



Voters Guide

2010 GENERAL ELECTION EDITION

November 2, 2010

Early voting - October 18 through October 29

Election day - Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Cast an informed vote in the General Election on November 2

Candidates' answers on issues that affect you:

Jobs and Economy • Transportation • Education • Environment • Fuels

ABOUT THIS *VOTERS GUIDE*

This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund to help citizens cast an informed vote. The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization, encourages informed and active participation in government. Neither the League nor the Education Fund supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

The *Voters Guide* lists candidates for statewide races and the State Board of Education races in Texas, as shown in the table of contents. This *Voters Guide*, plus an online supplement with responses from candidates for Justice of regional Courts of Appeals, are available on the League's website at www.lwvtexas.org.

Questionnaires were sent to candidates in contested races. Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification. Due to space restrictions, candidates were given strict word limits. Replies exceeding the word limit are indicated by slashes (/). Candidates were also asked to avoid references to their opponents. Candidates appearing with no photo failed to submit one.

This *Voters Guide* is organized by office, with candidates identified as they appear on the state ballot. Ballot order may vary from county to county. The names of unopposed candidates are also listed.

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G GOVERNOR

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

Background: What training and experience qualify you for this office? (50 words)

State Rank: Texas is among the top-ranked states in the nation in some areas (such as fastest-growing cities, low business taxes, wind power) and among the lowest-ranked in other areas (such as greenhouse gas emissions, tax burden for low-income residents, teen pregnancies, wrongful convictions, uninsured children). How would you address these issues? (75 words)

Economy: What are the most important issues for the state's economy and jobs and how would you address them? (75 words)

Other Issues: Aside from the issues above, what do you consider the two most serious issues facing Texas during the next four years, and how would you address them? (75 words)

RICK PERRY (R)



Background: My experience balancing budgets without raising taxes, trimming billions in unnecessary spending and creating a climate that has helped Texas generate more jobs than any other state this decade embody the Texas values of limited government, low taxes and fiscal restraint that our state needs to continue its forward momentum.

State Rank: Texas will continue implementing policies based on principles of limited government, low taxes, restrained spending and individual freedom. Although Texas has its challenges, we have the tools to effectively tackle these issues. We believe that the government's role is to create a climate that frees people to succeed and then get out of the way to let the private sector create the jobs that Texans need to provide for their families and contribute to society.

Economy: Texas is the example that other states should emulate to strengthen their economy and create jobs. There are four basic rules we have stuck to: don't spend all the money and keep taxes low; keep a predictable regulatory system so that employers aren't burdened with unexpected changes; maintain a legal system that minimizes frivolous lawsuits; and strengthen education by holding schools accountable and calling students to higher standards as we build the workforce of tomorrow.

Other Issues: Texas needs to remain competitive in the national and global economies so Texans are free to succeed. We'll achieve this goal by maintaining our focus on economic development, job creation, fiscal responsibility, education and border security. We will also continue to resist the encroachment of the federal government upon our liberties. Their spend it all, spend it now, one size fits all approach to governance will cripple our economy.

BILL WHITE (D)



Background: With a long business career, I've met a payroll, balanced budgets, and increased efficiency. In six years as Houston's mayor, I brought people together to get results. We led the nation in job growth, cut crime, cut property tax rates, and helped the city become a clean energy leader.

State Rank: Texas should be a leader, and our poor rankings in children's health insurance and education are troubling. I worked to make Houston a top city in the US, and will work to repeat that success statewide. Existing programs like CHIP should have higher enrollment. I helped cut the drop-out rate in Houston by reaching out to students not returning to school. Giving students access to summer school and tutoring increases student investment in education.

Economy: The deficit facing the state means that as governor, I would be responsible for identifying efficiencies and productivity improvements that would allow a reduction in spending without the compromise in service delivery. We need to cut costs and stimulate job growth in the state. As governor, I will work to bring new business here, allow small businesses to flourish, and will ensure a skilled workforce by focusing on improving education and job training.

Other Issues: Education is key in Texas. For the first time, young Texans entering the workforce are less educated than the previous generation. Our long term economic future depends on the investments we make in students today. We must improve achievement in public schools, cut the dropout rate, and reduce barriers to higher education. Examples of potential solutions to improving achievement include: voluntary summer programs, expanded pre-K, closing the digital divide, attracting and retaining great teachers.

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KATHIE GLASS (L)	 Background: I am a civil trial lawyer and citizen who has run a business and understands our Constitution, history, and rule of law. I played no role in the corruption and cronyism that created our problems. “Experienced” people caused this mess; “experienced” people will not lead us out. State Rank: Such dubious negative rankings are attempts to foist increased taxes and spending upon us. Other states really cannot compare to Texas. In things that matter most -- the desire, will, and ability (given effective leadership) to assert our sovereignty and resist unconstitutional federal acts, defend our border, restore fiscal sanity, and defeat seizure of private property to enrich well-connected cronies -- Texas is No. 1.	Economy: Problem: High property taxes and a budget that doubled the last decade. Solution: Slash the budget 50% to levels seen 10 years ago. Eliminate property taxes, reduce education spending, increase local control including the ability to supplement funding. Medicaid was 26% of our \$180,000,000,000 budget when Obamacare increased our liability by 75%. Texas should opt out, using the savings to fund healthcare we choose, creating better services at lower cost. Other Issues: The most serious issues facing Texas are unconstitutional federal acts in violation of our 10th Amendment sovereignty and our unsecure border. We must restore Texas sovereignty and resist unconstitutional acts using nullification and interposition. We must defend our border using our Texas State Guard and eliminate taxpayer-funded services to non-citizens. Our porous border is also an economic issue, as 25% of our \$180,000,000,000 budget goes for non-citizens.
DEB SHAFTO (G)	Background: I have sold insurance, owned and operated a moving company, adolescents, run a group home for disturbed adolescents and taught kindergarten. I put a son through college, a daughter through nursing school. I know what meeting payroll means, keeping within budget, doing hard work and being where the buck stops. State Rank: First, we need a graduated state income tax. We need to strictly follow EPA guidelines. We need state medicare for all. We need to give factual, relevant sex information to our adolescents and stop pretending that ignorance works. We need to put a premium on justice not on convictions, and we need a judicial review to be sure all evidence has been presented and tested, not just when the defendant can afford it.	Economy: We need to create living wage jobs to create renewable energy throughout the state, create a power grid to get the energy where it is needed, and retrofit public buildings and private housing to be energy efficient. We need to rebuild and update drainage solutions and repair aging infrastructure, including schools, streets and highways. Good schools and subsidized college in-state tuition will attract business, and bring jobs. Other Issues: We need to rethink education entirely. We are 49th among 50 states and, clearly, more of the same will not bring improvement. We are born learning machines and need authentic opportunities to experience and learn, not discipline and grinding memorization which dulls the brain and discourages the learner. We need longer school days to accommodate the work force and classes interspersed with physical activity to maintain alertness and physical health. We need to de-emphasize testing (///)
L IEUTENANT GOVERNOR Four-year term. Must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Texas for the five years immediately preceding the election. Among duties as part of both the Executive and Legislative branches: assumes powers of Governor when Governor is absent or unable to serve; acts as President of the Senate; by statute, is a member of several Legislative branch boards and committees. The salary is that of a state senator when serving as President of the Texas Senate and that of the Governor when serving as Governor.		
Background: What training and experience qualify you for this office? (50 words) Education: How should Texas finance public education in light of reduced revenues from property and business taxes? (75 words) Transportation: What is the best way for Texas to meet its growing transportation needs? (75 words) Function: What do you think is the most important function of the Lieutenant Governor during the legislative session? (75 words)		
DAVID DEWHURST (R) - No reply received		
LINDA CHAVEZ-THOMPSON (D)	 Background: I’ve led an international union with millions of workers. I’ve negotiated contracts, developed policy papers, and secured a living wage for thousands of workers across in my 28-year career as a labor organizer, culminating as the first woman of color to serve as Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO. Education: State leaders are failing to heed the warnings of former state demographer, and Bush appointee, Steve Mur-	doch, who has warned that real wages will be lower in 2030 than they were in the year 2000. Today’s economy is driven by technology and innovation — and leaders of the new economy understand its an economic imperative that big business paying its fair share. This message was echoed in a recent report by the Texas Association of Business. Transportation: <i>Response does not meet criteria</i> Function: <i>Response does not meet criteria</i>
SCOTT JAMESON (L)	Background: I will not spend millions to convince everyone I should be elected. I share your financially conservative values. I will lead the Texas Senate to vastly improve education at all levels, provide a smart, affordable transportation infrastructure, while ardently defending all Texans with a shield of transparent and ethical values. Education: A Modified Voucher System would provide optimal education choices and progressively save the state system billions. When individuals and corporations contributed to a voucher school that school’s provision of education tax dollars would be scaled down. Public school crowding and capital expenditure pressures would be reduced. The successful model of magnet schools should be expanded. Also, we should provide some property tax exemption for homeschoolers. We must repeal the NCLB Act and end federal intervention.	Transportation: Public-Private Partnerships are important in meeting the state’s highway infrastructure needs. However, we need to use proper revenue sharing models to limit windfall profits. Also, as a Realtor, I am informed about the controversial expanded use of imminent domain, and I oppose this expansion. Private property rights combined with good environmental laws must be preeminent. Finally, Texas is a leader in technology and we need to support building infrastructure for hybrid and fuel cell (///) Function: The Lt. Governor must help implement the Texas Constitution for everyone’s well-being. Legislatively, I would be a fulcrum between the two legacy parties’ agendas. As a conservative Libertarian, I am in the best political space to set the calendar of the Senate for the best possible results -a conservative balanced budget, an optimal education framework, great transportation infrastructure and a clean environment. As your Lt. Governor, I will listen to you and work for you.

KEY

(R) - REPUBLICAN (D) - DEMOCRAT (L) - LIBERTARIAN (G) - GREEN (///) - OVER WORD LIMIT

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You may bring this *Voters Guide* into the voting booth.*

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

HERB GONZALES, JR (G)	Background: My experience is based on studying and being actively involved in politics and government. I have a BA in polisci and was a representative for student group in student government. I was elected precinct chair and a delegate to Green convention. I have been campaign coordinator in city and county. Education: The present system is in need of dismantling and creating a Permanent Public Education fund that is financed by a minimum tax on the fortune 500 corporations that whether they are chartered in Texas or not will pay this minimum tax in order to profit from the income of Texans. Transportation: Texas should begin to invest in transportation that will be used by all to reduce and eliminate the need of oil and gas. Urban areas must began to create a public transport system that is energy efficient in not releasing greenhouse gases. Monies should be directed at creating not toll but roadways that are for public transportation electric and rail and to create a system to rebate citizens who use public transport instead of privately (///) Function: It is affirmed that I will promote the public good and ensure with the Texas Senate that legislation will be of benefit to the citizens and persons who reside in Texas.
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ATTORNEY GENERAL	Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years old, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Texas for at least 12 months. Among duties: lawyer for the state; defends the laws and Constitution of the state; represents the state in litigation; approves public bond issues; enforces health, safety and consumer regulations; collects court-ordered child support; administers Crime Victims’ Compensation Fund. Current annual salary: \$150,000
Background: What training and experience qualify you for this office? (50 words) Consumer Fraud: What are the most serious areas of consumer fraud in Texas and how would you address them? (75 words)	Regulations: What should be the role of the Attorney General’s office in enforcing health, safety, consumer and environmental regulations? (75 words) Responsibilities: What advisory and enforcement responsibilities of the Attorney General’s office will need the most attention and resources in the next four years, and how would you address them? (75 words)

GREG ABBOTT (R) - No reply received

BARBARA ANN RADNOFSKY (D)	 Background: Wife, mother, teacher, mediator. Lawyer for 30 years. I’ve represented people and businesses of every kind. Head of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section, Vinson & Elkins (retired 2006). Listing “Best Lawyers in America” for the past 17 years. Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas 1988. Consumer Fraud: Wall Street misconduct harmed Texans and our economy. Texas’ top ten investments lost \$35 billion (2007-2009). I will: Fight to get back our billions lost to Wall Street fraud. Declare the margin income tax unconstitutional, helping businesses create Texas jobs. Declare war on Internet child predators. Reform the Attorney General’s Child Support Division. Fight insurance, electric utility companies, pay day lenders, and profiteers.	Regulations: The Texas Attorney General should protect the economic and physical well being of the people. Profiteering and misuse of state resources have led to sky high electrical and insurance rates and Texas’ number one ranking of several key pollution measures. The Attorney General should be enforcing the law, instead of suing the EPA to protect polluters. Responsibilities: The office of Attorney General should: Provide leadership from the top, respect for the career employees, training and resources to serve the public. Reform Child Support, correcting computers to properly administer law of child support and serve Texans. Declare margin income tax unconstitutional. Declare war on Internet child predators, drug, human and gun traffickers. No longer neglect concrete evidence of crime, as occurred in the Texas Youth Commission scandal.
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JON ROLAND (L)	 Background: Founder and president of the Constitution Society, and webmaster of its website. Editor of the most important works, online there, on constitutional history, law, and government. Author of several peer-reviewed and other articles on constitutional issues. Intervenor in several court cases, and co-author of Supreme Court amicus briefs. Consumer Fraud: The two most important and neglected are for the public as consumers of government contracting, and as consumers of government services, especially at the local level. There is too much cronyism, bribery, and intimidation taking place, especially at the local level, that has compromised local judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement agents. Would open grand juries to complaints by private citizens, and try to revive the practice of private criminal prosecutions of public officials.	Regulations: Would seek to have them handled by grand and trial juries, and insist that issues of law be argued in the presence of juries. Would seek to reduce unproductive paperwork and meddling by anonymous bureaucrats. Would seek to have Texas Rangers moved to Office of the AG for use against public corruption. Would insist constitutions be defended in all cases, and that whistleblowers be adequately represented as required by law. Responsibilities: Would work to institute a Federal Action Review Commission, a grand jury empowered to hear citizen complaints about unconstitutional federal activities, and authorize disobedience of them by state agents and citizens. Would seek to move most child support enforcement to the county level. Would seek a new, clean State Constitution, with greater protection of rights, providing for “superstatutes” approved by referendum that are superior to ordinary statutes but inferior to constitutional provisions.
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COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS	Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years old, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Texas for at least 12 months. Among duties: collects taxes and fees owed the state; reports the state’s financial condition to the Legislature at the end of each fiscal year and provides estimates of revenue for the coming year; provides economic development assistance to local governments and businesses; audits the performance of Texas schools. Current annual salary: \$150,000
Background: What training and experience qualify you for this office? (50 words) Data: How would you ensure that state officials and the public have timely and accurate data about the state’s financial status? (75 words)	Spending: What measures do you support to make sure that state tax money is spent wisely? (75 words) Other Issues: Aside from the issues above, what do you see as the two most serious issues the Comptroller will face, and how would you address them? (75 words)

SUSAN COMBS (R)	 Background: Have managed the CPA for 4 successful years, comprehensively reformed online transparency efforts; served in state legislature and understand budget process; worked on Wall Street in corporate finance; small business owner for 30 years; former prosecutor; have found nearly \$173 million in tax underreporting; pushed Texas to buy smarter. Data: We frequently update legislators on economic condition in preparation for the Biannual Revenue Estimate. I developed two programs called “Where the Money Goes” and “Where the Money Comes From” so that people everywhere can search where the money is allocated from and what it is used for. All state funds come from the taxpayer and it’s my job to ensure that they are informed regularly with transparent, accurate briefings.	Spending: As a small business owner I understand the importance of spending money wisely and, most important, efficiently. I have pushed Texas to harness the buying power of purchasing in bulk and have saved the state over \$51 million. I have put all state expenditures online and have worked to balance the books of other state agencies. By making state spending transparent I have uncovered various ways to see Texas government work smarter. Other Issues: The budget deficit that we face heading into a legislative session in 2011 will cause shortages of funds for state programs and agencies. We will be providing specific suggestions for cost containment. Secondly, the statewide unemployment rate, though one of the lowest in the nation, must improve. I will work tirelessly to allocate money to job training and the creation of jobs statewide.
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MARY RUWART (L)	 Background: My Ph.D. in biophysics and 30-year career in the sciences has given me ample training in computational analysis. In addition, I have kept the books for a number of small businesses throughout my career, as well as analyzing budget items for the Libertarian National Committee. Data: Because government entities in the United States use cash basis accounting, anyone monitoring the books sees what the State of Texas has already paid, but not necessarily what it still owes. The Comptroller can provide more transparency and accuracy by including additional information, such as outstanding bills, in its reporting to mimic the accrual accounting system used by most businesses. Otherwise, even conscientious watchdogs can get a very skewed picture of Texas finances. Spending: Annual audits by independent accounting firms and implementation of accounting controls are used in the private sector to cut fraud and waste. The Comptroller should demonstrate the potential savings from these procedures by having its own office independently audited and implementing appropriate controls. The Comptroller can then recommend that other Texas agencies follow suit. If Texans must tighten their financial belts in today’s economy, they should expect their government to do the same. Other Issues: From 2008 to 2009, employee wages and benefits in the Comptroller’s office rose from \$192 to \$202 million, a 10%+ increase. Texans should never be expected to tighten their financial belts to grow bureaucratic government, especially in these difficult times. The Comptroller must set the example for other government agencies by first cutting back waste and spending and then by exposing the government agencies which fail to follow its example.
EDWARD LINDSAY (G)	 Background: Married 34 years, 3 children, Vietnam Era Veteran, 2 Honorable Discharges, 3 college degrees (Mathematics, School Administration, Administration), Licensed Insurance Broker, Licensed Real Estate Broker, past Treasurer of the Texas Junior College Teachers Association, Certificate of Recognition (U.S. Secretary of Defense, 1991), Certificate of Appreciation (U.S. Army, 2009). Data: The Texas State Comptroller’s Office is responsible for collecting state revenue, tracking state expenditures, and monitoring the financial condition of the state. To insure that state officials and the public have timely and accurate data about the state’s financial status, I will employ accountants and attorneys who are experienced in state budgets, ad valorem and occupation tax records, bonds, and computers. I will work closely with the State Legislative Branch and the media. Spending: Measures I support to make sure that state tax money is spent wisely are to provide close monitoring of proposed state budgets to insure items comply with state law, to ascertain if revenues meet expenditures, and to collect data to insure tax monies are being spent on their intended purposes. Furthermore, I will make recommendations for retiring any debt which the state has incurred. Other Issues: The two most serious issues the Comptroller will face involve collection of tax revenues and authenticating the use of taxpayers’ money for their intended purposes. With a projected shortfall of nearly \$18 billion, it is imperative that tax dollars be collected and used for legitimate means. I intend to address these issues through diligent efforts, capable personnel and tireless energy for the people of Texas.
COMMISSIONER OF GENERAL LAND OFFICE Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years old, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Texas for at least 12 months. Among duties: management of state lands and mineral-right properties totaling 20.3 million acres and providing revenues for the Permanent School Fund; repository of state land documents; responsible for the prevention of and response to oil spills that occur on “submerged” lands out to 10.3 miles in the Gulf of Mexico. The Commissioner also serves as a chairman of seven state boards, including the School Land Board, the Veterans Land Board, and the Coastal Coordination Council. Current annual salary: \$137,500	
Background: What training and experience qualify you for this office? (50 words) Coastal Lands: What are the most serious threats to Texas coastal lands and how would you address them? (75 words) Energy Revenue: How will emerging alternate energy sources affect the Permanent School Fund revenues from oil and gas leases? How would you address a possible change in revenues? (75 words) Beachfronts: In managing Texas beachfronts, how would you balance the concerns of taxpayers, ecologists, environmental groups, residents and commercial developers? (75 words)	
JERRY PATTERSON (R) - No reply received	
HECTOR URIBE (D)	 Background: Thirteen years in the Texas legislature and service on the Finance, Education and Natural Resources committees prepared me to plan for the future funding, educational and environmental needs of our state. I chaired the Senate’s standing sub-committee on Water and vice-chaired the joint subcommittee on Oil Spills and Water Pollution (///) Coastal Lands: Coastal development, off-shore and inter-coastal waterways drilling, sea level rise and dams - that increasingly starve our coastlines of sediments that feed beaches and limit water-flows that impact the salinity of coastal waters and threaten sensitive habitats are threats to coastal lands and habitats. I oppose efforts to divert water and sediment in our rivers from our environmentally sensitive coastal lands and support greater funding for a rapid and comprehensive response to an oil spill. Energy Revenue: Texas owns submerged lands (10.3) miles in the Gulf. The GLO should promote the development of wind farms on our submerged lands to provide a clean and renewable source of energy to our coastal cities that would also create a new and permanent source of funding for our PSF. The installation of approximately 5000 wind turbines would generate as much income as generated by our mineral leases in our peak year - 1984. Beachfronts: Our beaches belong to all Texans. Our coastal communities are great income generators for state and local businesses. I support the enforcement of the Dunes Protection Act, the Open Beaches Act and the granting of ordinance making powers to counties to address beachfront development. I’ll be a strong advocate for beach replenishment programs. Engineering solutions - seawalls, breakwaters and groynes, are often ineffective. Beach replenishment is preferred on both economic and conservation grounds.
JAMES HOLDAR (L)	 Background: Age 67 years. Resident of Texas since 1969. Military: US Army. Education: BSCE Civil Engineering. Registered Professional Land Surveyor. Registered Professional Engineer. Owned an engineering and land surveying company for 27 years. Served as District Engineer for Drainage Districts in Cameron and Willacy Counties. Coastal Lands: The most serious threats to Texas coastal lands are beach erosion and storm surge flooding. I will work to change laws and regulations to allow private property owners to protect their lands from erosion, while preserving the public’s right to the public beach easement. This will include energy dissipating structure when practical. I will work with the coastal counties to allow the maximum local control of the public beach. Energy Revenue: Alternate energy sources should not affect the revenues to the Public School Fund. I will work at leasing state lands for alternate energy development. I will work at insuring the oil and gas lessees develop their leases to maximize revenues from the leases. I will work at leasing state lands to produce the maximum revenue. Beachfronts: I will work at developing ecological preserves on land that is not under pressure for development by private property owners. I will work with private property owners and developers to optimize the benefits for the State and public. This will include increase property values, increased recreational use by the general public. I will encourage protection and development of environmental resources for the benefit of the public.

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

Environment: What are the main environmental concerns for Texas agriculture (such as water and pesticides) and how would you address them? (75 words)

Other Issues: Aside from the issues above, what do you see as the two most serious issues the Commissioner of Agriculture will face during the next four years, and how would you address them? (75 words)



Role: We know that as Texas continues to grow we must utilize new technology to ensure our farmers and ranchers have the tools necessary to be able to do more with less.

Environment: Recently, the EPA has pushed forward with establishing controversial rules that would declare carbon dioxide (CO2) to be a pollutant. I feel that implementing this rule would have a very negative impact on Texas agriculture. Studies show it would kill jobs. As Texans we need the bureaucrats in Washington to step aside and let the true stewards of our land (farmers and ranchers) do their jobs.

Other Issues: Texas is the envy of the nation. In order to continue to be successful I'm committed to protecting private property owners' rights, ensuring we have the safest, and most reliable food supply in the world, protecting consumers from the grocery store to the gas pump, promoting Texas products through the GO TEXAN program, improving the health of Texas children and families, and working to promote job opportunities and the Texas economy.



Background: I've spent my entire adult life in Agriculture. For me, Agriculture is both a vocation and an avocation. I graduated with my BS from Texas A&M. I've taught Agriculture as a public school teacher and has a 4H adviser. I've been a rancher most of my life.



Role: There's a misconception about the role of the Commissioner of Agriculture. The Texas Department of Agriculture oversees all transactions where a product is sold using a weight or measure, including a cash register. Every time someone uses a bar code scanner or buys gas (for example), TDA has the responsibility to make sure the device is accurate. This is a role that is absolutely essential to both urban and rural Texans.

Environment: Overall, the biggest threat is climate change since Agriculture, more than any other industry, is completely dependent on the environment. We have to find a proper balance and keep ridiculous regulation, like EPA's proposed dust restrictions, off small producers. Water use and efficiency will increasingly play a roll in our state and I'm looking forward to working with the Legislature to address Agricultural concerns as they make water policy for the next 50 years.

Other Issues: The biggest issue is food safety, making sure that the food we eat is safe from field to plate. Currently, the regulations covering food safety are a patchwork filled with holes, one of the reasons nine people died in 2009 as a result of one salmonella incident. It's something that has to be addressed now. The other issue is eminent domain abuse which must be addressed with real restrictions on the state.



Background: I had a Pesticide Applicators License from about 1979 to 1985 when I decided to go Natural/Organic. I've been involved in Hands On Natural and Organic Agriculture since 1985. Currently, I am a spring and Fall Truck Farmer and a Small Ruminant producer.

Role: Texans need to be producing more from their own properties to better accommodate themselves and their communities. Texas Constitution Article VIII mandates all Farm Products are tax exempt. Urban Farms, I believe, are to be included. Who, In Texas, is not involved in Agricultural production?

Environment: Water collection and consumption are two big issues that need to be improved. Texas Lakes and water collection tanks should be dredged and cleaned out when water levels are reduced to accommodate this work. Home collection should be encouraged and tax incentives should be implemented to allow more Texans the ability to supplement their own water needs. Pesticide usage and water runoff from roadways should be more carefully investigated and controlled. So called chemical usage (///)

Other Issues: More Farmers Markets and Neighborhood Co-ops should be created by the Free Market. The Texas Agriculture Commission should refuse Funding (?) from the Federal Government and Repeal all of the Federal Programs being funded (with promises to pay, i.e. Federal Debt Script money) should be re-evaluated and funded by Texas for Texans, if the need is there. USDA, EPA, NAIS/NADT, APHIS, ad infinitum Federal Programs should all be discontinued and let Texas take care of (///)

VOTING IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

In the General Election in November, voters in Texas may vote for any candidate they wish, regardless of whether they voted in a party primary or participated in a party convention. All candidates from all parties are on the same ballot.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOTING

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

WHERE TO VOTE

During early voting you may vote in any designated early voting center, but on Election Day you must vote in your precinct of residence (unless your area is participating in a consolidated vote center trial). Your precinct is listed on your registration card, or you may find out where to vote by calling or going online with your county elections administrator (the League provides county web links at www.lwvtexas.org). Voting places are also listed in most newspapers. If you report to the incorrect polling place, you will be redirected to the correct site or offered a provisional ballot. You can vote by provisional

ballot, but if it is determined that you are not registered in the precinct where you vote, your ballot will not be counted, by Texas law. More information on provisional voting appears on the Texas Secretary of State website www.sos.state.tx.us.

VOTER REGISTRATION

You must register to vote at least 30 days prior to an election. The last day you may register to vote in the 2010 General Election is October 4. Applications are available on the Secretary of State website and must be sent to your county elections department. The registration will remain in effect until you move and a new certificate will be sent to you every two years without further application on your part. If you move, however, your registration certificate will not be forwarded to your new address. If you move within the same county, you must notify your County Clerk or Elections Administrator in writing of your new address as soon as possible. Then a new certificate will be mailed to you. If you move to another county, you must re-register by applying to the elections office in your new county.

When you go to vote, take your registration certificate and another form of identification with you to the polls. The current certificate, sent in January 2010, is blue. If you are unsure of your voter registration, you can verify your status on the Texas Secretary of State website or with your county elections office.

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER		Six-year term (on a three-person commission). Must be at least 25 years old, a citizen of the United States, a resident and registered voter of Texas. Among duties: regulation of the oil and natural gas industry, including drilling production and environmental protection; natural gas utilities; natural gas and hazardous liquids pipeline safety; surface mining of coal, uranium, and iron ore gravel, including land reclamation; transportation and storage of liquefied petroleum gas, compressed natural gas, and liquefied natural gas; encourages the use of clean-burning propane and researches new technologies for its use. Current annual salary: \$92,217 - \$137,500
Background: What training and experience qualify you for this position? (50 words) Alternate Fuels: How would you balance the use of existing fuel sources with the development of alternate fuel sources in Texas? (75 words)		Urban Drilling: What are the main health and safety issues related to oil and gas drilling and transmission in urban areas, and how would you address them? (75 words) Other Issues: Aside from the issues above, what are the two most serious issues the Railroad Commission will face during the next six years, and how would you address them? (75 words)
DAVID PORTER (R)	 Background: I have spent three decades working with independent oil and gas producers, operators, oilfield service companies and royalty owners providing accounting, financial and tax counsel. As a small business owner from the Permian Basin, I know first-hand the challenges the industry faces, from financial to regulatory to environmental. Alternate Fuels: I believe we should encourage the exploration of alternative sources by incentivizing their development and production rather than issuing more mandates and regulations. As Texas continues to grow daily, so does our demand for power. To keep our economy growing, we must pursue every source of energy available to power our daily lives, while continuing to develop cleaner and renewable sources including wind, solar, nuclear, clean coal and natural gas.	Urban Drilling: Air and water quality concerns are the most pressing concerns and are currently an area of debate with regards to the responsible state agency. My first priority will be to ensure the health and safety of Texans and, with legislative authority, will consider air and water concerns in relevant cases. Other Issues: Budget cuts during a time of increased production in heavy populated areas are a major issue. I will work to ensure that public safety is never compromised. The Commission must do a better job informing Texans exactly we what we do, and make itself more accessible to Texans. I have proposed that the Railroad Commission create an ombudsman, whose sole focus will be to aid those who contact the RRC with questions or concerns.
JEFF WEEMS (D)	 Background: I worked offshore to pay for college. 1983 high honors graduate from the University of Texas in Petroleum Land Management. Worked at Shell as a landman. 1989 honors graduate from Texas Law School. Over 20 years as an energy litigator, currently administrative partner at firm. Voted Energy Super Lawyer (2007). Alternate Fuels: I will promote the immediate expansion of natural gas as a transportation and power generation fuel. Texas has been blessed with abundant gas reserves, and this gas burns much cleaner than coal, diesel, or gasoline in both transportation and power-generation uses. We must continue to explore for traditional oil and gas reserves. At the same time, we should encourage development of wind and solar power, although the Commission has no jurisdiction over these sources.	Urban Drilling: Drilling and transmission in urban areas has created issues over air (from emissions) and water quality (from hydraulic fracturing and water usage). The Commission must begin to monitor and oversee gaseous emissions from hydrocarbon facilities. Second, we must oversee frac'ing and press the issue of water reclamation. We also must closely oversee pipeline operations to reduce leakage and dangers from explosions. We could accomplish more by creating a separate district for the Barnett Shale alone. Other Issues: The public has lost faith in the Commissioners. I want to eliminate the ability of a commissioner to run for another office or take contributions when they are not running. We should focus our limited resources toward transparency and facilitating public input. We must stop starving this agency that plays such a vital environmental protection role. We must fight for better funding and implement a policy of getting more Commission employees performing inspections.
ROGER GARY (L) - <i>No reply received</i>		
ART BROWNING (G)	 Background: I have worked in the oil and gas business as a geologist since 1975, earned degrees at Ohio State, and hold TBPG Certificate #6148. My experience includes exploration and production on four continents where I have seen a range of practices in the business, good and not so good. Alternate Fuels: Oil and gas depletion means we simply must move to alternate fuels. Every field begins decline the day production begins. Since we use fossil fuels faster than Mother Nature makes them, it is only prudent to switch to renewable fuels. Furthermore, we must come to terms with living in equilibrium with nature rather than believing that constant growth is possible. Only cancer does that, only until the host dies. What will our grandchildren think?	Urban Drilling: Pipeline explosions in the news highlight the need for more in spections; that and more careful pressure monitoring will mutually benefit public safety and resource preservation. Regarding urban drilling, possible blowouts and hydrogen sulfide emissions raise concerns. With modern directional drilling technology, there should be no need to issue permits for drilling where people live and work. This should also mitigate other issues including noise and heavy equipment traffic. Other Issues: Increased hydrofracking for shale gas worries citizens. Drillers must prove no invasion of aquifers by gas and injected chemicals before starting new projects. The same applies to waste disposal wells. Constant monitoring in nearby water wells requires more staff. Overconsumption of limited energy will be the greatest challenge. To address it, we must first recognize it. The true cost of energy is not being paid, and inequities exist. The Railroad Commission cannot solve this alone.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING:

MOVING

If you have moved since you last voted or plan to move before you vote this year, notify the county elections administrator about your new address in writing. Transfer your registration to your new address as soon as possible. You may return to your previous precinct to vote until your registration is transferred, provided you still live within the boundaries of the entity conducting the election. If you move from one Texas county to another, you must re-register in the county of your new residence. You may be eligible to vote a limited ballot for 90 days after you move if your new registration is not yet effective. However, the limited ballot is available only during early voting, not on Election Day.

EARLY VOTING IN PERSON

All registered voters may vote early by personal appearance at any early voting location in their county. Check with your local newspaper or the county clerk or elections administrator for early voting times and locations. Early voting days for the November 2, 2010, General Election are October 18-29.

EARLY VOTING BY MAIL

Only specific reasons entitle a person to vote early by mail (no longer called absentee voting). You may request a ballot by mail if you will be away from your county on Election Day and during early voting, are sick or disabled, are 65 years of age or older on Election Day, or are confined to jail.

Request an Application for Ballot by Mail (ABBM) from the early voting clerk in the county where you are registered, or download the form from Secretary of State website: www.sos.state.tx.us. The completed form must be received by mail or fax by October 26. Note: postmarks don’t count. County elections addresses and fax numbers are also available on the SOS website.

A ballot will be mailed to you, and you must return your completed ballot to your county elections department by 7 p.m. on Election Day, November 2. The ballot must be received, not just postmarked, by that date; and faxes are not allowed.

JUSTICE - TEXAS
SUPREME COURT

Six-year term. Must be at least 35 years old, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Texas. Must have been a practicing lawyer or a lawyer and a judge of a court of record for a total of 10 years or more. Serves as a member of the court of highest appellate jurisdiction in civil matters in the state; has the power to issue writs of *habeas corpus*, *mandamus*, and others; presides over proceedings for involuntary retirements or removal of judges. Current annual salary: \$152,500 (Chief Justice), \$150,000 (Justice)

Background: What training and experience qualify you for this position? (50 words)
Standards: The Texas Supreme Court oversees and controls rules and standards for the legal profession. Do you think that the public should have input to those rules and standards? If so, how? (75 words)

Client Information: Do you believe that Texas lawyers must protect and guard a client’s confidential information even if it is generally known or readily obtainable from public sources, such as the Internet? Please explain. (75 words)
Recusal: Under what conditions would you recuse yourself from cases? (75 words)

DEBRA LEHRMANN (R)



Background: I currently serve on the Texas Supreme Court; prior to this appointment, I served as a trial judge for 22 years, and bring a critical trial court perspective to the Court. The author of two legal treatises, I have been recognized by the Texas Bar Foundation for legal scholarship. I (//)
Standards: Diversity of thought is helpful when determining policy issues of all kinds, including professional rules and standards. A wide variety of information from many sources provides a sound basis from which to craft these types of rules. Proposed rules and standards are frequently published in the Texas Bar Journal, with public feedback being encouraged, resulting in a workable process for the gathering of this type of information.

Client Information: The duty to guard a client’s confidential information is central to the attorney-client relationship, and must be protected to the extent possible. However, technical advances present new challenges for the profession, particularly with regard to privacy interests. The legal profession is grappling with these issues to ensure that all persons’ interests are protected to the extent possible, in light of the reality of current advances in modern day technology.
Recusal: Our system of electing judges in Texas requires candidates seeking judicial office to raise money to finance their campaigns. Judicial ethics regulations recognize this, and therefore allow judges to preside over cases in which the participants have contributed to their campaigns. If elected to continue my service on the Court, I will recuse myself from any case when required to do so by the Code of Judicial Conduct or any other rule of law.

PLACE 3 CANDIDATE

JIM SHARP (D) - No reply received

PLACE 3 CANDIDATE

WILLIAM BRYAN STRANGE III (L) - No reply received

PLACE 3 CANDIDATE

PAUL GREEN (R)



Background: I spent seventeen years in a litigation practice trying and appealing cases involving personal injury and commercial matters. I then spent ten years as a justice on the Fourth Court of Appeals in San Antonio, and the last six years as a justice on the Supreme Court of Texas.
Standards: The public should, and does, have input to the rules and standards. The rule writing process of the Court is very open and transparent, providing many opportunities for the public to be involved. Although the process is directed primarily at lawyers, the proposed rules and standards are published and available to anyone who is interested. The Court considers all comments and suggestions submitted to it before any rules are implemented.

Client Information: The duties and obligations of lawyers are clearly spelled out in the disciplinary rules. Because of the fiduciary nature of the attorney-client relationship, a lawyer’s duty is foremost to protect his or her client. If a client’s confidential information is generally known or is already in the public domain, it may be more difficult to protect, but it does not alter the lawyer’s duty to his client.
Recusal: The Code of Judicial Conduct provides situations in which judges must recuse from cases, and certainly I would recuse in such circumstances. Beyond that, I would recuse in cases when my impartiality might reasonably be questioned.

PLACE 5 CANDIDATE

BILL MOODY (D)



Background: I have been a State District Judge for over 23 years and before that, I was an Assistant District Attorney for 11 years. I have tried over 600 jury trials and have presided over thousands of legal hearings with less than 1% of my rulings being reversed.
Standards: Attorneys are hired or appointed on almost all litigation in Texas. They often compete for clients through ads and other means. Attorneys are constantly engaged with the public, and how they act with the public may be very different from the way they act in court. It is therefore essential that the public have input on attorneys’ rules and standards. Non-lawyers should have a presence on all Supreme Court committees dealing with rules and standards.

Client Information: Yes, lawyers and judges should protect and guard client’s confidential information. In matters like divorces, sensitive and private matters are often pled. These personal matters are generally of no concern to the general public. With public records becoming more accessible through computerization a person’s privacy is highly compromised. This information should be kept private unless a showing establishes the public’s need to know.
Recusal: I recuse myself whenever I am legally disqualified from a case or where I have a connection with the case, parties, or the attorneys that affects my ability to be impartial or raises the appearance of impartiality. I always disclose any special relationships I have with the parties or attorneys that would call into question my impartiality at the first hearing between the parties, attorneys and myself.

PLACE 5 CANDIDATE

TOM OXFORD (L)

Background: From my early years managing a non profit legal aid office to my current position as Managing Attorney at Waldman Smallwood P.C. I have been exposed to a wide array of legal issues and a broad cross section of our community.
Standards: Public input into the rules and standards of the professions are crucial to continued confidence in our system of justice. There should be public members of advisory committees and disciplinary bodies. The grievance process should be open.

Client Information: All attorney client communications are confidential. An attorney should never be expected to disclose those communications. The fact that information may be otherwise available is irrelevant.
Recusal: If a Justice has any financial or family interest in a case or its outcome, however small, he should err on the side of recusal.

PLACE 5 CANDIDATE

EVA GUZMAN (R)



Background: My experience includes ten years in private practice and ten years, at three levels, in the Texas judiciary. I have ruled on thousands of cases, authored hundreds of opinions, taught legal education programs and law school classes, been elected to American Law Institute, and honored with awards for judicial service.
Standards: Yes. Given the technical nature of many of these rules and standards, those trained and experienced in the law and legal ethics are best equipped to provide the expertise that is so essential to the process. However, it is also important to consider and give voice to the perspectives of those who are served by the legal profession. Public input not only provides this valuable insight but also builds public confidence in the legal profession.

Client Information: This is an important and compelling issue. Advances in technology have brought it to the forefront. Lawyers are generally prohibited from using “confidential information” to the disadvantage of a client. It is important to note that information is not necessarily “generally known” merely because it is in the public domain. A lawyer must always act with utmost integrity and honor when dealing with a client’s confidential information. The duty to a client is paramount.
Recusal: As a judge, I have an obligation and a duty to consider the cases presented to me. But, I must recuse in those rare situations when particular facts and circumstances warrant recusal; I am duty-bound to hear matters when they do not. One who is true to conscience and judicial oath knows when bias has overcome impartiality and it is time to recuse.

PLACE 9 CANDIDATE

BLAKE BAILEY (D)	 Background: Prior to going to law school I worked at General Dynamics in Fort Worth. I now practice law as a board certified personal injury trial lawyer and civil appellate lawyer. I have practiced for 37 years. I have written and lectured on many legal issues in the United States and (///) Standards: The public should have input in rules and standards dealing with the legal profession. The public should be able to express opinions via a Supreme Court website. Specific issues should be posted to help guide the discourse.	Client Information: Even if information can be obtained through other sources, any information given in confidence should remain that way unless an attorney is released from the confidentiality. A client must be able to rely upon the word of his/her attorney. Recusal: I would recuse myself from a case in which my association with the parties or subject matter was such that I would not be able to set that aside and judge the case solely on its merits. Additionally, even if I could set aside my association, if the appearance would be that I was unethically involved, I would remove myself from the case.	PLACE 9 CANDIDATE
JACK ARMSTRONG (L)	 Background: I’m a real person, not a career politician: I’ve been a lawyer 16 years, and a small-business owner 25 years. I’m especially qualified to preside over questions on how we live and work in Texas. Most importantly, I believe in the same Liberty that made our country great. Standards: Yes. Public participation will help bring the law out of the cloak-room. Standards for accessible, accountable lawyers need to be in a language we all understand. I like a lottery system where politics have no place on selecting a public commenter. The Court decides, but gives deference to the public voice.	Client Information: Yes. Let the public sources disclose the information if that happens, but keep the lawyers to their bond of complete confidentiality! There’s simply too much grey-area regarding a “test” for a lawyer to rationalize release of confidential information where there shouldn’t be any question. Confidential should mean confidential. Recusal: Any case where I could have a bias: cases involving friends, family, campaign contributors or subject matter that directly affects my personal or financial interests or those of my friends or family. This is a huge problem. The Justices on the Court have so much campaign/political debt, the only way to repay it is to not recuse themselves where often there is no question that they should. I’m not for sale. I have no political (///)	PLACE 9 CANDIDATE
JUDGE - TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS Six-year term. Must be at least 35 years old, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Texas. Must have been a practicing lawyer or a lawyer and a judge of a court of record for a total of 10 years or more. Serves as a member of the court of highest appellate jurisdiction in criminal matters in the state; has the power to issue writs of <i>habeas corpus</i> and others. Current annual salary: \$152,500 (Presiding Judge), \$150,000 (Judge)			
Background: What training and experience qualify you for this position? (50 words) Selection: What method of selection of judges is most likely to result in a qualified, diverse, and independent judiciary? Please explain. (75 words) Appeals: What issues arise in processing last-minute appeals, and how would you handle them? (75 words) Recusal: Under what conditions would you recuse yourself from cases? (75 words)			
LAWRENCE MEYERS (R)	 Background: Two years as appellate judge. Eighteen years as Judge on Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Board Certified in Criminal Law. Masters Degree in Law - University of Virginia School of Law - Judicial Process. Selection: The electoral process seems to be working fairly well. Voters seem to prefer this method. The appointment system has many attractive points though.	Appeals: Last minute appeals concerning death penalty cases usually deal with new evidence or new rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court. I follow the guidelines set out in Section 11.071 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure in addressing these issues. Recusal: I have never been asked to recuse myself on a case here at the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. But, if the occasion or circumstances arose, I would certainly recuse myself and follow our rules concerning this procedure.	PLACE 2 CANDIDATE
J. RANDELL STEVENS (L) - No reply received PLACE 2 CANDIDATE			
CHERYL JOHNSON (R)	 Background: I am board-certified as a specialist in criminal law. I practiced criminal defense for 14 years and have served as a judge of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals for 12 years. Selection: I favor appointment and retention. One plan is ad hoc committees with equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats. Members would practice a relevant area of law: civil lawyers and judges for civil benches, defense, prosecution, and criminal-jurisdiction judges for criminalbenches, a mix for general-jurisdiction benches. Candidates must garner a majority of votes. Three names go to the governor, who must choose from that list, with the appointee subject to retention elections.	Appeals: The first issue is the legislative prohibition on subsequent writs and its exceptions. If no exception exists, we must dismiss the application. If an exception exists, we consider the merits. Either way, the application must be promptly disposed of according to established court protocol so that the applicant can exhaust state appeals and go to federal court. When assigned, I remain at court to receive filings until all issues are resolved. Recusal: I recuse myself from any case in which I was personally involved while in practice and any case in which my husband was involved while he was an officer on the Austin Police Department. I consider motions to recuse me on a case-by-case basis.	PLACE 5 CANDIDATE
DAVE HOWARD (L)	 Background: I have been practicing law since 1993 and confine my practice to criminal law. My focus of study is the philosophy of law, particularly criminal law, in Texas and the United States. Selection: While appointment of judges would result in more thoroughly vetted applicants, elections provide for a much broader range of opinion and background. Elected judges are also not beholden to the politicians who would appoint them.	Appeals: A “last minute appeal” is by definition a death penalty appeal. I believe that humanity is not competent to play God, and should not be making decisions of this nature to begin with. However, since the death penalty is the law of the land, every effort should be made to hear any reasonable appeal that presents itself, up until the moment of execution. Recusal: Defining an ethical conflict is sometimes like defining art. You know it when you see it. A judge should recuse himself from any case where his decision might be significantly affected by influences outside of the case, whether personal or professional. Knowing someone involved with the case does not mandate recusal. Having a genuine interest in that person’s welfare does.	PLACE 5 CANDIDATE

HELPFUL WEBSITES:

League of Women Voters of Texas
www.lwvtexas.org

Secretary of State
www.sos.state.tx.us

League of Women Voters (U.S.)
www.lwv.org

MICHAEL KEASLER (R)	 Background: Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals since 1999; 43 years criminal law experience; private practice; 12 years, Chief Felony Prosecutor, Dallas, 432 jury trials; 17 years Criminal District Judge; Past Chair: State Bar Judicial Section, ABA Ethics Committee; 19 years National Judicial College Faculty; Dean, Texas Judicial College.; BA, LLB, UT (///) Selection: There is no perfect way to select judges. On the one hand, judicial independence is essential; on the other, judicial accountability is also necessary. I do believe change is needed. I prefer gubernatorial appointment based on advice from a competent review board, with senate confirmation and periodic senatorial review or retention elections. Removing the judicial candidates from the straight-party vote on the ballot would certainly enhance the election procedure.	PLACE 6 CANDIDATE
KEITH HAMPTON (D)	 Background: I have extensive death-penalty litigation experience, handling cases from pretrial through all state and federal proceedings, including the United States Supreme Court and before the Governor. I have also handled the widest possible variety of criminal cases, from traffic tickets to felonies to appeals in state and federal courts. Selection: I do not have the perfect answer. We know that partisan elections subject the judiciary to electoral mood swings having nothing to do with the quality of justice. But we have also seen how partisan the appointment process can be. Moreover, the best way for achieving diversity, competence and independence may be different for each judicial level. I strongly support efforts to bring the complex issue of judicial selection under serious consideration by the Legislature.	PLACE 6 CANDIDATE
ROBERT RAVEE VIRASIN (L) - No reply received		
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION		Four-year term. Must be at least 26 years old, a citizen of the United States, a resident of Texas for at least 12 months, a district resident for at least 12 months, and a registered Texas voter. Composed of 15 members elected from roughly equally populous districts, the Board adopts rules and establishes policies that govern a wide range of educational programs and services provided by Texas public schools. Among duties: establishes goals for the public school system; adopts and promotes four-year plans for meeting those goals; and oversees investment of the Permanent School Fund. Annual authorized salary: none
Background: What training and experience qualify you for this position? (50 words) Curriculum: What criteria should be used in developing and approving curriculum standards for courses? (75 words)		Other Issues: What are the two most serious public education issues facing the State Board of Education during your term, and how would you address them? (75 words)
CARLOS GARZA (R) - No reply received		
RENE NUNEZ (D)	Background: Currently serving and have gained many years (21) of valuable experience and feel that I represent my constituency well. As a former elementary and middle school teacher and counselor, I have insight into educational issues. I have a B.A. in education from UTEP, as well as a M.A. in counseling (///) Curriculum: Curriculum standards should be set by educational experts and not by members of the SBOE. Committees are appointed because of their expertise in their field, and political agendas should not be applied when deciding curriculum standards. The recommendations of these committees should determine what standards are applied, without amendments.	DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATE
TONY CUNNINGHAM (R)	Background: Participation in student government and past campaigns are two reasons why I am qualified for this position. I support the United States Constitution, and I believe the economy is going to get easier / better, and, I have dreams of fundings for a future world that will enhance our lives and (///) Curriculum: By law the SBOE determines the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for each grade level K - 12. These TEKS define what teachers are to teach and what students are to learn. This results in standards for textbooks, teacher training, and student testings. The Board of Education, the commissioner, and the teachers agency together facilitate the operation of a vast	DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATE
MICHAEL SOTO (D)	 Background: I am the product of Texas public schools and an active, public school parent (San Antonio ISD). I'm also a career educator: I obtained a B.A. from Stanford University and a Ph.D. from Harvard University. For the last 11 years, I have been an English professor at Trinity University. Curriculum: Curriculum standards must meet three basic criteria: They must be rigorous, clear, and flexible enough to allow for local innovation. These criteria will ensure that curriculum standards prepare students for college and career success. I hope to do all that I can to streamline the TEKS while upholding rigorous standards. The current	DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATE
DEAN KAREEM HIGLEY (L) - No reply received		

KEN MERCER (R)	 Background: I am blessed to have served Texas in these positions: Current Vice-Chair: SBOE Committee on Curriculum (2009-present), Former Vice-Chair: SBOE School Planning and Initiatives (2007-2008), Former Chair: SBOE Teacher of the Year Committee (2007), and Former Member: Committee on Higher Education, Texas State House (2003-2004) Curriculum: Standards must remain online for all Texans to review and comment. By statue, committees for standards should be composed of educators, business leaders, and parents. However, Austin’s powerful Education Political Lobby often shuts out parents. In American History,	some “Academic Experts” pushed a political agenda that opposed American values and free enterprise. Thanks to the online, public posting of standards, involved parents recognized that bias and testified for true and accurate American History.	DISTRICT 5 CANDIDATE
REBECCA BELL-METTEREAU (D)	 Background: I’ve taught as Peace Corps, Fulbright Scholar, and at University of Nebraska. As professor at Texas State University, I’ve worked with public schools and State president’s cabinet on student dropout rates, received grants in public education, served on Planning and Zoning, Blue Ribbon Bond, and Solid Waste Commissions. Curriculum: Clear, data-driven criteria should govern curriculum standards, selection of experts, and review committees. We need geographical and cultural diversity and a transparent, consistent process for public input that allows for effective participation. Board members should cooperate with legislators and the TEA to establish goals and common ground. The board’s oversight should be	reasonable and it should rely on teachers and top experts in the subject areas, not private agendas or political opinions.	DISTRICT 5 CANDIDATE
MARK LOEWE (L)	 Background: I received Physics PhD and Chemistry degrees, coauthored a quantum mechanics textbook, taught at UT and Texas State, work in microelectronics, wrote Texas HB02959I to acquire inexpensive textbooks for children to own, discovered incorrect TAKS scores, and devised “progressive vouchers” to attract billions of private dollars and benefit all children. Curriculum: Criteria for use in the development and approval of curricula should include promotion of students’ abilities to successfully predict consequences of actions and evaluate their benefits (science and reason have been immensely successful), accuracy and importance of scientific and historical facts, simplicity and success of meth-	ods of analysis and prediction, effectiveness for knowledge and skills acquisition, effectiveness for directed and independent study, and promotion of science, useful arts, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.	DISTRICT 5 CANDIDATE
THOMAS RATLIFF (R)	 Background: As parents of children in public school, my wife and I have been active at all levels in our children’s education in the schools districts where they attend. This doesn’t make me an expert, but it provides me a parent’s perspective on what our schools need to be successful. Curriculum: The SBOE should focus on a common core of essential knowledge and skills and leave enough flexibility for local districts to meet the unique needs of their local community. The SBOE should also work with bona fide experts, Texas colleges and universities, parents and educators to identify and	develop world-class curriculum. The first step in this process is to establish criteria to ensure the qualifications of “experts” involved in the process.	DISTRICT 9 CANDIDATE
JEFF MCGEE (L) - <i>No reply received</i>			DISTRICT 9 CANDIDATE
PAUL CARDWELL (G)	Background: BA, SMU; MS, UNT; 40+ credits in education at graduate level, some college teaching, some unofficial talented/gifted work at my bookstore before state mandate, author of a few peer reviewed papers in education and games with educational value as well as other books and articles. Curriculum: That which works in actual classroom settings, factual content in textbooks and lesson plans, concentration on basic foundation learning in all subjects and reduced emphasis on “teaching the test” and penalization of teachers assigned difficult classes, and a structured encouragement to get at least an associate degree as now that is virtually required for a living wage,	more budget for learning and less on spectator sports for the public.	DISTRICT 9 CANDIDATE
MARSHA FARNEY (R)	 Background: Award winning teacher and innovative counselor in public schools, adjunct professor at a university, staff development presenter and university liaison for two school districts, student teacher supervisor, and a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction. I have relevant experience as a Curriculum specialist, teacher, counselor and parent in the public schools. Curriculum: Our curriculum standards are the foundation of our educational system. It is essential that these standards are developed and reviewed by leaders in each curriculum area including teachers, parents and industry leaders. Approval of curriculum standards should include criteria such as whether the standards are rigorous, clearly defined, age appropriate	and aligned with college and career readiness standards. I’ll work with our Legislature to establish a thorough, professional and practical process for setting educational standards.	DISTRICT 10 CANDIDATE

Your vote is your voice. Be heard.

JUDY JENNINGS (D)	 Background: My work experience at the Texas Education Agency (TEA), which supports the Board, and my Ph.D. in education provide a unique perspective and experience in the duties performed by the Board. My husband, our children, and I attended public schools, and our grandchildren will attend Round Rock ISD this year. Curriculum: Teachers are experts in providing the educational experiences that move students from kindergarten through high school, and committees of teachers should write the standards that ensure all students are exposed to relevant, rigorous and engaging curriculum. Subject area experts should participate in the	process to ensure all students are prepared for the 21st century economy. Questions should be referred back to teachers and experts so Board members’ personal ideology is kept out of the curriculum. Other Issues: Texas has an unacceptably high dropout rate and too few students are being prepared for the challenges of a 21st century economy. Finding cost effective ways to ensure all students graduate high school prepared for enrollment in top tier universities or self sustaining employment will require hard work from Board members. I will never be an available vote for political ideology of any type, but will focus only on ensuring excellent education for our students.	DISTRICT 10 CANDIDATE
JESSICA DREESEN (L) - <i>No reply received</i>			
GEORGE M. CLAYTON (R)	 Background: For over a decade I have been a teacher, department chair, and administrator at North Dallas High School. As an administrator, I supervise 25 English, Reading and ESL teachers. I write lesson plans on both a short and long term basis. Curriculum: Board members must maintain their objectivity at all times, assuring fair, balanced and unbiased curriculum standards. Board members must seek and receive expert advice from educators and professionals. From the expertise of these professional educators, board members can best create	sound curriculum for all students and teachers in Texas. Other Issues: Recently the board has had some difficulty in maintaining it objectivity; has failed to refrain from interjecting personal biases in determining curriculum standards. Members must maintain objective integrity in exercising their duties. All board members must be very informed and educated in their stewardship of the Permanent School Fund. Decisions on investments and expenditures of the fund must be made from a position of knowledge and integrity.	DISTRICT 12 CANDIDATE
AMIE PARSONS (L)	 Background: I am a mother of two children, 6 and 4 years. I have lived in SBOE district 12 for 27 years. I am a former high school history teacher that taught at W.T. White High School and Highland Park High School. I am an active member in the LHAEC PTA. Curriculum: I think that the committees the board forms should be respected. They are comprised of groups of people including, but not limited to parents, teachers and professors; they are a cross-section of the community. I feel that major curriculum	changes should require a supermajority vote of the board. If a supermajority does not happen then it should either be taken to the legislature or to the voting public. Other Issues: The two problems that face the SBOE are academic and financial accountability. I plan on helping the legislature create a stronger charter for the board; for major curriculum changes push for a supermajority vote. We need to hold the board financially accountable as well when selecting vendors with the Permanent School Fund. They should be held to the same conflict of interest standards that the legislatures are held.	DISTRICT 12 CANDIDATE
BOB CRAIG (R)	 Background: I served 14 years on the Lubbock ISD Board of Trustees (1988-2002). I have also served on the State Board of Education for 2 terms from 2003 to the present. My wife, Dana, and my sister, Ruthanne, are educators. I have been an attorney for 34 years. Curriculum: We must have a broad based curriculum that fits the needs of many different students. We must rely upon our professional educators to give us guidance in what works in the classroom. Our standards should be concise, fair and accurate on the subject matter. We must be innovative in our approach	to education to encourage, attract and retain students so they may graduate and be prepared not only for college but for their future career. Other Issues: First, provide flexibility in course offerings since not all students fit into the same box. Quality education is not one size fits all. Each student has different and unique needs and we must acknowledge and recognize individuality. We must provide good solid courses but give students options. Secondly, the SBOE should set broad curriculum policies but not hinder local control at the district level. Local control is necessary for each and every school district.	DISTRICT 15 CANDIDATE
JOHN PEKOWSKI (L) - <i>No reply received</i>			
<u>UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES</u> LAWRENCE A. ALLEN JR. (D), District 4			

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING:

STUDENT VOTERS

Students may use their parents’ addresses for voter registration if they consider them to be their permanent addresses. However, students may instead register to vote at their college addresses. Students cannot be registered at both places. The general rule of thumb is that wherever students claim residency is the place where they should be registered to vote. Students who will be away from their addresses on Election Day and during early voting may request ballots by mail.

PROVISIONAL VOTING

The Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 provides for provisional voting if a voter’s name does not appear on the list of registered voters due to an administrative error. If your name is not on the rolls of registered voters in your precinct, but you believe you are registered, the election judge will attempt to determine if you are registered somewhere in your county. If your registration cannot be found, you may cast a provisional vote by filling out an affidavit and a paper ballot. This ballot is kept separate from the regular ballots, and the case will be reviewed by the provisional voting ballot board. The ballot will be counted only if the voter is determined to be a registered voter in that precinct. Provisional voters will receive a notice in the mail by the tenth day after the local canvass advising them if their provisional ballots were counted and, if they were not counted, the reason why.

LOST VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

If you have lost or misplaced your voter registration certificate, you may vote by providing some other form of identification and signing an affidavit at the polls. You will be allowed to vote if your name appears on the rolls in your county of residence. The following are acceptable forms of identification:

- Drivers license
- Personal identification card issued by the Dept. of Public Safety
- Another form of identification containing your photograph
- Birth certificate
- United States citizenship papers
- United States passport
- Official mail addressed to you from a governmental entity
- Pay check that shows your name and address
- Current utility bill
- Bank statement
- Government check, or other government document that shows your name and address.



League of Women Voters of Texas

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across Texas and on our website.**

**For League information about the election or 2011 legislative session, visit the League's website, ask to be put on the
email list for the *Voters Guide* or Legislative Newsletter, or follow LWV-Texas on Twitter and Facebook.**

**Call us at: (512) 472-1100
Email us at: lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org
Visit our Web site: www.lwvtexas.org**

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HELPFUL WEBSITES:

REPUBLICAN PARTY
<http://www.texasgop.org>

DEMOCRATIC PARTY
<http://www.txdemocrats.org>

LIBERTARIAN PARTY
<http://www.tx.lp.org>

GREEN PARTY
<http://txgreens.org/drupal/>



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