



Voters Guide

EARLY VOTING • FEBRUARY 18 - 28

ELECTION DAY • POLLS OPEN 7AM TO 7PM

Cast an informed vote in the Primary Election
Candidates' answers on issues that affect you:

IMMIGRATION • ENVIRONMENT • EDUCATION • TRANSPORTATION • ACCESS TO JUSTICE

ABOUT THIS VOTERS GUIDE

This printed *Voters Guide* lists candidates in 25 contested races who are on the March 4, 2014, Primary Election ballot and provides their answers to questions posed by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund.

Additional information can be accessed online at www.VOTE411.org, including an online *Voters Guide* with candidate videos and races not included in the printed *Voters Guide*. VOTE411 allows voters to enter an address and review races and ballot initiatives specific to that address. It also includes the responses of candidates who miss the print deadline.

This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund. For more than 90 years, helping voters cast an informed vote when they go to the polls has been the primary goal of the League of Women Voters. As an organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, the League believes that all of us are stakeholders in Making Democracy Work. Neither the League nor the Education Fund supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

RACES AND CANDIDATES

This *Voters Guide* lists candidates for statewide and regional races in Texas, including U.S. Senator, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller of Public Accounts, Commissioner of General Land Office, Commissioner of Agriculture, Railroad Commissioner, Texas Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals, Courts of Appeals, and the State Board of Education.

Only candidates in political parties that select their candidates in the primary election are included, currently Democratic and Republican parties. Candidates in other parties are selected by convention.

Questionnaires are sent to candidates in races that are contested within the same

party. Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification. Due to space restrictions, candidates are given strict character limits. Replies exceeding the character limit are indicated by slashes (///). Candidates are asked to avoid references to their opponents; those who do not comply are listed with the notation, "Response does not meet criteria." Candidates appearing with no photo failed to submit one. Those who do not respond to our questionnaire are listed with the notation, "No response received by print deadline."

This *Voters Guide* is organized by office, with candidates listed alphabetically by party. Ballot order may vary from county to county. The names of unopposed candidates are also listed.

WHAT TO TAKE TO THE POLLS

TEXAS REQUIRES VOTERS TO SHOW PHOTO ID

Texas now requires voters to show an acceptable photo ID at the polls. The only acceptable photo IDs are:

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (DPS) ISSUED PHOTO IDS

- Driver's license
- Personal identification card
- Concealed handgun license
- Election Identification Certificate

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ISSUED PHOTO IDS

- Passport
- Military identification card
- Citizenship certificate or naturalization certificate with photograph

Only the above photo IDs can be accepted at the polls. Other photo IDs including student IDs, employer IDs and out-of-state driver's licenses cannot be accepted. See *PHOTO ID DETAILS AND EXCEPTIONS* on back page.

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UNITED STATES SENATOR

Six-year term. Must be at least 30 years old, a resident of the United States for at least nine years, and a resident of Texas. One of 100 members of the U.S. Senate which has specific powers to advise and consent to presidential appointments and treaties and to try impeachments. Powers the Senate shares with U.S. House of Representatives include the power to levy taxes, borrow money, regulate interstate commerce, and declare war. Current annual salary: \$174,000

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

GRIDLOCK: What measures should the Senate take to stop the gridlock that has crippled Congress?

IMMIGRATION: What specific changes, if any, would you propose to the current immigration policy? Please explain.

ELECTIONS: The recent Supreme Court decision in Shelby v. Holder struck down parts of the Voting Rights Act. What changes, if any, do you support to protect voting rights?

ENVIRONMENT: Scientists have now established an upper limit on carbon dioxide emissions and the President has announced a comprehensive carbon control plan. What do you see as the Senate's role with regard to these standards as well as other environmental regulations?

FOREIGN INTERVENTION: Under what circumstances should the U.S. intervene militarily in a foreign conflict?

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



KEN COPE (R)

GRIDLOCK: Gridlock can be good if it protects against foolish policies. We need leaders with integrity, common sense and practical experience who will fight with a sense of Texas urgency. We need to educate all Republicans on basic negotiation skills and rules of engagement. We need better inter-party interaction, without Republican capitulation before any disagreements occur.

IMMIGRATION: Complete border fence in 1 year; require proof of English reading/writing ability for citizenship; expedite citizenship for those serving two years in armed forces or as first responders, plus their spouses and children; others to end of the line but with provisional Soc Sec card for paying taxes and obtaining benefits; return 250,000 illegal convicts to their homelands

ELECTIONS: The court ruled correctly; demographics have changed and using 1960s standards was no longer fair. I support voting rights, oppose racially-based gerrymandering, and favor the requirement of ID to vote to assure election integrity. I believe these issues should be state, not federal, issues in line with the 9th and 10th Amendments.

ENVIRONMENT: The credibility and reliability of the scientists remains a concern. The Senate has the obligation to fully vet the scientific data before allowing additional regulations that could cost jobs in our already anemic economy. I am

an avid outdoorsman and want to preserve the environment, but we must use prudence and caution in this area.

FOREIGN INTERVENTION: A) Where American citizens or soldiers are in danger. B) Where America's allies are being threatened or attacked. C) Where potential weapons of mass destruction are threatened to be, or are being, used. America can't be the world's policeman. Regional skirmishes are not our business or responsibility unless they threaten the sovereignty of America or its allies.

OTHER ISSUES: Unchecked growth in the federal government and its intrusion into far too many aspects of our lives. The statist direction of this country poses a direct threat to us and our Constitution. As Senator, I would work tirelessly to reduce the size of government, eliminating some departments and restricting others, to assure Americans' freedom and independence.

EDUCATION: MBA, Corporate Finance, Univ. of Dallas; BBA, Accounting, St. Mary's Univ., San Antonio; Command & General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, KS; Adv. & Basic Procurement & Quartermaster Officer; Securities Lic. Series 6 & 63; TX Grp 1 Life Ins. Lic.

EXPERIENCE: Ret. Army Lt. Col. (27 yrs) and aerospace executive (28 yrs): program mgmt, military & commercial procurement, intl & domestic supply chain, manufacturing, business development. Christian, social & financial conservative, father & grandfather, a Patriot

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REID REASOR (R)

GRIDLOCK: It depends on the desired end state and who is fighting. If the desired end state is socialism/communism/statism/globalism I will fight every measure and every attempt to remove the freedoms that we 700,000 warriors bought with our blood. D.C. has currently illegally taken the Bill of Rights. I stand for liberty, integrity and prosperity. I support all efforts for these.

IMMIGRATION: No actions should place an illegal immigrant above the position of a legal waiting to come here. Enforce existing laws, seal the boarder while allowing rancher access. For those who want to work, they can stay in felony probation that removes guns and rights to vote for the duration of the time for oter legal immigrants to come here. Other criminality results in jail.

ELECTIONS: I do not support any effort that will continue to allow the wide spread voter fraud that has happened in the last two elections. Every person who votes should prove there are a citizen of the U.S. I will demand that every person influencing the future of America, is an American. Having other nationals voting in our elections is spitting on the graces of my fellow warriors.

ENVIRONMENT: I am a scientist, and the global warming and EPA policy is insanity. We have lost control of CO2 emissions and caused wide spread world

high pollution by the EPA policy. We have moved our industry overseas, causing inner city decay and 80 million jobless people. We borrow money from China to pay for the unemployment and welfare here. The EPA should help industry be clean.

FOREIGN INTERVENTION: I will block any effort to use military force to achieve domestic political objectives. Americans should not interfere, subvert or intentionally remove a justly established form of government in another country. The United Nations will be the lead for economic, social, political and military actions against rogue states. The Was Powers act will be adhered to.

OTHER ISSUES: #youtube <http://www.youtube.com/v/KRtN-Awr>

EDUCATION: Two years PhD studies in education and social psychology, TSU, GCU Master of Technology, Computer animation, ASU Bachelors of Science, Astronautical Engineering, United States Air Force Academy Air Command and Staff College F-15C Phased Array IP

EXPERIENCE: PHD Student, Texas education reform activist, CEO IdeaCorp LLC, College Adjunct Professor, High school physics teacher, Home school physics teacher, Operations officer Northern Watch, Commander 256 Combat missions, Squadron CC, Homeless activist

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i VOTER
information:
Voters Guide Key

(R) Republican Party Candidate • (D) Democratic Party Candidate

(///) Response Exceeds Character Limit



STEVE STOCKMAN (R)

GRIDLOCK: There is no “gridlock.” There is only “stopping Obama’s unpopular agenda.” Obama cannot advance his agenda because in 2010 voters elected a Congress to stop it. Congressman Stockman is the only candidate for US Senate serving in Congress who didn’t vote to fund Obamacare. Stockman also introduced bills to stop abortion and Obama gun control. Find more at Stockman2014.

IMMIGRATION: Congressman Stockman is the only candidate for U.S. Senate serving in Congress who did not introduce an amnesty bill and did not vote to kill the border fence. Stockman is the original author of the bill stopping illegals from using “anchor babies” to stay in the US. Those anti-Stockman ads are funded by \$2 million from an amnesty promoter. Find more at Stockman2014.

ELECTIONS: The Supreme Court recognized the Voting Rights Act was written for another time and place and upheld the Constitution. Congressman Stockman is the only candidate for US Senate serving in Congress who voted 100% against federal interference in state issues and against automatically approving Obama’s dangerous appointees. Find more at Stockman2014.com.

ENVIRONMENT: Congressman Stockman is the only candidate for US Senate

LINDA VEGA (R)

GRIDLOCK: We need to concentrate on what is good for America rather than stalling nominations and legislation based on party affiliation. I will work with other Senators who have similar goals on issues important to all Americans. Issues such as immigration, education, entitlement reform, Afghanistan/Iraq, and healthcare, should be resolved by both parties.

IMMIGRATION: The Quota system is one of the main reasons why we have illegal immigration. Quotas cause the system to bottle neck, whereby visas cannot be issued to those who have applied for and are awaiting for years for their visas to become current. The quota system should be relaxed so that visas are awarded and the labor demands are market driven.

ELECTIONS: The Shelby v. Holder ruling concluded that it is unconstitutional, due to the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment, to treat one state or regions differently from others. Thus, it is imperative that Congress pass a new bill that treats all states equal, while protecting voting Rights. I will work on creating this bill.

ENVIRONMENT: Because of the geography of our nation, a “one size fits all” model is unworkable. Each state should have the autonomy to look for environmental regulations that will not affect their economy. The federal government, and the

serving in Congress who has voted 100% against Cap and Trade. Congressman Stockman is the only candidate for US Senate serving in Congress who voted against automatically approving Obama appointees to agencies like the EPA. Congressman Stockman co-sponsored the REINS Act to strip the EPA of major rule-making power.

FOREIGN INTERVENTION: Our military should be used only when there is a direct threat to national security. Congressman Stockman is the only candidate for US Senate serving in Congress who voted 100% against Obama’s spying on Americans. Congressman Stockman is the only candidate for US Senate serving in Congress who introduced a bill forcing a full Congressional investigation into Benghazi.

OTHER ISSUES: Texas’ US Senator should defund and repeal Obamacare and stop the upcoming amnesty and Obamacare bailout bills. Congressman Stockman is the only candidate for US Senate serving in Congress who didn’t vote to fund Obamacare, didn’t vote for bailouts and didn’t vote for amnesty. Stockman is the only candidate with a 100% pro-gun voting record. Find more at Stockman2014.

EDUCATION: B.A., Accounting. University of Houston – Clear Lake

EXPERIENCE: United States House of Representatives, 1995-1997, 2013-Present.

Senate, should only oversee that environmental laws are not violated, but they should control state regulations that produce a strong economy.

FOREIGN INTERVENTION: The U.S should interfere in military conflicts, as a coalition with other major powers like the UK, Russia and France, for humanitarian reasons or to protect Americans abroad.

OTHER ISSUES: We need to seriously consider legislation that will reform entitlements, education, and the National Debt. We need to reform Medicare and Social Security to make it more solvent so those older than 55 can still receive benefits when they begin to draw on those benefits. We must have an educated labor force to pay for these benefits.

EDUCATION: I graduated from the University of Texas in Austin and the George Washington Law School in D.C., with a scholarship from both establishments. I am fluent in both English and Spanish.

EXPERIENCE: I have previously worked for The Department of Labor, and currently own my own practice -- The Vega Law Firm. My areas of practice concentrate in immigration, labor, and employment law. I practices nationally and internationally, as many of the issue (///)

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DAVID M. ALAMEEL (D)

GRIDLOCK: I will work with members of both parties to get things done. We must reform the influence of lobbyists and the corporate money. Reform the abuse of the filibuster, which allows a few Senators to block even routine appointments and legislation. Let’s make Washington work for America, not special interests.

IMMIGRATION: I support comprehensive immigration reform that is both humane and respectful of our laws. We must provide a responsible road map to citizenship for law abiding and hardworking people who have no criminal record and are only asking for a fair opportunity.

ELECTIONS: Congress needs to renew those vital provisions of the Act, as it has done in a bipartisan way several times in the past. Discrimination and suppression of people’s right to vote should not be allowed. I also support expanded early voting and convenient registration. Encourage citizens to vote; don’t exclude them.

ENVIRONMENT: All of us have a fundamental right to clean air and clean water. We can reduce emissions through a combination of “cap and trade” policies and

effective rules. The federal government must fund R&D, set efficiency standards, use strong anti pollution policies, and support incentives to encourage private investment in alternate energy.

FOREIGN INTERVENTION: The Iraq intervention was a tragic mistake that cost thousands of lives and trillions of dollars that could have been invested to help people here at home. With that in mind, the U.S. should intervene militarily in a foreign conflict only when our safety or vital national interests are truly threatened.

OTHER ISSUES: Stop subsidizing big banks and Wall Street: help the middle class. Expand our manufacturing sector to rebuild our economy. Strengthen Social Security. Raise the minimum wage. Require equal pay for equal work for women. Repeal unfair tax breaks for big corporations. Give every American child the opportunity for a quality education.

EDUCATION: Doctorate of Dental Surgery, University of Texas.

EXPERIENCE: I’m an Army veteran, and a proud husband and father. Starting from scratch, I built a successful \$50 million a year business. I have been active in civic and charitable work and programs to improve education opportunities for young people.

i VOTER information: Request Email Alerts

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MICHAEL "FJET" FJETLAND (D)

GRIDLOCK: We should encourage states to move to the California open primary system and/or adopt the Iowa system of using a nonpartisan citizen committee to do redistricting. It would help if we elected Senators that are willing to work across the aisle! However, our current system encourages the most extreme candidates which creates the current deadlock.

IMMIGRATION: We need immigration reform so that young "dreamers" who were brought here illegally as children can obtain legal status and citizenship. We also need to give illegals who pay a fine and don't have a criminal record a path to legal residency. We shouldn't educate foreigners and then refuse them residency so they take their skills and create jobs elsewhere instead of here.

ELECTIONS: Voter suppression is unAmerican and is happening. Voter ID laws and cutting early voting days are more attempts to undercut democracy. I would support a law to stop gerrymandering by states and require more states to get pre-clearance before enacting restrictive voting laws. We need to strengthen the Voting Rights Act to stop these abuses of the democratic process.

ENVIRONMENT: If we do not take action on climate change we are condemning future generations to hell-on-earth. We have passed 400 parts per million of CO2, something that hasn't happened in millions of years. Our billions of emissions

are breaking the climate cycle. We must impose carbon emissions limits so that we can reduce global warming.

FOREIGN INTERVENTION: Only rarely should the U.S. engage in military conflict. I opposed the war in Iraq as it had nothing to do with 9/11. The Afghanistan Al Qaida war was poorly managed. In the future, the biggest threat will continue to be terrorist groups and possibly China as it expands its influence. War with Iran would be even more deadly to our troops than Iraq and should be avoided.

OTHER ISSUES: America has fallen from No. 1 in education to far down the list. We have a "skills gap" so that over 2 million high-tech jobs cannot be filled. We MUST invest in education to lead the world again. Our infrastructure is falling apart; we have invested trillions in building roads and bridges overseas but failed to do so here. Invest in JOBS and increase the minimum wage.

EDUCATION: Graduated Tascosa High School, Amarillo, TX BBA, Accounting, University of Texas at Austin JD with honors, Texas Tech University

EXPERIENCE: Fortune 500 international negotiator (nearly 10 years) International Attorney for small USA business and individuals (over 50 countries), creating jobs HERE. TV Terrorism Analyst (1991 Gulf War, 9/11) CEO/Founder, Armor Glass International, Inc.

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HARRY KIM (D)

GRIDLOCK: Antagonism and obstructionism only adds more anger and objections. We must parry this partisanship by encouraging mutual participation and bipartisan promotions. To give does not demonstrate giving in. It does not indicate an inferior predicament but rather a superior position. If elected, I plan to reach out to all members of both houses to strive for the greater good

IMMIGRATION: Immigration is an issue that touches us all. We are a nation of immigrants. A fact that should not escape us. The issue at hand is not whether we get there piecemeal or comprehensively, but that we get there.

ELECTIONS: By declaring Section 4(b) unconstitutional, it made Section 5 preclearance non-effective. This can be remedied with a new coverage formula. However, although supreme court has concluded 5/4, one must ponder, does Sec 4(b) really exceed Congress's authority to implement Fourteenth & Fifteenth Amendments. Right to vote is and must be an unalienable right for all americans

ENVIRONMENT: Attempts to control carbon emissions is in everyone's interest. After all, we humans have an unflinching insistence in wanting to breathe, not to

mention the pervasive if not pernicious problem of Climate Change. Question of Carbon, eventually reconnects with renewable energy, the success of which depends on its economic viability.

FOREIGN INTERVENTION: U.S. should always maintain the option of military intervention, but only as a last resort. We must assess the direct nature of threat to this country, as well as our obligation, whether it be alliance or humanitarian.

OTHER ISSUES: Equal and fair opportunity for all, regardless of Race, gender, background or orientation. Right to choose. More accommodating and adaptive educational system that addresses the needs of our students in the current global environment. If elected, I plan to introduce a bill to reform our educ.system in a comprehensive and progressive manner to better prepare our students

EDUCATION: B.A.- Columbia University in the City of New York. M.D.- Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick/N.J.

EXPERIENCE: Lifetime serving the healthcare needs of my community

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KESHA ROGERS (D)

GRIDLOCK: My own Democratic Party must convict Obama on real impeachment charges, then vote up a bipartisan Glass-Steagall Act to crush Wall Street's power over our economy, and use federal credit to fund strategic nationwide jobs programs in water infrastructure, nuclear power, space exploration, and similar high production areas. This will stop gridlock over partisan nonsense.

IMMIGRATION: Neither the Dream Act, nor building a wall, will fix the immigration issue, because it is driven by flaws built into "free trade" globalization. The USA must strategize with Mexico to cancel NAFTA, crush the Wall Street-sponsored drug cartels, and collaborate as mutually sovereign republics on shared economic solutions, e.g. water, energy, food, and future prosperity.

ELECTIONS: The inalienable right to vote is based only on being a citizen, not on social concepts like race, or any other biological/political orientation. Voting districts should be drawn according to the U.S. Constitution: simple population density, and not reflect any bias of demographics. Primaries must allow individuals to win by their policies, not force closed party loyalty.

ENVIRONMENT: The geological record of the biosphere disagrees with these scientists, and the President's plan. Global climate is driven by a cosmic environment of no less than our entire solar system, including the reality of

impacts from asteroids and comets, extreme space weather, and galactic shifts in radiation. I demand full funding for NASA, to expand our understanding of this.

FOREIGN INTERVENTION: Diplomacy works. We should only intervene militarily if attacked. Obama's Responsibility to Protect doctrine is anti-American, and would have provoked thermonuclear WWII with Russia if used in Syria. Bush and Obama's "War on Terror" is perpetuating the terrorism funded by "allies" like Saudi Arabia. Stop using drones to go abroad in search of monsters to destroy.

OTHER ISSUES: I'm reviving the JFK-FDR tradition in Texas by rallying the farmers, industrialists, scientists & artists, to reassert the American tradition of progress, not seen for 50 years, since the leadership of a real President, John F. Kennedy. Nobody out there mistakes the fakery of Obama with the optimism JFK represented. Long term progress must supplant Wall St. profiteering.

EDUCATION: I was born and raised in Texas, and have lived in Houston nearly all my life. In 2001, I graduated from Texas State University at San Marcos with a B.A. in Political Science and Speech Communications.

EXPERIENCE: In 2010 and 2012, I won the Democratic nomination in the 22nd Congressional District on the program "Save NASA Impeach Obama", without any organizational or financial backing from the party.

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NO RESPONSE RECEIVED BY PRINT DEADLINE. SEE VOTE411 FOR ANY LATER RESPONSES.

CURT CLEAVER (R), JOHN CORNYN (R), CHRIS MAPP (R), DWAYNE STOVALL (R), MAXEY MARIE SCHERR (D)

STATE OF TEXAS GOVERNOR

Four-year term. Must be at least 30 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Texas resident for the five years immediately preceding the election. Among duties: executes all laws and conducts all business with other states and the federal government; fills appointive offices; fills vacancies in state or district elected offices by appointment; calls special sessions of the Legislature and sets their agenda; signs or vetoes bills passed by the Legislature. Current annual salary: \$150,000

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

JOBS: What do you think are the most important factors in ensuring that Texas has a vibrant, well-educated workforce for the future?

HEALTH CARE: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Texas has the nation's highest percentage of uninsured residents. What, if anything, should the state do to enable more people to have access to adequate health care?

EDUCATION: What, if anything, needs to be done to improve the quality of education in Texas?

TRANSPORTATION: What is the best way for Texas to meet its growing transportation needs?

ENVIRONMENT: What should be the governor's role in balancing environmental concerns with competing interests?

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



GREG ABBOTT (R)

JOBS: Texas must continue leading the nation in job creation. All students should graduate high school ready for a career or college, with strong backgrounds in STEM subjects, literacy skills and virtues like determination and honesty. Higher education must be more affordable and relevant. Community Colleges must equip students with marketable skills that meet workforce needs.

HEALTH CARE: Put patients and doctors in charge of healthcare decisions; not bureaucrats. Allow insurance sales across state lines; allow individuals, families and small businesses to pool risks; increase portability by tying insurance and tax credits to individuals, not employers; expand health savings accounts; use block grants for Medicaid. Have a high-risk pool for those in need.

EDUCATION: Texas must strive to be top-ranked in education. Greg Abbott will focus on excellence, trust and restoring real local control rather than imposing meaningless tests, regulations and mandates. Expanded public school choice, mentoring for teachers, leadership training for principals, and digital learning opportunities are critical to building a 21st Century education system.

TRANSPORTATION: Greg Abbott advocates measures to ensure adequate funding for Texas transportation without new debt, taxes, or fees: State Highway Fund monies should not be used to pay for other agencies; money dedicated

to roads should be spent on roads. Part of the motor vehicle tax should be spent on roads, in addition to any funds generated by a November 2014 ballot amendment.

ENVIRONMENT: This is not an either-or proposition: families can enjoy both economic growth and ecological preservation. While Texas leads the nation in job creation, Texas is also a leader in ozone reduction, cutting NOx emissions by 64% and sulfur dioxide by 32%. Texas leads the nation in both traditional energy production and alternative energy.

OTHER ISSUES: Keep Texas the national leader in job creation. Keep the Texas economy #1 in the nation by prioritizing roads, water, and schools, not by raising taxes but by setting real spending limits and controlling debt. Inspire a generation of children to graduate college-ready or career-ready by empowering parents, teachers and principals. Secure the border and keep Texans safe.

EDUCATION: Duncanville High School, Class of 1976. Undergraduate B.B.A. in Finance from the University of Texas, 1981. JD from Vanderbilt University, 1984.

EXPERIENCE: Attorney General of Texas, 2002-Present. Supreme Court of Texas Justice, 1996-2001. Judge of the 129th District Court, 1993-95. Attorney, Butler and Binion, LLP, 1984-92.

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LISA FRITSCH (R)

JOBS: A strong family unit, a collaborative community, and a quality education ensures a vibrant workforce for the future. We need an educational system that targets the individual and collective needs of its students. Not all children learn the same. And, not all students share the goal of being on the University track. Education must also focus on vocational and technical skill (///)

HEALTH CARE: As a Texas resident and mother who bears the responsibility and burden of paying out of pocket for health insurance. We are not all lucky enough to be covered under the state insurance plans with the luxury of not worrying about this cost. I don't believe in one size fits all, centralized solutions for health care. The recent roll-out problems of the "Affordable" Care Act (///)

EDUCATION: We must empower our teachers to teach and not instruct tests. Get back to basics of teaching math, history, science, and language arts. Critical thinking skills paired with core knowledge is also essential. Intelligence plus character to bolster a solid education in order to battle the moral and spiritual battles of the world. Parental involvement and choice keeps students (///)

TRANSPORTATION: Demand on our transportation system is outpacing revenue/funding. We should examine dedicating all state motor fuels tax revenue to transportation and look at ways to increase TxDOT efficiency.

ENVIRONMENT: I don't accept the premise of the question. I don't accept that EPA overreach is necessarily good for the environment. I support our desire in Texas to be energy independent. I will continue to support our efforts in Texas to be energy independent and to guard our natural resources. Our rainy day fund depends on this as well as our ability to be the 8th largest economy. We (///)

OTHER ISSUES: I believe addressing the 18.8 percent of Texans living in poverty by providing a path towards entrepreneurialism and free market capitalism. I also believe we must get real about addressing immigration reform by securing our borders and having the freedom and power to document guest workers. Additionally we must address the Life issue in a way that invests in our young wo (///)

EDUCATION: BA, Japanese Language and Literature University of Texas at Austin, 1997

EXPERIENCE: 1999-present conservative commentary published in Washington Times, Dallas Morning News, The Austin American Statesman, GOP USA, American Thinker, Town Hall and Breitbart. 1999-2013 National Center for Public Policy Research's Project 21 – conservat (///)

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information:

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SECEDE KILGORE (R)

JOB: The US empire hinders the Texas workforce by regulations and by stealing money from families that could use it for education. Therefore Texas needs to secede from the US empire to have a vibrant, well-educated workforce for the future.

HEALTH CARE: The US empire hinders Texas health care by regulations and by stealing money from families that could be used for health care. Therefore Texas needs to secede from the US empire to enable more people to have access to adequate health care.

EDUCATION: The US empire hinders Texas education by regulations and by stealing money from families that could use it for education. Therefore Texas needs to secede from the US empire to improve the quality of education in Texas.

TRANSPORTATION: The US empire hinders Texas transportation by regulations and by stealing money from families that could use it for transportation. Therefore

Texas needs to secede from the US empire to meet its growing transportation needs.

ENVIRONMENT: The governor should lead Texas toward secession. Then Texas can balance environmental concerns with competing interests without US interference.

OTHER ISSUES: The US empire oppresses Texas by murdering babies, excessive taxation, socialist healthcare, socialist security, socialist education, etc. Texas needs to address all these issues without US interference. **SECEDE!**

EDUCATION: Mostly the Bible.

EXPERIENCE: Honored my parents. Kept my marriage vows. Trained my children. Helped the community.

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REYNALDO "RAY" MADRIGAL (D)

JOB: Education is the most important factor in ensuring that Texas has a vibrant well educated work force is that all students must graduate from high school so they can have a fair chance at going to college and Universities. The military is recommended because a person learns a trade and also earns college hours for when he/she leaves the military there are also many trades (///)

HEALTH CARE: The problem is low wages and that can be corrected by increasing the hourly wage plus have the cost of insurance set on a sliding scale according to a persons annual income and how many dependents in each household. This would insure more equality in how insurance premiums are determined and surly this would increase the number of insured people in Texas. The insurance co (///)

EDUCATION: Increase the teachers salary to be on par with the national level so that they don't have to take a second job to make ends meet, they must be totally dedicated to their profession of teaching to improve the quality of education of all the children in Texas. The fact that many children are absent from school must not be tolerated when schools have truant officers. no,n (///)

TRANSPORTATION: Texas needs to change it's ways of doing business and create 1.Road Transportation, 2.Air Transportation, 3. Rail Transportation and 4. Water transportation. Each department would be responsible to it's board of directors

and insure that they would meet the future requirements of the states growing transportation needs as the state continues to grow more than any state

ENVIRONMENT: The Governors role should always be the safety of all it's citizens and insure that the environmental protection agency does it's job. We Texans do not want to see another problem like the one in West, Texas. There needs to be a balance between our growing industry and the health of all it's citizens. There has to be a happy medium for all Texans to prosper together. Safe.

OTHER ISSUES: Transparency in government so all citizens know that we have open government for all to feel safe in Texas. We must improve on our open records enforcements to insure that people get their requests as soon as possible. Texas needs to have better relations with Washington, D.C. and Mexico so we provide for better education for all of Texas children. We share 1400 mile bor (///)

EDUCATION: graduate TEXAS A & M University Corpus Christi, Graduate Del Mar College, U.S Army H.S., Corpus Christi Barber College, Leadership Corpus Christi Class V , Del Carnage, French language while stationed in Paris, and New York City School of Photogra. (///)

EXPERIENCE: Military, Barbering, Photography, Promoting, Television Producer, Acting, Advertising, Boxing Promoter, Community Festivals, Bingos, Political, Fifty Years Business Experience, Boards and Commissions, American Legion Post 364 and most Important- LI (///)

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NO RESPONSE RECEIVED BY PRINT DEADLINE. SEE VOTE411 FOR ANY LATER RESPONSES. **MIRIAM MARTINEZ (R), WENDY R. DAVIS (D)**

VOTER information: Voting In Texas Primaries

When you vote in a political party's primary, you become affiliated with that party for the next two years. At the time you vote, your voting certificate may be stamped with the name of the party in whose primary you vote. You may vote in only one party's primary. If there is a runoff, you may vote only in the same party's runoff election.

Note: In the general election in November, you can vote for any candidate you wish, regardless of whether you voted in a party primary or runoff or participated in a party convention. All candidates from all parties are on the same ballot.

Why is it important to vote in the Primary Election?

Voting in the Primary Election allows you to select the candidates who will be on the ballot in November. It also allows you to participate in the precinct, county or senatorial district, and state conventions of a particular party. Only the Democratic and Republic parties hold primary elections; other parties, including the Libertarian and Green parties nominate their candidates at their precinct, county, and state conventions.

Party precinct conventions are the first step in the process that adopts the state party platform; certifies the party's nominees for state office in general elections; selects delegates to the party's county or senatorial district, and the state and national conventions; nominates presidential electors; elects national party committee members; and writes the national party platform.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

SECRETARY OF STATE
www.sos.state.tx.us
www.VoteTexas.gov

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
www.lwvtexas.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS (U.S.)
www.lww.org

REPUBLICAN PARTY
www.texasgop.org

DEMOCRATIC PARTY
www.txdemocrats.org

LIBERTARIAN PARTY
www.lptexas.org

GREEN PARTY
www.txgreens.org

VOTE411.org

STATE OF TEXAS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Four-year term. Must be at least 30 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Texas resident for the five years immediately preceding the election. Among duties as part of both the Executive and Legislative branches: assumes powers of Governor when Governor is absent or unable to serve; acts as President of the Senate; by statute, is a member of several Legislative branch boards and committees. The salary is that of a state senator when serving as President of the Texas Senate and that of the Governor when serving as Governor.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

TRANSPORTATION: What is the best way for Texas to meet its growing transportation needs?

EDUCATION: What, if anything, needs to be done to improve the quality of education in Texas?

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Human trafficking is widespread in Texas and its major cities are among some of the nation's largest hubs. Do you support increased funding to combat human trafficking? Why or why not?

TWO-THIRDS RULE: The rule that requires two-thirds of the Senators to agree

to bring an issue to the floor is credited with encouraging Senators to work together and across party lines. The two-thirds rule typically operates during regular sessions and sometimes but not always during special sessions. Under what circumstances would you use or not use the two-thirds rule?

FUNCTION: What do you think is the most important function of the Lieutenant Governor during the legislative session?

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



DAVID DEWHURST (R)

TRANSPORTATION: I will eliminate the last half of the diversion of Fund 6 dollars to DPS for highway safety. I will also reduce the destruction of new and current highways by overweight trucks that now represent, with TxDOT overhead, more than 70% of TxDOT's annual budget. I oppose issuing new debt to build roads, raising tolls on roads and increasing taxes.

EDUCATION: A good education is the key to opportunity. I support increasing parental and local control of Texas public education, and directing more money into the classroom by prioritizing current state funding. I support strong accountability, while reducing teaching to the test, and ensuring world class teachers by utilizing distance learning where appropriate.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Human trafficking can be largely eliminated by securing our southern border. As Lt. Governor I have helped lead over the last five years by appropriating almost \$800 million to secure the border. Working with the DPS I have called on the legislature to fund closing our southern border to human trafficking, illegal immigration and drug smuggling.

TWO-THIRDS RULE: The two-thirds rule is a Senators' rule, meaning it's up to the members of the Senate to make that decision. If the Democrats continue

to use the two-thirds rule to block the will of the majority of Texans, instead of negotiating in the best interest of all Texans, I will recommend a 60 percent rule during regular sessions, if Senators agree.

FUNCTION: The most important function of the Lt. Governor is to lead the Senate in passing good, conservative legislation. The Lt. Governor also helps kill bad bills and tax increases, plus leads on the state budget by keeping spending under population growth and inflation. I have successfully balanced the last six budgets without increasing taxes.

OTHER ISSUES: I will continue to work to fight Obamacare. This past session I was successful in passing legislation that stopped the expansion of Medicare, which is Obamacare, and stopped our state of Texas from running the state Obamacare exchange.

EDUCATION: University of Arizona; Attended Georgetown University Law School

EXPERIENCE: Current Texas Lieutenant Governor (2003 – Present); Former Texas Land Commissioner (1999-2003); Founder of Falcon Seaboard, an oil and gas and investments company

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DAN PATRICK (R)

TRANSPORTATION: Our state's transportation debt is at a historic level because we don't make it a priority. Gas taxes are no longer a reliable means of funding transportation. That is why I support dedicating our vehicle sales tax revenue to roads. As Lt. Governor, I will reduce our transportation funding debt and move back to a pay-as-you-go system.

EDUCATION: I believe we must set standards high and give our students and teachers the flexibility to meet them. As Chairman of the Senate Education committee, I led the effort to reduce our standardized testing, improve the career/tech options, increase school accountability and provide better options to families like charter schools. I will continue to fight Common Core and CSCOPE.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Yes, I have passed legislation to increase penalties on coyotes who transport illegal aliens into Texas. I voted against the 2013 budget because it had a reported reduction in funding for border security and fighting organized crime. I will make border security a funding priority and end the illicit activity that currently takes place along our border.

TWO-THIRDS RULE: I would encourage the Texas Senate to replace the two-thirds rule with a three-fifths rule to match the United States Senate. As a

freshman in 2007, I tried to change the two-thirds rule and cast the sole vote. Since then, I have raised support to over ten senators for this policy change and have raised awareness of this rule that frustrates the will of the majority.

FUNCTION: The Lt Governor must represent the will of the people who elected him. The Lt Governor should keep the tax burden low and ensure that the Texas economy continues to grow. The Lt Governor must lead by example and respect all citizens and Senators and operate the Senate professionally. Lastly, he should work with leadership to put the best interest of Texas above politics.

OTHER ISSUES: My priorities as Lt. Governor will be to secure the border, pass school choice, pass spending limit reform, and reduce the tax burdens through property tax relief and franchise tax abolishment.

EDUCATION: University of Maryland-Baltimore

EXPERIENCE: I have been an entrepreneur my whole life. I started working as a TV sports anchor in Scranton, NJ and landed in Houston. I worked as a sports anchor for several years and got in the radio business where I have worked as a broadcaster for 30+ years.

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VOTER information:

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office, or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

Additional candidate information and races are available at www.VOTE411.org.



TODD STAPLES (R)

TRANSPORTATION: We must establish & prioritize within-budget funding for a long-term plan for transportation & water infrastructure needs, end transportation budget diversions, prioritize transportation projects based on public safety criteria, prohibit conversion of existing roads to toll roads and dedicate future growth of the motor vehicle sales tax to fund transportation projects.

EDUCATION: Funding schools must be student focused, support quality teachers & direct dollars to classrooms. We must reward success & establish a constitutionally sound, fiscally conservative & locally driven education system. Funding is over-reliant on property taxes & new funding methods should move away from property taxes. Any swap must not increase overall burden on taxpayers.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Human trafficking is a tragic epidemic. We must use every avenue to stop this travesty including within-budget prioritization for new funding. Evaluation of current laws & focusing on the most effective methods to combat trafficking will guide any funding decisions. Also, law enforcement must be strategic & pro-active to target & dismantle human trafficking organizations.

TWO-THIRDS RULE: I support lowering the threshold or eliminating the two-thirds rule to ensure the passage of priority legislation. Allowing a liberal

minority to thwart significant legislation is not leadership. I will ensure leadership and results guide the Senate and not hide behind procedural hurdles.

FUNCTION: Providing leadership & getting results. The Lt. Gov. must set the tone, goals & expectations of the Senate. I will first determine how many committees can be eliminated in an effort to slow the growth of government through legislation. I will only appoint committee chairs who will stand by me in solving the state's challenges with a conservative, free market approach.

OTHER ISSUES: Border security & immigration reform is paramount to the future success of Texas, and I have developed a 6-point plan which starts with border security and does NOT include amnesty. Real issues deserve results and leaders who can deliver them. I have outlined my Contract with Texans which clearly defines my priorities as Lt. Gov. To learn more, visit www.toddstaples.com.

EDUCATION: Graduated with Honors with a degree in Agriculture Economics from Texas A&M University

EXPERIENCE: Business owner, real estate appraiser, broker & licensed property tax professional, rancher; Former member, Palestine city council (Mayor Pro-Tem); Former member, TX House of Representatives; Former member, TX Senate; TX Commissioner of Agriculture.

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Unopposed Candidates:

LETICIA VAN DE PUTTE (D)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED BY PRINT DEADLINE. SEE VOTE411 FOR ANY LATER RESPONSES. **JERRY PATTERSON (R)**

**STATE OF TEXAS
ATTORNEY
GENERAL**

Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Texas resident for at least 12 months. Among duties: lawyer for the state; defends the laws and Constitution of the state; represents the state in litigation; approves public bond issues; enforces health, safety and consumer regulations; collects court-ordered child support; administers Crime Victims' Compensation Fund. Current annual salary: \$150,000

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Human trafficking is widespread in Texas and its major cities are among some of the nation's largest hubs. What is needed to combat human trafficking in Texas?

STATE/FEDERAL: The Attorney General's Office has been actively involved in questions of state and federal jurisdiction. What do you see as the role of the Attorney General in these issues?

RESPONSIBILITIES: Which advisory and enforcement responsibilities of the Attorney General's office will need the most attention and resources in the next four years, and how would you address them?

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



DAN BRANCH (R)

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: The Attorney General must prosecute online predators, advocate for children of deadbeat parents and prevent human trafficking. Since 2003, the Legislature has invested \$800+ million in border security and I have supported 15 anti-trafficking bills. As AG, I will call upon the U.S. to secure the border and reimburse Texas for law enforcement and correctional costs incurred.

STATE/FEDERAL: The Attorney General is the last line of defense against federal overreach. Whether through the IRS, DOJ, NSA or EPA, in recent years the federal government has repeatedly encroached on individual liberties and the rights of states. The AG has a constitutional obligation to defend Texas from federal or state encroachment and defend the rights of all Texans.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Democracy depends on free and fair elections. Free and fair elections demand that Texas enfranchise all lawful voters and ensure ballot integrity. To protect the sanctity of the vote, I coauthored the Texas Voter ID

law and support its vigorous defense. As AG, I will fight for ballot integrity and create a Voter Fraud Task Force within the Office of Attorney General.

OTHER ISSUES: The federal government has repeatedly proven itself unwilling or unable to secure our international border. In the Legislature, I've raised penalties for gang crimes and enhanced border law enforcement. But we must do more. As AG, I will shift a significant amount resources toward securing our border and protecting our citizens from border-related crime.

EDUCATION: J.D., Southern Methodist University School of Law; Institute on Comparative Political & Economic Systems, Georgetown University; B.A., highest honors, B.S., highest honors, Oklahoma Christian University

EXPERIENCE: Member, Texas House since '03; Chair, Higher Ed since '09; Member, LBB since '07; 30 yrs practicing attorney, 22 yrs preeminent ranking; Clerk, Chief Justice, TX Supreme Ct; Shareholder, Winstead PC; Founder, Langley & Branch; Associate, Baker Botts

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BARRY SMITHERMAN (R)

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Increased prosecution of border crime is needed. Border crime spreads through the rest of our state & human trafficking is a problem. I'll create a border security task force to restore law and order to the border area. This task force of law enforcement professionals and assistant attorneys general, working with local district attorneys, will prosecute human traffickers.

STATE/FEDERAL: Texas must stand up against federal government overreach. I am the only candidate with a record of fighting the Obama Administration. I will continue to fight this Administration's overreach on Obamacare, energy issues, climate change, photo-id, abortion laws, Voting Rights Act cases and other issues that are a constant threat to Texans and our way of life.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Child support division accounts for over half of the Attorney General's budget. I've been told some staff have become disinterested paper

pushers, no longer working to ensure the best interests of the child are met. I will make certain that mothers and fathers are receiving mandated visitation rights so that the parent-child relationship is maintained with both parents.

OTHER ISSUES: I am a passionate fighter for pro-life issues. I am the only candidate who has been endorsed by both Texas Right to Life and Texas Alliance for Life--the two largest pro-life organizations in the state. As Attorney General, I will continue defending Texas' pro-life laws from attacks in the courts.

EDUCATION: Texas A&M B.B.A. University of Texas School of Law, J.D. Harvard, M.P.A.

EXPERIENCE: I am an attorney who worked in the private sector for 17 years before entering the public sector. I am a former Harris County Assistant District Attorney with a conservative record leading the Public Utility Commission and the Railroad Commission.

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Unopposed Candidates: _____

SAM HOUSTON (D)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED BY PRINT DEADLINE. SEE VOTE411 FOR ANY LATER RESPONSES. **KEN PAXTON (R)**

STATE OF TEXAS
**COMPTROLLER
OF PUBLIC
ACCOUNTS**

Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Texas resident for at least 12 months. Among duties: collects taxes and fees owed the state; reports the state's financial condition to the Legislature at the end of each fiscal year and provides estimates of revenue for the coming year; provides economic development assistance to local governments and businesses; audits the performance of Texas schools. Current annual salary: \$150,000

Unopposed Candidates: _____

MIKE COLLIER (D)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED BY PRINT DEADLINE. SEE VOTE411 FOR ANY LATER RESPONSES.
GLENN HEGAR (R), HARVEY HILDERBRAN (R), DEBRA MEDINA (R), RAUL TORRES (R)

STATE OF TEXAS
**COMMISSIONER
OF GENERAL
LAND OFFICE**

Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Texas resident for at least 12 months. Among duties: management of state lands and mineral-right properties totaling 20.3 million acres and providing revenues for the Permanent School Fund; repository of state land documents; responsible for the prevention of and response to oil spills that occur on "submerged" lands out to 10.3 miles in the Gulf of Mexico. The Commissioner also serves as a chairman of seven state boards, including the School Land Board, the Veterans Land Board, and the Coastal Coordination Council. Current annual salary: \$137,500

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

ENERGY REVENUE: The Land Office currently sees the development of renewable energy on state lands as a sustainable source of earnings for the Permanent School Fund (PSF). Do you believe these renewable energy sources can sustain PSF revenues? Why or why not?

COASTAL LANDS: Texas is among the five states receiving federal funding through the Restore Act passed by the Senate in 2011. How should this funding be used to improve the existing threats to Texas coastal lands?

WETLANDS: Much emphasis is being placed by ecologists and environmental

groups on restoring and protecting the coastal wetlands to alleviate damage from major storms; however, developers and home owners want to build in these areas. How would you address the concerns of these divergent interest groups?

FUNCTIONS: What do you consider the most important functions of this position?

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

VOTER
information:
Register to Vote

YOU MUST REGISTER TO VOTE AT LEAST 30 DAYS BEFORE THE ELECTION DATE. THE LAST DAY YOU CAN REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE 2014 PRIMARY ELECTION IS FEBRUARY 3.

For more information on voter registration, see page 23.



DAVID WATTS (R)

ENERGY REVENUE: Our duty is to maximize revenue from public lands. We will maximize revenue by using the right production method for the right land. In many cases this is oil and gas production. In other cases, it is solar, wind, or biomass production. I will ensure that we are leasing the land for the right purpose at the right time, in order to maximize revenue for Texans.

COASTAL LANDS: These funds should be used to understand and mitigate threats to our coast. As a first priority, funding should address any threats remaining from the oil spill. Second, threats from recurring hurricanes and coastal erosion should receive our attention. It is vital that all funds be used with full transparency and accountability.

WETLANDS: It is very important that such decisions are made with full respect for the wishes of Texans. Texans understand that robust economic development creates opportunities to help implement reasonable ecological protections. But we must not elevate obscure ecological protections over vital economic development.

Unopposed Candidates:

JOHN COOK (D)

FUNCTIONS: The vital work of this office is to manage public lands and generate revenue for education, deliver Texas veterans benefits, and preserve Texas history. We must also become more efficient and reduce waste and red-tape. Finally, government agencies always seek to expand their size and duties. We must restrain government to its authorized and constitutional role.

OTHER ISSUES: We must champion conservative solutions, refocus education funding on Texas children and streamline how we serve Texas veterans. We must restore custodianship of the Alamo to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and end efforts to involve the United Nations in its management, and be good stewards of the Texas coastline, fully respecting both public and private property.

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science, Political Science, University of Louisville Certified Flight Instructor Certified Consultant, SAP Human Resources

EXPERIENCE: 22+ years of experience as a business and technology consultant. Extensive project management experience leading large organizations both nationally and internationally. Six years as a full time evangelist, including four preaching trips to India.

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NO RESPONSE RECEIVED BY PRINT DEADLINE. SEE VOTE411 FOR ANY LATER RESPONSES. **GEORGE P. BUSH (R)**

STATE OF TEXAS
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Texas resident for at least 12 months. Among duties: regulates fuel pumps and weights and measures devices; regulates pesticide use and application; certifies organically produced products; facilitates trade and market development of agricultural commodities. Current annual salary: \$137,500

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

ENVIRONMENT: What is your opinion of federal regulations of water and the environment? What would you do to balance the use of existing resources with environmental concerns?

WATER: Agricultural use of water must be considered along with industrial and municipal use. How would you encourage further conservation of water in agricultural use?

FUNCTIONS: What do you consider the most important functions of this position?

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



J. ALLEN CARNES (R)

ENVIRONMENT: Federal government has problems with issues specific to particular locales when it attempts to use a one-size fits all approach. We see instances of this concerning water issues and endangered species. It's in agriculture's best interest to protect natural resources and as Ag Commissioner I will work to ensure the future existence of our industry it's resources and assets

WATER: We in agriculture are, by nature, conservative and forced by economics to remain so. As caretakers of the land, we seek ways to conserve water, soil and other resources. Knowing water is a finite resource, most agriculture producers have implemented strategies for the conservation and efficient use of water. We must encourage and support continued research and education

FUNCTIONS: Ensure a strong foundation for Texas Agriculture capable of providing safe, affordable and abundant food, fiber and shelter. Be an advocate for maintenance of strong infrastructure, such as water projects and roads.

Support producers' efforts to make a profit; allowing them to stay in business and nurture and care for their land and livestock in a sustainable manner.

OTHER ISSUES: Providing opportunities and support to younger Texans to contribute to growth and sustenance of Texas Agriculture. Immigration - A workable guest worker system is necessary to sustain Texas Ag to help it meet the demands of a growing Texas. This must include a system to not only track entrance into Texas, but an exit system to deal with those who overstay their visa.

EDUCATION: Undergraduate degree (B.B.A.) Finance, University of Texas Austin, McCombs School of Business

EXPERIENCE: Owner/Mgr - Winter Garden Produce-Uvalde, which grows and ships produce nationwide. Own 3500+ acres of farmland. Maintain majority interest in cotton gin. Agricultural policymaking working on issues in Washington and with current Commissioner Staples

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i VOTER information: Visit VOTE411.org

An interactive version of this *Voters Guide* is available online at VOTE411.org. Enter your address and zip code and view the races and candidates that appear on your ballot. You will be able to compare the candidates' responses to the questions side-by-side and create a printout of a ballot that you can take to the polls.



JOE COTTEN (R)

ENVIRONMENT: Federal regulators seem to overreach most of the time. Texan's want some type of balance between concerns for the environment and use of natural resources. Most Texan's also want some assurance that the environment, and particularly Water quality (A Lot of Clean Water) is not harmed in anyway and fight for Clean Air(see below).

WATER: As Agriculture Commissioner, I will Support research to decrease water loss by evapotranspiration and to develop plants that use less water and still give acceptable yields. Regulations by water districts obviously come into play and will be an increasingly important part of managing the underground water resource in the next several years.

FUNCTIONS: As the AG Commissioner, I (Joe Cotten) Will Be your Strong Advocate for Production Agriculture, Alot of Clean Water and fight for Clean Air (Dallas Morning News, section 1B, 10/24/2013- Doctor's Pollution Plea Fails). Ensuring that Texan's know what it means to Texas and in Supporting



SID MILLER (R)

ENVIRONMENT: We have too much federal intrusion and not enough local control. Texans should be in control of our water supply, not Washington, D.C.. Having spent my entire life working in Texas agriculture, I understand the delicate balance between protecting our environment while letting the land produce a profit for our hardworking farm and ranch families.

WATER: I will make sure that municipal, industrial, and agricultural users all have a seat at the table with an emphasis on conservation and improving efficiency through good stewardship. I will encourage updating outdated mechanisms in water irrigation and improve irrigation techniques and technology. Protecting Texas' precious water resources will be my top priority.

FUNCTIONS: Protecting and preserving our Texas heritage and our unique quality of life while promoting Texas agriculture products around the nation and the world. Fighting undue federal intrusion into our lives of lives and defending



ERIC OPIELA (R)

ENVIRONMENT: Agriculture and the environment are not mutually exclusive—when we protect agriculture the environment benefits. When the federal government attempts to interfere with landowners' Constitutional property rights and our ability to develop sustainable water resources, I believe that the Texas Department of Agriculture should fight back against federal overreach.

WATER: Texas farmers and ranchers are conservationists by necessity—they already have implemented variable flow rate and drip irrigation, and have cleared thousands of acres of invasive salt cedar to provide just a few examples. The Texas Department of Agriculture must continue to assist farmers and ranchers in water conservation, but also protect their water rights.

FUNCTIONS: This Department is charged with protecting Texas agriculture and



HUGH ASA FITZSIMONS III (D)

ENVIRONMENT: My feeling is that in most cases federal regulations need to be followed as they pertain to water and the environment.I would require that producers use natural resources responsibly. We only have one environment and we need to do everything possible to protect it. The determining factor is how will our agricultural production decisions affect the next generation.

WATER: Drip irrigation. Growing crops that are less water intensive. Raising grass fed livestock and utilizing rotational grazing. Rainwater harvesting. Establishing aquifer recharge zones and underground storage facilities that reduce evaporation. Covering irrigation ditches.

FUNCTIONS: Safeguarding our water, air, and land so we produce healthy food and fiber for Texans. As the chief law enforcement officer for the TDA, the commissioner is responsible for making sure we emphasize policies that regulate

Sustainable Agricultural Production and Alot of Clean Water and Fight for Clean Air.

OTHER ISSUES: Marketing is very important part of that too, as is Ensuring we have Adequate Water for Agricultural Production and Cities. The regulatory roles of TDA are also a very important part of what the department does, as are the inspection and licensing programs, the nutrition assistance programs. Thru Hardwork, Knowledge and a Good Attitude it is Time To Pick Cotten Again.

EDUCATION: Texas Tech 1973 Business(Major)/AG(Minor) What my education has taught me is By Preserving Our Texas Values of God, Country, Family, The American Flag, Our Independence and being Pro Constitution Will Make the Differences.

EXPERIENCE: My Experience in the family Farming, Ranching, Cotten's Barbecue in Robstown and over three decades of Financials, has shown me that Hardwork, Knowledge and a Good Attitude will help you be successful in life.

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our constitutional freedoms, especially the 2nd Amendment. Protecting private property rights and preserving our state's precious water resources,

OTHER ISSUES: The Texas Agriculture Commissioner has the responsibility of protecting the integrity, quality, and safety of our food supply for all Texas families. The Texas Department of Agriculture has the important task of overseeing the quality of Texas children's school lunch programs. If elected, I will ensure the quality of the nutritional content and safety of our food sources.

EDUCATION: AA - Cisco Junior College - Graduated with Honors Vocational Agriculture, B.S. - Tarleton State University - Graduated with Honors

EXPERIENCE: As a fourth generation Texas farmer and rancher I raise crops, cattle, horses, and nursery stock. I'm a former vocational agriculture teacher and I also served twelve years in the Texas House and was Chairman of the Livestock & Agriculture Committee.

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rural Texas, and in order to do so our next Agriculture Commissioner must lead on our state's most important issue- development of more water resources and effective water management. As the only candidate with significant experience in protecting water rights, I will work every day on this issue.

OTHER ISSUES: No response received.

EDUCATION: I have earned a Juris Doctorate and Bachelor of Arts with Honors from the University of Texas at Austin and was valedictorian of a class of thirty six at Karnes City High School, Karnes City, Texas.

EXPERIENCE: I own and operate my family's 2,300 acre ranching operation in a small rural community in South Texas. I've been a leader in agriculture, participating in and later lecturing for the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Program. I've spent over a (///)

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fairly while maximizing production. We need to set a tone that emphasizes more organic and grass fed production for local markets.

OTHER ISSUES: Water conservation through use of advanced technology. Supporting organic and sustainably raised livestock and crops that then become part of the diet of our citizens. Obesity and the diabetes epidemic are also at the top of my list. More Texas grown fruit, nuts, produce, and grass fed meats for school children.

EDUCATION: B A in History Trinity University M A in History UTSA

EXPERIENCE: Taught History and World Geography. Taught at Good Samaritan Center in San Antonio Taught American History at San Antonio College Established Thunderheart Bison and Native Nectar guajillo honey Director Wintergarden Water Conservation District

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WEBSITE: hughfitzsimons.com



RICHARD "KINKY" FRIEDMAN (D)

ENVIRONMENT: Texas needs to take a hard look at its own water policies. Texas is the only western arid state that still relies on rule of capture in deciding water rights. This has put our water reserves at risk and has created a logjam in our courts over rights. The rule of capture needs amendment or replacement. Sew together existing water boards, put them under one roof.

WATER: Scrap the prohibition on hemp production. Hemp uses half the water of cotton, produces two and a half times the fiber of cotton, and it needs no pesticides - cotton uses 25% of the world's TOTAL pesticides. We must multiply our water harvesting capabilities by ten. It's our only sustainable option. We must continue the development of desalination plants, as in El Paso.

FUNCTIONS: The Commissioner represents all ranchers and farmers, big and small. Agribusiness is a basic need of ALL people, so he also must represent consumers. He must manage finite resources carefully, always with an eye on

the preservation of the environment. He must interact with other agencies on forward thinking policies and relevant current issues.

OTHER ISSUES: The most important issue facing the Commissioner Of Agriculture is the balance between water use and environmentally responsible practices vs the realization of energy self-sufficiency and the continued success of agribusiness. Without responsible management, there could be many dangers ahead. Bold ideas are needed for all criteria to be met. Legalize hemp - good start.

EDUCATION: Plan II Degree from UT Austin

EXPERIENCE: Co-operated family ranch for 50 years Developed agriculture techniques for people of Borneo with the Peace Corps Toured the world, written many books 1st Independent Gov candidate in Texas history to collect enough signatures to be on the ballot

PHONE: (512) 873-0249 | EMAIL: cody.garrett@gmail.com

WEBSITE: TexasForKinky.com

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED BY PRINT DEADLINE. SEE VOTE411 FOR ANY LATER RESPONSES. **TOMMY MERRITT (R), JIM HOGAN (D)**

STATE OF TEXAS
**RAILROAD
COMMISSIONER**

Six-year term (on a three-person commission). Must be at least 25 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Texas resident and registered voter. Among duties: regulation of the oil and natural gas industry, including drilling production and environmental protection; natural gas utilities; natural gas and hazardous liquids pipeline safety; surface mining of coal, uranium, and iron ore gravel, including land reclamation; transportation and storage of liquefied petroleum gas, compressed natural gas, and liquefied natural gas; encourages the use of clean-burning propane and researches new technologies for its use. Current annual salary: \$137,500

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

COMMISSION STRUCTURE: The Railroad Commission regulates all oil and gas drilling in the state, yet some believe its structure, software systems and regulations are outdated. What changes, if any, need to be made to address these issues?

FRACKING: Drilling rules were written before fracking was developed as a drilling alternative. What types of rules are needed regarding fracking and how should they be enforced?

IMPARTIALITY: How do you maintain impartiality in enforcement of drilling regulations, when many campaign contributions come from the drilling industry itself?

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



BECKY BERGER (R)

COMMISSION STRUCTURE: The RRC received \$15M to improve the IT & computer infrastructure & website. The company that built the healthcare website was retained to build the RRC system. I'll be watching carefully at every checkpoint to be sure our tax dollars are used effectively and use the existing contract to replace them if they don't perform as needed. Increased due diligence is needed.

FRACKING: Fracking has been used since 1947 in TX. New rules do exist for all aspects of hydraulic fracturing which isn't a drilling alternative but an enhanced recovery mechanism. All wells are drilled whereas fracturing is used to increase well productivity. The RRC requires disclosure of all chemicals & pressure levels used. Enforcement by reports, inspection & penalties works.

IMPARTIALITY: People are capable of impartiality. That is one of the reasons I'm running, to bring more fairness to the RRC administrative court for mineral owners & companies. The enforcement inspections are done by inspectors

and the commissioners aren't in a position to ignore those reports. Every case should be determined on its merits only. I'll be fair in all actions.

OTHER ISSUES: I'll work with the legislature to get the RRC back on a ten year Sunset review. Establish good relationships with Senators & House Reps. using my experience to guide the commission to function in a businesslike manner with accountability that Texans deserve. I plan to stop overreach of federal agencies using science & public townhalls to fight flawed arguments that hurt TX.

EDUCATION: BS in Geology, minors in Engineering & Economics from the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK and summer school at Colorado School of Mines in Golden, CO.

EXPERIENCE: 30+ years in the petroleum and mining industry, uses this agency regularly- firsthand knowledge of agency operations, job experience from roustabout, mudlogger, wellsite/ development geologist, VP of Exploration, evaluating acquisitions & expert witness

PHONE: (979) 505-0508 | EMAIL: beckybergerforrrc@gmail.com

WEBSITE: beckybergerfortexas.com

**VOTER
information:
The Voters Guide**

You may bring this *Voters Guide* into the voting booth! In 1995, the Texas law prohibiting use of printed materials, such as this *Voters Guide*, in the polling place was ruled unconstitutional (*Texas Election Code, Section 61.011*)

Additional candidate information and races are available at www.VOTE411.org.



MALACHI BOYULS (R)

COMMISSION STRUCTURE: The biggest challenge facing the Commission is the ability to increase efficiencies and retain qualified staff. The Commission currently faces a backlog in certain permits and completion logs, which slows the industry's ability to produce the energy Texas and the nation desperately need. The Commission is currently upgrading its technological capabilities.

FRACKING: We have been fracturing safely in Texas for decades. Texans know best how to utilize the technology to ensure our water is safe and the environment is protected. Current regulations are satisfactory, but we should always review them for improvement. A major concern is the fluids used in hydraulic fracturing, but new rules require the disclosure of chemicals in the fluids.

IMPARTIALITY: Texas ethics laws require strict reporting of campaign contributions that are transparent and readily available to the public. Rules and laws must be

enforced blind from any outside sources, because Texas and our nation need and require a thriving energy industry without jeopardizing clean air and water.

OTHER ISSUES: I believe another major issue facing the Railroad Commission and Texas is the federal government's persistent attempt to over-regulate and control our energy resources. My experience as a regulatory attorney with a track record of fighting and winning against the federal government will be critical to ensure they do not get their hands on Texas' energy and jobs.

EDUCATION: B.A. Religion, University of Mary Hardin Baylor; J.D., New York University School of Law

EXPERIENCE: Founded St. Augustine Partners, Oil & Gas Business; Attorney-Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher (Dallas); Gober Hilgers, PLLC (Dallas); Clerk, Judge David Godbey-US District Court; Clerk, Judge Harris Hartz-10th Circuit Court; Intern with now-Justice Samuel Alito

PHONE: (972) 584-7447 | EMAIL: info@malachifortexas.com

WEBSITE: malachifortexas.com

WAYNE CHRISTIAN (R)

COMMISSION STRUCTURE: The RRC has a duty to both promote public safety and ensure our energy sector has the freedom to thrive. Overregulating will discourage production in Texas, while underregulating has the potential to put the lives of citizens in danger. We must maintain a balance. The steps taken this last Session to modernize the software should be continued to increase efficiency.

FRACKING: I do not plan on being over-zealous with increasing rules and regulations on a sector that creates hundreds of thousands of private sector jobs in Texas. As commissioner, if there are legitimate concerns that need addressing, I will do so on a case-by-case basis.

IMPARTIALITY: One thing that makes me different in this race is I am the only person that is not in the industry the RRC regulates. This means I have the ability to be much more impartial in my decision making as I am not

regulating myself. I have proven through 15 years of service that I stick to my convictions and am beholden only to the people of Texas.

OTHER ISSUES: Federal overreach is a big issue. If we are not consistent with our rule making and enforcement, it could open us up to increased regulations from the EPA if we are ever challenged in court. In the RRC I would be diligent in ensuring that the rules on the books are necessary and enforced if so. We must also increase transparency and efficiency across the board.

EDUCATION: BBA in General Business Stephen F. Austin University

EXPERIENCE: Between 1997-2011 I served as State Representative for Texas House District 9. I was Vice-Chairman of Regulated Industries & served multiple terms on the Energy Committee, I am the only person in this race that has had direct oversight of the RRC.

PHONE: (936) 598-8183 | EMAIL: wayne@christianfortexas.com

WEBSITE: ChristianForTexas.com



STEVE BROWN (D)

COMMISSION STRUCTURE: I'll work to ensure that the agency is adequately funded and has trained staff capable of meeting the demands of our surging energy industry. However, the culture there must change and become more sensitive, responsive to the general public. I will work to establish an Office of Public Advocacy that will serve as a watchdog for citizens with grievances before the RRC.

FRACKING: In order to better regulate fracking we need to improve our data, transparency and commitment to punish the bad actors in the system. I think that there is a balance that can be struck between protecting our environment and citizens while also continuing to produce natural gas at historic levels. We need a Commission interested in finding that balance.

IMPARTIALITY: Transparency is extremely important when it comes to how and when a regulatory body should receive campaign contributions. Commissioners

should not be able to receive donations from companies who have pending business before the Railroad Commission. There should also be blackout periods where no donations can be received.

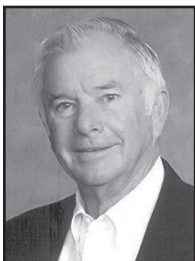
OTHER ISSUES: There's so much more to talk about with regards to reforming the RRC. However, workforce training and engaging more small and disadvantaged businesses in the industry are also important. Regarding workforce training, we can partner with educators and industry leaders to help at-risk youth develop skills needed in the oil field that may lead them to the middle class.

EDUCATION: North Carolina A&T State University B.A. Political Science Minor Economics

EXPERIENCE: My career spans well over 15 years of legislative, political, and advocacy experience. I began my career at The White House as an intern for President Bill Clinton. I have since worked at the state, local and federal levels of government.

PHONE: (832) 330-4242 | EMAIL: brown_s75@yahoo.com

WEBSITE: electstevebrown.com



DALE HENRY (D)

COMMISSION STRUCTURE: (A) Extensive training of all field and staff employees in basic well drilling and completions. The training to include boots-on-the-ground in the field. (B) Laboratory testing of all cement used (mixed cement) behind the conductor, surface, and production steel casing. The casing height and continuity made available on "all" casing strings after the job is completed.

FRACKING: This first correction is HYDRAULIC FRACTURING and not "fracking." Hydraulics is the KEY word and the media has led the public to total misinterpretation of the process. The second correction and/or RULE is that proper cementing must be proven by the operator for all casing strings before a well is hydraulically FRACTURED.

IMPARTIALITY: In my campaign – "I will not be bought nor will I buy a position." Consequently, I do not become a servant of the drilling industry "desires." The 20(+/-) million citizens of Texas will receive equal consideration. No "special" attention will be given to "special" requests (resulting from campaign contributions) to any one person and/or group.

OTHER ISSUES: Closer contact with the 16 River Authorities (contamination of water), the TECQ, and the committees in the oil/gas sector of the Senate and House. For example – the RRC should have a technically competent staff member at all sixteen River authority planning meetings.

EDUCATION: B.S. Petroleum Engineering – 1954 University of Texas

EXPERIENCE: 58 years in oil/gas/energy/water resources in Texas, continental USA and Persian Gulf and North Africa countries. Oil well/gas well casing cementing and hydraulic fracturing.

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED BY PRINT DEADLINE. SEE VOTE411 FOR ANY LATER RESPONSES. **RYAN SITTON (R)**

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

WHAT SHOULD VOTERS LOOK FOR WHEN ELECTING JUDGES?

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

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

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

HOW IS THE TEXAS COURT SYSTEM ORGANIZED?

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

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

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

Identify the Court of Appeals
Serving Your Texas County:

1ST COURT OF APPEALS: AUSTIN, BRAZORIA, CHAMBERS, COLORADO, FORT BEND, GALVESTON, GRIMES, HARRIS, WALLER & WASHINGTON

2ND COURT OF APPEALS: ARCHER, CLAY, COOKE, DENTON, HOOD, JACK, MONTAGUE, PARKER, TARRANT, WICHITA, WISE & YOUNG

3RD COURT OF APPEALS: BASTROP, BELL, BLANCO, BURNET, CALDWELL, COKE, COMAL, CONCHO, FAYETTE, HAYS, IRION, LAMPASAS, LEE, LLANO, MCCULLOCH, MILAM, MILLS, RUNNELS, SAN SABA, SCHLEICHER, STERLING, TOM GREEN, TRAVIS & WILLIAMSON

4TH COURT OF APPEALS: ATASCOSA, BANDERA, BEXAR, BROOKS, DIMMIT, DUVAL, EDWARDS, FRIO, GILLESPIE, GUADALUPE, JIM HOGG, JIM WELLS, KARNES, KENDALL, KERR, KIMBLE, KINNEY, LA SALLE, MASON, MAVERICK, MCMULLEN, MEDINA, MENARD, REAL, STARR, SUTTON, UVALDE, VAL VERDE, WEBB, WILSON, ZAPATA & ZAVALA

5TH COURT OF APPEALS: COLLIN, DALLAS, GRAYSON, HUNT, KAUFMAN & ROCKWALL

6TH COURT OF APPEALS: BOWIE, CAMP, CASS, DELTA, FANNIN, FRANKLIN, GREGG, HARRISON, HOPKINS, HUNT, LAMAR, MARION, MORRIS, PANOLA, RED RIVER, RUSK, TITUS, UPSHUR & WOOD

7TH COURT OF APPEALS: ARMSTRONG, BAILEY, BRISCOE, CARSON, CASTRO, CHILDRESS, COCHRAN, COLLINGSWORTH, COTTLE, CROSBY, DALLAM, DEAF SMITH, DICKENS, DONLEY, FLOYD, FOARD, GARZA, GRAY, HALE, HALL, HANSFORD, HARDEMAN, HARTLEY, HEMPHILL, HOCKLEY, HUTCHINSON, KENT, KING, LAMB, LIPSCOMB, LUBBOCK, LYNN, MOORE, MOTLEY, OCHILTREE, OLDHAM, PARMER, POTTER, RANDALL, ROBERTS, SHERMAN, SWISHER, TERRY, WHEELER, WILBARGER & YOAKUM

8TH COURT OF APPEALS: ANDREWS, BREWSTER, CRANE, CROCKETT, CULBERSON, EL PASO, HUDSPETH, JEFF DAVIS, LOVING, PECOS, PRESIDIO, REAGAN, REEVES, TERRELL, UPTON, WARD & WINKLER

9TH COURT OF APPEALS: HARDIN, JASPER, JEFFERSON, LIBERTY, MONTGOMERY, NEWTON, ORANGE, POLK, SAN JACINTO & TYLER

10TH COURT OF APPEALS: BOSQUE, BRAZOS, BURLESON, CORYELL, ELLIS, FALLS, FREESTONE, HAMILTON, HILL, JOHNSON, LEON, LIMESTONE, MADISON, MCLENNAN, NAVARRO, ROBERTSON, SOMERVELL & WALKER

11TH COURT OF APPEALS: BAYLOR, BORDEN, BROWN, CALLAHAN, COLEMAN, COMANCHE, DAWSON, EASTLAND, ECTOR, ERATH, FISHER, GAINES, GLASSCOCK, HASKELL, HOWARD, JONES, KNOX, MARTIN, MIDLAND, MITCHELL, NOLAN, PALO PINTO, SCURRY, SHACKELFORD, STEPHENS, STONEWALL, TAYLOR & THROCKMORTON

12TH COURT OF APPEALS: ANDERSON, ANGELINA, CHEROKEE, GREGG, HENDERSON, HOUSTON, NACOGDOCHES, RAINS, RUSK, SABINE, SAN AUGUSTINE, SHELBY, SMITH, TRINITY, UPSHUR, VAN ZANDT & WOOD

13TH COURT OF APPEALS: ARANSAS, BEE, CALHOUN, CAMERON, DE WITT, GOLIAD, GONZALES, HIDALGO, JACKSON, KENEDY, KLEBERG, LAVACA, LIVE OAK, MATAGORDA, NUECES, REFUGIO, SAN PATRICIO, VICTORIA, WHARTON & WILLACY

14TH COURT OF APPEALS: AUSTIN, BRAZORIA, CHAMBERS, COLORADO, FORT BEND, GALVESTON, GRIMES, HARRIS, WALLER & WASHINGTON

i VOTER information: When & Where You May Vote

EARLY VOTING: All registered voters may vote early by personal appearance at any early voting location in their county. Check with your local newspaper or the county clerk or election administrator for early voting times and locations. Early voting days for the March 4, 2014, Primary Election are February 18-28.

ELECTION DAY VOTING: On Election Day you must vote in your precinct of residence (unless your area is participating in countywide vote centers). Your precinct is listed on your registration card, or you may find out where to vote by calling or going online with your county election administrator.

County elections addresses and fax numbers are available at www.VoteTexas.gov or at www.VOTE411.org. Voting places are also listed in most newspapers. If you report to the incorrect polling place, you will be redirected to the correct site or offered a provisional ballot. You can vote by provisional ballot, but if it is determined that you are not registered in the precinct where you vote, your ballot will not be counted by Texas law. More information on provisional voting appears on the Texas Secretary of State website www.VoteTexas.gov.

JUSTICE, CHIEF JUSTICE
TEXAS SUPREME COURT

Six-year term. Must be at least 35 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Texas resident. Must have been a practicing lawyer for at least 10 years or a lawyer and a judge of a court of record for at least 10 years. Serves as a member of the court of final appellate jurisdiction in civil matters in the state; has the power to issue writs of *mandamus*, and preside over proceedings for removal of judges; regulates and licenses lawyers; manages the Basic Civil Legal Services Program for the poor. Annual authorized salary: \$152,500 (Chief Justice), \$150,000 (Justice)

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

IMPARTIALITY: How do you maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns?

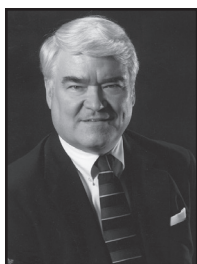
PUBLIC PROTECTION: The Texas Supreme Court oversees and controls rules and standards for the legal profession. What changes, if any, are needed to provide better protection to the public?

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: The traditional funding source for legal aid for the poor and for indigent defense has been shrinking because of low interest rates. How can Texas improve access to justice in civil cases? Do you support the

use of pre-approved forms by people appearing without a lawyer (*pro se*) in family-related cases?

ELECTRONIC FILING: New rules are going into effect to require Texas attorneys to file all legal pleadings in Texas civil cases electronically rather than in paper copy with the clerk. Has mandatory electronic filing improved the legal system? Why or why not?

LEGAL SYSTEM: What interaction with the legal system makes you most proud to be a lawyer? Why?

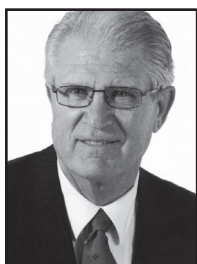


NATHAN HECHT (R)

IMPARTIALITY: Texans want to elect their judges, and campaigning is expensive, but from my first race for the Texas Supreme Court, I helped pioneer contribution limits that have since become law. I have tried to raise broad support from many people and avoid any appearance of impropriety. I am always mindful of my solemn oath to faithfully execute the duties of my office.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: Attorney ethics rules should be revised to prohibit unreasonable fees, better protect client confidentiality, prohibit improper intimate relationships with clients, ensure lawyer loyalty, and provide for fair but strict discipline of violators. The Texas Supreme Court has supported rules revisions to provide high ethical standards for lawyers and protect the public.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: I serve on the Texas Access to Justice Commission and oversee the Supreme Court's efforts to obtain crucial financial support and to encourage legal aid providers in Texas and other states. Forms in simple family-law cases can help people without lawyers. Access to justice is not a partisan issue. At stake is nothing less than the integrity of the rule of law.



ROBERT TALTON (R)

IMPARTIALITY: The Texas Legislature has limited the amount of money and the times it can be given to most judges. We need to elect judges who are not afraid to do the right thing regardless of the cost to their office. I had that reputation when I served in the Texas House.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: The rules and standards in place are adequate. There is a need to constantly monitor those rules and standards on a regular basis. One area that may be examined is when there is a complaint against a judge by the State Bar or the Ethics Commission that that complaint is swiftly remedied.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: The best way to improve access to justice is protect the contingent fee contract and trial by jury. Today over 74% of jury cases that reach the Supreme Court are over turned. Many of these are plaintiff cases where the injured party cannot afford an attorney. I do not support the use of pre-approved forms.

CHIEF JUSTICE

ELECTRONIC FILING: The Supreme Court's new rules facilitate filing papers in the courthouse with the push of a button from anywhere with Internet access. Eventually, the public will be able to see court filings with the same ease. The Court already webcasts proceedings on its website. All this makes the legal system more efficient, less expensive, and more transparent.

LEGAL SYSTEM: The Supreme Court is committed to ensuring that all Texans, including the poor, the elderly, women subject to abuse, and veterans, have access to the justice system. And the Court is committed to careful, just decisions that adhere to the rule of law. Texans can be proud of their Supreme Court, and serving it has been a high calling in my life.

EDUCATION: J.D., SMU Law School cum laude; B.A., Yale University (Honors in Philosophy)

EXPERIENCE: Texas Supreme Court (elected Justice 1988, re-elected 1994, 2000, 2006; appointed Chief Justice 2013); Fifth Court of Appeals (1986-1988); 95th District Court (1981-1986); lawyer and shareholder, Locke firm (1976-1981); Lieutenant, USNR, JAG Corps

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WEBSITE: justicenathanhecht.com

ELECTRONIC FILING: I am not sure this will help. This has created another layer of services which will raise the cost of filing lawsuits. I believe mandatory electronic filing will stop people from representing themselves, thereby limiting peoples access to the courts.

LEGAL SYSTEM: No response received.

EDUCATION: BBA, U of H, 1971 JD South Texas College of Law

EXPERIENCE: I have been practicing law for 37 years in various fields from criminal law, traffic tickets, probate, civil, municipal and government. I served 16 years in the Texas Legislature as a State Representative. I know what legislative intent means.

PHONE: (713) 944-4005 | **EMAIL:** rtalton2@att.net

WEBSITE: TaltonforChiefJustice.com

i VOTER information:
Photo ID Requirement

Texas now requires voters to show an acceptable photo ID at the polls.

See WHAT TO TAKE TO THE POLLS on the front page for a list of accepted photo IDs.

See PHOTO ID DETAILS AND EXCEPTIONS on the back page for additional specifications.

JUSTICE, PLACE 6



JEFF BROWN (R)

IMPARTIALITY: In my 12 years as a judge, I have recused myself whenever I worry that the perception of my ability to be fair has come into question. I'm proud to have consistently received high marks in bar polls for my fairness and impartiality, and I would never do anything to injure my hard-won reputation for integrity.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: By promulgating the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and overseeing the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, the Supreme Court works hard to ensure that lawyers represent their clients effectively and ethically. The Court takes these responsibilities very seriously, and I will endeavor to help maintain the high standards the Court has set for lawyer conduct.

Commission for Lawyer Discipline, the Supreme Court works hard to ensure that lawyers represent their clients effectively and ethically. The Court takes these responsibilities very seriously, and I will endeavor to help maintain the high standards the Court has set for lawyer conduct.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: One of the Supreme Court's top priorities is making sure all Texans have effective access to the courts. The Court has obtained extra funding from both the Legislature and members of the bar for that purpose, and will continue to work to improve access. In that vein, the Court has already approved pro se forms for family cases, and I support that decision by the Court.

ELECTRONIC FILING: I believe that mandatory electronic filing has improved

the legal system. It makes the courts more efficient and less expensive to operate. As a trial judge, as a judge on the court of appeals, and as a justice on the Supreme Court, I have worked extensively with electronic briefs and electronic records and have been impressed with the enhanced efficiency they provide.

LEGAL SYSTEM: When I was an appellate judge, I volunteered weekly to preside over the Harris County STAR (Success Through Addiction Recovery) Drug Court. STAR takes non-violent, drug-addicted felons and, through intensive treatment and accountability to the courts, works to free them from addiction and return them to society as productive citizens. I was proud to be part of STAR.

EDUCATION: I have a BA in English from the University of Texas and a law degree, with high honors, from the University of Houston. I'm also board-certified in civil trial law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

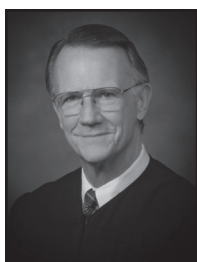
EXPERIENCE: I have over 12 years of judicial experience—6 years as a trial judge, 6 years as a court-of-appeals judge, and 3 months as a Supreme Court justice. I have won 3 judge-of-the-year awards. Before taking the bench, I practiced at Baker Botts in Houston.

PHONE: (512) 583-7131 | EMAIL: info@justicejeffbrown.com

WEBSITE: justicejeffbrown.com

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED BY PRINT DEADLINE. SEE VOTE411 FOR ANY LATER RESPONSES. **JOE POOL (R)**

JUSTICE, PLACE 8



PHIL JOHNSON (R)

IMPARTIALITY: I commit to all persons, including potential campaign donors, that I will be impartial when I decide cases. I have fulfilled that commitment for the fifteen years I've served as an appellate justice by constantly, consciously excluding any consideration of who the parties and lawyers are when I consider cases. I will always fulfill my commitment to be impartial.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: The State Bar Act provides that proposed changes to such rules must be voted on by Texas lawyers. A several-year review of the rules culminated in 2011 when the Court proposed changes in various areas, including conflicts of interest, safekeeping client property, attorney-client communications and attorney-client relationships. Lawyers voted against the proposed changes.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: The Supreme Court created the Access to Justice Commission to help plan and fund legal aid to indigents. The State Bar has funded numerous such programs; the Texas Bar Foundation provides grants for legal aid, and the Legislature provides funds for legal aid. The use of forms in some family-related cases is a valid way to help low-income persons with legal needs.

ELECTRONIC FILING: Yes, it has, and will even more in the future. Electronic filing allows 24-hour filing and access to court files; increases court efficiency and transparency; reduces costs for storing and managing records; gives judges, lawyers, government agencies and the public improved access to court files; and reduces costs when transferring files between courts.

LEGAL SYSTEM: I am most proud because lawyers help those who cannot help themselves. For example, lawyers, per year, contribute money (over \$1 million) and hundreds of thousands of hours of free legal services to indigent clients, plus lawyers immediately respond on a pro bono (free) basis to help victims of disasters such as hurricanes and fires.

EDUCATION: B.A., Texas Tech University; J.D. with honors, Texas Tech University School of Law.

EXPERIENCE: Pilot, US Air Force 1965-72; general civil law and trial practice 1975-1998; Board Certified in civil and personal injury trial law; Justice, 7th Court of Appeals 1999-2002, Chief Justice 7th COA 2003-2005; Justice, Texas Supreme Court 2005-present.

PHONE: (512) 637-8778 | EMAIL: jpj@justicephiljohnson.com

WEBSITE: justicephiljohnson.com

SHARON MCCALLY (R)

IMPARTIALITY: It is surely an imperfect system. Maintaining my impartiality is easy; my vote is not for sale. Maintaining public confidence in impartiality is a tougher question. Strict public reporting is part of the answer. A judge must also demonstrate impartiality in the decisionmaking process. Impartiality is like character; it is the absence of it that is most often subtle.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: Billing practices should be reviewed.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: Texas has already looked to other sources. Organizations, such as TexasLawHelp.org and the Texas Access to Justice Foundation, use bar funds, law firm fellowships and cy pres awards to raise money for indigent legal aid. I do not support the use of pre-approved forms. Even the forms disclaim their use as "legal advice" or a substitute for "competent counsel."

ELECTRONIC FILING: Mandatory electronic filing is convenient for many, efficient for most. For these advances, electronic filing is an improvement.

But, because mandatory electronic filing has also (a) shifted the costs of printing to the courts and taxpayers, or (b) compromised private information, and (c) created a monopoly for the private vendor of outsourced electronic processing, it (///)

LEGAL SYSTEM: As a former trial judge and current appellate judge, I have had the privilege of being the ultimate "spectator" of lawyers in court. I am proud of our bar and its outreach and service to the community.

EDUCATION: Certified, Executive Secretarial School, Dallas, Texas, B.A. in English from S.M.U., Dallas, Texas and J.D., South Texas College of Law, Houston, Texas

EXPERIENCE: 1981-88; The McCally Company; family construction business; 1990-92 law clerk to U.S. District Judge4 David Hittner; 1992-97; Fisher, Gallagher, civil trials, 1997-2004, Storey, Moore & McCally, appeals; 2005-10, Judge, 334th; 2011- present 14th Ct.

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Unopposed Candidates:

- CHIEF JUSTICE: **WILLIAM MOODY (D)**
- JUSTICE, PLACE 6: **LAWRENCE EDWARD MEYERS (D)**
- JUSTICE, PLACE 7: **JEFF BOYD (R) • GINA BENAVIDES (D)**

VOTER
information:
Your Support

Support the *Voters Guide* with a tax deductible contribution to the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund, 1212 Guadalupe # 107, Austin, TX 78701 or make a secure donation online at www.lwvtexas.org.

JUDGE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

Six-year term. Must be at least 35 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Texas resident. Must have been a practicing lawyer for at least 10 years or a lawyer and a judge of a court of record for at least 10 years. Serves as a member of the court of final appellate jurisdiction in criminal matters, including death penalty cases, in the state; has the power to issue writs of *habeas corpus* for felons; administers publicly funded judicial and lawyer education. Annual authorized salary: \$152,500 (Presiding Judge), \$150,000 (Judge)

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

IMPARTIALITY: How do you maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns?

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: The traditional funding source for legal aid for the poor and for indigent defense has been shrinking because of low interest rates. How can Texas improve access to justice in criminal cases?

OBLIGATIONS: What are the most important obligations of a Court of Criminal Appeals judge and why?

LEGAL SYSTEM: What interaction with the legal system makes you most proud to be a lawyer? Why?



BERT RICHARDSON (R)

IMPARTIALITY: I believe as long as lawyers have the opportunity to present their cases and have the judge rule fairly, consistently and intelligently on the matters presented to the court, that contributions will not impact a judge's impartiality. Additionally, most of my contributions are from individuals who never appear before the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: I have presided in 40 counties in the last 5 years. When counties have funding available for a Public Defender's Office that works best, in conjunction with judges appointing qualified lawyers from a list approved by the courts when the PD is conflicted. I have participated in 2 significant pro bono projects in my career and also believe local lawyers should do that.

OBLIGATIONS: First, to write opinions that lawyers easily understand that clearly follow the constitution and legislative intent of statutes. To show up for work and work hard, issuing opinions in a timely manner. As an elected judge in Bexar



BARBARA WALTHER (R)

IMPARTIALITY: I have voluntarily agreed to comply with the Judicial Campaign Funding Limits Statute. It is essential to our judicial system that the parties receive fair and impartial trials. The US Supreme Court in an opinion required that if a judge accepts substantial donations from an attorney, then that judge should recuse himself from hearing a case with that attorney. I agree.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: IOLTA accounts provide funding for legal aid to individuals involved civil cases. Indigent defense funds come primarily from county budgets with a small grant to the counties from the State through the Indigent Defense Commission. I am concerned with the need to ensure that the attorneys appointed by the judges to represent defendants are effective legal representatives.

OBLIGATIONS: Review of a death penalty case is the most solemn responsibility entrusted to this court. Death is different. Policies and procedures must be adopted



JANI JO WOOD (R)

IMPARTIALITY: My contributors expect nothing from me except fair consideration of their cases. They also believe in diverse backgrounds and experiences for members of the Court. Funds raised for a race such as this pale in comparison to funds raised in the Texas Supreme Court races. Fund raising influencing judicial decisions is really not a problem at the Court of Criminal Appeals.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: Interest payments (or IOLTA) only fund civil cases. Indigent criminal defense is largely funded through criminal court costs. Access to counsel is improving in Texas dramatically with the Texas Indigent Defense Commission and the training grants provided by the Court of Criminal Appeals.

OBLIGATIONS: The Court needs to fairly consider each case. I am troubled by the Court's internal procedure where writs of habeas corpus are assigned to only one judge who can unilaterally dismiss with the eight other judges never seeing the

County I was consistently ranked at the top of local Bar Polls for knowledge of the law, work ethic and judicial demeanor.

LEGAL SYSTEM: My opportunity to work and/or preside over a case and see that justice is served by requiring each side to adhere to the evidentiary and ethical rules, so that the right verdict is obtained and the case does not have to be retried. As a prosecutor and judge I have had cases where defendants were rightfully and wrongfully charged. I have never had a trial verdict reversed.

EDUCATION: J.D., St. Mary's University School of Law JD, B.S., Brigham Young University, High School – Judson, Converse, Texas, Board Certified in Criminal Law, Fluent in Spanish

EXPERIENCE: I am a 25 year lawyer that has served as a State and Federal prosecutor. I currently preside throughout the State as a Senior Judge. I have tried and presided over hundreds of trials, including capital murders and written over 50 appellate briefs.

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by the Court to not just give finality to a case, but also to create an atmosphere in the criminal justice system that settles for nothing less than justice for the victim and the accused.

LEGAL SYSTEM: I am proud of the attorneys that choose to defend individuals that are charged with having committed a crime. It is never popular to represent people that have been accused of breaking the law, but if these individual's rights are not protected then none of our rights are protected.

EDUCATION: Juris Doctor Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law 1977 Bachelor of Arts University of Texas at Austin 1974 Associates of Arts Stephens College, Columbia Mo. 1972

EXPERIENCE: District Judge 51st Judicial District 1993-present Title IV-D Family Law Master/ Associate Judge 1987-1993 Licensed to practice law 11/11/77-present Past Chair of Judicial Section State Bar of Texas Past Chair of Texas Center for Judiciary

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JUDGE, PLACE 4

case. Our Constitution saw fit to have nine judges and all nine need to review each case.

LEGAL SYSTEM: I was a new inmate lawyer. My elderly client was doing time for burglary from the 1950's. I challenged his conviction based on his right to counsel under Gideon. We won. When I told him, he said, "They haven't beaten me yet." He ended up dying in prison. I was the only person at his funeral. When the funeral director asked if I was family, I said, "Yes, I was his lawyer."

EDUCATION: University of Houston Law Center. 1994. J.D.; State University of New York at Albany. 1986. M.A., English; North Adams State College (now known as Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts). 1985. B.A., English

EXPERIENCE: 2011 - present, Assistant Public Defender, Harris County; 1999-2011 - Solo practitioner; 1997-1998 - Staff Attorney, Court of Criminal Appeals; 1996-1997 - Staff Attorney, Inmate Legal Services, TDCJ-ID; 1994-1996 - Solo practitioner

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KEVIN PATRICK YEARY (R)

IMPARTIALITY: Most of my funds have been raised from family and friends who are not lawyers. Those lawyers who have contributed to my campaign are either very small contributors or they are not likely to practice in front of the Court of Criminal Appeals. I would accept money from other lawyers, but the contributions would not affect my firm commitment to do justice in all cases.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: The Courts can do a better job of determining who is actually indigent and in need of appointed help. This would result in savings that would permit more reasonable fees to be paid on behalf of those who truly need assistance. More reasonable appointed fees would attract better qualified attorneys to help the poor.

OBLIGATIONS: 1. Always Pursue Justice – our courts must ensure that criminal cases are resolved correctly according to the law as written by the Legislature. 2. Ensure Fairness in the Courts – defendants, victims, and the State should

all be treated fairly in every case. 3. Be Dependable – our courts must be efficient, respected, and good stewards of the law.

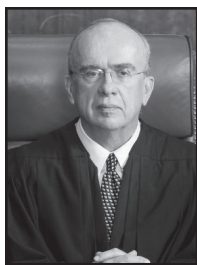
LEGAL SYSTEM: I protected the Texas Telephone Harassment law in the Court of Criminal Appeals and in the US Supreme Court. - *Scott v. Texas*. I won the right for lawyers to demand that judges reveal their reasons for their rulings on motions to exclude evidence in criminal cases, improving review on appeal. - *Cullen v. State*. I helped overturn a wrongful conviction.

EDUCATION: St. Mary's University B.A. English Communication Arts - 1988. St. Mary's University Law School J.D. - 1991.

EXPERIENCE: Licensed attorney for 22 years Former briefing attorney at the Court of Criminal Appeals – 1991-1992 Former civil litigator/criminal defense attorney 18 year appellate prosecutor Commissioner for Texas Board of Legal Specialization

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NO RESPONSE RECEIVED BY PRINT DEADLINE. SEE VOTE411 FOR ANY LATER RESPONSES. **RICHARD DEAN DAVIS (R)**



BUD KIRKENDALL (R)

IMPARTIALITY: Without contributions, there would be very little money available to run campaigns. CCA races are underfunded but interested parties help candidates get their message out. No judge should accept a contribution from anyone which is in an amount that would affect their judgement. Any candidate who accepts money from lawyers should be supported by both sides of the bar.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: The CCA manages state grants which are used to educate defense lawyers, prosecutors and judges. We must insure we are getting "bang for the buck" with excellent education for reasonable cost. We must monitor closely the quality of all attorneys, appointed or retained, to insure defendants are properly and lawfully represented.

OBLIGATIONS: A judge should be open-minded and not prejudice cases. A judge should construe statutes strictly and not allow his or her political opinions to

influence those interpretations. A judge should be courteous and respectful to colleagues, lawyers and litigants. The CCA is the busiest appellate court in the nation, and a judge must handle his cases efficiently and timely.

LEGAL SYSTEM: I became a prosecutor because I wanted to help victims of crime, and I found that very satisfying. While considering victims, a judge must also consider the effect of rulings on the system as a whole. I am proud as a judge when both sides believe their case was fairly judged according to the law. I want Texans to be proud of their criminal justice system.

EDUCATION: B.A., Iowa State University, 1971 J.D., University of Texas School of Law, 1974

EXPERIENCE: District Judge, 2005-present; District Attorney, 1984-2004; Briefing Attorney, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, 1974-1975; formerly awarded: Jon Ben Shepperd Political Courage Award; Prosecutor of the Year; president, TDCAA; exemplary teaching awards

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DAVID NEWELL (R)

IMPARTIALITY: My experience writing and teaching about the Court has taught me that adherence to the rule of law fosters and projects impartiality. The number of donors that might later appear before me and the amounts given are so low that recusal in those circumstances would not impact the Court.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: Harris County has increased representation of the indigent through its Public Defender's Office. For counties that can't afford such an office, devoting a portion of asset forfeiture funds to indigent defense could provide additional revenue. Private organizations such as Fort Bend Lawyers Care, which my wife and I have volunteered with, can also provide assistance.

OBLIGATIONS: To fairly, impartially, and consistently interpret the law as written. Serving as a small group worship leader has shown me the need for humility in all aspects of my life. My extensive work on the editorial board for

The Texas Prosecutor demonstrates my commitment to consistent application of the law for a more transparent, predictable, and fair criminal justice system.

LEGAL SYSTEM: I recently filed an appellate brief in a juvenile appeal conceding error and asking for an acquittal. As an appellate prosecutor, my job is to seek justice rather than to blindly secure convictions. Having the opportunity and authority to correct errors in order to prevent injustice is one of the reasons I have devoted my career to criminal appeals.

EDUCATION: B.A. - English with concentration in creative writing, magna cum laude - University of Houston, 1993 J.D. - University of Texas School of Law, 1997

EXPERIENCE: I have over sixteen years of experience handling criminal appeals including death penalty appeals. I have written several articles and lectured extensively across the state on the CCA. I am Board Certified in Criminal Law and Criminal Appellate Law

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Unopposed Candidates: _____
JUDGE, PLACE 3: **JOHN GRANBERG (D)**

i VOTER information: **Student Voters**

Students may use either their parents' address or their college address for voter registration, whichever they consider to be their permanent address. Students cannot be registered at both places. The general rule of thumb is that wherever students claim residency is the place where they should be registered to vote. Students who will be away from their address on Election Day and during early voting may request ballots by mail. Student IDs are not adequate photo IDs for voting and will not be accepted at the polls.

JUSTICE, CHIEF JUSTICE
COURT OF APPEALS

Six-year term. Must be at least 35 years old, a U.S. citizen, a Texas resident and a district resident. Must have been a practicing lawyer or a lawyer and a judge of a court of record for a total of 10 years or more. Each Court of Appeals has intermediate appellate jurisdiction in both civil and criminal cases appealed from district or county courts in its district. Current annual salary: \$140,000 (Chief Justice), \$137,500 (Justice)

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

IMPARTIALITY: How do you maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns?

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: The traditional funding source for legal aid for the poor and for indigent defense has been shrinking because of low interest rates. How can Texas improve access to justice in both civil and criminal cases?

ELECTRONIC FILING: New rules are going into effect to require Texas attorneys to file all legal pleadings in Texas civil cases electronically rather than in paper copy with the clerk. Has mandatory electronic filing improved the legal system? Why or why not?

LEGAL SYSTEM: What interaction with the legal system makes you most proud to be a lawyer? Why?



DAN LINEBAUGH (R)

IMPARTIALITY: Campaign contributions will have no bearing on my ability to render impartial decisions. Those who contribute to my campaign do so because they believe in me as a person of integrity who will do the right thing. The right thing is to never be swayed by donors, but rather, to render impartial judgment, and that is precisely what I will do.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: Last May, Gov. Perry signed a new law for providing funding to the poor and indigent. Under this law, funding comes by enlarging civil penalties issued through the Attorney General's office. State and local bar associations should also explore fundraising programs and volunteerism to meet the escalating demands of the poor and indigent.

ELECTRONIC FILING: Yes, mandatory electronic filing has improved the legal system by making the system more time efficient and more cost effective. Electronic filing allows the parties to avoid the time and expense typically



RUSSELL LLOYD (R)

IMPARTIALITY: My record as a Judge reflects my evenhanded and impartial administration of justice. All my rulings are based on the law and the facts, not on the identity of the litigants or their attorneys. I voluntarily comply with the Campaign Fairness Act and my campaign records are always publicly available.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: All Texans are entitled to fair and equal access to justice. Lawyers must increase their pro-bono work to ensure equal access to our legal system for low-income Texans. It is only with such a commitment from the legal community that this fundamental right can be secured.

ELECTRONIC FILING: In any legal system, justice is more important than efficiency. With that understanding, an increase in efficiency is always welcome. My experience with electronic filing has been very positive. I believe

associated with delivering paper documents to the court or parties. Also, electronically filed cases save storage space at our courthouses.

LEGAL SYSTEM: I am most proud when clients tell me that I have "restored their faith in the legal system." That kind of interaction with the client is extremely gratifying. When the client understands the system and how it works, he or she can make an intelligent decision regarding their case.

EDUCATION: I earned my bachelor's degree in speech communications from Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio, in 1978; I earned my doctor of jurisprudence degree from South Texas College of Law, Houston, Texas, in 1985.

EXPERIENCE: Upon graduating law school, I went to work for an insurance defense firm representing insurance companies and/or their insureds. Eventually, I set up The Linebaugh Law Firm, wherein I represent small business owners and hard-working families.

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it has increased the efficiency of the legal system without impairing the search for justice.

LEGAL SYSTEM: My public service as a Judge, Asst. District Attorney and JAG Officer has made me most proud to be a lawyer. I believe public service is the highest calling and I have dedicated much of my life as an attorney to this path.

EDUCATION: University of Texas School of Law, J.D.; University of Houston, B.A, History; Judge Advocate General Officers Advanced Course.

EXPERIENCE: State Civil District Judge, Assistant District Attorney, Harris County: 34 years all trial and appellate legal experience; Vietnam Veteran, Airborne Ranger, JAG Officer; Eagle Scout; Married, two adult children; Sixth generation Texan.

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NO RESPONSE RECEIVED BY PRINT DEADLINE. SEE VOTE411 FOR ANY LATER RESPONSES. **CHAD BRIDGES (R)**



MARIO ALBERTO GONZALEZ (D)

IMPARTIALITY: Abide strictly by the Code of Judicial Conduct. I will always remember the oath of office and adhere to it.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: Our legal system is burdened by a tendency to allocate funds for the criminal prosecution of cases but failing to provide sufficient funding for indigent defense. A realignment of resources is necessary in order to achieve substantial parity and justice. On the civil side, more state resources need to be committed for legal services for the poor.

ELECTRONIC FILING: It is too early to tell since the new rules just went into effect. In the long run, I believe that these changes will improve the legal system by making filing procedures more efficient.

CHIEF JUSTICE, 8TH COURT OF APPEALS

LEGAL SYSTEM: As an attorney, representing people who have been unfairly prosecuted in criminal court or who have been taken advantage of in civil matters and being able to help them is a great source of satisfaction to me. As a judge, having the parties before me know that they have received a fair day in court makes me proud of my profession.

EDUCATION: Thomas Jefferson High School (El Paso, Texas) Diploma 1983 University of Texas at Austin - B.A. in Government May 1987 University of Texas at Austin School of Law - J.D. December 1989 Texas Supreme Court licensed 5/4/1990

EXPERIENCE: I represent clients in state and federal civil, criminal and appellate cases. I am licensed before the U.S. District Court/Western District of Texas and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Trial lawyer since 1990. Judge since 1997.

PHONE: (915) 543-9802



ANN CRAWFORD MCCLURE (D)

IMPARTIALITY: I comply with the voluntary limits of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act which caps individual and law firm contributions. Typical donations range from \$100 to \$500. Actual and perceived impartiality are directly related to a candidate's broad support from the entire legal community. This ensures that litigants receive a fair judicial referee and a level playing field.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: The Legislature created the Task Force on Indigent Defense to fund criminal representation. It was largely based on the success of the El Paso Public Defender. The Supreme Court created the Access to Justice Commission which works with the State Bar to encourage pro bono representation in civil cases. The Bar offers free CLE to lawyers who will handle pro bono cases.

ELECTRONIC FILING: While the state system still contains a few bugs, I consider it a success. The public now has access to the clerk's records, court reporters' records, and attorney briefing. The first appellate court to implement the

program is now totally paperless. In short order, briefs will be filed with hyperlinks to exhibits, testimony, statutes, and relevant legal authority.

LEGAL SYSTEM: The most heartwarming interaction is with students. I participate in the Women's Bar Association's Positive Role Model Program. I serve on the Advisory Board of EPISD's School Age Parenting Center and teach Texas law as it relates to paternity, custody, support, and termination of parental rights. I also emphasize the warning signs and patterns of domestic violence.

EDUCATION: I received my juris doctorate degree from the University of Houston Law Center in 1979. In 1974, I graduated magna cum laude from Texas Christian University with a bachelor's degree in communications.

EXPERIENCE: I have both judicial and administrative experience. Having served on the court for nineteen years, I have been chief justice for two years. I shepherded our \$3,000,000 budget through the Legislature and now chair the Texas Council of Chief Justices.

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WEBSITE: chiefjusticeannmcclure.com

JUSTICE, 9TH COURT OF APPEALS • PLACE 3



LEANNE JOHNSON (R)

IMPARTIALITY: Texans have chosen to elect their judges and therefore I must campaign. I follow the Code of Judicial Conduct and decide cases based upon the law and our Constitution as applied to the facts of each case, and do not make promises or representations about how I will rule in any matter. I voluntarily comply with the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: Texas must continue to encourage attorneys to donate their time and we must encourage the involvement of our communities in developing greater awareness and contributions therefrom.

ELECTRONIC FILING: Yes, I believe electronic filing will allow our courts to be more efficient and cost effective.

LEGAL SYSTEM: When I was in private practice I received the most satisfaction helping people understand the legal system and navigate through some of the most difficult times in their lives. As a sitting Justice on the 9th Court of Appeals, I am proud I have the opportunity to serve with the other 3 Judges on the 9th Court and apply the law, review, and decide important legal disputes.

EDUCATION: Southern Arkansas University, B.S. in Political Science, magna cum laude; University of Arkansas, J.D. with High Honors, top 5% of class, Law Review, 1986.

EXPERIENCE: Currently serving as a Justice on the 9th Court of Appeals, Place 3; 27 years legal experience; previously in private practice with Orgain, Bell & Tucker, LLP (1987-2013) (handling trials and appeals); Law Clerk U.S. Dist. Court (1986-1987).

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EARL B. STOVER III (R)

IMPARTIALITY: I am blessed to have financial support from a large cross section of the Bar. The attorneys from whom I accept contributions know and expect me to be fair and impartial and to rule with integrity without fear or favor. I do not accept contributions from private citizens except for family and friends who know that I would not preside over any case in which they are involved.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: The right to counsel in criminal, parental termination and child support contempt cases is guaranteed under the law and the taxpayers of the state and county must pay these costs. The Indigent Defense Fund from the State only pays a fraction of these costs. There is no similar right to counsel in civil matters. Only strong Pro Bono Bar programs and Legal Aid currently exist.

ELECTRONIC FILING: Ultimately the system will save space and paper and provide easy access to court documents for attorneys, litigants and the public. Currently the technology is varied and inconsistent and the district clerks are

having problems implementing the systems. There are many vendors with incompatible programs. Young lawyers will do fine but older attorneys will have trouble.

LEGAL SYSTEM: I love being a Lawyer. My family enjoys public service. My father was a district judge and appellate judge. My brother is a Federal Prosecutor. When I was in private practice I was proud to help people. I am involved in many Bar activities. As a Judge I enjoy speaking at seminars and civic groups. My favorite cases as a Judge are adoptions because everyone leaves happy!!

EDUCATION: Silsbee High School-1971; Vanderbilt University-1975; St. Mary's University School of Law-1978; Texas Judicial College

EXPERIENCE: 17 yrs as a multi-county general jurisdiction District Judge presiding over thousands of civil, criminal, domestic, juvenile and probate cases; 15 yrs of private practice representing individuals and businesses; 2 yrs law clerk for Federal Judge

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VOTER information: Ballot-by-Mail

Only specific reasons entitle a person to vote by mail (no longer called absentee voting). You may request a ballot by mail if you:

- will be away from your county on Election Day and during early voting,
- are sick or disabled,
- are 65 years of age or older on Election Day, or
- are confined to jail.

You do not need a photo ID to vote by mail, but photo ID will be required of first time voters if a driver's license or Social Security number was not included with the voter registration application.

Request an Application for Ballot by Mail from the early voting clerk in the county where you are registered, or download the form from www.VoteTexas.gov. The completed form must be received by mail or fax by February 21, 2014. Note: postmarks don't count.

A ballot will be mailed to you, and you must return your completed ballot to your county elections department by 7 p.m. on Election Day, March 4. The ballot must be received, not just postmarked, by that date. If you are mailing your ballot from outside the United States, the early voting clerk must receive your ballot by the fifth day after Election Day. (You must mail it no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day.)

JUSTICE, 11TH COURT OF APPEALS • PLACE 3



JOHN BAILEY (R)

IMPARTIALITY: A judge must focus exclusively on the merits of each case rather than the identity of the parties or the attorneys involved. I have performed this task for the past 12 years working as a staff attorney at the Court and I will continue to do so as a judge. Also, I have agreed to comply with the voluntary expenditure limits set out in the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: Funding for indigent criminal defense is paid for by the counties (and hence the taxpayers) in our district.

The Texas Fair Defense Act enacted in 2001 went a long way in remedying past short comings of the system. Encouraging attorneys to serve clients on a free or reduced-fee basis is the key to providing access to the poor to the civil court system.

ELECTRONIC FILING: Electronic filing is beneficial to the courts because it decreases the need for physical storage space and it increases the portability of court files. Electronic filing will improve the legal system by making the process of filing court documents much less burdensome. The public availability of court

documents in electronic format will also improve transparency.

LEGAL SYSTEM: I am most proud of my 13 years of public service working at an appellate court. I have had the privilege of working with the last 8 judges that have served on the Court. Being appointed by Gov. Perry to serve as a judge on the 11th Court of Appeals fulfilled a professional goal that I have had since working as a briefing attorney at the Court 21 years ago.

EDUCATION: I am a graduate of Cisco High School (1985), Cisco Jr. College (1987), and Tarleton State University (1989), graduating with highest honors at each institution. I then attended the Texas Tech School of Law, graduating with honors in 1992.

EXPERIENCE: I clerked at the 11th Court of Appeals for 1 year after law school. I then worked in private practice in Abilene for 8 years. I returned to work as a staff attorney at the Court in 2001, serving in that capacity until being appointed to the bench.

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CADE W. BROWNING (R)

IMPARTIALITY: Impartiality is simply maintained by adhering to the founding principles of our judicial branch. The job of a justice is not to apply your views to the cases in front of you nor to be partial to any party, but to faithfully and neutrally apply the law as written and adopted by our elected legislators, without regard to the eventual outcome. That is what I intend to do.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: As a local bar leader, TYLA Director and Council Member of the Litigation Section, I have seen that access to justice can be positively affected by individual efforts. Lawyers should provide pro bono work and financial and time commitments to individual sections, bar associations and foundations who provide grants to legal-aid nonprofits and that can make a difference.

ELECTRONIC FILING: Yes, electronic filing has the capacity to improve the legal system. It will create a more secure, safe, transparent, efficient, and uniform filing system in Texas. It should save the Courts expense in storing

and organizing documents and, with practice and patience, provide litigants many of the same benefits.

LEGAL SYSTEM: Providing legal services when someone is in dire need of it is what a lawyer does. I have held the hand of someone who lost a loved one, calmed the fears of the small businessman sued for the first time and planned the defense of someone wrongfully accused. Most importantly, I know other Texas lawyers are doing that every day, too, and that makes me proud to be a lawyer.

EDUCATION: Baylor University School of Law Juris Doctor '00 Student Bar Association – Student Body President, two terms Texas A&M University Bachelor of Arts '97 Student Senate – Off-Campus Senator Big 12 Welcoming Committee – Co-Ambassador

EXPERIENCE: I am in private practice handling a large variety of civil and criminal cases. President of the Abilene Bar Association, Abilene Outstanding Young Lawyer, five time Texas Super Lawyer – Rising Star, and a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.

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JUSTICE, 13TH COURT OF APPEALS • PLACE 6



DOUG NORMAN (R)

IMPARTIALITY: I promise only that I will be true to my values and judicial philosophy. If it becomes apparent that more is expected, I turn down the contribution.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: In spite of the common perception of lawyers as greedy, many noble and selfless attorneys have stepped up to the plate and gone to bat for the poor for free. We need to continue to encourage this nobler side of the profession. As for criminal cases, the State/County already pays for counsel as a constitutional requirement in most cases.

ELECTRONIC FILING: Like any change, it comes with some challenges, but the promise of a more open and efficient future. At the appellate level, it means greater access for both the attorneys and the public to records, briefs, and opinions of the court. The challenge will be to prevent both malicious hacking

and unintentional loss of data.

LEGAL SYSTEM: When I have helped a victim of violent crime obtain justice and kept a dangerous criminal in prison. Of course, not everyone who comes out of the courtroom is happy. But, when after a hard case, everyone involved can say, I had my chance, I was heard, and I was treated fairly, this makes me proud that our system really is working and effective.

EDUCATION: University of Texas at Austin 1984 - B.A., Summa Cum Laude, Plan II Liberal Arts; University of Texas School of Law 1987 - J.D., Cum Laude

EXPERIENCE: 1985-1992 Officer, Texas Army Nat'l Guard. Honorably discharged. 1987-2000 Briefing Attorney, Staff Attorney, and Chief Staff Attorney, Thirteenth Court of Appeals. 2000-present Assistant District Attorney-Appellate Section, Nueces County

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NO RESPONSE RECEIVED BY PRINT DEADLINE. SEE VOTE411 FOR ANY LATER RESPONSES. **BRADFORD M. CONDIT (R)**

Unopposed Candidates:

- 1ST COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 3: **JIM SHARP (D)**
- 1ST COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 5: **LAURA CARTER HIGLEY (R)**
- 2ND COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 2: **BILL MEIER (R)**
- 2ND COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 7: **LEE GABRIEL (R)**
- CHIEF JUSTICE, 3RD COURT OF APPEALS: **JEFF ROSE (R) • DIANE HENSON (D)**
- CHIEF JUSTICE, 4TH COURT OF APPEALS: **SANDEE BRYAN MARION (R) • IRENE RIOS (D)**
- 5TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 3: **ADA BROWN (R)**
- 5TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 6: **DAVID BRIDGES (R)**
- 5TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 8: **BILL WHITEHILL (R)**
- 6TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 3: **RALPH K. BURGESS (R)**

- CHIEF JUSTICE, 7TH COURT OF APPEALS: **BRIAN QUINN (R)**
- CHIEF JUSTICE, 9TH COURT OF APPEALS: **STEVE MCKEITHEN (R)**
- 10TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 2: **REX DAVIS (R)**
- 11TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 2: **MIKE WILLSON (R)**
- CHIEF JUSTICE, 12TH COURT OF APPEALS: **JIM WORTHEN (R)**
- 13TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 6: **DORI CONTRERAS GARZA (D)**
- CHIEF JUSTICE, 14TH COURT OF APPEALS: **KEM THOMPSON FROST (R) • KYLE CARTER (D)**
- 14TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 4: **MARC BROWN (R)**
- 14TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 7: **KEN WISE (R) • GORDON GOODMAN (D)**

MEMBER
**STATE BOARD
 OF EDUCATION**

Four-year term. Must be at least 26 years old, a U.S. citizen, a Texas resident for at least 12 months, a district resident for at least 12 months, and a registered Texas voter. Composed of 15 members elected from roughly equally populous districts, the Board adopts rules and establishes policies that govern a wide range of educational programs and services provided by Texas public schools. Among duties: establishes goals for the public school system; adopts and promotes four-year plans for meeting those goals; and oversees investment of the Permanent School Fund. Annual authorized salary: none

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

CURRICULUM: What criteria should be used in developing and approving curriculum standards for courses?

FUNDING: What changes, if any, would you make to current investment policies for the Permanent School Fund and to distributions for public schools? Please explain.

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

MEMBER • DISTRICT 7



RITA ASHLEY (R)

CURRICULUM: There are two key questions to ask at all levels: Is it factually correct? Does this help prepare our student to be well rounded, college and/or workforce ready? The SBOE should set high standards, backed by rigorous and relevant curriculum, however they should not micromanage how the standards are reached. This should be left to the control of our school districts.

FUNDING: The past changes made to reduce operating expenses while maintaining a healthy rate of return have been good for the PSF. At this point, the fund is performing well and I don't see the need for any changes. Like any investment strategy, we need to be diligent and prepared to adjust our investment guidelines/fund allocations to put the fund in the best position possible.

OTHER ISSUES: The state's standards, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), set by the SBOE, are far too broad. We need to focus our standards on core concepts. The key to education is not to introduce everything at the expense of learning nothing. Our goal is to have high school graduates ready for college or ready to enter the workforce.

EDUCATION: 1978 BS in Early Childhood Education, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio 1991 - 1992 Studied Montessori, Association Montessori International (AMI), Washington D.C. 2011 Graduate Color Stones, Gemological Institute of American (GIA), Carlsbad, CA

EXPERIENCE: I have been involved in education for over 30 years—as a teacher, small business, and legislatively. I have the skills, the qualification and the drive to do the work necessary to insure we have a first class education supporting our growing economy.

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NO RESPONSE RECEIVED BY PRINT DEADLINE. SEE VOTE411 FOR ANY LATER RESPONSES. **DAVID BRADLEY (R)**

MEMBER • DISTRICT 11



PATRICIA HARDY (R)

CURRICULUM: Deciding with the help of practitioners and experts in the field on the ideas and concepts that will best serve our students in a global society is step one. Step two is narrowing those to a manageable number of standards by selecting those which are the absolute most important and significant ideas and concepts that would result in the life long success of our students.

FUNDING: In my tenure on the SBOE, the PSF has gone from 4 asset classes to a much healthier 11 asset classes. The fund has grown from roughly 17 B. in 2002 to 29 B. in 2013. The fund ended 2013 with over a 10% rate of return, making it one of the most successful public funds in Texas. I would not make any changes to our current investment policies nor distribution procedure.

OTHER ISSUES: In HB5 the Legislature charged the State Board with defining new

courses and graduation requirements. Future issues are the social studies textbook adoption and the revision of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for both Career Technology Education and English Language Arts. Via technology I would like a greater numbers of educators and community members involved.

EDUCATION: LaPorte High School, La Porte, TX B.A. Howard Payne University M.S. University of North Texas Graduate hours: UT Austin, Texas A&M University, American University in Cairo, Beijing Normal University in China, Boğaziçi University in Istanbul

EXPERIENCE: My experience spans more than forty years of service to Texas schools. For three decades I taught students and mentored colleagues in Castleberry ISD. For the past thirteen years I have been serving as a central office administrator in Weatherford.

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NO RESPONSE RECEIVED BY PRINT DEADLINE. SEE VOTE411 FOR ANY LATER RESPONSES. **ERIC MAHROUM (R), LADY THERESA THOMBS (R)**

MEMBER • DISTRICT 13



ERIKA BELTRAN (D)

CURRICULUM: As a former teacher, I believe that in order for students to be successful upon graduation, standards should be aligned with college and workforce expectations. Additionally, standards should set high expectations that help students develop deep content knowledge and critical thinking skills. Lastly, standards should be evidence-based and informed by best practices.

FUNDING: The Texas Administrative Code, "Investments shall provide the highest return commensurate with the lowest risk and shall be diversified." This is a strong policy as it allows the Fund to reach its investment goals. The Board should work diligently to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of funds so that all students to have access to high-quality learning materials.

OTHER ISSUES: Texas students deserve to have rigorous instruction, great educators, and excellent schools. I will work hard to develop rigorous learning standards that help students thrive. Additionally, I will advocate for policies that provide educators on-going professional development and will work to ensure that all Texas children have access to the best schools in the nation.

EDUCATION: LBJ School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas at Austin; Master of Public Affairs Prof. Report: "Closing School Readiness Gaps: A Guide for Texas Policymakers" Williams College (Williamstown, MA); Bachelor of Arts, Political Science

EXPERIENCE: -Policy Program Director, Teaching Trust: 2012-Present -Senior Policy Analyst, National Council of La Raza: 2007-2012 -Fellow, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation: 2006-2007 -Bilingual Teacher, Durkee Elementary School: 2001-2004

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ANDREA C. HILBURN (D)

CURRICULUM: Suggested criteria: 1) A Curriculum design. Define the educational purposes, rationale, audience, aligned objectives, methodology, and accountability system. 2) Resourcing the standards. There continues to be a digital divide within our communities and all students do not have access to technology. Students need access to technology when required by curriculum standard.

FUNDING: As an Educator for many years in Texas, the Permanent School Fund must be protected and be continued in all efforts to grow and assist with public education as opposed to just taxing the state's citizens. The integrity of this Fund must be maintained to ensure adequate resourcing of educational needs in our State.

OTHER ISSUES: While school choice includes various options, it is our public system that provides the greatest opportunity for addressing the needs and education of all students. I will address this issue by improving communication with all partners by recommending guidelines and expectations that promote teaching and learning. The students must remain our priority-they are our future.

EDUCATION: * BS in Philosophy of Education from University of North Texas * MS in Special Education from Texas AM Commerce/ cert: Elementary Teacher, Principal, Educational Diagnostician, Superintendent * PHD in Public Affairs from UT @ Dallas

EXPERIENCE: A lifetime career: Dallas ISD-Secondary Teacher, AP/Principal, Executive Director, and Assistant Superintendant. Adjunct Professor Concordia University Texas: MED-Educational Administration-Principal certification/State trainer-Teacher evaluations.

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DENISE RUSSELL (D)

CURRICULUM: Approving curriculum standards for courses should be based on student and society needs. Any criteria used should encompass the different learning types of all students.

FUNDING: None, currently the money is increasing and not decreasing.

OTHER ISSUES: An issue I consider very important is the new academic track choices students have. First and foremost, I would ensure that these tracks are chosen based on factual student interest and not just teacher perceived ability.

EDUCATION: B.A. in Mathematics, Dallas Baptist University M.S. in Education, Walden University M.A. in Mathematics, Alameda University Pursuing ED.D. in Teacher Leadership, Walden University (expected graduation in July 2014)

EXPERIENCE: My experience includes: - a parent for over 22 years - a teacher for over ten years - an administrator for over five years - a tutor for over twenty years - and a current Doctorate student

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Unopposed Candidates:

DISTRICT 2: **RUBEN CORTEZ JR. (D)**

DISTRICT 3: **DAVE MUNDY (R) • MARISA B. PEREZ (D)**

DISTRICT 4: **DOROTHY OLMOS (R) • LAWRENCE A. ALLEN (D)**

DISTRICT 7: **KATHY KING (D)**

DISTRICT 11: **NANCY BEAN (D)**

DISTRICT 12: **GERALDINE 'TINCY' MILLER (R) • LOIS PARROTT (D)**

VOTER information:
Registering To Vote

YOU MUST REGISTER TO VOTE AT LEAST 30 DAYS BEFORE THE ELECTION DATE. THE LAST DAY YOU CAN REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE 2014 PRIMARY ELECTION IS FEBRUARY 3.

WHO CAN REGISTER? To register to vote, you must be: • a citizen of the United States, • a resident of the county, and • at least 18 years old on Election Day. You must not have been declared mentally incapacitated by a court of law. If you have been convicted of a felony, you may register to vote only after you have completed the punishment phase of your conviction, including any terms of incarceration, parole, supervision, or period of probation ordered by the court.

WHERE DO I REGISTER? You can register in person at the voter registration office in your county, or fill out an application that can be mailed or returned in person to the voter registrar in your county of residence. Application forms are available at many libraries, government offices and high schools. The application is available online at the Secretary of State's voter information website, www.VoteTexas.gov. The website also allows you to search to see if you are already registered. After you apply, a voter registration certificate will be mailed to you within 30 days. This certificate includes your precinct for voting on Election Day as well as your congressional, state legislative, county, and local districts.

FOR HOW LONG IS MY REGISTRATION EFFECTIVE? The registration will remain in effect until you move or change your name, and a new certificate will be sent to you every two years without further application on your part. If you move, however, your registration certificate will not be forwarded to your new address. If you move within the same county or change your name, you must notify your county clerk or election administrator in writing or online of your new address or your new name as soon as possible. Then a new certificate will be mailed to you. If you move to another county, you must re-register by applying to the election office in your new county.

VOTER information:
What is Provisional Voting?

The Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 provides for provisional voting if a voter's name does not appear on the list of registered voters due to an administrative error. If your name is not on the rolls of registered voters in your precinct, but you believe you are registered, the election judge will attempt to determine if you are registered somewhere in your county. If your registration cannot be found, you may cast a provisional vote by filling out an affidavit and a paper ballot.

This ballot is kept separate from the regular ballots, and the case will be reviewed by the provisional voting ballot board.

The ballot will be counted only if the voter is determined to be a registered voter in that precinct. Provisional voters will receive a notice in the mail by the tenth day after the local canvass advising them if their provisional ballots were counted and, if they were not counted, the reason why.

LWV-TEXAS VOTERS GUIDES are funded by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) corporation that is supported by contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations. LWV-TEF gratefully acknowledges major contributions in the past year from Pat Cheong, Dawn Ellison, Harold Simmons Foundation, Chuck Herring, Brenda Koegler, Lisa and Peter Kraus, Linda Krefting, League of Women Voters of the US Education Fund, Julie and Michael Lowenberg, Susan Morrison, Carolie Mullan, Randalls/Tom Thumb, Betty Sanders, Diane Sheridan, Barb Swartz, Texas Bar Foundation, Texas Nurses Association.

i VOTER information:

Photo ID Details & Exceptions

See "WHAT TO TAKE TO THE POLLS" on the front page for a list of accepted photo IDs. This section provides additional information about the photo ID requirements.

- The photo ID needs to be current or have expired no more than 60 days before voting (citizenship and naturalization certificates have no expiration date).
- The name on the photo ID should match the voter registration card. If names don't match, a voter may be accepted if names are "substantially similar." If names match, addresses don't need to match.
 - *If the names don't match exactly, the voter can be accepted if names are substantially similar; poll workers will look at address, date of birth, and the photo. If names are substantially similar, the voter will initial a box for similar name when signing in to vote.*
 - *To avoid confusion, you can change the name on your voter registration to match that on your photo ID at least 30 days prior to the election.*
- Voters with a documented disability from Social Security or Veterans Affairs can apply for a voter registration certificate exempting them from the photo ID requirement.
- Voters without acceptable ID can obtain an Election Identification Certificate (EIC) from Texas DPS at no cost by providing proof of citizenship and identity and registering to vote at DPS or showing a voter registration card. Requirements for the EIC can be found at <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/electionID.htm>. There is no charge for the EIC but the necessary documentation may have a cost.
- Photo ID is not required to vote by mail. Voters may apply for a mail ballot if 65 or older, ill or disabled, or absent from their county during early voting and on Election Day. Note: Photo ID will be required of first time voters if a driver's license or Social Security number was not included with the voter registration application.
- Voters who do not show an acceptable ID at the polls can vote a provisional ballot and have six days to show the required photo ID.
- Those who lack a photo ID because of a religious objection to being photographed or because of a natural disaster declared by the president will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot and complete an affidavit within six days of the election.

Check the League's website for other helpful information about elections, voting and issues: www.lwvtexas.org.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TEXAS

ADVOCATING **AGITATING** **EDUCATING**

Who else but the LWV is a nonpartisan, political organization and one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations? The LWV... encouraging active participation in government...working to increase understanding of major public policy issues...influencing public policy through education and advocacy...making democracy work!

Learn more about our 27 Local Leagues and how they help shape today's important issues by visiting the League's website at

WWW.LWVTEXAS.ORG