VOTERS GUIDE
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND

NOVEMBER 3, 2020 • GENERAL & SPECIAL ELECTIONS • POLLS OPEN 7AM TO 7PM

Wish you were reading this in Chinese, Spanish, or Vietnamese? You can! Go to www.lwvhouston.org/votersguide

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Races in Italic Will Appear on All Ballots. Other races are voter specific and will vary. See page 4 to learn how to access your specific ballot.

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THINGS VOTERS SHOULD KNOW

PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED TO VOTE IN PERSON IN ALL TEXAS ELECTIONS
Those voting in person either early or on election day will be required to present photo identification or an acceptable alternative identification allowed by law. Go to page 2 for details.

NEW! ANY HARRIS COUNTY POLLING LOCATION CAN BE YOUR POLLING PLACE
All Harris County polling places are now Voting Centers! Choose the location that is most convenient to you — you no longer have to return to your home precinct to vote! Go to https://www.harrisvotes.com/waittimes or call 713-755-6965 to find the location nearest to you. Bonus! By using the link, you will also be able to see which locations have the shortest wait times. For more information about voting times, go to page 44.

NEW! SINGLE PARTY VOTING IS NO LONGER AN OPTION WHEN VOTING IN PERSON
Voters will have to select their preferred candidate in each race. Note: If there are races where you do not wish to select a candidate, you may skip that race(s). Before hitting the “VOTE” button, be sure to check the vote summary section to ensure that you have correctly voted in all of the races where you want to make a selection. Poll workers can assist you, if you have technical questions.

BALLOT 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. You can learn more about if you qualify (including the latest court rulings regarding COVID-19) and request a Ballot-by-Mail by visiting www.harrisvotes.com or by phoning 713-755-6965. A signed paper copy of your ballot by mail request must be received no later than Friday, October 23, 2020. Requests received by fax or email will not be honored. For more information, go to page 4.

RETURNING A BALLOT BY MAIL
A completed mail ballot MUST be returned to the Harris County Clerk’s Office in the Official Carrier Envelope provided to you. It may be returned in any of the following manners: (1) Regular residential mail via United States Postal Service; (2) In-person drop off at any of the Harris County Clerk Annex locations during regular business hours through Election Day; (3) Common or contract carrier such as personal courier, or FedEx or UPS, or other contracted mail service. For more details, Return Deadlines, and special instructions for U.S. Military personnel, go to pages 3 and 4.

VOTING IS YOUR RIGHT
Should you encounter any problems at the poll, you may always ask to cast a Provisional Ballot and have the opportunity to correct any problem; see page 2 for details about “curing” a ballot. You may also contact the County Clerk’s office at 713-755-6965, 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.

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 100 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, and a complete list of candidates who will appear on the ballot in Harris County. Candidates running in opposed races have been asked to submit answers to questions posed by the League of Women Voters and their responses are included in this Guide.

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.

VOTERS GUIDE UNDERWRITERS*

League of Women Voters Houston Education Fund

Houston in Action

OCA-Greater Houston

Thanks also to everyone who provided funding support through their donations to the Voters Guide. We invite you to join your fellow Houston-area voters in supporting the Voters Guide. See page 10 for details.

*As of print date. For complete list of donors go to www.lwvhouston.org

OUR THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS
The League of Women Voters of Houston wishes to thank the League of Women Voters of United States for providing information about the candidates for President and the League of Women Voters of Texas for providing information about candidates for statewide office.

We also wish to thank our many community partners who assist with production and distribution of the Voters Guide. Special recognition and thanks to our members who support our voter education and voter service work through their personal donations and volunteer time. Without them this Voters Guide would not be possible.

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**Voting in Person?**

**You Must Bring One of These Photo IDs**

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the identification must be current or, for voters aged 18-69, have expired no more than 4 years before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place. A person 70 years of age or older may use a form of identification listed below that has expired if the identification is otherwise valid.

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

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

**CALL (512) 424-2600**

**OR VISIT**

https://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/electionID.htm

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

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

If you have questions or concerns about acceptable form of ID, check before heading to the polling place by calling 713-755-6965 or visiting www.harrisvotes.com

Voters who are unable to provide an acceptable form of photo ID or an acceptable supporting document may vote provisionally. Voters will need to sign a provisional affidavit and will have until Monday, November 9, 2020 to cure their ballot by bringing an acceptable form of identification to the Voter Registrar.

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

Where do I vote?
During the Early Voting Period from Tuesday, October 13 through Friday, October 30, 2020, you may vote at any of the designated Early Voting Locations. You can find a list of Early Voting locations posted online at www.harrisvotes.com or you can call 713-755-6965.

On Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2020, you may now cast your ballot at the neighborhood polling place designated for your precinct or at ANY Harris County Polling Location. There are more than 800 polling places located throughout Harris County. Information about these locations is available online at www.harrisvotes.com or you can call 713-755-6965.

Please note: Your current neighborhood polling place may have changed from previous elections.

How do I vote by mail?
Some voters qualify to vote by mail. The request for a Ballot by Mail must be received by the County Clerk’s office no later than Friday, October 23, 2020. Applications must be mailed or hand delivered.

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.

Where do I find my Precinct Number?
Your Precinct Number (Pct. No.) is shown in the middle of the left side of your orange and white Voter Registration Certificate (VRC). If you wish, you can confirm your precinct number by contacting the Voter Registrar at 713-274-VOTE (8683) or visiting “voter search” at www.hctax.net/Voter/Search.

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
- Texas Election Identification Certificate (EIC) issued by DPS. For more information on the EIC application process please visit https://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/electionID.htm.
- Texas personal identification card issued by DPS
- Texas concealed handgun license issued by DPS
- United States military identification card containing the voter’s photograph
- United States citizenship certificate containing the voter’s photograph
- United States passport

Voters who do not present a valid form of acceptable identification will be permitted to cast a provisional ballot. These voters have until Monday, November 9, 2020 to present acceptable identification at any office of the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector (Branch Offices: Mon.-Fri., 8:00 am-4:30pm; Main Office/Downtown: Mon.-Fri. 8:00am-5:00pm). Once this and all other requirements are met, the provisional ballot must be accepted.

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

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

What else may I take to the Poll?
If it’s handy, we recommend that you take your current yellow and white Voter Registration Certificate since it contains useful voter information.

You can take this Voters Guide or other written or printed material for your personal use. Voters are not allowed to display or share any campaign material in the polling place. Voters may NOT access notes stored on electronic devices. Electronic devices, including mobile phones and tablets, may NOT be used for any purpose while at the polls.

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

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

What if I need assistance or have physical limitations that must be accommodated?
Voters with special needs will be accommodated at all polling places. No medical explanation is necessary and no proof of illness or disability is required. Voters may be assisted by any person of their choice as they cast their ballots. However, a voter may not be assisted by his employer or his employer’s agent, or an agent of his union. The helper will be asked to sign an oath of assistance. A voter may also be assisted by a poll worker. To serve voters with mobility deficits or other physical limitations, all polling places will have ramp access and at least one “DAU” (disabled access unit) eVote voting machine that offers audio voting, puff-and-sip voting and a lower stance for those who use a wheelchair or prefer to sit. Curbside voting is also available for those whose health and safety require that they remain in their vehicles. The curbside voter should send a companion into the polling place with the voter’s identification and an eVote 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 eVote 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 or at any Harris County polling location.
- In person during the Early Voting period, Tuesday, October 13 through Friday, October 30, 2020.
- By mail if you are at least age 65, disabled, confined in jail but still eligible to vote, or if absence from the county will prevent you from casting a ballot during the Early Voting Period and on Election Day.

What about a student who is registered to vote at the family home, but will be on campus during Election Season?

- A student can return home to vote on Election Day or during the Early Voting period.
- A student whose school address is outside Harris County can vote by mail. Please see ballot by mail instructions, above.

May I vote if I have permanently changed my address and still live in Harris County?
You may vote a full ballot in accordance with your former precinct details. Failure to update your address information will affect your ability to vote in future elections. You will be able to vote in your new precinct 30 days after your notice has been received by the Voter Registrar.

May I vote if I have changed my address and move to another 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 Monday, October 5, 2020 for you to vote in your new residence in this Election. Failure to register in your new county of residence will affect your ability to vote in future elections.

What does the term “suspense” mean on a voter’s record?
The term “suspense” is used to designate those voters for whom the Harris County Voter Registrar does not have a current, confirmed address. An individual on the suspense list is still a registered voter but their registration can be rejected.

If you’ve registered but election workers cannot find your name, 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.

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

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HOW THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ASSEMBLED THE VOTERS GUIDE

The League of Women Voters of Houston contacted all candidates in contested races for the following offices: US House of Representatives, Texas Senate, Texas House, Criminal and Civil District Court, Criminal and Civil County Court at Law, County Probate Court, Commissioners Court, Sheriff, District Attorney, County Tax Assessor/Collector, County Attorney, County Board of Education Trustee, Justice of the Peace and Constable. These candidates were asked to respond to our candidate questionnaire with biographical information and answers to questions about important issues. Presidential candidates were contacted by the League of Women Voters of the United States. Statewide candidates and candidates serving jurisdictions that cross county lines are contacted by the League of Women Voters of Texas.

Each candidate’s response is reproduced exactly as submitted without editing or verification. Each candidate is personally and solely responsible for the content of his/her response.

Candidates are advised that their responses are character limited. Candidates who fail to respond to our invitation to participate in the Voters Guide are listed with the notation, “No Response Received.” Candidates without a photo did not submit one. Some candidates may have submitted responses after the print deadline. We suggest that you check the digital edition of the Voters Guide—www.lwhouston.org/votersguide—for additional responses.

The League of Women Voters does not request responses from unopposed candidates. Names of unopposed candidates are listed in the Voters Guide, followed by the notation “Unopposed.”

Candidates are advised that the League of Women Voters reserves the right not to print obscenities, slurs, or egregious personal attacks.

Candidates and races are listed in the order in which they will appear on the official ballot published by the Harris County Clerk.

Every effort has been made to include the most complete, current and accurate information in this Voters Guide; however, Court decisions and other circumstances may change election procedures and processes. Please visit www.lwhouston.org/votersguide or www.harrisvotes.com for the most up-to-date information.

VOTING FOR JUDGES IN TEXAS

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

WHAT SHOULD VOTERS LOOK FOR WHEN ELECTING JUDGES?

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

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

HOW IS THE TEXAS COURT SYSTEM ORGANIZED?

The Texas court system is made up of a statewide network of trial courts and appellate courts. In trial courts, judges and/or juries evaluate the facts and the law and make a decision in a civil or criminal legal dispute. When decisions in most trial courts are appealed, they are sent to an appellate court where judges consider what happened at the trial court, evaluate legal arguments, and then decide if a mistake was made. See https://www.txcourts.gov/media/14469655/court-structure-chart-september-2020.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 Appeals 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.
LWV/US Ground Rules for Presidential Candidates

§ All qualified presidential candidates were invited to provide biographical information and responses to specific questions. Candidates were qualified if they met the following criteria during the primary season:

1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for President;
2. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act’s minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the FEC website by the date of publication;
3. The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes.

§ Responses were limited to a specific number of characters and were truncated thereafter.

§ If a candidate did not respond by the date of publication, “Candidate Has Not Yet Responded” is printed.

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PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES


NOTE: ALL CANDIDATES WHO WILL APPEAR ON THE BALLOT OF TEXAS ARE LISTED BELOW BUT ONLY THOSE THAT MET CRITERIA WERE INVITED TO RESPOND TO THE LEAGUE’S QUESTIONS IN THIS GUIDE.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

HEALTH AND ECONOMY: What actions would you take to balance public health and economic recovery in the US, both in light of COVID-19 and for the long term?

PRIORITY: What is the most important issue facing our country and how do you plan to address it during your first 100 days in office?

RACIAL INJUSTICE: How will you address racial injustice in our country on day one of your administration?

IMMIGRATION: What aspects of our current immigration policy will your administration address first?

HEALTHCARE: What will you do over the long term to ensure access to quality healthcare for all?

DONALD J. TRUMP (R) | CANDIDATE HAS NOT YET RESPONDED

JOE BIDEN (D)

HEALTH AND ECONOMY: It’s a false choice to think we have to choose between our public health and economy; they’re linked. On Day One, I’ll implement the COVID strategy I’ve laid out since March – surging testing and protective gear; distributing vaccines safely and free of politics; helping schools and small businesses cover costs; and getting state and local governments resources to keep educators, cops, and firefighters on the job. I’ll respect science and tell the truth, period. And I’ll build our economy back better, creating millions of good-paying jobs. I’ll revitalize manufacturing, build a clean energy economy, and boost caregiving – easing the squeeze on working families, providing paid leave, and getting caregivers the respect and pay they deserve.

PRIORITY: Pandemic. Recession. Racial injustice. Climate change. We’re facing historic crises; we have to tackle them all at once. Character and experience count. I’ll listen to scientists, tell the truth, and make sure we’re never so unprepared for a pandemic again. I’ll expand the Affordable Care Act, lowering costs and making health care a right for all. I’ll build our economy back better, and make racial equity central to recovery. In these crises, we have an enormous opportunity, if we come together. As President, I’ll draw on the best of us, not the worst. I’ll work as hard for those who don’t support me as for those who do. That’s a president’s job: to represent us all. To take responsibility to protect the nation. To unite and to heal.

RACIAL INJUSTICE: America is at an inflection point. It’s past time to end our inequities and deal with the denial of our nation’s promise to too many for too long. I’ll fight to end the health inequities that COVID-19 amplifies; and give every child the same strong start in life by offering universal Pre-K, tripling funding for Title I schools, and making public college debt-free for most families. I’ll make racial equity central to our recovery, closing the racial wealth and income gaps, boosting home ownership, and investing in communities and entrepreneurs of color – building a stronger, more inclusive middle class for the future. And, I’ll work for real police reform and invest in shifting our criminal justice focus from incarceration to prevention.

IMMIGRATION: My immigration policy is built around keeping families together. It’s past time to reform our broken system, restoring family unification and diversity as its core pillars. As President, I’ll reverse Trump’s assault on our values on Day One, ending his cruel border policies that rip children from their mothers’ arms. I’ll act immediately to protect Dreamers and their families, and invest real political capital in finally delivering legislative immigration reform, with a roadmap to citizenship for the nearly 11 million undocumented people who already do so much to make our communities strong. We have to enforce our laws, but in a way that’s humane, respects due process, honors our values, and sees the big picture.

HEALTHCARE: This pandemic makes clear: All Americans need access to quality, affordable health insurance. That’s why I’ll protect and build on the Affordable Care Act. I helped to secure the final key votes to pass that landmark law, protecting 100 million Americans who can no longer be turned away or denied coverage for pre-existing conditions, and bringing coverage to 20 million more. As President, I’ll build on that progress with a public option and lower health care and prescription drug costs. I’ll make all COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccines free; double funding for community health centers that are so often on the frontlines of care; and much more.

Campaign Website: http://www.jobbiden.com | Campaign Email: info@jobbiden.com | Campaign Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/jobbiden | Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/jobbiden | Campaign Instagram: http://www.instagram.com/jobbiden/
Campaign YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWnpXitY8eJ-ku6M-v25MKw

THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES HAVE QUALIFIED FOR THE TEXAS BALLOT ACCORDING TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF TEXAS BUT DID NOT MEET THE LWV/US CRITERIA.

JO JORGENSEN (L)
HOWIE HAWKINS (G)
JOHN CORRNYN (R)

BACKGROUND: John Cornyn was elected to the Texas Supreme Court in 1990. In 1998, he was elected Attorney General of Texas. In 2002, he was elected to the U.S. Senate. Senator Cornyn serves on the Senate’s Judiciary, Finance, and Intelligence Committees.

IMMIGRATION: Recognizing we are a nation of immigrants, Senator Cornyn has voted in support of a permanent legislative solution for Dreamers who call Texas their home. The Senator, or cosponsor of the Border Security, Family Values, and Reform Act, is a strong advocate for DACA recipients who provide a pathway to citizenship for 1.8 million young adults.

HEALTHCARE: Senator Cornyn supports a system that: protects those with preexisting conditions; lowers the cost of prescription drugs by increasing generics; increases competition by breaking the health insurance monopolies; lowers out of pocket costs for seniors on Medicare; reestablishes the privacy of the doctor patient relationship.

GUN VIOLENCE: Sen. Cornyn believes the right to keep and bear arms is a sacred Constitutional right for Texans. But we must ensure guns are kept out of the hands of criminals and domestic abusers. He believes we need to eliminate unlicensed firearm dealers, which will mean more people get background checks because all Federal Firearms Licenses are required to complete those.

COVID-19: Sen. Cornyn voted for the CARES Act, which sent stimulus checks to individuals who – through no fault of their own – were unable to work and earn a paycheck, and established the Paycheck Protection Program – a critical lifeline that helped ensure businesses could bridge the gap without laying off employees.

Mary J. Hegar (D)

BACKGROUND: I have served our country, am a working mom, and live the challenges of regular Texans. I served 3 tours in Afghanistan as a medevac pilot, earning a Purple Heart & DFC w/ Valor and took on DC to make our military stronger. I’m the fighter we need.

IMMIGRATION: We need comprehensive immigration reform that reflects our core American values - the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We must streamline the process for applying for and receiving citizenship, create a pathway to citizenship for those here, protect Dreamers, permanently end child separation and secure the border with effective procedures & technology.

HEALTHCARE: During my 5 years working in health care, it was clear that our skyrocketing costs and high uninsured rate were unsustainable. As we face a pandemic and beyond, I’ll fight for access to quality affordable health care for every Texan, and for the Texas Senate to determine whether it is a public option or their current plan.

GUN VIOLENCE: As a mother of two young boys, gun violence survivor and a responsible gun owner, I say enough is enough. We must pass common-sense gun safety legislation to require background checks on every single gun sale, including closing the gun show loophole. We must also stop selling weapons of war to the public.

Mary Hegar Website: http://www.mjfortexas.com  Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/MaryHegar  Twitter: Twitter.com/GreenHegar

KERRY MCKENNON (L)

BACKGROUND: I have served on the executive committee for the Libertarian Party of Texas. I have over 20 years of management in the retail and food industry.

IMMIGRATION: Our first priority is that no child is left in a cage or separated from their family, reforming immigration policy means making it as simple as have the same policy for all immigrants from all countries. More judges and caseworkers are needed to process those seeking asylum can be allowed in, because an individual in a detention facility for three years is unacceptable.

HEALTHCARE: Health insurance allowed to be purchased across state lines. The cost of healthcare is due primarily to the amount of money being spent in administration. We see within the VA and Medicare system where actual treatments are being delayed or not approved due to lack of doctors, but there is never a shortage of admins boosting their family, to have shelter, etc.

GUN VIOLENCE: Mental health and hate lie at the core of gun violence and those who act on it are not dealt with in an appropriate way. Hate is learned and can be unlearned, but is a very tough row to hoe. Mental health is an issue that we can diagnose and treat. Those are not the answers that some individuals want to hear, but they are closer to protecting our students than any gun ban.


DAVID B. COLLINS (G)

BACKGROUND: I am a US citizen, 30 years of age or more. In college I studied political science, originally as my major field but eventually as a second field toward a Texas teacher certification. Since then, as an activist, I have followed global politics.

IMMIGRATION: The immigration policy humane, at last. The US has helped make much of Central and South America unsafe for poor and indigenous families for decades; this must stop. Let our neighbors in and give them a pathway toward citizenship. If the flow of capital is globalized, with national boundaries practically irrelevant, the movement of workers should be just as unrestricted.

HEALTHCARE: This nation should do what other wealthy nations have done successfully: guarantee universal, single-payer health care. COVID-19 has made this more urgent than ever. Improved Medicare for All will cover all ages, with dental, mental, and optical coverage for every adult. Once fully operational, it will save the nation as a whole 50% on health care costs.

GUN VIOLENCE: When young people have hope for the future and access to the mental health care they need, they will be far less likely to look to firearms to “solve” their problems. Schools need to be places of nurturing and care for the whole student, especially when their homes are not. Our government can set a better example by not bombing people to boost corporate profits.


COVID-19: Our 4% of the world’s population has about quarter of its COVID-19 deaths. If we had shut down public spaces, suspended rent and mortgage collections, and given US residents a livable income for a few months, like New Zealand and other countries from purging voter rolls. 2. Enact automatic voter registration and a federal database (which I know scares some people). 3. Approval voting makes elections much fairer by avoiding the third-party “spoiler” problem.}

VOUCHERS: Vouchers are a lazy solution to an avoidable problem. We can have excellent public schools for every child, and much more, if we cut our national “defense” budget by half. Sideline Texas school districts should prioritize the vote of actually educating children rather than building palatial football stadium.

Two Minute Video Option: https://www.youtube.com/v/j9BLOvw9dys
2. Select English, Spanish, Vietnamese or Chinese
3. Click on the Sample Ballot icon link
4. Enter your name, your address and/or your Voter Registration Certificate Number.
5. Click on “Search.” Your precinct number, name, address, polling location and the words “Sample Ballot” will appear. Make sure your personal information is correct, then click on “Sample Ballot” to view your ballot just as it will look when you go to vote.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

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

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

[Background]: What training, experience, and background make you the best qualified candidate for this office?

[Immigration]: What are your priorities regarding the immigration system?

[Healthcare]: How would you address access to and the cost of healthcare?

[DAN CRENSHAW (R)]

BACKGROUND: As a Lieutenant Commander (retired) and former Navy SEAL, I have dedicated my life to one thing: service above self. Our way of life in America - our freedoms and our founding ideals - are sacred to me, which is why I was willing to put my life on the line to protect it.

IMMIGRATION: We have a broken immigration system that starts with a broken border. We cannot have security of our country without first having security over our borders, as every sovereign nation does. We also must find a solution to the countless children who were brought to this country through no fault of their own. I’m working to provide strong borders and a humane approach to fix our immigration system.

HEALTHCARE: The cost of prescription drugs is way too expensive. That’s why I introduced a plan in Congress to hold big pharma companies accountable to stop the unfair practices that people ultimately end up paying for at the pharmacy counter. I also support a plan that requires insurance companies to cover people living with pre-existing conditions, so they don’t have to worry about not receiving care.

COVID-19: We need to continue to support our health care heroes, which is why I supported providing billions of dollars in federal resources for our hospitals and frontline health care workers. I also distributed 50,000 masks in the community to help slow the spread. Our small businesses are also hurting, which is why I voted to provide job creators resources to stay open and keep their employees paid.

VOTING RIGHTS: The security of our elections is essential to the security of our democracy. No country should be able to meddle in U.S. elections. I believe we need to harden our election security infrastructure, strengthen voter verification systems, and ensure robust protections against fraudulent activity. All of these measures will ensure fair elections free from interference and malicious activity.

Occupation: United States Congressman | Education: Tufts University • Harvard University | Email: support@crenshawforcongress.com | Website: http://www.crenshawforcongress.com | Address: 5900 Memorial Drive Suite 215 Houston, TX 77007 | Phone: (281) 888-4016 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/CrenshawforCongress | Twitter: twitter.com/DanCrenshawTX

[SIMA LADJAVARDIAN (D)]

BACKGROUND: As a lawyer, as a mediator, and as an activist I have spent my entire career bringing people together and building bridges. As a cancer-surviving mother, I understand more than most how critical it is to protect our families’ healthcare.

IMMIGRATION: Our immigration system is broken and Congress has failed to do its job. And I agree that what is happening at our borders is completely unacceptable. We have to have comprehensive immigration reform that strengthens border security while creating pathways to citizenship and prioritizing our humanity. We can build a reasonable plan for paying back taxes and fines, but we must do better.

HEALTHCARE: Health care is a right, not a privilege. I want to guarantee high-quality, affordable health care for every American. That means expanding the Affordable Care Act, opening Medicare enrollment for anyone who wants it, and covering as many people as possible. And that also means lowering the cost of prescription drugs — which my opponent voted against.

COVID-19: Congress needs to fund PPP so our small businesses can survive, ensure those loans are not abused by big corporations, and make sure states have the funding to meet the unprecedented demands for unemployment benefits during this crisis. We need elected leaders who will prioritize our health care heroes, follow the science, and protect public health.

VOTING RIGHTS: I came from a place where free and fair elections were nothing but a fantasy. And that’s why I think we have a major problem in this country when we create barriers to the ballot box and suppress the vote – especially here in Texas. We need to fully fund the USPS, safeguard our democracy from interference both foreign and domestic, and protect the voting rights of our most vulnerable citizens.

Occupation: Attorney | Education: Bachelor of Arts, Economics and Business, University of California Los Angeles • J.D., Doctorate, UC Hastings School of Law | Email: info@simafortx.com | Website: http://www.simafortx.com | Address: P.O. BOX 687162 Houston, TX 77266 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/SimaforTX | Twitter: twitter.com/SimaforTX

[ELLIOTT SCHEIRMAN (L)]

BACKGROUND: Native Houstonian; 13 years in Supply Chain Mgmt experience to seek out efficient ways to accomplish goals, reduce wasteful spending, and eliminate process bottlenecks - sorely needed in govt. https://www.scheirmanforcongress.com/about, elliott

IMMIGRATION: Streamlined path to legal immigration, guest worker programs without deportations or fear of working above the table, and stop tearing families apart or caging children. American property owners should be able to hire, house, or host immigrants as they see fit without overbearing government interference. https://www.scheirmanforcongress.com/issues/immigration

HEALTHCARE: Remove all barriers to free trade, open pricing, and international medicine purchasing. End patent abuse, FDA red tape, and drastically reduce the cost of medicine. Require healthcare providers to display transparent up-front pricing so competitive market forces drive down prices. Allow specialty niche services to operate in consumer-based health care delivery models.

COVID-19: Provide accurate, reliable information for everyone to make informed decisions for themselves. Abolish any government shutdowns for people who understand the risks and have taken steps to mitigate them. Hold commercial entities fully liable if they are determined to be an outbreak source, incentivizing business owners to make responsible decisions.

VOTING RIGHTS: Allowing voters to pick up ballots at their local groceries, using the same distribution model as auto registration, up to a month before early voting begins. This would allow people to have time to research all the races and submit the filled out ballot in person. I sent this proposal to all TX reps and senators and was ignored. ScheirmanForCongress.com/Texas-Safe-Ballot-Drop-Off-Option

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UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

[Background]: What training, experience, and background make you the best qualified candidate for this office?

[Immigration]: What are your priorities regarding the immigration system?

[Healthcare]: How would you address access to and the cost of healthcare?

**WESLEY HUNT (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** I was raised right here in Houston in a military family. My father, siblings and I have nearly 60 years in service between us. In the Army, I learned to work with people from all walks of life to accomplish the mission. I’ll bring that problem-solving attitude with me to DC.

**IMMIGRATION:** America is a welcoming Nation. The hardworking men and women who come here legally are a boon to our community, but our porous border is an issue of national security. We need to secure our border to stop the awful human and drug trafficking that is the source of unimaginable human tragedy.

**HEALTHCARE:** As the husband of a nurse practitioner and the father of an 18 month old daughter, ensuring that all Houstonians have access to affordable healthcare is among my top priorities. In Congress, I would fight for reforms to increase price transparency and lower drug prices to decrease the cost of care while protecting coverage for those with pre-existing conditions.

**COVID-19:** COVID-19 has impacted every aspect of our society. We need to ensure that there is enough rapid testing available to catch this virus quickly and isolate those infected. We also need to recognize the impact COVID has made on small businesses. If we don’t provide these businesses with the relief they need now, we will lose them, and the jobs they provide, forever.

**VOTING RIGHTS:** Free and fair elections are the lifeblood of our democracy. With early voting extended by one week, I am confident that every Texan will have the opportunity to safely cast their ballot this election.

Occupation: Real Estate | Education: US Military Academy at West Point - BS in Leadership and Management • Cornell University - MBA, MPA, MILR | Email: info@westleyfortexas.com | Website: http://www.westleyfortexas.com | Address: 1707 Post Oak Blvd #525 Houston, TX 77056 | Phone: (713) 344-9209 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/WesleyHuntTX | Twitter: twitter.com/WesleyHuntTX

**LIZZIE FLETCHER (D)**

**BACKGROUND:** I have had the privilege of representing Houstonians as their lawyer in the courtroom, and now as their representative in Congress. My work has helped improve the lives of many people in this community – people who work in oilfields, hospitals, boardrooms, and businesses.

**IMMIGRATION:** In Congress, I have worked to address our broken immigration system and provide practical solutions toward comprehensive reform. I co-sponsored legislation to protect Dreamers, and to reform the legal immigration system. I have spoken out against white supremacist and anti-immigrant rhetoric. And I have focused on addressing the unprecedented delays at USCIS that hurt families and businesses.

**HEALTHCARE:** I have co-sponsored and voted for legislation that protects Americans with preexisting conditions and would lower prescription drug costs by giving Medicare the ability to negotiate their price. I have also supported legislation to expand health care coverage and to encourage states like Texas to expand Medicaid to do so, providing more than a million Texans access to health care.

**COVID-19:** Our daily lives may have changed, but our Houston values—and my commitment to take them to Washington—have not. My office has responded to the needs of this community. We quickly reassigned staff to work directly with constituents on how to access relief programs. And I worked with Houston-area hospitals and other health care providers to make sure they had the resources needed on the front lines.

**VOTING RIGHTS:** We should be enacting and enforcing laws that make it easier, not harder, for citizens to exercise their constitutional right to vote. We must fight for a better system to determine our representation, eliminate partisan bias, and work for an equitable voting process. I was proud to be an original co-sponsor of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and co-sponsored the For The People Act.

Occupation: U.S. Representative, Texas’ Seventh Congressional District | Education: B.A., History, Kenyon College (1997) • J.D., College of William & Mary School of Law (2006) | Email: info@lizziefletcher.com | Website: http://www.lizziefletcher.com | Address: 2822 Westheimer Road PMB 636 Houston, TX 77005 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/LizzieForCongress | Twitter: twitter.com/Lizzie4Congress

**SHAWN KELLY (L)**

**BACKGROUND:** I grew up in a small town in Louisiana and have good morals instilled. I was given a good work ethic from my father. I have been interested in politics since I was young but disgusted by the corruption on all sides. I am not beholden to a party or corporations.

**IMMIGRATION:** I believe all that seek to have a life in the United States should have access to do so. However, there is a legal means to immigrate here. I am not in favor of a border wall, yet I would work for those seeking to make a life here to be accountable and not to expect handouts. Become a productive member of our society then you have rights to the great things the United States has to offer.

**HEALTHCARE:** The high cost of healthcare is sickening and corporations have too much power in this area. I am in favor of private healthcare, but for the sake of competition. Corporations must be held accountable to reduce costs, reduce fraud and provide the best service available. I do not believe that burden should be on tax payers. One persons hard work should not pay for someone else’s neglect.

**COVID-19:** The American people must be allowed to get back to work. Although COVID is real and serious, it is proven to be no more serious than influenza. The economy can and will come back better than ever if it’s allowed. On a personal level, take precautions just as you would for any other pathogen and go about your life. I also believe that government should continue to help those who lost jobs.

**VOTING RIGHTS:** I believe everyone has the right and equal access to vote. I support initiatives like mail-in voting, however extreme measures must be taken to eliminate the potential for fraud. I support election reform that would only allow local funds to contribute to potential candidates and have campaign fund caps. It’s beyond time to kick corruption to the curb.

Occupation: Structural Designer | Education: Associate of Science in Drafting and Design | Email: info@shawnkelly2020.us | Phone: (832) 463-1410 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ShawnKellyTX2020

**KEVIN BRADY (R) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED**

**ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ (D)**

**BACKGROUND:** My background is Accounting. Congress needs more Accountants to fix our issues. I have also studied public policy and understand solutions to implement. Finally, with my experience as a mother of 3 kids in public schools, I know first-hand the issues most people are facing.

**IMMIGRATION:** We must maintain DACA and then pass the DREAM Act. For those seeking entry into the United States, we need to ensure that we have sufficient resources to promptly process those applications. We MUST stop locking people up and separating kids from their parents when they are simply knocking on our door, seeking admission to the United States and have done nothing wrong.

**HEALTHCARE:** I would push for a public option, allowing anyone who wants it to buy into the Medicare System. This allows everyone access to affordable healthcare but allows others the freedom to utilize the private insurance system if they have the desire to spend the extra money for their private plan. However, if a Medicare for all bill were ultimately put to a floor vote, I would vote for that.

**COVID-19:** First, we need to defeat the virus. The ONLY way we can do that until a vaccine is created is to squash it by really locking down until the virus dies out from the carriers (approximately 3-4 weeks). We must offer assistance for people out of work and put moratoriums on evictions during that time, and once a vaccine is created is to squash it by really locking down until the virus dies out from the carriers (approximately 3-4 weeks). We must offer assistance for people out of work and put moratoriums on evictions during that time, and once a vaccine is created is to squash it by really locking down until the virus dies out from the carriers (approximately 3-4 weeks).

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RACE CONTINUED PAGE 9
QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

[Background]: What training, experience, and background make you the best qualified candidate for this office?
[Healthcare]: How would you address access to and the cost of healthcare?

CHRIS DUNCAN (L)

BACKGROUND: Having studied economics, I understand that the increased spending policies of both Republicans and Democrats cannot continue forever and that the economy performs better when people are able to keep more of their money through decreased taxation. Law background as well.

IMMIGRATION: As a Libertarian, I support an open immigration system for peaceful individuals. However, for this to work, we must not subsidize every immigrant that comes over at the expense of the taxpayer. This provides a false incentive regarding immigration. I support freedom of movement, but not handouts.

HEALTHCARE: I believe that each person has the right to make their own medical decisions. Libertarians support removing government meddling from healthcare.

Occupation: Oil Field Sales, Law Student | Education: Texas A&M University - BS Economics magna cum laude, minors - Physics, Math University of Houston - JD Candidate, 2021 | Email: cduncantx91@gmail.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ChrisDuncanLPTexas

JOHNNY TEAGUE (R)

BACKGROUND: I am a pastor, a patented inventor, an award winning published author, and a rancher. I have been an accountant for Shell and a pharmaceutical rep for Pfizer. My vast experience in many disciplines and my heart to help and serve those in need, I believe best qualify me.

IMMIGRATION: The safeguards we exercise in deciding who we allow into our homes should be the rules we apply to those who come into this nation. This is just good common sense. We must realize that the people we let in will one day be our neighbors. Choosing our neighbors is important based on no other metric other than our safety and their ability to support themselves and contribute to our nation.

HEALTHCARE: Government working for us - should collaborate with doctors, nurses, pharmaceutical companies, health insurance companies, and employers to find the most optimal system for our citizens. With all these industries working together in generosity and fairness, a system can be established in the free market that will bring healthcare costs down and make it available and affordable for the citizens.

Occupation: Pastor, Rancher, Inventor, Author | Education: B.S. in Mathematics - Tarleton State, B.B.A. in Accounting - Tarleton State, M.B.A. - Univ of Houston, Master in Theology, Doctorate of Exposition | Email: johnnyteague@scjglobal.net

Website: http://www.checkjohnnyforcongress.org | Address: 12714 Carragie Glen Drive Tomball, TX 77377 | Phone: (281) 924-4460 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/CheckJohnnyTeague | Twitter: twitter.com/forTeague

AL GREEN (D)

BACKGROUND: Aside from 10 yrs. as an NAACP President, 25 yrs. as a Judge, & 15 yrs. as a U.S. Rep., I am a minority born into poverty & invidious discrimination. I've been taught that righteous change requires outright courage.

I have the courage to fight injustice & the scars to prove.

IMMIGRATION: To pass comprehensive immigration reform and have trade agreements with enforceable living wage standards that allow workers to make a living where they live.

HEALTHCARE: To revive and improve the Affordable Care Act as well as provide a public option.

COVID-19: Produce a safe and effective vaccine as quickly as possible, pass H.R. 6800 the HEROES Act, and provide people with additional means-tested direct stimulus payments. When we protect our people, we protect our country.

VOTING RIGHTS: Enact H.R. 4, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act as well as H.R. 8015, the Delivering for America Act, to protect mail ballots and elect a president who will protect the voting rights of all.

Occupation: United States Congressman | Education: J.D., Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Texas Southern University | Email: algreenforcongress@gmail.com | Website: http://www.algreen.org | Address: 3003 S. Loop West Suite 321 Houston, TX 77054 | Phone: (281) 300-8476 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/CongressmanAlGreen | Twitter: twitter.com/RepAGreenTX

JOSE R. SOSA (L)

BACKGROUND: I am an immigrant that came to the US just 16 years ago. I know what it is to have three jobs and go to school at the same time. I have a BS in Healthcare Management, and I am a professional pilot. I am the better choice because I am the people and feel for the people.

IMMIGRATION: The immigration system is far from broken. Government is really inefficient on every process, it takes forever to get anything done. We bring proposals that can start working at the state levels, which will reduce waiting times and will allow immigrants to get out of the shadows where they live today. Federal government is too overarching and that needs to stop. After all we are the United States.

HEALTHCARE: This is one of my fortes because of my background. We need to get the federal government out of the picture and allow Free Market to take over.

By eliminating regulations that prevent providers from offering plans locally, and many others, would allow to increase the competition on healthcare plans, reducing the cost dramatically. This had worked before and it is working in other countries.

COVID-19: Every job that puts food on the table is an essential job. Government should get the resources we need. Healthcare industries are working feverishly to bring treatments and a vaccine. But I believe public dictates should stop. We should govern ourselves as situations dictate. We can’t have people lose their homes, their jobs, or be forced into isolation bringing more complications. No one should die alone and mourning should not be limited to 10.

VOTING RIGHTS: I believe firmly in voter identification. We are required to have ID’s for flying, for medical treatment, to open a bank account, and even to check a book out at the library. Early voting and absentee voting help accommodate easier access. Our elections must be trusted. No one wants to lose an election due to corruption - from either side.

Occupation: Pilot | Education: Airline Professional Pilot • BS Healthcare Management | Email: joseaureososa@hotmail.com | Website: http://www.sosaforcongress.com | Phone: (540) 757-6372 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/SosaForCongress

Twitter: twitter.com/Sosa4Congress

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Michael McCaul (R) | No response received

Mike Siegel (D)

**Background:** My service as a teacher, union organizer, civil rights lawyer, and assistant city attorney in Austin gave me the tools to build a movement across TX-10. In 2018, I turned a “safe” red seat into a battleground district. In 2020, I’ll finish the job.

**Voting Rights:** When we have the largest voter participation, we have the strongest democracy. COVID poses a public health threat to every American, and nobody should be forced to go to the polls and risk their safety. I support universal vote-by-mail and I stand by USPS. USPS is crucial to deliver medicine, support small businesses, and protect the sanctity of our elections — undermining it is voter suppression.

**COVID-19:** Economically, we must rebuild and aid Americans affected by COVID, providing local living wage jobs to everyone who needs one through a federal job program. But we cannot reopen our economy without addressing the crisis causing these issues. America needs a better plan to combat COVID, including a national case tracking system, isolation support, and help for seniors and those with disabilities.

**Criminal Justice:** I support the end of qualified immunity, increased oversight over police, national force standards enforceable by the DoJ and a database of use of force, independent investigations of police killings, and bodycam requirements with harsh penalties for destroying evidence. We must also end programs that have broken families and disproportionately affected POC, like the War on Drugs.

**Other Issues:** Climate change poses a threat to human life, and is an issue where TX-10 can be a leader. Here, coal and fracking are poisoning the environment, and Houston is recovering from its fifth large flood in five years. I support a Green New Deal that will create millions of jobs in a green economy, end usage of fossil fuels, help former fossil fuel workers, and remedy a legacy of environmental harm.

**Immigration:** I believe Dreamers should have a path to citizenship. I support the Reunifying Families Act and the repeal of Section 1325, and we must end harmful policies like the Muslim Ban and deportation of veterans, which violate the premise of our nation and don’t make us safer. Finally, we need to address the causes of migration by promoting stable conditions in Latin America and opposing corruption.

**Healthcare:** Healthcare is a human right. I support universal care, including Medicare for All proposals. With M4A, we’ll save billions of dollars a year, and instead of paying for administrative hurdles and CEOs, we’ll provide healthcare for 30 million uninsured Americans and more with insufficient coverage. Meanwhile, we must defend gains we’ve made for Medicare, CHIP, and ACA, and lower medication prices.

Roy Eriksen (L)

**Background:** My background includes 20+ years in the financial services, education, and consulting fields. I am a small business owner and hold an MBA. More importantly, I am not a career politician and am proudly part of middle class America.

**Voting Rights:** Actions I would take to ensure eligible voters have equal access to safe and fair elections includes the following: Automatic voter registration; Increasing early voting period; Making election day a federal holiday or move it to a weekend; Felon re-enfranchisement - Secure our elections from any foreign interference and hacking

**COVID-19:** Economically - I would support legislation that would continue the PPP and EIDL programs through the SBA. I would also support another round of stimulus payments to working families. I do not support an extension of the Pandemic Additional Compensation. Health - Decisions involving the health of our citizens should be made at the state level, with no involvement from our federal government.

**Criminal Justice:** Sentencing reform for nonviolent offenders; Expungement for marijuana offenses; Challenge the lifetime ban of public benefits for drug offenses; Felon voting re-enfranchisement

**Other Issues:** Balanced Budget Amendment; Term limits for federally elected officials. Federally spending and our national debt is uncontrolled. A balanced budget amendment would keep our federal spending in check, while Congress works in other areas to help reduce of federal debt. Term limits are also necessary, so we do no have career politicians running our country.

**Immigration:** I do not believe in open borders. I want people from other countries to come here legally and live here peacefully. However, amnesty should be granted to those who are already here illegally but are productive members of society and not engaging in (or has a history of) criminal activity. They should be granted a green card and given an opportunity to be come a US citizen if they desire.

**Healthcare:** I would end the ACA, allow people to purchase health insurance across state lines, reduce the cost of prescription drugs, and create a public option for people to purchase. I would also implement a mandatory pre-existing condition clause, so that no one is disqualified for any pre-existing condition.

Help us reach our voters guide fundraising goal of $40,000!

Please join other voters in supporting the Voters Guide.

Make your tax-deductible donation to the LWV Education Fund

- On our website: www.lwvhouston.org
- By mailing your check to PO Box 25997, Houston, TX 77052
QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

**Background:** What training, experience, and background make you the best qualified candidate for this office?

**Immigration:** What are your priorities regarding the immigration system?

**Healthcare:** How would you address access to and the cost of healthcare?

WENDELL CHAMPION (R)

**Background:** Graduate of West Point, 1986. Served in U.S. Army. I’ve been a tireless advocate and “CHAMPION” for Veterans’ Rights and currently serve in Law Enforcement. I’ve been a licensed attorney in TX for over 20 years, a businessman, and community volunteer.

**Immigration:** America is a Land of Laws. We need to encourage everyone living in the United States of America to abide by the laws of our land. Physical barriers should be utilized where necessary and effective. Immigration Policies and Laws should be implemented that legally, fairly and compassionately address the immigration challenges while protecting American citizens and American interests.

**Healthcare:** The challenges of our healthcare system are too complex to suggest that one single narrow concept or policy will provide a solution for everyone. We should be more flexible in providing comprehensive healthcare solutions for our families. We should develop healthcare initiatives that include compassion for those with pre-existing conditions and are also economically feasible and sustainable.

COVID-19: The government has a responsibility to the people to review the economic impacts caused by COVID-19.

Voting Rights: What actions do you support to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to secure and fair elections?

SHEILA JACKSON LEE (D)

**Background:** Passion for service and I get results. Chief Deputy Whip, Chair and Ranking Member — Homeland Security and Judiciary Subcommittees, Chair — Coronavirus Task Force, Mem Budget Comm. Brought billions of fed. dollars to solve Houston problems. Served as Mun Ct Judge, City Cou Mem.

**Immigration:** Must pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation. My legis., H.R. 3647 would provide a pathway to citizenship for DREAMER’s, restore legal immigration, allow for asylum seekers, provide family reunification, and ensure that talented PhD students and other workers can legally stay in the USA to help further build our economy. End caging of children! Need a humane and legal immigration policy.

**Healthcare:** Support universal access to healthcare including expanding Obama Care and making Medicare accessible to everyone. Must lower healthcare costs so sponsored and passed major legis., to bring down the high cost of prescriptions. Support Medicaid expansion so children will have access to good healthcare from birth. Fought against high maternal mortality rates. Helped establish community health clinics.

COVID-19: Re-institute the pandemic office at the White House so there is a national strategy to address COVID-19 and other pandemics. Establish a national testing standard. I opened up 27 testing sites. Will continue. Working to secure funding for vaccine production in my local community. Must pass HEROES Act.

$600 unemployment, cash disbursement, eviction/mortgage moratorium. Funding for city and county.

Voting Rights: Must pass H.R. 4 that protects the voting rights of every American. Must have equal access to all aspects of voting including mail-in ballots. Must eliminate voter suppression. Introduced H.R. 8092 which expands methods for securing mail-in ballots. Met with officials and worked on legis. to ensure the protection of cyber infrastructure and all ballots cast by Americans against foreign attacks.

LUKE SPENCER (L)

**Background:** Washington needs greater diversity. Rather than being yet another lawyer, my career has been in the Energy Industry. As such, I feel that I’m well-suited to represent Houston in the U.S. House of Representatives. Doesn’t our city deserve better than Sheila Jackson Lee?

**Immigration:** America needs an immigration system that works for everyone. Citizens, immigrants and businesses can all benefit from a reality-based system that allows larger numbers of skilled and low-skilled immigrants to permanently move to the US in an orderly fashion. Finally, we need to bring back a guest worker program. Many people simply wish to work in the US for a few years before returning home.

**Healthcare:** How to pay for healthcare goods and services is the single biggest reality. Creating a blueprint and building a team of skilled labor to execute the plan. This ability makes me a unique candidate.

COVID-19: Firstly, public health funds should be refocused on infectious diseases. For 30+ years taxpayer money was wasted on lifestyle diseases, leaving us poorly prepared for a pandemic. I’m ashamed at the behavior of our media and establishment political parties during this crisis. The opportunistic depravity they’ve exhibited is evidence of their obsolescence. Major change is clearly required.

Voting Rights: Americans deserve more choices at the ballot box. The Republican and Democrat duopoly is a chronic disease that robs voters of their voice and ability to vote for meaningful change. The cure for this sickness is to implement Ranked Choice Voting via ballot measure. Maine did it. And Massachusetts and Alaska will have the opportunity to do so in 2020. When will Texans join this revolution?

VINCE DUNCAN (I)

**Background:** As a builder you are tasked with creating things that don’t exist. My experience requires that I have the listening skills to make their visions a reality. Creating a blue print and building a team of skilled labor to execute the plan. This ability makes me a unique candidate.

**Immigration:** Address birth right citizenship - if both parents are not legal US citizens at the time of birth, then the child is Not a US citizen. Legal immigration should be available for any persons seeking citizenship. End any programs that pay any governmental benefits to Non US citizens. We have to establish law and order and economic consequences of shutting down small businesses across the nation. We have to be careful not to continue to devalue the American dollar by depending solely on stimulus packages. The rebuilding of our American economy depends on getting people back to work and businesses open as quickly as we possibly can.

Voting Rights: Every American citizen who has a right to vote should have that right protected and not restricted in any way. We should ensure that the process is closely monitored. The process of mail-in ballots, how they’re handled, how they’re collated, and how they’re counted should be reviewed closely. The right to vote and have a voice is fundamental to our freedom and republic.

COVID-19: What actions, if any, do you believe are needed to address the health and economic impacts caused by COVID-19?

Voting Rights: What actions do you support to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to secure and fair elections?
HEALTHCARE: I know what it is like to struggle with health care costs. After my father died of cancer, our family was brought to the verge of bankruptcy by medical bills. "Our top priority needs to be protecting the ACA, Medicare, and Medicaid from defunding." I have spent my working life serving our community as a social worker, judge, city controller, county commissioner, state senator and now in Congress. Growing up on a farm in South Texas taught me the importance of hard work and education.

IMMIGRATION: At the beginning of the crisis, little was known about the Wuhan coronavirus. Today, there is significant data that show that the disease IN MOST CASES is not fatal. We must restore the protections of the Voting Rights Act to ensure that every American can cast a ballot without barriers or intimidation. Fair elections in the future start with an accurate Census now. We need local, state and federal governments working together to ensure an accurate count.

JOSEPH LEBLANC (L)

BACKGROUND: I am a veteran of the United States Army, and have held jobs ranging from labor to office jobs. I have had to deal with the federal government and its bureaucracy since the day of my birth in an Army Hospital in Germany.

IMMIGRATION: A complete revamp to help those people who just want to obtain the lifestyles we have been fortunate enough to already have, the difficult process (and cost) of the immigration is a major reason for those risking their lives to cross our borders.

HEALTHCARE: Through deregulation of the insurance industry (especially the McCarran-Ferguson Act), and through opening hospitals to competition, we can drive the cost of healthcare down. This along with restructuring the patent system where it cannot be abused by the pharmaceutical companies to maintain sole ownership over a drug for 30-40+ years.

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IMMIGRATION: A complete revamp to help those people who just want to obtain the lifestyles we have been fortunate enough to already have, the difficult process (and cost) of the immigration is a major reason for those risking their lives to cross our borders.

HEALTHCARE: One of the primary drivers of the cost of health care is the intrusive nature of governmental regulations. Doctors, hospitals, and clinics are drowning in paper work required by government fines. I need to free the marketplace and increase informed choices in health care.

BACKGROUND: I have spent my working life serving our community as a social worker, judge, city controller, county commissioner, state senator and now in Congress. Growing up on a farm in South Texas taught me the importance of hard work and education.

IMMIGRATION: At the beginning of the crisis, little was known about the Wuhan coronavirus. Today, there is significant data that show that the disease IN MOST CASES is not fatal. We must restore the protections of the Voting Rights Act to ensure that every American can cast a ballot without barriers or intimidation. Fair elections in the future start with an accurate Census now. We need local, state and federal governments working together to ensure an accurate count.
**BACKGROUND:** I grew up in Jasper, the son of a pastor. My father taught me the value of faith, family and most importantly he taught me to fight against injustice. With these values I became Jasper’s youngest city council member ever running a grassroots campaign as a write-in candidate.

**IMMIGRATION:** We desperately need to change course on our immigration policy. I support a road map to citizenship, support measures to extend permanent protections to DACA and TPS recipients, and make sure we end our current policy of separating families at the border. We need immigration reform, and if elected I will ensure our immigration policy protects the basic rights and dignity of everyone.

**HEALTHCARE:** I believe healthcare should be a basic right. Access to healthcare is critical in our district. We need to improve our public healthcare to focus on the patients instead of promoting profits. I support a government-run public option, the expansion of medicare and medicaid to make sure everyone in our community has access to affordable healthcare, and limiting the cost of prescription drugs.

**COVID-19:** A safe reopening plan needs to be implemented immediately. Social distancing needs to continue and people on the front lines need supplies and equipment. Next, testing needs to be readily available. We then need to equip our hospitals with supplies, funding, and staff. We need to control the virus before our economy is able to continue on the right track.

**VOTING RIGHTS:** I pledge to always speak up for those who are oppressed. It’s been my honor to organize protests and march alongside Black Lives Matter. I will support the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. I hope to continue the legacy of Mr. Lewis, and ensure that every American is allowed to exercise their right to vote. I also support expanding mail-in voting, so voting is easier and safer during the pandemic.

Education: BA in Marketing from Prairie A&M University | Email: info@lewiscongress.com | Website: http://lewiscongress.com | Address: P.O. Box 881 Jasper, TX 75951 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/LewisforCongress36th

Twitter: twitter.com/RLewis4Congress

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**BACKGROUND:** I absolutely not a politician, I am not asking for people’s money. I can speak my truth as I have no expectations at being elected, I have no fear of failure, my fear is not trying. I have lived and learned from several different lives. Experience is the only teacher.

**IMMIGRATION:** Rightly or wrongly how they got there, a country has borders. I don’t believe in walls but immigrants make up the American continents. Go back far enough we are all immigrants from Africa, likely. We need a cooperative world economy of more equality and not driven by conflict and poverty. Rapacious corporate cannibalism. People driven from their homes. The Trail of Tears was immigration policy.

**HEALTHCARE:** Healthcare should be a right, not corporate maximize profit based. Do no harm is not bankruptcy from inflated medical bills. I lost insurance & have unreasonable medical bills not paid. My son and ex-wife were type 1 diabetics. My daughter was 15 when she was diagnosed. She’s not able to get insulin. My son and ex-wife were type 1 diabetics. My daughter was 15 when she was diagnosed. She’s not able to get insulin. And Rs are completely owned by the banksters that own all industry in this country at this point.

**COVID-19:** I’ve had the [coronavirus] already and I ain’t [scared]!! I didn’t die of Mad Cow, SARS, Bird-flu etc and don’t plan on dying now. Sure, the virus is real and it sucks, but I don’t see how this is the government’s problem to handle. Let the free market do it’s thing.

**VOTING RIGHTS:** That’s not my problem, leave it up to the states to decide and if a state starts pulling some [BS] like they do against the Libertarian Party in every single election then let the courts decide.

Occupation: Retired Truck Driver-Ironworker | Education: Bridge City High School, Ironworker Apprenticeship, Truckers School & Computer School-CAD | Email: hajridleyjr@gmail.com | Website: http://www.hajridleyjr.com | Address: 2100 Wise St #202 Bridge City, TX 77611 | Phone: (409) 653-5398 | Twitter: twitter.com/hajridleyjr

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**BACKGROUND:** I have over 30 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, as an engineer and attorney. I know the complex technical and legal issues that face the industry. I will protect our natural resources and environment and keep industry functioning.

**PIPELINES:** The Commission should increase safety and emissions monitoring to end catastrophic failures and eliminate methane leaks. It should implement a more robust information system to know where all smaller intrastate and gathering lines are located and permitted. The legislature must assign oversight authority for pipeline permitting, right-of-way acquisition and condemnation.

**NATURAL RESOURCES:** A reclamation and reuse program would ensure less fresh water is used and would reduce the need for disposal wells. Program guidelines, informed by experts, could provide best practices for operators. Updated permitting and reporting requirements would ensure operator compliance. To work, oversight must be provided by adequately trained and compensated professionals.

**FLARING:** If the Railroad Commission would simply enforce the laws on the books, we would dramatically impact greenhouse gasses and pollution. Flaring and venting of natural gas are illegal activities and the Railroad Commission should enforce those laws, which Texans enacted long ago to protect our natural resources and our environment.

Occupation: Engineer and Attorney | Education: Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Juris Doctorate in Law | Website: http://chrystafortexas.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ChrystaForTexas | Twitter: twitter.com/ChrystaforTexas
RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

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

PIPESLINES: What can the Texas Railroad Commission do to further ensure compliance with pipeline regulations to avoid environmental harm?

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

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

MATT STERETT (L)

BACKGROUND: I run a small Oil & Gas Software company. Clients use the software to forecast well data. Sometimes, that data is from the RRC. I’ve been in the building & met w/ a few RRC team members - I’m familiar with the organization’s digital operations.

PIPESLINES: Pun the responsibility to the courts. Texas is a litigious state. I think the Texas courts have broadly supported property rights. As a Libertarian, I believe in strong private property rights. I also don’t believe in expanding regulators activities. If / when environmental harm is done, I’d rather be settled in a court than a government agency.

Website: http://www.mattiroc.org | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/stereett | Twitter: twitter.com/mattestereett

KATJA GRUENE (G)

BACKGROUND: 3 decades of project & bus.mgmt. along w/consensus-based facilitation; 2 decades of experience doing legislative work, coalition building, campaigning, and leading an environmental & social justice movement in a litigious & hostile environment.

PIPESLINES: First, no new pipelines. Second, properly inspect and review existing permits for compliance and safety. Third, hold corporations accountable for violations including restoration of & restitution in areas already harmed. Fourth, stop taking political contributions from those they are regulating. Fifth, enforce new 2020 regulations, including updating existing pipelines.

NATURAL RESOURCES: Ban Fracking Period. There is no need for such a highly wasteful, unsafe, and unsustainable practice. All water used in these operations is no longer potable and because it is chemically altered, scientists believe it may never be returned to the state of water - h2o. The emerging tech of onsite carrier gas desalination plants could become a valid option if successful.

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

Website: http://facebook.com/GreenTXRRC | Twitter: twitter.com/queenkat

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

CHIEF JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

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

JUDICIAL SELECTION: Texas is one of the few states that elects judges in partisan elections. What changes, if any, in the judicial selection process would you recommend?

STANDARDS: What changes, if any, do you think are necessary to improve public confidence in the legal profession?

BIASES: What training and practices do you recommend for trial judges to guard against implicit biases?

OTHER ISSUES: What other issues do you believe will be the most pressing for the Texas Supreme Court?

NATHAN HECHT (R)


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

STANDARDS: Judges and lawyers should engage with community leaders to ensure the justice system is seen as fair to all, as the Supreme Court and I did in a “Beyond the Bench Summit” in Dallas. Civics education in schools should be stronger and more creative. A great example is the South Texas program for students to enact mock trials in a real courtroom, playing different roles.

BIASES: Training Texas judges on issues of race and fairness has been required for many years. Implicit bias training is conducted annually for new judges and by the Texas Center for the Judiciary in many other courses and conferences. The Supreme Court’s “Beyond the Bench Summit” featured implicit bias training. The Judicial Council that I chair is preparing other training.

OTHER ISSUES: The Court’s work is completely current and has been since I’ve been Chief Justice. Its challenges are to continue to guide Texas courts through the pandemic and equip them with all they need to function. In these tight economic times, the Court must help ensure adequate funding for courts, and also for legal aid for the poor, to ensure equal access to justice for all.

Website: http://justiceanathethecht.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/nachtys | Twitter: twitter.com/NathanUHecht

AMY CLARK MEACHUM (D)

QUALIFICATIONS: As a district court judge for a decade, I have presided over all types of cases heard by the Supreme Court: civil, family and administrative appeals. I am a guest lecturer for ethics, a member of the Public Law Council and an advocate for legal aid.

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

STANDARDS: Texas should increase public membership and participation on the Committee on Disciplinary Rules and Referenda, which recommends proposed changes in legal ethics rules in Texas. Currently, under Texas Gov’T Code § 81.0872, just 2 of 9 members are public members. Also, members of the public who file grievances should be allowed to participate in some parts of the process.

BIASES: We need to require every judge and lawyer in the state to take implicit bias training. This is simple and achievable. When I am elected Chief Justice this fall, we will make this part of the Texas justice system’s mission on Day 1. We need to add a pledge of “Equal Justice under the Law” to the lawyer’s and judge’s oaths. It is past time to create a more fair system.

OTHER ISSUES: All Texans should have access to essential legal services. Access to justice is a top priority of mine, and one of the cornerstones of a fair and just society, especially during COVID. The current Court is considering a $1.2 million cut to legal aid, but rising evictions, layoffs and domestic violence cases are creating a more urgent need for legal services - not less.

Website: http://amyameachum.com | Facebook: http://facebook.com/JudgeAmyForChiefJustice/
CHIEF JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

MARK ASH (L)

QUALIFICATIONS: I have mostly practiced criminal defense law for the last 27 years. Also, I have represented individuals in civil matters including divorce, property rights and personal injury.

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

STANDARDS: The public needs access to more data from the state bar. The public needs to know how many clients the lawyer has represented in the criminal or civil courts. Many times, clients are not aware of the limited experience a civil lawyer may have in criminal court and a criminal lawyer may have in civil court. Also, malpractice insurance information needs to be disclosed.

BIASES: Judges should be required to attend a minimum number of hours of continuing legal education. Information about the courses/classes that the judges attended need to be available online for the public to view. Also, user friendly access to campaign contributor information needs to be made available to the public.

OTHER ISSUES: The Texas Supreme court should continue to make more and more user friendly legal forms available online for simpler legal matters such as for family, probate and real estate. Links should be provided to trusted websites that give up-to-date information for pro se litigants.

Website: http://www.facebook.com/markashfortexascourtofcriminalappeals

KATHY CHENG (D)

QUALIFICATIONS: I have almost twenty years of legal experience in areas including complex commercial issues, divorce and probate, tax and real estate cases. I have also served as adjudication officer for the City of Houston for about six years.

JUDICIAL SELECTION: The beauty of democracy is that citizens can vote for individuals who they believe reflect their values, which in the State of Texas includes the election of judges. If that choice turns out to be a bad choice, being able to vote elected officials out of office is a mechanism to hold said officials accountable. As such, I see no need for change at the present time.

STANDARDS: As time evolves, the means of disseminating the rules and standards for the legal profession shall also evolve. With the ease of digital accessibility, there should be more educational information available to the general public by digital means of the rules and standards governing said profession so that the general population are better informed as to their rights.

BIASES: Raising awareness of the existence of implicit bias through regular meeting discussion can debias the years of exposure to cultural stereotypes, narratives and/or systemic policies. In addition, implement a mandatory annual implicit bias training for judges and staff members.

OTHER ISSUES: With the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision to refrain from hearing challenges of partisan gerrymandering, partisan gerrymandering cases will now go before the Texas Supreme Court, which is an example of how this Court impacts its citizens even though the citizens themselves may never go before this Court.


JEFF BOYD (R)

QUALIFICATIONS: My extensive and varied legal career— including 16 years in private practice, 3 years as the deputy attorney general in charge of civil litigation involving the state, and 2 years serving as general counsel and chief of staff for the governor’s office

JUDICIAL SELECTION: Electing judges creates issues that undermine the public’s confidence in the system, but it also requires judges and judicial candidates to interact with the public. This gives the public the opportunity learn who will best serve to counteract those problems. If we were building the process from scratch, leave it to the public to decide to alter the system.

STANDARDS: We must continue to make the system more accessible by reducing the costs and delays required to resolve common civil disputes. We must do more to promote the legal profession as a means for public service instead of private profit. And we must continue to promote transparency into the operations and activities of our courts and judges.

BIASES: Programs like the “Beyond the Bench” conference the Court sponsored in 2016 can be effective for that purpose. Requiring judges’ participation in such well-designed, high-quality programs as part of their annual continuing-education requirements would be a meaningful step in the right direction.

OTHER ISSUES: (1) Ongoing implementation of evolving technology to increase efficiency within the judicial system. (2) Maintaining timely decision-making processes through changes in the Court’s make-up over time. (3) Ensuring continued operations throughout the judicial system in times of natural disasters.
QUALIFICATIONS: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

JUDICIAL SELECTION: What is your position on partisan judicial elections?

STANDARDS: What changes, if any, do you think are necessary to improve public confidence in the legal profession?

BIASES: What training and practices do you recommend for trial judges to guard against implicit biases?

OTHER ISSUES: What other issues do you believe will be the most pressing for the Texas Supreme Court?

STACI WILLIAMS (D)

QUALIFICATIONS: I am in my second term as Judge of the 101st District Court. The 101st District Court handles primarily commercial, personal injury, medical malpractice, oil and gas, and consumer issues. I have over 27 years of legal experience.

JUDICIAL SELECTION: Texans have elected judges in partisan elections for more than 100 years. While I believe that this Texas tradition should not be disturbed, a Commission has been established to study options to selecting judges in urban areas by methods other than partisan elections. Recommendations will be made at the end of the year. I look forward to reviewing these alternatives.

STANDARDS: The legal profession needs to get more involved in the community. My judicial outreach program, the Citizens’ Civil Academy (“CCA”), was launched to foster dialogue on real solutions that will enhance public trust in our justice system. I encourage lawyers, judges, and local leaders to use this kit in their communities.

BIASES: I believe they should attend training sessions and evaluate on a monthly basis what practices or procedures can be modified to reduce implicit bias. Every day, the judge should ask himself/herself, “Would I have treated this litigant differently if he had been a member of my own race?”

OTHER ISSUES: The Court’s liaison for access to justice, I champion reforms that help Texans of limited means—including veterans, domestic violence victims, families, and the elderly—get the basic civil legal services they need. Example: online hearings can significantly increase access and reduce cost, so we are planning how to use them most effectively even after the pandemic.

WILLIAM BRYAN STRANGE, III (L)

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

JUDICIAL SELECTION: The 101st District Court handles primarily commercial, personal injury, medical malpractice, oil and gas, and consumer issues. I have over 27 years of legal experience.

JUDICIAL SELECTION: Our process should select experienced judges who will deliver justice: giving everyone the fair day in court they deserve and ruling impartially based on the law, never imposing their personal or political views to reach a desired result. I support the work of the Texas Commission on Judicial Selection, which the Legislature created to report on selection options in 2021.

STANDARDS: Important conversations are taking place across Texas about equality and justice under the law. The Supreme Court’s “Beyond the Bench: Law, Justice, and Communities Summit” developed a toolkit to foster dialogue to educate citizens about the civil court system. The CCA explores the types of cases heard in the civil courts and what happens to a case from the time it is filed until it is disposed. There have been over 350 graduates.

BIASES: I believe they should attend training sessions and evaluate on a monthly basis what practices or procedures can be modified to reduce implicit bias. Every day, the judge should ask himself/herself, “Would I have treated this litigant differently if he had been a member of my own race?”

OTHER ISSUES: The Court’s liaison for access to justice, I champion reforms that help Texans of limited means— including veterans, domestic violence victims, families, and the elderly—get the basic civil legal services they need. Example: online hearings can significantly increase access and reduce cost, so we are planning how to use them most effectively even after the pandemic.

GISELA TRIANA (D)

QUALIFICATIONS: For over 24 yrs, I have served as a judge in Texas: Municipal Ct, JP, County Ct, District Ct, Appellate Ct. I will be the first person on the TXSCT to have served on every lower level court. Most of my 32-yr legal career has been in public service.

JUDICIAL SELECTION: This is a legitimate discussion if there was a nonpartisan way to select judges that Texans could trust. The issue is the timing: after the party that has been in power and benefited from partisan election of judges for decades begins to lose that power. It makes the concern seem self-interested.

STANDARDS: Important conversations are taking place across Texas about equality and justice under the law. The Supreme Court’s “Beyond the Bench: Law, Justice, and Communities Summit” developed a toolkit to foster dialogue on real solutions that will enhance public trust in our justice system. I encourage lawyers, judges, and local leaders to use this kit in their communities.

BIASES: I believe they should attend training sessions and evaluate on a monthly basis what practices or procedures can be modified to reduce implicit bias. Every day, the judge should ask himself/herself, “Would I have treated this litigant differently if he had been a member of my own race?”

OTHER ISSUES: The Court’s liaison for access to justice, I champion reforms that help Texans of limited means—including veterans, domestic violence victims, families, and the elderly—get the basic civil legal services they need. Example: online hearings can significantly increase access and reduce cost, so we are planning how to use them most effectively even after the pandemic.

TOM OXFORD (L)

QUALIFICATIONS: With almost four decades of legal experience I will bring a broad range of knowledge to the bench. I have had the pleasure of successfully representing Texans before both the Texas Supreme Court and the United States Court of Appeals.

JUDICIAL SELECTION: The problem is not the partisan nature of the elections. The problem is the massive amount of money given to these candidates by the very firms that will be appearing before them. If a firm wants to give funds to a candidate that is their right. However when that firm appears before that same Judge appropriate conflict of issue standards should be applied.

STANDARDS: An open system that treats all parties with an even hand, regardless of race or socio-economic status would be a good start. Too often a litigant’s chances depend more on who their lawyer is and what connections they have with the judge than on the actual facts of the dispute. An honest recognition of that fact by our profession would be a good start.

BIASES: I am not sure how to answer this question. You cannot train bias out of someone, it is part of human nature. We all favor our family over our neighbors, our neighbors over our community and our community over the community down the road. We must recognize our bias and constantly guard against it. A difficult task indeed!

OTHER ISSUES: Historically Judges decided the law and juries decided the facts. We have gotten away from that respect for the Jury System in Texas. Too often, when there are honest factual disputes, Judges will overrule the jury and substitute their own opinions for the Jury’s. This tension will continue to be a pressing issue.
BACKGROUND: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position? MENTAL HEALTH: How should the Court of Criminal Appeals address mental health issues of those who come before the court?

BERT RICHARDSON (R)

BACKGROUND: I am the incumbent in this race and have been a State judge for over 20 years. I am a former State and Federal prosecutor that is Board Certified in Criminal Law. I have participated in hundreds of appeals, writes and over 50 capital cases.

MENTAL HEALTH: Mental health issues are litigated at the trial level. As an appellate judge, in cases with mental health issues, I write legal opinions that determine whether a trial court properly admitted, or excluded mental health evidence. If evidence of mental health is improperly excluded, the Court has the authority to grant a new trial.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: There are opportunities to improve the system, but that requires additional funding and that assistance has to come from the legislature and individual counties, not the courts. In order to attract qualified lawyers to represent indigent defendants, the State will have to compensate those lawyers, or create more public defender offices.

OTHER ISSUES: In light of the current COVID crisis, one of the most pressing issues will involve getting the courts across the State back to work. I anticipate several legal challenges will follow the “new normal” including speedy trial claims, jury selection issues, witness testimonies and jury deliberations that result in fair verdicts.

Website: http://www.electjudgerichardson.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/JudgeBerTRichardson | Twitter: twitter.com/None

ELIZABETH D. FRIZELL (D)

BACKGROUND: I have 27 years of trial experience and 13 years as a private practitioner. I have 20 years of experience as a Judge where I was elected as a Dallas County Criminal Court Judge and Dallas Criminal District Court Judge.

MENTAL HEALTH: The Court of Criminal Appeals should ensure that trial courts examine mentally ill defendants for their capacity to know the difference between right and wrong as well as whether a mental illness affected their judgment and was properly asserted and applied for sentencing purposes.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: The State Bar should require internships similar to internships in the medical field where newly licensed attorneys work for non-profit organizations, government agencies, and firms doing trial work and appellate work for at least one year prior to becoming licensed. This will give non-profit and pro bono agencies more attorneys to handle an increased caseload.

OTHER ISSUES: Disparate sentencing, wrongful convictions, and death penalty cases.

Website: http://www.Frizell4Judge.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/frizell4txjudge

KEVIN YEARY (R)


MENTAL HEALTH: The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, along with the Texas Supreme Court, recently established the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health “to engage and empower court systems through collaboration, education, and leadership, and to thereby improve the lives of individuals with intellectual and development disabilities (IDD).”

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: The Texas Indigent Defense Commission “provides financial and technical support to counties to develop and maintain quality, cost-effective indigent defense systems that meet the needs of local communities and the requirements of the Constitution and state law.”

OTHER ISSUES: The Court must follow the rule of law and ensure that the written law provides the even playing field that all citizens should expect from our judicial system. Judges must not be policy makers, but should instead decide disputes between parties to litigation, guided by reference to the constitution and laws, which are written by others.

Website: http://www.judgeyeary.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/JudgeKevinPatrickYeary | Twitter: twitter.com/JudgeYeary

TINA CLINTON (D)

BACKGROUND: I am the presiding district court judge of the oldest Criminal District Court in Texas. I have 14 years experience as a trial court judge over a felony district, county criminal and municipal courts. I have tried over 400 trials in my career.

MENTAL HEALTH: The CCA is an appellate court so issues of mental health raised on appeal are the issues that may be addressed. The CCA also funds education programs and grants for judges, lawyers and prosecutors. Expanding the funding for additional education on mental health in criminal cases would make a vast difference in the entire criminal justice system.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: First, review cases of ineffective assistance of counsel closely. One can be ineffective not merely by not doing something they should have done but also for the lack of time they have based on carrying too heavy of a case load, based on ABA standards. Second, indigent defense attorneys must be given adequate resources for investigators, experts and other tools.

OTHER ISSUES: (1) To help answer and educate members of the legislature on where bail reform is currently in Texas. (2) Review staffing needs for additional lawyers on writs that come into the CCA. (3) To consider using differing platforms to increase transparency to the public. (4) Diversity internships to give access to law students that have not traditionally been given access.

Website: http://facebook.com/JudgeTinaClinton | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/JudgeTinaClinton | Twitter: twitter.com/JudgeTClinton

DAVID NEWELL (R)

BACKGROUND: I serve you as a Judge on the Court of Criminal Appeals. I have over two decades of experience handling and deciding criminal appeals as either a lawyer or a judge. I am board certified in both criminal and criminal appellate law.

MENTAL HEALTH: It can adopt dynamic standards to allow non-dangerous citizens suffering from mental illness who commit a crime to easily transfer out of the criminal justice system from a jail bed to a hospital bed so they can get the help they deserve. Violent offenders should also be treated for their illnesses, but in a secure facility for the safety of the community.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: Creation of more regional public defender’s offices could help ensure a standard level of competent representation. Additionally, the Court of Criminal Appeals could pro-actively set out minimum standards for representation of indigent defendants in serious cases.

OTHER ISSUES: Mental health issues, mentioned above, are obviously pressing. Wrongful convictions based upon junk science or police misconduct are also very serious. Additionally, reforming bail practices so that the indigent are not incarcerated for extended periods of time prior to conviction unless there is a flight or safety risk is another significant to address.

Website: http://facebook.com/judgedavidnewell | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/judgedavidnewell

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: What opportunities are there, if any, to improve the state’s indigent defense system in criminal cases?

OTHER ISSUES: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Court of Criminal Appeals?
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

BRANDON BIRMINGHAM (D)

BACKGROUND: Two-term Felony Trial Court Judge, former Presiding Judge-all Felony District Courts, Dallas. Lead counsel on over 100 jury trials from DWI to Capital Murder. 2 specialty court dockets, visiting professor at SMU Law School.

MENTAL HEALTH: My experience has taught me how important properly addressing mental health issues are to reducing recidivism. The CCA should help increase training for lawyers on these issues, and where appropriate, work to increase funding for courts across Texas for worthwhile mental health programs.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: Justice shouldn’t depend upon a person’s access to resources-lessons we’ve learned from the Dallas County exonerations. We must increase funding through the legislature to help counties pay for reasonable and necessary costs of providing indigent defense. Second, we have to establish state-wide best practices to define and manage the case loads of indigent defense counsel.

OTHER ISSUES: From allowing a verdict to stand while a lawyer slept in court, to letting politics impact decisions, or reversals by the United States Supreme Court in death penalty cases, rulings from the CCA have contributed to the public’s skepticism of our criminal courts, and illustrate very clearly the need for change. If we don’t learn from history, we are doomed to repeat it.


WILL HICKMAN (R)

QUALIFICATIONS: I have been active in government for over 20 years as a Bellaire Councilman and leadership positions in the party, working closely with many elected officials. I have 5 degrees in engineering, law, and Spanish, and have 3 kids in SBISD schools.

CURRICULUM: My general philosophy is that each course should be preparing you to do something: building a foundation of reading and math skills at the elementary level for future learning, or preparing for a career, military, or college at the high school level. For each course, I will ask, “What’s next?” Start with existing TEKS and rely on working groups of educators and parents.

CIVIC EDUCATION: Each student should graduate high school with a basic knowledge of US and Texas History. How did we get here? What was the founding fathers’ design? In addition, they should know the role of the branches of government, and how each functions. As adults, they can form their own views of the best direction for the federal, state, and local government.

CHARTER SCHOOLS: I am in favor of school choice. Each family should have the option to choose what is best for their kids: home school, private, charter, magnet, or zoned ISD. I am in favor of high quality charters. Each school that accepts public funding should be subject to the same accountability standards. As kids vote with their feet, poor performing charters will lose students.

OTHER ISSUES: Out of the 5.4 million Texas students, only 54% are career, college, or military ready. That means 46% are not! We need each 8th grader to develop a “flight plan.” What are they good at? What do they enjoy? What are their dreams? Then customize a high school experience to get them there. High school is no longer for developing standardized factory workers.

Website: http://willhickmancampaign.com | Facebook: http://facebook.com/willhickmancampaign | Twitter: twitter.com/willhickman

MICHELLE PALMER (D)

QUALIFICATIONS: I am the only teacher running for this education position. I have taught English, Math, and Social Studies and am therefore very familiar with the curricula used in Texas. Because of this, I will be ready on day one to jump in and fix the problems.

CURRICULUM: I want my students to have the most fact-based curriculum possible. Currently the Health curriculum, teaches rape in a way that blames the victim. The US History curriculum mostly ignores Women’s History, as well as African-American, Mexican-American, Asian-American, and Native American History. The science curriculum does not even mention climate change.

CIVIC EDUCATION: Civics education was always something I am passionate about. However, to me, the first lessons in civics should be independent thinking, recognizing and understanding bias, and critical reasoning. Once students are able to reason, think independently, and filter out bias, they can better understand history, economic systems, and politics.

CHARTER SCHOOLS: I am a strong proponent of school choice. Students and their parents should be able to seek educational options that best suit their needs. Government schools are not the best source of education, and students should not be limited to centralized government school systems.

OTHER ISSUES: The recent pandemic exposed weaknesses in the traditional school system. More people are seeing that it does not have to be the way we have been conditioned to expect it. Government schools will have to do a better job of convincing the public that they are necessary, and worthy of the funding they receive.

Website: http://palmerfortexased.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/palmerfortexased | Twitter: twitter.com/palmerReadensed

WHITNEY BILYEU (L)

QUALIFICATIONS: I was a public school educator for 20 years. I hold a Bachelor’s Degree, and two Master’s Degrees in Urban Education, Curriculum & Instruction, and Educational Leadership. I held various certifications, including Principalship.

CURRICULUM: Education should be focused on skills that are marketable and beneficial to the students and their community. Curriculum standards should account for knowledge, skills, and proficiencies that are best suited for a student’s interests and aptitudes, depending on their plans for the future.

CIVIC EDUCATION: Civics education was always something I am passionate about. However, to me, the first lessons in civics should be independent thinking, recognizing and understanding bias, and critical reasoning. Once students are able to reason, think independently, and filter out bias, they can better understand
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

AUDREY YOUNG (R)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Certified Educator who merges over 27 years of experience leading public education students, with a high level of proficiency in implementing effective programs, and a leader with a servant’s heart and a desire to achieve success for all stakeholders.

**CURRICULUM:** As an Instructional Leader that subscribes to a balance of motivational and targeted instruction methodologies. I believe that as part of enhancing curricula while focusing on student outcomes, it is imperative to integrate best practices, research, cultural and educational needs of students and their communities.

Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com/AYoung4SBOE/](http://www.facebook.com/AYoung4SBOE/)

AUDRA BERRY (L) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

STATE SENATOR

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

**JAY STITTLEBURG (D)**

**BACKGROUND:** I am an Iraq War Veteran, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, currently work as a Project Manager in the Oil and Gas Industry. I understand public service and have a passion to represent the residents of SD4 and improve the quality of life of the district and Texas.

**HEALTHCARE:** In regards to healthcare, my focus will be on expanding Medicaid in the State of Texas. We are way behind and we are 1 of only 13 states that have not expanded Medicaid. We can reduce the coverage gap and add 1.6M Texans to insurance, reduce the uncompensated healthcare costs in our state and help to keep our rural healthcare clinics and hospitals open for access.

**COVID-19:** What has been needed since the beginning of this pandemic is consistent messaging from our elected officials at all levels, from national to state and local and we need to continue to practice the guidelines of masks, distancing, not gathering in large groups and a robust testing and tracing plan. We need to ensure consistent messaging, follow science and data and act early.

**VOTING RIGHTS:** We need to ensure that we have updated any paper trail generating voting machines and ensure that everyone that is eligible to vote is registered to vote and they have access to the polls, whether that be in person or by mail. We have several states that have 100% vote by mail systems and we can adapt those systems into ours in Texas and we can ensure that our voting machines are secure.

**PRIORITIES:** Public education funding from the state level, closing loop holes in our tax laws that continually give corporations billions in tax breaks on the backs of hard-working Texans, robust food mitigation policy and enforcement and more attention to mental health and suicide awareness and prevention.

**Occupation:** Project Manager | **Education:** B.S. Oceanography, US Naval Academy, 1998; M.S. Engineering Management, Old Dominion University, 2007 | **Email:** jay@stittleburg.com | **Website:** [http://www.jaystittleburg.com](http://www.jaystittleburg.com) | **Address:** P.O. Box 362 Porter, TX 77365 | **Phone:** (936) 648-9252 | **Facebook:** [http://www.facebook.com/JayStittleburgForTexasSD4](http://www.facebook.com/JayStittleburgForTexasSD4) | Twitter: [twitter.com/JayStittleburg](http://twitter.com/JayStittleburg)

**BRANDON CREIGHTON (R) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED**

**CAMERON BROCK (L)**

**BACKGROUND:** Training and experience are not what makes a candidate qualified for office. It is passion, love and a willingness to listen. It is my intention to listen and represent the people in my district. If I don’t, they can find someone else in the next election.

**HEALTHCARE:** Healthcare will become significantly more affordable when we get government’s job to tell a person how to live their life. Suggestions may be made, but it is not government’s job to tell a person how to live their life. Suggestions may be made, but it is up to the individual to take care of themselves. As far as the economic impact, I would let the free market play out. Government’s good intentions bring the worst outcomes. Let the people govern themselves.

**VOTING RIGHTS:** First off, I’d eliminate ballot access restrictions completely. Democrats and Republicans have teamed up to manipulate elections. I would work to reduce gerrymandering. I live in the 2nd Congressional District. It is absurd to see Montrose in the same district as Atascocita. The district looks like Bart Simpson is barfing. It’s absurd.

**PRIORITIES:** I support full Second Amendment rights. I want to legalize gambling, including sports wagers, in the State of Texas. Mattress Mack lost approximately $20 million on the Houston Astros during the 2019 World Series. All of it went to other states. He should have access to wager on the Astros in Texas. I will work to end sovereign immunity and TABC. We are losing lives to Abbott’s lockdown.

**Occupation:** Media | **Education:** B.A. in Public Relations and Media Strategies from Texas Tech University A.A.S. in Process Technology from Lee College | **Email:** brockfortexas@gmail.com | **Phone:** (713) 703-3750 | **Twitter:** [twitter.com/cb4lert](http://twitter.com/cb4lert)

**CAROL ALVARADO (D)**

**BACKGROUND:** I have been an effective leader. In my first session as a State Senator, I passed 31 bills and 29 were signed into law. As a State Representative, I passed historic grand jury reform legislation. As a City Council member, I passed the no smoking in restaurants ordinance.

**HEALTHCARE:** The Houston region has the highest uninsured rate among major metropolitan areas. Texas is 1 of 12 states that has not accepted and benefited from expanding Medicaid in some form. We have left over $70 billion on the table for refusing Medicaid expansion. I have and will continue to sponsor legislation that will allow Texas counties to decide on participating in the Medicaid expansion program.

**COVID-19:** Access to testing and timely turnaround in getting results has to be addressed. Contact tracing is nonexistent and has to be strengthened. We need to better equip and train our educators for online instruction. The state emergency management officials need to improve identifying and distributing PPE. We need to provide county judges and mayors with greater authority to make local decisions.

**VOTING RIGHTS:** I sponsored legislation to enact online voter registration. I support a vote by mail system, at the minimum let’s eliminate the four excuses for voting by mail and make it available to anyone who requests a mail ballot. The entity sponsoring an election should cover the cost of postage including mail ballot applications. I support expanding the number of voting centers and early voting days.

**PRIORITIES:** Last session I passed legislation dealing with our state’s workforce needs that is helping move our economy forward. COVID-19 has brought to the forefront workforce issues that will need to be addressed. I will continue to provide leadership on workforce development matters. As Chair of the Senate Democratic Caucus, I will also be leading the effort on redistricting during the next session.

**Occupation:** Consultant | **Education:** Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Houston | **Email:** info@carolalvarado.com | **Website:** [http://www.carolalvarado.com](http://www.carolalvarado.com) | **Address:** P.O. 230842 Houston, TX 77212 | **Phone:** (713) 861-2244 | **Facebook:** [http://www.facebook.com/CarolAlvarado](http://www.facebook.com/CarolAlvarado) | **Twitter:** [twitter.com/CarolAlvarado](http://twitter.com/CarolAlvarado)
STATE SENATOR

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

(COVID-19): What actions do you believe are needed to address the health and economic impacts of the virus on our state?

(COVID-19): What actions should be taken to prepare for similar emergencies in the future?

(Priorities): What other issue is your highest legislative priority and what legislation would you introduce or support to address it?

(COVID-19): What actions do you support to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to secure and fair elections?

(Voting Rights): What actions do you believe are needed to address the health and economic impacts of COVID-19?

LARRY TAYLOR (R)

BACKGROUND: My heart is invested in my community. My work as Texas Senator will focus understanding how to design systems in order for them to be efficient and easy to use. I will redesign services that are wasting our community’s resources and lower burdensome taxes.

HEALTHCARE: Government should neither provide, control, nor require health care.

COVID-19: We also don’t need the government to tell us to wear a mask but it is the responsible thing to do. We should regard wearing a mask as part of our daily personal hygiene and wear one every day when we go out until we have a vaccine.

VOTING RIGHTS: I support transparency in all publicly funded elections through verifiable ballot receipts and/or electronic tracking. I also support mail-in ballots to combat the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

PRIORITY: I want to stop the negative side-effects of gentrification by limiting a property’s appraisal value of price at purchase while exempting people age 65 and over from property taxes completely. I would get people back to work by lifting heavy restrictions on our local communities. And I would institute statewide law enforcement retraining immediately.

Occupation: Usability Analyst | Education: BA in Psychology MA in Applied Cognitive Psychology | Email: tim@duffield4tx.com | Website: http://www.duffield4tx.com | Address: 4334 Polk Street Apt. 1 Houston, TX 77023 | Phone: (213) 323-0298
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/duffield4tx | Twitter: twitter.com/duffield4tx

SUSAN CRISS (D)

BACKGROUND: I served fifteen years as a district court judge presiding over civil and criminal cases. I served almost a decade as a prosecutor. My law partner and I handle criminal, personal injury and veteran disability cases.

HEALTHCARE: First of all Texas must expand Medicaid. Drug prices must be capped. Planned Parenthood clinics must be funded.

COVID-19: We need a remote safe public education plan fully funded. We need to stop usurping local governments’ ability to govern during these emergencies. The division of governmental power and authority divided between the governor and legislature and local governments should be more clearly defined for a long term disasters. The unemployment fund infrastructure must be improved.

VOTING RIGHTS: The obstacles to voting put in place last session must be removed. Mail ballot voting should be expanded. Motor voting should be expanded. Gurrymandering has to end. Redistricting has to be non-partisan and fair. Those who intentionally suppress voting should be held accountable.

PRIORITY: Criminal Justice Reform and Open Government Reform are critical. Bail reform, end qualified immunity for police officers and prosecutors for intentional bad acts, body camera regulations, facial recognition regulations and bans, sentencing minimums, prison and jail education, and ban the box. Restore restrictions to open government such as legislative privilege.

Occupation: Attorney | Education: JD at South Texas College of Law; BA in Government at the University of Texas at Austin | Phone: (409) 771-4066 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/susancrissforsenate | Twitter: twitter.com/susancriss

JARED WISSEL (L)

BACKGROUND: I served as a prosecutor for over 15 years. I handle criminal, personal injury and veteran disability cases.

HEALTHCARE: I support free market based healthcare systems and health insurance.

COVID-19: Provide more PPE. I support transparency in publicly funded elections through verifiable ballot receipts and/or electronic tracking. I also support mail-in ballots to combat the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

VOTING RIGHTS: Eligible voters have equal access to both absentee ballots and in-person voting through the County Clerks Office. Most important is that only registered voters are allowed to vote where identification can be verified. Universal mail-in ballots do not require any form of identification in order to vote and open the door to voter fraud.

PRIORITY: Limiting the increase in property taxes will be a very important issue. With the exorbitant costs of COVID-19, the legislators will be faced with raising revenue to cover those expenses. Property owners, especially on limited incomes, are at risk of being taxed out of their homes and should not be required to bear the burden of covering the COVID-19 expenses.

Occupation: Physician retired | Education: The University of Texas at Austin BA degree • Southwestern Medical School MD degree | Email: Milindammd4senatesd13@gmail.com | Website: http://www.milindammdforTexasSenate.com | Address: 8010 Braesview Lane Houston, TX 77071 | Phone: (832) 413-2885 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/milindammd4senatesd13

BORRIS L. MILES (D)

BACKGROUND: I have been a state legislator since 2007 fighting for the families of my districts. I have a record of progressive leadership fighting for improving public education, increasing access to health care, protecting the right to vote, and passing criminal justice reform.

HEALTHCARE: We need to expand Medicaid so that 1.5 million more Texans would get health care coverage. We must also find new ways to improve health care. I would look for innovative solutions like the Harris County Local Provider Participation Fund that I created last year which allows local hospitals to draw down $1 billion more federal dollars for uncompensated care at no cost to the taxpayer.

COVID-19: We need to have a national response to this pandemic which will allow our public health and economic recovery efforts to be coordinated between states. On the state level, to prevent the disproportionate effect of the virus to minorities, we need to restore the Office of Minority Health Statistics and Engagement which was eliminated by Texas Republicans in 2017.

VOTING RIGHTS: I have been a supporter of making it easier to vote in Texas. I would repeal the Voter ID law. I would allow for online and same day registration. I would make mail-in voting available to anyone who requests a mail ballot. I would make election day a holiday in Texas. I would also support legislation to remove dark money from politics so that we know where all campaign dollars are coming from.

PRIORITY: In light of the social movement following the murder of George Floyd, I will be pushing police reform legislation I originally wrote following the beating of Chauncey Bailey by HPD. These bills include making the offense of official oppression by the police a felony, keeping misconduct reports by individual officers public, and creating a municipal police oversight commission in Houston.

Occupation: Insurance and Real Estate Developer | Education: BS, Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University | Email: borris.miles@senate.texas.gov | Website: http://www.borrismiles.com | Address: 5302 Almeda Rd Houston, TX 77004 | Phone: (713) 665-8322 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/BorrisMiles | Twitter: twitter.com/borrismiles
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

[Background]: What training, experience, and background make you the best qualified candidate for this office?
[Healthcare]: What state legislation, if any, is needed to increase access to affordable healthcare for Texas residents?
[COVID-19]: What actions do you believe are needed to address the health and economic impacts of COVID-19?

E. SAM HARLESS (R)

BACKGROUND: I have lived in the district for 44 years and devoted most of my life to the community. I started mowing lawns at the age of 14 and later became a successful small business owner. When I was elected I pledged to put the needs of our district first.

HEALTHCARE: There are a number of bills that I was proud to have passed last session that increased access to affordable healthcare in Texas: Increased funding for women’s health care, providing lower income women increased access to cancer screenings and mammograms. Ended surprise medical billing by ensuring patients know the cost of medical services in advance. Increased access to medication for children

COVID-19: I am committed to listening to our physicians and medical experts to ensure we have a plan to safely and responsibly reopen our state and economy. Moving forward we must increase our investment in medical technology, research and resources. This includes replenishing our medical stockpiles of PPE, ventilators, and other life saving equipment that is vital for future pandemics.

VOTING RIGHTS: I am a strong supporter of our Voter ID laws, which are critical to securing fair elections. I also support our current absentee ballot program that allows seniors to vote in the comfort of their own home. In response to COVID-19, I am committed to working with Harris County officials to ensure that we provide the best social distancing practices at polling locations in November.

PRIORITIES: My top issue is working to protect our citizens from COVID-19 and having a responsible and safe plan to reopen our economy and get Texans and small business back to work. I am also focused on making sure our schools are safe and our teachers and children get the resources they need from the state. In addition I am focusing on accessible and affordable healthcare for Texans.

NATALI HURTADO (D)

BACKGROUND: Interned for CM Melissa Noriega. I was selected as a Mickey Leland Intern for Congressman Gene Green. I became a district director for a local state rep. For the past 10 years I’ve worked for Hawes Hill managing economic development initiatives.

HEALTHCARE: The first step is simply by the expansion of Medicaid. We’re losing federal money that should be coming home to Texans. We can free up state money that can go towards our public education, especially with a huge budget shortfall looming.

COVID-19: What we need are bold leaders who are willing to lead regardless of partisan push back. Common sense practices such as face masks and social distancing are small steps to stopping the spread. We need to prioritize funding research to help find vaccines and make sure we are listening to science and facts.

VOTING RIGHTS: I support prioritizing voter registration and making it easier for people to register. I support rolling back voter ID laws because its intent is voter suppression. We all deserve the right to vote because it is our voice for the things we aspire to see in our democracy.

PRIORITIES: Economic development to support local businesses and attract new businesses to our community. I’m working with the chamber of commerce to help bring a management district to our area because we’ve seen so many businesses leave and I want to make sure our businesses are supported and more jobs are brought to HD 126.

DAN HUBERTY (R)

BACKGROUND: Having served in this role since 2011, I have had great success in each session, from passing transformational school finance reform to the overhaul of municipal annexation. I am Chairman of the Public Education Committee and a board member of the Republican Caucus.

HEALTHCARE: It is critical that we take action to contain costs in all areas of health care, but on prescription drug costs, in particular. We need to create opportunities to buy more generic drugs, allow for quicker access and approval by the FDA and allow for access to drugs from Canada and Mexico. In addition, we have to control costs of health care providers through transparency.

COVID-19: The pandemic has brought to light many issues, like the need for greater access to internet and connectivity. Governor Abbott appointed me to serve on the Operation Connectivity Task Force to provide internet connectivity to hundreds of thousands of students statewide. This is just one example of the positive progress that has come from the pandemic.

VOTING RIGHTS: Election Security and Voter Safety are very important issues and I believe our election administrators have shown they can safely and securely execute an election with the run-off and special elections that have occurred in the time since the pandemic.

PRIORITIES: There are some issues with the implementation of HB3 and I intend to fix these problems and continue to reduce the burden of local property taxes on Texans. I have also worked tirelessly on the recovery of the Lake Houston area and I will renew the state’s previous commitment to our region with the designation of $30 million to create and maintain an ongoing dredging program.

NEKO ANTONIOU (L)

BACKGROUND: I am highly qualified for this office, because I have been a public servant to the citizens of Texas for almost the entire of my adult life. I have done this by working in almost every facet of law enforcement in both rural and urban areas.

HEALTHCARE: The State of Texas should do everything within its power to increase market competition between Healthcare providers, so Texans can choose plans that work better for their individual needs while maintaining low costs.

COVID-19: We must strive to maintain a clean and healthy society without jeopardizing the rights of Texans to work, learn, and live as they see fit. It is also utterly unacceptable that our current legislature is failing to hold the Governor accountable for failing to convene the legislature for a special session to attempt to resolve this pandemic as described in Article 4, Texas Constitution.

VOTING RIGHTS: Elections are a sacred part of the democratic process. In order to maintain the integrity and fairness of our elections, while also making voting available to everyone, Voters should be able to fully register online and provide photo ID upon arriving at their local polling station.

PRIORITIES: My main focus is preserving the rights and liberties for all in Texas. For far too long Texans have supported the other 49 states and received little in return. Texas needs representatives that will fight for the best interests of her citizens in every level of government, and I intend to do just that by keeping Texas money in the hands of Texans.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND | NOVEMBER 3, 2020 VOTERS GUIDE | WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG
MARY E. WILLIAMS (D)

BACKGROUND: I have worked as a Public Servant for over 23 years for the Houston Police Department as a Civilian Personnel. I’ve served the community in so many different ways such as volunteering at the Alief YMCA, serving with the Comida Food Drive and organizing Back to School Drive.

HEALTHCARE: The state legislatures need to expand Medicaid with no out-of-pocket for prescription drug coverage and more to meet the needs of our Texas beneficiaries with total healthcare, including dental and vision.

COVID-19: We must always be prepared. We must continue our research on viruses and always protect our citizens. We must prepare NOW for our future for we move too slow in emergency situations and we must follow the LAW. Everyone should wear a mask. Everyone should social distance. Everyone should stay home. Leaders MUST Lead. The spotlight is always upon LEADERS. What I would continue to pursue research

VOTING RIGHTS: I support mail-in/out ballots because it is the right thing to do in this coronavirus pandemic. We must provide a safe and healthy voting experience for every voter. I believe voting by mail is the best option at this time. I don’t think walk-in votes should be the only option because we are in Severe (Red) - we must stay safe, we must have a secure and safe location to drop off mail-in ballots.

PRIORITIES: My other highest legislative priority I would support is to pursue a better retirement and 401K for our educators and to increase the per student campus pay. I support unions and would like educators to have that opportunity and support. I want the best education for our children and I believe a workman is worthy of his hire and would implement a break for teachers to have a relaxation.

DENNIS PAUL (R)

BACKGROUND: I have held this position for three terms. I have been involved in the political process for 25 years and have followed the issues very closely for decades and have fought numerous battles for conservative causes. I am a small business owner.

HEALTHCARE: I do not believe that it is the government’s role to regulate healthcare costs, and that a free market approach is the best way to provide affordable care to the masses.

COVID-19: We need to continue to work on getting more readily available tests and medical treatment to highly impacted areas, as well as allow all doctors to decide which drugs they want to use to treat their patients that are willing. We also need to continue to stock up on PPE, should something like this happen again. I would like to see an early warning system that monitors outbreaks worldwide.

VOTING RIGHTS: I support the Governor in extending Early Voting for the November 2020 General Election an additional week to ensure that everyone has time to make it to the polls during the ongoing pandemic. I do not believe in allowing everyone to vote by mail; it will greatly hurt the integrity of our elections.

PRIORITIES: 1. Abolishing abortion 2. Reining in property taxes and continuing to keep other taxes low while our economy recovers 3. Protecting and advocating for the coastal spine and flooding mitigation

KAYLA ALIX (D)

BACKGROUND: With a leadership background in co-founding and operating 501c3 CHAMP; I began volunteering with different Democratic clubs in Bay Area. I joined Bay Area Democratic Movement and was quickly voted to the board. I champion veteran, education, and healthcare issues.

HEALTHCARE: Increase resources for our veteran community who lack services especially in rural areas. I will fight to lower the age of Medicare recipients and to ensure all Texans who lack adequate and sufficient healthcare will be able to gain access to Medicare as a subsidy without having to go through the red-tape of bureaucracy.

COVID-19: Texas has received funding from the federal government that has not been equitably distributed. I will work with other State Reps and Senators to ensure those funds will go to all Texans that need assistance. Develop an emergency funds for future pandemics. Form a committee to study best practices and have oversight of funding distribution.

VOTING RIGHTS: I am currently working with community organizers to ensure those who qualify for mail-in/absentee voting receive their ballots. We are providing access to the application. I’ve also shared the new ballot drop-off locations. Also, advising voters deadline dates to apply and mail-in their ballots; informing everyone to mail-in or drop-off early. Finally, show up to early vote beginning 10/13.

PRIORITIES: Dismantling gerrymandering and create a more fair and balanced map for voters in Texas. Texas deserves fair representations for all constituents. Next, students in all areas of Texas receive equitable resources to prepare more students for STEM related career fields and vocational jobs. Climate control in areas that are near energy corridors and partnering with local environmental groups.

MARY E. WILLIAMS (D)

BACKGROUND: I have worked as a Public Servant for over 23 years for the Houston Police Department as a Civilian Personnel. I’ve served the community in so many different ways such as volunteering at the Alief YMCA, serving with the Comida Food Drive and organizing Back to School Drive.

HEALTHCARE: The state legislatures need to expand Medicaid with no out-of-pocket for prescription drug coverage and more to meet the needs of our Texas beneficiaries with total healthcare, including dental and vision.

COVID-19: We must always be prepared. We must continue our research on viruses and always protect our citizens. We must prepare NOW for our future for we move too slow in emergency situations and we must follow the LAW. Everyone should wear a mask. Everyone should social distance. Everyone should stay home. Leaders MUST Lead. The spotlight is always upon LEADERS. What I would continue to pursue research

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PRIORITIES: My other highest legislative priority I would support is to pursue a better retirement and 401K for our educators and to increase the per student campus pay. I support unions and would like educators to have that opportunity and support. I want the best education for our children and I believe a workman is worthy of his hire and would implement a break for teachers to have a relaxation.

DENNIS PAUL (R)

BACKGROUND: I have held this position for three terms. I have been involved in the political process for 25 years and have followed the issues very closely for decades and have fought numerous battles for conservative causes. I am a small business owner.

HEALTHCARE: I do not believe that it is the government’s role to regulate healthcare costs, and that a free market approach is the best way to provide affordable care to the masses.

COVID-19: We need to continue to work on getting more readily available tests and medical treatment to highly impacted areas, as well as allow all doctors to decide which drugs they want to use to treat their patients that are willing. We also need to continue to stock up on PPE, should something like this happen again. I would like to see an early warning system that monitors outbreaks worldwide.

VOTING RIGHTS: I support the Governor in extending Early Voting for the November 2020 General Election an additional week to ensure that everyone has time to make it to the polls during the ongoing pandemic. I do not believe in allowing everyone to vote by mail; it will greatly hurt the integrity of our elections.

PRIORITIES: 1. Abolishing abortion 2. Reining in property taxes and continuing to keep other taxes low while our economy recovers 3. Protecting and advocating for the coastal spine and flooding mitigation

KAYLA ALIX (D)

BACKGROUND: With a leadership background in co-founding and operating 501c3 CHAMP; I began volunteering with different Democratic clubs in Bay Area. I joined Bay Area Democratic Movement and was quickly voted to the board. I champion veteran, education, and healthcare issues.

HEALTHCARE: Increase resources for our veteran community who lack services especially in rural areas. I will fight to lower the age of Medicare recipients and to ensure all Texans who lack adequate and sufficient healthcare will be able to gain access to Medicare as a subsidy without having to go through the red-tape of bureaucracy.

COVID-19: Texas has received funding from the federal government that has not been equitably distributed. I will work with other State Reps and Senators to ensure those funds will go to all Texans that need assistance. Develop an emergency funds for future pandemics. Form a committee to study best practices and have oversight of funding distribution.

VOTING RIGHTS: I am currently working with community organizers to ensure those who qualify for mail-in/absentee voting receive their ballots. We are providing access to the application. I’ve also shared the new ballot drop-off locations. Also, advising voters deadline dates to apply and mail-in their ballots; informing everyone to mail-in or drop-off early. Finally, show up to early vote beginning 10/13.

PRIORITIES: Dismantling gerrymandering and create a more fair and balanced map for voters in Texas. Texas deserves fair representations for all constituents. Next, students in all areas of Texas receive equitable resources to prepare more students for STEM related career fields and vocational jobs. Climate control in areas that are near energy corridors and partnering with local environmental groups.

MARY E. WILLIAMS (D)

BACKGROUND: I have worked as a Public Servant for over 23 years for the Houston Police Department as a Civilian Personnel. I’ve served the community in so many different ways such as volunteering at the Alief YMCA, serving with the Comida Food Drive and organizing Back to School Drive.

HEALTHCARE: The state legislatures need to expand Medicaid with no out-of-pocket for prescription drug coverage and more to meet the needs of our Texas beneficiaries with total healthcare, including dental and vision.

COVID-19: We must always be prepared. We must continue our research on viruses and always protect our citizens. We must prepare NOW for our future for we move too slow in emergency situations and we must follow the LAW. Everyone should wear a mask. Everyone should social distance. Everyone should stay home. Leaders MUST Lead. The spotlight is always upon LEADERS. What I would continue to pursue research

VOTING RIGHTS: I support mail-in/out ballots because it is the right thing to do in this coronavirus pandemic. We must provide a safe and healthy voting experience for every voter. I believe voting by mail is the best option at this time. I don’t think walk-in votes should be the only option because we are in Severe (Red) - we must stay safe, we must have a secure and safe location to drop off mail-in ballots.

PRIORITIES: My other highest legislative priority I would support is to pursue a better retirement and 401K for our educators and to increase the per student campus pay. I support unions and would like educators to have that opportunity and support. I want the best education for our children and I believe a workman is worthy of his hire and would implement a break for teachers to have a relaxation.
I support all legislation that promotes civic involvement.

HEALTHCARE: Making healthcare a government service will make it expensive and inefficient. To increase access to affordable healthcare for Texans, we must make prices transparent. Making prices transparent will empower patients to make the best healthcare decisions for themselves. I have passed legislation to end surprise medical billing, make drug price transparency, and protect consumers.

COVID-19: We must invest in public health and provide more resources to state and local health authorities to respond quickly to pandemics. The economic damage from a pandemic should be mitigated by rapid action at the first signs of a healthcare crisis. We should move our healthcare supply chain from China to the US, so we don’t have to rely on our global rivals for PPE and critical medical infrastructure.

VOTING RIGHTS: We must ensure security, integrity and the elimination of voter fraud in our elections. I have authored bipartisan legislation that accomplished greater ballot security while expanding voting. We should keep expanding access to the ballot while maintaining secure elections free from voter fraud.

PRIORITIES: My priorities for the 87th legislative session will be to fight to fund HB 3, ensuring our public schools get the money they need to educate our students. I will also keep fighting to lower taxes for my constituents, increase price transparency in healthcare and create more cooperation between state and local governments during disasters.

Questions to candidates:

TOM OLIVERSON (R)

BACKGROUND: I’m blessed to have twice been sent to Austin by the voters. I have brought my knowledge and experience as a physician and a small business owner to the Texas Capitol. My district knows I am fighting for their rights, lowering taxes, and protecting their religious liberties.

HEALTHCARE: Expanding Medicaid so all Texans have access to affordable healthcare options. COVID-19 has made clear the inequities in access to healthcare. Everyone deserves high-quality, preventative healthcare options, and Medicaid expansion would provide over 1 million more Texans with access to healthcare.

COVID-19: We must be prepared for every possible catastrophe. During the next legislative session, I will work to pass more proactive legislation to get our state ready for future disasters, help small businesses and working families recover and prepare for the next crisis, and ensure our public schools get the money they need to educate our students.

VOTING RIGHTS: During legislative session, I will support bills that address same-day voter registration; repealing Texas’ voter suppression voter ID laws; removing logistical barriers at the ballot box; and ensuring more Texans can vote by mail. Last legislative session, I joint-authored a bill that would have created an independent citizen-led redistricting commission because we must end gerrymandering.

PRIORITIES: I will continue fighting for the issues that matter to Texas families, like: guaranteeing access to affordable healthcare; addressing rising property taxes; providing all kids with a high-quality public education; supporting teachers and educators; defeating the plague of human trafficking; and ensuring our community is equipped to handle future disasters.

BRYAN J. HENRY (D)

BACKGROUND: As a teacher and parent, I think about politics from the standpoint of what’s good for children and families. Educators are trained to help others reach their full potential and serve everyone equally and that is the spirit I would bring to my role as state representative.

HEALTHCARE: Expanding Medicaid so all Texans have access to affordable healthcare options. COVID-19 has made clear the inequities in access to healthcare. Everyone deserves high-quality, preventative healthcare options, and Medicaid expansion would provide over 1 million more Texans with access to healthcare.

COVID-19: We must be prepared for every possible catastrophe. During the next legislative session, I will work to pass more proactive legislation to get our state ready for future disasters, help small businesses and working families recover and prepare for the next crisis, and ensure our public schools get the money they need to educate our students.

VOTING RIGHTS: During legislative session, I will support bills that address same-day voter registration; repealing Texas’ voter suppression voter ID laws; removing logistical barriers at the ballot box; and ensuring more Texans can vote by mail. Last legislative session, I joint-authored a bill that would have created an independent citizen-led redistricting commission because we must end gerrymandering.

PRIORITIES: I will continue fighting for the issues that matter to Texas families, like: guaranteeing access to affordable healthcare; addressing rising property taxes; providing all kids with a high-quality public education; supporting teachers and educators; defeating the plague of human trafficking; and ensuring our community is equipped to handle future disasters.

GINA CALANNNI (D)

BACKGROUND: As a single, working mom of three boys in public schools, I understand the hardships that Texans are facing and draw from my own life experiences when voting on legislation and speaking out on important issues that matter most to Texas families.

HEALTHCARE: Expanding Medicaid so all Texans have access to affordable healthcare options. COVID-19 has made clear the inequities in access to healthcare. Everyone deserves high-quality, preventative healthcare options, and Medicaid expansion would provide over 1 million more Texans with access to healthcare.

COVID-19: We must be prepared for every possible catastrophe. During the next legislative session, I will work to pass more proactive legislation to get our state ready for future disasters, help small businesses and working families recover and prepare for the next crisis, and ensure our public schools get the money they need to educate our students.

VOTING RIGHTS: During legislative session, I will support bills that address same-day voter registration; repealing Texas’ voter suppression voter ID laws; removing logistical barriers at the ballot box; and ensuring more Texans can vote by mail. Last legislative session, I joint-authored a bill that would have created an independent citizen-led redistricting commission because we must end gerrymandering.

PRIORITIES: I will continue fighting for the issues that matter to Texas families, like: guaranteeing access to affordable healthcare; addressing rising property taxes; providing all kids with a high-quality public education; supporting teachers and educators; defeating the plague of human trafficking; and ensuring our community is equipped to handle future disasters.

TITUS BENTON (WRITE-IN)

BACKGROUND: The partisan temperature in this country is dangerously high, and it is a fever that needs to break if we’re going to flourish as a community. My experience as a listener, thinker, communicator, and bridge builder uniquely equips me to serve my District well.

HEALTHCARE: Expanding Medicaid is a no-brainer, with 1.4 million people waiting on their chance to get covered. Expanding Medicaid is a win-win for voter turnout and election security. It is unconscionable that Texas was denied the opportunity to vote by mail during the pandemic. People shouldn’t have to risk their health to vote. We must reject our history of voter discrimination and protect everyone’s right to vote.

PRIORITIES: As a flood victim and millennial, I know the threat that the climate crisis poses to our homes, businesses, and future. We must continue to invest in flood mitigation and renewable energy. We must also reform the criminal justice system to guarantee that everyone is treated fairly regardless of their race, religion, or sexual orientation. Texas is modern and diverse. Our government should be too.

MIKE SCHOFIELD (R)

BACKGROUND: I’m blessed to have twice been sent to Austin by the voters. I have brought my knowledge and experience as a physician and a small business owner to the Texas Capitol. My district knows I am fighting for their rights, lowering taxes, and protecting their religious liberties.

HEALTHCARE: Making healthcare a government service will make it expensive and inefficient. To increase access to affordable healthcare for Texans, we must make prices transparent. Making prices transparent will empower patients to make the best healthcare decisions for themselves. I have passed legislation to end surprise medical billing, make drug price transparency, and protect consumers.

COVID-19: We must invest in public health and provide more resources to state and local health authorities to respond quickly to pandemics. The economic damage from a pandemic should be mitigated by rapid action at the first signs of a healthcare crisis. We should move our healthcare supply chain from China to the US, so we don’t have to rely on our global rivals for PPE and critical medical infrastructure.

VOTING RIGHTS: We must ensure security, integrity and the elimination of voter fraud in our elections. I have authored bipartisan legislation that accomplished greater ballot security while expanding voting. We should keep expanding access to the ballot while maintaining secure elections free from voter fraud.

PRIORITIES: My priorities for the 87th legislative session will be to fight to fund HB 3, ensuring our public schools get the money they need to educate our students. I will also keep fighting to lower taxes for my constituents, increase price transparency in healthcare and create more cooperation between state and local governments during disasters.

VOTING RIGHTS: During legislative session, I will support bills that address same-day voter registration; repealing Texas’ voter suppression voter ID laws; removing logistical barriers at the ballot box; and ensuring more Texans can vote by mail. Last legislative session, I joint-authored a bill that would have created an independent citizen-led redistricting commission because we must end gerrymandering.

PRIORITIES: I will continue fighting for the issues that matter to Texas families, like: guaranteeing access to affordable healthcare; addressing rising property taxes; providing all kids with a high-quality public education; supporting teachers and educators; defeating the plague of human trafficking; and ensuring our community is equipped to handle future disasters.

ALMA A. ALLEN (D) RUNNING UNOPPOSED
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JIM MURPHY (R)

BACKGROUND: HD-133 voters have elected me to six terms in the Texas House because of my record delivering on the needs of our district. As one of the most senior members in the House, I have the knowledge and experience necessary to provide effective representation for West Houston.

HEALTHCARE: This last legislative session, the Texas Legislature passed a balanced budget that covered shortfalls in Medicaid, foster care, women’s health, and state hospitals. As Floor Leader for the House Republican Caucus, I supported the passage of this appropriations bill and encouraged my colleagues to do so as well. I will continue to advocate for the health and well-being of all Texans.

COVID-19: After Hurricane Harvey, I worked with my colleagues in the legislature to support the immediate needs of Houstonians while also implementing long-term mitigation strategies. Next session, the legislature must take action to plan for long-term response strategies that preserve both individual health and our economy.

VOTING RIGHTS: Election integrity is the core of our democracy, and the state must be vigilant in ensuring secure and fair elections that allow citizens to cast their ballot without interference. We must ensure voter eligibility and accuracy by verifying voter information and ensuring votes are cast where voters reside.

PRIORITIES: As your State Representative I have focused on expanding the economy, improving education, protecting local communities, and strengthening private property rights. I will continue to introduce and pass legislation that reduces regulations on businesses, supports law enforcement, and protects our most vulnerable neighbors.

Occupation: Economic Development Consultant | Education: I graduated in 1976 from Strake Jesuit College Preparatory School. In 1980, I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Texas at Austin. | Email: jim@jimmurphy.com
Website: http://www.votejimmurphy.com | Address: 1 E Greenway Plaza Suite 225 Houston, TX 77046 | Phone: (713) 278-7796 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/JimMurphy133 | Twitter: twitter.com/JimMurphy133

SANDRA G. MOORE (D)


HEALTHCARE: Expand Medicaid which would add 10% to the HHS budget but provide coverage for 1.5 million additional Texans. Decrease amount and complexity of Medicaid paperwork and frequency of reporting-TX checks income several times a year. Keep women on Medicaid for 18 mos after giving birth to avoid the complexity of Medicaid paperwork and frequency of reporting-TX checks income. Provide free vaccinations when one is developed.

COVID-19: Those who are downsized need access to healthcare subsidized by the federal govern’t. Reduce students loan amounts that are owed and suspend interest. Invest in energy resources besides fossil fuels so that TX will be less impacted by economic downturns. Provide free vaccinations when one is developed.

Occupation: Licensed Professional Counselor | Education: MA in Psychology from the University of Windsor in 1971 | Email: sandra@sandragmoorefor133.com | Website: http://www.sandragmoorefor133.com | Address: 701 N Post Oak Rd Ste 218 Houston, TX 77024 | Phone: (713) 686-4212 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/sandragmoorefor133

JAMES HARREN (L)

BACKGROUND: Running a business for 20 years, including all aspects of planning and operations. Member American Mensa.

HEALTHCARE: I’d like to see more free clinics offering basic health care, particularly inexpensive solutions to communicable diseases. Allow insurance to sell across state lines.

COVID-19: Make sure adequate stocks of non-perishable supplies are available. I think other than opening up bars and restaurants too early, the only issue is the Governor taking emergency powers away from the Counties. I think the response would be better if directed by locals rather than the State or Federal government.

VOTING RIGHTS: No fees for filling to run for office.

PRIORITIES: Ending the drug war. I would introduce a bill to legalize marijuana for recreational use and decriminalize all other drugs.

Occupation: Gym Owner | Education: BS Kinesiology/Psychology • M.Ed. Physical Education | Email: shardell23@gmail.com | Address: 1114 Augusta Dr. Apt 8 Houston, TX 77057 | Phone: (832) 474-9634

SARAH DAVIS (R)

BACKGROUND: Texas House District 134 State Representative, 2011-Present For the past three sessions, I have Chaired the House Appropriations Subcommittee that deals with our state healthcare system and on the conference committee that reconciles the differences in our state budget.

HEALTHCARE: The sad truth is, there are far too many Texans who lack the ability to see a doctor when they need one. That’s why I support expanding Medicaid eligibility in Texas. It’s the right thing to do, it’s the moral thing to do and it’s the fiscally responsible thing to do. Next session I plan to file legislation to give the people of Texas a vote on expanding eligibility for the Texas Medicaid Program.

COVID-19: First, Texas needs to continue to improve the way it tests, tracks, and treats the coronavirus which will require a substantial commitment of state resources. We need to do a better job stockpiling personal protective equipment and other medical supplies so we can be better prepared for any future challenge. Over the long term, Texas needs to continue its investment in advanced medical research.

VOTING RIGHTS: Voting is foundational to our democracy. I think we need to explore ways we can make it easier for citizens to exercise their right to vote and participate in their government. In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, I’m glad to see early voting expanded and I think next session we should examine additional ways we can make it more convenient for Texans to get engaged in the future of this country.

PRIORITIES: The pandemic has laid bare many of the fundamental problems with our current healthcare system. Far too many of our fellow Texans still lack the ability to see a doctor when they’re sick, or to receive the treatment and medication they need. I want to live in a Texas where everyone has the ability to access quality, affordable healthcare. That’s why expanding Medicaid is my top priority.

Occupation: Attorney | Education: John Foster Dulles High school • Baylor University • University of Houston Law School | Email: campaign@sarahdavis134.com | Website: http://www.sarahdavis134.com | Address: 4146 Bellaire Blvd Houston, Texas 77025 Phone: (281) 501-8965 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/sarahdavisrep134 | Twitter: twitter.com/sarahford134

Questions to Candidates:

[Background]: What training, experience, and background make you the best qualified candidate for this office?

[Healthcare]: What state legislation, if any, is needed to increase access to affordable healthcare for Texas residents?

[COVID-19]: What actions do you believe are needed to address the health and economic impacts of COVID-19? What actions should be taken to prepare for similar emergencies in the future?

[Voting Rights]: What actions do you support to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to secure and fair elections?

[Priorities]: What other issue is your highest legislative priority and what legislation would you introduce or support to address it?

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND | NOVEMBER 3, 2020 VOTERS GUIDE | WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG
ANN JOHNSON (D)

BACKGROUND: I am a former chief human trafficking prosecutor and current teacher working in our criminal justice system representing victims of sexual exploitation. I am a cancer survivor standing up to Republican attempts to deny coverage for pre-existing conditions, including COVID.

HEALTHCARE: I will fight to expand access to health care for more than one million uninsured Texans and to reduce Texas’ shameful maternal mortality rate. Federal funds are available but Republicans in Austin, driven by partisanship, have refused to accept them. My opponent actually made the motion to kill the legislation in 2017.

COVID-19: We must protect our workforce by supplying critical PPE & testing capacity so they can safely return to work; shore up state unemployment benefits; and provide funding to small businesses getting back on their feet. We should not rush to reopen schools before it is safe. We need to increase wages and increase investments in renewable energy and flood mitigation projects, creating good-paying jobs.

VOTING RIGHTS: All voters must be able to safely exercise their right to vote, in-person or by mail. We need an independent redistricting commission so voters have fair districts and their voices are heard. Texas Republicans have rigged the system and gerrymandered districts to pick their voters, instead of allowing voters to pick their representatives. And they will do it again if they remain in the majority.

PRIORITIES: I will fight to protect public education, raise teacher pay so we can compete for the best teachers and get more resources to modernize classrooms and reduce class sizes. I will also fight to end our senseless epidemic of gun violence. I proudly stand with Moms Demand Action in support of basic protections: universal background checks, extreme risk protection orders, and safe storage requirements.

JON E. ROSENTHAL (D)

BACKGROUND: I am an engineer and have a passion for public service. As an Engineer I research & analyze to form fact-driven and pragmatic policy. I’ve spent 20 years doing this for individuals, families and businesses about their safety is absolutely critical. As an Engineer I research & analyze to form fact-driven and pragmatic policy.

HEALTHCARE: The chronic problem of uninsured Texans without access to Medicaid or employer-based healthcare can be addressed with health insurance options provided through public-private partnerships (P3). These partnerships would work alongside traditional private insurance and allow sole proprietors and small businesses to buy into large group plans and share the risk among the enrollees.

COVID-19: For the current pandemic, National and State governments must continue to investigate and fast track therapeutic and preventative medicines. Texas should investigate tax incentive, regulatory reform and P3 options to further bolster our economic recovery.

Low positivity + fast free tests = confidence in safety w/ less anxiety for business & schools

VOTING RIGHTS: Increasing access to our fundamental right to vote is a priority for me. One major problem to reverse is gerrymandering as it depresses the vote and takes away the voice of the people. I support online voter registration, and increasing access to proper ID plus expanding qualifying IDs to include school ID. We can also make colleges polling places and re-authorize mobile voting locations.

PRIORITIES: For equity justice and police reforms I support the TX Leg Black Caucus w/ the George Floyd act. Bring budget amendments to expand Medicaid in TX. And my long-term goal is to “repeat and replace” the STAAR test to change how we test students in TX w/ test systems that help teachers and students better work together - in real time - in the classroom. Start with pilot programs ASAP

PAUL BILYEU (L)

BACKGROUND: I managed the engine room of a Nuclear Power Plant at 23 years old. I have managed successful businesses in my company for years. I am not doing this to be in control or in power. How much experience is really required to reduce government oversight and control? Just do it!

HEALTHCARE: Remove government from the healthcare industry. Government, at both the federal and state levels, is the primary contributor to the sky rocketing costs of health care and prescription medications. Return the system to free market principles. Remove government oversight and regulation. Pretty quickly, the cost for health care and prescription drugs will fall dramatically and become very affordable.

COVID-19: Individuals and private businesses are better equipped to manage this crisis than the government. Relying on government, the nanny state, to make decisions for individuals, families and businesses about their safety is absolutely wrong. Individuals, not government, can manage this or any crisis. Why is everyone so quick to defer control to government? Once you give it away, you never get it back.

VOTING RIGHTS: Embrace technology and alternative voting methodologies!!! Blockchain technology is extremely advanced and would allow secure elections electronically. And move away from the absolute worst voting methodology on the planet. First Past the Post. There are significantly better voting options out there including Approval Voting and Ranked Choice Voting. First past the post is archaic and just wrong.

PRIORITIES: End all property tax in the state of Texas. Property tax is immoral and unconstitutional. Period. Beyond that, I would advocate for ending qualified immunity, banning no knock raids, ending the failed drug war, nullify all federal laws or mandates that are unconstitutional. Kill existing or proposed legislation whose purpose is to limit options on the ballot. Ballot censorship is rampant in Texas.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

GENE WU (D)

BACKGROUND: I have been the State Representative in this district for 8 years. I have both a masters in public policy and a law degree. Prior to being elected, I was a prosecutor in the Harris County DA’s Office.

HEALTHCARE: The easiest way to increase coverage and decrease costs for healthcare is for the Texas Legislature to approve Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act (otherwise known as Obamacare). This will immediately cover nearly a million uninsured Texans who make too much to be on Medicaid now, but don’t make enough to buy insurance on their own.

COVID-19: Outside of expanding testing and general preparation, the most important thing we have to do is make sure everyone is insured and has access to basic medical care. We’ve heard horror stories about people surviving COVID-19 only to face massive medical debts, and others forgoing testing and treatment because they are afraid of being in debt for medical care.

VOTING RIGHTS: The first responsibility for this is local and should remain local. That said, “local” in large cities is still quite large and ripe for abuse. State oversight should be limited to making sure polling places are available and equitable, that pollers are free from intimidation, and full investigation of any suspected fraud.

Priorities: My top priority next Legislative Session will be to balance the state’s budget without harming public education or healthcare needs. Second to that, I will be focused on major criminal justice reforms and juvenile justice reforms. I want to end the mass incarceration of people who only committed minor non-violent offenses. I want these people to be working and paying taxes instead.

LEE SHARP (L)

BACKGROUND: One of the problems we see in politicians now is that they have no understanding at all of the world we live in. We have Lawyers regulating technology and health care they have no understanding of. It would be nice to have someone with real world experience in Austin.

HEALTHCARE: Less regulation is desperately needed. Right now, I know many people that would purchase catastrophic care if it was legal to sell. But regulations have driven costs to unsustainable levels. An easier way to enter market would allow more companies to compete, and drive down prices. Sadly, less of this can be done at the state level.

COVID-19: We need to be killing less businesses! Right now the government is deciding who works and who does not. It is deciding what businesses succeed and what businesses fail. Instead businesses and people need to decide for themselves. That said, I would support protection for employees who have already been laid off.

COVID-19: Tax breaks for businesses, especially small businesses, should be considered. Many cumbersome and unnecessary regulations were waived during the pandemic; we should consider permanently eliminating these regulations to let businesses thrive. It is crucial that we bring our hospitals and medical experts to the table to help the State effectively prepare for future disasters.

VOTING RIGHTS: Requiring IDs to vote is crucial. Going through the voter rolls to verify voter registration addresses are valid, and those registered are who they say they are. More safety measures for ballot-by-mail are needed. As the victim of “lost” absentee ballots, it is crucial that this is addressed.

Priorities: I have always felt that low income housing was a broken system. This will become even more important now as it is predicted that 28-40 million people in the US may lose their home due to covid. I would like to end 100% subsidized communities entirely. I would like for people on assistance to have more agency, not the landlord. And I would like to see programs that help people out of the trap.

LACEY HULL (R)

BACKGROUND: Grew up in the district & attended SBISD schools. President of HOA & a Republican Party precinct chair. Co-founded We the Parents, a group that advocates for families across Texas addressing the needs of our kids. Tirelessly volunteers, including many trips to fight for liberty in the Texas Legislature.

HEALTHCARE: Increase funding for women’s healthcare to provide cancer screenings and mammograms to lower-income Texas. Expand telehealth to make healthcare more accessible to elderly, disabled, and low-income populations. Allowing Texans to cross state lines to insurance shop will drive prices down. We must foster an economy that promotes job growth, innovation, and competition to expand access to insurance.

COVID-19: Tax breaks for businesses, especially small businesses, should be considered. Many cumbersome and unnecessary regulations were waived during the pandemic; we should consider permanently eliminating these regulations to let businesses thrive. It is crucial that we bring our hospitals and medical experts to the table to help the State effectively prepare for future disasters.

VOTING RIGHTS: Requiring IDs to vote is crucial. Going through the voter rolls to verify voter registration addresses are valid, and those registered are who they say they are. More safety measures for ballot-by-mail are needed. As the victim of “lost” absentee ballots, it is crucial that this is addressed.

Priorities: Flooding is a major issue in our district. We need to develop a flood prevention plan. A third reservoir will help tremendously. Ensuring funds to register to vote on their computers. We should get rid of the 30 day waiting period and allow same day registration. Anyone who wants to vote by mail should be allowed to.

AKILAH BACY (D)

BACKGROUND: I was born and raised in Northwest Houston, and live the values I learned here. Now, I am a local attorney working in defense of indigent people and helping workers fight against discrimination in the workplace. In Austin, I’ll fight and deliver for our community.

HEALTHCARE: We need a comprehensive study to see how to structure a potential public option that would increase ACA Marketplace competition and allow Texas residents to always have an option for health-care coverage, regardless of their location. Furthermore, I will push for legislation that lowers prescription drug costs by capping co-pays for life saving medication like insulin.

COVID-19: The impact of COVID-19 on Houston has been devastating -- Harris County has the highest number of cases and deaths in the entire state. To survive and recover, we need clear guidelines, increased resources, real input from medical professionals, and leadership from both Washington and Austin. In the future, the best way to address a pandemic is to take it seriously early before it spreads.

VOTING RIGHTS: As a former voter registrar, voter disenfranchisement is a fight I have fought on the ground and a fight I will continue to support in the Texas Legislature. In Austin, I will push for automatic registration and allowing everyone the opportunity to vote by mail.

Priorities: Disaster relief is a top priority. In order to best ensure that our community is prepared for natural disasters like flooding, I will fight to increase our state investments in pre-disaster mitigation grant programs for local areas like Northwest Houston. I will also push to hold insurance companies accountable and make it harder for them to deny claims due to natural disasters.
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 143**

**JARVIS D. JOHNSON (D)**

**BACKGROUND:** For the past 4 years I have served as State Representative for District 143. During my tenure, I supported measures to better fund our public schools, passed Hurricane Harvey recovery legislation and have championed bills aimed to help our foster youth.

**HEALTHCARE:** Last legislative session, I voted to expand Medicaid along with my Democratic colleagues. If Texas were to expand Medicaid, nearly 2 million individuals would become newly eligible for coverage. When the next legislative session starts in January 2021, I will author bills and vote to expand Medicaid in Texas.

**COVID-19:** Expanding Medicaid would bring necessary healthcare access to many of these same communities being hit disproportionately by COVID-19. Medicaid expansion is just one step for communities of color to gain health equity. Expanding Medicaid would ensure some of our most vulnerable Texans aren’t burdened with crippling medical debt if they were to be hospitalized from COVID-19.

**VOTING RIGHTS:** During my tenure as State Representative, I have supported measures to make voting easy and more accessible to Texans. Obstacles to voting should be removed so voting is simple and painless. I support measures to allow same day voter registration, calls to make Election Day a state holiday, and increased eligibility for mail-in ballots, among other initiatives.

**PRIORITIES:** I plan on filing a robust legislative package that focuses on improving environmental regulations for industries like concrete batch plants. Additionally, I will work with my colleagues at the Texas Legislative Black Caucus to pass meaningful police accountability and transparency reforms, notably the George Floyd Act. These are just a few priorities for my 87th Legislative Session Agenda.

**Occupation:** Business Owner and Texas State Representative | **Education:** B.S. from University of Houston Downtown | **Website:** http://www.jarvisjohnson.com | **Facebook:** http://www.facebook.com/JarvisJohnsontx | **Twitter:** twitter.com/jarvisjohnson

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**R. GRIZZLE TROJACEK (L) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED**

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**STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 140**

**ARMANDO LUCIO WALL (D) | RUNNING UNOPPOSED**

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**STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 142**

**JASON ROWE (R) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED**

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**STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 143**

**MARY ANN PEREZ (D)**

**BACKGROUND:** I have been serving as the State Representative in Legislative District 142 since I was first elected in 1984.

**HEALTHCARE:** I have sponsored a bill to expand Medicaid to the working poor who are now limited to county hospitals for access to their healthcare.

**COVID-19:** Well first we should let the virus dictate any actions and let the science help keep our boys & girls safe online against predators of human trafficking. Due to the high risks of COVID, public must be encouraged to wear a mask, use sanitizer, use 6 ft social distancing & use gloves to cast their vote. There is also curbside voting available for constituents w/disabilities. We can take this practice & use it for the public, “schedule your vote.” Another early voting week was recently added so constituents may have ample voting time, I support this.

**PRIORITIES:** My two top priorities are healthcare and public education. COVID has shown several faults in our healthcare system that need to be addressed. And most importantly, we need to take care of our students and teachers and make sure that kids can learn safely. We need to bridge the “digital divide” and help students keep the pace with technology as we transition into a new normal.

**Occupation:** Business Owner and Texas State Representative | **Education:** Bachelors of Science - Speech Communication Texas Southern University | **Website:** http://www.maryannperez.com | **Facebook:** http://www.facebook.com/RepMaryAnnPerez | **Twitter:** twitter.com/RepMaryAnn

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**STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 144**

**TONY SALAS (R) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED**

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**STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 144**

**MARTHA ELENA FIERRO (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** As a U.S. Resident at 19, I worked nights & attended school in the Medical Field. As I took care of my family, I worked for 2 Bachelor degrees as a 1st gen. I have organized food drives during Hurricane Harvey and now during the COVID pandemic, feeding over 3.2K weekly.

**HEALTHCARE:** As a previous nurse, I’ve seen the expenses of medical and pharmaceutical healthcare. I want to promote access to affordable healthcare by limiting the price placed on our Texans by big medical corporations and its pharmaceutical counterparts. We should have more access, this pandemic has by limiting the price placed on our Texans by big medical corporations and its pharmaceutical counterparts. We should have more access, this pandemic has

**COVID-19:** The CDC was formed to research & be prepared when infectious diseases like COVID, SARS or H1N1 emergencies would arise. Yet the CDC has led negligently & did not adhere to its role. They must be held to a higher standard of critique b/c they were negligent in their capacity to ready people for the crisis.

**VOTING RIGHTS:** We need to ensure that more polling locations are open, especially during COVID. We need to make people feel comfortable when they vote, and be sure to take necessary public health precautions.

**PRIORITIES:** My priorities are education and public safety. Public education is always a top priority especially improving education outcomes for the children and schools in my legislative district.

**Occupation:** Business Owner and Texas State Representative | **Education:** Double Major Bachelors Degree. 1st Major, HDFS, 2nd Major Psychology | **Website:** http://www.martahaferro.com | **Facebook:** http://www.facebook.com/FierroforTexas | **Twitter:** twitter.com/FierroforTexas

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**SENFRONIA THOMPSON (D) | RUNNING UNOPPOSED**

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**STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 141**

**ANNA HERNANDEZ (D) | RUNNING UNOPPOSED**

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**STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 141**

**ARMANDO LUCIO WALL (D) | RUNNING UNOPPOSED**
CHRISTINA MORALES (D)

BACKGROUND: As the sitting State Representative, I have engaged my community and responded to their needs. With my first legislative session under my belt, I am prepared to pursue a legislative agenda that will be impactful for my constituents with community and legislative allies.

HEALTHCARE: We need to expand Medicaid and access to health care first and foremost. We must help bring down the cost of prescription drugs that make Texans choose between health and rent. This year I was appointed to the Select Committee on Statewide Health Care Costs, where we will examine the causes and potential legislative solutions to rising health care costs in Texas.

COVID-19: Texas must be better prepared for pandemics in the future, and we need long-term plans for recovering from this current pandemic. Texans will be facing health and economic fallout for years to come. We must be bold in the session following the pandemic. Near-term, I am working with local government and NGO to bring relief to my majority-Latino communities disproportionately affected by the virus.

VOTING RIGHTS: I would support automatic registration and online voter registration using the same safeguards in place when filing taxes or renewing a driver’s license. I would also support an expansion of vote-by-mail, which has been a secure method for our seniors, armed service people, and college students for decades. We can remove barriers to registration and voting with legislation.

PRIORITIES: Education is always dear to my heart and the constituents of my district. I want to see our public schools funded sustainably. I also want us to review how we evaluate the success of our children’s education; standardized testing is not the only measure. I want to make sure our teachers and school staff are paid a dignified salary with the benefits they deserve during service and retirement.

RICHARD AARON HOWELL (L)

BACKGROUND: Prior service in the military for several years gave me an opportunity to learn how many aspects of the government work. I’ve studied a few different subjects related to successful government. I also read a lot, so I’m capable of understanding the vocabulary of legislation.

HEALTHCARE: I believe that everyone should have access to affordable healthcare. As far as legislation is concerned, my ultimate opinion would be subjective. That is, I’d need access to closely go through the numbers and study more intently on what has worked versus what has not.

COVID-19: I spent part of my career in the military as an army medic (healthcare specialist) and have had some training on these kinds of medical emergencies. Honestly, from real experience in the medical field, I would have to state that my opinion on this would need to be reserved until after I could receive much more specific information from the health experts. More economic freedom would be nice.

VOTING RIGHTS: I’m up to listen to anyone’s ideas to ensure fair and secure elections. Keeping the current lists of registered voters up to date, to include the removal of deceased voters, has an issue in the past.

PRIORITIES: I have a high priority for the appropriate expenditures of government funds. A more detailed explanation of my philosophy for a successful relationship between the government and its citizens can be found at (ballotpedia.org) Just run a search for my name on their site (Richard Howell) and Texas.

SHAWN NICOLE THIERRY (D)

BACKGROUND: I am a lifetime resident of Texas House District 146 and am dedicated to fighting for and continuing to serve my community during my third term in the legislature. I am also a practicing attorney with nearly 24 years of experience in numerous areas including public finance.

HEALTHCARE: Increasing access to affordable healthcare for Texas residents is of the utmost importance as over 17% of Texans are uninsured - the highest rate in the nation. Additionally, 659,000 people lost their health insurance during the COVID-19 pandemic. We must pass legislation to expand Medicaid eligibility in Texas so more people can afford healthcare. We all benefit when our neighbors are healthy.

COVID-19: In April, I called for the creation of a Racial Disparities Task Force to address the high COVID-19 death rates in minority communities. I believe the creation of this Task Force, and the creation of an Office of Health Disparities, will help our state address health impacts of COVID-19 and future emergencies.

Priyanka Singh (D)

BACKGROUND: I am a first-generation Pakistani-American and have lived in Texas for most of my life. I attended the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Houston, where I received a B.A. in History and a Master’s in International Relations. I have worked in the nonprofit sector, focusing on supporting underserved communities.

HEALTHCARE: As a policy analyst, I’ve worked on a wide range of issues, including healthcare. I believe in the importance of universal healthcare and am committed to finding solutions to improve access for all Texans.

COVID-19: The pandemic has highlighted the challenges faced by our healthcare system. I support policies that prioritize the well-being of underserved communities and ensure that everyone has access to necessary medical care.

VOTING RIGHTS: I am a strong advocate for expanded voter registration and access to the polls. I believe every citizen should have the opportunity to vote, and I support measures to facilitate this. I also support the modernization of voter registration systems to ensure accuracy and accessibility.

PRIORITIES: My top legislative priorities include improving healthcare access, expanding educational opportunities, and ensuring the safety and security of our communities. I am dedicated to finding solutions that benefit all Texans.

JJ CAMPBELL (L)

BACKGROUND: I trained dolphins, flew in zero-gravity, served as the technical director of a start-up non-profit in Ghana, taught Sunday School, lived on 5 continents, steered a tall ship built in 1877 using Polaris, mapped the chaos of 3 body problem, and worked as a geophysicist.

HEALTHCARE: Single payer healthcare, if run like that of Germany, will cost the Single payer healthcare, if run like that of Germany, will cost the
**State Representative, District 148**

**State Representative, District 149**

**State Representative, District 147**

**Questions to Candidates**

- **[Background]:** What training, experience, and background make you the best qualified candidate for this office?
- **[Healthcare]:** What state legislation, if any, is needed to increase access to affordable healthcare for Texas residents?
- **[COVID-19]:** What actions do you believe are needed to address the health and economic impacts of COVID-19? What actions should be taken to prepare for similar emergencies in the future?
- **[Voting Rights]:** What actions do you support to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to secure and fair elections?
- **[Priorities]:** What other issue is your highest legislative priority and what legislation would you introduce or support to address it?

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**State Representative, District 147**

**GARNET COLEMAN (D) | RUNNING UNOPPOSED**

**Luis Larotta (R)**

**Background:** I served 6 years in the military as a leader in the naval nuclear power program. As Chairman of the RLC, I’ve experienced leading fights against misguided laws, organizing voters, and holding elected officials accountable. I’m a mentor for the Travis Manion Foundation.

**Healthcare:** First, request a new Section 1115 waiver of all Medicaid insurance regulations so that Texas can use the $12 billion we would save to administer our own Medicaid program. And second, reform Prescriptive Authority Agreements to allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to practice independently to the full extent of their training and knowledge so they can provide affordable healthcare to Texans.

**COVID-19:** We must insist local authorities provide clear and unbiased data so that school districts, businesses and organizations can take steps to prevent the spread of the virus. The pandemic has ushered us into a recession for which the only remedy is to lower taxation to stimulate the economy. Texas medical research universities must collaborate with the private sector on prevention and containment plans.

**Voting Rights:** I would support the use of a blockchain technology to be adopted as a suitable method for voting remotely as an alternative to voting in-person with a valid identification. Voter fraud is too often infrequently pursued by district attorneys because of its high visibility to the public and unfavorable perception that is cast on the district attorney, who is often more concerned with re-election.

**Priorities:** In light of the pandemic, my immediate priorities are to stimulate the economy by proposing a franchise tax relief, reforming public education so that districts have greater control of their budgets and autonomy, and to reform Prescriptive Authority Agreements to immediately lower the healthcare costs without sacrificing quality attention for all Texans.

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**Penny Morales Shaw (D)**

**Background:** As a 20 year lawyer, I have advocated for the environment, human rights, and equality. I’ve worked in government. I am a business owner and a mom. Raising 4 children as a widow, I know the importance of good public schools, fair access to healthcare, safety and a secure job.

**Healthcare:** Every Texan needs fair access to good healthcare that they can reasonably afford with their disposable income and that works for state budgets. More than 1 million Texans could be covered with Medicaid expansion, and it would financially infuse the Texas medical industry. Legislation that addresses coverage of maternal health, mental health, existing conditions, and high drug costs is critical.

**COVID-19:** Due to emergency COVID expenditures, state budgets are expected to be lower, while the need for state resources is higher. Policy planning that prioritizes people’s health and job security is paramount. Adopting and implementing the preventative public health safeguards espoused by medical experts in light of this pandemic, will reduce our vulnerability in and from future emergency outbreaks.


**Priorities:** The environment and legislation to transition to renewable energy. Police and justice reform. Women and LGBTQ+ access to healthcare and equal rights. Equal pay for equal work laws. Preservation of housing and housing security. COVID recovery and ensuring health and jobs for all Texans. Education options that prevent the spread of COVID. Fiscally-sound policies. Safety and responsible gun ownership.

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**Lily Truong (R)**

**Background:** I am currently serving my second term as a Trustee for the Alief ISD. Education is a fundamental key for future generations of Texans and a stronger Texas economy. My focus is on improving the current state of education and advocating for more resources for our students.

**Healthcare:** The legislation we need for the health of Texans is to lower the cost of prescription drugs and ensure that we have funding for Medicare and Social Security for our seniors.

**COVID-19:** We need to do more to bring our children safely back to school. Many of our students do not have adequate online access to education. The sudden transition to remote learning will have long lasting detrimental effects to this generation. Another action we need is to do what we can to support our small businesses by reopening them as safely and quickly as possible. We need COVID-19 vaccine ASAP.

**Voting Rights:** Voting is a fundamental and sacred right for all Americans. Confidence in our voting systems and results is vitally important to our American way of life. We rely on technology for many aspects of our lives. What we must do for ourselves and future generations is to build highly secure systems to ensure that we have fair elections that are free from tampering and interference.

**Priorities:** 1. Give our children access to the best education. 2. Fair pay for teachers and honor promises to retired teachers. 3. Honor the Veterans and give them the benefits they deserve. 4. Improve public safety and crime prevention in our area. 5. Support funding for Medicare and Social Security for seniors. 6. Support funding for flood planning and mitigation. 7. Strongly against abortion.

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**Hubert Vo (D)**

**Background:** I have been a part of the Texas House since 2005 and have served on multiple committees. Currently I am a member of the Insurance committee and serve on Pensions, Investments & Financial Services as Vice Chair. I work with all parts of my diverse district.

**Healthcare:** I support the expansion of Medicaid. We are leaving billions of Texas money in Washington because we refuse to expand like all but a few states.

By expanding and increasing the eligibility level, we would not only provide insurance for a large number of working families but will also help to decrease the financial burdens on our state, counties, cities and hospitals.

**COVID-19:** We should take the time to look seriously at the problems and deficiencies exposed during the COVID-19 pandemic. After the weaknesses are determined, we should go to work on solutions that help vulnerable services and people.

**Voting Rights:** I would like to have no excuse ballot by mail. Countywide voting in Harris County on Election Day has made voting less confusing, so I would keep it and encourage other cities to adopt it. We also need to give a serious look at making registration easier.

**Priorities:** Education is the backbone of our economy. My top priority will be, as always, making public education better and more equitable.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

VALOREE SWANSON (R)

BACKGROUND: I have represented District 150 for two terms, protecting our property values from low-income government-subsidized housing, defending Life and the 2nd Amendment, securing the border, cutting taxes and job-killing regulations, securing elections, and mitigating flooding.

HEALTHCARE: The expansion of Medicaid.

COVID-19: Government must increase access to affordable healthcare. To boost spending and improve the economy, we need to increase the minimum wage to $10 an hour in Texas. This will help economic recovery. The state should have a plentiful reserve supply of PPE as well as emergency plans for lockdown procedures in the event of future epidemics.

VOTING RIGHTS: Automatic registration, removal of the voter ID requirements, and reinstatement of straight ticket voting.

PRIORITIES: I will introduce legislation to raise the minimum wage to $10 in Texas and to legalize medical marijuana. Moreover, my election will prevent the current incumbent from supporting any further anti-choice legislation.

Occupation: Business | Education: Bachelor of Business Administration from Baylor University | Email: campaign@valoreeswanson.com | Website: http://www.valoreeswanson.com | Address: 6046 FM 2920 #619 Spring, TX 77379
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ValoreeSwansonforTexas | Twitter: twitter.com/ValoreeForTexas

JESSE J. HERRERA (L)

BACKGROUND: In fifteen plus years of practicing law, I have seen what I believe to be some glaring deficiencies in some laws as they are written. I have been at the place where the “rubber meets the road” and there is work to be done fixing inherent constitutional problems there.

HEALTHCARE: Healthcare costs are out of control. In my view this is a result of too much government involvement in the market. This involvement creates artificial scarcity which keeps prices artificially high and supply lower than it should be. I honestly don’t think any new legislation will help, but repealing old legislation designed to protect the profits of certain industry players will.

COVID-19: Government should not be in the business of picking winners and losers, who is “essential” or “non-essential.” All persons lawful livelihoods are essential. It’s the government’s job to keep things running as well as possible. It is not the government’s job to command us to do anything, but rather to provide timely and accurate information in crises, and let us make decisions based on that.

VOTING RIGHTS: All reasonable steps should be taken to ensure that eligible voters have the opportunity to cast their votes. I am not sure if truly “equal” access can ever be achieved, but reasonable efforts should be made to that end. That said, the integrity of our voting system is paramount. We need to find the best possible way to ensure all votes are properly counted, otherwise it’s meaningless.

PRIORITIES: It will be my priority to repeal laws that are unjust, like crimes without victims, excessive taxes, violations of our Constitutions (State and Federal) and those that unnecessarily restrict constitutionally guaranteed liberties. I want to reduce barriers to entry for small business, and reduce government encumbrances on small business too. Greater liberty, peace and prosperity for Texans.

Occupation: Lawyer | Education: BA in Economics from University of Houston 1997 • JD from Baylor Law 2000 | Email: LibertarianJesseHerrera@gmail.com | Website: http://www.jesseherrerafortexas.com | Twitter: twitter.com/JesseHerreraUT
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/JesseHerreraforTexas | Website: http://www.JesseHerreraforTexasHouseDistrict150.org

CHIEF JUSTICE - COURT OF APPEALS

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

TRACY CHRISTOPHER (R)

QUALIFICATIONS: I have been an appellate judge for over 10 years and a trial judge before that. I have always been highly rated for my fairness and knowledge of the law by those who appeared in my court. I pledge to uphold the laws of Texas and the United States.

JUDICIAL SELECTION: Voters need more information about judicial candidates in order to make an informed decision. I support all efforts to get that information to the voters.

STANDARDS: On the civil side, we need to encourage all lawyers to assist in representing those who cannot afford a lawyer. And we need our court system to be more welcoming to those who represent themselves. On the criminal side, court appointed lawyers must be well qualified and not overburdened with too many cases.

BIASES: The Texas Center for the Judiciary provides training on implicit bias to all judges.

OTHER ISSUES: The Texas Supreme Court has been working on access to justice issues. Right now we have a backlog of cases that are waiting to be tried because of the pandemic. The Court is helping craft rules to get our jury trials safely running again.

Website: http://JusticeTracychristopher.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/Justice-Tracy-Elizabeth-Christopher

RACE CONTINUED PAGE 31
JANE ROBINSON (D)

QUALIFICATIONS: I am a nationally recognized and board-certified appellate lawyer with more than twenty years of experience in litigation and appeals. I'm a partner in one of Texas’ top trial firms and contributing editor to a widely used civil procedure manual.

JUDICIAL SELECTION: I support judicial elections, which have been shown to provide a more diverse and representative bench than appointments. I also believe voters are interested in learning more about their courts and the effect the courts have on their own lives, and support efforts to educate voters about the courts and their judicial candidates so the voters can make informed choices.

STANDARDS: Unfortunately, the public frequently views justice as most available to those who can afford significant legal fees. Texas must invest more in access to justice. Effective legal representation requires access to trained assistance.

RUSSELL LLOYD (R)

BACKGROUND: I seek re-election to the First Court of Appeals. I have 16 years judicial experience, 10 years as a State District Judge and 6 years on the Court of Appeals. I have 25 years of legal experience as a prosecutor, defense lawyer, plaintiff's lawyer and a JAG Officer. Nothing comes before the court that I have not handled as an attorney or a judge.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: I have helped pioneer virtual hearings and oral arguments to keep our courts open. I always make provision for tele-conferences for inmates in criminal cases and allow pro-se litigants to manually file pleadings. These technological innovations make our court more accessible to all who seek justice. I will continue to use technology to reach out to the community.

MENTAL HEALTH: At the Court of Appeals, lawyers come before the Court to present and argue their cases. The Court joins with the State Bar of Texas in working to help the mental health of lawyers and remains sensitive to the needs of the litigants represented by the attorneys who appear before the Court.

RESPONSIBILITY: The chief responsibility of a Justice on the Court of Appeals is to follow the law. Predictability and even handed application of the law are principal guarantors of liberty and are essential to our system of justice. I work tirelessly to ensure equal access to justice for all Texans.

OTHER ISSUES: We must continue to find ways to ensure that all citizens have access to the justice system and that all are treated equally. Our justice system must be fair to all. Access to the law is essential to our country. Justice for all is my guiding light.

VERONICA RIVAS-MOLLOY (D)

BACKGROUND: A successful litigation practice of almost 20 years. After graduating law school with honors, I served as an attorney in federal court gaining significant experience working on numerous and varied litigation matters. For the last 18 years, I have practiced at top rated law firms representing clients in civil litigation matters across Texas and other jurisdictions.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: Robust public defender programs and volunteer lawyer programs are critical to ensure access to our judicial system for everyone regardless of socio-economic status. Videoconferencing technologies have made it easier for volunteer lawyer organizations and pro bono counsel to connect with indigent parties and for those parties to have better access to court proceedings.

MENTAL HEALTH: The Supreme Court of Texas and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals recently created the Judicial Commission on Mental Health to determine how courts can be more effective and better prepared to work with persons with mental illnesses. The Commission will be making recommendations to ensure that courts take necessary steps to address this important issue.

RESPONSIBILITY: Applying my legal experience and skills to understand and follow the law. Ruling impartially and without bias. Maintaining high ethical standards and working always with the highest level of integrity and excellence to ensure that our courts treat all parties with fairness, justice, and equality. Making prompt rulings.

OTHER ISSUES: It is imperative for justices to manage their dockets efficiently and promptly to handle the ever increasing number of appeals being filed in our courts of appeals.

TERRY ADAMS (R)

BACKGROUND: The depth and breadth of my experience includes over 30 years as an appellate lawyer handling complex appeals in the courts of appeals across Texas, the Texas Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court. I am recognized by Texas Super Lawyers and The Best Lawyers in America as being one of the top appellate lawyers in Texas.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: Free Wi-Fi and access to free computers gives low-income Texans access to the critical information provided by the State Bar of Texas and the Texas Access to Justice Commission which allow for the equitable access to justice for all Texans. This includes a self-help website for pro se parties at www.texascourthelp.gov and a Pro Se Appellate Guide at www.txcourts.gov.

MENTAL HEALTH: The courts of appeals can work collaboratively with the State Bar of Texas which provides confidential help for lawyers who have problems with mental health issues through the Texas Lawyers Assistance Program. With respect to the mental health impairment of a party, the courts of appeals must apply the existing law regarding that circumstance to the facts of each case.

RESPONSIBILITY: My highest priority as a Justice on the First Court of Appeals is to apply the law fairly to the facts of each case so that the Court reaches the correct result under the existing law. I will continue to uphold the Constitution of the United States and of Texas and follow the rule of law. I will never make up the law or legislate from the bench.

OTHER ISSUES: I believe that justice delayed is justice denied. I bring to the First Court of Appeals a conservative judicial philosophy, a strong work ethic, and a dedicated commitment to excellence so that the cases that come before me are handled correctly under the existing law and as expeditiously as possible.
JUSTICE, 1ST COURT OF APPEALS

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

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

MENTAL HEALTH: How should the Court of Appeals address mental health issues of those who come before the court?

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

OTHER ISSUES: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Court of Appeals?

AMPARO MONIQUE GUERRA (D)

BACKGROUND: I am a lawyer and a judge. I practice law full-time, serve as a Houston Municipal Judge part-time, and I am a mom of three children. As a lawyer, I handle complex civil cases throughout Texas and the U.S. I am the first Hispanic partner at my law firm. As a judge, I preside over criminal cases. I was the youngest sitting judge on the court when appointed at age 28.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: Video conferencing allows opportunities for indigent litigants in areas with few or no lawyers with experience relevant to their legal issues, access to lawyers who may be better able to handle their cases. It can also decrease the costs of transporting criminal defendants to court. Electronic filing reduces the cost of filing and accessing court documents.

MENTAL HEALTH: Assuming this question relates to access, appellate cases have no witnesses; evidence is not presented as it is at the trial court. Litigants, whether criminal or civil, do not appear before the appellate court. In fact, it is rare to have litigants in the appellate courtroom at all. In cases in which there is oral argument, generally only the lawyers who argue appear.

RESPONSIBILITY: The highest priority is disposing of cases efficiently with an eye towards equity and justice. I will examine the longest pending cases to eliminate backlog. I will assess the types of pending cases to determine which issues predominate in the greatest number of cases to consolidate analysis of the most common issues thereby disposing of more cases expeditiously.

OTHER ISSUES: Habeas corpus and mandamus matters are typically more urgent and require swift attention. I plan to review those cases first. Also, because I know litigation can be costly and time-consuming, I will examine backlogged cases to determine if any are suitable for referral to alternative dispute resolution/mediation for the parties to resolve their disputes outside of court.

Website: http://amparojustice.com | Facebook: http://facebook.com/amparojustice

KEN WISE (R)

BACKGROUND: I have served on the 14th Court of Appeals since 2013. Prior to that I spent a decade serving as Judge of the 152nd District Court and 334th District Court. I have served as Administrative Judge of Harris County, the Civil Administrative Judge of Harris County and as a member of the Harris County Juvenile Probation Board.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court appointed me as a Commissioner on the Texas Access to Justice Commission, on which I still serve. The Commission works very hard to improve access to justice for underserved Texans. Moving more court functions online can greatly improve the ease with which all Texans can participate more effectively in the court system.

MENTAL HEALTH: While I was Administrative Judge of Harris County, we created the first mental health specialty court. This special district court helps defendants avoid entering the criminal justice system by assisting with access to mental health treatment and services. Outcomes have proven to be greatly improved thanks to this innovative system.

RESPONSIBILITY: Hard work and efficiency. My docket is caught up, and I am over 100 opinions a year. My 7 year record as an appellate judge proves my commitment to serving all Texans of the 14th Appellate District diligently, effectively, and fairly.

OTHER ISSUES: The one thing voters must look for is experience. With experience comes wisdom and perspective in the judiciary. My record of service to Texas is unmatched in this race. I love Texas, and I’ve lived my entire life in the 14th District. I interpret and apply the law fairly. I hope my efforts and service has earned the confidence of every voter in the district.


TAMITIA “TAMI” CRAFT (D) | NO RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS WAS RECEIVED

BACKGROUND: I am a lawyer and a judge. I practice law full-time, serve as a Houston Municipal Judge part-time, and I am a mom of three children. As a lawyer, I handle complex civil cases throughout Texas and the U.S. I am the first Hispanic partner at my law firm. As a judge, I preside over criminal cases. I was the youngest sitting judge on the court when appointed at age 28.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: Video conferencing allows opportunities for indigent litigants in areas with few or no lawyers with experience relevant to their legal issues, access to lawyers who may be better able to handle their cases. It can also decrease the costs of transporting criminal defendants to court. Electronic filing reduces the cost of filing and accessing court documents.

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Website: http://www.craftforjustice.com | Facebook: http://facebook.com/TamikaCraftfor14CA | Twitter: twitter.com/TamiCraft4CA

NOTE: DISTRICT COURTS ARE LISTED BY TYPE OF COURT, RATHER THAN BALLOT ORDER, TO MAKE IT EASIER TO COMPARE CANDIDATE RESPONSES.

DISTRICT JUDGE - CIVIL

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 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.

BACKGROUND:

OTHER ISSUES:

RESPONSIBILITY:

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

DISCOVERY PROCESS: How will you ensure that attorneys and litigants do not abuse the discovery process?

DISCOVERY PROCESS: How will you ensure that attorneys and litigants do not abuse the discovery process?

DISTRICT JUDGE - CRIMINAL

BACKGROUND:

OTHER ISSUES:

RESPONSIBILITY:

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

DISCOVERY PROCESS: How will you ensure that attorneys and litigants do not abuse the discovery process?

DISCOVERY PROCESS: How will you ensure that attorneys and litigants do not abuse the discovery process?

ERIN ELIZABETH LUNCEFORD (R)

DOCKET MANAGEMENT: I will allow any party who wants to have an oral hearing, either remote by Zoom or in person to be timely granted such a hearing. I will work full days of the week and timely rule on all motions. I will set regular DWOP dates so that cases that are not moving are dismissed in a timely fashion. As soon as trials are allowed, I will schedule as many trials as possible.

IMPARTIALITY: I never consider campaign contributions of the parties when ruling on cases, and I will not do this when I return to the bench. I have always ruled impartially and do not play favorites regardless of whether an individual lawyer or firm has donated to my campaign.

DISCOVERY PROCESS: I will timely rule on discovery motions and hold the

Occupation: Attorney/Medicolegal/Advisor | Education: B.A., University of Colorado, 1983 • J.D. University of Houston, 1988 | Phone: (713) 906-6722 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/FemerizedJudgeErinkLunceford | Twitter: twitter.com/ErinkLunceford

FREDERICA PHILLIPS (D)

DOCKET MANAGEMENT: My court has consistently been one of the most efficiently run civil district courts. During natural disasters, my court follows the protocols that the civil district judges worked together to implement to ensure the smooth continuation of the justice system. Most of my motion docket has always been by submission so the transition to taking almost all motions by written submission has been smooth.

IMPARTIALITY: The system of selecting judges and thus the need for raising funds for campaigns is the most effective way to ensure every citizen has a say in who their judges are by casting their vote. Donations have no impact on judicial decisions. In fact, the majority of lawyers and parties have never donated to a campaign. All cases are decided based on the law and the facts of each case.

DISCOVERY PROCESS: I remind the attorneys of the oath of professionalism they all swore to uphold and advise them to remind their clients that the justice system treats all parties fairly and equally. That we have rules governing how discovery is to be conducted and that all sides must follow those rules.

Occupation: Judge | Education: B.S. Criminal Justice, Cum Laude, 1996 Lamar University - Beaumont • J.D. 2000 South Texas College of Law | Email: fredericka@frederickaphillips.com | Website: http://www.frederickaphillips.com | Address: PO Box 301046 Houston, TX 77225 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/JudgePhillips | Twitter: twitter.com/JudgeFPhillips

Kristen Hawkins (D) | Running Unopposed

111TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Erin Elizabeth Lunceford (R)

Do not have a candidate for this office.

Website: http://www.JudgeLunceford.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/FemerizedJudgeErinkLunceford

Fredericka Phillips (D)

Do not have a candidate for this office.

Website: http://www.frederickaphillips.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/JudgeFPhillips

Facebook
[Docket Management] With extensive backlogs caused by natural disasters and COVID-19, what will you do to ensure that cases before your court are heard in a timely manner?

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

[Discovery Process] How will you ensure that attorneys and litigants do not abuse the discovery process?

[Background] What training, experience, and background make you the best qualified candidate for this office?

SHARON HEMPHILL (R)

DOCKET MANAGEMENT: I have always encouraged and promoted the most efficient means of handling a docket for litigants as well as for court personnel. Some options include: hearings and trials via zoom, telephonic hearings, and other means convenient for the parties and/or their attorneys. These options provide a convenient option for parties and help to streamline the court resolutions.

IMPARTIALITY: Every litigant and every attorney deserves the utmost respect and there is no place for partiality.

Occupation: Attorney | Education: University of Illinois B.S. University of Houston, J.D. University of Houston, LL.M. (Master Law) Board Certified, Texas Board of Legal Specialization | Email: sharone hemp希尔@gmail.com | Website: http://www.judgehemp希尔.com | Address: 11201 Spring, TX 77319 | Phone: (713) 545-1234 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/sharon.hemp希尔.39

NILE COPELAND (R)

DOCKET MANAGEMENT: Courts have an obligation to serve the community well, not just adequately. If it means putting in more hours, it needs to be done. In the age of zoom hearings, more work can be done to increase a court’s efficiency and prevent extend backlogs and better serve those before the court.

I have asked lawyers to meet and discuss current issue and find and implement solutions.

IMPARTIALITY: There is a dire need for judicial financing reform. Caps on judicial donations need to be revisited and lowered. Solo firms, small firms and large firms need contribution limits that level the field and do not raise questions of bias based on donations. I would advocate for such a reform and would respectfully return excessive donations.

Occupation: Attorney and Realtor | Education: Xavier University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law | Email: campaign@manorforjudge.com | Website: http://www.manorforjudge.com | Address: 2529 Allen Parkway 2nd Fl Houston, TX 77019 | Phone: (713) 225-2667

JERALYNN MANOR (D)

DOCKET MANAGEMENT: Every lawyer, plaintiff, defendant and juror deserves our justice system to run efficiently and timely. I will allow cases to be fully presented but demand efficiency from those participating in our justice system.

IMPARTIALITY: It comes to a question of character, if a donation were to sway your judgment then you should never have run for a bench. I will run a fair and unbiased court and will rule by the law and not outside influences.

DISCOVERY PROCESS: I will adhere to timelines and allow facts and finding relevant to the case. I will not tolerate attorneys that do not abide by the rules of civil procedure and abuse plaintiffs or defendants.

Occupation: Attorney | Education: Xavier University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law | Email: campaign@manorforjudge.com | Website: http://www.manorforjudge.com | Address: 2529 Allen Parkway 2nd Fl Houston, TX 77019 | Phone: (713) 225-2667

R.K. SANDILL (D)

DOCKET MANAGEMENT: I am proud of our efforts in the 127th District Court to adapt to the challenges posed by COVID-19. By shifting to online hearings via Zoom, we have kept cases moving. Post-COVID, we will continue to face courtroom space challenges because of social distancing, which will require a hybrid model of in-person and online proceedings to accommodate cases in Harris County.

IMPARTIALITY: In 12 years serving as Judge of the 127th District Court, I have demonstrated that campaign contributions have no bearing on how I rule. I scrupulously follow the rules governing campaign contributions, and I make decisions in cases based exclusively on the arguments and evidence presented, as well as existing case law.

Occupation: Judge, 127th District Court | Education: B.A. Government, University of Texas-Austin; J.D. University of Houston Law Center | Email: rksandill@judgesandill.com | Website: http://www.judgesandill.com | Address: P.O. Box 56386 Houston, TX 77256

WILL ARCHER (R) | UNABLE TO CONTACT

MICHAEL GOMEZ (D)

DOCKET MANAGEMENT: During these difficult times, we are doing everything we can to make sure we keep our docket moving while keeping everyone safe. We are currently conducting our oral hearing docket over Zoom and telephone conference. Our hearings are safe, convenient, and accessible for everyone.

IMPARTIALITY: Judges are tasked with being neutral arbiters of disputes. We expect judges to follow the law without bias, prejudice, or favor. This is an obligation I take to heart. As someone who comes from a modest background, I understand the importance of a level playing field especially between those of means and those without. As such, my decisions are guided only by the law, fairness and common sense.

Occupation: Judge, 129th District Court | Education: Rice University, B.A. - UH Law Center, J.D. | Email: michael@gomez.com | Website: http://www.judgelmichael.com | Address: P.O. Box 93386 Houston, TX 77256

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33
152ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ROBERT K. SCHAFFER (D)

DOCKET MANAGEMENT: I will rule quickly on motions and trials. I will use ROBERT K. SCHAFFER (D)

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

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

SHERI Y. DEAN (R)

DOCKET MANAGEMENT: I am an experienced former judge who handled over 2000 active cases in my previous court. I also handled a backlog that was caused by Harvey. I will use my experience daily and work full time and more to clear backlogs in an organized manner.

IMPARTIALITY: I will take an oath of office to uphold the Constitution and follow the law. Impartiality is required to serve as a judge. Irrespective of donations, it is necessary to follow my oath of office and judicial canons on each case. Without impartiality there can be no justice. As a judge I will have rules in place to ensure that the public and attorneys are aware of my position.

DISCOVERY PROCESS: Attorneys may file motions to bring any alleged abuse of discovery to the Court’s attention. After hearing the testimony and evidence regarding the claims, I will make a decision based on the laws available to render orders, including sanctions, against the person who has violated the law. Abuse of discovery is protected by the Rules of Civil Procedure and statutes in the State of Texas.

BACKGROUND: My experience includes the following: Former District Judge-8+ years Visiting Judge for the State of Tex. Mediator/Arbitrator for Sheri Y. Dean Mediation & Arbitration and for the Texas Dept. of Ins. by assignment Attorney for 18 years in my Law Firm prior to Dist. Judge.

JACQUELINE MCFARLAND (D)

DOCKET MANAGEMENT: I am having oral hearings by Zoom three days a week. The Supreme Court has issued an order that the courts should not have in-person trials until October 1. I am planning on resuming in-person jury and non-jury trials on that date.

IMPARTIALITY: Since I took the oath of office on January 1, 2009 justice has not been for sale in the 133rd District Court. As long as I am the judge of the 133rd District Court everyone who comes before the bar will find the scales of justice are level at the start of every hearing or trial. If any one feels that there is a conflict of interest they only need to bring it to my attention.

DISCOVERY PROCESS: I issue docket control orders at the beginning of each case that sets the rules and deadlines for discovery. If one party believes that another party is abusing the process then they should ask for a hearing and I will read and listen to the arguments.

BACKGROUND: I was educated at excellent universities. Forty three years ago I was sworn in as an attorney and counselor at law. I practiced law for 31 years handling the types of cases that now come before me as judge. I have served you as judge of the 133rd district court for 11 years.

MICHAEL LANDRUM (R)

DOCKET MANAGEMENT: Our courts must remain open. The right to trial by jury is essential in our democracy. Until COVID-19 is controlled so that all citizens can comfortably serve on a jury, courts must make do with remote hearings and trials. I have heard contested matters and attended court hearings by Zoom, and will continue that practice. I’ll work hard to keep our courts accessible by all available means.

IMPARTIALITY: Partisan election of judges is a regrettable reality in Texas. As a judge, I avoid the appearance of impropriety by allowing ample time for each side to present their views and by describing the reasoning underlying difficult or close decisions. My track record proves that the many rulings I have made are based only on the law and evidence in a given case. I will continue that practice.

DISCOVERY PROCESS: Each case is unique. What may be discovery abuse in one case may be proper in another. Each discovery dispute deserves careful individual attention and a swift decisive ruling. In most cases, proactive communication from the judge to the parties is sufficient. Sanctions for repeated abuses must be tailored to provide just relief and deterrence, without being excessively punitive.

BACKGROUND: Incumbent judge + six years prior judicial service in District Court. Board certified specialist in two fields, Civil Trial Law and Civil Appellate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Over 40 years of legal practice representing individuals and small businesses.

CHERYL ELLIOTT THORNTON (D)

DOCKET MANAGEMENT: With the pandemic in mind, I will make sure that all cases on my docket are reviewed to ensure that the cases are timely heard by conducting as many hearings by Zoom or telephone. Further, when all parties agree, I will conduct bench trials via Zoom or other telephonic mechanism. And lastly, when it becomes possible, trials by Harvey. I will use my experience daily and work full time and more to clear backlogs in an organized manner.

DISCOVERY PROCESS: If it comes to my attention through either the court or counsel that an attorney is abusing the discovery process, I will utilize all tools available to me to stop the abuse up to and including striking discovery responses and/or pleadings. I would initially counsel attorneys on the abuse, but if the offending party does not heed my warnings then the aforementioned practices will be employed.

BACKGROUND: I have practiced law for over 33 years. I currently serve as Administrative Law Judge for 2 State agencies and as Asst. Attorney General for Texas. I have also served as General Counsel for TSU.

BRUCE BAIN (R)

DOCKET MANAGEMENT: I will rule quickly on motions and trials. I will use video and teleconferencing technologies, increase bandwidth capacity, obtain equipment and licenses for IT platforms, and implement staggered dockets. I embrace IT infrastructure to increase telework so that the Court is productive daily. The 165th has been backlogged since 2016 requiring multiple appellate decisions ordering the Court to rule.

IMPARTIALITY: The contributions received have not, and will not affect my impartiality as a judge. I will avoid even an appearance of impropriety, and beyond that will not hesitate to refuse invitations to maintain a familiarity with either party or counsel that clouds the courts integrity. The case outcome must depend on the facts and law applicable to each specific case, not a perceived influence.

DISCOVERY PROCESS: As a trial lawyer, I have seen abuse. I know what it is. A judge needs to be keenly aware of abusive tactics and when objections are raised, examine the basis and rule timely and accordingly based on the case. Every party deserves a fair and open discovery process. Judicial oversight includes examining privilege logs, granting protective orders, appointing special masters and granting sanctions.

BACKGROUND: I am an attorney with 35 years of civil trial experience. I have presided over numerous arbitrations and mediations. Additionally, I was selected to three bar committees to preside over complaints including fee disputes, unauthorized practice of law, and senior lawyer needs.
I will have smaller but more frequent dockets and an as needed basis.

**IMPARTIALITY:** I will ensure impartiality, as I have for all of the approximately fifty years I have been on the bench; by following the law and the dictates of integrity. The question seems to assume that there is no donation amount below which one’s impartiality is unassailable, or, that the vagaries of “impartiality” plague all Texas judges, and court levels, equally - evidence suggests otherwise.

**DISCOVERY PROCESS:** The best way to ensure that attorneys and litigants do not “abuse” the discovery process is to continue to insist upon adherence to the law, courtesy, and leniency, for “all sides,” whenever the law and fairness permit.

**BACKGROUND:** My judicial training for fifteen years, on the state and municipal benches; experience as the sitting incumbent judge; and history of both servant leadership and intellectual integrity, makes me the best qualified candidate for this office and the task of “doing justice.”

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**URSULA A. HALL (D)**

**DOCKET MANAGEMENT:** I will continue to engage in novel delivery of court services, while also honoring evidence-based health standards and court participants’ views of safest practices; abide by the expertise of court administrative leaders, in innovations such as “case triage,” increased alternative dispute resolution mandates, enhanced deadlines in docket control and increased litigant conferencing; and more.

**IMPARTIALITY:** I will ensure impartiality, as I have for all of the approximately fifty years I have been on the bench; by following the law and the dictates of integrity. The question seems to assume that there is no donation amount below which one’s impartiality is unassailable, or, that the vagaries of “impartiality” plague all Texas judges, and court levels, equally - evidence suggests otherwise.

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**BACKGROUND:** My judicial training for fifteen years, on the state and municipal benches; experience as the sitting incumbent judge; and history of both servant leadership and intellectual integrity, makes me the best qualified candidate for this office and the task of “doing justice.”

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**FRED SHUCHART (R)**

**DOCKET MANAGEMENT:** I will have smaller but more frequent dockets and 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.

**IMPARTIALITY:** The fundamental premise of the United States is that we are a country of laws. As a public servant who enforces the law, I have a duty to the public to avoid both the appearance of impropriety, particularly potential conflicts of interest, as much as impropriety itself. As a result, I commit to ignoring the identity of any contributors to my campaign when ruling on matters before me.

**DISCOVERY PROCESS:** I will institute a pre-motion procedure which requires the parties to briefly identify the issues and their positions. I will have an informal conference to discuss the issues in an attempt to resolve them. If they cannot be resolved, a Motion can then be filed.

**BACKGROUND:** I have 35 years of practice in commercial and personal injury law and an expertise in insurance. I have tried cases throughout Texas ranging from construction defect to death cases. I have argued in front of several state Courts of Appeals and the US 5th Circuit.

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**ELAINE PALMER (D)**

**DOCKET MANAGEMENT:** I am currently holding hearings and trials via Zoom which is allowing the docket in the 215th District Court to continue to move.

**IMPARTIALITY:** I treat all litigants and attorneys with the same respect and dignity, it does not matter what their socio-economic status is, all persons are treated on a level playing field.

**DISCOVERY PROCESS:** I allowed attorneys and litigants to file motions to compel discovery, however they must do a certificate of conference to advise the court they have attempted to resolve the matter without the need for court intervention. This usually gets the matter resolved by the parties.

**BACKGROUND:** Prior to coming to the bench in 2013 I had 15 years plus experience practicing law. My law practice was a general practice that handled civil, family and very little criminal matters. I had clients that were business owners and individuals that had an array of legal matters.

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**BRITTANYE MORRIS (D) | RUNNING UNOPPOSED**

**DOCKET MANAGEMENT:** Harris County has a very experienced and professional civil bar. I intend to work with the attorneys to use agreed docket control orders to ensure cases are ready for trial and then try the cases. I intend to meet the bar’s expectations for availability and access to court time through Zoom hearings and trials. I will develop a more dynamic submission docket to do my part to get the cases ready.

**IMPARTIALITY:** I have the moral and ethical obligation to follow the law and focus on the facts and evidence, not the attorneys presenting them. No system or rule will suffice unless the judge is willing to monitor their own moral compass. If anyone does raise the issue, I will grant an immediate hearing to review the concern. If there would be an appearance of impropriety, I would remove myself.

**DISCOVERY PROCESS:** I have held quasi-judicial positions: certified hearing examiner for TEA, special commissioner for Harris County Courts, & arbitrator for the Texas Comptroller’s Office. I am currently manager at a national law firm, overseeing an inventory of almost 10,000 cases & 19 staff.

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**DAN LEMKUI (R)**

**DOCKET MANAGEMENT:** Harris County has a very experienced and professional civil bar. I intend to work with the attorneys to use agreed docket control orders to ensure cases are ready for trial and then try the cases. I intend to meet the bar’s expectations for availability and access to court time through Zoom hearings and trials. I will develop a more dynamic submission docket to do my part to get the cases ready.

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**DAWN DESHEA ROGERS (D)**

**DOCKET MANAGEMENT:** I realize that I will have a learning curve; therefore, I want to get a head start and acclimate into my new role. Once elected, I will request a meeting with the incumbent Judge for insight on how the court works, as well as meet the staff and develop a relationship. My goal would be to set older cases first; however, I’d evaluate the nature of each case to determine priority.

**IMPARTIALITY:** Campaign contributions should never be a factor when ruling on cases. In the event that a party has concerns regarding a donor, I will fully cooperate with a recusal hearing on the matter or voluntarily transfer the case to avoid the impression of impropriety. I want to mitigate any concerns that there will not be a level playing field for both parties.

**DISCOVERY PROCESS:** Texas Rules of Civil Procedure outline the actions/omissions constituting the abuse of the discovery process. As an 18 year litigating attorney, I know all too well the tactics deployed to delay trials, harass parties, & cause undue burden/hardship. Experience & impartiality are the most effective ways to ensure parties are provided the tools & access to discover facts without abusing the process.

**BACKGROUND:** I have held quasi-judicial positions: certified hearing examiner for TEA, special commissioner for Harris County Courts, & arbitrator for the Texas Comptroller’s Office. I am currently manager at a national law firm, overseeing an inventory of almost 10,000 cases & 19 staff.

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INDIGENT REPRESENTATION: Harris County uses a “wheel” system for assigning counsel to represent indigent defendants, which involves selecting attorneys from a randomly-generated list. I follow this system, which yields both attorneys in private practice as well as those who work for the Public Defender’s Office. There are fine attorneys in both groups who zealously and effectively represent their clients.

ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION: I support community supervision, diversion programs, and specialty courts - all of which provide mental health, substance abuse, and other interventions in appropriate cases. These programs are well-suited for defendants whose criminal justice involvement is driven by these (or economic) issues, and where diversion or community supervision is not a substantial danger to the public at large.

SYSTEMIC ISSUES: As a member of a racial minority group, I am all too aware of how racial discrimination can lead to adverse outcomes, up to and including involvement in the criminal justice system. I strive to treat every defendant with dignity and respect, and to treat each case as unique. I also draw upon my personal and legal experience to make sure that all people who appear before me are treated fairly.

BACKGROUND: I bring over 20 years of legal experience in both the public and private sectors to this bench. I pray that I will follow the law and deliver justice every day in every case. I believe I am emotionally and intellectually suited to continue serving in this role.

JESSE MCCLURE (R)

INDIGENT REPRESENTATION: Harris County uses a “wheel” system for assigning counsel to represent indigent defendants, which involves selecting attorneys from a randomly-generated list. I follow this system, which yields both attorneys in private practice as well as those who work for the Public Defender’s Office. There are fine attorneys in both groups who zealously and effectively represent their clients.

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ARLENE HECHT (R) | UNABLE TO CONTACT

INDIGENT REPRESENTATION: Every person accused of a crime has a constitutional right to competent counsel, regardless of whether they can afford an attorney. Stakes are high, and roughly 90% of individuals charged with felonies in Harris County cannot afford a lawyer. I will follow the Constitution and the applicable laws, and will consider best practices, including the American Bar Association’s golden “ten principles.”

ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION: I support bail reform, pretrial diversion, probation, and other alternatives that make our communities safer and more just. Program options include those that offer opportunities toward workforce development, education, housing, mental health and addiction services, and restoration of justice. These resources must be made available to all, regardless of race and ability to pay.

SYSTEMIC ISSUES: Equal justice must be the goal of our legal system, and requires bias training and intentional work towards ending disparities. I support bail reform, which means pretrial decisions must NOT discriminate based on race or income. Representative juries and accepting alternatives to incarceration (including linking persons with resources to support their success in the community) are also priorities.

BACKGROUND: I am a Latina Attorney who has served as: 1) Staff Attorney at U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals; 2) Assistant Federal Public Defender; 3) Director of Criminal Justice Reform at Texas Civil Rights Project; and 4) Director of Legal Affairs for Harris County Precinct One. I have married children and grandchildren, and I have served as a judge and associate judge for 4+ years. I am Board Certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. I was a judge and associate judge for 4+ years. I have a proven track record as a good judge (see www.AlyssaLemkuil.com/Testimonials).

REPRESENTATION: My policies will be designed to reduce the emotional and financial costs of litigation. Court appointments will only be made when necessary. I will attempt to resolve appropriate issues via email or phone conferences to avoid unnecessary court appearances. I will designate additional docket for pro se parties to ensure that they have access to the court without causing delays for other parties.

BACKGROUND: I have been practicing exclusively family law for 27+ years. I am Board Certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. I was a judge and associate judge for 4+ years. I have a proven track record as a good judge (see www.AlyssaLemkuil.com/Testimonials).
QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

(Docket Management) With extensive backlogs caused by natural disasters and COVID-19, what will you do to ensure that cases before your court are heard in a timely manner?

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

JULIA MALARANO (D)

DOCKET MANAGEMENT: The 507th is open and has been open continuously to ensure that there is no delay in hearing cases. Although the docket is called via Zoom, I am at the courthouse each and every day just in case there is a litigant that is unable to appear via Zoom or in case a hearing needs to be held in-person. I do not have a backlog of cases because my staff and I work tirelessly in a very efficient manner.

IMPARTIALITY: One of the reasons why I ran for office was to make sure that each litigant, regardless of their background or social economic status, has the opportunity to present the case and have it decided based on the facts and the applicable law. When I was elected to the 507th, any and all play to pay in this court ended. There is no special treatment for anyone, and the rules and the law apply equally.

REPRESENTATION: I ensure that every attorney who serves on those capacities has the experience and the qualifications that are important and needed for each specific case. For example, if one litigant does not speak English, I try to find an attorney who speaks the language of the litigant. Additionally, I make it very clear to all the persons appointed by this court that their performance is subject to review.

BACKGROUND: -Licensed to practice law in Texas since 1998 -Board Certified in Family Law for 8 years -Bilingual in English-Spanish -In the last four years as the judge of the 507th I have run the court expeditiously and efficiently.

-Administrative Judge-Family Division since 1/2019


Address: P. O. Box 2804 Houston, Texas 77252 | Phone: (713) 895-1046 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/Julia507th

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

(Grand Jury Relationship) What boundaries should exist between prosecutors and grand juries to protect the integrity of the grand jury process? What steps will you take to ensure that all members of your staff observe these boundaries?

(Interagency Relationships) What is the appropriate relationship between the District Attorney’s office and other law enforcement professionals and agencies? How will you build these relationships?

MARY NANO HUFFMAN (R)

GRAND JURY RELATIONSHIP: Grand jurors need to be educated about what their rights, duties & responsibilities are, & to inform them about what resources are available to them. The grand jury should be a body of independent citizens that can investigate any crime or govt misled that comes to its attention. Although, grand jurors often rely on prosecutors to bring cases/evidence, grand jurors need access to all the evidence.

INTERAGENCY RELATIONS: The DA’s Office should work closely with law enforcement. I have experience building relationships with many local & federal agencies. I have also been a part of state & nationwide taskforces. It’s important to work together to ensure that justice is done. We need to communicate with LEO & continually provide feedback & training. As well as keep officers informed & educated.

BACKGROUND: 10 years as a prosecutor in Montgomery County, TX. Chief of Child Exploitation, ICAC & Human Trafficking. Trained by Secret Service. Special Prosecutor in other TX counties. Trained prosecutors & law enforcement nationwide. VP of the BOD of a TX Children’s Advocacy Center.

Occupation: Attorney | Education: St. Mary’s University School of Law - University of Oklahoma-BA in political science | Email: marynan@marynanhuffman.com | Website: http://www.marynanhuffman.com | Address: 1 E Greenway Plaza Suite 225 Houston, TX 77046 | Phone: (713) 487-9869 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/MaryNanHuffman | Twitter: twitter.com/MaryNanHuffman

JUDGE - COUNTY CIVIL COURT AT LAW

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

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QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

(Docket Management) With extensive backlogs caused by natural disasters and COVID-19, what will you do to ensure that cases before your court are heard in a timely manner?

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

CLYDE RAYMOND LEUCHTAG (R)

DOCKET MANAGEMENT: 1. Create multiple hearing dockets each day 2. Use the new docketing software to notify plaintiff’s when service of process has not been accomplished timely 3. Encourage filing of dispositive motions and rule timely

IMPARTIALITY: 1. Starting in my 2018 campaign, I have not accepted donations of more than $250 from anyone who might appear in my court. 2. As a former Judge, I was able to level the playing field for all litigants, including those who could not afford an attorney, by making sure that BOTH sides understood the court proceedings and the law. 3. Awarded for an attorney who speaks the language of the litigant. Additionally, I make it very clear to all the persons appointed by this court that their performance is subject to review.

REPRESENTATION: I ensure that every attorney who serves on those capacities has the experience and the qualifications that are important and needed for each specific case. For example, if one litigant does not speak English, I try to find an attorney who speaks the language of the litigant. Additionally, I make it very clear to all the persons appointed by this court that their performance is subject to review.

BACKGROUND: -Licensed to practice law in Texas since 1998 -Board Certified in Family Law for 8 years -Bilingual in English-Spanish -In the last four years as the judge of the 507th I have run the court expeditiously and efficiently.

-Administrative Judge-Family Division since 1/2019

Occupation: Assistant County Attorney | Education: * South Texas College of Law, J.D., magna cum laude May 1990 * Rice University, B.A., Managerial Studies and Organizational Psychology May 1985 | Email: clyde.leuchtag@gmail.com

Website: http://www.JudgeClyde.com | Address: PO Box 560 Houston, TX 77001 | Phone: (713) 598-0855 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/Clydeleuchtag | Twitter: twitter.com/Judge_Clyde

RACE CONTINUED PAGE 38

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND | NOVEMBER 3, 2020 VOTERS GUIDE | WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG
QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

[LINDA GARCIA (R)]

**INDIGENT REPRESENTATION:** All attorneys, including public defenders, interested in court appointments are placed on the wheel if they meet the criteria set by the misdemeanor judges. In addition to these minimum standards, I will only appoint attorneys that have extensive trial experience, know the law, have a strong work ethic, and will use these skills to fight hard to get the best possible outcome for their client.

**ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION:** Deferred adjudication and pre-trial diversion are often appropriate alternatives to jail. Additionally, Harris County has many specialty courts to address the underlying causes of many crimes, such as addictions and mental health challenges. My plan is to start a Veterans Court specifically for women to deal with underlying issues, such as PTSD from abuse, in a safe and supportive environment.

**SYSTEMIC ISSUES:** Every single person coming into my court will be treated with respect and dignity, whether they are a defendant, victim, defense attorney, prosecutor, court staff, witness, juror, etc. Listening with an open heart and open mind to the unique challenges and perspectives a person from our very diverse community may have, will provide justice for all, regardless of disparities in background.

**BACKGROUND:** In my 27 years as a lawyer, I have served the people of Harris County as a Criminal Court Judge, Parole Board Member, and Prosecutor. As a misdemeanor court judge, I earned the reputation of being hard-working, friendly, knowledgeable, compassionate, and without agenda.

**BACKGROUND:**

I was instrumental in obtaining a grant to create a Harris County Managed Assigned Counsel Office, which is an office that will enhance the independence and quality of indigent defense by providing appointed attorneys with resources, training, and independence from the judiciary. This new office will provide resources and support on par with what lawyers in defender and prosecutor offices enjoy.

**ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION:** Restorative justice is an emerging practice which focuses on repairing the harm caused by criminal behavior, through allowing all of the stakeholders (whites, victims, offenders, and the community) to work together to decide how that harm is best repaired. Restorative justice is an important alternative to incarceration that should be explored in the appropriate case.

**SYSTEMIC ISSUES:** I am working to address the problem of implicit bias in court cases. In addition to educating jurors on the dangers of allowing implicit bias to affect the outcome of cases, I am working with a group of judges to provide education related to implicit bias to members of our judiciary. We must lead by example in eliminating racial and socioeconomic disparities in all courts.

**BACKGROUND:** I served as a public defender for 13 years prior to becoming a judge, and in that capacity I represented hundreds of people in state and federal court. My trial experience and dedication to serving under-served communities makes me best suited for this office.

Occupation: Assistant County Attorney | Education: BBA from U of H, cum laude in 1990 • Juris Doctorate from the University of Houston Law Center - Graduated with Honors in 1993 | Email: lindagarcia@bcgglobal.net | Website: http://www.courthouseateam.com

Phone: (713) 859-8127 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/LindaGarciaJudge

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[LESLEY BRIONES (D)]

**DISCOVERY PROCESS:** I promptly hear discovery-related motions to assess whether parties are acting reasonably and in good faith and whether they are following the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure. Based on all information presented, I determine whether the discovery sought is relevant to the pending action, privileged, and reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.

**BACKGROUND:** As a Latina, graduate of Harvard University & Yale Law School, working mother of three daughters, former public school teacher, former lawyer at Vinson & Elkins, and former General Counsel & Chief Operating Officer of a national nonprofit, I am the best qualified candidate.

**INDIGENT REPRESENTATION:** What criteria will you use in decisions about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants? Please discuss differences in representation when a defendant has a Public Defender vs an appointed attorney.

**ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION:** What, if any, alternatives to incarceration do you support? Please discuss program options, as well as when and how such alternatives can be used.

**BACKGROUND:** What will you do to address racial and socioeconomic disparities in the criminal justice system?

**BACKGROUND:** What training, experience, and background make you the best qualified candidate for this office?

Occupation: Judge, Harris County Civil Court at Law No. 4 | Education: Harvard University, B.A. • Yale Law School, J.D. | Email: lesleybriones@gmail.com | Website: http://www.lesleybriones.com | Address: P.O. Box 925701 Houston, TX 77292

Phone: (713) 444-6784 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/judgelesleybriones

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[GENESIS E. DRAPER (D)]

**BACKGROUNDS:**

**What training, experience, and background make you the best qualified candidate for this office?**

**What criteria will you use in decisions about assigning attorneys to represent indigent defendants? Please discuss differences in representation when a defendant has a Public Defender vs an appointed attorney.**

**What, if any, alternatives to incarceration do you support? Please discuss program options, as well as when and how such alternatives can be used.**

**What will you do to address racial and socioeconomic disparities in the criminal justice system?**

**What training, experience, and background make you the best qualified candidate for this office?**

**DOCKET MANAGEMENT:** Throughout the pandemic, I have continued holding numerous bench trials, oral hearings, and submission dockets via Zoom. We have also added dockets, so parties have extra opportunities to receive prompt rulings. I have resolved over 7,000 cases, including over 700 bench & jury trials, since taking the bench in late April 2019, and will continue working hard to hear cases in a timely manner.

**IMPARTIALITY:** I will continue to apply the law fairly, impartially, and equitably, as written, without regard to any other factor. It is imperative that the public maintain the highest trust and confidence in the judiciary. I was honored to receive the highest overall rating on the 2019 Houston Bar Association Judicial Poll for the Civil County Court at Law judges, and the highest mark for impartiality.

**INTERESTS:**

**What interests or hobbies do you have in or outside of your career?**

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

**What do you do to ensure that attorneys and litigants do not abuse the discovery process?**

**What training, experience, and background make you the best qualified candidate for this office?**

Occupation: Judge, Harris County Civil Court at Law No. 4 | Education: Spelman College, BA in English • University of Texas School of Law, JD | Email: info@judgegenesis.com | Website: http://www.judgegenesis.com | Address: PO Box 4157 Houston, TX 77210 | Phone: (713) 489-5075

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/judgegenesis | Twitter: twitter.com/judgegenesis

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[Bill Harmon (R)]

**INDIGENT REPRESENTATION:** I have always had a very liberal position in favor of appointing counsel for indigent defendants because the lawyers I appointed were much more qualified and much more competent than most defense lawyers. The lawyers I appointed had much more trial experience than the lawyers in the public defenders office. Appointed attorneys took more interest because the client might refer them business.

**ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION:** For almost every first offender whom I assess as someone highly unlikely to reoffend, then probation without jail time is appropriate. It is sometimes appropriate for a second offender, if I assess that they will take advantage of being given a second chance. There are certain facts of offenses for which a jail sentence is the only appropriate punishment.

**SYSTEMIC ISSUES:** Justice has to be blind. Persons of different skin colors should not get different kinds of justice. The scales of justice require equal treatment of persons. Persons across the spectrum of socioeconomic backgrounds should be treated equally.


Occupation: Attorney | Education: Washington & Lee University 1974 • St Mary's Law School 1976 | Email: harmonblly@yahoo.com

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[Darrell William Jordan Jr. (D)]

**UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY WITH THE TEXAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD**

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[LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND | NOVEMBER 3, 2020 VOTERS GUIDE | WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG]
COUNTY ATTORNEY
REPRESENTS STATE, COUNTY, FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT, THEIR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES IN ALL CIVIL MATTERS IN COURT. PROVIDES LEGAL ADVICE TO ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS REGARDING THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES. OPERATES LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM TO PROTECT CONSUMERS, PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT. PROVIDES REVENUE ENFORCEMENT SERVICES. 4-YEAR TERM.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

JOHN NATION (R)

BACKGROUND: I am running for Harris County Attorney because I put others first, personally and professionally, and I know that this office will facilitate that standard. I am a father to two wonderful girls, a Harris County resident, and a patriot. The next few years, due to COVID-19 and economic changes, will require extreme diligence. I am looking forward to helping improve life for all of Harris County.

PRIORITIES: Focus on the rights and protections of all Harris County residents. Commit to the foundational changes that focus on the citizens, infrastructure, budget, and enforcement policies. Address the continuing legal challenges of the changing economy and infrastructure.

ACCOUNTABILITY: I will adhere to existing policies, enforce pending cases, and push for a citizens’ first policy that also allows a cooperative stance with the existing framework. Personally, as a father, I have a core belief in the safety and protection of all children. I will tirelessly enforce the rights of Harris County children by representing the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

ELECTIONS: If elected, I will utilize all tools and work with all appropriate agencies to prevent voter fraud and corruption.

Occupation: Attorney, General Counsel | Education: Texas A&M University - Texas Wesleyan University School of Law | Email: info@nation2020.com | Website: http://www.nation2020.com | Phone: (832) 663-2244

CHRISTIAN DASHAUN MENEFEE (D)

BACKGROUND: I’m running for Harris County Attorney because I put others to work for everyday people. I am an effective and relentless legal advocate. In my business litigation practice, I have worked on complex cases in an array of practice areas. I also have experience fighting for those who need it the most, including providing pro bono legal advice to veterans and domestic abuse victims.

PRIORITIES: Protecting voter rights and access - I will work to ensure that every eligible voter has a meaningful opportunity to participate in our democracy. Justice reform - The office will fight against systemic racism and inequity in our county’s institutions of justice. Protecting local control - I will fight back against state government leaders in Austin who seek to undermine local control.

ACCOUNTABILITY: I will devote more resources to scrutinizing serial environmental wrongdoers. I will also ensure our laws are enforced equitably throughout the county. Your zip code should not dictate whether you have clean air or water. I will also devote more resources to fighting against fraudulent and other deceptive businesses that prey on our most vulnerable populations.

ELECTIONS: I will commit a full time attorney to serve as general counsel to the Harris County Elections Administrator, and ensure my office is kept apprised of election law/voter protection issues as they arise. We will be thoughtful in our approach to interpreting election law, and ensure the law is never misused to disenfranchise voters or keep them from having the resources they need to cast their ballot.

Occupation: Attorney | Education: B.B.A., University of Texas at San Antonio • J.D., Washington University St. Louis School of Law | Email: christian@menefeeforhc.com | Website: http://www.menefeforhc.com | Address: PO BOX 53823 Houston, TX 77092
Phone: (832) 752-0258 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/MenefeeForHC | Twitter: twitter.com/MenefeeForHC

COUNTY CLERK
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. 4-YEAR TERM.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

STAN STANART (R)

ELECTION OPERATIONS: We must return to competent and experienced elections officials. Every election has had significant issues since the Democrats have run elections. Under the Democrat County Clerks, many election laws have been ignored and in the March election, some voters waited over 6 hours to cast their vote until 1:30AM the next day. End long lines! End long waits! Your vote matters! Return to competence!

DATA SECURITY: I am an expert in technology and currently work in IT Security. As the County Clerk 2011-2018, I moved the office from main frames to state of the art technology. I created online document viewing, implemented electronic filing in the courts, created a signature verification system that saves taxpayers $100,000 every major election and I designed and created the Pollbook iPads used in elections.

EXPERIENCE: Having served as the twice elected Harris County Clerk from 2011-2018, I know how to serve the public and give them the technology and personal service they deserve. I want to return competent leadership to this office and not make it a stepping stone to another office.

Occupation: Harris County Clerk 2011-2018 | Education: B.S. Electronics Engineering, Oklahoma State University • Certified Elections Registrar Administrator | Email: stan@usapro.net | Website: http://www.stanstanart.com
Phone: (281) 606-5611 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ClerkStanStanart | Twitter: twitter.com/StanStanart

TENESHIA HUDSPETH (D)

ELECTION OPERATIONS: Under the current system, the County Clerk and County Tax Assessor non-election staff carry out many election related responsibilities during the conduct of elections. This important aspect of the relationship between the offices needs to be clearly defined, to ensure the success of the transition and sustainability of the Elections Administrative Office.

DATA SECURITY: As an administrator, at regular intervals, you have to put systems in place to ensure the security of the records you maintain. I will make sure that County Clerk documents that are subject to public inspection will not contain sensitive information by strengthening our data security technology, training, and procedures.

EXPERIENCE: I have served in the Harris County Clerk’s Office for 15 years under four administrations and have held a variety of positions that have given me the tools and knowledge necessary to serve the constituents of Harris County well.

Occupation: Chief Deputy of Harris County Clerk’s Office | Education: Bachelor of Arts in Communications (Concentration in Journalism), Texas Southern University School of Communications | Email: info@teneshiaforcountyclerk.com
Website: http://www.teneshiadudspeth.com | Address: 1302 Waugh Drive, 279 Houston, TX 77019 | Phone: (713) 714-6582 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/TeneshaforHC | Twitter: twitter.com/teneshaforhc

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND | NOVEMBER 3, 2020 VOTERS GUIDE | WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG
PRINCIPAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FOR HARRIS COUNTY. MAINTAINS CUSTODY OF PERSONS COMMITTED TO JAIL AND SUPERVISES JAIL SYSTEM. FURNISHES COURT BAILIFFS AND WARRANT OFFICERS, DETECTIVE AND INVESTIGATION SERVICES AND, IN UNINCORPORATED AREAS, PATROL OFFICERS. PROVIDES ON-SITE LIAISON AT THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT. 4-YEAR TERM.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

[Community Engagement] What community outreach and officer training programs will you use to strengthen the relationship between the Sheriff’s Department and the community?

[Use of Force Policy] What policies and practices can be instituted to improve situational safety of officers, victims, suspects, and bystanders?

[Inmate Health and Safety] What is the role of the Sheriff in keeping the jail population safe, especially during natural disasters and public health emergencies? How will you accomplish this goal?

[Experience] What training, experience, and background make you the best qualified candidate for this office?

JOE DANNA (R)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: We will create a Civilian Advisory Board that will meet every month to help provide effective police services that are available from the Sheriff’s Office to the general public. This will keep the lines of communications transparent between the Office and the community we serve. Our Regional Division will schedule meetings with various groups such as Juveniles & senior citizens for LE assistance.

USE OF FORCE POLICY: The use of force policy outlining the basic response to resistance will always include the amount of force used will be equal to the amount of force used against the officers. Any excessive force refers to force in excess of what a police officer reasonably believes is necessary. Officers will de-escalate with verbal warnings and exhaust all other options before using deadly force.

INMATE HEALTH AND SAFETY: One major responsibility of the Sheriff is the health and welfare of the inmates. During all public health emergencies, including but not limited to the current COVID-19 Pandemic, will be handled with effective organization. The employees will follow guidelines that are recommended by Health Organizations such as CDC. This will minimize risks from contamination of both employees and inmates.

EXPERIENCE: I worked nearly 2 decades with the Harris County Constables Office in every division. I partnered with law enforcement agencies such as HPD, Sheriff’s Office, County, State and Federal Agents investigating auto thefts, credit card abuse and many more areas of LE.

Occupation: Law Enforcement | Education: Sam Houston High School / 1970 • Houston Community College / 1976 • Northeast College Police Academy / 1994 | Email: joes@dannasheriff.com | Website: http://www.dannasheriff.com | Address: P.O. Box 924033 Houston, TX 77259 | Phone: (713) 452-1986 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/dannasheriff | Twitter: twitter.com/dannasheriff

ED GONZALEZ (D)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: At the sheriff’s office, we bring together many groups. One example is Project Hope, a partnership with my Brother’s Keeper to offer wrap-around services including counseling, food and rent assistance to children of incarcerated parents. Another example is our CORE program, using technology to connect deputies to mental health professionals at the scene to find alternatives for those in crisis.

USE OF FORCE POLICY: I strongly support evidence-based programs that help lift all communities and create more harm-reduction opportunities. We prohibit chokeholds, but we’re making it even more clear in policy. We’ve implemented a Duty to Report policy. We’re increasing audits of our body cameras and taser use. We must continue to build a more effective, equitable and thoughtful approach to law enforcement.

INMATE HEALTH AND SAFETY: We must remember the majority of inmates are waiting for trial, yet to be convicted of anything. I was one of the first law enforcement officials to sound the alarm on COVID-19. I fought for compassionate release of medically vulnerable, non-violent inmates deemed not to pose a threat to the community. I also brought the jail into compliance with the Texas Commission on Jail Standards.

EXPERIENCE: As the current Sheriff, I’m battle-tested: leading through the pandemic, Hurricane Harvey, and other disasters; reforming our criminal justice system; cleaning up the jail; bringing 60 law enforcement agencies together to reduce traffic deaths; and saving tax dollars.

Occupation: Harris County Sheriff | Education: University of Houston Downtown, Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice • University of St. Thomas, Master in Liberal Arts / International Studies | Email: Info@EdGonzalez.com | Website: http://www.EdGonzalez.com
Address: P. O. Box 96386 Houston, TX 77256 | Phone: (832) 534-3847 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/edgonzalezhouston | Twitter: twitter.com/SheriffEd_HCSO

CHRIS DANIEL (R)

PRIORITIES: The biggest challenge is recovering from shutdown of the office due to COVID-19. The employees are limited in hours & most are restricted from even working remotely, creating a massive backlog at the office: mail unopened for months, tax & auto filings unprocessed or mis-processed with resulting over-payments & refunds (10x record amount). We will use technology & temps to catch up the office.

AD VALOREM TAXES: YES. The staff are overwhelmed and limited in access & hours to do their job. That stops day one. Additionally many taxpayers have been laid off or jobless. The public needs better open access to options on How To Pay, & senior citizens for LE assistance.

VOTER REGISTRATION: The office must successfully coordinate with County IT & Clerk to ensure the complete & accurate transfer of voter roles & precinct boundaries to the Elections Administrator, should Commissioners Court go through with stripping Voter Registrar functions from the Tax Office. An audit of the rolls must be done to ensure completeness. Success means EA able to perform the duties seamlessly.

EXPERIENCE: As an engineer, a lawyer, a former project manager, plus immediate past CEO of the largest judicial system in Texas, I am in the best position to clean up & straighten out the Tax Office, much like I did as District Clerk: with technology, good management, & sound budgeting

Occupation: Attorney and Engineer | Education: B.S.M.E. University of Texas at Austin (mechanical engineering); J.D. South Texas College of Law | Email: Chrisdanielcampaign@gmail.com | Website: http://www.chrisdaniel.org
Address: 1. E. Greenway Plaza Houston, TX 77046 | Phone: (281) 652-8710 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/daniel4tax | Twitter: twitter.com/daniel4tax

ANN HARRIS BENNETT (D)

PRIORITIES: The biggest challenge we are facing right now is COVID-19. The office is unable to operate at 100% and that is causing major adjustments. We have shifted most of our operations online and we have increased our community outreach to printed materials and online so we can serve the public. We are open by appointment & have put in place a call center to continue processing.

AD VALOREM TAXES: We have not experienced any problems yet, but we do anticipate some residents needing more assistance than before. My office will continue to offer payment plans so that our residents will not have to pay penalties & fees. We will also offer workshops so that we can walk them through the payment plan process. Hempstead exemptions and more.

VOTER REGISTRATION: My office will coordinate with the Election Administrator on the transfer of the voter roll and will ensure he/she has everything needed to execute voter registration.

EXPERIENCE: I am a member of TAC and sit on legislative committees relative to Property Tax, Department of Motor Vehicles and Voter Registration. I have completed and exceeded the required hours of education and certification required in property tax, voter registration and auto.

Occupation: Tax Assessor-Collector and Voter Registrar | Education: Texas Southern University’s School of Journalism and Sam Houston State University School of Court Administration | Email: info@electannharristobennett.com
Website: http://www.electannharristobennett.com | Address: 4900 Woodway Drive #1040 Houston, TX 77056 | Phone: (713) 224-6774 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/AnnHarrisBennett

COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

COLLECTS PROPERTY TAXES, THE HOTEL-MOTEL TAX, AND CONTRACTS WITH OTHER TAXING JURISDICTIONS TO COLLECT THEIR TAXES. ISSUES MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSES AND TITLES. VOTER REGISTRAR FOR THE COUNTY. 4-YEAR TERM.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

[ Priorities] What are the biggest challenges facing the Tax-Assessor Collector’s Office? How will you address these challenges?

[Ad Valorem Taxes] Do you anticipate any problems with the collection of ad valorem property taxes due to the COVID-19 pandemic? How will you address these issues?

[Voter Registration] Voter registration and the maintenance of the list of registered voters will likely soon become the responsibility of an independent Office of the Harris County Elections Administrator. What must be done to facilitate the efficient transfer of these responsibilities and what benchmarks would signal a successful transition to the new system?

[Experience] What training, experience, and background make you the best qualified candidate for this office?

CHRIS DANIEL (R)

PRIORITIES: The biggest challenge is recovering from shutdown of the office due to COVID-19. The employees are limited in hours & most are restricted from even working remotely, creating a massive backlog at the office: mail unopened for months, tax & auto filings unprocessed or mis-processed with resulting over-payments & refunds (10x record amount). We will use technology & temps to catch up the office.

AD VALOREM TAXES: YES. The staff are overwhelmed and limited in access & hours to do their job. That stops day one. Additionally many taxpayers have been laid off or jobless. The public needs better open access to options on How To Pay, setting up Payment Plans, etc. & more transparent access to Tax Sales of their homes. I would work with commissioners court to create strong home-retention/technology, good management, & sound budgeting

VOTER REGISTRATION: The office must successfully coordinate with County IT & Clerk to ensure the complete & accurate transfer of voter roles & precinct boundaries to the Elections Administrator, should Commissioners Court go through with stripping Voter Registrar functions from the Tax Office. An audit of the rolls must be done to ensure completeness. Success means EA able to perform the duties seamlessly.

EXPERIENCE: As a member of TAC and current member of legislative committees relative to Property Tax, Department of Motor Vehicles and Voter Registration. I have completed and exceeded the required hours of education and certification required in property tax, voter registration and auto.

Occupation: Attorney and Engineer | Education: B.S.M.E. University of Texas at Austin (mechanical engineering); J.D. South Texas College of Law | Email: Chrisdanielcampaign@gmail.com | Website: http://www.chrisdaniel.org
Address: 1. E. Greenway Plaza Houston, TX 77046 | Phone: (281) 652-8710 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/daniel4tax | Twitter: twitter.com/daniel4tax

ANN HARRIS BENNETT (D)

PRIORITIES: The biggest challenge we are facing right now is COVID-19. The office is unable to operate at 100% and that is causing major adjustments. We have shifted most of our operations online and we have increased our community outreach to printed materials and online so we can serve the public. We are open by appointment & have put in place a call center to continue processing.

AD VALOREM TAXES: We have not experienced any problems yet, but we do anticipate some residents needing more assistance than before. My office will continue to offer payment plans so that our residents will not have to pay penalties & fees. We will also offer workshops so that we can walk them through the payment plan process. Hempstead exemptions and more.

VOTER REGISTRATION: My office will coordinate with the Election Administrator on the transfer of the voter roll and will ensure he/she has everything needed to execute voter registration.

EXPERIENCE: I am a member of TAC and sit on legislative committees relative to Property Tax, Department of Motor Vehicles and Voter Registration. I have completed and exceeded the required hours of education and certification required in property tax, voter registration and auto.
COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

VOTER REGISTRATION: The key to this new system is making the new Office truly independent and non-partisan. It should be staffed based upon aptitude, not political party. Databases should be checked against other sources to identify possible inaccuracies, but the Administrator must protect due process rights without fear of political reprisal. Voters’ rights must be protected and the Right to Vote treated as sacred.

EXPERIENCE: My experience in business, revenue forecasting, budget administration, & complex project management, and my prior military service means that I have the skill sets required for this Office but without political baggage, or misplaced loyalty to Red or Blue partisan arguments.

DON SUMNERS (R) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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: [Services] What are the three (3) most important services provided by the Harris County Department of Education?
[COVID-19 Response] How can the Harris County Department of Education assist local ISD’s working to develop new instructional models for K-12 students, including special education students, during COVID-19?
[Experience] What training, experience, and background make you the best qualified candidate for this office?

BOB WOLFE (R) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

MEMBER OF COMMISSIONERS COURT: CONTROLS COURTHOUSES AND JAILS; APPOINTS/EMPLOYS PERSONNEL, DETERMINES COUNTY TAX RATES, ADOPTS BUDGET, CALLS BOND ELECTIONS, SETS VOTING PRECINCT BOUNDARIES, LETS CONTRACTS, AND BUILDS/Maintains ROADS, BRIDGES, LIBRARIES AND PARKS. WITHIN OWN PRECINCT DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND PARKS, ROAD AND BRIDGE PROGRAMS. 4-YEAR TERM.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES: [Funding] How will you address any budgetary issues caused by recent natural disasters and the COVID-19 public health emergency? What steps must be taken to ensure that there is adequate funding to meet the costs of both basic services and long-term financial obligations?
[Priorities] What are the three (3) most important issues affecting the residents of your precinct?
How will you address them?

RODNEY ELLIS (D) | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 7

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 5

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 9

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RACE CONTINUED PAGE 42
MUNICIPAL COURT

JUDGES ARE ELECTED TO A FOUR-YEAR TERM.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 1, PLACE 1
COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Funding: How will you address any budgetary issues caused by recent natural disasters and the COVID-19 public health emergency? What steps must be taken to ensure that there is adequate funding to meet the costs of both basic services and long-term financial obligations?

Priorities: What are the three (3) most important issues affecting the residents of your precinct? How will you address them?

Mental Health Services: What will you do to improve access to affordable mental health services throughout the county so that incarceration is not the default used in lieu of appropriate mental health treatment?

Experience: What training, experience, and background make you the best qualified candidate for this office?

Michael Moore (D)

Funding: I do not support raising taxes. I have proposed merging the city and county health departments to improve health outcomes and make our tax dollars go further. We will need to call for another flood bond in the future to fund green infrastructure for flood mitigation. I support saving the Katy Prairie to hold back floodwater. We must also do a better job working with partners on regional solutions.

Priorities: COVID-19 tops the list. I’ll make data-driven decisions free from politics, focused on keeping people safe at school, work, and in senior care facilities. Flooding is huge. I’ll prioritize basics like maintaining ditches, speeding up flood control projects, and push long-term efforts like green infrastructure. I will also focus on jobs, working to repair our economy and spur a quick recovery.

Juristice of the Peace, Precinct 5 Place 1.

Jerry Wayne Dugat (R)

Background: Over 20 years in Retail specializing in employee and customer relations. 18 years working with City, County, State and Educational maintenance, construction and transportation divisions solving and meeting demanding daily requirements. Over 10 years either as President or Board Member of W.T.C.I.A., working with and mediating homeowner issues as they relate to the community and their family.

Court Operations: I would work toward finding new ways to help people understand the judicial system as it applies to the Justice Courts. The Courts need leaders not just people who pop in every once in a while to make a couple of rulings that couldn’t be settled outside of Court and to push off everything else on the staff to handle themselves. I would work towards achieving more solidarity between the Judges.

Evictions: The Justice Courts represent both sides of this problem. Just because a corporation or individual is a landlord doesn’t mean they don’t have obligations and an endless supply of money nor does it mean that a tenant is a bad tenant just because he is caught in this pandemic. Each case will have to be judged on its merit and every possible avenue examined before a decision of eviction is made.

ERIC WILLIAM CARTER (D)

Background: I’ve chosen a life of service to my fellow citizen. I have a legal education, 15 years of attorney experience, and 4 years of experience as your current JP. Service and commitment to our community are my priorities. I am fluent in Spanish. In just my 1st term, I was honored to be elected as Presiding Judge of all Harris County Justice Courts, by bipartisan judges across our county.

Court Operations: Measures can be taken to reduce the time litigants and police officers spend in the Courthouse. I intend to continue exploring new processes to expeditiously hear cases, reduce the amount of time that litigants spend waiting for their case to be heard, to lessen the impact of court proceedings on the lives of our citizens. I will also continue growing Carter’s Teen Court program for our area youth.

Evictions: A Justice of the Peace presides over the Justice Court, which hears a wide variety of cases, including but not limited to: Small Claims (civil cases with amounts in dispute of $10,000 or less), traffic offenses, minor criminal matters (Class C Misdemeanors), and evictions. All Justice Courts of Texas are courts of original jurisdiction as it relates to forcible entry and detainer (eviction) cases.

Joe Stephens (D)

Background: My judicial experience is both wide & deep as a fair, attentive and compassionate public servant. Over 1 million cases processed efficiently. Move 5500+ cases per month. Civil case filings are the largest in Texas. Currently serving on the Texas Judicial Committee on Information Technology. Innovate technical solutions to a well-trained staff.

Court Operations: JP courts must be readily available to the large & varied issues for the largest precinct in Texas: (1) Largest single issue this year is doubling civil jurisdiction to $20,000 in September which will shift cases that otherwise would be filed in higher courts. (2) My judicial management experience is critical and would overwhelm any less experienced administrator. This court is already efficient.

Evictions: Cases continue to be filed. Require social distancing & masking. COVID-19 has forced reduced docket size to 18% of capacity. Consider each case to determine proper parties, factual updates (payments, moved out), mitigating circumstances (working, COVID-19 issues), substantial flexibility, extensions or resets, hearings by phone. Listen & show compassion, but uphold law. Provide helpful handouts.

Jo Ann Delgado (D) | Running Unopposed

Lincoln Goodwin (R) | Running Unopposed

Russ Ridgway (R)

Background: My judicial experience is both wide & deep as a fair, attentive and compassionate public servant. Over 1 million cases processed efficiently. Move 5500+ cases per month. Civil case filings are the largest in Texas. Currently serving on the Texas Judicial Committee on Information Technology. Innovate technical solutions to a well-trained staff.

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Justice of the Peace, Precinct 5 Place 1.

Jerry Dugat | Alvin Jr. College • University of Houston • University of Houston Continuing Education • Email: jerry@dugatlaw.com | Website: http://www.jerrydugatlaw.com | Address: 3403 West T.C. Jester - F15 Houston, Texas 77018 | Phone: (713) 332-8777

Eric William Carter | University of Houston B. Science, Petroleum Engineering Justice Court Training Center and others (over 30 hours per year continuing education) | Email: info@ericwilliamcarter.com | Website: http://www.ericwilliamcarter.com | Address: 4900 Fournace Place, Suite 560 Bellaire, TX 77401 | Phone: (713) 227-0042

Michael Moore | Strategic Communications | Education: University of Texas, Bachelor in Liberal Arts (1968) | Email: Campaign@MooreForCommissioner.com | Website: http://www.MooreForCommissioner.com | Address: P.O. Box 57988 Houston, TX 77237 | Phone: (713) 498-9874 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/MooreForCommissioner

Jo Ann Delgado | MBA, University of Houston | Education: 4900 Fournace Place, Suite 560 Bellaire, TX 77401 | Phone: (713) 227-0042 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/JudgeDelgado

Lincoln Goodwin | MBA, University of Houston | Education: 4900 Fournace Place, Suite 560 Bellaire, TX 77401 | Phone: (713) 227-0042 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/JudgeGoodwin

Russ Ridgway | MBA, University of Houston B. Science, Petroleum Engineering Justice Court Training Center and others (over 30 hours per year continuing education) | Email: rridgway@mid.com | Website: http://www.judgesrus.com | Address: 12335 Kingsride Lane #421 Houston, TX 77024 | Phone: (713) 705-9788 | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/JudgeRidgway

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2, Place 1

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3, Place 1

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4, Place 1

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 5 Place 1


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http://www.facebook.com/MooreForCommissioned | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/MooreForCommissioned
CONSTABLES ARE ONE OF ONLY TWO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS VOTED ON AND ELECTED BY THE PUBLIC. DUTIES INCLUDE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SERVING CRIMINAL AND CIVIL PROCESS, TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT, CRIME PREVENTION, AND ACTING AS BAILIFF TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR JP COURTS. CONSTABLES ARE SWORN PEACE OFFICERS WHO HOLD COUNTYWIDE JURISDICTION. 4-YEAR TERM.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

PRIORITIES: What are the two (2) biggest issues facing your precinct and how will you address them?

[Consumer Protection] What will you do to address the problems of identity theft and consumer fraud?

[Use of Force Policy] What policies and practices can be instituted to improve situational safety of officers, victims, suspects, and bystanders?

[Experience] What training, experience, and background make you the best qualified candidate for this office?

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE,
PRECINCT 5, PLACE 1

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE,
PRECINCT 8, PLACE 1

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE,
PRECINCT 6, PLACE 1

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE,
PRECINCT 7, PLACE 1

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE,
PRECINCT 2

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE,
PRECINCT 1

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE,
PRECINCT 3

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE,
PRECINCT 4

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

[Background] Why are you running for Justice of the Peace? What training, experience, and background make you the best qualified candidate for this office?

[Court Operations] What changes, if any, can be instituted in JP court processes and procedures to make the court more efficient and effective in fulfilling its duties?

[Evictions] As JP, what is your role in adjudicating eviction cases directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

ISRAEL GARCIA (D)

BACKGROUND: I am running for Justice of the Peace because I know the importance of people having their voices heard, the law being followed, treating people with dignity, compassion, respect and having a level playing field for all who find themselves in the Judicial system. I bring the broadest legal experience. My legal skills are demonstrated by a 27-year career practicing in all areas of law.

COURT OPERATIONS: I will strive to make this Court the most efficient JP Court in Harris County. It is essential that this Court have a diverse and well trained staff. Modern courts utilize technology at increasing rates and it is essential that all staff be trained on filing software, database retention, security methods for digital information and that we have the most modern procedures for serving the public.

EVICATIONS: Our Federal and State Government has failed us in this area. With the expiration of the CARES Act, I believe we are about to experience an Eviction Tsunami. I will suspend eviction dockets in this Court on day one. A plan must be developed. This is not only a problem in Harris County, it is a nationwide problem that must be addressed with a National Moratorium. Housing is a human right.

WANDA ADAMS (D)

BACKGROUND: My legal skills are demonstrated by a 27-year career practicing in all areas of law.

COURT OPERATIONS: I will work to repair relationships developed. This is not only a problem in Harris County, it is a nationwide problem that must be addressed with a National Moratorium. Housing is a human right.

CONSUMER PROTECTION: I will suspend eviction dockets in this Court on day one. A plan must be established. This is not only a problem in Harris County, it is a nationwide problem that must be addressed with a National Moratorium. Housing is a human right.

I am running for Justice of the Peace because I know the importance of people having their voices heard, the law being followed, treating people with dignity, compassion, respect and having a level playing field for all who find themselves in the Judicial system. I bring the broadest legal experience. My legal skills are demonstrated by a 27-year career practicing in all areas of law.

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ANDRE HINES (R)

PRIORITIES: 1. Leadership-I will build a diverse command staff of seasoned law enforcement officers ranging from police chiefs to front line officers or deputies who exhibited leadership qualities. I will work to repair relationships with commissioners court and community leaders. 2. Funding/Personnel - Additional funding for personnel, upgraded technology and aspects of Community policing.

CONSUMER PROTECTION: I will locate and engage like-minded strategic partners to help educate the general public, staff, church leadership/members, civic/homeowners associations on the steps needed to slow the perpetrators down. I will dedicate law enforcement personnel to investigate and prosecute these crimes.

USE OF FORCE POLICY: Implementation of body worn cameras. Relational Policing instituted before a crisis. Establishment of relationships with civic associations, faith based communities and elected officials. Internal annual policy reviews and modifications based upon personnel incidents and situations.

EXPERIENCE: 3000+Hours of police in-service training Master Peace Officer Asst. Chief of Police Groveton, Texas Manager at TMMCS, Over 700 Peace Officers Past 2nd VP of Texas State FOP Past Sqt-at-Arms of Texas State FOP Past Secretary of Houston Metro FOP Church Deacon -In Training

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
PRECINCT 6, PLACE 1

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
PRECINCT 7, PLACE 1

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
PRECINCT 1

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
PRECINCT 3

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
PRECINCT 2

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
PRECINCT 4

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
PRECINCT 5, PLACE 1

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
PRECINCT 8, PLACE 1

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

PRIORITIES: What are the two (2) biggest issues facing your precinct and how will you address them?

[Consumer Protection] What will you do to address the problems of identity theft and consumer fraud?

[Use of Force Policy] What policies and practices can be instituted to improve situational safety of officers, victims, suspects, and bystanders?

[Experience] What training, experience, and background make you the best qualified candidate for this office?

VICTOR TREVINO III (D) | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

HOLLY WILLIAMSON (R) | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

DANIEL VELA (R)

PRIORITIES: Community Orientation and Burglary Build community relationships within the neighborhoods and increase manpower to meet the demands of the Precinct 2 area to be able to patrol and give the communities there the sense of security that they expect.

CONSUMER PROTECTION: Have fraud classes to teach people what to look for and how to protect yourself. Resources are available to help people fight fraud and keep them aware of cyber crime.

JERRY GARCIA (D)

PRIORITIES: The two biggest issues in Precinct 2 are poor patrol visibility and a greater number of homelessness encampments. We will proactively fight crime through intelligence-led policing, additional visible patrol, and high community engagement. Homelessness is a national crisis we will address through intelligence-led policing, additional visible patrol, and high community engagement.

CONSUMER PROTECTION: Identity theft and consumer fraud are major issues affecting individuals and businesses in Precinct 2. My office will work hard in hand with local, state, and federal agencies to address these matters through preventative measures such as citizen engagement and educational campaigns concerning identity theft and consumer fraud and proactively pursuing criminals.

USE OF FORCE POLICY: Recognizing that there is currently a gap that must be bridged between law enforcement and the community is fundamental in order to promote situational safety of officers, victims, suspects, and bystanders. Establishing policies that will aid in bridging this gap will be a high priority in my office. Transparency and accountability will be a significant aspect in safeguarding the public trust.

EXPERIENCE: As a police officer for over 21 years, I have received invaluable experience. I have served 10 years in patrol and have held leadership roles in the Harris County Constable’s Office Precinct 2 and 3 Civil Divisions, as a Sergeant and presently serving as a Lieutenant.

WANDA ADAMS (D) | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

ALAN ROSEN (D) | RUNNING UNOPPOSED

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND | NOVEMBER 3, 2020 VOTERS GUIDE | WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG

RACE CONTINUED PAGE 44
PRIORITY 1: Environmental crimes plague Precinct 3 as they do most communities. This is why we created the Environmental Crimes Unit to target unsightly dumping areas and have installed surveillance cameras to catch criminals in the act. After they are identified, the individuals are cited, made to clean up the debris and show proof of proper disposal. Drugs and organized crime is also a big issue we face.

CONSUMER PROTECTION: Education and awareness are the keys to preventing consumer fraud and identity theft. We pass out literature to the community and focus a lot on the most vulnerable members of the community, such as our seniors. We advise members of the community to safeguard their financial as well as their personal information and to be cognizant of suspicious phone calls, emails and all forms of communication.

USE OF FORCE POLICY: Our department is constantly updating our Use of Force policy according to the best practices of the Texas Police Chiefs Association which we earned the status as a Recognized Agency. Our deputies are constantly trained in de-escalation tactics, as well as conflict resolution. We use simulation training to develop controlled responses when deputies are faced with crisis situations.

EXPERIENCE: I have nearly 30 yrs as a licensed peace officer with Precinct 3 and I am the current Constable. I am certified in the following: Master Peace Officer, School Resource Officer, Marine Safety Enforcement Officer, Canine Officer-Drug Enforcement, and Law Enforcement Instructor.

Job Title: Constable, Harris County Precinct 3
Occupation: Master Peace Officer
Education: Master Peace Officer, Certified Crime Prevention Specialist, TX FBINAA Command College, TCOLE Instructor, Primary Leadership Development(U.S Army)
Email: quaddad2004@gmail.com
Address: P.O. Box 218230 Houston, TX 77218
Website: http://www.facebook.com/MarkAHarrison20
Twitter: twitter.com/MarkAHarrison20

**MARK HERMAN (R) | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED**

**JEFF MCGOWEN (D)**

PRIORITY 1: Community Engagement in Precinct 4: The precinct will be more engaged with the community and properly trained in education and prevention.

Property Crime: As violent crime is decreasing, personal and property crimes are on the rise. Educating the community and deputies on ways to reduce the likelihood of being a victim and also increasing patrols during high incident times of the day and week.

CONSUMER PROTECTION: I truly believe in educating the public and teaching them how to prevent or reduce the likelihood of being a victim of crime. I will insist the deputies assigned to the communities in Pct. 4 are properly trained in crime prevention and community engagement. I will also use data to locate high crime areas and focus on those high incident areas with crime prevention teams to prevent ID theft/fraud.

USE OF FORCE POLICY: The safety of the officer, community victims and suspects are my number one priority. I will review all policies that are in place at the Constable's Office. Use of force is an important policy to review first. I will ensure the policy is within current federal guidelines and ensure de-escalation training is the rule rather than the exception. Also implementing community engagement strategies.

EXPERIENCE: Over 27 years of law enforcement experience, I dedicated my career to engaging, bridging the gap and educating the community as a Certified Crime Prevention Spec. Witnessing the climate today, I am well suited to lead a 21st century law enforcement agency in a new direction.

Job Title: Master Peace Officer
Education: Master Peace Officer, Certified Crime Prevention Specialist, TX FBINAA Command College, TCOLE Instructor, Primary Leadership Development(U.S Army)
Email: quaddad2004@gmail.com
Address: P.O. Box 218230 Houston, TX 77218
Website: http://www.facebook.com/KeepConstableTedHeapPCT5
Twitter: twitter.com/ConstableHeap

**MARK ALAN HARRISON (D)**

PRIORITY 1: The Precinct 5 Constable's Office is not serving the entire community, the Office under my leadership will no longer be used for law enforcement to the highest bidder. 2. The current Precinct 5 Constable's Office command staff does not reflect the community that it serves. Precinct 5 is the fastest growing and most diverse precinct in Harris County, and representation is important to me.

CONSUMER PROTECTION: The most effective weapon we have to combat identity theft and consumer fraud is education. Educational seminars, community outreach programs, and informational fliers are a few examples on how I plan to address these issues. Pct. 5 will be diligent in the prosecution and investigation of anyone victimizing our community, as well as available at all times at Police Stations.

USE OF FORCE POLICY: My office is engaged in helping to lead a joint examination of “use of force” policies used by all Harris County law enforcement agencies -- the eight constables and the Sheriff’s Department. For transparency’s sake, these policies must be uniform, match existing laws and reflect the reality of risks encountered by officers, possible suspects and the public.

EXPERIENCE: I have 36 years continuous law enforcement service, a Texas Master Peace Officer License held since 2002 and have worked in every rank and position in a constable’s office. I have led one of the largest constable’s offices in the U.S. for four years.

Job Title: Constable
Education: Master of Pastoral Studies; University of St. Thomas
Email: info@markalanharrison2020.com
Address: P.O. Box 218230 Houston, TX 77218
Website: http://www.facebook.com/KeepConstableTedHeapPCT5
Twitter: twitter.com/ConstableHeap

**SILVIA TREVINO (D) | RUNNING UNOPPOSED**

**PHIL SANDLIN (R) | RUNNING UNOPPOSED**

**MAY WALKER (D) | RUNNING UNOPPOSED**

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

Go to www.LWVHouston.org for links to voting locations

- Last day to register to vote: Monday, October 5, 2020
- Last day to request a Ballot-by-Mail: Received no later than Friday, October 23 2020
- Early Voting: Tuesday, October 13 – Friday, October 30, 2020
- October 13 - 17: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  October 18: 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- October 19 - 24: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  October 25: 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- October 26: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  October 27-29: 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- October 30: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- 24 hour Early Voting - October 29 – 7:00 a.m. through October 30 – 7:00 p.m. (at limited locations)
- Election Day: Tuesday, November 3, 2020: 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.