

# Voter Guide for Kerr County

## Primary *Runoff* Election on Tuesday - May 26, 2026

### To Vote in one of the two Primary *Runoff* Elections - instructions:

1. If you voted in the Democratic Party Primary in March, you can **only** vote in the Democratic Party Primary *Runoff* Election.
2. If you voted in the Republican Party Primary in March, you can **only** vote in the Republican Party Primary *Runoff* Election.
3. If you did NOT vote in one of the Primary Elections in March, you can vote in either one of the Primary *Runoff* Elections in May.

Deadline Dates for Primary Runoff Election on Tuesday - May 26, 2026			
Register to Vote/Change Address	Monday	April 27	Last day to register to vote
Voting by Mail	Friday	May 15	Last day to apply for Mail in Ballot
	Tuesday	May 26	Last day to return Mail in Ballot
Early Voting	Monday	May 18	First day to vote in-person
	Friday	May 22	Last day to vote in-person
Election Day	Tuesday	May 26	In-person at voting location

### Get Ready to Vote in a Primary *Runoff* Election in Texas!

The Kerr County Voter Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of the Hill Country Texas with information on candidates:

**Democratic Party Primary Runoff** - Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General

**Republican Party Primary Runoff** - US Senate, Attorney General, Railroad Commissioner,  
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals Place 3  
Kerr County Court at Law Judge, Kerr County Commissioner Precinct 1

This voter guide is available in printed form at the public library and other locations. Voters may read and print this voter guide at the website: [lwvhillcountrytexas.org](http://lwvhillcountrytexas.org).

[VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) is a League website, which provides the election information on the candidates: a voter enters the address on their Voter Registration card to access the information.



**League of Women Voters - Hill Country Texas**

**P. O. Box 290303 Kerrville, Texas 78029-0303**

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**Website: [lwvhillcountrytexas.org](http://lwvhillcountrytexas.org)**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan civic organization and does not support or oppose any candidate or candidates or political party or parties. This Voter Guide provides voters an opportunity to read about candidates who have filed for an office. The League of Women Voters of the Hill Country Texas makes contact with each candidate in a contested election using a variety of methods to contact and invite each candidate to participate in a county voter guide. The candidate makes the decision about responding to the voter guide invitation, as participation is voluntary. All responses to questions come directly from the candidates and are not edited by League of Women Voters.

## Election and Voting Information for Kerr County

Sample ballots and other Information from the Kerr County Election Department posted online:

<https://kerrcountytexas.gov/voting-in-kerr-county/kerr-county-elections>

Take a photo ID with you to the voting location.

Curb-side voting is available for Early Voting and on Election Day.

Remember: no cell phones, no texting, no photos, no campaign material, no loitering

**Orange voter registration card details the elections for the voter residence address.**

### EARLY VOTING in Kerr County - two locations

**Ingram** West Kerr County Annex 510 College Street

**Kerrville** Hill Country Youth Event Center 3785 Highway 27 East

Monday May 18	Tuesday May 19	Wednesday May 20	Thursday May 21	Friday May 22
7:00am to 7:00pm	7:00am to 7:00pm	7:00am to 7:00pm	7:00am to 7:00pm	7:00am to 7:00pm

**ELECTION DAY: Tuesday - May 26, 2026** Locations open 7:00am to 7:00pm

Voter must go to the precinct location on the orange voter registration card.

### Democratic Party Runoff Election Precinct Locations

Precinct	Location	Address	City/Town
101/107/109 113/118/119	Riverside Church of Christ	625 Harper Road	Kerrville
202/211/215/220	Union Church Building	101 Travis Street	Kerrville
303/308/312/314	Cailloux Theater	910 Main Street	Kerrville
404/405/406/410 416/417	Kerr County West Ingram Annex	510 College Street	Ingram

### Republican Party Runoff Election Precinct Locations

Precinct	Location	Address	City/Town
101/107/109 113/118/119	Grace Bible Church	241 Southway Drive	Kerrville
202/211/215/220	Hill Country Youth Event Center	3785 Highway 27 East	Kerrville
303/308/312/314	Calvary Temple Church	3000 Loop 534	Kerrville
404/405/406/410 416/417	Citywest Church	3139 Junction Highway	Ingram

# Kerr County 2026 Primary *Runoff* Elections - Statewide Offices

## United States Senate

The United States Senate has 100 seats - two seats per state. Senators are elected by all the voters in the state of Texas. The term of office is six years.

Duties: makes laws; raises revenues; appropriates federal funds and manages the federal debt; regulates commerce among states and with others nations; declares war and maintains and regulates the military; establishes the federal court system and defines federal crimes; and directs the census every ten years. The US Senate has the exclusive power to advise and consent on presidential nominations to executive and judicial offices, and to ratify U.S. treaties, and to try impeachments.

## Republican Primary Runoff

John Cornyn	no response received
Ken Paxton	no response received

### **1. What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

**Cornyn:** No response received.

**Paxton:** No response received.

### **2. What specific policies would you support to address the growing wealth gap between the highest and lowest earners, and what do you see as the appropriate role of the federal government in this issue?**

**Cornyn:** No response received.

**Paxton:** No response received.

### **3. What policy changes would you propose to make the U.S. immigration system more effective and humane?**

**Cornyn:** No response received.

**Paxton:** No response received.

### **4. The Constitution establishes a system of checks and balances among the three branches of government. As a Senator, what specific actions would you take to preserve the system so that the federal government can serve the people?**

**Cornyn:** No response received.

**Paxton:** No response received.

### **5. What role should the federal government play in promoting a healthy American population and what steps would you take to ensure that healthcare is affordable and accessible for all Americans?**

**Cornyn:** No response received.

**Paxton:** No response received.

## Lieutenant Governor of Texas

The lieutenant governor is powerful because of their position as president of the Texas Senate. The term of office is four years.

Duties: appoint the chairs and vice-chairs of the committees; appoint senators to committees; assign bills to committees; control the agenda of the Senate.; serve as a member of several commissions and boards; and serve as governor in the absence of the governor.

### Democratic Primary Runoff

Vikki Goodwin	website	Goodwin4Texas.com
Marcos Isaias Velez		no response received

#### **1. What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

**Goodwin:** I'm serving my 4th term in the TX Legislature; have been able to pass meaningful laws. I'm the owner of Goodwin & Goodwin Real Estate, involved community leader, graduate of UT & the LBJ School.

**Velez:** No response received.

#### **2. What changes need to be made to Texas abortion laws to ensure women have access to proper medical care in the event of pregnancy complications?**

**Goodwin:** We did not go far enough with the "Life of the Mother Act" that passed in 2025. The way to guarantee the best health outcomes for pregnant women is to allow women to make their own personal, private health care decisions in consultation with their doctors. Women who have adverse health conditions should have all options available for putting their own health before that of the fetus.

**Velez:** No response received.

#### **3. What role should the state government play in promoting a healthy Texas population, and what steps would you take to ensure that healthcare is affordable and accessible for all Texans?**

**Goodwin:** A healthy population is essential. The state should ensure no one falls through the cracks; focus on prevention and transparency. Programs that have proven records of success should be expanded, including Medicaid. Mobile health clinics that provide low-cost diagnostic tests and checkups can help reach areas where there is a lack of doctors. Keeping people out of emergency rooms will lower costs.

**Velez:** No response received.

#### **4. What legislation would you support regarding cannabis?**

**Goodwin:** I support treating cannabis like alcohol with regulation: must be 21 years of age to purchase, can't be sold next door to schools, can't be marketed to kids, labels must clearly indicate the contents and strength. We don't need a nanny state. People with cancer, PTSD, and all types of ailments should be able to continue buying a product that has helped them without the broken TCUP.

**Velez:** No response received.

#### **5. What legislation would you recommend to ensure that Texans and Texas businesses have enough water for the future?**

**Goodwin:** We should pass the TX Stewardship Amendment to ensure our water isn't polluted. We must update and improve our Texas Water Plan using the latest science. Now it includes plans for many reservoirs that aren't feasible, and not enough emphasis on re-use. We need to ensure we aren't developing the most expensive water. Desalination of ocean water is expensive, while storing rainwater is less costly.

**Velez:** No response received.

## Attorney General of Texas

The Attorney General is the chief law enforcement officer of the state. The term of office is four years.

Duties: represents the state and state officials in legal matters; issues opinions; oversees collection of child support; administers the crime victims compensation fund; enforces the open records/open meetings acts; approves public bond issues; and enforces consumer regulations.

### Democratic Primary Runoff

Joe Jaworski	website	JaworskiForTexas.com
Nathan Johnson	website	www.nathanfortexas.com

#### **1. What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

**Jaworski:** Courageous fighter in courtroom and public square. 8 years as Galveston mayor/councilmember; 35 years as Texas trial lawyer/mediator; loyal husband to Rebecca for 35 years; proud Dad to my two kids.

**Johnson:** Eight years as a state senator: passing >100 bills, killing and shaping bills, building coalitions, making government work, exercising independence, leadership and political judgment; law practice.

#### **2. How would you protect Texans' freedom to vote while maintaining safe and secure elections?**

**Jaworski:** I will staff a voter expansion division in the Texas OAG which will daily focus on removing the stain of voter suppression from Texas Law. I will be known as the Attorney General who finally enforced the law which requires Principals to offer registration to all high school seniors. I, with local District Attorneys, will personally prosecute offenders who intentionally break our voting laws.

**Johnson:** We have good laws to keep elections secure, provided that enforcement and audits are fair and consistent. As AG, I will work with DAs around the state to ensure security. As a Senator, I filed bills to protect election workers from harassment (safe and secure), allow voter registration online and same-day, enable citizen ballot initiatives, and move redistricting to an independent commission.

#### **3. How would you address immigration issues affecting our state while ensuring all individuals within our borders have access to due process protections?**

**Jaworski:** I will lead Texas on immigration issues by reminding voters that immigration and criminal justice are two very different American institutions. I will demand that Congress perform its Constitutional duty to reform our immigration laws. I will support asylum as a proper tool of legal immigration. I will support Texas Dreamers who seek in-state college tuition to better themselves and our state.

**Johnson:** Work with the federal government to speed processing of asylum claims and treat applicants humanely, intercept and deter trafficking of drugs and people, revise Texas' ill-conceived 287(g) agreement, vastly expand guest worker program, work with other nations to stem the flow of migrants. The U.S. Constitution grants due process to everyone in the United states, including undocumented immigrants.

#### **4. How would you identify, evaluate, and prioritize which state legal cases to pursue?**

**Jaworski:** I will create/staff a Division of Affordability within the Texas OAG; it will use the power of government to reduce the cost of living in Texas for all 32 million residents of the state. I will measure performance and announce results. The OAG will expressly focus on helping young adult Texans to achieve the American Dream - affordable home ownership, debt free education, and starting a family

**Johnson:** I would ask three questions: whether there are actions that are harming Texans, whether the actions are illegal, and whether I can prove it. I would emphasize blocking federal overreach, promoting competition in markets, protecting people against violence and commercial scams, and rooting out political corruption. I would end the practice of using the office for personal and political purposes.

#### **5. What specific improvements or reforms do you envision for the Texas Attorney General's office in the coming years?**

**Jaworski:** End persecution of vulnerable citizens. Reform Child Support Division: promptly collect/disburse child support and assist payor and payee to collect correct amounts. Assist school principals to register every 18 year old senior to vote. Remain widely accessible to the public, rather than reclusive or partisan only. Focus political and legal decisions on affordability for everyday working Texans.

**Johnson:** Better leadership is needed more than structural reform. I'll recruit great staff, including attorneys, who are committed to serving the public over serving an ideology. I'll devote resources to performing the work of the office rather than the work of a political machine. There may be administrative changes and laws yet to pass or change, which we'll address in concert with the Legislature.

## **Attorney General of Texas**

The Attorney General is the chief law enforcement officer of the state. The term of office is four years.

Duties: represents the state and state officials in legal matters; issues opinions; oversees collection of child support; administers the crime victims compensation fund; enforces the open records/open meetings acts; approves public bond issues; and enforces consumer regulations.

## **Republican Primary Runoff**

Mayes Middleton		no response received
Chip Roy	website	chiproy.com

### **1. What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

**Middleton:** No response received.

**Roy:** I have courtroom and prosecutorial experience as a US Attorney, a nationally recognized conservative voting record in Congress, and senior leadership experience as First Assistant Attorney General.

### **2. How would you protect Texans' freedom to vote while maintaining safe and secure elections?**

**Middleton:** No response received.

**Roy:** As Attorney General, I will rigorously enforce Texas election law so that every eligible voter is protected and every unlawful ballot is prevented. This includes prosecuting election fraud, defending voter ID and citizenship verification requirements, and resisting federal attempt to undermine Texas's election safeguards.

### **3. How would you address immigration issues affecting our state while ensuring all individuals within our borders have access to due process protections?**

**Middleton:** No response received.

**Roy:** Texas must use every lawful tool available to defend itself: litigation against unlawful federal policies, support for state and local enforcement of efforts, aggressive action against cartel networks, and NGOs that facilitate illegal activity, and prosecution of crimes tied to human trafficking. As Attorney General, I will treat border security as a top priority and have a record of doing so.

### **4. How would you identify, evaluate, and prioritize which state legal cases to pursue?**

**Middleton:** No response received.

**Roy:** As a former First Assistant Attorney General, I understand how the office functions day to day and how to align its work with clear strategic priorities. I would prioritize defending Texas sovereignty against federal overreach, aggressively prosecuting human trafficking, cartel activity, election fraud, and corporate cronyism and misconduct; and protecting Texans' constitutional liberties.

### **5. What specific improvements or reforms do you envision for the Texas Attorney General's office in the coming years?**

**Middleton:** No response received.

**Roy:** As First Assistant Attorney General, I effectively served as the chief operating officer of the office overseeing the daily operations, coordinating across divisions, managing personnel, and ensuring the Attorney General's priorities were executed. My goal is an office that is feared by criminals, respected by the courts, trusted by law enforcement, and dedicated to serving the people of Texas.

## Railroad Commissioner

The Railroad Commissioner is one of the three members of the Texas Railroad Commission. It has no regulatory authority concerning railroads. The term of office is four years.

Duties: regulates the oil and gas industry, gas utilities, pipeline safety, safety in the liquefied petroleum gas industry and surface coal and uranium mining.

### Republican Primary Runoff

Bo French		no response received
Jim Wright	website	wrightfortexas.com

#### **1. What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

**French:** No response received.

**Wright:** Currently Chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission. Started working in energy industry at age 19. Later created a group of environmental management companies that service the energy sector.

#### **2. What steps would you take to eliminate the backlog of uncapped abandoned oil, gas, and injection wells across the state?**

**French:** No response received.

**Wright:** The RRC is currently working with the U.S. Department of the Interior to streamline and improve the federal Orphaned Wells Grant Program. That and recent legislative initiatives in the state legislature make it easier to cut through red tape and allow the RRC to utilize its world-renowned well plugging expertise and save taxpayers money.

#### **3. How would you improve transparency and public participation in the Commission's rulemaking and permitting process?**

**French:** No response received.

**Wright:** We engage the public through open meetings and the RRC website, making information available on proposed rules. We have sector based advisory groups and remote listening sessions, hosted by the Office of Public Engagement. Those allow energy experts to answer questions on rulemaking and permitting processes. As chairman, I know transparency in what we do as a government agency is critical.

#### **4. How would you ensure that the Commission is able to provide adequate monitoring and enforcement to the oil, gas, and mining sector?**

**French:** No response received.

**Wright:** RRC has been hard at work to improve our efficiency in staffing and the use of new data tools to flag potential issues or questionable recordings. That commitment results in better followup to serious complaints by the general public and ensures consistency in the reporting. Improved data results in improved monitoring and enforcement.

#### **5. What do you see as the two greatest challenges to the office, and how would you address them?**

**French:** No response received.

**Wright:** 1. Support the best use of our natural resources to benefit Texans, while maintaining stewardship of the environment. 2. Balancing the needs and wants of the various sectors and sizes of energy related businesses from small businesses to multi-million dollar interests so that decisions are fair to all stakeholders.

## Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 3

The Texas Court of Criminal appeals is highest court for criminal cases in Texas. The Court includes a Presiding Judge and eight Judges, each of which is elected by the voters of the entire state. The Court must review all cases in which the death penalty is assessed. It also exercises discretionary review in other criminal cases and issues rulings about wrongful imprisonment. The term of office is six years.

## Republican Primary Runoff

Allison Fox	website	www.foxforjudge.com
Thomas Smith		no response received

### 1. What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

**Fox:** I have almost 20 years in criminal appellate law, drafting opinions, reviewing records, and litigating writs. I am known for my rigor, neutrality, and fidelity to the Constitution.

**Smith:** No response received.

### 2. How will you ensure your rulings remain impartial and free from both political pressure and the interests of your campaign donors?

**Fox:** I will decide every case bases solely on the law and the record. Ethical rules, precedent and judicial restraint - not politics or donors - govern my rulings.

**Smith:** No response received.

### 3. What do you see as the most pressing challenge facing the courts today, and how would you propose addressing it?

**Fox:** I believe the greatest challenge is applying the law consistently and impartially while resisting political pressure, misinformation, and demands for results over justice. I can address these problems by applying the law consistently, writing clear opinions, respecting precedent, and maintaining independence from politics - courts build trust through fairness, transparency, and restraint.

**Smith:** No response received.

### 4. What is your judicial philosophy?

**Fox:** My judicial philosophy is grounded in fidelity to the Constitution, respect for precedent, and judicial restraint. Judges must apply the law as written, decide cases on the record, and remain independent from political or personal views.

**Smith:** No response received.

## Kerr County 2026 Primary *Runoff* Elections - County Offices

### Judge, Kerr County Court at Law

The Kerr County Court at Law is a general jurisdiction court created by the Texas Legislature in 1985. Criminal cases for the County Court at Law are filed with the County Clerk and prosecuted by the County Attorney. Civil cases for the County Court at Law are filed with the District Clerk.

Duties: Class A and Class B misdemeanor criminal cases; concurrent jurisdiction with the district courts over family law cases, as well as civil cases with a jurisdictional limit of \$250,000; concurrent jurisdiction with county court over mental health, probate, guardianship, and juvenile cases; contested probate and guardianship cases transferred from county court; all civil and criminal cases appealed from the Justice of the Peace courts and the municipal courts; and fugitive from justice felony extradition cases.

## Republican Primary Runoff

Brett L. Ferguson	website	www.brettforccaljudge.com
Robert Hunter Moose	email	robert.h.moose@gmail.com

**1. What training and experience qualifies you to serve as the Judge, County Court at Law for Kerr County?**

**Ferguson:** I have been practicing in Kerr County for 22 years and am qualified to serve as Judge of the County Court at Law for Kerr County through a combination of rigorous legal training, broad courtroom experience, and a proven commitment to fair, efficient justice. I have built a foundation through years of hands-on practice handling civil disputes, misdemeanor criminal matters, probate issues, and contested hearings that demand decisive, rule-based judgment. My experience will aid in evaluating evidence, ruling on motions, managing crowded dockets, and issuing clear, enforceable orders—often under tight time constraints and with real consequences for families, businesses, and individual liberty. I am accustomed to maintaining neutrality, ensuring due process, and moving cases forward without unnecessary delay. I further have experience as the alternate municipal judge for the City of Ingram, Texas which provides me with the necessary experience and knowledge to control the courtroom.

**Moose:** I have been a public servant for the majority of my legal career. I have been a prosecutor in the Kerr County Attorney’s office for the past four years, specifically practicing in the County Court at Law. Prior to this, I was a prosecutor in the Gillespie County Attorney’s Office. I have experience in all of the areas of law in which the Court has jurisdiction, specifically criminal law, family law, and civil law. I practice in the County Court at Law on a weekly basis and have knowledge on the operations and procedures of the Court, and have ideas on changes that can improve docket efficiency. In addition, as a prosecutor I feel as though I am specifically aware of the expectations of our community and what justice looks like to Kerr County citizens.

**2. What are the duties and the role of the Judge, County Court at Law for Kerr County?**

**Ferguson:** The Kerr County Court at Law Judge serves as a trial-level judge with authority defined by the Texas Constitution, Texas statutes, and local jurisdictional rules. The role combines judicial decision-making, case management, and administrative oversight. The Court at Law handles criminal cases involving Class A and Class B misdemeanors, criminal appeals from Justice of the Peace courts, pretrial hearings, motions, and bench or jury trials in misdemeanor cases. The Court hears civil cases up to \$250,000, Contract disputes, certain property and title issues, appeals from JP courts, family law matters, protective orders, probate & guardianship and some mental health commitments. The judge is responsible for presiding over bench trials and jury trials, ruling on motions, discovery disputes, evidentiary objections, charging the jury and entering final judgments and in misdemeanor criminal cases, sentencing. The judge must ensure fairness, compliance with procedural rules and efficient docket progression.

**Moose:** A judge’s duty is to be a fair arbiter of the rules, procedures, and the law. They are to be fair to all parties involved and ensure that the playing field remains level. They should apply the law as it exists to each case, and in my opinion, should not legislate from the bench. The duty of the judge is to uphold the Constitutions of both the United States and the State of Texas. The County Court at Law has jurisdiction over family law, civil law, misdemeanor criminal cases, contested probate matters, and juvenile appeals. In certain criminal cases, it is the duty of the judge to access punishment and set bonds. It is my opinion that this duty should not be taken lightly, as it directly affects the safety and welfare of the citizens of Kerr County.

**Kerr County Commissioners Court - Commissioner, Precinct 1 (unexpired term of two years)**

A county commissioner in the state of Texas is elected to the County Commissioners Court to conduct the general business of the county. The Court consists of the county judge who is elected at-large and four commissioners who are elected by geographical precinct. Each commissioner is typically responsible for building and maintaining county roads and bridges with the precinct. The term of office is four years.

Duties: adopts the county budget and the county tax rate; approves all budgeted purchases of the county; sets all salaries and benefits for county employees; authorizes all county contracts; provides and maintains all county buildings and facilities; and fills vacancies in elective and appointed county offices.

**Republican Primary Runoff**

Brenda Hughes	email	bhghes4836@gmail.com
Clay Lambert	website	lambertforpct1.com

## **1. What training and experience qualifies you to serve as the Kerr County Commissioner for Precinct 1?**

**Hughes:** My current public service puts me in a unique position of having direct experience in municipal government, public policy, budgeting, and community planning. I have several years of experience in local government decision-making and constituent service. Running a small business for 32 years gives me decades of experience in budgeting, operations, local economic issues, and workforce management. My ongoing community and volunteer leadership roles show engagement with community organizations and committees that touch on social services, economic activity, municipal planning, and public-private partnerships.

**Lambert:** During my career I have managed construction projects, overseen the engineering of large scale instrumentation and control systems, the specification & acquisition of radio systems, the hiring and management of multi-disciplined employees, annual budget development, the screening and selection of major vendors and structuring contracts with bonuses and penalties to ensure the best outcome. I have acted in a consulting capacity to municipalities to develop collaborative partnerships between local colleges, a city's economic development group and manufacturers resulting in college courses providing needed skills and local business development.

## **2. What is your experience working with budgets the size of the Kerr County budget?**

**Hughes:** As a three-term council member and current Mayor pro tem, I've been a part of the body that reviews, amends, and adopts the city's annual operating budget, which covers all municipal departments and services. This responsibility includes approving the budget and setting the tax rate each year. While our city manager prepares the budget, I have helped provide policy direction and ultimate approval based on strategic priorities and fiscal direction on major city projects and services. These decisions influence how large sums of public funds are allocated annually.

**Lambert:** I worked with numerous multi-million-dollar project budgets during my 23 year career with the Arabian American Oil Company. I was also responsible for setting hiring salaries and employee payroll merit increases for many years which needed to be adjusted to accommodate varying annual revenues, just as Kerr County will have to do in the midst of reduced property tax revenue.

## **3. Do you feel the budget for Kerr County is adequate? Explain.**

**Hughes:** Although balanced for routine spending, I believe our county budget for 2025-2026 faces structural challenges in balancing long-term infrastructure needs, disaster recovery, and revenue generation without eroding reserves. It may not be adequate for large-scale, unplanned expenses without further revenue increases, reallocation of priorities, or additional external funding. With disaster recovery funding as a major pressure point, budget capability to handle larger infrastructure and safety needs will be limited. The current budget relies on reserves and future property values, rather than sustainable revenue increases, which could strain future budgets.

**Lambert:** Yes, under normal circumstances. The loss of ad valorem tax revenue and business taxes due to the flood, coupled with related expenditures has created budgetary constraints. The situation underscores the need to seriously reexamine the current budgeting process which tends to roll forward inefficiencies and doesn't encourage strategic thinking and innovation. Increasing the efficiency of county operations should be a key objective. I have implemented several methods of reviewing organizational efficiency in order to do more with less. I would like to encourage Kerr County implement such a program.

## **4. What are your top three priorities, if elected as the County Commissioner for Precinct 1?**

**Hughes:** My top three priorities are – Public Safety, emergency preparedness, and fiscal responsibility. These priorities reflect my commitment to protecting both families and taxpayers in Kerr County. I believe the county's first duty is to keep residents safe by fully supporting law enforcement, first responders and the courts. I understand that the recent flood disaster has shown the urgent need for emergency planning, infrastructure, and coordination, so the county is prepared when another crisis hits. I'm committed to responsible budgeting, living within our means, protecting reserves, and ensuring every tax dollar is spent wisely, transparently, and with long-term stability in mind.

**Lambert:** 1) To absorb revenue losses, work to strengthen the budgeting process by implementing procedures to find opportunities to increase County efficiencies and reduce costs while continuing to improve county services and operations. Doing so helps keep taxes low. 2) Make myself available to, and focus my attention on the concerns and needs of Precinct 1 residents as I would be their county representative. I'd also help the commission working to stall the BESS installations. 3) Everyone mentions water – I see very little actionable plans. I'd work towards developing a long-term water plan.

## **5. How do you plan to address your priorities within the scope of your duties per the Texas Constitution?**

**Hughes:** These priorities align with both the letter and spirit of the Texas Constitution. Counties are constitutionally responsible for law enforcement, courts, and protecting life and property, making public safety a core duty of county government. Emergency preparedness reflects the Constitution's emphasis on local control and protecting the public welfare through decisions made closest to the people. Fiscal responsibility honors constitutional limits on taxation and debt by requiring transparency, balanced budgets, and careful use of reserves. Together, these priorities ensure Kerr County meets its constitutional obligations while respecting taxpayers and preserving long-term financial stability.

**Lambert:** Work with fellow commissioners to propose and implement operational improvement reviews and better budgeting methods to benefit all county residents by reducing the pressure to raise taxes. Conduct periodic meetings designed to keep precinct 1 constituents informed and up to date on County issues while being an effective listener and addressing their concerns and needs. Research and collect information on how counties across the US addressed their water situation, learn from their successes and collaborate with Commissioners to make the first step to develop a long term water availability plan. No more talk, let's act!

### **League of Women Voters - Hill Country Texas**

For over forty years this League has served Kerr County and now serves six counties in the Texas Hill Country: Bandera, Blanco, Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, and Llano. Members of this League live in all six counties. Both men and women over the age of 16 are members of the League and there are various membership levels with annual dues as a part of the membership. Visit the website to join: [lvvhillcountrytexas.org](http://lvvhillcountrytexas.org)

If reading this Voter Guide has helped you to be informed and vote, please consider a donation, in any amount, to help the Hill Country Texas League continue to offer this service to voters. Donations are accepted via the website: [lvvhillcountrytexas.org](http://lvvhillcountrytexas.org) or mail to the post office box listed on the front page.