

# Election 2010

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## Olson seeking re-election to U.S. House

BY DON MUNSCH  
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Pete Olson looks to win his second election for District 22 representative on Nov. 2.

Olson, a Republican, defeated Democrat Nick Lampson in the 2008 Congressional election.

Lampson was elected to the seat in 2006, which was once held by the former Republican Majority Leader Tom DeLay.

Olson, 47, serves on the fol-

lowing committees: House Transportation & Infrastructure, Science & Technology (Ranking Member, Space & Aeronautics Subcommittee) and Homeland Security.

Among other issues during his last year in office, Olson voted against President Obama health care legislation this spring but supports the House Republican-sponsored "A Pledge to America," which described what Republicans would do if they regained ma-

majority power.

On Monday, Olson and Congressman Kevin Brady heard testimony on the economic impact of the moratoria and federal energy policy from deepwater and shallow water drillers, drill bit and oil field services.

They also heard from a "noted economist who predicted the loss of \$2.7 billion in U.S. economic output from the moratorium" at the South Texas College of Law in the

Treece Courtroom.

On his website, Olson describes his committee assignments are "critical to addressing the priorities in the 22nd Congressional District of Texas.

"Transportation, NASA and the Johnson Space Center and homeland security issues are critically important to this Houston suburban area."

He has used his first term in Congress to, as he puts it, fight "against the destructive poli-

cies of Cap and Tax, Obama Care, gutting of NASA's Human Space Flight and wasteful government spending."

Pete and his wife, Nancy, live in Sugar Land with their children, Kate and Grant and their dog Riley.

They are active members of the United Methodist Church.

District 22 stretches across 22 Texas counties, including Fort Bend. It encompasses Fairchilds, Needville, Pleak, Richmond and Rosenberg.



Pete Olson

## Rogers challenging Olson

BY DON MUNSCH  
dmunsch@fbherald.com

Kesha Rogers thinks President Obama should be impeached.

Lest you immediately think you know where Rogers' loyalties lie, think again: Rogers is a Democrat who also doesn't care too much for U.S. Rep. Pete Olson (District 22).

Olson's performance and her opposition to the Obama administration amount to why she is running for U.S. District 22 seat that Olson holds.

Rogers, 33, is a full-time activist for Lyndon LaRouche, who has run for U.S. president in both the U.S. Labor and Democratic parties. LaRouche's political views are difficult to categorize, but he has long been criticized for his controversial statements and positions on current or political events.

A Houston native, Rogers ran for the state chair for the Democratic Party in 2006.

"I wanted to run for Congress because we need real leadership in Congress," Rogers said.



Kesha Rogers

"Right now, what we're looking at is a total breakdown of the entire economy. We've seen no real solutions coming from the leadership in Congress. We need people who will go out and fight for the forgotten man and woman of the nation and those who are not going to be willing to capitulate to the Wall Street-London financial interests.

"That is what I have continued to vow to do, to stand up for the people by calling for putting an end to the bailouts and orga-

nizing the country again around the principles of a real productive economy... and providing a solution that will enable us to do that," she said.

She said her first order of rebuilding America is seeing that Obama be impeached, by use of the fourth section of the 25th amendment, which centers on presidential disability and succession. (A reading of the fourth section merely explains the process of the vice president taking over the job as president and does not describe a reason or rational for the president's vacancy of the office.)

"He has clearly shown that he is incompetent and unable to continue to carry out his duties as president of the United States," she said.

Rogers said Congress should re-enact Glass-Steagall banking reorganization laws because the economy is looking at a hyperinflationary collapse of the entire banking system. The Glass-Steagall Act established the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in 1933 and "effectively removed

the separation that previously existed between Wall Street investment banks and depository banks," as noted in wikipedia.org.

She also wants to put people to work through various public projects and wants to ensure the vitality of the space program.

Rogers joined LaRouche's organization in 2003 and said she was attracted to his movement because of his economic beliefs, based on such values of physical production and scientific breakthroughs and not on the free markets. She said his ideas provide a clear example for a solution to the country's economic ills.

She said Olson has shown he is not willing to fight on principles and is willing to "go along with the failed policies of this president" and is not willing to call for Obama's impeachment.

Olson, for the record, did not vote for the president's health care reform proposal, and contrary to Rogers' assertion in the interview, he has been a supporter of the space program.

## 2 others also vie

BY DON MUNSCH  
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Rep. Pete Olson will have competition from two other candidates besides Democratic challenger Kesha Rogers on Nov. 2.

Steve Susman, a libertarian, and Johnny Williams, a conservative independent, are on the ballot for the District 22 seat.

Susman, 41, co-owner of Mega Muffler and Brakes in Houston, said he was running for Congress for a "variety of reasons," such as his concern about government decisions that affect small business owners.

The federal government-created "cash for clunkers" program put his wife's used car lot out of business and hurt his business, Susman said.

Additionally, he is concerned about the power of the Federal Reserve regarding the American monetary system, and said he is opposed to cap and trade legislation and that the country needs to get out of wars in the Middle East.

He supports measures to secure the borders.

Susman, of Pasadena, said he thinks he is speaking out for the people who have no voice.

Williams, 60, a write-in candidate and business owner who lives between Alvin and Dickinson, also wants everyday people to have a say-so in their government, explaining that if he is elected, he will "go to work for the American people."

As he said on his website, [johnnywilliamsforcongress2010.com](http://johnnywilliamsforcongress2010.com), Williams has not run for officer before and does not seek campaign contributions.

He is especially concerned about illegal immigration. He complained about the size of government and government spending, including that done by the Bush administration.

Williams supports term limits for members of Congress — 10 years for House members and 12 years for Senate — and a repeal of the entire Obama health care legislation.



Working together, we have fought to preserve the traditional values that have made Texas and our nation strong, but the battle is far from over. Now, more than ever before, our values and our very way of life are under assault from our own federal government. You can count on me to stand firm in the Texas Senate against these attacks and continue the fight for strong families, limited government, lower taxes, less spending, and more personal freedom and individual responsibility.

Thank you for standing with me in this important fight!

*Glenn Hegar*  
Texas State Senator

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



**Polling Places**

Early voting election for the general election kicked off Monday and concludes on Oct. 29. Election day is Nov. 2.

If people are eligible to vote on election day, they are eligible to vote at any early voting site during the early voting period.

Below are scheduled for various Fort Bend locations:

Rosenberg Annex Building - 4520 Reading Road, Rosenberg

Cinco Ranch Branch Library - 2620 Commercial Center Blvd., Katy

Aliana Clubhouse - 17122 West Bellfort, Richmond

Hightower High School - 3333 Hurricane Lane, Missouri City

Meadows Place City Hall - One Troyan Dr., Meadows Place

Missouri City Community Center - 1522 Texas Parkway, Missouri City

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; and Oct. 25 - 29, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Irene Stern Community Center -6920 Fulshear-Katy Road, Fulshear

Beasley City Hall - 319 S. 3rd Street, Beasley

Lost Creek Park - 3703 Lost Creek Blvd., Sugar Land

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to

5 p.m.; Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, closed; Oct. 25 - 29, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Chasewood Clubhouse -7622 Chasewood Drive, Missouri City

First Colony Conference Center - 3232 Austin Parkway, Sugar Land

FBC Road and Bridge (Needville) - 3743 School St., Needville

Randall's - 5800 New Territory Blvd., Sugar Land

Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 24, noon to 5 p.m.; Oct. 25 - 29, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sugar Land Methodist Church - 431 Eldridge, Sugar Land

Sienna Branch Library - 8411 Sienna Springs Blvd., Missouri City

U of H at Cinco Ranch - 4242 South Mason, Katy

Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, closed; Monday - Friday, Oct. 25 - 29, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Pecan Grove Baptist Church - 1727 FM 359, Richmond

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, closed; Monday - Friday, Oct. 25 - 29, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**State Sen. Hegar vying for re-election**

**BY JUAN CARLOS REYES**  
jreyes@fbherald.com

Republican State Sen. Glenn Hager is running for re-election for the District 18 Senate post.

At 39, Hegar is the youngest member of the Texas Senate, but he has accumulated several accolades during his first term.

In 2009, he was awarded the Doc Brown Legislator of the Year from the Texas State Rifle Association due to his stance on the 2nd Amendment rights.

The Texans for Lawsuit Reform gave him the Civil Justice Leadership Award for his work on ensuring Texas retains a world-class justice system. Publication "Capital Inside" named him Best Legislator and Rookie of the Year for the 80th Legislative Session.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst appointed Hegar as chairman of the Sunset Advisory Commission, making it the first time that a freshman member of the Texas Legislature was



**Glenn Hegar**

appointed to such a leadership position.

Hegar lives in Katy with his wife, Dara, and their three children.

"It has been a pleasure of mine to represent the people both in the House and in the Senate," said Hegar. "It has been a blessing of mine to represent everyone here."

Hegar's educational background includes a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University in 1993, a masters and law degree at St. Mary's University in 1997, and a master's in law with the University of Arkansas, in 1998.

He considers himself a true conservative who strongly defends the values of faith, family and freedom.

According to Hegar's website, he says he is leading the fight to protect the unborn, strengthen families and protect their personal freedoms.

**Ex-teacher Olney seeks Senate seat**

**BY JUAN CARLOS REYES**  
jreyes@fbherald.com

Retired teacher Pat Olney is the Democratic candidate facing off against Republican incumbent Sen. Glenn Hegar for the District 18 State Senator position.

A resident of Washington County, Olney worked as a teacher for 27 years, 22 at them in Brenham where she lives. After retiring, Olney had a goal to try to gain benefits for new retirees. She has also been working with legislators on issues concerning teacher retirees and retired state employees.

"I have raised two kids and both have become teachers, and that is why I'm running for state senator," she said. "I am not happy with the 81st Legislature and I want to do something more to help with our retirees."

"This legislature led me to file at the last minute, and I am willing to put my money where my mouth is."

Olney is an honor graduate of Ball High School in Galveston and a member of the University of Houston Alumni Association.



**Pat Olney**

She was president of the local classroom teachers organization and established the Professional Consultation Committee, which gave

active teachers and school board members an opportunity to talk about educational problems and issues.

Olney spent 10 years joining her husband as a licensed private investigator after retiring from teaching.

Other organizations Olney is involved with are the Texas State Teachers Association, the Brenham Fortnightly Club, the General Federation of Women's Clubs and a former Legislative Chair for the San Jacinto District of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs.

"Covering these 19 counties is not going to be easy," Olney said. "I have had two careers and now I'm ready to start my third one as a member of the State Senate."

**Huffman pursues Senate District 17 return**

**BY JUAN CARLOS REYES**  
jreyes@fbherald.com

Incumbent Joan Huffman is hoping to get re-elected Nov. 2 as State Senator for District 17.

Huffman faces Libertarian opponent Phil Kurtz.

She was sworn in on Dec. 16, 2008 after winning a special election to fill the vacated space after Kyle Janek resigned.

Before joining the Senate, Huffman was elected twice as judge of the 183rd Criminal Dis-

trict Court.

Huffman served on several committees during the 81st Legislative Session such as the Transportation and Homeland Security Committee, the Health and Human Services Committee, the Veterans Affairs Committee



**Joan Huffman**

and the Government Organization Committee.

She was appointed by Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst to serve on the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission, which reviews the function, operations and purpose of state agencies, and to identify and eliminate waste, duplication and inefficiency in government programs.

Huffman has received numerous recognitions getting honored as "Legislator of the Year for Children" by the Children at

Risk organization and the "Legislative Leadership Award" by the Texas Chemical Council."

Her educational background includes earning her undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University and a law degree from the South Texas College of Law. Huffman was hired as a prosecutor and went from being on a misdemeanor court up to the Organized Crime Narcotics Task.

Huffman lives with her husband Keith and son Luke in Southside Place.

**Kurtz challenging for Senate District 17**

**BY JUAN CARLOS REYES**  
jreyes@fbherald.com

Phil Kurtz is running as the Libertarian Candidate for

State Senator of District 17 to try to unseat incumbent Joan Huffman.

Originally from Detroit, Mich., Kurtz resides in Katy with his wife. He has two children, Douglas and Lydia.



**Phil Kurtz**

Although he has never held office, Kurtz is no stranger to running for an elected position.

He ran for the State Senate in District 17 in 2006, and for the Texas House of Representatives, District 132, in 2008.

Kurtz works as a Sales Development manager for Eco-lab in Houston.

He is a member of the Independent Order of Foresters, the Aircraft Owner and Pilot Association, and the Houston

Master of Business Administration Society.

His educational background includes receiving:

- a BIE in industrial engineering through Cullen College at the University of Houston in 2003
- an MIE in business engineering in 2009 at the same institution
- an MBA in business management at the Bauer Business School at the University of Houston in 2009.

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**Howard wants District 26 again**

**BY JOHN S. MERCULIEF II**  
jmerculief@fbherald.com

Charlie Howard, R-Sugar Land, is seeking re-election in Texas House District 26.

Howard, 68, is vice chair of the Urban Affairs Committee and is a member of the powerful Ways & Means Committee. He was first elected to the Texas House in 1994.

In his private life, he is president of the C. Howard Co, a real estate development venture. He has a wife, Jo; a son Chad, a college student; and a daughter, Julie, who is married and lives in Austin.



**Charlie Howard**

Here are some of his views on current issues, according to his personal campaign website:

- Taxes — cap real estate appraisals at 5 percent, reform appraisal boards by adding two elected members, replace financing method for public schools (consumption tax) and abolish the business franchise tax
- Elections — require photo

identification to vote

- Government spending — limit state spending to inflation and population growth
- The border — give local sheriffs additional funds for border enforcement, and work with federal officials to enforce the border
- Transportation — keep winning higher state priority for fort bend road improvements; alternate financing for transportation must be found
- Education — improve high school graduation rate, extend local control, use education dollars wisely and effectively.

**Andrews challenging Howard**

**BY JOHN S. MERCULIEF II**  
jmerculief@fbherald.com

Democrat Philip Andrews is seeking the Texas House District 26 seat held by longtime incumbent Charlie Howard.

Andrews, 33, of Sugar Land, spent six years working in accounting firms as a staff accountant and auditor.

Andrews is self-employed at Andrews Financial & Management Services and an accounting professor at a local community college, according to the biography on his campaign website.

Here are his views on some current topics, accord-



**Phillip Andrews**

ing to that site, www.andrewsfortexas.com:

- Fiscal policy — Andrews supports passing a constitutional amendment to lift the \$15,000 ceiling on the residential homestead exemption to allow future legislatures to raise the exemption as necessary to keep pace with increases in property appraisals; and a requirement that state government spend taxes and fees

for the specific purposes for which they were collected.

- Agriculture — Andrews supports legislation against an agribusiness environment that restricts farmers both locally and globally to using only genetically modified seed; and preserving proper use of agricultural property tax exemptions and restructuring the current land appraisal system.
- Education — Andrews wants to establish a 100 percent equitable school finance system with sufficient state revenue to allow every district to offer an exemplary program.

**About the district**

Texas House District 26 is in eastern Fort Bend County.

District 26 encompasses essentially all of Sugar Land and Meadows Place, all but the easternmost portion

of Stafford and the northwestern corner of Missouri City.

On the west, the district comes to near FM 2759, crosses U.S. 59 and FM 762 east of their intersection with each

other and goes as far west as FM 359 north of Richmond but does not include any of that city.

State representatives are elected to two-year terms and earn \$7,200 a year.

# Zerwas aims for re-election to House District 28 seat

BY JUAN CARLOS REYES  
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Republican Dr. John Zerwas is seeking re-election to the Texas House District 28.

During his first term, Zerwas authored House Bill 1594 to amend the Texas Insurance Code, which quickly gives credentials for physicians trying to join an established medical group if that physician has a current contract with a managed care plan and ensures their patients do not pay higher, out-of-network costs.

He also co-authored House Bill 1287, which allows school districts to offer high school courses on Hebrew Scriptures.

In 2009, Texas Monthly named him one of the state's



Dr. John Zerwas

10 best legislators.

"My wife and I have enjoyed representing the people here," he said. "I will stand strong with the rights and the sovereignty of this state."

One of Zerwas' goals in his run for re-election is to do whatever is possible at the state level to get the federal health care bill repealed.

"I strongly oppose it," he said. "It is wrong for the people of District 28, and for the state of Texas."

He also wants a responsible

level of education funding for schoolteachers, and to ensure the safety of Texas' borders and protect property rights.

He has been a physician more than 25 years and is with the Greater Houston Anesthesiologists.

Zerwas is only one of two doctors in the Texas House and has served as the Chief Medical Officer of the Memorial Hermann Healthcare System in Houston and as such oversaw programs that have improved the outcomes of patients with certain medical conditions while also reducing the cost of treating those conditions.

Zerwas is married and has four children and a granddaughter.

# Raasch eyeing District 28 seat

BY JUAN CARLOS REYES  
jreyes@fbherald.com

Democrat Wayne Raasch is facing Republican incumbent John Zerwas for the State Representative District 28 seat.

Raasch is a retired teacher from Houston.

He graduated from Columbia High School in West Columbia, Texas, and earned a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University in 1972 and a master's degree from Prairie View A&M University in 1997.

He worked for 10 years in engineering technology in the oil and gas industry, mostly in Houston, and has worked 15 years in education, including five years at Lee College in

Baytown. Raasch was unopposed in the March 2 primary and is running for a spot in the Texas House for the third time.

In 2002, he ran for the District 5 seat and for the District 11 seat in 2004 and lost in both races.

His educational background includes a bachelor's from Texas A&M University in College Station and a master's from Prairie View A&M University.

Raasch lives in Lissie. District 28 goes from as far north as Waller County to Wharton County. In the Fort Bend County area, the district includes Needville, Kendleton, Beasley, Orchard, Simonton and Fulshear.

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# Hebert seeks re-election as FB Judge

BY DON MUNSCH  
dmunsch@fbherald.com

Bob Hebert counts the response to the development of the FEMA's flood plain mapping as his most complex problem of his nearly eight years as county judge.

But the issue also was his most satisfying achievement on the commissioners court, he said. The project started three years ago.

Hebert, a Republican, was elected in 2002. The county judge seat is a four-year term. Judges are elected in four-year increments that come in the even years between presidential elections.

He said that the years as judge have been "rewarding mostly, sometimes frustrating," in what is a "very complex" job, one that entails, among other duties, being the emergency management



Bob Hebert

director for Fort Bend County.

Hebert does not have a specific target or list of items he wants to accomplish if elected to another term.

He said county government should endeavor to solve problems and that when he is finished as county judge, he hopes his successors see his example as a way to keep the county moving.

"I think the responsibility of the county judge is to see the county government as part of the solution," he said. "You can't let the county government become part of the problem. Because in a high-growth county like Fort Bend, you're always go-

ing to have problems. And I think county government has a reputation, at least with the people I've talked to and interacted with, as being an agency that is quick to react to find the solution that works for everyone."

Concerning the flood plain mapping, he discussed how the commissioners court needed to be persuaded to put additional money into the project so that the county could get a "very accurate" 100-year flood elevation.

"The old elevation was probably wrong, but the implications of continuing to move forward with an inaccurate elevation were (problematic) because it put all of our levy systems at risk and taxpayers put millions of dollars in levy systems," he said.

The county put \$1.1 million into the \$2.1 million program, he said. The project was successful,

as all of the county's levy district have correct elevations or are in (with one exception) in the process of constructing to correct elevations to meet the new 100-year flood elevation, Hebert said.

FEMA is now in the formal map review process to finalize the elevation.

"We're probably 18 months from having a formal new flood map," he said.

Regarding other projects that have occurred in his tenure, he likes the progress of new county buildings being constructed, such as the new justice center.

The new justice center will open in the second half of 2011, in late summer. He's pleased that the new buildings have come in under budget and on time.

"All of our bond packages have better than 2 to 1 approval ratings (at the polls)," he said.

# Carreon, Meeks challenge Hebert

BY DON MUNSCH  
dmunsch@fbherald.com

Democrat Rodrigo Carreon and write-in Republican Chris Meeks will challenge County Judge Bob Hebert for the judge's seat on Nov. 2.

Carreon regards himself as a community activist and is a former candidate for Commissioners Court Precinct 1 during the 2008 campaign season.

He regularly attends and speaks at commissioners court on issues such as taxation and the "public desire for appraisal and rate caps to the need for greater county-wide ordinances on ethics to limit the influences of special interest on the court, as has been the case for many years now," he said in a letter to The Herald.

In 2006, Rodrigo said he initiated a challenge through the county court system involving the appraisal district process, which often "over-values property owners on the 'wrong-side' (rural) of development as well above the state legal limits."

He said he is a staunch opponent of the Trans Texas Corridor Project, supports landfill expansion to 20 stories at Blue Ridge near Missouri City and advocates for improvements to the county's current road system without the need for further tolling authorities.

Carreon was a member of the 2007 FBISD bond committee and said he has "worked tirelessly as a community volunteer on numerous cross-party campaigns that work to represent local residents interests rather than the out-of-area special interests that so often direct our local governments."

In that vein, he considers himself a commissioners court and school board "watch advocate."

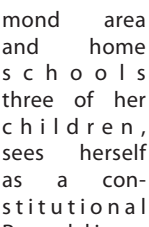
Meeks said residents should be able to own their property free from the government taxation.

The current judge does not agree with her proposition, which is that property taxes should be eliminated in favor of county investments.

"Fort Bend residents should own their property free from the government," she said in an e-mail, noting that she approached Judge Hebert "several times prior to entering the race for county judge with information on how to go about substituting property taxes with investments."

He was not receptive, so she decided to run for county judge.

Meeks, 47, is a mother of five who lives in the Rich-



Rodrigo Carreon



Chris Meeks

"I would take an act of the Legislature to use any other source of revenue," Hebert said.

Hebert asked (State Rep. District 26) Charlie candidate forum if there was any interest on the part of the Legislature in this upcoming session to allow counties to look at other forms of revenue, and he said absolutely not.

"That was how her question was answered."

Hebert explained market practicalities and said that running a county budget on the stock market is "just an absurd idea."

"There would be no way on Earth I could support it," he said, adding that even if it were practical, it still would be illegal to do it because a county would have to have legislative and constitutional authority

to do that, "and it doesn't exist at this time."

In a telephone interview, Meeks said she is opposed to surface water conversion, toll roads and computer voting.

"I don't like the fact of going in and doing a vote now and pushing a button and — poof — it's gone into a virtual reality," said Meeks, who has lived in Fort Bend County since she was 22.

"I like the old-fashioned way, the way we used to do it, where there was paper, a paper trail."

She said she has never run for office before and said she knows the county judge is a "very powerful" position where change can happen.

Meeks knows her chances of winning are slim but feels compelled to put her hat in the ring.

"If you don't try, then you really can't complain," she said, adding that she is not putting a lot of money into the campaign.

Her website is www.chris-meeks.com.

Dr. Dan Ives, former and retired superintendent of Lamar C.I.S.D. Proudly Supports:

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ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 2, 2010

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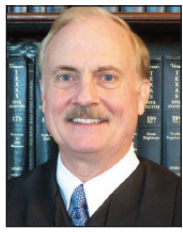
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- Past Legal Counsel for the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce
- Veteran, United States Air Force
- Past Director, Fort Bend Boys Choir
- Past Chairman, Fort Bend County Community Justice Council
- Past Administrative Judge, Board of District Judges

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# Culver seeks return to 240th Court

BY JOHN S. MERCULIEF II  
jmerculief@fbherald.com



Thomas Culver

Judge Thomas R. Culver III is seeking re-election to the 240th District Court seat he has held since 1990.

In that time, Culver has presided over thousands of significant civil cases and felony criminal cases, according to his campaign website, including death-penalty criminal cases.

"In December 2009, I set the execution date for a convicted capital murderer," Culver says on his website. "The jury had voted his punishment unani-

mously and the state and federal appeals courts have ruled the jury was correct, but it is my signature alone on that order.

"That great responsibility requires a judge with knowledge and maturity. I will never take that responsibility lightly."

Culver also is the local administrative judge for Fort Bend

County and, as such, is responsible for appointing the members of the Appraisal Review Board. Since 1981, he has been a member of the Fort Bend County Juvenile Board and is a former chairman.

His website says he has served 29 years as a judge and, through seven elections, had no opposition, either from Democrats or independents, or from fellow Republicans.

"All victims, and their families, have a right to be treated with dignity and respect," Culver says on his website. "That has been my goal as a Judge for the past 29 years."

# Allen challenging Culver for 240th

BY JOHN S. MERCULIEF II  
jmerculief@fbherald.com



Fredericka Allen

Sugar Land attorney Fredericka Allen is running on the Democratic ticket to try to unseat 240th District Judge Thomas R. Culver III.

Allen, 35, has more than 10 years of legal experience representing individuals and businesses in both state and federal courts, according to her campaign website. She attended law school at South Texas College of Law, where she was a member of Law Review, graduating in 2000.

"Public service, law and jus-

tice have been my lifelong passions because the law impacts everyone and changes lives," Allen says on the site. "That is why it is so important that our judiciary and neutral arbitrators consist of fair and neutral arbitrators."

According to her online biography, Allen's litigation practice has covered all areas of law including personal injury disputes, commercial disputes, construction defect, toxic tort, insurance coverage disputes, collections, employment, divorce and custody cases, and probate matters. She also has represented clients in both state and federal court, including the U.S. Fifth Circuit.

Allen, who is black, also notes on her site that Fort Bend County has a highly diverse population.

"Our leadership inside the courtrooms should reflect that diversity," Allen says. "Only then can our citizens feel they are being given a fair and level playing field. Only then can there be justice for all."

**ELECT VERONICA TORRES**

Fort Bend County District Clerk  
November 2, 2010

- Will work to improve records access.
- It's time for a change in the District Clerk's Office.
- Vote for persistence & quality she has instilled in her own life.

**ABOUT VERONICA**

- Native of Richmond, Texas
- Associate Degree in Paralegal Studies.
- Four Grand Daughters: Virginia, Veronica, Victoria and Vanessa
- Member Calvary Baptist Church - Rosenberg
- Former Board Member of the Fort Bend Mental Health Assoc.
- 11 Years Experience in County Clerk's Office
- Over 15 Years Experience in Public & Private Sector
- Served on LCISD Zoning and Bond Committee

**VOTE TORRES ON NOV. 2**

Pol. Adv. Paid for by Veronica Torres for District Clerk Campaign, 10/10/2010, Treasurer.

# Brady Elliott wants re-election to 268th Court

BY JUAN CARLOS REYES  
jreyes@fbherald.com



Brady Elliott

Since 1988, Brady Elliott has sat at the helm of the 268th Judicial District Court; he hopes to extend his stay on Nov. 2.

Elliott is running against Albert Hollan of Sugar Land.

While serving, Brady has presided over more capital murder cases than any other judge in Fort Bend County. He has implemented docket control procedure, and

courtroom and office computerization procedures, which enabled an orderly processing of the court's caseload.

He is licensed to practice law before all courts in the state, the U.S. Supreme Court

and the U.S. Circuit of Appeals and District Courts

"Qualifications and experience are what people need to look for in a judge," he said. "You need a judge that knows what he is doing."

Before becoming a judge, Elliott served as a Missouri City Municipal Judge, chairman of the Fort Bend Community Justice Council and the Fort Bend Purchasing Agent Board, co-chair of the Fort Bend Council of Judges, and

# Hollan challenging Elliott for 268th judgeship

BY JUAN CARLOS REYES  
jreyes@fbherald.com



Albert Hollan

Albert Hollan of Sugar Land is the Democratic candidate for the 268th Judicial District.

Facing off against incumbent Brady Elliott, Hollan says the time has come for someone new to take over.

"We do need to start growing our next generation of judges," he said. "In the next four years, we're going to have a bunch of

judges who are 70 years or older, and it's really time for voters to start thinking about the future."

This is the fourth time Hollan is running for district judge.

Hollan has Finance and Law

degrees from the University of Houston. He is a licensed attorney, and a member of the State Bar of Texas and the Fort Bend County Bar Association.

Hollan is certified in Civil Trial Law and in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. He is A/V rated by his peers and has a solo practice in Southwest Houston.

He moved to Fort Bend County upon graduating from the UH law school in 1987. He

# Council pursues county treasurer seat again

BY JOHN S. MERCULIEF II  
jmerculief@fbherald.com



Jeff Council

Republican Jeff Council is seeking re-election to the post of Fort Bend County treasurer.

Council was elected in November 2006 and took office the following January. Since taking office, Council achieved County

Investment Officer designation from the Texas Association of Counties, according to his campaign website.

"I

think you will find my strong business and management background best qualifies me for this office," Council says on his site.

Responsibilities of the treasurer's office have been expanded to include:

- County Payroll
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Collections
- Court Collections.

Council was a commissioned officer with the Army's 2nd Armored Division. He and wife, Ann, have been married 51 years. They have two sons — Mike and family of Houston and Kevin and family of Weston Lakes — three grandsons and a granddaughter.

His site lists Council as a resident of Richmond since 1962, and a business owner in Fort Bend County since 1984. He was inducted to "Fort Bend County Aggie Hall of Fame," based on Lifetime Aggie Achievements, in 1993 by the Fort Bend Texas A&M Club, his site says.

**Re-Elect JUDGE CULVER**

240th District Court

**"Respect and Justice for All"**

Thomas R. Culver, III  
Judge, 240th District Court

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★ FAIR ★  
★ EXPERIENCED ★  
www.votejudgeculver.com

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Pol. Adv. paid for Judge Thomas R. Culver III Campaign in voluntary compliance with the limits of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act.

The District Court is the highest level trial court in the State of Texas. As the 240th District Judge, I hear the most serious of civil and criminal cases, including death penalty cases.

Since 1973, I have worked in every trial level in Fort Bend County:

- Trial Attorney in private practice: 3 years
- Assistant District Attorney, Fort Bend County: 4 years
- Judge, Fort Bend County Court at Law: 10 years
- Judge, 240th Judicial District Court: 20 years

I believe that 'Respect and Justice for All' can best be provided by a Judge who is both qualified and experienced.

A District Judge is not an "entry level" position. I work hard every day to earn the trust of those who have elected me as District Judge and I understand what a tremendous responsibility serving as District Judge demands.

It is a privilege to have served as your 240th District Judge for these past 20 years. I ask for your vote, and your neighbor's vote, again this coming November 2nd. This is a critically important election for all of us in Fort Bend County. Your voice and your vote counts!



# George seeks term as FB county treasurer

BY JOHN S. MERCULIEF II  
jmerculief@fbherald.com



KP George

KP George is the Democratic candidate for Fort Bend County treasurer.

George grew up in a tiny village in south India that lacks electricity and running water, according to his online biography. He began his education walking barefoot across two miles of hilly countryside to get to school.

"Growing up in an impoverished, rural village in India, earning my way to the land of my dreams and building a successful life here over the past 17 years has taught me the value of hard-earned money," George says on his site, "and the importance of serving the people you love and respect with the best of your skills and values."

plan to put these lessons to work managing your tax dollars in a more open, efficient manner as Fort Bend County treasurer."

Since 1999, George and his wife, Sheeba, have raised their three children in Sugar Land. He owns and operates an independent financial planning practice with 5 other advisers.

Among his qualifications:

- Certified Financial Planner
- Accredited Asset Management Specialist
- Several securities licenses including four supervisory licenses.

**About the job**

The mission of the county treasurer is to serve as the chief custodian of county funds.

Basic duties include receiving, keeping and accounting, paying, applying, and disbursing all monies belonging to the county. Additional duties include but are not limited to: reconciliation and safekeeping of county bank accounts, custodian for revenue bond funds and payroll officer for the county.

The county treasurer is responsible for collecting delinquent funds other than taxes.

The treasurer also serves as treasurer for the Fort Bend Flood Control Water Supply Corp., Fort Bend Parkway Road District, Drainage District, Toll Road Authority, Toll Road Operations; receipting fees for toll.

The treasurer serves a four-year term.

**Coming soon**

Look for profiles of District 14 U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Lake Jackson, and his challenger Robert Pruet in an upcoming edition of The Herald.

## Annie Elliott hopes for re-election to Fort Bend County district clerk seat

BY MARQUITA GRIFFIN  
mgriffin@fbherald.com

Annie Rebecca Elliott said she already has met her goals and plans on meeting more — and this is why she should be re-elected as Fort Bend County district clerk.

"When I ran the first time, I had goals that I wanted to accomplish," said Elliott, a Republican with more than 21 years of experience in the legal field. "And I have fulfilled them, to an extent."

"What I mean by that is, there is more work to be done."

As the district clerk for the past three years Elliott, has been an advocate for "bringing in 21st-century technology."

One of those advancements is making all case files available online, while still protecting personal information.

"I am really proud of that,"



Annie Elliott

line.

Elliott also takes pride in the way she was able to cut her department's budget to benefit the county and the taxpayers.

For the past two years, because of the economic crisis, Elliott said, the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court asked every department and office to reduce its budget. This year, she was able to reduce the budget by 8 percent, and, the year before that, by 10 percent.

"I didn't do that just because

she said, adding that right now, she's working on buying a system that allows those summoned to fill out their jury information on-

I was asked to," Elliott said. "I did it to secure my staff employment, so I didn't have to lay off anyone or reduce the work week to four days, because that would not have just affected the staff but the residents of this county."

### About Annie Elliott

Elliott is a member of the National Association of Court Management, the County and District Clerks Association of Texas, the Texas Association of Counties and the Texas District Court Alliance.

Elliott is married with four children. She attends Parkway Fellowship Church in Richmond, is a member of the Fort Bend Republican Women's Club, the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo and a lifetime member of the Fort Bend County Fair Association and co-chairs the 2011 Foster High School Pro Grad.

## Torres aims to bring new perspective to Fort Bend County district clerk seat

BY MARQUITA GRIFFIN  
mgriffin@fbherald.com

Veronica Torres said it's time for a change in the Fort Bend County District Clerk's Office, and she believes she is that change.

Torres, a Democratic candidate who is running for this position for the third time, said her workplace experience is what qualifies her.

On her campaign website, Torres says: "I bring years of experience in county government as a lead legal process specialist in the County Clerk's Office."

"I have learned the qualities and procedures required to run an outstanding clerk's office."

For 11 years, she has worked as a legal process specialist in the Fort Bend County Clerk's Office, where she served as a clerk for a county court-at-law.



Veronica Torres

where she earned certification in Business Procedures and Computers.

In 2006, she earned her paralegal certification; she also has an associate's degree.

She has more than 15 years of administrative experience in the public and private sector.

In addition to her credentials, Torres said, she has the work ethic to be district clerk.

Plus, she says, she has a high level of personal integrity and will keep her word.

She said since the Fort

Bend County court offices are moving and will be upgraded, she's committed to working hard to bring the latest technology to the District Clerk's Office.

This effort would create more accessible records and better serve the public, she said.

"It is time for a change in the District Clerk's office," Veronica said. "I've spent my whole life preparing for this job."

### About Veronica Torres

Torres is a Richmond native and a single mom who raised four daughters.

She is a member of the Rosenberg's Calvary Baptist Church and has served as a board member for the Mental Health Association of Fort Bend County, the Lamar Consolidated Independent School District Zoning Committee and the Lamar CISD Bond Committee.

## McMeans seeks to follow father to court-at-law

BY DON MUNSCH  
dmunsch@fbherald.com

Jeff McMeans said his next career move will be a pay cut, but he said he sees his next job as a call to service.

McMeans, 44, is running for County Court at Law No. 2. His father, Walter S. McMeans, sits on that bench now.

"It's something that I've always wanted to do; I saw my father doing it for so many years," Jeff McMeans said. "I got to see his impact on what the county did and how he handled cases and how the general public entrusted him and liked him and embraced him."

Juvenile cases are the most important matters Jeff McMeans would face in his next job.

"I've always wanted to be



Jeff McMeans

that the county judge handle," he said.

"Not to belittle misdemeanor cases, but a 17- or 18-year-old pot smoker doesn't quite catch up to the gravity of 10- to 16 year-olds, where you can at least make a difference and maybe stop them from being career criminals or at least turn them around and let them know how important grades are and not screwing up."

a judge to make a difference, especially in juveniles' lives and juveniles' cases, because I think that's probably the most important thing

Criminal and family law are McMeans' main specialties at his practice, which is based in Richmond.

The majority of the type of cases he does are covered in the county court at law, such as juvenile, probate and civil cases.

McMeans said the advice his father has given him in the past has centered on what he has learned about politics in Fort Bend County and about how to handle the media.

"You can't take it personal, and just remember who your friends are," Jeff McMeans said, adding that it was "normal political stuff" he heard from his father.

Jeff McMeans said his father set an incredible example, explaining his work ethic was extraordinary.

"He was a judge for 24 years,"

Jeff McMeans said. "He was an ideal judge."

"He was a judge's judge. He lived for the law."

Jeff McMeans said if he is elected, his first task is to get the docket up to speed.

He also will be involved in the transition from the old courthouse to the new courthouse.

He said his experience and qualifications rate better than his Democratic opponent, Harrison Gregg Jr., a senior assistant county attorney in Harris County.

Gregg lives in Fort Bend County.

"He's been a lawyer for a long time, but he has no experience in the areas covered by this court," Jeff McMeans said.

Jeff McMeans said running for the office demands a lot of work, money and patience.

## Gregg competing for court-at-law No. 2 seat

BY DON MUNSCH  
dmunsch@fbherald.com

Harrison Gregg Jr. says he's the most qualified candidate for County Court at Law No. 2 in Fort Bend County.

Gregg, a Democrat, who faces Republican Jeff McMeans in the November election, touts his nearly four decades of legal experience (39 years) and stresses his 12 years as an associate judge in Fort Bend, Matagorda, Wharton, Galveston, Montgomery, Liberty, Waller and Harris counties.

Gregg, 69, is a senior assistant county attorney in Harris County and has been a resident of Fort Bend County for 38 years.

Walter McMeans, Jeff McMeans' father, currently sits on



Harrison Gregg

in law, such as juvenile law.

"That's something I would really be interested in," said Gregg, who's been a Fort Bend County resident for 38 years.

"A lot of times - based on my legal experience and my judicial experience coming before me - juveniles need personal attention from the court. The court

can do a lot.

Because if you take and do not handle the case right when it comes before you as a judge, you can either make this child or break this child. ... You need to take a look at why is this child here: Is this a child you can help or is this a child you need to send away to the juvenile home?"

Gregg said he would be able to handle the court from day one.

"I can move that docket," he said. "It may not be backlogged now, but I'm sure there are cases they're having to reset because presently as I speak today, the judge of that court is not on the bench."

They have persons who are coming in who are filling in. That's another impediment

that's going to have to be overcome."

## Wilson wants return as county clerk

BY MARQUITA GRIFFIN  
mgriffin@fbherald.com

For more than 27 years Dianne Wilson has served Fort Bend as county clerk and in November, she's looking to keeping on serving.

From the time she was first elected into the position in 1982, Wilson, a Republican, said she has fulfilled several goals, including: Being the chair of the county's Judicial Steering Team; implementing a property recording system and document imaging system; converting paper and



Dianne Wilson

microfilm records dating from 1838, to digital; and placing more than 30 million digitized documents on the county website. Wilson has been married for 41 years and the couple has lived in Fort Bend for the majority of those years. Both of them have been foster parents, and have been involved

in the Boy Scouts of America, the YMCA and Republican Party activists.

Wilson earned a bachelor's degree in Public Administration from St. Edwards University, and is a graduate fellow in Court Administration of the National Center for State Courts Institute for Court Management.

She is the co-founder of the Literacy Volunteers of Fort Bend County, serves on the Board of Directors of the Fort Bend Boys Choir of Texas, and is the 2003 recipient of the Sam Seale Trail-Blazer Award.

## Miller challenging for county clerk

BY MARQUITA GRIFFIN  
mgriffin@fbherald.com

She's ready to make the Fort Bend County Clerk's services more available to the public.

A businesswoman from Missouri City, Korinthia Miller, a Democratic candidate for county clerk, said she would work to help business entrepreneurs, too.

"I have several ideas I want to implement in order to make Fort Bend County more accessible to the public, and a leader in the political education of its citizens,"



Korinthia Miller

Miller is a 1995 graduate of Elkins High School and Albany State University where she majored in business management and minored in accounting.

Miller said on a campaign website. "I can make a difference, with your vote. Together, we can make Fort Bend a pioneer in government."

After returning to Missouri City, she work as an accountant for Imperial Sugar before attending Houston Baptist University, where she graduated in 2003 with her MBA.

In 2007 Miller graduated from Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University.

She also worked for the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C. as a legislative analyst before returning again to Missouri City where she started an organization that helps at-risk children.

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FORT BEND COUNTY CLERK

**Over 27 Years of Distinguished Service as Fort Bend County Clerk**  
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# John Zerwas

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fbherald.com

## Ward seeks JP Pct. 1, Place 2

BY JUAN CARLOS REYES  
jreyes@fbherald.com

Substitute teacher and former Justice of the Peace Mary Ward is hoping to get back on the same position in the November election running for Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, Place 2.

Ward won the Republican Primary in March from incumbent Gary Geick, who was recovering from a stroke at the time.

Her Democratic opponent is R. J. Blue from Missouri City.

She started her criminal justice career in 1978 with the Rosenberg Police Department, before she was elected Justice of the Peace for Precinct 1 in 1982.

"Back then we only had one justice of the peace and now we're fortunate to have two."



Mary Ward

Ward worked with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, where she conducted disciplinary hearings on offenders.

She opened the first felony punishment facility for drug abuse in Sugar Land.

Ward has been active part in several organizations, including the Lion's Club, Rotary Club, Special Olympics and LVFW of Rosenberg. She is a life member of the Fort Bend Fair Association and a CASA volunteer in Fort Bend County.

## Childers pursues re-election to county court-at-law No. 1

Ben W. "Bud" Childers has served Fort Bend County residents since he was appointed County Attorney in 1991, an office he held for 16 years.

Educated in Texas, he graduated from Sam Houston University and South Texas College of Law.

He was elected judge of County Court-at-Law No. 1 in 2006, and took office in 2007.

County Court has jurisdiction over juvenile, civil and criminal offenses as well as probate. In addition to his other duties, Childers initiated a mental health court for misdemeanor offenses, one of the few in the state.

Childers received a grant that



"Bud" Childers

enabled the court to utilize a special public prosecutor for mentally ill offenders. These expedited hearings save taxpayers thousands of

dollars in court costs.

Married with three children and two grandchildren, Childers is a member of the Fort Bend Exchange Club and has served on numerous boards of organizations serving Fort Bend County.

## Flick aims for diversity in county court-at-law No. 1

BY MARQUITA GRIFFIN  
mgriffin@fbherald.com

Milton Flick, who has practiced civil and criminal law more than four decades, is ready to be a judge.

"I think we need some diversity, some middle-of-the-road approach to judgeship here in Fort Bend County," said Milton, a Democratic candidate for Judge, Fort Bend County Court-at-Law No. 1. "I offer voters a choice. In the past, the judges have been picked by the Republican Primary, but all citizens vote in November. We need a wider group of people working at the courthouse."

In addition to his trial work,



Milton Flick

"I have the experience," he said.

Flick lives in Quail Valley with his wife, who was a Fort Bend County teacher more than 30 years.

He is a father of four children and grandfather to eight.

## Blue wants JP Pct. 1, Place 2

BY JUAN CARLOS REYES  
jreyes@fbherald.com

R.J. Blue is the Democratic candidate for Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, Place 2.

Blue is a licensed lawyer at the federal level in many states and in the past seven years, he has represented people in Texas.

The married father of two received his Bachelor of Science in Management and Finance from the University of Tennessee. He went on to get his MBA in Finance at Clark Atlanta University before getting his J.D. degree at Vanderbilt Law School.

He served with the Army as an armored crewman receiving a good conduct medal, three achievement medals and a slew of other accolades. He has argued cases at the civil and appellate level and the Texas Supreme Court. Blue says Fort Bend needs and deserves an enthusiastic and qualified candidate who will do the best job while in office.

"I am the only candidate educated in the law and experienced in defending and representing citizens in court," he said.



R.J. Blue

# ELECT JEFF MCMEANS

FOR JUDGE COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 2

✓ The ONLY Candidate that Practices in Fort Bend County

Conservative Republican	Fiscal Responsibility
Judicial Respect & Integrity	Even-Handed Justice
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- Keep tax cuts passed in 2001 and 2003 for all Americans.
- Put in place a hiring freeze on all federal agencies except those charged with keeping Americans safe.
- Stop on all unspent money authorized as part of last year's stimulus bill or the 2008 legislation that aided failing Wall Street firms.
- A tax deduction for small businesses on up to 20 percent of their business income.



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