastructure that would include improvement of physical facilities and transportation. Bullying would be considered more serious than today and dealt with appropriately. I support the abolishment of corporal punishment that is still legal in Texas, especially in grades above the 5th grade.

Education/Degrees: Doctor of Jurisprudence Bachelors - Business Administration

Garnet F. Coleman

The Texas Legislature should play a proactive role in preventing human trafficking. Many victims of human trafficking are also victims of Texas’ broken CPS system. That is why I introduced a budget rider last session to increase funding for family support programs that keep children with their families while their parents learn the skills to be parents and overcome their addiction. Substance abuse plays a role in 2/3rds of CPS child removals. I also support pay increases for frontline CPS employees and providing funding for programs that support victims of human trafficking.

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QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES: Identify what you think are the three most important issues directly affecting the people in your district and explain how you will address these issues, if elected?

| DISTRICT 148 | JESSICA CRISTINA FARRAR | RUNNING UNOPPOSED |
| DISTRICT 150 | MICHAEL SHAWN KELLY | RUNNING UNOPPOSED |
| DISTRICT 149 | HUBERT VO | RUNNING UNOPPOSED |

JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEALS • DEMOCRATIC PARTY

6-YEAR TERM. MUST BE AGE 35-74 YEARS, A U.S. CITIZEN, A TEXAS RESIDENT, LICENSED TO PRACTICE LAW IN TEXAS, A REGISTERED VOTER, AND HAVE AT LEAST 10 YEARS EXPERIENCE AS A LAWYER OR JUDGE. HEARS APPEALS ON CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES FROM LOWER COURTS IN ITS DISTRICT.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES: What will you do as a member of the Texas Legislature to ensure that all Texas children receive a quality education?

| 1ST COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 2 | GORDON GOODMAN | RUNNING UNOPPOSED |
| 1ST COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 7 | JULIE COUNTISS | RUNNING UNOPPOSED |
| 1ST COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 8 | RICHARD HIGHTOWER | RUNNING UNOPPOSED |
| 1ST COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 6 | SARAH BETH LANDAU | RUNNING UNOPPOSED |
| 1ST COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 5 | MEAGAN HASSAN | RUNNING UNOPPOSED |

| 4TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 3 | JOSEPH R. WILLIE II | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED |
| 4TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 9 | PETER KELLY | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED |

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.
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 • DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

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

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

1. **What will you do to ensure that all parties involved in cases, including pro bono young lawyers, the ability to assist pro se litigants, will have an opportunity to present their cases to a judge “up to speed” on basic things about their case so the judge can resolve the motion. Because the courts’ schedules are already tight, a few minutes’ delay here and there can add 1 or more hours of waiting time to cases farther down the docket.**

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

3. **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?**

**LATOSHA LEWIS PAYNE**

As a first-generation college graduate and only lawyer in my family, I understand what it means to be unfamiliar with a system and thus at disadvantage. I will be fair and bring a unique and different perspective, as shaped by my experiences, that will ensure all parties have an equal opportunity for justice, or “fair shake,” under the law. I will provide a welcoming, informative courtroom that treats all litigants with the respect—they are an individual or corporation, or represented by an attorney or not. I will make sure the court has enough available oral hearing days so that motions may be heard quickly. I would also want to restart an initiative I worked on as a young lawyer to offer pro bono young lawyers the ability to assist pro se litigants that cannot afford an attorney at trial. I will provide clear and understandable court procedures, which will be available in the courtroom in several languages. I would like to have a Spanish speaker on my staff.

**PAUL SIMON**

Efficiency. It is not uncommon for lawyers to wait 30 days or more to have a court hear his or her client’s issue (called a “motion”), and sometimes lawyers must wait 1-2 hours on the day their motion is heard before it is called. These things delay resolution of the case and cost the parties money in the form of more legal fees. Preparedness. If I am honored to serve, I will always be prepared by reading the parties’ papers before their hearing. That doesn’t always happen, and that wastes time because the lawyers must get the judge “up to speed” on basic things about their case so the judge can resolve the motion. Because the courts’ schedules are already tight, a few minutes’ delay here and there can add 1 or more hours of waiting time to cases farther down the docket. Fairness. I have no agenda other than my love of the law and to decide cases based on the law and rules. A good referee is not noticed during the game and never remembered after. That is my goal if I am elected.

**RABEEA COLLIER**

Trials are about giving the parties an opportunity to present their case to a court and thereby a chance to be heard by a jury and 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. I will ensure that all parties have sufficient time to present their case and are treated with respect and dignity, free from prejudice and bias.

It is important to me that litigants that may come before me are confident that they are getting a fair and unbiased judge to preside over their proceedings. The American Bar Association, in their guidance, has noted that the fact that a lawyer in a proceeding, or a litigant, contributed to a judge's campaign does not in itself disqualify a judge. However, the size of the contributions, the degree of involvement, timing of donation, the issues involved, and other factors may raise questions as to the judges’ impartiality. In light of this guidance and my strong belief in avoiding the appearance of impropriety, I intend to recuse myself in these instances as the circumstances warrant.

**COOKE KELSEY**

Fairness and impartiality are essential qualities for a judge. Judges must give every litigant their day in court, listen fully to each side, and apply the law fairly. Civil courts, however, are inaccessible to many litigants due to high costs, long delays, and language barriers. As a judge I would insist on unrepresented parties being immediately referred to adequate counsel and implement long-ignored recommendations from the office of court administration for improving court efficiency and fairness. Having worked in three courts managing large dockets, I know we can do better. Access to justice is a constitutional right, regardless of one’s background or financial resources.

The current system of financing and electing judges is less than ideal. My campaign contributors in this race are primarily friends and family, rather than attorneys who might practice before me. Judicial candidates have to comply with the contribution limits and required disclosures set out in the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act, and I certainly will so do. Ultimately the system must change, although I’m not sure a closed-door appointment or patronage system is the best answer. I believe judges should be held accountable to informed voters and not simply those who give them campaign contributions.

**TANYA GARRISON**

As a litigator, I am often frustrated by the slow pace at which cases proceed through the civil justice system. It costs the parties too much money and delays resolution of disputes. As a judge, I will work to ensure that cases proceed through the system as smoothly and timely as possible.

At any given time a Harris County district court manages a trial docket of approximately 1,400 - 1,800 cases. For this reason, it is critically important that Harris County elects a candidate that has jury trial experience to ensure cases are heard in a timely manner. I am the only candidate in the Democratic Primary for the 113th Civil District Court that has tried a case to a jury in district court. In fact, I have tried cases to verdict as an attorney for both, plaintiffs and defendants. As such, I have a balanced perspective and the experience on day one to get a case ready for trial.

Most courts only hold regular hearing dockets once a week. Before Harvey, some courts were empty most of the rest of the week. Once the courts return to normal (est. late 2018), I will be sure to use as much of the normal work week as possible to decide cases and preliminary issues. This is in addition to my answer above (efficiency and preparedness). Not every case requires the nearly 2 years it usually takes before it is ready for trial. For those cases, I will ensure they go to trial as soon as possible, while being fair to the parties’ needs to develop their cases. The simple steps I outlined earlier will help. Some cases do require more time before they go to trial, and I will work with those parties to ensure their cases get the time they need. My goal is to allow the parties to decide how much time they need and to resolve their disputes about timing fairly (i.e., better outcomes in some cases, like car wrecks, are not improved with 15 pretrial depositions).
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?

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?

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

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SCOT "DOLLI" DOLLINGER

I am a very hard worker, extremely organized and efficient. I have tried over 40 civil cases to verdict, litigated cases in over 50 counties, filed appeals in the 1st & 14th Court of Appeals, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and both the Supreme Court of Texas and of the United States. I know how to properly run a court room having worked in court rooms all over Texas for over 30 years. I will follow the law without bias, sympathy or prejudice and allow lawyers adequate time to pick juries making sure no one is excluded based on race, gender or sexual orientation. If people do not have a lawyer, I will give them adequate time to get one and refer them to free legal services available in our community. I am patient. I listen. I learn. I hate injustice. I have a burning desire to do what is right in every case, every time. I believe in justice for all no matter what. I believe in separation of church and state.


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CORY SEPOLIO

I have 14 years of experience handling almost every type of case that the 269th hears. I have over 100 jury trials including civil, criminal and civil appeal. I represented over 1000 civil clients, including plaintiffs and defendants, where I fought for the rights of working-class people, small-business owners and corporations. When I served as an assistant district attorney I fought for victims and defendants alike while seeing the wrongly accused. I am honored by my reputation for fairness in all matters. My experience representing both plaintiffs and defendants ensures impartiality and practical knowledge of issues both sides face in court. I learned that the trial judge’s primary purpose is to provide a safe, fair, and equitable venue for litigants to resolve their disputes. Judges must keep their thumbs off the scales of justice. I respect the will of the jury and cherish their work as great equalizers in our justice system. Only experience can bring justice.

The contributions I received to date are from both sides of the trial bar. Plaintiff attorneys and defense attorneys support our efforts to bring experience, equality, and justice to the 269th. I am honored that my reputation for fairness is reflected by receiving endorsements and contributions from such a diverse group. If any litigant in the 269th requests information regarding whether their opposition has donated to my campaign and if so how much, that information will be provided. I will follow the law regarding recusing myself from cases in which one side had contributed disproportionate support to my campaign. I will make decisions based on the law and the merits and not based on donations or politics. As a rule I will not accept contributions from litigants who have cases pending in the court. We want all litigants to know that information will be provided. I will follow the law regarding recusals.

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?

Shampa Mukerji

I will take every action available to me to ensure that all litigants have their voices heard in my court, regardless of their background, race, income level, or education. Equal access to the courts is of fundamental importance. I would work to create a system in my court to inform litigants who may need representation, but may not be able to afford it, about lawyers who take cases pro bono. I would also appoint attorneys at littim and guardians ad litem to any parties who require such assistance, provide translation services, and work to increase diversity in the jury system to ensure that everyone is welcome at the courthouse. I will be fair and equitable and treat everyone who enters my courtroom with dignity and respect. I believe appearing at the courthouse as a juror or as a litigant should be part of civic engagement and I look forward to educating the citizens of Harris County about how they can be a part of the civil justice system and continue to improve it.

Christine Weems

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. I’m not afraid to make difficult rulings - even those that might get overturned - as long as they are the result of the parties getting the opportunity to fully make their position clear and there is thoughtful consideration on my part before ruling. I won’t hesitate to ask for additional briefing if necessary in order to fully understand all of the positions made before deciding.

George Arnold

I will not set arbitrary time restraints for trial proceedings. I will respect the time requests made by attorneys, as they have spent many months preparing for trial and they know the amount of time needed to adequately present their client’s case to the jury. I will not run a “gotcha” courtroom where discretionary procedural deadlines take precedence over substance. I believe cases should be decided by juries based on the merits of the case and not on procedural gamesmanship or maneuvering.

Donna Roth

I will take all actions necessary to make sure that all pro se litigants who are faced with the loss of his or her physical liberty or termination of parental rights thoroughly understand those consequences before proceeding. As the judge, I will also give deference to an attorney’s method of representation his or her clients, understanding that adequate representation does not mean perfect representation.

Questions to Candidates:

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?

Shampa Mukerji

In our system, being a candidate must be differentiated from sitting on the bench. I believe part of my responsibility as a judge is to even the playing field between the parties and ensure that every litigant has the opportunity to make their case at every stage of litigation. Doing so will ensure impartiality and a fair outcome. As a jurist, my education, the depth and breadth of my legal experience, work ethic, and my ability to consider all points of view, will allow me to ensure that all litigants have their day in court.

Christine Weems

In making clear that those who donate are not buying my rulings - they are donating to help ensure an experienced and fair judge who works hard and is patient, courteous and respectful of everyone. I will require equal treatment of everyone in the courtroom regardless of race, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status. I will always strive to avoid saying or doing anything that might diminish the public trust in the court system. This judicial position is accountable to all people of Harris County and is expected to honorably serve all people of Harris County, not campaign contributors.

George Arnold

Campaign contributions will have no influence or impact in the courtroom. I am not seeking this judicial position to further an agenda nor do I ever want to be perceived as a partisan, biased or activist judge. I hope to earn a reputation as a fair and empathetic judge who works hard and is patient, courteous and respectful of everyone. I will require equal treatment of everyone in the courtroom regardless of race, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status. I will always strive to avoid saying or doing anything that might diminish the public trust in the court system. This judicial position is accountable to all people of Harris County and is expected to honorably serve all people of Harris County, not campaign contributors.

Donna Roth

Public financing of judicial campaigns creates a unique issue. Unlike other politicians who run for office, judges have a duty to remain impartial. However, the increased levels of public financing could contribute to the impartiality of the judiciary. As a result, public confidence in our judiciary decreases. As the judge of the 246th Judicial District Court, I will work hard to maintain a reputation of judicial impartiality. I promise to be a fair and impartial jurist, ensuring that all litigants in all cases receive honest and just consideration in my courtroom.

Questions to Candidates:

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

Shampa Mukerji

It will be paramount to adhere to timelines set by the court and communicate efficiently with litigants. It will also be helpful to simplify the assignment of trials, some of which can be done via telephone or email rather than calling a large docket of cases to the court and using an inordinate amount of time to communicate as a group rather than on a case-by-case basis. These procedures will be set out in writing and available on the court’s website. Flexibility will also be key, especially in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey while the courts are sharing space. Finally, open communication between the court’s staff and the litigators will resolve many of the issues that

Christine Weems

I will endeavor to be prepared for all hearings and therefore spend the time with the lawyers clarifying things not made clear instead of having them rehash what is already in their motion. I will timely rule on all motions whether set for hearing or submission so that the parties will be able to take whatever course they need to in response and keep their cases moving. I also grant agreed and unopposed motions unless the case is so old that the parties need to a firm deadline in order to settle the case or try it. I also intend to try as many cases as possible so that a trial date is not an empty threat but a deadline by which the cases need to either get resolved or go before a jury. Yes cases get continued, but when the attorneys are aware that a judge will not hesitate to call them to trial, it is sometimes the motivation some parties need to either settle it or try the case.

George Arnold

The maxim that “justice delayed is justice denied” is always present in my mind. Consequently, I recognize that it is my responsibility as a judge to closely monitor the court’s hearing docket and trial docket to ensure all cases, large and small, are promptly addressed and allowed a timely trial. My goal is to make certain that any party requesting a hearing receives it within 14 days of the request. Additionally, I commit to communicate with counsel for the parties when setting trial dates and first allow counsel an opportunity to jointly submit their requested trial date before the court unilaterally sets the trial date. Ideally, this system will allow cases needing less time for development to obtain earlier trial settings and still allow larger, more complex cases adequate time for development based on the input of counsel who are most familiar with the needs of their particular cases. Speedy trial settings, however, should never usurp sufficient time for proper case development.

Donna Roth

I will take all actions necessary to make sure that all litigants have their voices heard in my court, regardless of their background, race, income level, or education. Equal access to the courts is of fundamental importance. I would work to create a system in my court to inform litigants who may need representation, but may not be able to afford it, about lawyers who take cases pro bono. I would also appoint attorneys at littim and guardians ad litem to any parties who require such assistance, provide translation services, and work to increase diversity in the jury system to ensure that everyone is welcome at the courthouse. I will be fair and equitable and treat everyone who enters my courtroom with dignity and respect. I believe appearing at the courthouse as a juror or as a litigant should be part of civic engagement and I look forward to educating the citizens of Harris County about how they can be a part of the civil justice system and continue to improve it.
QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

CHARLES COLLINS

As a judge, I will do everything within my power to make certain that every case before the court is fairly and impartially adjudicated. This would include interpreters being provided when called for; and insure that social, financial, racial, sexual and any other considerations outside of the facts presented before the court will not prejudice the outcome of the court's decision. I will establish a resource center in a portion of unused space in the court to maintain a resource center complete with standard forms and computer equipment to assist pro-se parties. I commit to allowing all litigants to have their day in court. I will strive not shut any person out of the process. I will ensure that both litigants and attorneys are courteous and respectful to one another and that court staff, including myself, conduct themselves accordingly as well.

Education/Degrees: J.D. Texas Southern University, Houston, TX May, 2004 | (Cum Laude) B.A. Political Science, Prairie View A&M University of Texas, Prairie View, TX Minor: Communications May, 2001 | Campaign Website: http://www.charlescollins4judge.com | Facebook: http://collins4judge.com | Twitter: twitter.com/collinsforjudge

BARBARA J. STALDER

1. Treat each litigant with respect and dignity 2. Allow each litigant an opportunity to have their case heard timely and sufficiently 3. Have court staff that will treat each litigant and attorney with respect and professionalism 4. Utilize available technology to assist cases and protect the litigants 5. Utilize available technology to enable the attorneys to appear by video or phone (when case appropriate) 6. Appear each day at the appointed court docket time and start on time 7. Utilize community resources to assist the litigants with the needs of their case (when appropriate) 8. Be open, objective, and follow the law on all cases. 9. Not show favoritism to any litigant or attorney who comes before the court. 10. Be courteous and mindful of attorneys' and litigant's schedules and do my best to facilitate such if able 11. Not judge a person based on their socio-economic background or their legal status.

Education/Degrees: BA history, minor political science University of Houston JD/ University of Houston Law Center | Campaign Website: http://barbarastalder.com | Facebook: http://barbarastalderforjudge280th | Twitter: twitter.com/barbarastalderforjudge

BETH BARRON

To answer this question without violating Canon 5 of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct, I will be brief. I will listen. I will be respectful of everyone. I will follow the law. These three things are the most important things a judge can do.

Q: 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?

The public has a right to have fair tribunals and should have confidence that their case is being heard by a Judge beyond reproach. My Integrity is everything to me and every attorney I have worked with and against knows that. The idea that someone would garner special favor because they contributed to a judge's campaign is abhorrent to me. I do not expect to receive any substantial contribution from any family attorney who may come before me. However, I believe in transparency and would gladly make that information available to any attorney or litigant that might want it.


LINDA MARIE DUNSON

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 my duties will be to make sure all parties have a fair opportunity to present their case. I will avoid ex parte communications. I will ask for clarification when needed. I will ensure that all who come before the court be treated fairly and impartially, without being discriminated against because of their race, gender, disability, sexual identity, etc., while respecting the rule of law.

As a member of the judiciary I will perform my duties impartially and diligently, upholding the duties and responsibilities set out in The Texas Code of Judicial Conduct. I will establish as part of the courtroom decorum that ALL persons will be treated fairly, equally and with respect. I will avoid all appearance of impropriety and act in a manner which promotes public confidence in the integrity of the bench.

I believe cases involving domestic violence and child abuse where persons are in imminent danger should receive the highest scheduling priority. Adequate qualified staff must be employed to maintain an organized court and direct the flow of cases. I believe weekly caseload meetings are a must to ensure that cases do not fall through the crack and that are resolved efficiently and without impeding on a litigant’s right to be heard. Time management and minimum absences from the bench is of paramount importance to maintain the fluid movement of cases. Training the staff on my expectations for maintain the court’s decorum, and letting them know that they are part of a team is my first priority.


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? How will you ensure impartiality in your court given the current system of financing judicial campaigns, which allow donations from those who may later bring cases before your court? What will you do to ensure that cases before your court are heard in a timely manner?

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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 NEGLIGENT 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?

KATHY VOSSLER
In my 20 years as a family lawyer, I have represented husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, children and other relatives of every race, religion, ethnicity and orientation. I have handled custody battles, complex property cases and cases where parties agree on major issues. I have collected child support and defended child support debtors. I have represented poor clients and wealthy clients, victims of abuse and alleged abusers. Everyone who comes into my court will have an experienced, fair Judge who will listen to them and judge them according to the law. I will not favor anyone because of gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, political party or income. My goal is that all who come before me will emerge as better parents, better people and for the children in my court to lead safe and healthy lives. I will establish a tone of dignity, respect and honor in my court. I will hold these standards for myself as Judge and for all who work in my court.

GERMAINE TANNER
I will honor and defend the integrity of the court. My respect and commitment to the ideals of justice prevent me from engaging in back-scratching, deal making and political favors, all of which degrades the purpose of the court. I will make appointments when necessary, based on the established Wheel system, and not based on a donor list. I will honor agreements when reached by parties, and maintain fairness to all parties when it comes to rulings, fees and the necessity of appointments. I will judge each case on its own merits. I will hear the evidence and make decisions that follow the law and that reflect the evidence brought forward in the case. The parties and lawyers who come before me will be treated with professionalism and respect, and I will avoid both favoritism and the appearance of favoritism.

What will you do to 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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JUDGE – CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT • DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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 will you do to ensure that the commissioners that you appoint to oversee the grand jury selection for your court will use a process that is unbiased and ensures that grand jury members reflect the diversity of our community?

Anyone may vote early in Texas

During the early voting period, Tuesday, February 20 through Friday, March 3, 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 page 68 of this voters guide.
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:

ALEX SALGADO | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

What are the most critical administration of justice issues facing the court for which you seek election as judge?

What criteria will you use when making the final decision about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants?

A large percentage of inmates in the Harris County jail are pre-trial detainees. As Harris County is one of the country's most populous counties, the jail is a significant part of the criminal justice system and defiles the trust the public has toward the criminal justice system.

As judges, we must take a proactive, progressive approach to tackle the underlying issues that affect our youth to dissuade them from being good citizens in the community.

I support greater use of PR Bonds as an important tool in Criminal Case management. In non-violent cases, NO person without the resources to pay for a bond should be kept in jail awaiting trial. This would be a huge improvement.

I will appoint private attorneys and public defenders who exhibit zealous representation of all clients to ensure that client's criminal and civil rights are protected. I will consider that the public defender's office works on court appointments only, and are well trained and qualified.

The court also needs a fresh face that is not entitled to the bench. Judiciary should relate to all defendants and reflect that being prosecuted does not make the defendant a “bad” person. Hence sentencing should be proportionate. Defense attorneys and Prosecutors should be treated equally.

I believe that everyone should have equal representation before the law. Everyone should be treated equally. First time offenders and young people must give uncompromised zealous representation to clients whether they are pro bono, court appointed or retained.

The Harris County Criminal Court at Law No. 2 needs unbiased justice that rules on the basis of law and facts as presented regardless of the defendants race, religion or sexual orientation. The court also needs a fresh face that is not entitled to the bench. Judiciary should relate to all defendants and reflect that being prosecuted does not make the defendant a “bad” person. Hence sentencing should be proportionate. Defense attorneys and Prosecutors should be treated equally.

Two things I will look at closely are competence of the lawyer to provide effective representation and caseload of the attorneys under consideration. Every accused person should be afforded competent and quality representation. There are many fine lawyers that are private attorneys and that work for the public defender's office (PDO). The issue is not whether one is more competent than the other, but, whether the caseload is too large. The PDO has a limited budget and number of attorneys. They are not staffed with enough attorneys to handle the extensive number of cases in Harris County. Therefore, we need to determine the number of cases they can handle and share them with the private attorneys so that the lawyers are not overloaded with cases.

I support greater use of PR Bonds as an important tool in Criminal Case management. In non-violent cases, NO person without the resources to pay for a bond should be kept in jail awaiting trial. This would be a huge improvement.

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Bail reform is extremely important to help those who cannot afford to post bond by releasing them from custody to fight criminal charges. The prior bond system places indigent persons at a great disadvantage. Criminal charges can take months to resolve. If a person is in custody and has been offered a plea bargain that carries a low sentence, many people would rather plead guilty than potentially wait longer for evidence to come in to exonerate them. The sad reality is that people do plead guilty, whether they are innocent or not, just to get out of jail. They do this without thought to future consequence. It is terrible and bail reform tackles this problem. I agree with bail reform and believe society is better served by having innocent people fight their charges instead of pleading guilty. While accused persons are on bond awaiting trial, pretrial services can monitor them to ensure that they are not a danger to the public.

YES! Freedom should be the norm while awaiting trial on a misdemeanor case! Innocent people who are poor have pled guilty for too long in Harris County simply to regain their freedom! The bail reform lawsuit is one of the best things that has ever happened to help reform criminal justice in Harris County. However, despite the injunctions in place, Harris County judges continue to deny PR bonds for non-violent offenders and continue to waste taxpayer money to defend an indefensible lawsuit. A lawsuit they've spent more than $4,000,000.00 defending. That money would’ve been better spent investing in Harris County teachers, mental health professionals, and social workers to help reduce crime!
JUDGE ▪ COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT ▪ DEMOCRATIC PARTY

**KELLEY ANDREWS**  |  RUNNING UNOPPOSED
---
**FRANKLIN BYNUM**  |  RUNNING UNOPPOSED

Questions to Candidates:

- What are the most critical administration of justice issues facing the court for which you seek election as judge?
- 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.

Kelley Andrews

Andrew A. Wright (Bail Reform). Too often people who have limited to no funds will sit in jail and ultimately plea guilty just to get out. These people need to have their bond reduced or be granted a PR bond. This will help reduce the amount of people that end up with a criminal conviction just to get out of jail. They need to be given a way out of jail so they can continue to work and maybe even enter into a diversion program or similar program that helps address the issue rather than labeling them as a criminal. It can easily become a circular situation where employment is difficult to obtain due to convictions thus making it hard to contribute to society. PR bonds should be the default, not the exception. (Immigration Consequences). In addition to this, another issue I continuously see is not addressing the immigration consequences. Harris County has a simple form they deal with, but it does nothing to address that defendants’ personal immigration status.

Education/Degrees: South Texas College of Law - JD The University of Texas at Austin - BBA | Campaign Website: http://facebook.com/GetWright2018 | Facebook: http://facebook.com/GetWright2018

Danval Scarbrough

I think the main issues that are critical to the administration of justice in Harris County Criminal Courts at Law are bail reform, indigent defense, probable cause hearings and young offender diversion. We need to limit incarceration to those who are violent or flight risks. Judges should extend the use of personal recognizance bonds to nonviolent offenders with enough local ties to the county (job, family, property ownership). Indigent defense is an issue that needs to be addressed, many times defendants are appointed lawyers but those lawyers aren’t paid for out of court work needed to prepare a proper defense. Probable cause hearings need to be taken more seriously by judges and examined more thoroughly. Youthful first-time offenders need to be diverted away from jail by utilizing social programs to address underlying reasons for their offenses. It is imperative that we give those who can be helped, a chance and protect society from those that would harm others.

Education/Degrees: University of Houston B.S. Political Science and Psychology Thurgood Marshall School of Law J.D. | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/dan4judge | Twitter: twitter.com/votejustice2k18

Toria J. Finch

Yes! I believe that if the accused is non-violent and not a flight risk, our first thought should be whether this person would be a good candidate for a personal recognizance bond. If we can help it we should minimize the use of jailing as a means to secure appearance for these types of defendants. Jail needs to be reserved for those who are violent and those who may flee.


Lee Harper Wilson

I highly support personal bonds. I think PR bonds should be the default, not the exception. I also favor the Sheriff’s Office use of unsecured bonds. The fact that financially strapped individuals were pleading just to get out of jail and return to their families and jobs is inexcusable. Keeping these people in custody does nothing but create massive issues. In addition to this, it adds cost to the taxpayer via additional jail costs. Harris County has regularly practiced sending detainees to other counties and paying for their detention incurring cost to the public. Lowering the amount of pretrial detainees can help to reduce these costs.


Sedrick T. Walker, II

I support the use of personal bonds for defendants accused of non-violent misdemeanor crimes who cannot afford to pay a surety or cash bond. I also support personal bonds for people accused of non-violent misdemeanors who have the financial means to post a surety or cash bond but are willing to wait for the lengthy personal bond evaluation process to finish. The pretrial department must create a reliable system for notifying defendants about their upcoming court dates due to the increased usage of personal bonds. Since it takes longer for release from jail on a personal bond, I do feel that people who can pay the surety or cash bond fees should be allowed to post bail in that manner and not be required to accept a personal bond. We should strive for expedient release from custody so the accused can return to their family, work, and school, and ultimately be better positioned to aid in their defense.

JUDGE • COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT • DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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 are the most critical administration of justice issues facing the court for which you seek election as judge?

CASSANDRA HOLLEMON

What I see are the most critical administration of justice issues facing the court for which I seek election as Judge are: Ensuring that all defendants have a full and fair opportunity to a provide defense. Combining accountability with rehabilitation and thereby 1) assisting Defendants in becoming productive members of society and 2) increasing the safety of our communities. Not losing sight that the defendants before the Court are not just cause numbers.

JUAN J. AGUIRRE

The most critical issue facing the courts, including Criminal Court 12, is overcrowding of the dockets. There are 16 misdemeanor courts and on an average day there are close to 100 cases on the docket. Getting to trial takes up to year or more at times. Since Hurricane Harvey, that overcrowding is even worse as two courts are doubled up in each courtroom. Having to show up to the court dates means missed days of work or school for defendants, attorneys and witnesses. Since I don’t see the legislature creating more courts, there needs to be a more efficient use of court settings. The next issue that needs to be addressed is consistency between the courts. Though each court is independent of each other, there should not be a big disparity on pre-trial bond conditions, acceptance of plea bargains, and sentencing. There needs to be more consistency in this area as defendants are subject to scrutiny of whichever court they happen to land in.

MIKE RENFRO

Treating everyone with dignity and respect; Ensuring that individuals rights are protected; Being fair to both sides; Concerned for the welfare and safety of our citizens and their communities; Finding ways to expedite peoples involvement with the criminal justice system

RAUL RODRIGUEZ

The most critical administration of justice issues are efficiency, fairness and underutilization of established programs. (1) Efficiency: Courts not addressing cases promptly is costly and also results in defendants spending undue time away from their jobs and family. (2) Fairness means a judge should rule on cases under the tenets of the 14th Amendment, free from bias of a defendant’s age, gender, race, religion, national origin, socioeconomic background or sexual orientation. Decisions should be based on the law, and no other criteria. (3) Underutilization of rehabilitative programs: Programs for individuals who have problems with drugs, alcohol, mental illness or domestic violence exist. They could be used more frequently to educate individuals with these issues and to help diminish incarceration rates and the problem with repeat offenders.

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.

The criteria I will use when making the final decision about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants will be grounded in justice and fairness. Indigent defendant’s 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 that take court appointments do an excellent job of representing their clients when they have the time and resources they need for a proper defense. The Public Defender’s office was established, in part, to level the playing field for indigent defendants. It offers a collective think tank, combined experience and resources of more time and money to spend on cases. There are cases appropriate for both. The decision would be made on a case by case basis upon request by the Defendant.

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A large percentage of inmates in the Harris County jail are pre-trial detainees. Other large metropolitan areas in Texas are increasingly using no-cost personal bonds for defendants who are accused of non-violent crimes but pose little flight risk; thereby, enabling them to be released while awaiting trial. Do you support the use of personal bonds and Harris County’s Pretrial Services Department for defendants awaiting trial? Why or why not?

I do support the use of personal bonds and Harris County’s Pretrial Services Department for defendants accused of non-violent crimes and who pose little flight risk because although it may be unintended, many times it results in defendants giving up their right to defend themselves by accepting a plea bargain just to get out of jail sooner. In other instances, some just accept offers of “time served” as opposed to sitting in jail awaiting trial. Other reasons for which I support personal bonds and Harris County Pretrial Services include: a) If they have a job, they need to keep it; b) If they do not have a job, they need to get one; c) If they are not in jail they can better assist with their defense; and d) Their family, if they have one, is kept intact pending the resolution.

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JUDGE • COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT • DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

TONYA JONES

The most critical issues faced within the criminal justice system are: 1. Bail reform 2. Mental health/Substance abuse and 3. Mass incarceration. We should utilize creative alternatives to incarceration that balance the factors of public safety and welfare. We want to make sure that society is protected, but not at the expense of trampling on an offender’s constitutional rights. We need comprehensive bail reform so that poor people aren’t being penalized for being poor. We don’t want a system that keeps people in jail because they can’t afford to post bail. This encourages quick plea deals which affect housing, employment, and education. The criminal justice system is not designed to address the complexities of mental health/substance abuse but jail is not a viable solution. Mass incarceration drains taxpayer dollars which could be more efficiently used to fund programs to address these issues.

From my experience as a defense attorney in Harris County, I believe that one of the main administration of justice issues facing the court is time management. Probate judges should not act as both judge and jury. These problems are a combination of time management and personnel efficiency to provide fair trials while also addressing the multifaceted duties of a probate judge. I have tried hundreds of cases before the court. These problems are addressed in the mass incarceration problem in our country. Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg has 2nd chance programs for first time offenders of non-violent crimes. I will make sure individuals that qualify are aware of these programs and not just plea out to a conviction. Another major issue impeding justice has been the cash bail system, which has basically discriminated against those that cannot afford bail.

I believe these decisions should be evaluated on a case by case basis. For more serious and extensive cases it will be more efficient to appoint public defenders. The Harris County office is well trained and has a team of private attorneys. I represent executors, guardians, beneficiaries, trustees and been involved in hundreds of cases before the court. These problems are addressed in the mass incarceration problem in our country. Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg has 2nd chance programs for first time offenders of non-violent crimes. I will make sure individuals that qualify are aware of these programs and not just plea out to a conviction. Another major issue impeding justice has been the cash bail system, which has basically discriminated against those that cannot afford bail.

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JUDGE • COUNTY PROBATE COURT • DEMOCRATIC PARTY

JAMES HORWITZ
The qualifications for a successful judge include experience, wisdom, compassion and knowledge. In my more than four decades of legal practice, I have tried more cases than I can count, particularly regarding probate matters. I am qualified in knowing the law. I also have experience in the areas of criminal, family, civil, juvenile, corporate and appellate law. These experiences have provided me with the wisdom that, when combined with experience and knowledge, make me uniquely qualified to serve as a Probate Judge. The probate courts are also courts of equity. Many lawyers can memorize the law, to know things such as, for example, when a will has or has not been executed in compliance with the law. But the probate courts require more; they require judges to make equitable decisions when the law fails. And for that, there is no substitute to wisdom.

Education/Degrees: University of Houston (B.S.), 1971 University of Houston (J.D.), 1978 | Campaign Website: http://www.votehorwitz.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/VoteHorwitz | Twitter: twitter.com/VoteHorwitz

MICHAEL GALLUGAN
I have worked as an estate planning and probate attorney for nearly 40 years, and have played a key role in the development of the probate process. I have been involved in various proceedings in Probate Court, including will contests, will contest suits, petitions demanding accounts of executors and trustees, actions to determine the heirs of a decedent, and actions involving creditors. I have been appointed by Probate Courts as an attorney ad litem to represent the interests of unknown heirs in court proceedings. I have handled approximately 200 cases in Harris County, alone (more than double that of my primary opponent). A substantial part of my practice also involves consulting with clients and preparing their estate plans, including wills, trusts, medicaid, and financial powers of attorney, appointments of guardians, and business entities. As such, I have been involved with the entirety of the process, from planning, to implementation, to resolution of claims. I believe that I would bring an energetic and vital presence to this Court.


JUDGE • COUNTY CIVIL COURT • DEMOCRATIC PARTY

JIM F. KOVACH
My goal is to make the Court available to people who cannot take off work and spend a whole morning driving downtown for minor procedural matters that could be handled more efficiently. I have practiced in the County Civil Courts at Law for 26 years, handled thousands of cases in this Court and seen the problems that prevent parties from having full access to the Courts. By working with the County Clerk and other Judges, we can improve access to the Court for all parties from having full access to the Courts. Without the possibility of trial on the horizon, there is no incentive for parties to reach resolution and no chance for the parties' arguments to be finally heard.


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LASHAWN A. WILLIAMS  
PAYMENTS AND ALSO COORDINATES THE JURY SYSTEM FOR THE COURTS. THE DISTRICT CLERK IS ELECTED TO A FOUR-YEAR TERM.

WAITING DISPOSITION AND ALL MONIES AWARDED TO MINORS IN COURT ACTIONS THAT ARE PAID INTO THE REGISTRY OF THE COURT. THE DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS FOR AND PROCESSES CHILD SUPPORT DAMAGES FOR SLANDER/DEFAMATION OF CHARACTER; ENFORCEMENT OF LIENS ON REAL PROPERTY VALUED AT $200 OR MORE; CORPORATE CHARTER FORFEITURES; AND RECOVERY OF REAL PROPERTY. 4-YEAR TERM.

PRESIDES OVER ORIGINAL AND APPELLATE COUNTY CIVIL CASES; EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION OVER EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEEDINGS. DECIDES TITLE ISSUES ON REAL/PERSONAL PROPERTY. HEARS SUITS TO RECOVER

William "Bill" McLeod | Running Unopposed

DISTRICT CLERK • DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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 WAITING DISPOSITION AND ALL MONIES AWARDED TO MINORS IN COURT ACTIONS THAT ARE PAID INTO THE REGISTRY OF THE COURT. THE DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS FOR AND PROCESSES CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS AND ALSO COORDINATES THE JURY SYSTEM FOR THE COURTS. THE DISTRICT CLERK IS ELECTED TO A FOUR-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?

STANLEY SANTIRE

1. With all litigants and lawyers be compassionate, practical, and independent. 2. In every case be attentive, clear and fair in all proceedings. 3. Analyze and administer each case without any political prejudices concerning facts and law. 4. Ensure that pro se litigants are given good direction as to procedures and receive respect for them and their case. 5. Demand that all lawyers appearing before the court show respect for court staff as well as all other persons in attendance. 6. Ensure that all litigants, both pro se and represented, fully understand the availability of mediation including no-cost mediation for cases where claims are under $100,000.

Education/Degrees: University of Houston - BBA University of Texas School of Law - JD Columbia University - postgraduate international law | Campaign Website: http://santireforjudge.com | Facebook: http://facebook.com/santireforjudge

KEVIN HOWARD

Jury service is foundational in the American System of Justice. However, jury service has always been voluntary. When someone serves on a jury, it is a commitment of time and disrupts a person's daily life. Trying to come up with an incentive to motivate people to want to serve is a very difficult issue. One method might be to offer free parking to jurors, free metro rides and free shuttle service to and from parking places.


MARILYN BURGESS

The jury summoning process is a primary duty of this office. I will tackle seriously, I firmly believe that having juries that reflect the county's demographics increases faith and trust in the justice system. The current district clerk – a Republican – has essentially failed to increase the number of African-Americans and Hispanics who appear for jury service, so juries too often have no minorities or very few minorities. These juries do not reflect the demographics of Houston, the nation’s most multicultural city. As district clerk, I will reach out to the African-American, Hispanic and other minority communities and work with these communities' leaders to create effective outreach efforts to bring in more minorities to jury service. I will hire an experienced communications director who knows how to run multimedia public awareness campaigns that get the word out far and wide about the importance of jury service.

The current jury summons process is fairly accommodating in that it allows a person to change the date of jury service three times. That system will stay in place when I become district clerk. People can change the date of jury service over the phone or online. However, these options should be more prominently displayed on the summons. As to court jurisdictions, the process in place now is intended to bring in a demographic cross-section of county residents. A process that summoned only people who lived near a specific jurisdiction of the peace court could bring in jurors panels that do not reflect the county’s demographics. These panels instead would reflect the demographics of the neighborhood around the JP court. With that said, I have lived in Kingwood and know what a hardship it can be to get downtown by 8 am for jury service. I will explore options for staggered start times and assigning prospective jurors who live outside the Beltway to courts closer to where they live.

First, I will be a working district clerk who actually directs the office's daily operations - not a figurehead. I am committed to personally training in every department within the office. I will not ask any employee to do anything I am not willing to do. I will require all managers and supervisors to do the work of the persons they lead frequently enough to understand the daily demands their people face. I will restore integrity and sound fiscal management to an office badly in need of such qualities. I will make the county’s electronic record system more efficient and easier to navigate. I will end the long delays that sometimes occur between the time a filing is submitted and the time it appears on the District Clerk’s electronic site. I will focus on ending the high turnover and low morale among clerks, especially among the lowest paid clerks who receive less than a living wage. I will increase staff training in an effort to improve customer service.

Marilyn Burgess | Running Unopposed

ROSLYN “ROZZY” SHORTER

Understanding that not everyone who receives a summons is statutorily qualified to serve, I will compile multiple juror source lists, sending qualification questionnaires to prospective jurors to determine qualifications, postponements, and excuses. Additionally, I will broaden the county juror source list to reflect the true racial and ethnic population of Harris County.

The accuracy of source lists is critical to ensuring that the final search of prospective jurors can achieve a fair cross-section of the community.

I will propose implementing an electronic night before pre-juror check-in, to ensure prospective juror services are still needed. One of the main complaints about jury service is the perceived waste of jurors’ time. We will explore the use of technology to reduce or eliminate time spent waiting in the courthouse for a jury demand to develop. The use of paper or cell phones, prospective jurors could be released to the confines of the courthouse with the understanding that they must be willing and able to report for service within a defined period. Jurors could return home or work to offset the jury compensation Grants from a local civic foundation or bar association could be used for purchasing such equipment. Additionally, I propose providing coupons to jurors to use toward the purchase of identified beverages and snacks at the cafeteria or snack stand. The coupons could be used for the full cost of some designated purchases or to reduce the cost of more expensive items.

As the newly elected District Clerk, my goals are to establish a grassroots District Clerk Office Team representing each section of the office for a monthly meeting to review and suggest how we can optimize internal and external processes. I will collaborate with the other District Clerk staff, judges, court staffs, attorneys, clients, and other customers to see how we can speed up the information they need for their cases and ask for their suggestions on how to increase efficiency and reduce costs. I will work to ensure responsible fiscal decision making and fight to eliminate any unnecessary or non-value added spending. I will analyze the District Clerk Office Cyber/ Computer Security Practices and Training and look to enhance and revise standards where needed.

Education/Degrees: Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice with a Minor in Critical Race Studies - University of Houston - Downtown. Currently pursuing Master's Degree in Leadership - Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. | Campaign Website: http://www.roszyshorter.com | Facebook: http://Roszy 4 Harris County District Clerk | Twitter: twitter.com/RoszyShorter

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COUNTY CLERK • DEMOCRATIC PARTY

MARTIAL THE RECORDS OF COMMISSIONERS COURT, PROBATE COURTS AND COUNTY CIVIL COURTS-AT-LAW; RECORDS VITAL DOCUMENTS SUCH AS PROPERTY RECORDS, MARRIAGE LICENSES, ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATES, BIRTH RECORDS AND DEATH RECORDS. SERVES AS CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER ADMINISTERING COUNTY AND STATE ELECTIONS. THE COUNTY CLERK IS ELECTED FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

What is the most important thing you will work to achieve during your term in office?

NAT WEST

"JUST DO YOUR JOB" are the few words that I want every Employee, Volunteer, Retiree and High School Student to "buy in on" during my tenure as your HARRIS COUNTY CLERK. I'll empower a wide assortment of individuals – Gay and Straight, Democrat and Republican, Young and Old, PROS and ANATHEISTS, Asian, Hispanic, White, Black, you name it -- to do every single day what the HARRIS COUNTY CLERK’s Office should be doing Efficiently and Effectively: MAINTAINING the records of Commissioners Court, Probate Courts and County Civil Courts at Law; RECORDING vital documents such as Property Records, Marriage Licenses, Assumed Name Certificates, Birth Records and Death Records; and SERVING as the CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER to ensure that we have a fair and uniform application and interpretation of Election Laws. RETIREES can be "re-imagined" in the County Clerk’s Office with dignity. Millennials, get ready to show that you are our largest Labor group! Sweetheart contractors need not apply. Pray.

GAYLE YOUNG MITCHELL

The most important thing I will achieve is authenticity. I believe their should be open dialogue between the Citizens of Harris County and the County Clerk.

DIANE TRAUTMAN

I am running for Harris County Clerk to improve voter turnout in Harris County by making our election process more convenient, more secure, more transparent, and more fair to all citizens of our county. In our last election, we had a 6% turnout and we usually are somewhere between 20 to 30% even in presidential elections. We must and can do better if we are to continue to call ourselves a democracy. I want to make it easier and more convenient for people to vote. Every voter deserves equal access to the ballot box. Too many times we have long lines, inconvenient voting locations, or last minute changes in voting locations confuse and discourage people from voting. I want to provide full access to all qualified voters so that every voice is equally heard. I want voters to be excited about voting again, just like when they voted for the first time. We must make it easier instead of harder for qualified people to vote, and that is what I will do.

What specific steps will you take to increase voter participation in Harris County?

First, PRAY. Assemble/Maintain a DIVERSE TEAM that's committed to increasing voter participation while working with the Secretary of State, Elected Officials, Churches, Super Neighborhoods, Civic Clubs, Fraternities/Sororities and Schools. Consider these: #1 GET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS’ INPUT REGARDING THE TABLET-SIZED VOTING MACHINE, #2 DON’T LEGALLY MANDATE REGISTRATION (AS IN NORTH DAKOTA) IN ORDER TO VOTE; #3 SAME DAY REGISTRATION; #4 AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION (AS IN IOREGON); #5 UTILIZE OFFICIALLY MONITORED CURBSIDE BALLOT DROP BOXES; #6 PLACE DEADLINES CLOSER TO THE ELECTION; #7 PLACE POLLING PLACES CLOSER TO THE RESIDENCES OF NON-WHITE, YOUNGER, LESS AFFLUENT, LESS EDUCATED VOTERS, #7 CREATE A VOTERS “HALL OF FAME: GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED VOTERS” (AS IN WHEELER AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH); #8 IMPLEMENT “RANKED-CHOICE VOTING” FOR THE 18 - 35 YEAR OLD MILLENNIAL DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS; #9 PUBLICLY FINANCE ELECTIONS; #10 CREATE A ELECTION DAY HOLIDAY; #11 LISTEN

GAYLE YOUNG MITCHELL

Utilizing the voter outreach approach through-out the year rather than during election season only. Educate and/or enlighten individuals of the importance of citizens to participate in the democratic process.

What steps can the County Clerk do to ensure the security of every vote cast in Harris County?

As a Retired (Army) Command Sergeant Major, I was not surprised that Russia had compromised the security of our 2016 Presidential Election in 21 states. Let’s do this to ensure the security of every vote cast in Harris County. #1 Do not assume that any Voting System is 100% secure; #2 Do not trust hardware parts that were manufactured in other countries; #3 For security, there is an urgent need to secure US Voting Systems right now in order to be prepared for the November 2018 midterm elections; #4 Work on and improve our technologies that we use to manage the Election records; #5 If we use DIGITAL VOTING MACHINES, we must add backups of PAPER BALLOTS and ELECTRONIC SCANNERS. Used alone, Digital Ballots are vulnerable to compromise and manipulation because one cannot audit them afterwards; #6 Get professional HACKERS to assist in adding to the small handful of electronic VOTING MACHINE MANUFACTURERS. #6 Allocate funds to secure BACKEND SOFTWARE since testing systems is not possible.

COUNTY TREASURER • DEMOCRATIC PARTY

THE 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 DEPOSITORY ACCOUNTS 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.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

If elected, how will you use your position as County Treasurer to ensure that this office serves the best interests of the people of Harris County?

COSME GARCIA

I believe it’s important to invest in our community; not just in terms of infrastructure, but in the people that we serve. Any un-appropriated funds should be allocated to community development projects like parks, education programs, low-cost housing, and health care to name a few. As we focus on making Harris County a strong and diverse place to live – it’s important that we do not neglect our most important asset – the people.

As County Treasurer how would you handle un-appropriated funds or funds not immediately needed by the County?

First, we can increase efficiencies and cost savings by creating a more user friendly customer portal, to handle payments to the Harris County Treasurer’s office. Second, we can make it easier to digitally request and receive financial documents, or other materials, that are subject to the Texas Public Information Act) electronically. Finally, where appropriate, we may be able to shift certain responsibilities to the County Auditor’s office to achieve further efficiencies and cost savings.
**COUNTY TREASURER • DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

**DYLAN OSBORNE**

I want to make this office more community focused by adding an educational component. I would like to host workshops like financial literacy for young people, but the actual content depends on community input and needs, and will be taught by subject matter experts that my office will partner with. I also hope to expand the role of Treasurer into more of a budget watchdog on behalf of the county. I want residents to get their money’s worth is buying. Currently the Treasurer is a small office that does very little outside of balancing several accounts and issuing checks on behalf of the county. I want residents to get their money’s worth and receive value from the position they already pay for.


**NILE BAILEY COPELAND**

TEAMWORK AND REBUILD CONFIDENCE: The Treasurer’s office is one of two important financial posts for Harris County. This office has to work hard to rebuild relationships with Harris County departments so we can work efficiently as a team. This office not only serves Harris County but also the citizens of Harris County. LISTEN AND IMPROVE EFFICIENCY: We want to listen to our constituents and improve our services and do so in the most efficient and transparent way possible. My office will work hard to restore the trust and confidence in the abilities of this office with the Commissioners Court and in turn we hope to have some of the duties restored that have long since been removed from this office. COUNTY OUTREACH TO NEW BUSINESSES: Moreover, this office is a financial spokesperson for the County and we hope to reach with the State, County and City to bring in new businesses into the County.

**COUNTY SCHOOL TRUSTEE • DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

**JOSH WALLENSTEIN**

If the HCDE were eliminated, our school taxes would dramatically rise. I will fight to retain the HCDE as the county’s most cost-effective way to support public education. I will also resist raising tax rates, and will focus on maintaining efficiencies. • The primary job of elected Trustees is to comprehensively review dozens of contracts each month. As the only contracts lawyer in the race, I will ensure that the HCDE uses taxpayer funds wisely, eliminates waste, and avoids both costly liabilities and conflicts of interest. • Certain Trustees have engaged in unethical self-dealing. I will use parliamentary process and legal arguments to ensure that the public’s interests are served. • In an effort to break the school-to-prison pipeline, I will support the creation of multiple additional county recovery schools for victims of substance abuse. • With my extensive experience in negotiation, I will reduce partisanship and make risky investments to try to make a quick buck.


**RACE CONTINUED PAGE 40**
**COUNTY SCHOOL TRUSTEE • DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

**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. SALARY: NONE.**

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**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

**RICHARD CANTU**

As a Harris County School Trustee, I will work to develop better access to Early Childhood Education which is critically important for future success, expand Afterschool Enrichment opportunities for our kids, promote Workforce Development opportunities so that we can compete globally, support Professional Development so that our teachers have the tools and resources necessary to produce our nation’s best, and ensure that every Tax Payer dollar is invested cautiously!

**ELVONTE PATTON**

If I am elected, I am hoping to change the narrative of public education. I will work to get free Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 for every student in Harris County. I will fight to bring equality to education for all students no matter race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status or sexual orientation. I will also fight to protect student and educators unalienable rights. I will even bring programs that will enhance literacy, for example, creating phonogram cards to put in each Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 classroom across Harris County.

**ANDREA DUHON | RUNNING UNOPPOSED**

**JOHN F. MILLER**

I have three goals. First is to keep the Harris County Department of Education protected from Board Members that are trying to shut down the department. We have several board members that vote to not pay bills or use tax payer money for vanity projects. Second is to expand programs such as Headstart, Adult Education, and Afterschool programs without raising taxes. Third is to work with HCDE staff to develop programs that educate our young people on topics that are not covered in the core classes. This would focus on teaching young adults how to vote, pay taxes, and personal finance education.

**PRINCE E. BRYANT, II**

Strengthen Special Needs and Early Education programs from beltway to beltway. Establish Teen pregnancy facilities to assist teen mothers with continuing their education.

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**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION** – We must develop better accessibility to Early Childhood Education opportunities for our families so that more of our youth have a “head start”!

**AFTERSCHOOL ENRICHMENT** – We must work to expand partnerships that offer afterschool enrichment for our youth so that every kid that needs it has access. Our kids need more options for safe and engaging programs to keep them on the right track during afterschool hours.

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**ADDITONAL 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.**
**COUNTY SCHOOL TRUSTEE • DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

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. SALARY: NONE.

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

DANYAHEL (DANNY) NORRIS

Helping the Harris County Department of Education (HCDE) achieve more notoriety for the services that it provides to Harris County. HCDE provides a wide range of services that benefit 25 school districts in Harris County, as well as the students enrolled in the programs sponsored by HCDE. Unfortunately, not many people are not aware of these programs, some of who could benefit from some of the services. As such, I want to ensure that the services of HCDE are both known, and taken advantage of by all 25 school districts in Harris County, as well as by those who could benefit from services offered by HCDE.

Education/Degrees: Bachelor of Science, Chemical Engineering, University of Houston; Juris Doctor, Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University; Masters of Library Science, University of North Texas | Campaign Website: http://norrisforharriscounty.com | Facebook: http://facebook.com/Norris4HarrisCounty | Twitter: twitter.com/norris4hcde

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS • DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

MEMBER OF COMMISSIONERS COURT: CONTROLS COURTHOUSES AND JAILS; APPOINTS/EMPLOY 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:**

Ken Melancon | No response received

ROGER GARCIA

1. Flood Control and disaster relief. I will make absolutely sure we take measures to protect the residence lives and properties from high water in the future. We will work to shore up or buy up land for levies around the county. 2. Health insurance will make sure that our residents qualify for medical health insurance through CHIP or ACA. 3. Make sure all infrastructure in the county is up to par and modernized.

Education/Degrees: BA in Political Science for The University of Texas in Austin | Law Degree(JD) From University of Texas in Austin | Campaign Website: http://voterogergarcia.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/voterogergarcia/ | Twitter: twitter.com/lawyerrogelio

DANIEL BOX

First is developing a plan for sustainable jobs and economic growth by getting all the stakeholders together and coming up with a strategy to bring those jobs to Precinct 2. Second is infrastructure maintenance, repair and new capital improvement projects by bringing federal and state funding through grants to Precinct 2. Third is property tax reform that cuts the loophole that allows big corporations and commercial properties to greatly devalue their properties so they can pay less taxes.

Education/Degrees: High school diploma, Diploma from the department of labor for general commercial carpenter | Campaign Website: http://www.danielbox.org | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/daniel.box.7311

ADRIAN GARCIA

Harris County is at a crossroads. Planning negligence left us vulnerable to Harvey, and our government’s inadequate response made it necessary for neighbors and strangers to help each other – proving we are strong. So our first job is a deep dive and an honest, accountable conversation about our infrastructure, and our County and region’s unique needs in the face of climate change. We need to have a related, equally transparent conversation about how the County raises revenue and how it spends taxpayer money. This conversation cannot happen without a transformative debate about the roles and functions of county government, and the resources we need (but may not receive) from Austin and Washington. Lastly, we need County ethics reform, especially in the way we contract services and projects. We cannot afford to continue awards to favored campaign contributors, and we need real transparency in County spending. To help solvent our budget currently in use – we need a top-to-bottom review of spending and contracting in order to find efficiency and savings for taxpayers. We can’t tax ourselves to recover from the last flood. We need to ethically fund our recovery, and properly plan for the future with smart investment in infrastructure. I’ve done this before – as your Sheriff, through proactive, smart reforms we saved $200 million for the Federal Government. We will look in to light rail, additional HOV lanes and any innovative way to get commuter buses to area of the County that need said service.

Education/Degrees: Houston Police Department Houston City Council and Mayor Pro Tempore Harris County Sheriff | Campaign Website: http://adriangarcia.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/AdrianGarciaHTX | Twitter: twitter.com/AdrianGarciaHTX

**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.**
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Precinct 2, Place 2

Jeffrey Stauber

First, flood control and facing the realities of climate change must be a priority. A flood control plan must look to the future but also partner with regional agencies. Smart flood control infrastructure must be put into place that account for first responders and equally serve all areas of the county. Second, the local economy needs a boost. We need to use infrastructure projects to attract new businesses and to create jobs. Harris County is known as a hub for oil and gas but it should transition into a hub for all energy technology. I would seek to create jobs in Harris County for clean energy. Third, the safety and security of Harris County residents must be a priority. First responders need the technology for rescues and equipment like body mics that allow for transparency and trust. Harris County should lead in the use of technology to make all residents safer and the Commissioners should work with law enforcement. Safe neighborhoods so businesses and services can be equal.

Education/Degrees: Graduate of the Harris County Sheriff's Department Academy - Peace Officer | Campaign Website: http://www.jeffstauber.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/jeffstauberPct4/

Precinct 4

Penny Shaw

Flooding and Disaster Resistance Our county lacks a comprehensive disaster preparedness and disaster resistance county-wide plan to protect and safeguard every person in Harris County. I am committed to rapidly developing and implementing a comprehensive flood plan model to serve and safeguard the residents of Harris County. TRANSPARENCY OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT Commissioner court operates behind closed doors and the public has limited interaction with commissioners. I promise to have an open-door policy and to seek out your opinion. I believe that open communications between the Commissioner Court and the people of Harris County will lead to transparency of Commissioner Court spending, decisions and policies. QUALITY POPULATION, QUALITY OF LIFE AND THE ENVIRONMENT Protecting the environment and development are not mutually exclusive. I will ensure that growth and economic development does not come at the expense of a safe and healthy environment for the people of Harris County.


Precinct 1, Place 2

David M. Petronella

As a community leader, I interact with various organizations on a weekly basis and suggestions are made as to how to improve the relationships between the community and the court. I would create an atmosphere where those having to appear in court are treated with respect while adhering to the rules of the court. I would conduct myself in a professional manner and judgments would be fair. I would collaborate with existing groups to provide options such as mediation and community service for truancy. I would also re-instate the Teen Court on a full time basis.

Education/Degrees: Master of Business Administration Bachelor of Business Administration | Campaign Website: http://www.luciacastelford.com | Facebook: http://LuciaCastelfordjg2018

Precinct 2, Place 2

George E. Riser

The Commissioners Court has been very fair with funding of the Precinct 3 Place 1 Courthouse. It would be beneficial to analyze all current positions. The current employees should be qualified and have the skill set to perform in their positions based on job requirements. If not, there may be an opportunity for special training to get them up to par. This helps in having a department that runs efficiently making it easier to get funding from the Commissioners Court, if and when the need arises.

DON COFFEY

As a licensed attorney, I have the training to insure pro se parties understand the process to present their side of the case. I provide certified Spanish language interpreters when needed. My staff provides names and phone numbers of free legal representation organizations. If needed, each party is allowed at least one reset to ensure their ability to present their case. When warranted, I have appointed attorneys to represent juveniles in truancy cases using law school legal clinics. I have developed simple fill in the blank forms for the filing of cases and detailed instructions as to the processes involved. In my court representation, I do not see a disadvantage even when the other side has a lawyer. I practiced in the JP courts and I want my verdicts to be based on facts not on skillful representation.

Education/Degrees: AA, Lee College; BS, University of Houston, Magna Cum Laude; JD from University of Houston School of Law | Campaign Website: http://coffeyforjudge.com | Facebook: http://Don Coffey

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HAS JURISDICTION OVER CRIMINAL MISDEMEANOR CASES PUNISHABLE BY FINE ONLY, E.G. ASSAULT, BAIL JUMPING, CRIMINAL Mischief, BAD CHECK WRITING, PUBLIC INTOXICATION, THEFT. HEARS PRECINCT 7, PLACE 2

AUDRIE LAWTON

Education/Degrees: Trinity University, BA St Mary's University, MA Thurgood Marshall School of Law, JD

I believe that the JP Court is the Peoples Court. That name is derived because a majority of those citizens that come before a JP are pro se or are representing themselves. In my court the people will always be treated with fairness, respect and deference. I know that most individuals that take their time to be before the court are there because they want to be heard and adjudicated based upon the circumstances presented. I pledge that all peoples before my court will be heard. I further pledge that upon hearing and ruling that even if I do not rule in favor of the individual, they will leave my court believing that their case was judged fairly.

Ray Shackelford

My top priority as Justice of the Peace will be to ensure that citizens are given a voice. I want to make sure that members of the Houston community are able to achieve fair outcomes regardless of their education, station in life, or their ability to afford legal representation. To ensure that citizens are able to properly utilize “The Peoples’ Court,” I will make monthly presentations to community organizations about the court and its functions. I will also provide tours of the court and develop an internship program open to high school students in the precinct. Finally, where possible, I will open the court’s facilities to civic clubs and community organizations as a meeting place.

Cheryl Elliott Thornton

I believe the JP Court is the Peoples Court. That name is derived because a majority of those citizens that come before a JP are pro se or are representing themselves. In my court the people will always be treated with fairness, respect and deference. I know that most individuals that take their time to be before the court are there because they want to be heard and adjudicated based upon the circumstances presented. I pledge that all peoples before my court will be heard. I further pledge that upon hearing and ruling that even if I do not rule in favor of the individual, they will leave my court believing that their case was judged fairly.

Angela D. Rodriguez

I believe the JP Court is the Peoples Court. That name is derived because a majority of those citizens that come before a JP are pro se or are representing themselves. In my court the people will always be treated with fairness, respect and deference. I know that most individuals that take their time to be before the court are there because they want to be heard and adjudicated based upon the circumstances presented. I pledge that all peoples before my court will be heard. I further pledge that upon hearing and ruling that even if I do not rule in favor of the individual, they will leave my court believing that their case was judged fairly.

I want to make the courthouse more efficient through use of technology. Most courts in Texas are moving towards mandatory e-filing. Although, Justice courts are beginning to ride the wave, I believe that pushing technology will save the courts money and time. I would also like to develop a “courthouse app” that would enable constituents to do things like reset their court dates, upload documents and check into court. All of these functions would save the court time and money. In addition to technology, I plan on initiating a case docketing system that would group like cases on alternating days so that criminal dockets would be heard on days separate from civil dockets. This will allow for much more manageable dockets and help get people in and out of court in an efficient manner.

I would provide as much information about the process as possible to make court use easy for the people and aide their understanding of the process. It is against the rules for clerks to provide legal advice even if the clerk is a licensed attorney. There is a thin line between what a clerk is allowed to say to the people. I would provide written information that answers many of the questions that the people may have or need to know available to the people in the lobby area for their use. I would provide contact information as to where voters can find free legal aide providers. I would also print information about the court that can be found online for people who may not have access to computers I would enhance ease within the limits the new Harris County operational system.

Much of what needs to be done is controlled by the Harris County system and is out of the hands of the JP. I would work to try and increase the budget of the Prec 7 court. Increasing the budget would allow me to hire more clerks and lower the stress placed on the clerks allowing them to be more efficient.

I will concentrate on other constituent services which, ultimately, will be the key to the people in the lobby area for their use. I would provide as much information about the process as possible to make court use easy for the people and aide their understanding of the process. It is against the rules for clerks to provide legal advice even if the clerk is a licensed attorney. There is a thin line between what a clerk is allowed to say to the people. I would provide written information that answers many of the questions that the people may have or need to know available to the people in the lobby area for their use. I would provide contact information as to where voters can find free legal aide providers. I would also print information about the court that can be found online for people who may not have access to computers I would enhance ease within the limits the new Harris County operational system.

I believe more attention needs to be given to case load. Over the last ten years Pct 7 Place 2 Justice of the Peace has gone from being classified as a small court to that of a medium court, and is rapidly rising in case load to that of the larger courts. I would advocate that as case load rise, more funding is needed.

I want to make the courthouse more efficient through use of technology. Most courts in Texas are moving towards mandatory e-filing. Although, Justice courts are beginning to ride the wave, I believe that pushing technology will save the courts money and time. I would also like to develop a “courthouse app” that would enable constituents to do things like reset their court dates, upload documents and check into court. All of these functions would save the court time and money. In addition to technology, I plan on initiating a case docketing system that would group like cases on alternating days so that criminal dockets would be heard on days separate from civil dockets. This will allow for much more manageable dockets and help get people in and out of court in an efficient manner.

The JP Courts responsibilities and oversight are not totally articulated to the public or to the entity which, ultimately, has oversight over the JP Courts. In order to ensure that the JP Courts are adequately funded and staffed the JP courts must better educate Harris County Commissioner’s Court, its ultimate oversight body, about its duties and responsibilities.

Through better education of the Commissioner’s Court, there can be a better understanding as to why more funding is needed and, respectfully, why more funding should be immediately granted to the JP courts.

The first step would be to evaluate the yearly budget including salaries, costs and other expenditures versus revenue generated by the court. Often times there are areas in any budget where money should be reallocated and or cut. The next step would be to identify other sources of revenue to supplement the court’s budgetary needs. As far as staffing, I believe it is important to not only hire good people, but keep good people. I currently manage a staff of 10 and I am proud to say that all 10 have stayed employed with my company during my tenure as their manager. I believe in rewarding employees with incentives. My team sets attainable goals and we exceed those goals each year. I would offer flex schedules, competitive employee benefit packages and a team oriented work environment.

Angela D. Rodriguez

I believe that the JP Court is the Peoples Court. That name is derived because a majority of those citizens that come before a JP are pro se or are representing themselves. In my court the people will always be treated with fairness, respect and deference. I know that most individuals that take their time to be before the court are there because they want to be heard and adjudicated based upon the circumstances presented. I pledge that all peoples before my court will be heard. I further pledge that upon hearing and ruling that even if I do not rule in favor of the individual, they will leave my court believing that their case was judged fairly.

In JP court more up to date electronic filings and ability to review past case information needs to occur. In other words, I believe the same processes already mandated in the County and State courts should be afforded the JP Courts. Simply stated, each person should be able to e-file all documents. Further, each party should also be able to review their case filings without calling directly to the court. These processes will free up the clerks to concentrate on other constituent services which, ultimately, will make the court more efficient and friendly for all. Although I do want these upgrades, I want to be mindful that we are talking about the People’s Court and therefore, will still make available the clerks if a constituent has concerns. Further, when e-filing is implemented I would like to have an e-file service on site to assist those who cannot on their own do this level of processing.

Get information by going to www.ridemetro.org or calling 713-635-4000.

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Voters may cast their vote for or against each proposition

Proposition 1, Right to a 21st Century Public Education:
Should everyone in Texas have the right to quality public education from pre-k to 12th grade, and affordable college and career training without the burden of crushing student loan debt?

Proposition 2, Student Loan Debt:
Should everyone in Texas have the right to refinance student loan debt with the Federal Reserve at a 0% interest rate, as relief for the crushing burden of debt and an investment in the next generation of Americans?

Proposition 3, Right to Healthcare:
Should everyone in Texas have a right to healthcare, guaranteed by a universal, quality Medicare-for-all system?

Proposition 4, Right to Economic Security:
Should everyone in Texas have the right to economic security, where all workers have earned paid family and sick leave and a living wage that respects their hard work?

Proposition 5, National Jobs Program:
Should the Democratic Party promote a national jobs program, with high wage and labor standards, to replace crumbling infrastructure and rebuild hurricane damaged areas, paid for with local, state, and federal bonds financed through the Federal Reserve at low interest with long term maturities?

Proposition 6, Right to Clean Air, Safe Water, and a Healthy Environment:
Should everyone in Texas have the right to clean air, safe water, and a healthy environment?

Proposition 7, Right to Dignity & Respect:
Should everyone in Texas have the right to a life of dignity and respect, free from discrimination and harassment anywhere, including businesses and public facilities, no matter how they identify, the color of their skin, who they love, socioeconomic status, or from where they come?

Proposition 10, Right to a Fair Criminal Justice System:
Should everyone in Texas have the right to a fair criminal justice system that treats people equally and puts an end to the mass incarceration of young people of color for minor offenses?

Proposition 11, Immigrant Rights:
Should there be a just and fair comprehensive immigration reform solution that includes an earned path to citizenship for law-abiding immigrants and their children, keeps families together, protects DREAMers, and provides workforce solutions for businesses?

Proposition 12, Right to Fair Taxation:
Should everyone in Texas have the right to a fair tax system, where all interests (business, corporations, and individuals) pay their share, so that state government meets its obligations?
You must register to vote at least 30 days before the election date. The deadline for registering to vote in this election was February 5, 2018. If you are not currently registered to vote, you may register to vote NOW to become eligible to vote in the General Election on November 6, 2018. Last day to register to vote in the November General Election is Tuesday, October 9, 2018.

Special Note: If you were not registered to vote in the March 6 Primary Election, you may still register to vote in the Primary Runoff Election, May 22, 2018, should one be necessary. Deadline to register to vote in the Runoff Election is Monday, April 23, 2018.

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 substation locations as well as many libraries, government offices, high schools and post offices. Application forms may be downloaded at votetexas.gov/register-to-vote, requested by emailing voters@hctx.net or requested by calling 713-368-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 713-368-8683 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.

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 be 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 be forwarded to your new address. If you move within the same county or change your name, you must notify your county clerk 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. If you move to another county, you must re-register by applying to the election office in your new county.

**BALLOTS BY MAIL**

**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 be 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.
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.

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

How is the Texas court system organized?

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

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

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.

TEXAS PRIMARY ELECTIONS

The Republican and Democratic Parties each conduct primary elections to select the candidates that will represent their party in the November General Election.

The Libertarian and Green Parties will each choose their candidates at their party conventions.

Texas has open primaries. Texas does not ask voters to select a party preference when they register to vote. ALL TEXAS VOTERS CAN PARTICIPATE in the primary election of their choice. Simply declare your party preference at the polls or when you attend a party convention.

Once a voter has voted in a party’s primary election, that voter cannot participate in another party’s election, runoff primary election or convention during the 2018 election year.

And don’t forget, voting in a party primary or participating in a party convention does not mean that you must vote for that party’s candidates in the November General Election. In November, any voter may vote for any candidate on the ballot.

Be a Texas Voter!

(Note: This Voters Guide covers races that will be decided in a contested primary election, which at this time is the method used by the Democratic and Republican political parties. To learn more about how to participate in the selection of nominees for parties that use the convention process, please contact that party. Contact information for all Harris County political parties can be found on page 67.)
REPUBLICAN PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION
UNITED STATES SENATOR • REPUBLICAN PARTY

6-YEAR TERM. MUST BE AT LEAST 30 YEARS OLD, A RESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR AT LEAST NINE YEARS, AND A RESIDENT OF TEXAS. ONE OF 100 MEMBERS OF THE U.S. SENATE WHICH HAS SPECIFIC POWERS TO ADVISE AND CONSENT TO PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND TREATIES AND TO TRY IMPEACHMENTS. POWERS THE SENATE SHARES WITH U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDE THE POWER TO LEVY TAXES, BORROW MONEY, REGULATE INTERSTATE COMMERCE, AND DECLARE WAR.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:
Background: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
Disaster planning: Should the federal budget plan in advance for funding disaster relief for catastrophic events, such as hurricanes and flooding? Why or why not?
Health care: What specific reforms, if any, would you propose in health care policy to address the cost and access to health care? Explain.
Immigration: What changes, if any, should Congress make in immigration policies? Why?
Other Issues: What other issues do you consider the most important, and how would you address them?

GERALDINE SAM | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED
TED CRUZ | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED
STEFANO DE STEFANO | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED
MARY MILLER (R)
BACKGROUND: CPA, Master’s in Accounting and Taxation, over thirty years of business experience while supporting my sailor as he served the USN for 27 years, MOTHER, proud American, and prouder Texan. I work for you, not special interests.

Disaster Planning: Absolutely. With the current system, there is little or no control over the process and with emergency appropriation bills, the risk runs high they will contain pork. The solution is an annual budget that adequately funds FEMA’s Disaster Relief Fund (DRF), ensuring the balance carries over as intended rather than budgeting the minimum and consistently failing.

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

EDUCATION: Round Rock High, University of Texas (BS), San Jose State University (MSA and MST) | Website: http://maryusa.org | Facebook: http://Mary Miller | Twitter: twitter.com/marysenate2018

BRUCE JACOBSON JR | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

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:
Identify what you think are the three most important issues directly affecting the people in your district and explain how you would address these issues, if elected.

What do you think should be done to help those who don’t receive employer-sponsored health insurance and cannot afford insurance through other currently available options?

What do you think is the appropriate role of the federal government in fostering a positive environment for job creation in the United States?

1. Border Security and National Security—My operational background makes me uniquely qualified to understand and assess what is needed by our Customs and Border Protection Border Patrol agents. We need to build a WALL, increase border patrol and technology/surveillance, and end sanctuary cities/chain migration/lottery system. On National Security issues, we need knowledge and experience in Congress, not talking points. North Korea is on the brink, Iran is looming. I understand what is needed for our military and how best to support them effectively. 2. National Debt and Spending – Tackle Mandatory Spending Programs. End entitlement-dependency cycle and create a path to self-sustainment, accountability, and dignity; not endless handouts that cause dependency. 3. Free-enterprise! I believe our free-market capitalist ideas need to be defended more than ever, and we need true leaders in Congress to fight against overregulation, over-taxation, and federal overreach.


KATHALEEN WALL
1. I'll fight to rebuild our infrastructure - our roads, bridges and flood control infrastructure. I will work to expedite the efforts of federal, state, and local governments to ensure the risk of flooding from storms, like Hurricane Harvey, are prevented.
2. I'll protect our valuable energy industry that has turned our state and nation into an energy-rich success, created hundreds of thousands of jobs and made our nation more secure.
3. I'll work to get our economy moving by cutting taxes and regulations, so families can keep more of their money.

I will work to decrease the cost of healthcare so people can actually afford good insurance for them and their family. I want people to have access to keep their doctor and purchase the most comprehensive insurance they can afford.

The federal government should cut red tape and regulations on businesses to allow the economy to flourish so more jobs can be created.

KEVIN ROBERTS

The top priority for anyone representing this district must be to start cutting through the red tape of Washington and state agencies on behalf of our neighbors, especially those who are still dealing with the impacts of Hurricane Harvey. Fiscal discipline, and an amendment to the balanced budget amendment that would give the President the legislative lead in the event of a government shutdown, are also extremely important for any lawmaker working on Capitol Hill to stop this cycle of growth in the deficit and spending in our communities. Our reputation as one of best parts of the country to live in depends on us not choosing to do the same things over and over again and expecting a different result.

That's why I plan to focus on getting more dollars to help prepare our infrastructure for the future and improve flood mitigation as well as supporting both Harris County Judge Ed Emmett's plan and the Lake Houston Chamber's plan. Above all, the American people need to have options for mitigation as well as supporting both Harris County Judge Ed Emmett's plan and the Lake Houston Chamber's plan.

This is the core of our message. Gov't doesn't create prosperity, it creates the environment for business, people, and families to be successful by getting out of the way. Limited gov't is a key ingredient for success and growth.

Education/Degrees: BBA, Texas Tech University, Class of 1988 | Campaign Website: http://kevinrobertsfortexas.com | Facebook: http://facebook.com/RobertsForTexas | Twitter: twitter.com/RobertsForTexas

JUSTIN L. LURIE

1. Tax and Regulatory: the Federal Gov't does not create jobs or build an economy, it creates the environment for business to start, build, and succeed. The Fed Gov't's role is to ensure all companies and entities can operate within a consistent set of rules, property is defended, and contracts are upheld. Not, social engineering.

2. Term Limits: The era of the professional politician will never create, and will in fact impede the necessary and fundamental changes needed in Washington. A 12 year legislative term (6 term House, or 2 term Senate) will be the catalyst for change. Currently, lawmakers’ clocks tick upwards of years spent in office, whereas with term limits, the clock will tick backwards of time remaining in office.

3. Security: Security is an umbrella to include border protection and our Armed Forces. Our personnel need the resources and equipment to execute the mission set by our political leadership. They risk their lives and make sacrifices, we must support them.

Education/Degrees: Master of International Business | University of Sydney, Australia | BA: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, | & Richmond University, London, England | Campaign Website: http://www.luriefortexas.com | Facebook: http://facebook.com/LurieforTexas | Twitter: twitter.com/LurieforHouston

RICK WALKER

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

MALCOLM WHITTAKER

The most significant issue facing the United States and this district is the extraordinary explosion of the federal deficit to more than $20 trillion. I believe that significant reduction/elimination of the federal deficit can be achieved if Congress looks at every budget item. I would have a staff that would have this task. Specific examples of budget items that could be reformed include reforms to the federal government to negotiate discounts on prescriptions. This would save about $40 billion per year. Another reduction would be ending the federal pension for new employees. This would save around $15-20 billion per year. A final premium for everyone that is covered to correct a “glitch” that is allowing tens of thousands of jobs to be sent overseas. I would also get funding for flood control.

As a candidate with a pre-existing condition, I am particularly aware of this issue. The state based system of allowing insurance companies to sell insurance in a particular state is old and outdated. In the present day, any organization that would like to allow its members to purchase insurance from instate and out-of-state insurance companies would have to do so in a way that is accountable for maintenance and work diligently to assure that appropriate funding is secured.

Education/Degrees: B.A. History with Honors, North Carolina State University, B.S. Mechanical/Aerospace Engineering with Honors, North Carolina State University, J.D. (law), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | Campaign Website: http://www.notagovernmentman.com
JOHN CULBERSON

1) Continuing to work across the political aisle to make sure those areas in Southeast Texas that have experienced significant flooding damage get the funding and relief help they need to rebuild. I am committed to working with state and local officials to improve and modernize Houston’s flood infrastructure to help prevent future flooding disasters. 2) As chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science, I have worked to ensure that NASA now receives more money than at any time since its creation, in an effort to not only return NASA to the glory days of Apollo, but also ensure jobs and economic growth for the Houston region. This will always be a key priority for me. 3) I will continue to be a zealous advocate for increasing national investment in medical and scientific research, because breakthroughs in these areas are vital to the economic and technological challenges we face in the 21st century.


EDWARD ZIEGLER

1) First, District 7 (where I live) is repeatedly experiencing catastrophic flooding. Action has not been taken to address this problem. Flood prevention measures must be implemented, rather than exclusively focusing on flood recovery. Congress has been ineffective as it has provided only 25% of needed funds for Hurricane Harvey Recovery. If elected, I will focus on solutions to prevent future flooding and make certain my District has the financial support to fully recover from floods. 2) Second, the tax system recently passed is not the overhaul that we need. The tax system must cover all preexisting conditions, they should not include lifetime maximum coverage limitations, any research-proven technology and/or medication that improves medical care and the quality of life should be covered. Women’s, children’s, and family healthcare can be covered by insurance without traveling into controversial topics. Moving forward, lower taxes for businesses will allow employers to provide health care as an employee benefit; those plans worked many years ago. For individuals that still do not have access to employer-sponsored health insurance, affordable, high-quality plans must be established. The plans must cover all preexisting conditions, they should include lifetime maximum coverage limitations, any research-proven technology and/or medication that improves medical care and the quality of life should be covered. Women’s, children’s, and family healthcare can be covered by insurance without traveling into controversial topics.

Education/Degrees: B.S. Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering (Penn State); J.D., South Texas College of Law | Campaign Website: http://www.zieglerforcongress.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/zieglerforcongress | Twitter: twitter.com/zieglerTXCD7

JOHN HAVENS

The three most important issues facing the District are making character count again in Congress, securing our borders, and jobs. First, there have been too many scandals and too many Republicans saying one thing to get elected and doing another thing once elected. For example, the Republicans ran for six years on repealing the Affordable Care Act only to reverse course once there was a Republican president able to sign the repeal. Second, we need to secure our borders. I support building a border wall with Mexico where it is the most cost-effective way to secure the border. But because of real issues regarding the cost and harm of imminent domain, there will be portions of the border that can be secured more cost effectively without a wall. Third, we must cut regulations which will free the American people and allow them to create jobs.

CONGRESS should repeal the Affordable Care Act and then pass a new health care reform law that restores competition to the health care markets. The new health care reform law should accomplish the following goals: (1) give all taxpayers similar tax treatment for health insurance, removing the unbalanced and market distorting presence of employer-provided healthcare; (2) implement market reforms such as expanding health care delivery options such as the use of physician assistants; increasing price transparency, and permitting sale of health insurance plans across state lines; and (3) strengthen the individual health consumer’s market power by enhancing Health Savings Accounts and permitting individuals to associate to purchase group insurance.

The appropriate role of the federal government in fostering a positive environment for job creation is to get out of the way of the American people. The American people, through their companies and small businesses, create jobs and make the United States economy the best in the world. The federal government often impedes this growth through regulatory overreach. The federal government’s economic role should be limited to providing the necessary infrastructure, the role of law, and security that allows the American people to do what they do best—create jobs!


JON SPIERS

What do you think should be done to help those who don’t receive employer-sponsored health insurance and cannot afford insurance through other currently available options?

Congress charged with the task of repealing the Affordable Care Act and then passing a new health care reform law that restores competition to the health care markets. The new health care reform law should accomplish the following goals: (1) give all taxpayers similar tax treatment for health insurance, removing the unbalanced and market distorting presence of employer-provided healthcare; (2) implement market reforms such as expanding health care delivery options such as the use of physician assistants; increasing price transparency, and permitting sale of health insurance plans across state lines; and (3) strengthen the individual health consumer’s market power by enhancing Health Savings Accounts and permitting individuals to associate to purchase group insurance.

The appropriate role of the federal government in fostering a positive environment for job creation is to get out of the way of the American people. The American people, through their companies and small businesses, create jobs and make the United States economy the best in the world. The federal government often impedes this growth through regulatory overreach. The federal government’s economic role should be limited to providing the necessary infrastructure, the role of law, and security that allows the American people to do what they do best—create jobs!


LWV IMPORTANT NOTE TO ALL VOTERS: TEXAS LAW DOES NOT ALLOW VOTERS TO ACCESS INFORMATION OR PERSONAL NOTES USING ELECTRONIC DEVICES (SUCH AS MOBILE PHONES OR TABLETS) WHILE AT THE POLLING PLACE. HOWEVER, YOU MAY TAKE PRINTED OR HANDWRITTEN NOTES INTO THE VOTING BOOTH, INCLUDING A PRINTED COPY OF THIS VOTERS GUIDE.
QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

What do you think should be done to help those who don’t receive employer-sponsored health insurance and cannot afford insurance through other currently available options?

People should have the choice to not purchase health insurance if they do not want it. The ACA should be replaced with a system that incentivizes quality of care instead of quantity of patients seen. I think a Medicare “look-a-like” that would merge Medicare and Medicaid by splitting the responsibility between the federal and state governments could be a good proposal. State governments would assume Medicaid’s cost for children and young adults while the federal government would be responsible for the cost for elderly and disabled (i.e. long-term care). I would reform Medicare Part D to reduce drug costs, including a ban on pharmaceutical advertising. Additionally, any new law should focus on health care, not health insurance. We need to establish an incentive or performance-based system that rewards clinics, hospitals, doctors, hospital staff, etc. for quality of care and deter quantity of patients seen as a method to increase income.

What do you think is the appropriate role of the federal government in fostering a positive environment for job creation in the United States?

I believe we are finally on the right track with corporate tax reductions and incentivizing corporations to keep jobs in the United States or bring back jobs to America, though we can do more to cut regulations that hamstring businesses. The government should pass immigration reform that would allow immigrants with STEM degrees or other highly skilled immigrants to legally stay/work in America, which will boost private sector spending and output while also increasing federal tax revenue. At a macro level, the government can continue with infrastructure projects. Overall, I believe the government should be committed to free enterprise and individual freedom, while cutting regulations and not spending money that provides no benefit. Simply put - stop overspending and borrowing and focus on stimulating private-sector growth to spur job creation.

What do you think are the three most important issues directly affecting the people in your district and explain how you will address these issues if elected?

Eric Zmihal

I believe the federal budget, healthcare and national security are 3 of the top 5 issues impacting the district. Federal budget: I would propose a constitutional amendment to ensure the budget is balanced. Security: I would pass legislation that ensures the DoD and DHS have a buy-in to the final appropriations instead of politicians dictating how departments should spend money. Additionally, I will work with other Texas representatives to ensure our airports and the Port of Houston obtain federal funding to ensure they have the staff, resources and equipment necessary to deter and detain any illicit trafficking in people, drugs, illegal weapons, etc. Healthcare: I believe the healthcare system should be reformed and my solution to this issue is answered in the next question. Our elected officials are disgracing their mandate to provide quality healthcare to the American people and I cannot in good conscience support the status quo. I am proposing a two-term limit on Senators in the next question. Our elected officials are disgracing their mandate to serve the American people and I cannot in good conscience support the status quo.

JAMES GREEN

Immigration - Submit legislation establishing a merit based immigration system, ending chain, and lotto immigration practices. Fund a physical boarder wall and electronic surveillance systems. Healthcare - Support clean repeal of ACA, repeal of McCarran-Ferguson Act, Tort reform legislation, and submit a routine care bill that removes government and insurance from routine care. Budget - Submit legislation requiring a budget reduction of 25% to any agency that isn’t meeting effectiveness goals.

A rewriting of Federal Savings Account legislation should create a non-interest bearing account for all American citizens not eligible for Medicare. Each account should be given an annual stipend from the government and allowed pre-tax personal contributions up to $2k per year. This account would be used to pay for all routine medical care (i.e. physcians, vaccinations, eye exams, dental exams, etc.). This would reduce the costs associated with private insurance plans making them less expensive. Tort reform would further reduce the hidden costs of healthcare and eliminate the need for excessive testing. Repeal of the McCarran-Ferguson Act would allow insurance to be sold across state lines making a more competitive and streamline market which should reduce cost.

DANNY NGUYEN

1. Flooding: begin to implement drainage improvement projects, that have been in-work, and shovel ready for decades. 2. Actually begin to enforce existing immigration laws. I will support the loosening of constraints on local law enforcement and enable a cooperation between Federal and local law enforcement the country has not seen before. 3. Continue to support the NASA manned space flight program and the commercial space flight operations that are slated to be launched and recovered at our Ellington Airport/Spaceport.

Create good fiduciary incentives for businesses to capture local healthcare facilities/providers that can produce basic wellness programs for their employees.

The federal government should establish foreign trade policies which level the “field” between American manufacturers and their foreign competition who don’t follow the same environmental regulations, uphold the same workplace safety standards, provide adequate wages to workers, etc. Nationally, the federal government should ensure no state is given an advantage over another as a result of federal regulation or law, including but not limited to tax codes that benefit corporations in one state at the expense of other states. Maintain a rigid review process to eliminate unnecessary or overburden some regulations.

Pete Olson

We must make health care more affordable. Obamacare was the wrong approach and needs to be repealed and states should be allowed to draft plans that meet their needs.

We need to create an environment for the economy to grow and thrive. Our goal should be 4% economic growth. That starts with making the tax cuts permanent. Congress has passed too many laws that are interfering with positive economic growth. We must remove any unnecessary and duplicate regulations and simplify those that remain. Finally, its time to repeal Obamacare and allow states to draft plans that meet their needs.

Jaimy Z. Blanco

My father was born in Weslaco, TX and worked as a machinist and is a chairman at the United Steelworkers Labor Union. I am running for congress to make a change in my community - to listen to their needs and re-present those needs in Washington, DC. It’s time to invest in the district. We want our people to have safe federal roads, neighborhoods that are in livable environments. We will work with HUD to open investment opportunities to businesses and the residents so they can take pride and be apart of the change we bring. I will fight for school choice. We should be able to direct our school taxes into the school we decide is best for child education - from charters school, home schooling, online, church community schools.

Robert Schafmanek

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?
AVOCATES 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 three most important issues directly affecting the people in your district and explain how you will address these issues, if elected? What do you think should be done to help those who don’t receive employer-sponsored health insurance and cannot afford insurance through other currently available options? What do you think is the appropriate role of the federal government in fostering a positive environment for job creation in the United States?

PHILLIP ARONOFF

Government regulation is strangethe economy and I support President Trump’s efforts to rollback the excessive meddling in the private affairs of business and individuals. I support the tax reduction for the businesses in the country and will fight to reduce taxes for individuals. Protecting the US security and not giving our United States to the United Nations.

Education/Degrees: Bachelor of business | Campaign Website: http://aronoffforcongress.com

CARMEN MARIA MONTIEL

The three more important issues in District 29 are: Jobs, Education and Immigration. Jobs: Heavy regulations had limited jobs within our District. I believe that de-regulation and the revolve of NASA will boost jobs in our District. Education: The Schools in our District are limited financially, as a community we need to provide more for our Children and bring into the area more Prep Schools of the likes of Cristo Rey Jesuit, like KIPP and Yes Prep. Immigration: The problem in the Border is affecting us all. We need more Border Security to guaranty Safety not only to our citizens but everyone across the Border. Houston had become number 1 Port of Human Trafficking and that is one of the many crimes that we are facing in the Border along with many other crimes. As a legal immigrant I support legal immigration that respect the law of the land.

Education/Degrees: College graduated from ETSU Dobie major in Broadcasting and Spanish with honors Magna Cum Laude | Campaign Website: http://carmenforcongress.com | Facebook: http://facebook.com/carmenforcongress | Twitter: twitter.com/CarmenMaMontiel

DISTRICT 29 • CONTINUED

GET OUT OF THE WAY AND KEEP THE HIGHWAYS IN GOOD CONDITION. Don’t tax the life out of industry and don’t try to control how business relates with its customers.

I think Medicaid should be available for these people.

The Federal Government should improve the economy in the country in order for jobs to be created. At this moment de-regulation and tax cut is a positive approach into more jobs creation.

Education/Degrees: Bachelor’s Degree in Journalism from The University of North Texas and Master’s Degree in Public Relations from The University of North Texas | Website: http://scottmilder4txlg.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/scottmilder | Twitter: twitter.com/scottmilder

GOVERNOR • REPUBLICAN PARTY

FOUR-YEAR TERM. MUST BE AT LEAST 30 YEARS OLD, A U.S. CITIZEN, AND A TEXAS RESIDENT FOR THE FIVE YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE ELECTION. AMONG DUTIES: EXECUTES ALL LAWS AND CONDUCTS ALL BUSINESS WITH OTHER STATES AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT; FILLS APPOMITE OFFICES; FILLS VACANCIES IN STATE OR DISTRICT ELECTED OFFICES BY APPOINTMENT; CALLS SPECIAL SESSIONS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND SETS THEIR AGENDA; SIGNS OR VETOES BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

BACKGROUND: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position? ELECTION LAWS & VOTING RIGHTS: What specific measures, if any, would you take to improve voter registration, access to voting, voter turnout and the redistricting process? Why? HEALTH CARE: What specific reforms, if any, would you propose in state health care policy to address the cost and access to health care? Explain. INFRASTRUCTURE: Referring to water, energy, public education, transportation, what specific measures do you propose to meet the states growing infrastructure needs? Explain rationale. OTHER ISSUES: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas Legislature, and what is your position on these issues?

SCOTT MILDER

BACKGROUND: I have more than 20 years of experience as a businessman and served four years on the Rockwall City Council, I know what policies will help move our economy forward, and I am dedicated to serving the people of Texas. ELECTION LAWS & VOTING RIGHTS: I will work to defend the Texas Voter ID law, ensuring our state’s voters know their elections are not being undermined by fraud. HEALTH CARE: Healthcare is a complex issue, and many Texas families are facing rising insurance premiums as a result of the disastrous federal Obamacare law. I support market-based solutions that will help drive down costs, including allowing the purchase of health insurance across state lines and ensuring all Texans are able to access Health Savings Accounts. INFRASTRUCTURE: I believe we have to take a hard look at our budgetary priorities and work to eliminate waste. By cutting unnecessary spending, we can free up much-needed funding for schools and infrastructure investments. I also believe we must fix our transportation crisis. There is not enough infrastructure to adequately serve our state’s growing population. OTHER ISSUES: I believe property tax relief, transportation, and economic growth will all be key issues in the coming session. I fully support property tax relief and will work to see that the state starts paying its share of education expenses instead of forcing local property owners to make up the difference. I will work to cut bureaucracy and get out of the way of the free market.

Education: Bachelor’s Degree from The University of North Texas and Master’s Degree in Public Relations from The University of North Texas | Website: http://scottmilder4txlg.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ scottmilder4TXLG | Twitter: twitter.com/scottmilder

DAN PATRICK


Elections are not being undermined by fraud. I will work to defend our elections are not being undermined by fraud. I will work to defend
ATTORNEY GENERAL • REPUBLICAN PARTY

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: LAWYER FOR THE STATE; DEFENDS THE LAWS AND CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE; REPRESENTS THE STATE IN LITIGATION; APPROVES PUBLIC BOND ISSUES; ENFORCES HEALTH, SAFETY AND CONSUMER REGULATIONS; COLLECTS COURT-ORDERED CHILD SUPPORT; ADMINISTERS CRIME VICTIMS’ COMPENSATION FUND.

KEN PAXTON | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

COMMISSIONER OF GENERAL LAND OFFICE • REPUBLICAN PARTY

FOUR-YEAR TERM. MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD, A U.S. CITIZEN, AND A TEXAS RESIDENT FOR AT LEAST 12 MONTHS. AMONG DUTIES: MANAGEMENT OF STATE LANDS AND MINERAL-RIGHT PROPERTIES TOTALING 20.3 MILLION ACRES AND PROVIDING REVENUES FOR THE PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND; REPOSITORY OF STATE LAND DOCUMENTS; RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO OIL SPILLS THAT OCCUR ON “SUBMERGED” LANDS OUT TO 10.3 MILES IN THE GULF OF MEXICO. THE COMMISSIONER ALSO SERVES AS A CHAIRMAN OF SEVEN STATE BOARDS, INCLUDING THE SCHOOL LAND BOARD, THE VETERANS LAND BOARD, AND THE COASTAL COORDINATION COUNCIL. CURRENT ANNUAL SALARY: $137,500

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE • REPUBLICAN PARTY

FOUR-YEAR TERM. MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD, A U.S. CITIZEN, AND A TEXAS RESIDENT FOR AT LEAST 12 MONTHS. AMONG DUTIES: REGULATES FUEL PUMPS AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEVICES; REGULATES PESTICIDE USE AND APPLICATION; CERTIFIES ORGANICALLY PRODUCED PRODUCTS; FACILITATES TRADE AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

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

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

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

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

JIM HOGAN | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

SID MILLER

BACKGROUND: I’m honored to be our state’s 12th Commissioner of Agriculture. It’s a job I have been preparing for all my life as a farmer, rancher, commercial nurseryman, nine-time World Champion rodeo cowboy, and as a vocational ag teacher and FFA advisor.

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

RESPONSIBILITIES: Expand our TDA GO Texan marketing program marketing Texas agriculture products around the globe. 2) Continue our program of making Texas school lunches great again. We’ve already made great progress by repealing all the burdensome TDA mandates and rules on our Texas schools. 3) Strengthen TDA’s consumer protection division and ensure that Texans are not ripped off. OTHER ISSUES: Since I took office, pesticide audits have increased by over 300 percent and consumers and their children are now better protected. I have also initiated a program to protect consumers against identity theft by detecting credit card skimmers at the gas pumps. I’ll continue to find ways to work more efficiently with less tax dollars, while enhancing consumer protections.

TREY BLOCKER

BACKGROUND: I have worked my entire career representing agriculture and rural Texas – from serving as staff to rural members of the Legislature to advocating for agriculture groups to advance their interests with the Legislature.

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

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

OTHER ISSUES: As Commissioner, I will not consistently embarrass the agency and its employees or the state of Texas and will lead our employees with a greater sense of focus, vision and purpose. I will refocus TDA on its core mission ensure that they can provide the food, fuel, and clothing that our state, our nation, and the world need. It’s time to put Agriculture first.

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER • REPUBLICAN PARTY

6-YEAR TERM. MUST BE AT LEAST 25 YEARS OLD, A TEXAS RESIDENT, AND A REGISTERED VOTER. REGULATES THE ENERGY INDUSTRY, INCLUDING PREVENTING POLLUTION, WELL PLUGGING AND SITE REMEDIATION, PIPELINE SAFETY AND DAMAGE PREVENTION, SURFACE MINING OF COAL AND URANIUM, GAS UTILITY RATES, AND ALTERNATIVE FUELS.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

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

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

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

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

CHRISTI CRAWDICK

BACKGROUND: My first five years in office, my focus has been finding efficiencies in our processes and updating our information technology infrastructure. These accomplishments allow us to do our job better, saving time and money for taxpayers and industry.

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

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

OTHER ISSUES: I’ll continue to maximize our efficiency and effectiveness; defend our state’s regulatory authority over energy development; increase transparency, bringing more agency data online; support streamlined permitting for infrastructure, ensuring safe transport of our energy resources; and, advocate for educational paths for a highly-trained, technically-skilled workforce.

WESTON MARTINEZ

BACKGROUND: Trusted Conservative Leader Texas Real Estate Commissioner 6+ years Real oil and gas experience owning my own companies. Weston is the only candidate in this race who endorsed Ted Cruz in the primary and Trump in the general when facing Clinton.

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

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

OTHER ISSUES: Protect land owners and business owners and stop running commission like a dictatorship. For land owners we must always focus on making changes at the commission that better protect private property rights while still encouraging oil and gas development. How we deal with allocation wells.

SUPREME COURT • REPUBLICAN PARTY

6-YEAR TERM. MUST BE AGE 35-74 YEARS, A U.S. CITIZEN, A TEXAS RESIDENT, LICENSED TO PRACTICE LAW IN TEXAS, A REGISTERED VOTER, AND HAVE AT LEAST 10 YEARS EXPERIENCE AS A LAWYER OR JUDGE. HEARS FINAL APPEALS OF DECISIONS ON CIVIL CASES AND ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE, ISSUING WRITS OF MANDAMUS/HABEAS CORPUS, AND CONDUCTING PROCEEDINGS FOR REMOVAL OF JUDGES.

JIMMY BLACKLOCK | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

JOHN DEVINE | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

JEFF BROWN | RUNNING UNOPPOSED
Johns Hopkins University, Master’s, creative writing; University of Houston, J.D. | Website: http://www.judgebarbarahervey.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/judgebarbarahervey | Twitter: twitter.com/Judgerebecca

Questions to Candidates:

1. What will you do as a member of the Texas Legislature to ensure that all Texas children receive a quality education?
2. What role should the Texas Legislature play in addressing the problem of human trafficking in our state and in providing funding for programs that support victims?
3. Identify what you think are the three most important issues directly affecting the people in your district and explain how you will address these issues, if elected.

District 17

Paul Bettencourt | Running Unopposed

Education/Degrees: Southern Methodist University, B.S. in Economics; Harvard University, J.D. | Campaign Website: http://www.paulbettencourt.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/PaulBettencourt | Twitter: twitter.com/paulbettencourt

As a school board trustee, I have worked for the past four years to ensure Texas children receive a quality education. I have worked on strategies to improve education in struggling schools, improve special education, reform accountability (STAAR testing) and reform school funding not only for the children in Fort Bend ISD but all children in Texas. I chaired a legislator’s district advisory team on education, helped write education legislation, testified for/taken against various education bills and worked to improve public education for all 5.4 million children in Texas schools. Education funding, over regulation and accountability (STAAR testing) are burdening local communities, driving away teachers, and failing to adequately prepare students for college and careers. It is vital to Texas’ economy and future success that we provide solutions to these problems and ensure a quality education for all Texas children. As senator, education will be a top priority.

District 15

Randy Orr | Running Unopposed

Education/Degrees: University of Texas, B.A.; Texas Tech University, J.D. | Campaign Website: http://www.randyyorr.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/RandyOrrForTexas | Twitter: twitter.com/RandyOrr

As a professional writer.) Second, to review writs filed by defendants, because this is the court of last resort for criminal cases. I have reviewed many writs in my career, and have helped wrongfully convicted people.

Presiding Judge

Sharon Keller

Questions to Candidates:

1. What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
2. What recent developments (e.g., client choice of counsel, technology) provide opportunities to improve the state’s indigent defense system in criminal cases appealed from lower court decisions?
3. Who are you and how do you intend to accomplish it?

Education: S.M.U. School of Law, J.D. 1978 Rice University, B.A. 1975 | Website: http://www.judgesharonkeller.com

Access to Justice: In Texas, the idea of client choice in criminal cases originated with the Texas Indigent Defense Commission, which I have led since 2002. We provided funding and technical assistance to create the first such program in the U.S. Because the concept proved successful, we have discussed adding appellate appointments to the program.

Responsible for: My primary duty is to correctly interpret the law as set out by the legislature. I look first at the actual wording of the provision in question, resorting to legislative history only if the wording is ambiguous or absurd. I defer to the legislature whenever a statute can be construed to be constitutional.

District 7

Kristin Tassin

Questions to Candidates:

1. What will you do as a member of the Texas Legislature to ensure that all Texas children receive a quality education?
2. What role should the Texas Legislature play in addressing the problem of human trafficking in our state and in providing funding for programs that support victims?
3. Identify what you think are the three most important issues directly affecting the people in your district and explain how you will address these issues, if elected.


As a school board trustee, I have worked for the past four years to ensure Texas children receive a quality education. I have worked on strategies to improve education in struggling schools, improve special education, reform accountability (STAAR testing) and reform school funding not only for the children in Fort Bend ISD but all children in Texas. I chaired a legislator’s district advisory team on education, helped write education legislation, testified for/taken against various education bills and worked to improve public education for all 5.4 million children in Texas schools. Education funding, over regulation and accountability (STAAR testing) are burdening local communities, driving away teachers, and failing to adequately prepare students for college and careers. It is vital to Texas’ economy and future success that we provide solutions to these problems and ensure a quality education for all Texas children. As senator, education will be a top priority.

Human trafficking is horrific, destructive and a threat to the citizens of our state. In making policy decisions, safety must be a top priority. Our legislature, particularly the senate, has not done enough to support the victims of human trafficking and focus on prevention. Studies show trafficking continues to rise in Texas and we are not getting the results needed from our programs. The 2009 victim assistance program, while a good idea, was never funded and thus never able to offer any assistance. We must change this. Our child welfare system continues to be dramatically underfunded leaving them mostly unable to provide the services needed to ensure this vulnerable population does not fall prey to traffickers. It is incumbent upon elected officials to invest in prevention, including education, and support programs and services for victims. We should also leverage private and faith-based programs and incentivize and facilitate partnerships with schools and local governments.

Race continued Page 55

League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund | March 6, 2018 Voters Guide | www.LWVHouston.org
MEMBER OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE. ADVOCATES FOR HOME DISTRICT. ORIGINATES ALL BILLS FOR REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR OPERATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT. WORKING WITH MEMBER OF UPPER HOUSE IN TEXAS LEGISLATURE. ADVOCATES FOR HOME DISTRICT. WITH TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LEGISLATES, CONFIRMS GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS TO DISTRICT 17 • CONTINUED

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:
Identify what you think are the three most important issues directly affecting the people in your district and explain how you will address these issues, if elected?

JOAN HUFFMAN
1. Hurricane Harvey Recovery - As we continue to recover from the devastation of Harvey, we must fund recovery operations and assist families as they rebuild. I will prioritize adjusting tax appraisals, building critical infrastructure, and providing homeowneers with better tools to identify flood risks. 2. Public Safety: As a former prosecutor and judge, I know we must ensure the safety of our communities. Doing so means we must defend the rule of law and support the first responders who risk their lives protecting our families. I will continue to work actively with law enforcement, strengthen border security and increase resources for victims of sexual assault. 3. The State Budget: As a senior member of the Senate Finance Committee I know we must continue to be good stewards of the taxpayer’s money using fiscal restraint. As population grows, we must prioritize education, transportation, public safety, promises to retirees, and the efficient operation of state government.

Education/Degrees: Louisiana State University, B.A. 1979 South Texas College of Law, J.D. 1984 | Campaign Website: http://www.joanhuffman.com | Facebook: http://SenatorJoanHuffman | Twitter: twitter.com/joanhuffman

KEVIN FULTON
1) Cut government waste-Reform the way legislators create and allocate funds in the state budget by implementing the following: a) Performance Based Budgeting for all funds used for programs with measurable outcomes. This will allow taxpayers to see if a taxpayer funded program is effective or a waste of money; b) Zero Based Budgeting for all funding needed to operate a program. This will require a review of how funds are used and whether they are actually needed. Currently, there is an assumption of need and budgets started at the prior cystal baseline. 2) Infrastructure-Work on flood control in the district. This includes increasing the levees at Cypress Creek and creating another reservoir to take some of the pressure off the Barker and Addicks Reservoirs. 3) Property Tax reform-Lower Appraisal caps and find stable alternate funding for education to relieve property owners from the almost exclusive burden of funding the educational system.

Education/Degrees: Juris Doctor Degree | Campaign Website: http://votekevinfulton.com | Facebook: http://fultonfortexas | Twitter: twitter.com/fultonfortexas

GAIL STANART
Property Taxes - Propose a more equitable solution to funding government by moving from property taxes to a consumption tax. Flood Control - Actively enhance the cooperative measures and funding between the Federal, state and county governments, working with Cong. Michael McCaul, County Judge Ed Emmett, & Commissioner Jack Cagle to build the Cypress Creek Reservoir and fix the Addick and Barker Reservoirs; Education - More equitable funding for all students by allocating funding to the student rather than ISDs thereby introducing competition in education, while maintaining the viability of public education which educates the majority. Increasing teacher merit-based pay and more dollars in the classroom rather than for administration. Reintroduce moral values into curriculum emphasizing respect for all.

Education/Degrees: Lamar University; University of Houston; Lone Star College; Southwestern Assemblies of God University | Campaign Website: http://www.gailstanartcampaign.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=ga%20stanart%20campaign | Twitter: twitter.com/gailstanart

E. SAM HARLESS
1. Border Security: We must do more to secure our borders by providing additional resources to hire more agents to patrol the borders. 2. Property Tax Reform. Property owners are over burdened with high property taxes. Tax reform should start with school finance reform. The State needs to pay its fair share of the cost to educate our children. 3. Flooding. Harris County was devastated by Harvey. We must build additional reservoirs to prevent future flooding. We can obtain the funds from the rainy day fund or FEMSA. 4. Education. We need school finance reform. We need to put more money in the classrooms to educate our kids. We need to stop shifting money from education to other areas.

School finance reform. We need to make sure the State pays its fair share to educate our children. Promote school choice so our children are not locked into a failing school district.

Education/Degrees: Sam Houston State University 2 years | Campaign Website: http://samharless126.com | Facebook: http://SamHarless | Twitter: twitter.com/SamHarless126

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

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MEMBER OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE. ADVOCATES FOR HOME DISTRICT. ORIGINATES ALL BILLS FOR REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR OPERATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT. WORKING WITH STATE SENATE LEGISLATES, INITIATES PROPOSALS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, BRINGS ANY CHARGES OF IMPEACHMENT FOR TRIAL IN THE SENATE. 2-YEAR TERM.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

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. “Suspense” voters may cast a ballot after completing a Statement of Residence form.

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

As the Chairman of the House Public Education Committee, I plan to build upon our previous successes in the 85th Session and before to push for further positive reform for all Texas students, parents, administrators and teachers. There is much more to be done on public school finance to fix the system. Incremental steps are necessary to reach the final goal, but I am committed to finding a true solution to the financial issues our districts face. I was also recently appointed to the Commission on Public School Finance and I look forward to our upcoming hearings for detailed discussions on this issue. Similarly, large issues still remain in the standardized testing system. We have made progress on this but more must be done to truly educate our students, versus having them be taught for a test. Our educators are capable of doing so much more and we must permit them more individuality in their classrooms in order to promote more growth in their students.

What role should the Texas Legislature play in addressing the problem of human trafficking in our state and in providing funding for programs that support victims?

Government data shows that there are more people enslaved world-wide now, than any other time in history. This issue can not be addressed without a collective effort from local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies working together. Many of these victims of human trafficking are smuggled in across the boarders. The Texas legislature can play an important role in this effort by strengthening our boarders and cracking down on sanctuary cities. It should not be Texas alone in providing funding for programs that support victims, but the federal government as well.

DISTRICT 121

DAN HUBERTY
The flooding after Hurricane Harvey devastated our community. Once the water receded, more than 16,000 homes and 3,300 businesses in our area had been affected. It will be years before our community is fully restored. Until that time, recovery will remain my number one priority. This includes preventing future flooding; creating an authority to oversee the entire watershed; and modernizing obsolete policies and protocols of related state agencies. I will also continue to fight for adequacy and equity in our public schools. Public School Finance Reform was a major topic in the last session. Small steps were taken but full reform must be implemented to fix the issue and I will again champion those measures. Outside of this, I will continue to work to adopt meaningful property tax reform; keep business tax and regulation low and sensible; encourage fiscal discipline at all levels; enforce high standards of accountability for government and work to preserve our state’s resources.

REGINALD C. GRANT JR
The three main issues directly affecting the people in district 127 are: property taxes, public education, and Harvey relief. The right to pursue and own property since the founding of these United States has always been essential parts of a free functioning civil society. An essential political philosopher which the Founders relied on was John Locke. In “The Second Treatise of Government,” Locke wrote: “The government cannot take from any man any part of his property without his own consent. For the preservation of property being the end of government, and that for which men enter into society it necessarily supposes and requires, that the people should have property, without which they must be suppos’d to lose that by entering into society, which was the end for which they entered into it, too gross an absurdity for any man to own.”

SARAH DAVIS
Our district is home to the most renowned medical center in the world, so it is vital that we have a representative who believes in science and medicine. My opponent has cozied up to anti-vaccination extremists. I have fought for science-based health policies, such as those that strengthened the Public Health Code of Ethics, and that provide guidance for health services for those who have been harmed and exploited by these criminal organizations. It’s not enough to prosecute traffickers, we must continue to prosecute traffickers, and provide better victim services for those who have been harmed and exploited by these criminal organizations. It’s not enough to prosecute traffickers, we must help their victims put their lives back together again.

SUSANNA DOKUPIL
1. Property taxes — I will cut them. 2. Education — I want to ensure a quality education for all Texas children. 3. Promote opportunity — I will work to eliminate unnecessary regulations that stifle businesses and entrepreneurs.

1. Ensure that our tax dollars going to public education are spent efficiently and getting results 2. Support public school choice 3. Support charter schools 4. Support Education Savings Accounts, tax credits, or similar programs that give parents more choices 5. Facilitate early intervention for special needs children.

Support enforcement of and strengthening existing laws against trafficking.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND | MARCH 6, 2018 VOTERS GUIDE | WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG
GILBERT PENA
1. Education: I have worked to educate the voters about how important Education Reform is to the future of our children. That teachers should be allowed to teach according to the students' learning ability not a one size fits all. 2. Health: Many of the voters I talk to were upset that Obama Care had increased their premiums and out of pocket copay. I point to the fact that first Obama Care need to be repealed and second that they (the voters ) were not view as been poor per democrats standers. 3. Taxes: I have worked to lower taxes and I explained to the voters that I voted to increase the homestead exemption to $20 thousand to reduce property taxes.

JAMES RICHARD WILSON
1. Flood Control - We must protect our homes and neighbors from flooding. We must dredge our creeks and build a new reservoir to prevent Spring Creek from flooding. 2. Property Taxes - We must eliminate unneeded and unnecessary state laws and regulations to reduce our local property taxes. 3. Education - We must make sure that state government pays its fair share of the cost for our local schools, and that our tax dollars are directed to our classrooms.

VALOREE SWANSON
Flood Control Mitigation is the number one issue my constituents are bringing up as their top concern. Hurricane Harvey and previous recent floods have devastated a large number of residents in my district. It is imperative that state, federal, and local government work closely together to make major improvements to our flood infrastructure before the next big flood event. We cannot merely repair the damage and go back to business as usual. My top priority is to work to get huge major funding and expedited building of the 3rd Houston area reservoir, which was planned in the 1930's and 40's and never built, to alleviate flooding along Cypress Creek, surrounding waterways, and many other areas of Harris County. I am currently working with Gov. Abbott, Lt. Gov. Patrick, Sen. Ted Cruz, Cong. McCaul, Cong. Brady, Commissioner Cagle, and many others to help make the 3rd reservoir and many other flood control projects, including buyouts, a reality.

Education/Degrees: Bachelor of Business Administration Baylor University Waco, Texas | Campaign Website: http://ValoreeSwanson.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ValoreeSwansonforTexas/
**JUDGE – CIVIL DISTRICT COURT • REPUBLICAN PARTY**

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:</th>
<th>55TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT</th>
<th>113TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT</th>
<th>157TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT</th>
<th>234TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT</th>
<th>261ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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?</td>
<td>JEFF SHADWICK</td>
<td>RUNNING UNOPPOSED</td>
<td>MICHAEL LANDRUM</td>
<td>RUNNING UNOPPOSED</td>
<td>RANDY WILSON</td>
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<tr>
<td>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?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What will you do to ensure that cases before your court are heard in a timely manner?</td>
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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.**

### 234TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### ERIN ELIZABETH LUNCEFORD

I will make sure that all parties have timely and correct notice and opportunity to be heard before the Court. As the former Judge of the 61st District Court, I made sure that everyone was present and able to have their say before considering any dispositive motions, and would reset cases when people needed additional time to retain counsel or just additional time to respond to motions or go to trial. I also made sure that if pro se litigants were considering obtaining counsel, they were given time to do so. Finally, at hearings I always asked the attorneys and litigants if they had any additional arguments to make or to file and would wait until all additional information was submitted before making any rulings.


### 261ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### MICHELLE FRAGA

I will come to the bench prepared; open minded; listen to the evidence; apply the law fairly; ensure that parties have adequate time to present their cases and schedule trials and hearings timely.

Education/Degrees: Cy-Fair High School -1993 University of Houston -1998 South Texas College of Law Houston -2004 | Campaign Website: http://www.fragaforjudge.com | Facebook: http://fraga for judge

### 232TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### RANDY WILSON

Impartiality is a key to fairness in our judicial system. While we have a system of selecting judges, monetary benefits must never play a part in a decision from the bench. I have spent my career donating extraordinary amounts of my time providing my best professional services to underprivileged who cannot afford a lawyer. I am keenly aware of the influence that financial benefit appears to have been involved in some cases and how destructive it is to the reputation of that judge because respect is lost — not only from the litigant and lawyer who lose, but also from the one who gave the benefit. Credibility is compromised and it is difficult to restore. When a judge is influenced by money, others find out and the very public loses in each subsequent matter whether someone else has given more. Therefore, partiality based on donations is often discovered resulting in ruined reputation of the judge as well as the paying party.


### 189TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### FRED SHUCHART

Ensuring that a party has their day in court is essential to the judicial process. I will provide unrepresented litigants with information regarding referral services and allow them a reasonable time to obtain counsel if they desire. I will set all matters for trial within the guidelines established by the Texas Supreme Court and will grant continuances when necessary and approved by the parties themselves. I will hold smaller and more frequent dockets for hearings and I will rule timely. I will be prepared to fairly and timely rule on all motions and trial related matters.


The staff of a court must organize settings in a prompt manner responsive to the litigant’s needs. Telephonic or Skype hearings should be employed to save time and resources for litigants and lawyers. The Texas Rules of Civil Procedure provide for litigation scheduling; however, many noted experts believe additional court ordered scheduling operates to cause litigants having to expend unnecessary additional time and resources. Lawyers should have choices regarding scheduling orders. It’s important to reduce requirements which causes unnecessary over-production of documents, witnesses and/or information prior to a case being ripe due to fear of preclusion. We need to listen to the lawyers, promote agreements; reduce unnecessary expenditure of resources to the extent possible without compromising the litigants case. There must be a balance between efficiency and each litigants ability to develop his or her case. My court will respect these values and promote these goals.

As Judge of the 61st District Court, I made sure that docket control deadlines were complied with by the lawyers and moved cases to trial as quickly as possible. I also would hold emergency telephonic hearings and in person emergency hearings to move those cases along when the parties could not agree on issues. Those practices would be continued in the 189th District Court. I would also make sure that I did not waste jurors’ time by dealing with the legal issues in a trial both early before court, or after 5pm when the jurors went home. It is not fair to jurors to keep them waiting while the lawyers argue legal issues to the Court. I also would work to maintain an efficient and quick, to minimize the strain on jurors in my court. Finally, it is important to be flexible and work with the parties to accommodate witnesses and proof presenting over a jury trial. I would continue all of those practices as Judge of the 189th.

The fundamental premise of the United States is that we are a country of laws. A reverence for that principle is why I decided to run for judge. As an active judge, rather than as an activist judge, I will apply the law as written instead of rewriting it from the bench. Impartiality depends on basing all rulings on the law, not personal biases or beliefs. Finally, our public servants who enforce the law all must recognize that we have a duty to the public to avoid both the appearance of impropriety as much as impropriety itself. Recusal from the process is crucial when doing otherwise would potentially impact public confidence in our legal system Additionally, other than ensuring the accuracy of my public filings, I do not review contributions to my campaign. The most pressing issue is the lack of respect for the jurors and parties’ time. As Judge, I will ensure that jurors do not have to sit around waiting for the Court or attorneys to proceed. I will have smaller but more frequent dockets so that clients and attorneys do not have to sit around for hours waiting to have a 5 minute hearing. I will hold regular status conferences with the attorneys to ensure that the case is proceeding in a timely fashion. Cases will be set for trial within the guidelines provided by the Texas Supreme Court and continuances will be granted only on an as needed basis.
JUDGE – CIVIL DISTRICT COURT • REPUBLICAN PARTY

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 have an opportunity to have their interests adequately represented and considered?

RICHARD RISINGER

I have upheld my oath of office throughout my professional career...and I will continue to do so. I have gained valuable experience over the years meeting and working with thousands of people of all walks of life, including mayors, other city officials, chiefs of police, police officers, firefighters, supervisors, employees, legal secretaries, volunteers, judges, clerks, bailiffs, court reporters, attorneys, witnesses, jurors, and residents... and I will continue to serve the people. I will treat the people the way I would want to be treated. I will ensure that all such parties have an opportunity to present their case and I will fully consider what they say. My decisions/judgments will be based on the law and the facts in order to ensure a fair and impartial adjudication of the case. I will not legislate from the bench. I will ensure that the 295th Civil District Court is among the most fair and efficient courts in the state, for We The People.

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?

In sum, as your next Judge of the 295th Civil District Court, I will uphold my oath of office, I will not legislate from the bench, I will make decisions timely and based on the law and the facts in order to ensure a fair and impartial adjudication of each case, and I will treat people the way I would want to be treated. In other words, I will ensure that the 295th Civil District Court is among the most fair and efficient courts in the state, for We The People.

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

As judge, I will make decisions timely and based on the law and the facts in order to ensure a fair and impartial adjudication of each case. I will schedule a meeting wherein I invite attorneys to attend and ask for their input. I will also discuss with the attorneys that is very important to me that the court run efficiently and that I need their help in order for that to happen. For example, I will let them know that I expect them to comply with the Docket Control Order. Also, I will talk with some of the other judges and ask for their input. I will make sure that court personnel are efficient. In sum, I will use all of my past experiences and my judgment to ensure that the 295th Civil District Court is among the most fair and efficient courts in the state, for We The People.

JUDGE - CIVIL DISTRICT COURT – FAMILY AND JUVENILE • REPUBLICAN PARTY

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 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 have an opportunity to have their interests adequately represented and considered?

ROY L. MOORE | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

When I was previously on the bench, we had a separate trial docket for pro se parties - this saved lawyers time because they were not waiting while we handled the pro se cases and allowed us to devote the time necessary to the pro se parties. Mediation (which is required before family trials in Harris County) can help parties resolve their disputes outside the adversarial court system. Actively managing the docket and processing cases efficiently help to ensure that the court has time to hear all the cases that need to be heard. Every case is important to the parties and children involved. I understand that the decisions made in family court affect people in very profound ways, and I take that responsibility very seriously. It is important to me that everyone who comes through my court feels that they were heard and were treated with courtesy and respect.

JOHN SCHMUD | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

I will manage the court's docket like a business. Starting with creating an "Express Docket" that begins at 8:00AM. It will be used for ancillary matters that can be resolved within 20 or 30 minutes. It will also be a time that Pro Se litigants can get in early and get out quickly. I will also make better use of the court's technology. So that cases can be presented more efficiently and completely to the Court and to juries. Lastly, I will establish quarterly "brown bag lunch" days for lawyers, their staff and/or litigants can attend and ask questions about the Court's procedural requirements. Like is mediation required for temporary orders; requirements for continuances and rules regarding new trials.

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?

Judges in Texas must run for election and that means we must educate citizens about the candidates, the issues, and the courts. Running a judicial campaign in Harris County can be very expensive. Lawyers often contribute funds to defray these costs. The only thing they expect from me is that I continue to be fair and impartial. History and reputation are the best predictors of what someone will do in the future. I am honored to have the endorsements of over 500 attorneys who practice family law. Please see www.JudgeLemkuil.com/testimonials to see what attorneys who have practiced before me have to say about how they were treated in my court.

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

I have 4+ years experience as a judge and associate judge. I worked hard to process the cases in my court fairly and efficiently. At the end of 2016, we had the fewest pending cases of the 10 family courts. Having a great staff helped a lot. Cases not finalized within 90 days after filing were set for trial, which kept cases from falling through the cracks and gave parties a date to finalize their case. We reviewed trial dockets the preceding week to resolve any possible issues by email. There is no need for attorneys to come to court to ask for trial reset dates that are agreed or requested for a good reason - handling these by email saves parties time, money, and stress. Keeping people out of the courtroom who don't need to be there frees up the court's time to handle the cases that need the court's attention. We prepared for non-trial dockets by reviewing pleadings and applicable law in advance. I will continue to work hard for the citizens of Harris County by starting court at 8:00 a.m.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For a map and complete listing of early voting locations, early voting dates and times, please refer to page 68 of this voters guide.
JUDGE - CIVIL DISTRICT COURT – FAMILY AND JUVENILE • REPUBLICAN PARTY

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?

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

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

GERIC L. TIPSWORD

I will ensure that all persons are treated equally. I will ensure this by adhering to the highest standards of professional conduct in the courtroom and enforcing the same of all who present themselves to the court. I will also ensure this by following the law.

Any person or organization that may donate now or in the future will do so knowing that equal treatment for all means just that. I have never been the type of person to bow to pressure nor am I intimidated. The courtroom is for the fair administration of justice and there is no room for politics.

Professionalism, efficiency, communication and transparency will be the cornerstones of my court. The simultaneous employment of all of these will ensure a swift administration of justice. Everyone will be treated in a professional manner; the court will implement and review its practices to ensure efficiency; my court will have a courteous and knowledgeable staff who will use all forms of communication available; and the court’s practices will be well known.

ANGELINA D. A. GOODEN

The 280th Family District Court is a civil court. Litigants have the right to represent themselves or to be represented by an attorney in civil lawsuits. As a Judge, I allow every party, including self-representing litigants, the full opportunity to present and or defend their case, which is an essential element of a fair hearing.

Impartiality is ensured in every court when the Judge follows the law. As a Judge, I swore to faithfully execute the duties of the office of Judge and to preserve, protect and defend the law. The Texas Code of Judicial Conduct requires Judges to perform his/her duties without bias or prejudice. The essential key is to have integrity to honor my oath in administering justice and abide by the Code of Judicial Conduct.

The 280th Family District Court is the Domestic Violence Court. All applications for protective orders filed in Harris County are heard in the 280th Court. The law requires that these cases must be expeditiously set for hearing because of the nature of relief sought. Since I took office on December 1, 2017, I know the entire court staff works diligently to set our cases within the statutory guidelines. It is a team effort from the moment a case is accepted until an order disposing of the matter is signed and the 280th is successful in accomplishing this goal.

GEORGE CLEVENGER

Require proper notice to all parties; control docket so each party has ample time to present their case; case management by pre-trial scheduling conference.

I have broad support among the Family Law Bar. I believe my personal integrity stands on its own. I am known as a “rule follower”.

Effective use of pre-trial and status conferences as well as docket control/orders. Effective use of the court coordinator and being on the job full time; use of on line scheduling by attorneys; allowing attorneys to schedule agreed to dates and time for hearings on line or via e-mail with court coordinator or court clerk; agreed re-sets by telephone, e-mail; rule 11 agreements or on line scheduling.


 Education/Degrees: B.A. University of South Florida - 1972 J.D. South Texas College of Law; 1978 | Facebook: http://George Clevenger For Judge

JUDGE – CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT • REPUBLICAN PARTY

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 will you do to ensure that the commissioners that you appoint to oversee the grand jury selection for your court will use a process that is unbiased and ensures that grand jury members reflect the diversity of our community?

A large percentage of the inmates in the Harris County jail are pre-trial detainees. Other large metropolitan areas in Texas are increasingly using no-cost personal bonds for defendants who are accused of non-violent crimes but pose little flight risk; thereby, enabling them to be released prior to trial. Do you support using personal bonds and the services of the Harris County Pretrial Services Department for non-violent defendants as they await trial? Why or why not?


308TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

JAMES LOMBARDINO | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

310TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

LISA A. MILLARD | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

312TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DAVID FARR | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

314TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

JOHN F. PHILLIPS | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

309TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

SHERI Y. DEAN | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

311TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ALICIA FRANKLIN YORK | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

313TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

GLENN DEVLIN | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

315TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

MICHAEL “MIKE” SCHNEIDER | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

THE LEAGUE IS HAPPY TO PROVIDE THIS VOTERS GUIDE FREE OF CHARGE

IF YOU ARE FINDING THIS INFORMATION HELPFUL, PLEASE CONSIDER A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO HELP US CONTINUE PROVIDING THE VOTER GUIDE IN FUTURE ELECTIONS. DONATIONS TO LWV EDUCATION FUND MAY BE MADE ON OUR WEBSITE WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG OR SENT TO: PO BOX 52997, HOUSTON, TX 77052.
I will support the use of personal bonds in only the most limited way, going to ONLY the most extremely vetted candidates. The bond system is not a place for social engineering. The bond system is in place to ensure Defendants’ appearance in Court to answer to the charges filed against them. Non-violent or not, there must be consequences – and therefore positive incentives- for a Defendant to show back up once released. My 18 years of experience defending citizens accused of crimes has shown me there MUST be “skin in the game,” to motivate behavior allowing for the smooth administration of justice. By all accounts, the current experiments in the bail system in Harris County have resulted in the high 40% ranges of no-cost personal bond defendants simply not showing up to Court. This is a disgrace and an example of what happens when social engineering is mixed with law enforcement. I am a practicing criminal defense lawyer, but I am also a citizen. This is an issue of public safety.

I feel this question assumes institutional bias in the grand jury system. I do not feel this is the case. I have represented many clients in grand jury matters over the years, and the grand juror I continually see with my own eyes DO reflect Harris County. As a Black American and citizen of this county, of course an unbiased system is important to me, but I feel that Harris County is currently doing an excellent job with its grand jury selection system. As for what I will actually do – it will be a very stern warning, given as a minority citizen of Harris County, that any commissioner tasked with appointments should continue to exercise this power in the way that I have observed over the years. Unbiased diversity is thriving in Harris County. When limited government is doing its job, I feel it is best to congratulate it, and leave it alone.

I support the use of personal bonds and Pre Trial Services for non violent offenders who are indigent. Pre Trial Services provides very valuable information and insight into the likelihood of a defendant returning to court as required. Additionally, the use of Pre Trial Services affords a level of supervision for certain defendants and helps the court monitor compliance with any bond conditions. Defendants who are on bond are in a better position to aid in their defense, they are able to make decisions about entering into plea bargains based on guilt and not on a desire to be released, and if inclined they may seek treatment in the private sector they would not have access to if incarcerated.

The bond system is not a place for social engineering. The bond system is in place to ensure Defendants’ appearance in Court to answer to the charges filed against them. Non-violent or not, there must be consequences – and therefore positive incentives- for a Defendant to show back up once released. My 18 years of experience defending citizens accused of crimes has shown me there MUST be “skin in the game,” to motivate behavior allowing for the smooth administration of justice. By all accounts, the current experiments in the bail system in Harris County have resulted in the high 40% ranges of no-cost personal bond defendants simply not showing up to Court. This is a disgrace and an example of what happens when social engineering is mixed with law enforcement. I am a practicing criminal defense lawyer, but I am also a citizen. This is an issue of public safety.

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JAY KARAHAN

1. Bail reform: the criminal courts have been working with the Laura and John Arnold Foundation grant, matched by Harris County government, to reform bail and pre-trial release practices. For three years now our courts have been working to implement an evidence-based risk assessment tool to evaluate the cases of new arrestees to determine which defendants can be released on personal recognizance, rational setting of bail amounts, and setting enforceable release conditions. 2. Electronic court administration: we are fast moving towards a “paperless” court administration that will speed up processes while maintaining reliable documentation; the court I preside in now is a pilot court for making this transition. 3. Courthouse repairs: Hurricane Harvey shut down the Criminal Justice Center. We are managing our dockets and trials while borrowing and sharing space with our Family Court colleagues. Returning to our courthouse will help us become more productive and user friendly.


DAN SIMONS

The most significant issue in this race is the actions of my incumbent opponent. As a constituent of Harris County, I am anti-corruption and believe that it has no place in our political system, particularly the judicial system. My opponent has done things that are unethical; 1) A sitting judge should not testify in a different courtroom for a friend’s daughter in order to get her off of a Driving While Intoxication charge where her blood alcohol content was over 15, double the legal limit. An attorney would only subpoena a Judge to testify with the Judge’s permission and the testimony is limited to character of the defendant only, not to the facts of the case. He testified to the facts, forgone his judicial independence. (Contribution issues as well) 2) My opponent has a side business doing both traditional and civil marriages during county hours. He has done over 500 marriages. I feel a criminal court judge should focus 100% of the time on criminal law, not a side business.

Education/Degrees: Sam Houston State University (rank 1/1108 – Summa Cum Laude) Thurgood Marshall School of Law (Magna Cum Laude) University of Houston – L. L. M. – Masters in Tax Law | Campaign Website: http://www.simonstjudge.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/simons4judge/?ref=bookmarks

LORI BOTELLO

Currently, the most critical issue is the bail reform lawsuit underway. Judge Rosenthal entered an injunction that changed the way misdemeanants had their bail set. Previously, a bail amount had to be paid for a defendant to be released. Some would be able to post bond, but others would not. Now, most misdemeanants receive a pretrial release bond but have been seen as a waiting period. However, it requires verification of information, or an unsecured bond from the sheriff to be released from jail, which requires nothing. This is a precarious practice because the safety of the community is at risk. While I agree with Judge Rosenthal that some defendants should be released from jail without paying a bond (like those charged with driving while license invalid or theft) others should not (like those charged with assault, unlawful carrying of a weapon, or DWI). I want to help change the system to allow defendants to be released who pose little threat to the community.

Education/Degrees: 2003: Bachelor’s of Business Administration in Marketing from The University of Texas - Austin 2006: Doctorate of Jurisprudence from South Texas College of Law – Houston | Campaign Website: http://www.loribotello.com | Facebook: http://facebook.com/loribotellosjudge

AARON BURDETTE

The most critical administration of justice issues are public safety, reducing recidivism rates, and protecting the rights of the victims and defendants.


JAY KARAHAN

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LORE BOTELO

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AARON BURDETTE

The most critical administration of justice issues are public safety, reducing recidivism rates, and protecting the rights of the victims and defendants.

**JUDGE • COUNTY PROBATE COURT • REPUBLICAN PARTY**

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**
- **What skills do you possess that make you uniquely qualified to serve as Probate Court Judge?**
- **What are the major administrative issues facing the Probate Court and how will you work to address them?**
- **What will you do to ensure that the interests of all parties in the cases before the court are addressed and protected?**

**COUNTY PROBATE COURT NO.1**
- **LOYD WRIGHT** | **RUNNING UNOPPOSED**

**COUNTY PROBATE COURT NO.2**
- **RAY BLACK** | **RUNNING UNOPPOSED**

**COUNTY PROBATE COURT NO.3**
- **RORY ROBERT OLSEN** | **RUNNING UNOPPOSED**

**COUNTY PROBATE COURT NO.4**
- **CHRISTINE RIDDLE BUTTS** | **RUNNING UNOPPOSED**

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**JUDGE • COUNTY CIVIL COURT • REPUBLICAN PARTY**

**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?**

**COUNTY CIVIL COURT AT LAW NO.1**
- **CLYDE RAYMOND LEUCHTAG** | **RUNNING UNOPPOSED**

**COUNTY CIVIL COURT AT LAW NO.2**
- **THERESA CHANG**

**COUNTY CIVIL COURT AT LAW NO.3**
- **ERIN SWANSON**

**COUNTY CIVIL COURT AT LAW NO.4**
- **LINDA STOREY** | **RUNNING UNOPPOSED**

**COUNTY CIVIL COURT AT LAW NO.5**
- **DAVID TANG**

**COUNTY CIVIL COURT AT LAW NO.6**
- **SOPHIA MAJFRIGE**

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**SOPHIA MAJFRIGE**

Fairness and impartiality are crucial to the administration of justice. I have experience representing parties on both sides of the docket, parties who seek relief and parties who are defending claims. I will consider all evidence presented by the parties in making decisions. Unlike criminal cases where the lack of adequate representation can be an issue on appeal, I am running for a civil bench. Ethical guidelines and the code of judicial conduct limit what a judge can do, but I will work within them to be fair and let the parties be heard.

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**DAVID TANG**

I am mindful and understand that the courts are for the benefit of the public and the litigants and not for the judiciary. The conduct and manner of a judge should promote public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary. A judge should treat everyone with courtesy and respect. I would allow all litigants to develop their case and gather evidence in a timely manner so that no one is surprised and everyone is ready for trial.

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**CLYDE RAYMOND LEUCHTAG**

To me, it is essential that the cases in Civil Court #2 are resolved in a fair and speedy fashion. I am blessed to have an excellent team including court coordinator, court reporter, clerks and bailiff. My team is consistently handling our cases and moving them for various court settings to make sure the attorneys are diligently prosecuting or defending their cases with service and discovery. Since I took the bench in 2012, I and my staff have experienced different settings of the trials/motions to develop the current optimum operating system of County Civil Court #2. Now, our docket is set to maximize the usage of 5 working days, so the cases are tried either to the jury or to the bench as soon as they are ready to be tried. As a result, I have resolved 4000-5000 lawsuits each year and reduced the court docket by 45%.

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**ERIN SWANSON**

I will follow the law and be fair and respectful to all parties in my court. I will return integrity and respect to the court. I will listen to everyone. I will give everyone an opportunity to be heard and then rule based on the law. I will offer information on organizations that do pro bono work to those who cannot afford representation. I would like everyone to leave my court knowing the judge cared and that they were treated fairly.

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**THERESA CHANG**

It is extremely important to me that the Constitution is guarded and individual rights are protected. I published local rules and court procedures on the court’s website and with the Houston Bar Association for the benefit of attorneys and general public. I granted continuance for the party to seek counsel or to respond to a dispositive motion, or for another trial date if good causes were found. I gave ample time to the attorneys or the pro-se litigants to grant continuance for the party to seek counsel or to respond to court procedures on the court’s website and with the Houston Bar Association. I return integrity and respect to the court. I will listen to all parties and treat them fairly.

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**LINDA STOREY**

I would make an initial review of all the oldest cases that are remaining on the Court’s docket and come up with a schedule to promptly resolve them. Thereafter, I would institute a one continuance policy for each party on each lawsuit so that the cases can be brought to a jury or bench trial more efficiently. I would also set a deadline for all parties to file their respective motions to dismiss to weed out all frivolous claims and defenses.

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**RAY BLACK**

I strive to be an impartial and fair judge. I understand my decisions impact people and their lives. My rulings are made by following the law and interpreting the law as written, regardless whether the party or the attorney has financially contributed to my campaign or not. Accordingly, less than 1% of the cases resolved in my court went to appeal by either party. I am the best rated County Court at Law Judge in the most recently released Houston Bar Association Judicial Poll, in all categories, including categories such as “follow the law,” “demonstrates impartiality,” “rules decisively and timely,” and “work hard and is prepared.”

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**SOPHIA MAJFRIGE**

Having a broad range of litigation experience over decades has allowed me to witness the impact of judges who were not impartial. There will always be issues that might impact impartiality, but I can only say that personally, the law and rules of civil procedure will guide me, not whether a contribution has been made.
DISTRICT CLERK • REPUBLICAN PARTY

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 WAITING DISPOSITION AND ALL MONIES AWARDED TO MINORS IN COURT ACTIONS THAT ARE PAID INTO THE REGISTRY OF THE COURT. THE DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS FOR AND PROCESSES CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS AND ALSO COORDINATES THE JURY SYSTEM FOR THE COURTS. THE DISTRICT CLERK IS ELECTED TO A FOUR-YEAR TERM.

CHRIS DANIEL | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

COUNTY CLERK • REPUBLICAN PARTY

MAINTAINS THE RECORDS OF COMMISSIONERS COURT, PROBATE COURTS AND COUNTY CIVIL COURTS-AT-LAW; RECORDS VITAL DOCUMENTS SUCH AS PROPERTY RECORDS, MARRIAGE LICENSES, ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATES, BIRTH RECORDS AND DEATH RECORDS. SERVES AS CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER ADMINISTERING COUNTY AND STATE ELECTIONS. THE COUNTY CLERK IS ELECTED FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM.

STAN STANART | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

COUNTY TREASURER • REPUBLICAN PARTY

THE 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 DEPOSITORIES 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.

ORLANDO SANCHEZ | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

COUNTY SCHOOL TRUSTEE • REPUBLICAN PARTY

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.

MARC COWART | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

JOSH FLYNN
Streamline operations for the children and the taxpayer.

Many of the services provided by the County School Board are duplicated by other public and private agencies. The board must evaluate the successes and implement the standards that are proven and more efficient.

Promote student accountability aside from standardized testing. Prioritize bi-lingual education that helps students learn to speak, write, and read English without sacrificing other academic progress. Promote an increase in parental input in the evaluation process of educators. Also, I will continue to support superior programs, especially those that take into account the needs of individual pupils. Lastly, I hope to successfully facilitate access to school choice.

I strongly believe in the Head Start program. It offers those children and families that otherwise are not able to receive the readiness skills for school the opportunity to do so. CASE (Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment) for Kids is also an incredibly valuable service provided by the County Board of Education. And lastly, I support the continued push for better student-to-teacher ratios for all students.


BRADLEY A. TASHENBERG
As a candidate running for Harris County School Board, I hope to have the opportunity to grant access to fair and equitable funding. I aim to increase community involvement. Promote student accountability aside from standardized testing. Prioritize bi-lingual education that helps students learn to speak, write, and read English without sacrificing other academic progress. Promote an increase in parental input in the evaluation process of educators. Also, I will continue to support superior programs, especially those that take into account the needs of individual pupils. Lastly, I hope to successfully facilitate access to school choice.

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EDUCATION/DEGREES: Bachelors in Economics; Political Science at Texas State University PhD Economics Student at George Mason University (2006-2007)

COUNTY COMMISSIONER • REPUBLICAN PARTY

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.

JACK MORMAN | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

R. JACK CAGLE | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

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

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Jeff Williams

While the Judge and the Staff are not allowed to help one side or the other in litigation, we do provide forms and general instructions concerning filing and defending lawsuits and have available all rules of Procedure and Texas Code. Our website also has a great deal of information for those who wish to represent themselves. Remember that while it may be referred to as a Peoples Court, the rules and statutes still apply, it is not a free-for-all. It’s a People’s Court in that this is the court that most people deal with as it involves small claims, class C misdemeanors, evictions and traffic violations. As a judge, when dealing with non attorneys as in Court, I am allowed to question each party to uncover the facts needed and even reset to bring in necessary witnesses so that in the end, I can make a fair, just and legal decision on the facts.

My staff supervisors and I continually meet to discuss ways to improve the processes and procedures. This is particularly so when a problem occurs. In such a busy court with a staff of 40 and over 8000 cases being filed monthly, errors do occur from time to time. When they do we discuss what went wrong that lead to that error and what changes we can implement to avoid it happening again. The Texas Legislature and the County are frequently changing laws, policies, procedures and our jurisdictional authorities, and each time new difficulties can present themselves as we put these new laws and procedures into practice. It’s a constant part of how I run the court, to continually reinvent ourselves so that we are current, competent and efficient.

J.R. Harris

Our Court is one of the busiest Justice Courts in the State, handling over 8,000 cases each month. Behind each of these cases there are real people whose time, money, and interest are at stake. Ironically, despite the large dockets, our Court is not being utilized to its full potential by the public. The public should be served. There are countless numbers of people in our community who are dealing with small claims and landlord/tenant issues related to Hurricane Harvey. However, they are choosing to either assume the financial loss or move on down the road rather than suffer through the antiquated bureaucracy of the Justice Courts. As a lawyer, this is a failure of Justice and dangerous to our community; wrongful damages would be promptly righted to provide restitution to the victim and to prevent future wrongs from occurring. Isn’t this why we pay taxes? I will make our Court more user friendly by streamlining the filing process and utilizing modern modes of communication.

Mike Wolfe

As the founders of our American nation set forth centuries ago, there are two sets of courts in our country where the justices are not required to be lawyers. One of those courts is the Supreme Court of the United States and the other are the Justice of the Peace Courts. I am proud to be the only non attorney running for this bench. I know that being Justice of the Peace requires, first and foremost, having respect for each and every person that comes before you in the court. I will always treat each and every person that walks into the court as I would want to be treated if I were in their shoes. I will always keep in mind that each and every person is looking to be heard, but when they walk into the court. The Justic of the Peace court is the court closest to the people. I will always remember that. I look forward to modeling my court after that of former Justice of the Peace Bill Yeoman. My other judicial role models are Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia.

The first thing I would do differently from the current officeholder, is that after a major hurricane, I would never ask the county to build a wedding chapel for my use. Money from weddings go directly into the pockets of the Justice of the Peace performing them. Justices of the Peace are not required to perform wedding and there are numerous other venues where weddings may be performed in and around the Justice of the Peace district. The second thing I would do as Justice of the Peace, is that I will never erect a plexiglass barrier or any other style barrier on my bench to separate me from the members of the public that are coming into the court looking for justice. There is no excuse for this type of behavior. I will be a Justice of the Peace that works a full schedule of 5 days a week. Our citizens deserve this much and this is exactly what they will receive from me as our next Justice of the Peace for Precinct 5, Place 2. I look forward to fairly serving all the people.

I believe that each Justice of the Peace must be an advocate for their court. Each Justice of the Peace needs to look over the court for their court and make sure, as best they can, that each of their staff members are paid in accordance with their duties. It may be that the Texas Legislature needs to step in with some conservative minded remedies for the funding issues that face the Justice of the Peace courts. Justice of the Peace courts in Harris County have some of the most worked staff in the state when it comes to courts. It may be that some of the Justice of the Peace Courts need fewer clerks in exchange for an Associate Justice of the Peace, just as the family courts in Harris County have. As JP, I will not perform any weddings. That is not a requirement of the job and the Justice of the Peace is not paid their salary to do weddings. That will allow me to focus on the duties of the court, not simply lining my pockets with extra cash. I will serve the people, not myself.
HARRIS COUNTY PARTY CHAIRMAN • REPUBLICAN PARTY

SERVES AS HEAD OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, COMPRISED OF PRECINCT CHAIRS WHO ARE ELECTED FROM VOTING PRECINCTS WITHIN THE COUNTY. PRESIDES OVER MEETINGS. APPOINTS PARTY OFFICERS, RUNS THE PRIMARY ELECTION EVERY TWO YEARS. ALSO, HIRES AND MANAGES STAFF. SERVES AS THE PARTY’S SPOKESPERSON, RAISES MONEY TO FUND THE ORGANIZATION AND GENERALLY IS CHARGED WITH HELPING TO ELECT PARTY CANDIDATES IN ELECTIONS.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

What role do you believe the party should play in encouraging voter registration and participation?

Chris Carmona

To restore the Harris County Republican Party as the premiere political party in the county by continuously engaging the community at large to effectively communicate how the Republican brand is the superior political party for providing families the opportunity for success. We cannot afford as a party to get swept in countywide races like we did in 2016, and I have a plan at www.chriscarmona.com to avoid that scenario in 2018 and beyond.

The local Republican party should be continuously finding creative ways to get more eligible residents registered to vote, and should have a stronger program in place for GOTV efforts to encourage the registration of new voters. More can be found at www.chriscarmona.com.

I am fine with an open primary system as it allows people the choice to be compelled to switch their voting preference freely and without having to first register their intentions until they walk into the voting booth. I appreciate the benefits of a closed primary, but I don’t think Harris County republicans would be better off with that system at this time.

Paul Simpson

The Harris County Republican Party is stronger than ever as we grow, build, and strengthen for the future. In 2014, I promised to improve the key areas of money, message, and people, and have done so. We can’t stop now! Since 2014, we have made the Harris County GOP a powerhouse unparalleled in the nation. Among the milestones: -Raised over $5.6 million dollars (some 90% from other than candidates-the opposite of before) -Grew from 1 employee in 1 office to full-time staffers supporting our grassroots in 5 strategic locations -Recruited over 260 new precinct chairs & thousands of volunteers -implemented state-of-the-art technology, data, & training programs. -1st-ever in-house communications operations My future plans include: -Grow with targeted engagement of organizations -Build through targeted recruiting & micro-networks -Strengthen with more offices, funding, & training I have the experience & ability the Party needs as we develop our new future leaders. I ask for your vote.

All electoral politics can be summarized in Lincoln’s 4-step guide: get a list of voters; identify supporters; persuade the undecided; and turn out supporters at election time. So voter participation in the election process is at the heart of being a self-governing people and central to what the Harris County Republican Party does. Voter participation also includes involvement in the voting process, citizen engagement with elected officials, advocacy of Republican principles & goals, and electing Republican candidates. The Party actively encourages all of the above, and more. The Party should and does encourage Republican voters to register and vote. That includes recruiting volunteer deputy voter registrars, targeted registration programs, and registering Republicans who move into and around the County to ensure they can vote. We plan to expand such programs in the future to ensure continued growth of the Party, and to keep strong Harris County under Republican leadership.

An open primary system that does not require voters to register by Party. Such an open primary more readily allows the Republican Party to attract and recruit new voters and activists to our ranks. The record-level turnout for the 2016 Republican primary—almost twice the size of any prior primary—has brought a wave of new voters and grassroots volunteers into the Harris County GOP, and helped us identify those voters and keep them engaged for the future.

2018 REPUBLICAN PRIMARY BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

Voters may cast their vote for or against each proposition.

Proposition 1
Texas should replace the property tax system with an appropriate consumption tax equivalent.

Proposition 2
No governmental entity should ever construct or fund construction of toll roads without voter approval.

Proposition 3
Republicans in the Texas House should select their Speaker nominee by secret ballot in a binding caucus without Democrat influence.

Proposition 4
Texas should require employers to screen new hires through the free E-Verify system to protect jobs for legal workers.

Proposition 5
Texas families should be empowered to choose from public, private, charter, or home school options for their children’s education, using tax credits or exemptions without government constraints or intrusion.

Proposition 6
Texas should protect the privacy and safety of women and children in spaces such as bathrooms, locker rooms, and showers in all Texas schools and government buildings.

Proposition 7
I believe abortion should be abolished in Texas.

Proposition 8
Vote fraud should be a felony in Texas to help ensure fair elections.

Proposition 9
Texas demands that Congress completely repeal Obamacare.

Proposition 10
To slow the growth of property taxes, yearly revenue increases should be capped at 4%, with increases in excess of 4% requiring voter approval.

Proposition 11
Tax dollars should not be used to fund the building of stadiums for professional or semi-professional sports teams.

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.

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March 6, 2018 Democratic Party and Republican Party Primary Elections Early Voting Schedule

Inside Loop 610 - Adentro del Autopista 610

1. Downtown (*): Harris County Law Library - Conference Center
   1019 Congress Avenue, Houston, 77002
2. Moody Park: Moody Park Community Center
   3725 Fulton Street, Houston, 77009
3. Kashmere: Kashmere Multi Service Center
   4802 Lockwood Drive, Houston, 77026
4. Downtown-East: Ripley House Neighborhood Center
   4410 Navigation Boulevard, Houston, 77011
5. Southeast Houston: H.C.C.S. Southeast College
   6960 Rustic Street, Parking Garage, Houston, 77087
6. Palm Center: Young Neighborhood Library
   5107 Griggs Road, Houston, 77021
7. Astrodome Area: Fiesta Mart
   8140 Kirby Drive, Houston, 77054
8. Near Town: Metropolitan Multi-Service Center
   1475 W. Gray Street, Houston, 77019
9. Galleria: Harris County Public Health
   2223 West Loop South Fwy, 1st Floor, Houston, 77027
10. The Heights: SPJST Lodge #88
    1435 Beall Street, Houston, 77008

Outside Beltway 8 - Afuera de la carretera 8

22. Humble: Octavia Fields Branch Library
   1503 South Houston Avenue, Humble, 77338
23. Kingwood: Kingwood Community Center
   4103 Rustic Woods Drive, Kingwood, 77345
24. Atascocita (*): Lake Houston Church of Christ
   8003 Farmingham Road, Humble, 77346
25. Crosby: Crosby Branch Library
   135 Hare Road, Crosby, 77532
26. Wallisville Road: North Channel Branch Library
   15741 Wallisville Road, Houston, 77049
27. Baytown: Baytown Community Center
   2407 Market Street, Baytown, 77520
28. Pasadena: East Harris County Activity Center
   7340 Spencer Highway, Pasadena, 77505
29. Clear Lake: Freeman Branch Library
   16616 Diane Lane, Houston, 77062
30. Scarsdale: Harris County Scarsdale Annex
   10581 Scarsdale Boulevard, Houston, 77089
31. Alief: Alief ISD Administration Building
   4250 Cook Road, Houston, 77072
   (Entrance on High Star - South Entrance)
32. West Houston:
   (Nottingham Park
   926 Country Place Drive, Houston, 77079
33. Far West: Harris County MUD 81
   805 Hidden Canyon Road, Katy, 77450
34. Katy: Katy Branch Library
   5414 Franz Road, Katy, 77493
35. North Katy: Lone Star College - Cypress Center
   19710 Clay Road, Katy, 77449
36. Bear Creek (*):
   Living Word Church of Nazarene
   16607 Clay Road, Houston, 77084
37. Jersey Village:
   City of Jersey Village - City Hall
   16327 Lakeview Drive, Jersey Village, 77040
38. South Cypress:
   Richard & Meg Weekley Community Center
   8440 Greenhouse Road, Cypress, 77433
39. Cypress:
   Juergen's Hall Community Center
   20026 Hempstead Highway, Cypress, 77429
   Prairie View A&M University - Northwest
   9449 Grant Road, Houston, 77070
40. Northwest:
   Fallbrook Church
   12512 Walters Road, Houston, 77014
   Champion Forest Baptist Church
   4840 Strack Road, Houston, 77069
   Tomball Public Works Building
   501B James Street, Tomball, 77375
   Lone Star College - Cypress Center
   8747 West New Harmony Trail, Tomball, 77375
41. Fallbrook:
   Spring First Church - Teen Center
   1851 Spring Cypress Road, Spring, 77388
   Lone Star College North Harris
   2700 W. W. Thorne Drive, Houston, 77073

For more information www.harrisvotes.com

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