



# VOTER'S GUIDE 2012

★ The Kerrville Daily Times • Monday, April 30, 2012 ★

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# VOTER'S GUIDE

The Kerrville Daily Times • Monday, April 30, 2012

Dear voters,

Thanks to a long delay in the state's redistricting efforts, many Texans will be headed to the polls twice in the next month.

Local and area races that will be decided in May include municipal elections in Kerrville, school board races in Ingram and Kerrville and countywide and district races from local constables to U.S. Congress and Senate representatives.

Early voting begins today and lasts for two weeks for city and school board races. Election day is May 12.

Early voting for the party primary elections begins two days later on May 14 and lasts another two weeks. The primary election will be on May 29.

Before the month is over, everyone in Kerr County will be able to vote in at least one election and some will be voting in all three.

To help voters make more informed decisions, we posed questions to each of the candidates and asked them to respond to us in writing. Those questions, along with the candidates' answers, are included in this voters guide.

We've also included information about where and when to vote in each of the upcoming elections.

More information, including sample ballots and news stories about these campaigns, also is available online at [www.dailytimes.com/election](http://www.dailytimes.com/election).

Voters should bookmark this website, because it is where we will post election results on May 12 and May 29.

We hope you find the information in this guide helpful along with our coverage of the various forums and debates and interviews with candidates.

We appreciate your readership!

The Kerrville Daily  
Times Editorial Board

## WHEN TO VOTE:

April 30 - May 8 Early voting for city and school elections  
April 30 - Last day to register to vote in primary election  
May 4 - Last day to apply for a ballot by mail for city and school elections  
May 12 - City and school board election day  
May 14 - May 25 Early voting for countywide primary election  
May 22 - Last day to apply for ballot by mail for countywide primary election  
May 29 - Countywide party primary election day

## WHERE TO VOTE:

### City of Kerrville and Kerrville ISD elections

Kathleen C. Cailloux City Center for the Performing Arts, 910 Main St.

### Ingram ISD

Kerr County Courthouse Annex, 3350 Highway 27, Ingram

### County, state and federal

#### Early voting:

Kerr County Courthouse Annex, 3350, Highway 27, Ingram  
Kathleen C. Cailloux City Center for the Performing Arts, 910 Main St.

#### May 29 polling places by precinct

101 Southern Oaks Baptist Church, 122 Valley View Road  
107 Thunder Hills Biker Church  
111 Camino Real  
109 Northwest Hills Community Center  
200 Northwest Hills Drive  
113 St. Pauls Methodist Church  
135 Methodist Encampment  
118 River Hills Mall  
200 Sidney Baker South  
119 River Oaks Mall 845A Junction Highway  
202 American Legion Hall Corner  
480 Kelly St. in Center Point  
211 Union Church Building Memorial Boulevard and Travis Street  
215 Hosanna Lutheran Church  
134 Camp Meeting Road  
220 Faith Christian Church  
1205 Sidney Baker South  
303 Calvary Temple Church, 3000 Loop 534 Kerrville  
308 Calvary Temple Church, 12995 Highway 27, Center Point  
312 Zion Lutheran Church, 624 Barnett St.  
314 Cailloux City Center, 910 Main St.  
404 Sunset Baptist Church, 5176 Junction Highway, Mountain Home  
405 Hunt School, Hunt  
155 Hunt School Road, Hunt  
406 Kerr County Courthouse Annex, 3350 Highway 27, Ingram  
410 First Presbyterian Church, 121 Divide School Road, Mountain Home  
416 KOA Community Center, 2400 Goat Creek Road  
417 Western Hill Baptist Church, 2010 Goat Creek Road

## WHO VOTES:

- Anyone can vote in the party primary elections. Texas does not require voters to register by party, so any registered voter can cast a ballot in either the Democratic Party or Republican Party primary on May 29.
- Only registered voters inside the city limits can vote in the Kerrville city election, but all three races are at-large, so residents can vote for all three seats up for election this year. Only the mayor's race is opposed.
- School board seats are elected from single-member district and only residents of those districts can vote in that election; however, many residents who live outside of the city of Kerrville will be able to vote in the Kerrville Independent School District elections. Voters can check their voter registration card to find out which district they live in.

## WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT:

There are several races on the ballot this year from city council seats to party primary nominations for president. There are no referendums or proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot.

# ★ KERRVILLE CITY COUNCIL ELECTION ★

Early voting for Kerrville City Council April 30 - May 8, at The Cailloux Theater. Election day is May 12.

## CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

### David Wampler

- Mayor of Kerrville for one term
- Previously served as council member

#### For information:

Visit [www.facebook.com/pages/David-Wampler-For-Mayor/257369174350525](http://www.facebook.com/pages/David-Wampler-For-Mayor/257369174350525)



### Jack Pratt

- Management consultant
- Currently serving on the Headwaters Groundwater Conservation Board

#### For information:

[www.jackpratt.net](http://www.jackpratt.net)

### Q: Some residents have been opposed to projects such as the river trail and new city hall. What is your position on these projects and how do you respond to criticism of them?

**WAMPLER:** The Kerrville Comprehensive Master Plan identifies the river as a focal point of our community. Improved parks and enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities are components of quality of life considerations that include exemplary schools, access to quality health-care, state of the art emergency services and a vibrant community arts and cultural scene. These are a few things that bind a community together and help it to prosper over the long term.

I support the construction of the new city hall for many reasons, not least of which is that it achieves the facilities requirements of municipal government for decades to come at a cost to taxpayers that would not be possible elsewhere.

**PRATT:** While on the Kerrville Economic Improvement Corporation (EIC) Board, I stated the river trail was conceptually a good idea. However, the river trail was not an economic development project that generated revenues, through new jobs or tourism, providing funds necessary to offset the projected \$7.5 million tax burden upon taxpayers.

### Q: It has been said that there is inadequate space for conventions in Kerrville but that groups would come here if there was space. Do you agree with this assessment and, if so, how can the city help address this?

**WAMPLER:** Kerrville has long been in the convention and meeting business. Each year, approximately 70,000 visitors come to Kerrville to attend an organized meeting or convention. The Hill Country is a natural attraction and Kerrville is uniquely positioned in this area to provide services to convention and meeting visitors. We should continue to explore ways to add to our existing visitor base and to increase our meeting and convention business.

**PRATT:** The Inn of the Hills has approximately 20,000 square feet of meeting space and another 11,000 square feet at the YO. The utilization of available space is about 50 percent. Based on these figures, the market is not there to justify a new facility at taxpayer expense. We should help them fill up the remaining 50 percent.

### Q: City Hall was criticized after the council initially declined to support a veterans's housing project at the VA Medical Center. What is your position regarding this proposed facility and do you believe the council's response was appropriate?

**WAMPLER:** Veterans deserve the respect and appreciation of every citizen. They certainly have mine. The city council asked a set of business-like questions to the developer in question. The developer was unable to provide credible answers about his project. Initially, the developer was unable to answer the central question; "Will this project provide housing for veterans only?" Ultimately, because of the approach taken by the council, the developer agreed to acknowledge the council's concerns, including the question of veteran's housing and the project was approved unanimously. Now, it is time for the developer to deliver on his promises to veterans and to the taxpayers.

**PRATT:** The Veterans are an important component of our community. Our history of working together with the VA goes back to 1947 and prior to that with the state hospital. Kerrville and the surrounding area have been home to thousands of veterans from WWII, Vietnam, Gulf War and the Iraq and Afghanistan war. The VA Hospital has been a big part of the Kerrville economy and deserves our support to help treat and rehabilitate our wounded warriors and their families.

### Q: Taxes are always a concern for voters especially during a tough economy.

### Do you believe city spending should be cut and, if so, how would you propose reducing the budget?

**WAMPLER:** There are two sides to the ledger: cost and service. Over the past two years, the city council has reduced the city budget by 15 percent while continuing to provide a credible, if not excellent level of service across all departments. A key responsibility of council is to ensure that services are delivered to all tax-payers in the most efficient, cost effective manner possible. I encourage citizens to become involved in the budget process.

**PRATT:** First, I believe that current spending should be re-prioritized. We have a tremendous deficit in infrastructure repairs that have not received the importance that I believe they should, such as streets, water, sewer, etc. In the corporate world, we do zero-based budgeting. The city could adopt this practice to reduce and re-prioritize spending.

## HOW TO VOTE

### Mayor's seat up for grabs in city election

The city of Kerrville's election for two at-large city council positions and mayor's seat will be May 12 at the Kathleen C. Cailloux City Center for the Performing Arts, 910 Main St.

**WHO'S RUNNING:** The two council positions seats are those currently held by T. Scott Gross and Gene Allen. Allen is unopposed in his bid for a second term, and Gross has elected not to run again, and Justin McDonald will run unopposed for that seat. Those running for the mayor's seat are incumbent David Wampler and challenger Jack Pratt. The top vote-getter in that two-man race will hold the office for the next two years.

**EARLY VOTING:** Early voting in this election is from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 30 and May 1, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 2-4 and May 7-8 — at the Kathleen C. Cailloux City Center for the Performing Arts, 910 Main St.

**ELECTION DAY:** Voting on the day of the election — May 12 — also will be at The Cailloux Theater. Voting hours will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**VOTING BY MAIL:** Qualified voters can request an application for early voting by mail by contacting the county voter registrar's office, 700 Main S., Kerrville, TX 78028, or by calling 792-2242. Applications for a ballot to be voted by mail must be received by May 4.

People who are eligible to vote by mail include: Voters of single member districts 1, 3, and 4, who are 65 years old or older, disabled, confined in jail or expected to be absent from the county during the period of early voting by personal appearance (April 30 to May 8), and on election day, May 12.

**FOR INFORMATION:** Contact the Kerrville city secretary, Brenda Craig at 258-1117.

# ★ KERRVILLE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION ★

Early voting for KISD Board of Trustees is April 30 - May 8, at The Cailloux Theater. Election day is May 12.

## HOW TO VOTE

### For 3 seats on the KISD board of trustees

The Kerrville Independent School District's election for trustees in single member district 1, 3 and 4 is set for May 12.

**EARLY VOTING:** Early voting in this election is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 2-4 and May 7-8, at The Kathleen C. Cailloux City Center for the Performing Arts, 910 Main St. There are extended hours on April 30 and May 1, with polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**ELECTION DAY:** Voting on the day of the election — May 12 — also will be at The Cailloux Theater. Voting hours will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**VOTING BY MAIL:** Qualified voters in these single member districts can request an application for early voting by mail by contacting the county voter registrar's office, 700 Main S., Kerrville, TX 78028, or by calling 792-2242. Applications for a ballot to be voted by mail must be received by May 4.

People who are eligible to vote by mail include: Voters of single member districts 1, 3, and 4, who are 65 years old or older, disabled, confined in jail or expected to be absent from the county during the period of early voting by personal appearance (April 30 to May 8), and on election day, May 12.

#### FOR INFORMATION:

Contact the KISD Board of Trustees election contact Glenda Kelley at 257-2200 ext. 235.

## DISTRICT 3: RAY ORR & TED SCHULENBERG

**Q: Briefly describe why you want to serve on the KISD board of trustees? What has been your personal involvement with education in the community?**

**RAY ORR:** It has been an honor to serve as a KISD School Board Trustee since 2006. I believe the children of this community deserve a quality education so they are better prepared to meet the challenges of the future. Some students will go onto college and others will go into the trades, independent business, military or some other work activity. Regardless of what direction a student goes they will need the basic fundamental knowledge provided by completing high school. The future of our great nation depends on a well educated and motivated population.

**TED SCHULENBERG:** I have taught in the adult education program for six years. When KISD was prepared to abandon it, I spoke at two board meetings to express my misgivings. My efforts failed. I decided that the board needs a different perspective. I am well qualified and prepared to provide it.

**Q: What do you feel is the number one issue facing KISD schools, and how do you propose district officials meet this challenge?**

**RAY ORR:** The number one issue facing KISD is developing a budget strategy. The administration, under the leadership of Dr. Dan Troxell and the KISD Board of Trustees, has taken aggressive steps to analyze various aspects of the total operation of the district. This has enabled the district to modify or eliminate historical practices which resulted in a significant overall cost savings without compromising educational opportunities. For example, through attrition, 35 1/2 positions have been eliminated since 2010 without any adverse impact in the classroom. This analysis is ongoing and will continue to require a cooperative effort and understanding at all levels.

**TED SCHULENBERG:** Too many students fail to appreciate the value of a good education; frequently because the parents have not conveyed it. KISD should work with various community organizations to try to educate parents of preschool children, beginning with toddlers, by putting books and a parental 'User's Manual' in their hands.

**Q: School districts across the state are facing significant cuts in the coming school year and potentially the next biennium. How should the district minimize the impact of those cuts to the classroom while still maintaining its fiscal integrity?**

**RAY ORR:** KISD had to absorb an approximately \$1.6 million budget cut for 2012-13 budget. Based on current legislative decisions, KISD will most likely take another \$2 million cut for 2013-14 budget year. The Administration's proactive approach to this issue includes a study request from Moak, Casey and Associates. The study results will be used to determine what additional areas might be adjusted to save money without impacting the educational process. It is important that teacher to student ratio is consistent with state. However, it is also important that the district maximize available funds so no child is denied a quality educational opportunity.

**TED SCHULENBERG:** Budget problems and cost vs. benefit competition among worth while programs will always be with us. Currently, I can't judge what future cuts might be necessary. But I can promise that as a board member I will listen to the pros and cons of each proposal and make informed, intelligent decisions.

**Q: The KISD administration recently changed Antler Stadium's hours for public use. What are your feelings toward with the recent change? What are some possible solutions to maintaining the stadium's accessibility to the public while still keeping student's safety a priority.**

**RAY ORR:** The decision to change the Antler Stadium hours was based on several factors. The budget does not have the flexibility to have a school employee on duty to supervise after normal school hours. Public users were creating an unsafe environment for both the students and other public users. This occurred on more than one occasion during field team sport practices. Also people were found sleeping on the field and rest rooms were vandalized. Potentially dangerous items such as used syringes were found in the rest rooms. It is a responsibility of the school to provide students with a safe and controlled environment for athletic events.

**TED SCHULENBERG:** The current program was ill advised. Barring conflicts with school activities the stadium should be at least from sunrise until 8 p.m., seven days a week. Additional hours should be encouraged provided users sign a liability waiver and, perhaps, establish a volunteer watch program.



# ★ KERRVILLE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION ★

Early voting for KISD Board of Trustees is April 30 - May 8, at The Cailloux Theater. Election day is May 12.

## DISTRICT 4: VICKI ISOM & GABRIELA BADILLO

**Q: Briefly describe why you want to serve on the KISD board of trustees? What has been your personal involvement with education in the commu-**

**VICKI ISOM:** I am running for the KISD board of trustees because I genuinely care about the education of our children, what they are learning and how it prepares them for their future to be responsible, independent and successful citizens of our great country. I have three grown children who all attended school from kindergarten-12th in KISD. I was an involved parent volunteering my time throughout their school years. I was also a mentor for several years.

**GABRIELA BADILLO:** I have served on PTO boards at four KISD campuses, the KPSF board, and various KISD committees, and I am currently co-teaching at Families & Literacy. Education and community involvement are important to me; I would like to serve and help the district maintain, or improve upon, its recognized status, which is a measurement of academic excellence and student success.

**Q: What do you feel is the No. issue facing KISD schools, and how do you propose district officials meet this challenge?**

**VICKI ISOM:** I have several issues that need some discussion. Having the opportunity and privilege to talk with parents, tax payers, students and teachers, here are some of their concerns. No. 1 too much time being spent on teaching for the TAKS instead of curriculum. No. 2 passing students before they have achieved the curriculum being taught. No. 3 and concerns about what is being taught.

**GABRIELA BADILLO:** I believe budget cuts are the No. 1 issue facing KISD schools today. KISD officials have done an excellent job so far of making the required cuts, primarily through attrition, without affecting the classrooms.

**Q: School districts across the state are facing significant cuts in the coming school year and potentially the next biennium. How should the district minimize the impact of those cuts to the classroom while still maintaining its fiscal integrity?**

**VICKI ISOM:** Encourage more involvement from our parents. Two of my three children have extended their education in the field of education and from what I have learned from them is that many parents are not involved in their child's educational careers. I have a close friend who is a superintendent from another school district and one of the concerns we spoke about was expectations from parents for their child's future. I would like to see parents encourage advancements in their children's gifts and talents.

**GABRIELA BADILLO:** I fully believe KISD administrators will make the necessary cuts once again next year without affecting the classroom directly. Furthermore, while we all hope the legislature does not burden schools with further cuts, KISD should be prepared to review expenses outside the classrooms first before considering any cuts to the classrooms.

**Q: The KISD administration recently changed Antler Stadium's hours for public use. What are your feelings toward the recent change? What are some possible solutions to maintaining the stadium's accessibility to the public while still keeping student safety a priority.**

**VICKI ISOM:** The finding of used needles and human excrement on the field has cause for serious concern. Short of having someone monitoring the stadium at all times I don't personally have another solution other than what is already being implemented.

**GABRIELA BADILLO:** I understand why KISD administration made this decision; however, I would be open to revisiting this issue and allowing for more public access while still maintaining students' safety.

## DISTRICT 1: ANITA RIOS (unopposed)

**Q: Briefly describe why you want to serve on the KISD board of trustees? What has been your personal involvement with education in the community?**

My interest in serving on the KISD Board of Trustees is simple. I want to be part of the decision making process for our children's education. My personal involvement with education in the community was when I taught at St Peter's Episcopal School and Notre Dame Catholic School.

**Q: What do you feel is the No. 1 issue facing KISD schools, and how do you propose district officials meet this challenge?**

In the fall, it can be enrollment and during this time of year it's the budget. In my opinion, I believe any issue that involves our children rate number one. As district officials, we need to keep in mind what is the best interest of the child and minimize that impact.

**Q: School districts across the state are facing significant cuts in the coming school year and potentially the next biennium. How should the district minimize the impact of those cuts to the classroom while still maintaining its fiscal integrity?**

We know that change is difficult, especially when it involves our children's education. To me, this is an opportunity for two vital groups (District Officials and the Community) to come together to evaluate the best interest and minimize the impact in our children's classroom.

**Q: The KISD administration recently changed Antler Stadium's hours for public use. What are your feelings toward the recent change? What are some possible solutions to maintaining the stadium's accessibility to the public while still keeping student safety a priority?**

In the past years, I have been a "stadium walker" and was grateful that the stadium was accessible to me. With the recent change, our children's safety is reflected in the decision and the stadium is still accessible. I see this as a good solution for the community and our children.

# ★ INGRAM SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION ★

Early voting for Ingram Board of Trustees is April 30 - May 8, at the Kerr Courthouse Annex. Election day is May 12.

## HOW TO VOTE

### 3 seats up for grabs on Ingram school board

The Ingram Independent School District's election for three at-large trustee seats is set for May 12 at the Kerr Courthouse Annex, 3350 Junction Highway.

**WHO'S RUNNING:** The two seats include those currently held by Rowan Zachry and David Galloway and an unexpired term vacated by Tamarah Sunday. Those running for the two full-term seats include Vern Stehling, Jack Fairchild, Gretchen Atkinson, Evelyn Miller and Chad Harding. The top two vote-getters in that race will fill the two seats.

Mimi Valverde and Gene Barnet filed for the unexpired term, and the top vote-getter between the two will take the seat.

**EARLY VOTING:** Early voting in this election is from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 30 and May 1, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 2-4 and May 7-8 — at the Kerr Courthouse Annex.

**ELECTION DAY:** Voting on the day of the election — May 12 — also will be at the annex. Voting hours will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the annex.

**VOTING BY MAIL:** Qualified voters can request an application for early voting by mail by contacting the county voter registrar's office, 700 Main S., Kerrville, TX 78028, or by calling 792-2242. Applications for a ballot to be voted by mail must be received by May 4.

People who are eligible to vote by mail include: anyone who is 65 years old or older, disabled, confined in jail or expected to be absent from the county during the period of early voting by personal appearance (April 30 to May 8), and on election day, May 12.

#### FOR INFORMATION:

Contact the Ingram ISD election contact, Debra White at 367-5517.

## WHAT WE ASKED THE CANDIDATES

**Q: Briefly describe why you want to serve on the Ingram ISD board of trustees? What has been your personal involvement with education in the community?**

**Q: What is your opinion on the changes Ingram ISD has undergone in the last three years, including the trimester system, combining the middle and high school administration and the possible night classes.**

**Q: Ingram Tom Moore High School and Ingram Middle School received an academically unacceptable rating at from TEA for the 2010-11 school year. What are some ways you feel the district can improve this academic rating?**

**Q: There seems to be a division growing in the community between the administration and community in Ingram. If elected to the board, how would you suggest bridging the gap between the community and the administration?**

## GENE BARNET & MIMI VALVERDE running to fill 1 unexpired Ingram ISD board seat

### GENE BARNET

1. I have two children that attend Ingram. Starting next year, they will be at in high school. My wife and I also have a 21-year-old son who graduated from Bandera with honors. I know what it's like to be a part of a smaller district. You have to work together.

In the past two years of being part of the Ingram school district, I have heard the heartcry of many parents and faculty. A change needs to be made! As a concerned parent, I want to do my part. I would hate to see the school in my own community fade away, knowing that I didn't do my part.

2. I don't think our school needs to be on a trimester with the testing that is required. The material needs to be fresh in the minds of these young people. It is wrong for a district to cram the education in these children as fast as they can to get ready for all the so-called state-required tests and then make them wait a semester to take the actual test. It's not fair to the students or teachers.

Middle school and high school need to be separate, bottom line. And sixth grade needs to be with middle school.

3. First of all, I don't think that it's fair that because of a few bad test scores from a few students that the district would get that rating. It's almost like someone is trying to make the district fail.

4. Working together and listening! Seeing what resources are available and taking pride in the children again. That's what it's about in the first place.

### MIMI VALVERDE

1. I want to be more involved in my community and the future of the school. I have three children in Ingram ISD and have been involved with the different campuses. I am willing and always available to help wherever needed at the schools.

2. In my opinion, I don't like the trimester. It has caused some problems with my children when it comes to testing. When they have to split their core classes instead of having them back to back, it takes too much time to get them back on track. Teachers have to recap stuff they taught in the first half of the class. As far as night classes, I think we need to work what we have now before we take on more projects. There is the Club Ed center that offers classes and also other places that offer GED classes.

3. I will be open to all ideas that would help stop this situation from getting worse. I just want to do the best I can to provide a better education opportunity for the children in our community.

4. As a community member and a parent, I would like to get the teachers who have left in the past three years to help with a survey on some of the reasons they left. That would be a good information base to use to help keep the teachers we have now from leaving. We could also look into different areas that may bring teachers back. If we get a good system in place, I believe the students who have transferred to other surrounding districts would come back.

# ★ INGRAM SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION ★

Early voting for Ingram Board of Trustees is April 30 - May 8, at the Kerr Courthouse Annex. Election day is May 12.

## 5 CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR 2 AT-LARGE FULL TERMS

### JACK FAIRCHILD

1. I desire to have input into the future – and our future is the children. My motivations for serving are my three children, as well as all children in the school district. I want to see all of them develop, grow, and achieve success, now and in the future.

I attended IISD for 12 years and graduated there. Aside from that, my involvement in community education has been primarily as a concerned parent. I am also married to a school teacher who has spent the last 20 years working within the Ingram district. This gives me the unique opportunity of seeing things through eyes of an Ingram teacher, as well as a parent.

2. I believe the jury is still out on the trimester system at IISD. I understand the potential benefits, but recognize there are problems and concerns needing to be addressed before we can deem it a success or failure. I don't agree with combining the middle and high school administration, although I understand the reasoning. Night classes are a nice thought, but presently, more important issues require our attention.

3. Unfortunately, there were many schools across Texas that dropped in rating when the new rating system was enacted. Like it or not, we must abide by the rules set by the state. We must improve campus culture to help obtain and retain great teachers and then support them as we work towards reclaiming the "Recognized" rating we once had.

4. Transparency will help bridge this gap and begin to develop dialogue and trust between the community and administration. Both parties must be willing to embrace this process in order for the district to move forward and build the type of relationship needed to foster growth and success of our future – the children. What we nurture today will determine what we have tomorrow.

### GRETCHEN ATKINSON

1. I have two small children who will be attending Ingram Elementary in the next couple of years. I feel it is my duty as a parent to be involved in their education. What better way than serving on the Board of Trustees?

2. I feel the administration and faculty have come up with creative solutions to operating Ingram ISD on a very tight budget. Initially, I was opposed to the restructuring of the campuses, but it appears to be working. Night classes could be successful if we can get community support and participation.

3. Teaching to the test is not working. We need to allow our very capable teachers to teach the students the skills they need to succeed in life and in college. Once those skills are in place, the students can and will pass the test, resulting in higher academic ratings.

4. Taxpayers and parents want to make sure their tax dollars are invested wisely in our children's education. I think we should have meetings to discuss what goals the community feels we should have, and I would encourage community members to attend the school board meetings and hold the administration accountable for meeting those goals.

### EVELYN MILLER

1. My involvement with education in the community has been extensive. From 1995 until 2011, I have either taught and/or been a counselor at the high school, middle school, the alternative education school, the elementary school, been a campus test coordinator at two campuses, and taught English as a Second Language to the parents of Ingram ISD. I also taught ESL summer school for Hunt ISD. Therefore, I am very knowledgeable about all of the educational areas served by Ingram ISD. I believe that our school board should include someone with direct educational experience and knowledge.

2. I have taught under the trimester system. It is good for the ambitious students, and it is good for students who fail. The negative side is that students are required to cover too much info in too short a time, and it is a nightmare for students moving in and out of the district. We have lost 101 Ingram/Hunt students to Kerrville ISD and that equates to almost a half million dollars in state funding. The 7th and 8th grade students were moved to the high school in order to save money. I am against middle school students taking classes with high school students. I am in favor of night classes if teachers volunteer.

3. Principals need to visit the classrooms and praise teachers who are on task and conference with those who are not. Also, parents need to take responsibility for their children and make sure they attend tutorial sessions and help them with their lessons if they are not working on grade level. Several benchmarks are given and parents are made aware long before the state tests if their child is not performing to standards set by the state. Some parents did not even agree to send them to free summer school. The teachers can't do it all by themselves.

4. I would suggest meetings other than board meetings in which the administrators, students, parents and community members could meet and voice their concerns. There is a chain of command to follow for complaints which prevents anarchy, and I am in favor of that. First discuss the problem with the teacher, then campus administrator, then superintendent, and then appeal to the board. However, if the person just has a suggestion or opinion, he/she should feel free to be heard. Everyone needs to try to understand the others' points of view and work cooperatively and not make anyone feel intimidated.

### CHAD HARDING

1. I came from Ingram 22 yrs ago and I have 10 boys that attend this school. I volunteer as a strength and conditioning coach and work with students on a daily basis. My wife and I are the youth pastors at our church, and a large following of our student body attend. We tackle all the issues relevant with this generation today. We need the families and city of Ingram to rally and support our efforts in order to change a long stigmatism and catch the dream that Ingram is great ... Ingram can once again have pride and excellence that carries over and affects your life in every arena!

2. I think that when faced with difficult situations you always have to think outside the box. Change is inevitable, and to create excitement you have to be creative.

You cannot compromise your product, which is excellent teachers and a great education; but package yourself differently. These new changes offer more opportunity to students. This has been a successful step to change the boring old system of the same classes all year and allow students to get fresh new classes every three months. It creates a new motivation and prevents staleness. Night classes are very opportunistic to some who wish to catch up or get ahead.

3. We attended the parent/teacher night and met with the principal and vice principal. They told us of the changes and that the expectation would be of a much higher standard and clearly defined goals. We now have information as to how our sons are performing academically as well as their conduct and attitude. We have seen the change immediately and have had a son achieve straight A's for the first time. All of our boys are performing at a higher level, and we address their issues as they occur instead of never knowing anything. We have become actively involved with the school to support their values and ours as a team.

4. The gap has to be filled by an individual equally vested in the School's Core Values and Heartbeat of the Vision to better serve the needs of the students. They cannot be about their own agenda. I believe in an individual's integrity as well as commitment to pour themselves out to push and challenge and hold accountable the actions of every young adult. Their heart must be exposed in every action and value they possess. It's a privilege to have the platform to help this school and raise up sons that are involved in the culture and identity of Ingram Tom Moore High School and Middle School!

### VERN STEHLING

1. I have lived in Ingram for 45 years and was a member of the first graduating class. Ingram ISD has taken a lot of criticism over the past few years, most of which is unwarranted. We are doing better financially than we have in years. That being said, the district still faces problems that can't be ignored any longer. Our kids deserve the best education possible. It is my goal to see that happen.

2. I do not think the trimester system meets the needs of students in smaller districts such as ours. I'm not certain that students in middle school learn as well surrounded by high school students, or that the teachers can effectively teach such varying grade levels. I have no problem with evening courses if it is economically feasible, and helps our students.

3. Our school's academic rating is not as bad as it appears, but it should be higher. I think the trimester system hurts student performance on tests. I also believe a positive environment for teachers would go a long way. In addition, parents need to be more actively involved in their child's education.

4. In my opinion, the "division" is between the central administration and the faculty. The administration and school board must be more receptive to the concerns and suggestions of its teachers. This district has lost qualified teachers and is in danger of losing more. This has to change. We are all on the same team. Let's work together to bring pride back to Ingram ISD.



# ★ REPUBLICAN PARTY PRIMARY ★

Early voting for county commissioners and state representative is May 14-May 25, at The Cailloux Theater and Kerr Courthouse Annex. Election day is May 29.

## HOW TO VOTE

### Several local races in party primaries

The local and state Republican Party and Democratic Party will hold primary elections on May 29 to nominate candidates for local, state and federal offices. Voting will be on May 29 at polling places across the state.

**WHO'S RUNNING:** Local races include hopefuls seeking the office of constable in all four districts; candidates for commissioner in districts 1, 2 and 3; candidates for Kerr County sheriff; county treasurer the 198th District Attorney; and state representative. There also will be candidates seeking party nomination for U.S. House representative, Senate and president.

**EARLY VOTING:** Early voting in this election is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 14-18 and May 21-25 at the Kathleen C. Cailloux City Center for the Performing Arts, 910 Main St., Kerrville, and at the Kerr County Courthouse Annex, 2250 Highway 27, Ingram.

**ELECTION DAY:** Voting on the day of the election — May 29 — will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at designated polling places across the county.

**VOTING BY MAIL:** Qualified voters can request an application for early voting by mail by contacting the county voter registrar's office, 700 Main S., Kerrville, TX 78028, or by calling 792-2242. Applications for a ballot to be voted by mail must be received by May 4. People who are eligible to vote by mail include: Voters who are 65 years old or older, disabled, confined in jail or expected to be absent from the county during the period of early voting by personal appearance (May 14-25), and on election day, May 29.

**FOR INFORMATION:** Contact the Kerr County election office at 792-2242.



Hilderbran

**Editor's note:** There are two candidates in the race for Texas State Representative — incumbent Harvey Hilderbran and opponent Cary Wise. Wise did not respond to The Times' candidate questionnaire.

## TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 53 Harvey Hilderbran

**Q: What do you consider to be the main issues coming before the Texas Legislature in next year's session.**

**HILDERBRAN:** Passing a balanced budget, improving education, addressing school finance, addressing water supply, conservation & management, and Tax reform.

**Q: During the last session, education took a big cut while the governor promised to protect the rainy day fund and pledged no tax increases. Do you think this is right for our schools and children?**

**HILDERBRAN:** My No. 1 funding priority is public education. However, as a result of the reduced spending in most areas of government in the last session and including difficult decisions like temporarily reducing the rate of growth in education spending, the Texas economy is now making a strong recovery and will result in the opportunity to restore funding in the next session.

**Q: Last session, the Legislature passed Voter ID and bans on sanctuary cities to stem illegal immigration. Have either of these measures had an effect, and what other action is required?**

**HILDERBRAN:** Voter ID legislation passed but is being held up by the U.S. Justice Department and is now in Federal Courts. If we win the court battle, I think Voter ID requirements will be helpful in preventing voter fraud. Additionally, the legislature passed a few more bills addressing voter fraud and should do more about mail ballot fraud. The Sanctuary Cities bill failed to become law. The Federal government and Texas should do more to improve border security and stop illegal immigration.



Baldwin

## COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1 H.A. "Buster" Baldwin & Harley Belew



Belew

**Q: Kerr County Commissioners are considering issuing \$6.1 million in certificates of obligation debt this year that includes nearly \$2 million for the first phase of improvements at the Hill Country Youth Exhibit Center. Do you believe this is a wise use of taxpayers' money?**

**BALDWIN:** I believe upgrading the Hill Country Youth Exhibit Center will be investment in the future leaders of this community. I am not in favor of building a convention center, but believe improving the facility for youth involved in agriculture would be a good investment and can be enhanced with major donations from the private sector.

**BELEW:** I support improvements to the HCYEC. I consider it an investment in the future of Kerr County's economic growth. However, I think we should publicize the numbers (ROI) and gather public support before entering into certificates of obligation that taxpayers must pay for.

**Q: After last year's lengthy negotiations with the city of Kerrville over ambulance services outside the city limits, Kerr County officials began looking at creating a countywide emergency service district. Would you support creating this new taxing authority and if so would you pledge to reduce the county's ad valorem tax rate to offset the new tax?**

**BALDWIN:** I support the creation of a countywide ESD for EMS purposes but only after approval by taxpayers. The ESD will eliminate the annual controversy between the city and county and generate a reliable funding mechanism and bring stability to the issue. The only way I would support an ESD is to see the county's ad valorem tax reduced to offset the new tax.

**BELEW:** I do not support a new taxing entity. Taxpayers write checks to too many separate entities right now.

**Q: The county jail is overcrowded by state jail commission standards, and the county lacks the funds to increase the size of that facility without raising taxes. How would you propose solving the overcrowding issue at the jail?**

**BALDWIN:** Jail overcrowding is a recurring problem in Kerr County but the public overwhelmingly wants options other than adding any additional tax burden on residents. We should seek solutions through the court system and explore the use of more personal recognizance (PR) bond options in some cases to relieve the overcrowding.

**BELEW:** Our Sheriff has stated that a big part of the problem is the backlog of criminal cases in the courts. Another problem is prisoner segregation. By law, violent prisoners may not be placed in a cell with non-violent prisoners. I would support reduction of bail for non-violent prisoners to alleviate overcrowding.

**Q: In recent years, Kerr County has been at odds with the owners of what the state calls wild dangerous animals including lions. What is your opinion about private citizens owning these types of animals?**

**BALDWIN:** As a conservative, I believe if a private property owner complies with state law concerning the ownership of wild dangerous animals then there should be no interference by county officials. State law already creates the guidelines, and the county should not get involved.

**BELEW:** It seems to me that humans living with large predatory animals is ill advised. It poses a risk for them and their neighbors. If citizens are going to house wild animals — and risk the possibility of those animals escaping — we should establish county standards for housing them. We have speed limits, water safety standards, and other safeguards. Why not dangerous animal standards?



# ★ REPUBLICAN PARTY PRIMARY ★

Early voting for county commissioners is May 14-May 25, at The Cailloux Theater and Kerr Courthouse Annex. Election day is May 29.

**Q: Kerr County Commissioners are considering issuing \$6.1 million in certificates of obligation debt this year that includes nearly \$2 million for the first phase of improvements at the Hill Country Youth Exhibit Center. Do you believe this is a wise use of taxpayers' money?**

**OVERBY:** Yes, the HCYEC facility is home to the Hill Country District Junior Livestock Show and generates our largest economic development benefit for Kerr County businesses in the month of January each year. The HCYEC provides a place for Kerr County Youth to learn and participate in agriculture programs that promote positive educational experiences for our youth. Participation in local programs includes hundreds of Kerr County youth and the HCYEC provides a facility to teach, develop future generations and leaders for our country and community. This facility is 56 years old. Renovating the building in phases over the next two years should be a priority. The investment put back into Kerr County Youth programs and the attraction of other organizations using this facility will be positive.

**HARDIN:** In 1999 the state Legislature initiated "Certificates of Obligation" to allow taxing authorities to issue bonds without voter approval. This law was for emergency purposes only, for instance a court house roof blown off by an act of God. You can debate what emergency means. I do believe the projects in the \$6.1 million bond are valid, however this needs to go to the voters of Kerr County.

**MOSER:** The Exhibit Center, in some form, is a valuable asset. The need for improvements and usage must be rigorously examined. The voters rejected a similar project several years ago. In today's economic environment, the county should incur additional debt only for needed items. The need for improvements hasn't been justified.

**Q: In recent years, Kerr County has been at odds with the owners of what the state calls wild dangerous animals including lions. What is your opinion about private citizens owning these types of animals?**

**OVERBY:** This is a private property rights issue. If a private citizen decides to own these types of animals they have the responsibility to follow State of Texas Laws. These laws include following all rules and guidelines in order to be compliant with Texas law.

**HARDIN:** Wild, dangerous animals are just that, wild and dangerous. Keeping them caged up is serious business. Safety for the citizens of Kerr County is a main priority. This is Texas and private property rights are sacred. State legislators need to get tough on these types of operations.

**MOSER:** Citizens' liberties should be defended. Most wild, and even some domesticated animals can be dangerous. Citizens should be free to own animals as long as they have facilities that assure safety to the public, good care and quality of life for the animals and adhere to state and local laws.

## COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

Guy Overby, Brian Hardin & Tom Moser



www.guyoverby.com



**Q: After last year's lengthy negotiations with the city of Kerrville over ambulance services outside the city limits, Kerr County officials began looking at creating a countywide emergency service district. Would you support creating this new taxing authority and if so would you pledge to reduce the county's ad valorem tax rate to offset the new tax?**

**OVERBY:** The creation of any ESD for EMS services would be decided by the citizens and taxpayers of Kerr County. I do believe that both city and county government entities need to discuss the pros and cons of the potential development of an ESD for our community. This process would include public forums for citizens of Kerr County to hear findings and provide input on any creation of any ESD. If the citizens of Kerr County voted and approved the creation of an ESD to fund and maintain long term funding revenue source for EMS services, I would vote to reduce the ad valorem tax rate to offset the new tax

**HARDIN:** After campaigns, pledges are usually not kept, however, I would support bringing these issues before the voters of Kerr County. It is my opinion that a countywide emergency service district would be good for Kerr County.

**MOSER:** Better emergency services outside the city are needed. Before I would support a new taxing authority, it would have to be the best solution as opposed to a county/city contract or improved Volunteer FDs and EMSs. In any option, the county residents' total tax rate should not be increased.



www.moser2012.com

**Q: The county jail is overcrowded by state jail commission standards, and the county lacks the funds to increase the size of that facility without raising taxes. How would you propose solving the overcrowding issue at the jail?**

**OVERBY:** Kerr County jail population averages fluctuate up and down from monthly reports. Some moderate changes can be made to meet jail standards without expanding our current jail facility. Another alternative is to work with our courts to provide programs that can reduce higher jail population. Some court options or solutions might include Personal Recognizance Bond Programs; bracelet monitoring and other options that should be explored. Working with our district attorneys on using local programs can reduce jail population and expedite case loads in Kerr County.

**HARDIN:** For years, jail overcrowding has been on the front burner, Kerr County included. This is a major challenge for all that are involved. Probation fees are very high; criminals would rather do the time instead of paying the fees. Judicial courts need to work with local law enforcement and look at non-violent crimes.

**MOSER:** This can be solved without raising taxes. Reduce the number of incarcerated inmates by changing the judicial process, increase the number of inmates on work release programs, or use neighboring jails. If expansion is necessary, weigh it against other proposed capital improvements, but with no tax rate increase.

## COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

Jonathan Letz

**Editor's note: There are two candidates for the Precinct 3 commissioner race — incumbent Jonathan Letz and opponent Lonnie Goodman. Goodman, has not responded to requests for interview.**



Jonathan Letz

**Q: Kerr County Commissioners are considering issuing \$6.1 million in certificates of obligation debt this year that includes nearly \$2 million for the first phase of improvements at the Hill Country Youth Exhibit Center. Do you believe this is a wise use of taxpayers' money?**

**LETZ:** Absolutely. The barn that we are currently replacing was built over 60 years ago and is beyond its useful life. The Commissioners Court developed a comprehensive plan for the Exhibit Center and has been implementing this plan for several years. This is the next step. The HCYEC is an integral part of the Kerr County 4-H program. The 4-H program benefits hundreds of local youth. I believe this is a good use of tax dollars. We have partnered with the Hill Country District Junior Livestock Show Association and have challenged it to help fund additional improvements.

**Q: After last year's lengthy negotiations with the city of Kerrville over ambulance services outside the city limits, Kerr County officials began looking at creating a countywide emergency service district. Would you support creating this new taxing authority and if so would you pledge to reduce the county's ad valorem tax rate to offset the new tax?**

**LETZ:** The Commissioners Court is looking at the viability of forming a countywide ESD for ambulance service, and I certainly support this analysis. We must always look at new options to serve the public and ways to save money. This may be a way to expand the current services provided by the City of Kerrville ambulance service. We are still in the fact-finding phase, so I cannot say if I support a countywide ESD or not. If a county-wide ESD is formed, I would pledge to reduce the county's ad valorem tax rate to offset the new tax.

**See the remainder of Jonathan Letz's answers on page 10.**

# ★ REPUBLICAN PARTY PRIMARY ★

Early voting for the County Treasurer and Sherriff is May 14-May 25, at The Cailloux Theater and Kerr Courthouse Annex. Election day is May 29.

**Jonathan Letz,**  
incumbent for County  
Commissioner, Precinct 3

(answers continued from page 9)

**Q: The county jail is overcrowded by state jail commission standards, and the county lacks the funds to increase the size of that facility without raising taxes. How would you propose solving the overcrowding issue at the jail?**

**LETZ:** The county does not lack funds to increase the size of the jail. The question is, is a jail expansion the only option and the answer is no. We must work with the sheriff and judicial system to solve this problem. A jail expansion, the most costly option, will be needed at some point. However, there are other options that must be explored including working with our DA's and judges to expedite cases, examine alternatives such as work release programs and electronic monitoring. We must keep the criminals off the street in the most cost effective way possible.

**Q: In recent years, Kerr County has been at odds with the owners of what the state calls wild dangerous animals including lions. What is your opinion about private citizens owning these types of animals?**

**LETZ:** This is a property rights issue and a public safety issue. State law permits individuals to own these animals and sets out the standards and conditions for such ownership. This is currently being done in Kerr County. The current mechanism for banning these animals is not adequate. I believe the State law needs to be reviewed, and if the law is improved, I would consider implementation.



Soldan

## COUNTY TREASURER Tracy Soldan & Tess Mabry

[www.tracysoldan2012.weebly.com](http://www.tracysoldan2012.weebly.com) • [www.tessmabryfortreasurer.webs.com](http://www.tessmabryfortreasurer.webs.com)



Mabry

**Q: Briefly explain your current duties in the Kerr County Auditor's office and how that experience has prepared you for the Treasurer's office?**

**SOLDAN:** I prepare the County investment schedule; develop and prepare financial data and trend analysis for the annual budget publication; review and submit monthly financials to all elected officials; serve as property and liability insurance liaison; audit accounts payable; prepare budget amendments and journal entries; and I am the inventory specialist.

**MABRY:** As First Assistant Auditor, second to the County Auditor, I created all permanent internal audit programs and perform virtually all audits. I prepare budget projections and analysis, facilitate the budget entry and am an administrator of the financial program. In these duties, I've learned the county's finances inside and out.

**Q: What experiences did you have prior to working for Kerr County that have prepared you to be the county treasurer?**

**SOLDAN:** I have over 10 years experience working in Accounts Payable/Receivable prior to working for Kerr County. I was instrumental in the transition to a new accounting system for a previous employer, negotiating vendor contracts and creating and maintaining spreadsheets and databases to produce reports ensuring proper financial record keeping.

**MABRY:** My experiences include a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in Accounting and Information Systems from Schreiner University, my status as a CPA candidate and 16 years of accounting experience. This has given me the education and real world experience to effectively administer millions of dollars of your money.

**Q: What do you believe you can bring to the Treasurer's office that your opponent cannot?**

**SOLDAN:** I am the only candidate who is qualified to immediately assume the responsibilities and duties of the County Treasurer. The Treasurer is required to complete annual training in investments related to County Government; which I have completed. I am the only certified Investment Officer currently employed by Kerr County.

**MABRY:** I bring technical skills as a degreed accounting professional and as a CPA candidate. I bring a native Texan's perspective, over 160 hours of college education and I bring my whole heart. An Associates Degree in Tourism and two weeks of training to become a CIO, just don't compare.



Hierholzer

## KERR COUNTY SHERIFF Rusty Hierholzer & James Schaffner

Hierholzer: <http://on.fb.me/KIJKyH> • Schaffner: <http://on.fb.me/llt2M>



Schaffner

**Q: As Sheriff, what steps would you take to reduce the overcrowding at the Kerr County Jail?**

**HIERHOLZER:** Our two District Courts make up approximately the largest district in the state. Our Legislature must re-district our courts to give us more court days per month so we can move inmates faster. No. 2) Restructure the bonding process to better adhere to the purpose of the law. No. 3) Additional beds, especially female beds.

**SCHAFFNER:** I think it's more important to deter crime with more visible patrols to cut down on criminal activity first and foremost, because the majority of inmates in the county jail are misdemeanors. One option may be to offer courts monitored "House Arrest" as an alternative or look at a work release program for those that qualify.

**Q: What are your qualifications to be Sheriff, and what makes you better qualified than your opponent?**

**HIERHOLZER:** I have been your Sheriff for over 12 years. A full-time Kerr County Officer for over 31 years. Graduate of the FBI National Academy, extensive training in management, hold a Master Peace Officer and Master Jailer license. I have remained committed to this community and county for all my adult life.

**SCHAFFNER:** I have over 15 years of Texas Law Enforcement experience with both city and county agencies, have worked with both city council and county commissioners, and hold a Texas Senate Commendation for Outstanding Service. My advantage is, having served a larger county, I can bring innovative programs to Kerr County not being utilized today.

**Q: What actions do you believe local law enforcement should be taking regarding illegal immigrants in Kerr County?**

**HIERHOLZER:** We are members of the Secured Communities Program, every time someone is booked into jail their fingerprints are checked through ICE. We also have a working relationship with the Border Patrol, we can call for assistance in picking up illegal immigrants of any origin and move them out of our jail.

**SCHAFFNER:** Every citizen should obey the law. Anyone who violates the law in this county, here either legally or illegally, should be dealt with according to the state and federal laws. It is necessary to work diligently with Immigration and Naturalization Services when violations include illegal immigrant status.

**Q: How can local law enforcement help ensure safety of both cyclists and runners who use our county and state highways in accordance with the law?**

**HIERHOLZER:** Encourage the cyclists and runners to wear bright clothing and continue to petition our state and local governments to add more bicycle lanes to our roads. Currently, a lot of our roads do not even have marked shoulders. This is a beautiful county and cyclists and runners want to come here.

**SCHAFFNER:** Education is key. Most related accidents are caused by improper safety precautions or right-of-way issues which require education. Motorists and cyclists must be involved in awareness programs, which include media participation; television, radio and newspaper. We can offer free education classes for joggers, cyclists, motorcyclists and drivers in the Texas Traffic Laws.



# ★ REPUBLICAN PARTY PRIMARY ★

Early voting for district attorney and constables is May 14-May 25, at The Cailloux Theater and Kerr Courthouse Annex. Election day is May 29.

## 198th DISTRICT ATTORNEY

### Brad McCullouch & Scott Monroe

www.bradfor  
198da.com



McCullouch



Monroe

www.rudkin  
productions.com/  
Scott

**Q: The 198th DA's office uses forfeiture funds to pay for vehicles for investigations. Is this an appropriate use of those funds and how would you propose to use the money?**

**MCCULLOUCH:** Vehicle expenditures are an appropriate use of forfeiture funds and account for 15 percent of that budget. I would use illegal monies under Chapter 59(d-2) to benefit entities such as Hill Country Cares, Kerr County Crime Victims Compensation and others who assist our office in the prosecution of child sex offenders.

**MONROE:** Amos Barton is spending forfeiture funds at the rate of \$646,000 a year. (In addition to the \$370,000 supplied by the county.) This forfeiture money pays the salaries of three investigators, one assistant, in addition to the staff paid for by county money. This is an extravagance that cannot be continued.

**Q: The District Attorney's office can play an important role in overcrowding at the county jail. As DA, what could you do to help resolve this problem?**

**MCCULLOUCH:** I would work closely with the Sheriff, District Judge and defense bar to increase trial settings so that cases would move efficiently through the system. It should be noted, however, that overcrowding at the jail is sometimes a necessary evil. It means local law enforcement is effectively fighting crime.

**MONROE:** The current DA's office has contributed to jail overcrowding. Changes need to be made to bond standards, realistic plea bargain offers and a predictable trial schedule. Most importantly, the DA's office has got to stop dumping trial settings because they are not prepared.

**Q: What are your qualifications to be District Attorney and what makes you better qualified than your opponent?**

**MCCULLOUCH:** I have been a prosecutor for over eight years, with over 850 felony convictions, and a track record of protecting victims. My opponent has never been a full-time prosecutor. His last felony prosecution was 17 years ago, and he lost that case. His experience is in divorce and criminal defense.

**MONROE:** I have over 25 years experience in Texas criminal law, have been qualified to defend death penalty cases and have 1,600-plus convictions as a prosecutor with no ethical complaints. Experience and peer esteem is the difference; the totality of my experience, training and results simply far outweighs my opponent.

**Q: How important is experience in Texas law as compared to time prosecuting criminal suspects in court?**

**MCCULLOUCH:** The District Attorney must understand the laws of Texas, but knowledge alone isn't enough to make a good prosecutor. To be effective, you must have multiple years of full-time felony prosecutions in front of juries. I've dedicated my entire legal career to prosecuting felons and protecting victims.

**MONROE:** How important is it to speak English in a country that speaks Russian? All my education and experience is in Texas. Experience in Mississippi is irrelevant. "Time prosecuting" is a one dimensional measure; my skills extend far beyond this. Thirty-three years experience in Texas, my opponent three.

## CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 1

### John Lavender & Tommy Rodriguez

**Q: Describe your qualifications and how you are better qualified than your opponent?**

**LAVENDER:** I have completed the mandated education specializing in Constable's duties, both civil and criminal enforcement. I have over 2,700 hours of law enforcement training attained over the 24 years I have served in law enforcement in Kerr County. The last 100 hours of training are specifically required of constables. My Texas Peace Officer license is valid and my continuing education hours are current.

**RODRIGUEZ:** I am 50 years old and currently retired with 27 years of law enforcement experience. I held numerous positions of responsibility. This makes me a well-rounded officer as these duties required self motivation, efficiency, the ability to organize and supervise. I hold a master peace officer's certificate with over 1700 hours of law enforcement training.

**Q: If elected constable, what changes, if any, would you make to the office?**

**LAVENDER:** No changes. I will continue to provide the services currently offered by this office to the residents of Precinct 1 and the citizens of Kerr County.

**RODRIGUEZ:** I would make every effort to ensure the residents of Precinct 1 know who serves them as I have found that many have no idea who currently serves. I believe this could be accomplished by getting out and patrolling the neighborhoods and meeting the residents.

**Q: How can constables best serve the public, especially since most people have little contact with the office?**

**LAVENDER:** The general public is best served by a constable who is well-versed in both the criminal and civil aspects of the law plus the responsibilities and the liabilities of the office. The involvement of a constable in serving constituents involved in civil litigation actually results in more contact with the citizens through the court process, even though it is not highly visible to the general public.

**RODRIGUEZ:** By making yourself available and assisting in any way possible. In other words, by going above and beyond what's required by the position. On talking to voters, I have found that they would like to be able to contact their constable about problems in their neighborhoods and feel respected.

## CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 4

### Gene Huffaker & Everlott Alexander

**Q: Describe your qualifications and how you are better qualified than your opponent?**

**HUFFAKER:** I have more than 32 years of experience as an officer, over half that time was spent at two sheriff's departments where deputies were required to serve civil process. Some process service is very easy, some process service can be very involved and challenging. In addition, I have about 18 years experience in supervisory positions while also performing the same duties as the other officers such as answering calls for service and conducting criminal investigations.

**ALEXANDER:** I have been involved in law enforcement for approximately 20 years. I currently work as an Ingram Deputy Marshall and have been in this position for the last 18 years. During the years of 2000 through 2005, I was a narcotics officer under the authority of the 216th Judicial District.

**Q: If elected constable, what changes, if any, would you make to the office?**

**HUFFAKER:** I have already stepped up patrol activities, served arrest warrants and have provided assistance to other agencies on calls for service, whether law enforcement or fire calls.

**ALEXANDER:** If elected, along with my duties, I would also create cases and bring known drug dealers to justice. As well as enact an open door policy so that all citizens can contact me with any concerns they may have.

**Q: How can constables best serve the general public, especially since most people have little or no contact with the office?**

**HUFFAKER:** By performing the duties of the office correctly, fairly, and as efficiently as possible.

**ALEXANDER:** A constable has many duties. Along with these duties, I will create cases that get drugs and dangerous criminals off of the streets. This will help all citizens have a safer community for their families. I am looking forward to being directly involved with the community.

# ★ DISTRICT 21 CONGRESSIONAL RACE ★

Early voting for District 21 Congressional race is May 14-May 25, at The Cailloux Theater and Kerr Courthouse Annex. Election day is May 29.

## REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES



**Lamar Smith (R)**

[www.texasforlamarsmith.com](http://www.texasforlamarsmith.com)



**Richard Morgan (R)**

<http://richardmorgan.com>



**Richard Mack (R)**

<http://sheriffmackforcongress.com>

## DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES



**Candace Duval (D)**

[www.candaceduval.com](http://www.candaceduval.com)



**Daniel Boone (D)**

<http://boonefortexas.com>

### Q: What do you consider to be the top issues effecting Texas that will be taken up by the next Congress?

**SMITH:** Balancing the budget, cutting unnecessary spending, and shrinking the reach of government all remain a priority to most Americans. I also feel we need to achieve energy independence and secure our borders. Unfortunately, the current Administration's policies are not helpful.

**MORGAN:** We have a skyrocketing national debt, 26 million Americans are out of work, we now have the highest combined corporate tax rate in the world, our entitlement programs are going broke, our states and businesses can't afford the cost of Obamacare, and our Constitutional rights are being taken from us.

**MACK:** You never know what Congress is going to do to us next, but we know that Washington is broke and that Congress has not done its job. We cannot fix this by sending the same ol career politicians back to D.C. It's time to follow the rules as established by our founders. I will.

**DUVAL:** I am hopeful that the next Congress will have the courage to take up comprehensive immigration reform as a top issue instead of using immigration to score political points. Our current immigration system is broken, but there are many bipartisan changes that could be made that will benefit our economy.

**BOONE:** The economy (jobs). Revitalize our work force in a new world economy. To be competitive, we must emphasize our ability for innovation. To be leaders in an expanding world economy, we must educate our workforce in the technical and professional skills to fill the needs of this revitalized economy.

### Q: Most people agree that federal government spending is spiraling out of control.

#### How would you proposed reducing the federal budget without adversely affecting residents of the Hill Country?

**SMITH:** I brought a constitutional amendment to balance the budget to a vote on the House floor and will continue working to get this to the states for ratification. I have voted nearly 30 times to repeal all or part of the president's irresponsible and costly government takeover of healthcare.

**MORGAN:** Step one is to vote out the incumbent, who's voted for seven debt ceiling increases, nearly forced us to raise taxes last year with a poorly-written Balanced Budget Amendment and was just rated the least fiscally conservative Republican from Texas by the National Taxpayers Union (for 2011).

**MACK:** The federal government has caused the problem so they should fix it. We must stop the tax, borrow, and spend policies of D.C. politicians! I will start this by cutting my own salary and congressional office expenses. I'll fight to cut taxes and spending and I'll consider the tax dollars of the citizens a sacred trust.

**DUVAL:** The effective way to control spending is to focus on increasing efficiency, reducing waste and eliminating fraud from all government programs including entitlements, defense and discretionary programs. We can maintain support for programs that serve residents of the Hill Country if we take a balanced approach to eliminating the deficit.

**BOONE:** Take our troops out of Afghanistan. Eliminate foreign facilities that don't serve the national security interests of our country. Eliminate foreign interventions where there is no clear, precise entry and exit plan. Regulate the military/industrial complex for necessity and effectiveness of government contracts. Restructure taxation of large international corporations.

### Q: Many Republican leaders have proposed cutting some federal agencies. Do you agree and, if so, what agencies would you cut?

**SMITH:** The EPA and IRS should be reined in and made more responsive. The Federal Reserve should be audited, and the Education and Energy departments should be downsized. Also, foreign aid to countries that routinely vote against us in the United Nations should be cut.

**MORGAN:** Yes, many federal programs should be returned to the states. For example, education is inherently a local issue, yet we send our tax dollars to Washington so some bureaucrat can tell us how to educate our children. The incumbent made the problem worse by voting for No Child Left Behind.

**MACK:** I totally agree. Nobody in D.C. has been defending Texas sovereignty; I will! Texas can run its own education, its own natural resources and its own agriculture. I'll fight to abolish the Department of Education, Dept. of Energy, the EPA, FDA, BATFE (running guns to Mexico) and all unconstitutional bureaucracies.

**DUVAL:** I agree that there are always effective ways to cut spending in all federal agencies, but I also know that many programs provide much needed support to our seniors, children and our most vulnerable people. I support bipartisan approaches that aim to increase government efficiency by combining redundant government functions.

**BOONE:** No! Department of Education needs to be reoriented to provide training services to schools needing help in leadership and classroom skills — not testing. The Environmental Protection Agency should be expanded to encourage finding solutions to environmental issues so that the economy is encouraged while ensuring the sustainability of our environment.

# Get election night results

The Kerrville Daily Times will deliver results as they come on May 12 and May 29, at [www.dailytimes.com/election](http://www.dailytimes.com/election) and on The Daily Times' Facebook page.

