



# Voters Guide

EARLY VOTING • FEBRUARY 16 – 26

ELECTION DAY, MARCH 1, 2016 • POLLS OPEN 7AM TO 7PM

*Cast an informed vote in the Primary Election • Candidates' answers on issues that affect you:*  
ENVIRONMENT • EDUCATION • ACCESS TO JUSTICE

## About This Voters Guide

This printed *Voters Guide* lists candidates in contested races who are on the March 1, 2016, Primary Election ballot and provides their answers to questions posed by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund.

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

This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund. For more than 95 years, helping voters cast an informed vote when they go to the polls has been the primary goal of the League of Women Voters. As an organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, the League believes that all of us are stakeholders in *Making Democracy Work*®. Neither the League nor the Education Fund supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

## Races & Candidates

This *Voters Guide* lists candidates for statewide and regional races in Texas, including Railroad Commissioner, Texas Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals, Courts of Appeals, and the State Board of Education.

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

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

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

## What to Take to the Polls

### TEXAS REQUIRES VOTERS TO SHOW PHOTO ID

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

#### TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (DPS) ISSUED PHOTO IDS

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

#### UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ISSUED PHOTO IDS

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

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

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# PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES QUALIFIED FOR THE TEXAS BALLOT ACCORDING TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND WILL APPEAR ON THE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC BALLOTS.

TEXAS  
2016

## REPUBLICAN PARTY

JEB BUSH  
BEN CARSON  
CHRIS CHRISTIE  
TED CRUZ  
CARLY FIORINA  
ELIZABETH GRAY  
LINDSEY GRAHAM  
MIKE HUCKABEE  
JOHN R. KASICH  
RAND PAUL

MARCO RUBIO  
RICK SANTORUM  
DONALD J. TRUMP

## DEMOCRATIC PARTY

HILLARY CLINTON  
ROQUE "ROCKY" DE LA FUENTE  
CALVIS L. HAWES  
KEITH JUDD  
STAR LOCKE  
MARTIN J. O'MALLEY  
BERNIE SANDERS  
WILLIE L. WILSON

# RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

6-YEAR TERM. MUST BE AT LEAST 25 YEARS OLD, A TEXAS RESIDENT, AND A REGISTERED VOTER. REGULATES THE OIL & GAS INDUSTRY, GAS UTILITIES, PIPELINE SAFETY, SAFETY IN THE LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS INDUSTRY, & SURFACE COAL AND URANIUM MINING IN TEXAS.

TEXAS  
2016

## QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**BACKGROUND:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

**TRANS-PECOS PIPELINE:** How would you balance the environmental concerns of Big Bend residents related to construction of the Trans-Pecos natural gas pipeline with oil and gas industry interests?

**URBAN DRILLING:** What are the main health and safety issues related to oil and gas drilling (fracking) in urban areas, and how would you address them?

**OTHER ISSUES:** Aside from the issues above, what are the two most serious issues the Railroad Commission will face during the next term, and how would you address them?



### LANCE N. CHRISTIAN (R)

**BACKGROUND:** As a geologist (P.G. 10342) in the Groundwater Advisory Unit, I am the only candidate with Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) experience. I am a technically oriented person with no previous political experience that will analyze issues objectively, while serving no political interests.

**TRANS-PECOS PIPELINE:** Most of the environmental concerns for natural gas pipelines are acute issues during the initial construction phase. Pollution concerns are minimal compared to denser hydrocarbon products that may enter the groundwater and linger. If the construction is carried out with a minimal environ. footprint, the pipeline scar would likely not be visible in a few years. Most pipeline locations today are unknown to the public. If special issues arise then consideration of those issues would be required.

**URBAN DRILLING:** There are two primary threats from 'fracking' activities. First, is the possibility of groundwater contamination by induced fracturing. Effective

groundwater sampling programs before drilling, during well development, and after completion is the most definitive method to discern pollution issues. Additional casing and cementing may be necessary in well construction plans to prevent such issues. Second, are issues relating to induced seismicity. Those issues warrant further investigation.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The impending review by the Sunset Commission in 2016 is the most important issue that will be faced by the RRC. This review, coupled with the state of the oil & gas industry, will create a storm of scrutiny over the next year. As an employee of the RRC, I will be best suited to explain RRC functions to the legislature. Secondly, induced seismicity issues in North Texas are a concern to residents in that area. As a geologist, I am the best qualified candidate to review seismicity studies.

*EDUCATION:* Bachelor of Science - Geological Sciences, 1994 Bachelor of Arts - Geography, 1995 Masters Program - Geological Sciences (incomplete)

*PHONE:* (512) 443-1032 | *EMAIL:* lancenchristian@yahoo.com



### JOHN GREYTOK (R)

**BACKGROUND:** This position is basically a judicial one. The Railroad Commission functions as a tribunal. While there is not space for my full resume, in short I am the only candidate with the legal training, knowledge and experience to do a good job from day one.

**TRANS-PECOS PIPELINE:** The Railroad Commission must balance the rights of landowners and industry across Texas and not solely in regard to the Trans-Pecos pipeline. We must ensure that any development meets the proper standards and protects all Texans.

**URBAN DRILLING:** All state agencies, including the Railroad Commission must

give priority to the health, safety, and welfare of all Texans. We must always be alert and open to new information about the costs and risks of industrial activities. When reliable engineering and other data are available, we should take steps to protect the health and safety of all Texans.

**OTHER ISSUES:** First, stabilize the agency by successfully completing the Sunset Review. Second, continue crucial technology upgrades. Third, we must fight back against the Obama EPA's irrational war on the Texas energy industry.

*EDUCATION:* B.A. Economics (with Honors), UT Austin J.D. (with Honors), UT Austin

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*WEBSITE:* http://www.johngreytok.com

*This race is continued on the next page ---->*

No  
Photograph  
Provided

**RON HALE (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** Being a licensed professional engineer and private security consultant for the Texas energy industry for the last 18 years..

**TRANS-PECOS PIPELINE:** Everything has to be done by the standard provided by Title 16. We need to do a better job explaining the benefits to the public in the area.

**URBAN DRILLING:** There are no main health issues related to fracking. Fracking has been around for 60+ years. Think about this the drill hole

is 12,000-15,000 feet deep. That's at least 10 Empire state building stacked on top of each other.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Efficiency : Updating the technology the Texas RRC uses in day to day operations. Education : The Texas RRC needs to do a better job educating the public through partnerships with colleges and public access TV.

**EDUCATION:** Technical School TBFAA Tomball College

**PHONE:** (281) 861-4872 | **EMAIL:** info@ronhalefortexas.com

**WEBSITE:** http://ronhalefortexas.com



**DOUG JEFFREY (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** As an officer in the USAF I consistently found ways to save millions of taxpayer dollars. I'll take that experience and help ensure regulations are standardized, safe and effective while always looking for ways to be more efficient.

**TRANS-PECOS PIPELINE:** As Railroad Commissioner I will make sure the oil and gas industry is doing things the right way. I want my children to enjoy Big Bend just like I did growing

up in Texas.

**URBAN DRILLING:** My number one priority is for the oil and gas industry to be safe and effective. Urban areas want safe production and my goal is ensure that happens.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The price of oil is the most serious issue. If we are smart about how we run the Railroad Commission we can ensure the industry weathers these challenging times. The second issue is we need to ensure we have a standardized training system to make sure standards are being met across the board.

**EDUCATION:** Texas Tech Poli Sci Duquesne Masters in Leadership and Business Ethics Squadron Officer School Air Command and Staff College

**PHONE:** (940) 839-8497 | **EMAIL:** doug@dougjeffrey4Texas.com

**WEBSITE:** http://DougJeffrey4Texas.com



**WESTON MARTINEZ (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** My first had Oil & Gas experience as a business owner, where I worked with Operators and land owners within the confines of the regulated oil and gas industry in the Eagle Ford Shale.2: My 4 years experience as Texas Real Estate Commissioner. I am the grassroots tea-party conservative in this race

**TRANS-PECOS PIPELINE:** Responsible development through accountability and transparency is key to energy independence in Texas. Enforcing the many rules in place while keeping the public informed is the way to ensure public confidence and industry success which keeps our economy alive and healthy.

**URBAN DRILLING:** Ensuring integrity of water supply and safety of populations is the 2 most important issues, which would be addressed by increasing transparency while continuing to responsibly develop our resources.

**OTHER ISSUES:** We achieve the above goals by increasing technology in reporting and finding new ways to frack responsibly. This will keeping Texas moving forward. This is how we develop responsibly and economically. As Texas Rail Road Commissioner I will fight for every Texan to have an Energy Independent Future. The conservative leaders across Texas are supporting me because I know the issues, I know the Process, and I know how to fight for Texas Values. visit and share www.westonfortexas.com

**EDUCATION:** BACHELORS BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION TEXAS CERTIFIED MEDIATOR AT&T ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING PROGRAM

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**WEBSITE:** http://www.westonfortexas.com

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

**WAYNE CHRISTIAN (R), GARY GATES (R), LON BURNAM (D), CODY GARRETT (D), GRADY YARBROUGH (D)**

**i VOTER INFO**

*Facts about Texas Primaries*

- Voting in the primaries does not make you a Republican or a Democrat
- You do not register with a party in Texas
- Voters in a Texas primary sign, "I am a (insert appropriate political party) and understand that I am ineligible to vote or participate in another political party's primary election or convention during this voting year."
- You can vote for any candidate in the general election

**i** *Vote in the primary if you want a say on who is elected. ....*

Texans vote in the Democratic or Republican primaries for candidates who are running in federal, state, county and local elections. Candidates in other parties, such as the Libertarian and Green parties, are selected by convention.

Voting in the primary election allows you to select the candidates who will be on the ballot in the General Election in November. In the 2016 primary, you choose either the Democratic or Republican Party candidate for President.

You can vote for any candidate in the General Election in November; all candidates, who are selected in the primaries, from all parties are on the same ballot.

# Voting for Judges in Texas

ALTHOUGH IN SOME STATES JUDGES ARE APPOINTED, MOST JUDGES IN TEXAS ARE ELECTED. VOTING DECISIONS IN JUDICIAL RACES ARE AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT THAT A TEXAS VOTER MAKES.

## Why are judicial elections important?

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

## What should voters look for when electing judges?

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

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

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

## How is the Texas court system organized?

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

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

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

## Identify the Court of Appeals Serving Your Texas County:

**1<sup>ST</sup> COURT OF APPEALS:** AUSTIN, BRAZORIA, CHAMBERS, COLORADO, FORT BEND, GALVESTON, GRIMES, HARRIS, WALLER & WASHINGTON

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

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

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

**5<sup>TH</sup> COURT OF APPEALS:** COLLIN, DALLAS, GRAYSON, HUNT, KAUFMAN & ROCKWALL

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

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

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

**9<sup>TH</sup> COURT OF APPEALS:** HARDIN, JASPER, JEFFERSON, LIBERTY, MONTGOMERY, NEWTON, ORANGE, POLK, SAN JACINTO & TYLER

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

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

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

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

**14<sup>TH</sup> COURT OF APPEALS:** AUSTIN, BRAZORIA, CHAMBERS, COLORADO, FORT BEND, GALVESTON, GRIMES, HARRIS, WALLER & WASHINGTON

# TEXAS SUPREME COURT

6-YEAR TERM. MUST BE AGE 35-74 YEARS, A U.S. CITIZEN, A TEXAS RESIDENT, LICENSED TO PRACTICE LAW IN TEXAS, A REGISTERED VOTER, & HAVE 10 YEARS EXPERIENCE AS A LAWYER OR JUDGE. HEARS FINAL APPEALS OF DECISIONS ON CIVIL CASES & ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE, ISSUES WRITS OF MANDAMUS/HABEAS CORPUS, & CONDUCTS PROCEEDINGS FOR REMOVAL OF JUDGES.

TEXAS 2016

## QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**BACKGROUND:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

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

**PUBLIC PROTECTION:** The Texas Supreme Court oversees and controls

rules and standards for the legal profession. What changes to the attorney disciplinary rules are needed to provide better protection to the public?

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** How have you worked toward improving access to justice for all Texans and what role should the Texas Supreme Court play in ensuring access to justice?



### DEBRA LEHRMANN (R)

**BACKGROUND:** With a total of 28 years judicial experience, I have served on this Court for 6 years and have written on a vast number of complex legal matters including oil and gas, contract interpretation, commercial, corporate and securities law, tax, torts, family and probate law, civil procedure & evidence.

**IMPARTIALITY:** The importance of judicial independence—that is, the duty to apply the law equally and neutrally to all parties—cannot be overstated. It is imperative that judges serve with humility, that they exercise restraint, and that they fairly and neutrally apply the law equally to all litigants. I am bound by the Code of Judicial Conduct to apply these principles across the board, and never waiver in my obligation to do so.

**PUBLIC PROTECTION:** I have the honor of serving as the Court’s liaison to the Board of Disciplinary Appeals and the Commission for Lawyer Discipline. In this capacity, I have devoted many hours to ensuring that complaints are handled

in an efficient and just manner. The recently enacted Civility Oath is an example of the Court’s ongoing concern that lawyers conduct themselves with utmost professionalism at all times.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** As an attorney, I provided pro bono work in a variety of areas; as a judge, I have worked on many projects to ensure that legal assistance is available to the indigent. I worked tirelessly with the State Legislature to ensure that funds are available. The Court must continue its work in this critical area because if justice is available only to those who can afford legal representation, justice is available to no one.

**EDUCATION:** A member of Phi Beta Kappa, I graduated with high honors from The University of Texas in 1979 and The University of Texas School of Law in 1982; I am a candidate for an L.L.M. in Judicial Studies from Duke University School of Law.

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WEBSITE: http://judgedebraehrmann.com

## JUSTICE • PLACE 3

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

### MICHAEL MASSENGALE (R)



### RICK GREEN (R)

**BACKGROUND:** Licensed mediator, former TX Legislator, author and teacher for over 15 years on the proper jurisdictions of the government as outlined in the Constitution.

**IMPARTIALITY:** My donors are made up mainly of grassroots supporters and not law firms who practice in front of the court. Additionally, I have a proven legislative record of not letting contributions influence my decisions and that will not change.

**PUBLIC PROTECTION:** Sometimes public servants take action, just to take action, and make things worse. I’m open to learning about specific needs for changes to the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, but I am not personally advocating for specific changes at this time.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** In addition to my practice of law for nearly 20 years, I have educated citizens about their constitutional rights and how to assert them, including within the civil courts. The Supreme Court, acting only with authority granted by the people in the Texas Constitution and via the people’s elected representatives in the legislature, should promulgate rules that provide/ensure justice, not just fairness; and decide cases with respect for and strict adherence to the state and federal constitutions.

**EDUCATION:** J.D., U. of Texas School of Law, B.B.A. Finance, Angelo State Univ., Wylie High School, Wylie, Texas

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## JUSTICE • PLACE 5

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### PAUL GREEN (R)



## Student Voters

Students may use either their parents’ address or their college address for voter registration, whichever they consider to be their permanent address.

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



**EVA GUZMAN (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** The depth and breadth of my experience includes service at 3 levels of the Texas Judiciary. As a Supreme Court Justice, I have ruled on thousands of civil appeals. I bring to my work a conservative judicial philosophy, a strong work ethic, superior credentials and a firm commitment to excellence.

**IMPARTIALITY:** As judicial candidates, we have an obligation to inform the public about our qualifications and the issues in judicial races. Under the present system, funding for judicial races comes from many sources, including lawyers. But, importantly, the many Texans that have supported my campaign expect and ask only one thing: that I perform my duties with the dignity, honor, honesty and integrity that is expected of the office -- it is a request that I am proud to uphold each and every day.

**PUBLIC PROTECTION:** As a Court, we serve the public interest well when we promulgate rules and standards that protect the public and that are also fair to all stakeholders in our system of justice. The present rules are imperfect and should

be revisited to address changes that may be necessary due to new technologies, 21st century practice models, and other substantive deficiencies. An effective rule-making process will include input from the public and the Bar.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** I am the Supreme Court of Texas Liaison to the Access to Justice Commission. In that role, I have led and participated in local and national efforts to improve access to our courts by the almost 6 millions Texans who live at or below the poverty level. But, even people making a modest wage cannot afford lawyers. The Court should continue to lead efforts that promote and support policies, procedures, court rules, and legislation that open the courthouse doors for all Texans, especially Veterans.

**EDUCATION:** Duke University School of Law, L.L.M. Judicial Studies South Texas College of Law., Juris Doctor University of Houston, B.B.A.

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**JOE POOL (R)**

*Unopposed Candidates*

TEXAS SUPREME COURT, JUSTICE, PLACE 3: **MIKE WESTERGREN (D)**

TEXAS SUPREME COURT, JUSTICE, PLACE 5: **DORI CONTRERAS GARZA (D)**

TEXAS SUPREME COURT, JUSTICE, PLACE 9: **SAVANNAH ROBINSON (D)**

**i VOTER INFO**

*Registering to Vote*

You must register to vote at least **30** days before the election date. The last day you can register to vote in the 2016 Primary Election is **February 1**.

**WHO CAN REGISTER?**

To register to vote, you must be

- a citizen of the United States,
- a resident of the county, and
- at least 18 years old on Election Day.

You must not have been declared mentally incapacitated by a court of law. If you have been convicted of a felony, you may register to vote only after you have completed the punishment phase of your conviction, including any terms of incarceration, parole, supervision, or period of probation ordered by the court.

**WHERE DO I REGISTER?**

You can register

- in person at the voter registration office in your county, or
- fill out an application that can be mailed (or faxed with follow-up by mail) or returned in person to the voter registrar in your county of residence.

Application forms are available at many libraries, government offices, and high schools. The application is available online at [www.votetexas.gov](http://www.votetexas.gov) and [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org). These websites also allow you to search to see if you are already registered.

After you apply, a voter registration certificate will be mailed to you within 30 days. This certificate includes your precinct for voting on Election Day as well as your congressional, state legislative, county, and local districts.

**i More About Registering to Vote** .....

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

**i When & Where to Vote** .....

**EARLY VOTING:** All registered voters may vote early by personal appearance at any early voting location in their county. Check with your local newspaper or the county clerk or election administrator for early voting times and locations. Early voting days for the March 1, 2016, Primary Election are February 16-26.

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

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

**BALLOT-BY-MAIL VOTING:** Only specific reasons entitle a person to vote by mail (no longer called absentee voting).

You may request a ballot by mail if you

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

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

Request an Application for Ballot by Mail from the early voting clerk in the county where you are registered, or download the form from [www.VoteTexas.gov](http://www.VoteTexas.gov). The completed form must be received by mail, fax or email by February 19, 2016. Note: postmarks don't count.

A ballot will be mailed to you, and you must return your completed ballot to your county elections department by 7 p.m. on Election Day, March 1. The ballot must be received, not just postmarked, by that date. If you are mailing your ballot from outside the United States, the early voting clerk must receive your ballot by the fifth day after Election Day. (You must mail it no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day.)

# TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

6-YEAR TERM. MUST BE AGE 35-74 YEARS, A U.S. CITIZEN, A TEXAS RESIDENT, LICENSED TO PRACTICE LAW IN TEXAS, A REGISTERED VOTER, & HAVE 10 YEARS EXPERIENCE AS A LAWYER OR JUDGE. REVIEWS ALL DEATH PENALTY CASES & APPLICATIONS FOR HABEAS CORPUS IN FELONY CASES, HEARS FINAL APPEALS ON CRIMINAL CASES, & ADMINISTERS PUBLICLY FUNDED JUDICIAL AND ATTORNEY EDUCATION.

texas  
2016

## QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**BACKGROUND:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

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

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** Describe an accomplishment of which you are proud and how it would help make you a better justice on this court.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Aside from the issues above, what are the two most pressing issues facing the Court in the next term, and how would you address them?

## JUDGE • PLACE 2



### MARY LOU KEEL (R)

**BACKGROUND:** Felony trial court judge, 1995-present. Trial and appellate prosecutor 1986-1994. Briefing attorney, First Court of Appeals, 1985-86. Board certified in criminal law since 1990. Top-rated among my peers in the 2015 Houston Bar Association Judicial Poll for impartiality and following the law.

**IMPARTIALITY:** Iron discipline.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** The Court of Criminal Appeals hears criminal cases on appeal, nothing else. Candidates for that court should demonstrate an aptitude for that kind of work. I do. I represented the State in 279

criminal cases on appeal when I was a Harris County prosecutor. My opponents have handled criminal appeals numbering in the single digits.

**OTHER ISSUES:** (1) I would like to see the court issue its opinions more decisively, i.e., without the need for rehearing. (2) I would like the court to issue its opinions in a more timely fashion. I would address these issues by lending my three decades of experience to the job and working hard.

**EDUCATION:** JD, University of Houston, 1985 BA, University of Texas, 1982

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**WEBSITE:** <http://www.maryloukeel.com>



### CHRIS OLDNER (R)

**BACKGROUND:** Fearless integrity and an entire professional career committed to the improvement of the criminal justice system. I am the top rated judge in Collin County. With 15 years as a trial judge, I have never been reversed in a felony case. My statewide judicial leadership is unmatched in this race.

**IMPARTIALITY:** This is the constant tension in judicial races.

The best counter-measure to the concern for bias due to political contributions is requiring full transparency in filings with the Ethics Commission that are easily searchable and thorough. In addition, I believe it is incumbent for any judge hearing a case to disclose to all parties if a significant donor represents a party before him or her. The system must not only be fair to all parties, but also be perceived as fair by all.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** In 2007 I served as the Local Administrative Judge for all the Collin County district courts. In August of that year, we were moved from the courthouse we had occupied since 1979 into the new courthouse. The move

involved several offices that serve the courts and every district court. I led a team of judges and clerks that orchestrated the complete move with less than two days of normal court operations disrupted, and maintained at least one operational court to address any emergency.

**OTHER ISSUES:** First, maintaining pace with scientific advancement to ensure that the rules of evidence and post conviction remedies keep pace and attorneys are informed. Second, continuing the positive momentum and advancements in indigent defense so that counsel for the defense is not only adequately compensated, but also thoroughly trained and prepared to provide representation that meets and exceeds constitutional minimums.

**EDUCATION:** Texas Tech University School of Law - Juris Doctorate, 1993 Baylor University - Bachelor of Arts, 1989 Plano East Senior High School - High School Diploma, 1985

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### RAY WHELESS (R)

**BACKGROUND:** I offer the broadest legal experience. My twenty-one years pre-judge experience trying criminal and civil cases and my AV rating placing me in the top 5% of all lawyers is unmatched. As a judge, I have disposed of over 23,000 cases, conducted over 500 jury trials and sat as an appellate judge.

**IMPARTIALITY:** I was appointed to my first bench as a County Court at Law Judge and appointed by the Governor as a District

Judge. I have never had an opponent. Because I didn't have to campaign, I did not accept campaign contributions until a few years ago. I have now received contributions from a broad cross section of citizens. Most of these people are not criminal defense lawyers and will never have cases before me. I pledge that I will follow the Rule Of Law and administer justice blindly.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** I created the first DWI/Drug Court Program in Collin County and serve as the Chairman of the Specialized Courts Advisory Council to Governor Greg Abbott. My role is to establish best practices and recommend funding to the Governor for alternatives to incarceration such as Veterans Court

Programs and Drug Court Programs. As a member of this Court, I will help to shape our criminal justice system policy and help administer State funds to train judges in these specialized courts.

**OTHER ISSUES:** 1. Statewide electronic filing of all documents in criminal cases still needs to be implemented. A hearing is scheduled in April of this year to address these issues. Provisions will have to be made to allow pro se citizens to file paper documents. 2. The Court is struggling with issues surrounding the Michael Morton Act requiring prosecutors and law enforcement to turn over all exculpatory evidence. This Court must affirm proper convictions but remain vigilant against wrongful convictions.

**EDUCATION:** I earned my GED in the Air Force during the Vietnam War era and attended college at night. I earned a Bachelors in Business Administration at California State University and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas at Austin, Texas' top law school. Double Board Certified. AV rated.

**PHONE:** (214) 403-5770 | **EMAIL:** ray@judgeraywheless.com

**WEBSITE:** <http://judgeraywheless.com>

**SID HARLE (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** Appointed to the 226th District Court Bench in 1988 by Gov William Clements; previously Prosecutor and Defense Attorney State and Federal Courts; I have prosecuted, defended and presided over every conceivable type of criminal case, including Death Penalty litigation; I have a proven track record.

**IMPARTIALITY:** Contributions are a necessary evil in the current system, I limit amounts, much less than the maximum under the law and return when no opponent files. Contributors are aware I rule on the law and the evidence, no favoritism and full public disclosure on all contributions.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** Appointed by Supreme Court to preside over the State of Texas vs. Michael Morton in Williamson County. It led to the discovery that

Mr. Morton had served 25 years in prison but was proven actually innocent by DNA. In addition, the prosecutor withheld favorable evidence that would have exonerated Mr. Morton. The actual perpetrator committed another murder while Mr. Morton was in prison. I exonerated Mr. Morton and instituted a criminal proceeding against the prosecutor, who withheld evidence.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The current issues on problems involving forensic science, including DNA, which have led to a multitude of appeals on numerous cases. The Court must continue to protect the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and individual liberties.

**EDUCATION:** Austin College 1974-1975; University of Texas 1975-1978; Bachelor of Arts with Honors; St. Mary's University School of Law - Juris Doctorate 1980

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**STEVE SMITH (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** I served as a Texas Supreme Court justice and authored numerous opinions. My conservative judicial philosophy is another important qualification. My prior litigation experience includes litigating the Hopwood v. Texas case that eliminated unconstitutional racial preferences at Texas universities.

**IMPARTIALITY:** I believe that state judges should continue to be elected. The core task of the judiciary is to efficiently and fairly resolve cases by applying Texas law to the facts. Direct elections make the state judiciary accountable to Texas voters, allowing citizens to remove judges who are inefficient, unfair, or who legislate from the bench. However, because of the inherent conflict of interest that arises, campaign contributions from attorneys to judges should be strictly limited.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** I am proud of my service on the Texas Supreme Court. My judicial philosophy mirrors that of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Scalia: textualism and rejection of the liberal "living constitution" theory. When reviewing a

constitutional or statutory provision, judges should enforce the plain meaning of the text. See, e.g., my majority opinion in the landmark case of Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services v. Mega Child Care, 145 S.W.3d 170 (Tex. 2004).

**OTHER ISSUES:** First Issue: Whether the death penalty is constitutional in Texas. My view is that neither the United States Constitution nor the Texas Constitution prohibit the death penalty. Others, including some Republicans, disagree. Second Issue: Whether the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals should be merged with the Texas Supreme Court. I believe that such a merger would improve the state's jurisprudence, improve the efficiency of both courts, and make high court justices more accountable to the voters.

**EDUCATION:** I graduated with Honors from the University of Texas School of Law in 1986. UT Law is generally recognized as not only the best law school in Texas, but the best law school in the Southwestern United States.

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**WEBSITE:** http://www.ProvenConservative4Texas.com

**BRENT WEBSTER (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** I've practiced Criminal law since 2006, and I have very diverse criminal, trial and appellate experience. I've handled everything from misdemeanors to murder and I've written appeals. I currently served as the General Counsel for the Williamson County District Attorney's office.

**IMPARTIALITY:** I am running a grassroots campaign and have received many donations from a broad group of people. They are donating to me because they believe in me. They trust that I am Conservative and will always do the right thing. As an appellate judge, the quality of my work will be judged by the opinions that I write. Therefore, if I were to do something that is contrary to what the law requires (in a way that is not impartial), then the voters would, and should, hold me accountable for that action.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** I am proud of how hard I fought for children that have been physically abused. I have been very successful helping multiple children get out of bad environments where their life and physical safety was at risk. I believe

this will make me a better judge because, not only will I be a strong advocate for our constitutional rights, but I also have a deep and profound understanding of what victims of violent crime must live with for the rest of their lives.

**OTHER ISSUES:** First, there is always a high volume of cases that can result in a backlog. I am running to work hard for Texas and I will use my skills and energy to help move the caseload at the Court of Criminal Appeals. Second, I believe that our Constitutional Rights are under attack around the nation by the Government. As a Judge, I will make sure that your rights are protected, especially your 1st Amendment right to Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Religion, and your 2nd Amendment right to bear arms.

**EDUCATION:** J.D., University of Houston Law Center B.A. in Political Science, Southwestern University

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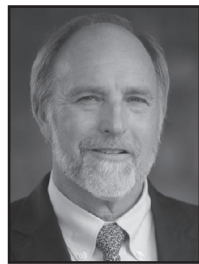
**WEBSITE:** http://www.VoteWebster.org

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**SCOTT WALKER (R)**

**i** Access the Interactive Voters Guide .....

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**i** **VOTER INFO**  
Donate!

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**MICHAEL E. KEASLER (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** 17 yrs Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, 17 yrs 292nd District Judge, 12 yrs Dallas Senior Felony Chief Prosecutor 432 jury trials, former chair State Bar Judicial Section, 7 yrs dean, Texas Judicial College, 25 yrs National Judicial College faculty, teach ethics and constitutional law nationally.

**IMPARTIALITY:** So far, since I have been on the Court, I have not taken contributions from lawyers who appear before me. Most of my contributions have come from friends and college fraternity brothers. But I sincerely believe that the overwhelming majority of judges are principled, honest men and women who are not influenced by campaign contributions. And to do away with the appearance of impropriety in judicial fundraising, you need to do away with judicial elections. That won't happen in my lifetime.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** In 2011, with professors Joseph Hoffman and Penny White and attorney Robin Wosje, I co-wrote and taught a National Judicial College

curriculum for appellate judges handling capital murder cases. Judges from all over the country attended the course and were very complimentary of its content and teachers. My work on this curriculum and preparation for teaching it has been helpful in analyzing the capital cases I deal with regularly.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The most pressing issue facing the Court is the new scientific information dealing with DNA analysis. This may result in a significant increase in our habeas corpus litigation. We are currently coordinating with the scientific community, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges to deal with the issue justly and effectively. This is a national issue, and, thanks largely to the efforts of our Court, Texas is the leader nationally in addressing it.

**EDUCATION:** B.A. University of Texas at Austin, 1964 L.L.B. University of Texas School of Law, 1967

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**RICHARD DAVIS (R)**

*Unopposed Candidates*

TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, JUDGE, PLACE 2: **LAWRENCE "LARRY" MEYERS (D)**

TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, JUDGE, PLACE 5: **BETSY JOHNSON (D)**

TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, JUDGE, PLACE 6: **ROBERT BURNS (D)**

TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS

6-YEAR TERM. MUST BE AGE 35-74 YEARS, A U.S. CITIZEN, A TEXAS RESIDENT, LICENSED TO PRACTICE LAW IN TEXAS, A REGISTERED VOTER, & HAVE 10 YEARS EXPERIENCE AS A LAWYER OR JUDGE. HEARS APPEALS ON CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES FROM LOWER COURTS IN ITS DISTRICT.

*texas*  
2016

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**BACKGROUND:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

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

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** Describe an accomplishment of which you are proud and how it would help make you a better justice on this court.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Aside from the issues above, what are the two most pressing issues facing the Court in the next term, and how would you address them?

**DABNEY BASSEL (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** Only those with a conservative judicial philosophy and who refuse to legislate from the bench should be judges. My legal skills are demonstrated by a 30-year legal career, a board certification in Civil Appellate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, and my published articles on the law.

**IMPARTIALITY:** My guiding principles on the bench will be honesty and a commitment to a conservative judicial philosophy that dictates total fidelity to the rule of law. Certainly, I am grateful to everyone who has supported my campaign. But the cases of those who supported me will receive the same treatment as everyone else's—a fair and timely resolution based on the law and the facts.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** My proudest accomplishments are a marriage that has lasted almost three decades and rearing a strong and able daughter. A long

JUSTICE • 2<sup>ND</sup> COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 3

marriage, rearing a child, and a thirty-year legal career has taught me patience, diligence, and fairness. These lessons will help me serve humbly and in the way that all judges should serve—as a neutral arbiter who listens carefully, works hard, and applies the law equally and fairly.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Every Justice on the Court of Appeals faces two primary challenges—deciding appeals correctly and timely. The first challenge requires: 1) careful consideration of the arguments; 2) care in the research, analysis and writing of opinions; and 3) an open-mind to the views of the other justices. The second challenge requires the dedication to put in whatever time is needed to make sure the parties have their appeals resolved timely.

**EDUCATION:** B.A.-Trinity University-1979 J.D.-Baylor University School of Law-1982

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*This race is continued on the next page ---->*

JUSTICE • 2<sup>ND</sup> COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 3



**MARY COLCHIN JOHNDROE (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** I have decades of lead attorney experience handling cases over a wide breadth of substantive areas of law. Repeatedly named one of Texas' Top Attorneys, I am also recognized as AV Preeminent. I believe in Integrity, Impartiality, and Fairness and have a genuine enthusiasm and love of the law.

**IMPARTIALITY:** This is an excellent question, for which I am grateful. I have expressly declared my commitment to Integrity, Impartiality and Fairness in my campaign. There is no ambiguity on this point. My campaign has not and will not elevate fund raising to a top tier priority.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** I am proud of my diverse professional and community involvement and believe it provides a well-rounded perspective as a justice. I have taught as an Adjunct Professor at Texas A&M University School of Law,

served as a board member of the Women's Bar Association, am a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, and have been involved with many other community and professional groups.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Two of the most pressing issues are (1) case overload, and (2) fair representation and access to the Court. I would address (1) by increasing the use of alternative dispute resolution, such as mediation, by referring cases to attorneys with expertise in the substantive area of law in the case. I would address (2) by expansion of pro bono representation, coordinating with the Texas Bar Foundation and pivotal law firms in the community to secure representation from junior attorneys.

**EDUCATION:** Baylor University School of Law-JD, 1986

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**WEBSITE:** <http://www.maryjohndroe.com/>



**BILL RAY (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** Board Certified, Criminal Appellate Law and Criminal Law, over 450 appellate matters in Texas Appellate Courts. Briefing Attorney, Court of Criminal Appeals, Austin, 1985-1986. Prosecutor, Tarrant County District Attorney's Office 1986-1990. Private Practice, Criminal Defense Attorney 1990-2016.

**IMPARTIALITY:** You have to view a campaign contribution as a necessary evil in political campaigns. In order to maintain impartiality, I believe that the amount of contributions and the frequency of solicitations should be kept in check. Additionally, there is no need to maintain a huge "war chest" but rather, only have the funds available to seek reelection. If I am elected and seek reelection, I would only seek minimal contributions in an unchallenged election.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** I am Board Certification in two areas by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Criminal Appellate Law and Criminal Law. Only a small number of attorneys are certified in a single area, and an even smaller number are

certified in two. I believe that my experience in criminal law matters, especially in appellate law, combined with the experience I had at the Court of Criminal Appeals as a briefing attorney in 1985-86 gives me an insight and advantage to hit the ground running if I am elected, (///)

**OTHER ISSUES:** Statewide, the Second Court of Appeals has the highest clearance rate in criminal cases, the third highest in civil cases, and the highest overall. I believe that maintaining the consistency and timeliness of issuing decisions is paramount to the legal system for all litigants. If I am elected to this position, I will work hard to keep these numbers high, which ultimately saves public funds and results in a better system overall for everyone.

**EDUCATION:** R. L. Paschal High School, 1977. Texas A&M University, B.B.A. Marketing, 1982. St. Mary's School of Law, Juris Doctorate, 1985. U.S. Army Armor Officer Basic School, Fort Knox, Kentucky, AOB 11-82. U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps Officer Basic Course, 1990.

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**ELIZABETH KERR (R), WILLIAM ANTHONY "ANDY" PORTER (R)**



**DAVID HANSCHEN (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** As a successful venture capitalist in the 1980's, and an attorney and a District Court judge; I am able to evaluate cases from a broad perspective. Being a former trial judge, I better understand how the courts actually conduct their cases. These insights will assist me in making better rulings.

**IMPARTIALITY:** As a former trial judge, I am well practiced in separating the need for a judge to evaluate matters before the Court independently from the the attorneys presenting the case. While I appreciate the support the legal community has shown, contributions never have and never will influence the court's ruling in a case.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** While a District Judge, I challenged the constitutionality of a law that limited the availability of DNA evidence. I later testified to the

JUSTICE • 5<sup>TH</sup> COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 7

Texas state legislature to correct this problem. The legislature changed the law to better conform with the current state of scientific testing. This change has allowed for collection of proper child support in 1000's of cases.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Opinions need to be more timely issued. The current delay for many cases is far too long. 2.This court has vastly increased the times it would Rule and Render, instead if Ruling and Remanding the case back to the trial court. The trial court is uniquely equipped to find the truth, whereas the Court of Appeals only has a written transcript as its record of the trial proceedings. By becoming Judge and Jury, this Court of Appeals has all too often usurped the role of the of the citizens.

**EDUCATION:** NTSU 1975 BA cum laude SMU Law School 1992 JD

**EMAIL:** davidhanschen@yahoo.com



**DAVID JOHN SCHENCK (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** Since my appointment last January, I have been serving as a Justice on one of the most proficient the courts in the state. I had more than 20 years of appellate practice, including leading the Issues & Appeals practice in the Dallas office of Jones Day. I am board certified in civil appellate.

**IMPARTIALITY:** I find maintaining impartiality to be fairly simple. I simply do it. Contributions to a judge cannot be allowed to influence the result in any case. That's an issue of personal integrity and character that should be present in anyone seeking the office for the right reason. I suspect anyone who knows me would not expect anything different.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** I received the Texas Bar's President's Award for my work leading the briefing in the defense of the Texas IOLTA program before the U.S. Supreme Court. IOLTA is designed to provide funding for pro bono and low cost

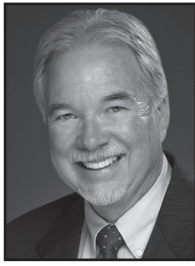
legal services to those could not otherwise access the system. I believe strongly in the rule of law and that it applies equally and to everyone. For that to be true all need fair access to the system. I adhere to that view as a justice.

**OTHER ISSUES:** We have a very heavy caseload and have been working with a short staff throughout my time on the court due to unusual circumstances that will obtain for the foreseeable future. Each of us will continue to take on additional work and pull on the oars a little harder. Separately, our mandamus and parental termination dockets are active and require nearly immediate attention given the nature of the cases. I will continue to work with my fellow justices in giving priority to these important cases

**EDUCATION:** J.D., with honors, Baylor Law School (1992) B.A., Criminal Justice, Rockefeller College of the State Univ. of N.Y.--Albany

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**WEBSITE:** <http://facebook.com/justicedavidshenck>



**STEVEN HUGHES (D)**

**BACKGROUND:** Handled over 500 appeals in 28 years of private practice. Board Certified in Civil Appellate law for over 20 years. Selected a Texas Super Lawyer in Appellate Law 10 straight years. Selected a Top 50 Super Lawyer in Central/West Texas in 2014. Listed in Best Lawyers in America 2012-2015.

**IMPARTIALITY:** As long as Texas elects its judges, impartiality will remain a problem. I have chosen to be bound by the voluntary limits of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act, which limits the amounts of political campaign contributions. I will continue to evaluate any case that comes before me to determine if I should voluntarily remove myself from considering the case based on the parties and attorneys involved.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** Before I became a lawyer, I made my living as a musician, primarily playing in symphony orchestras (with a lot of jazz, rock, and Dixieland thrown in). Becoming a musician who can play at a high level requires hours and hours of practice and a dedication to perfection. Being a Justice on the Court of



**GINA M. PALAFOX (D)**

**BACKGROUND:** I've been a lawyer over twenty years with experience in litigation, business, education, and public health care including trials and appeals. These experiences required strong communication skills, analytical thinking, researching, and writing.

**IMPARTIALITY:** Impartiality is very important to the integrity of our courts. Impartiality is maintained by a strong commitment to ethics and deep respect for the important role of the court in our community. Although political contributions are needed, these funds should never override ethical standards and responsibilities.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** I am proud of my work on cases, among others, that included public policy and constitutional issues. One in particular was very challenging and I reached a professional highlight of presenting an oral argument to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit - just one level below the U.S.



**MARIA RAMIREZ (D)**

**BACKGROUND:** I have practiced law for 27 years, including misdemeanor and felony trial experience and civil litigation in state and federal court. For the past 18 years I have focused on appellate law in the family and criminal law area. In 2001, I was elected as Judge, Municipal Court No. 1 in El Paso, Texas.

**IMPARTIALITY:** It has been my aspiration for years to serve El Paso and the 16 other counties as a Justice in the 8th Court of Appeals. Although I do believe that Judges are able to maintain impartiality despite having to raise funds for their campaigns, I anticipate that I will not request or take contributions to fund my campaign.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** I am most proud of my education and my work ethic that was instilled in me by my parents. I am a first generation American. My parents immigrated to the US and worked very hard to make sure their children obtained



**ARTURO VAZQUEZ (D)**

**BACKGROUND:** 20 years helping families united, by getting them a green card or preventing their deportation. Sales experience with IBM and Kodak. 1986 to 1991. Project Manager with IBM. 1978 to 1986. 20 años manteniendo a las familias unidas, ya sea consiguiendoles la residencia o evitándo la deportación.

**IMPARTIALITY:** I do NOT accept political campaign contributions. Anybody that accepts contributions cannot be impartial. Yo no acepto ningún tipo de contibuciones para mi campaña. No veo como alguien que acepta donativos puede ser imparcial.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** My biggest accomplishment are my children. I have seen how lives are changed for better when a person becomes legal in this country. I have handled thousands of immigration cases. I am fair and I have the "Wal-Mart" guarantee: either

Appeals requires those same attributes -- hard work and a dedication to getting it right. Music has made me a better judge. It taught me to never stop half-way. Everything can be improved.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Work on the Court is always a balance between issuing timely decisions and crafting written opinions that cover every issue and fully explain the basis for the Court's decision. The 8th Court of Appeals consistently ranks near the top of the 14 courts of appeals in signed opinions issued per judge. We have recently instituted changes to speed up our decision-making process by identifying cases that can be decided on an expedited basis by the use of shorter and quicker memo opinions.

**EDUCATION:** J.D. (Law Degree) Univ. of Texas at Austin (with honors) - 1985. Master of Music Texas Tech Univ. - 1976. Bachelor of Music Texas Tech Univ. (with high honors) - 1975. Doctoral Programs (Music) Univ. of Michigan and Univ. of North Texas - 1977-1981.

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Supreme Court. I am better prepared as a judge because I had these experiences and appreciate the important responsibilities of this Court.

**OTHER ISSUES:** I feel it is important for the Court and all other publicly funded institutions to provide timely service and strive for quality outcomes. Two pressing issues and challenges for the Court are (1). Reducing the length of time that people or parties wait for appeals to conclude; and (2). Maintaining balance as a reviewing court so as acting to correct reversible error, but not overly acting and undermining trial court judges and juries.

**EDUCATION:** Juris Doctor (JD) - Pepperdine University School of Law; Master of Public Administration (MPA) - University of Texas at El Paso; Bachelor of Science in Accounting (BS) - Pepperdine University, Seaver College.

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a higher education. They also taught me not to forget my roots. For the last 18 years I have run a successful law practice and presided as Judge of a municipal court for 15 of those years. It is this work ethic and my life experience that I believe will make me a better Justice.

**OTHER ISSUES:** More appeals are being filed and the counties the 8th Court of Appeals handles are growing. Although all cases should be given proper attention, I believe the backlog of work should be addressed to expedite a final decision of a case. Appellate courts are important not only because they decide individual cases but that decision sets precedent for all similarly situated individuals in those 17 counties. As such, it is important that the justice and court consider this when issuing a decision.

**EDUCATION:** I received a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from UTEP. I graduated from Indiana University School of Law with a Doctor of Jurisprudence. I am licensed by the State Bar of Texas, the Western District of Texas, the 5th Circuit of the United States and the Supreme Court of the United States.

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you get what you paid for or I return your fees. Should I screw up, I will cover your expenses. I give over 500 hours of free consultations every year. I am here in this life to help. I am a follower of Micah 6:8: Strive to be just, merciful and humble.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The most pressing issue in the 8th Court of Appeals is that it is the most inefficient Appeals Court in Texas. I will work hard and efficiently. I promise that I will work a minimum of 40 hours per week. El problema mas grande de la corte de apelaciones #8 es la ineficiencia. Trabajaré duramente y en forma eficiente. Prometo que trabajaré un mínimo de 40 horas por semana.

**EDUCATION:** Creighton University School of Law. 1994. University of Phoenix. MBA. 1984. UTEP. Electrical Engineering. 1978.

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**ROBERT J. (BOBBY) PEREZ (D)**

JUSTICE • 13<sup>TH</sup> COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 3



**LETICIA HINOJOSA (D)**

**BACKGROUND:** My thirty-four year experience as both, a trial attorney and as a trial judge, makes me uniquely qualified to serve as an appellate judge. I have either participated as an attorney or as a judge in virtually all cases that are decided by a court of law and come under review by the Appellate Court.

**IMPARTIALITY:** I have always made it very clear to those who have made contributions to my judicial campaigns that they should not expect any preferential treatment. If that is what they expected, a contribution was not accepted. In all my campaigns, I have received contributions from countless individuals who never had a case in my court, yet wanted to support my campaign effort. Both plaintiff and the defense attorneys have contributed as well, which i believe speaks to my fairness and impartiality.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** The accomplishment I am most proud of is having become licensed as an attorney by the time I was twenty-three years old. Although my Father passed away when I was eleven, both parents instilled me with their

strong work ethic and commitment. My strong work ethic and commitment to accomplishing my goals will serve me well on the 13th Court of Appeals. I will be diligent in reviewing my assigned cases and render opinions in an expedient manner. I believe justice delayed is justice denied.

**OTHER ISSUES:** An issue that needs to be addressed is the court security. Edinburg currently does not have metal detectors and with the growing concern of safety, this matter needs to be addressed. Another issue has been the repeated efforts to split up the 13th Court of Appeals into two different courts. My Republican opponent supports this effort. The creation of another court would be inefficient, unnecessary, and more expensive to the taxpayers of the State of Texas.

**EDUCATION:** Homer Hanna High School (Brownsville, Texas) 1975 University of Texas (Austin, Texas) BA, Magna Cum Laude, 1978 University of Texas (Austin, Texas) JD 1981

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WEBSITE: <http://leticiahinojosafordjudge.com>

**CARLOS VALDEZ (D)**

**BACKGROUND:** Assistant County Attorney 1981-1984, Nueces County Attorney 1985-1992, District Attorney 1993-2010, City Attorney 2010-2013, Prosecutor, Defense Attorney, Criminal and Civil litigator, Extensive government law experience

**IMPARTIALITY:** Insist on transparency in all dealings involving campaign financing. Conduct should comply with all applicable ethical, judicial and legal standards at all times. Make it known through words and conduct that nothing is to be expected from making a political contribution other than the performance of one's duties to the best of one's ability.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** I have been personally involved in several high profile and significantly important cases in my career. These cases involve a variety of

civil and criminal matters that have given me the experience necessary to be a better justice on the court of appeals.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Issue 1. The constant number of cases that are being appealed. The only way to address this is through sheer hard work and applying the dedication that I have brought to other governmental positions. Issue 2. The increasing complexity of issues that need to be addressed. The way to address this is by relying my vast and varied experience in dealing with most legal issues and by persistently staying ahead of the issues through continuing legal education.

**EDUCATION:** AA Degree-Del Mar College, BA Degree-TxA&I University at Corpus Christi, Juris Doctor Degree-University of Oklahoma

PHONE: (361) 882-1612 | EMAIL: carlosv7843@gmail.com

No  
Photograph  
Provided

JUSTICE • 14<sup>TH</sup> COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 2



**KEVIN JEWELL (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** 23 years as a lawyer specializing in litigating state and federal appeals. Equity shareholder at nationally recognized law firm. Board Certified in Civil Appellate Law since 1998. Texas Super Lawyer since 2005. Presented over 120 arguments in appellate courts, including the Texas Supreme Court.

**IMPARTIALITY:** Serving as a Justice on an appellate court is one of the most important jobs in the Texas legal system. Integrity and impartiality are absolutely essential to the proper function of an appellate court. If elected, I vow to apply the law fairly to the individual facts of each dispute that comes before me so that the court reaches the correct result under the law. I will not legislate from the bench. Nor will the source of any campaign funds be a factor in my decision-making.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** I have handled 20+ cases in which the Texas Supreme Court has granted review. I'm proud to say that I obtained relief for my clients in all but one of those cases. That kind of substantive experience has greatly helped me develop the necessary skills to fully analyze both sides of an argument and apply the law correctly, fairly, and impartially.

**OTHER ISSUES:** I believe those Justices currently sitting on the court are better suited to provide a helpful answer to this question.

**EDUCATION:** University of Houston Law Center, J.D., 1993 University of Texas at Austin, B.B.A., 1990

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WEBSITE: <http://www.jewellforjustice.com>

**BUD WIESEDEPPE (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** I am a husband, father, lawyer and Republican. The order of those things gets moved around from minute to minute, but each of those hats make me who I am today and, I believe, give me both the qualifications and experience to serve. As an attorney, I handled cases in both Trial and Appellate Court

**IMPARTIALITY:** If elected to the 14th Court of Appeals, I pledge to be entirely impartial in my rulings. However, I understand that even the appearance of partiality damages the public's view of the Judiciary. To that end, a majority of the funds I intend to spend on this campaign are from my own account. When attorneys donate to my campaign, I will make it a point to ask whether they currently have cases before the 14th Court and through that discussion, determine whether to accept their donation.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** I am proud of the balance I have achieved between my

professional and personal lives. My judicial philosophy is Textualism and I believe any Court's rulings should be founded in the law as it is written. My wife and children have kept me grounded and centered, contributing to my ability to interpret the law justly and uniformly in all situations.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Consistency and Restraint. I believe liberty is best protected through the division of powers between the three branches of government and, perhaps more importantly, between the Federal government and the states. As an Appellate Court Justice, my job would be to consistently interpret the law in accordance with that belief.

**EDUCATION:** SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Dallas, Texas, Juris Doctor, May 1997 KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY, Manhattan, Kansas ■ Bachelor of Science, Political Science, May 1994 ■ Bachelor of Science, Philosophy, May 1994

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*This race is continued on the next page* →



**CANDANCE WHITE (D)**

**BACKGROUND:** I have a Masters in Law (LLM). Practiced law for 28 years. I have handled legal issues ranging from corporate legal issues in oil and gas, environmental, human resources, contracts, safety and health, civil, criminal, administrative, appeals. Served as municipal court judge

**IMPARTIALITY:** Contributions do not equal a promise for a specific outcome in cases. The Judiciary is to make decisions based on the application of the law to the facts. The Appeals court is to make this decision based on the case record before them. I believe a fair and unbiased decision is what the judicial system was designed to achieve. As a judge I am not to make decisions influenced by donations. While the need to raise funds is a fact of the political process, a judge is to be uninfluenced.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** I have served in different capacities in my career: corporate in-house counsel, solo practitioner, state agency attorney/managing attorney, child welfare director, adjunct professor, and municipal court judge. The ability

to excel in these different areas of my career is an accomplishment I am most proud of. As a result of my diverse career experiences I analyze complex legal issues with an understanding of potential impacts from a global perspective. I am objective and fair.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Two of the issues the court will most likely face surround the areas of Open Carry and Same Sex Marriage issues. Both issues will present challenges as new factual scenarios become legal issues in the lower courts. The issues will most likely surface in both civil and criminal courts. As a judicial candidate I cannot give an opinion on how I would rule on matters that may come before me while on the bench. As a Justice I will analyze the law and the underlying record objectively and fairly.

**EDUCATION:** The University of Houston Law Center Masters of Law (LLM), August 2001 Thesis: The Clean Air Act and Environmental Justice The University of Texas School of Law Doctor of Jurisprudence- May 1993 Texas A&M University Bachelor of Science, Sociology- May 1988

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**JIM SHARP (D)**

*Unopposed Candidates*

- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, CHIEF JUSTICE, 1<sup>ST</sup> COURT OF APPEALS: **SHERRY RADACK (R) • JIM PEACOCK (D)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 1<sup>ST</sup> COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 4: **EVELYN KEYES (R) • BARBARA GARDNER (D)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 2<sup>ND</sup> COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 4: **BONNIE SUDDERTH (R)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 3<sup>RD</sup> COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 2: **CINDY OLSON BOURLAND (R)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 3<sup>RD</sup> COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 4: **MELISSA GOODWIN (R)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 4<sup>TH</sup> COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 6: **JASON PULLIAM (R) • IRENE RIOS (D)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 5<sup>TH</sup> COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 4: **LANA MYERS (R) • GENA SLAUGHTER (D)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 5<sup>TH</sup> COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 7: **DENNISE GARCIA (D)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, CHIEF JUSTICE, 6<sup>TH</sup> COURT OF APPEALS: **JOSH MORRISS (R)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 7<sup>TH</sup> COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 4: **JIM CAMPBELL (R)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 9<sup>TH</sup> COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 2: **CHARLES A. KREGER (R)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 10<sup>TH</sup> COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 3: **AL SCOGGINS (R)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 11<sup>TH</sup> COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 3: **JOHN BAILEY (R)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 12<sup>TH</sup> COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 2: **BRIAN HOYLE (R)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 12<sup>TH</sup> COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 3: **GREG NEELEY (R)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 13<sup>TH</sup> COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 3: **GREG PERKES (R)**
- TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, JUSTICE, 14<sup>TH</sup> COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 9: **TRACY ELIZABETH CHRISTOPHER (R) • PETER M. KELLY (D)**

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

**i What is Provisional Voting?** .....

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

## QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**BACKGROUND:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

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

**TESTING:** What changes, if any, would you make to testing requirements in the public schools and why?

**OTHER ISSUES:** What are the two most serious public education issues facing the State Board of Education during the next term, and how would you address them?

## DISTRICT 1



### LYNN OLIVER (D)

**BACKGROUND:** As a retired classroom teacher and extra-curricular sponsor, I have a working knowledge of the challenges of teachers and students in our public school system. It required motivating students, designing and delivering curriculum, administering standardized tests, directing and hosting U.I.L events.

**CURRICULUM:** Standards set grade specific goals. Classroom teachers should be consulted on sequential concepts and materials to support students. Education is a collaborative process which requires the involvement of all stakeholders for effective alignment with standards. Curriculum should focus on a career path or college readiness. Many students arrive in my UTSA classroom, unsure of expectations, ill prepared for college critical thinking and writing. However, they respond to project based teaching.

**TESTING:** I would like to change the overemphasis on and reduce the number of required standardized tests. Elementary school students should be learning

to "love learning" not be terrorized by testing. Test prep and tests of basic skills that rely on remembering facts and the rote application of procedures consumes instructional time from high level curriculum and inquiry. Education reformers have relied on standards testing for decades which raises some serious questions concerning validity of outcomes.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The Legislative under-funding of local school districts has restricted operational resources required for student success. By becoming involved, I hope to understand how I might be of service in addressing this issue. I am also concerned about the rapid expansion in Texas of privately operated charter schools which are not held to the same accountability policies as public education. I would try to increase transparency

**EDUCATION:** B.S., University of Houston, Major Drama, Minor Educational Psychology Graduate study: NYU / Steinhardt, Educational Theatre Texas State University, Costume Design

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### GEORGINA PEREZ (D)

**BACKGROUND:** I'm the only candidate that has participated in curriculum development and community advocacy. I have fought for equal access to educational resources and materials. I possess over a decade in the classroom teaching students from elementary and high school levels with a focus on literacy.

**CURRICULUM:** No Response

**TESTING:** Eliminate standardized testing and standardized curriculum. Standardization is great for production of inanimate objects but

terrible for educating our future. There has been an over-emphasis on standardized testing at the expense of classroom learning. This prepares students for neither higher education nor the modern workforce. We don't have enough students graduate with collegiate degrees because of the focus on standardized testing. It is simply a failed experiment.

**OTHER ISSUES:** No Response

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### JOE FIERRO JR. (D)

## i VOTER INFO

### The Voters Guide

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## i What should I take to the polling place?.....

In addition to your photo ID, which is discussed in detail on both pages 1 and 16 of this *Voters Guide*, you can bring any written or printed material into the voting booth for your personal use. You cannot use mobile phones, smartphones and tablets or other electronic devices at the polling place.

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)

**MARY LOU BRUNER (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** I have 36 years experience as a teacher, special ed. counselor, and educational diagnostician in Texas Public Schools. I taught kindergarten, 2nd, and 4th grade classes in elementary school. In junior high school I taught English, American literature, American history, and TX History.

**CURRICULUM:** The State Board of Ed. should not only hear testimony from experts in education, but from more parents and local businessmen who have an interest in the youth of their communities. The textbooks adopted in Texas should meet a minimum of 95% of the TEKS instead of 60%. The curriculum should not be guided by political correctness but by factual information and truth. The curriculum should tell the schools what should be taught at the different levels not how to teach the material.

**TESTING:** The schools are doing far too much testing. Twenty to forty days each year are spent taking practice tests and the actual tests. The children lose almost two months instruction time each year practicing for and taking tests. The children could be spending this time learning. The students who do not do well

on the mid-February tests have to remediate so they can pass the test at the end of the year. Sometimes the students who did well on the tests in mid-February act like the year is over.

**OTHER ISSUES:** The science curriculum teaches evolution as a fact and not a theory. The solution is to require students to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the evolution theory. The health curriculum is designed to make the homosexual lifestyle more acceptable or desirable and to make homosexual marriage and adoption more acceptable. The schools should not teach political correctness. Sex education does not belong in the elementary schools. Health classes should teach hygiene and healthy habits.

**EDUCATION:** M.Ed. in special education from East TX State Univ. (TX A&M) Commerce. BA in English and Ele. Ed. from TX Wesleyan Univ., Ft. Worth. 6 other TX teaching certificates: Ed. Diagnostician, Language-Learning Diff., Early Childhood, Kindergarten, Sp. Ed. Counselor, All Level School Counselor.

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WEBSITE: <http://www.mlb4sboe.com>

**KEVEN M. ELLIS (R)**

**BACKGROUND:** In 2012 I was elected to the Lufkin ISD Board of Trustees and was elected to serve as President of the Board in 2015. Serving on the local school board has given me a keen perspective of the needs and challenges of educating our children. I bring a level heading approach to problem solving.

**CURRICULUM:** Texans know best how to education Texas children so we need to continue to keep the development and approval process away from Washington DC and in the hands of Texans. Improving the TEKS standards is an ongoing process and we need to keep Common Core from working its way into our curriculum standards. As standards are reviewed we must make sure that they are concise enough to allow our great teachers time to focus on what is most critical for our students.

**TESTING:** The 2013 the Legislature did a great job in passing House Bill 5 which decreased the number of end of course tests from 15 to 5. Now we must focus on decreasing the amount of tests for grade 3-8. The goal should be to test

no more than required by federal law. In 2015 the legislature passed HB 743 which limited the length of STAAR tests to 2 hours for grade 3-5 and 3 hours for grade 6-8, currently these tests are 4 hours. We need to make sure this law is fully implemented as soon as possible.

**OTHER ISSUES:** First would be the rewrite of "No Child Left Behind" into "Every Student Succeeds Act". The key components of this is that the Federal Government passed the "challenge" of increasing student success down to the states and we must do this thoughtfully. Second would be narrowing our TEKS. Our standards are a mile wide and an inch deep and students are not taught the depth of knowledge required. The challenge will be the narrow the TEKS without decreasing the rigor that is necessary for success.

**EDUCATION:** 1992 Western Washington University – Pre-med undergraduate studies. 1995 – Texas Chiropractic College – Doctor of Chiropractic (Cum Laude) Omega Psi Honor Society Texas Chiropractic College Who's Who among American College Students National Dean's list

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**HANK HERING (R)**

*Unopposed Candidates*

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 5: **KEN MERCER (R) • REBECCA BELL-METEREAU (D)**

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 6: **MICHAEL JORDAN (D)**

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 8: **BARBARA CARGILL (R)**

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 10: **TOM MAYNARD (R) • JUDY JENNINGS (D)**

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 14: **SUE MELTON-MALONE (R)**

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 15: **MARTY ROWLEY (R)**

**i VOTE411.org: The Interactive Voters Guide**

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

**i VOTER INFO**

*Helpful Websites*

SECRETARY OF STATE  
[www.sos.state.tx.us](http://www.sos.state.tx.us)  
[www.VoteTexas.gov](http://www.VoteTexas.gov)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS  
[www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS (U.S.)  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

REPUBLICAN PARTY  
[www.texasgop.org](http://www.texasgop.org)

DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
[www.txdemocrats.org](http://www.txdemocrats.org)

LIBERTARIAN PARTY  
[www.lptexas.org](http://www.lptexas.org)

GREEN PARTY  
[www.txgreens.org](http://www.txgreens.org)

LWV-TEXAS VOTERS GUIDES are funded by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) corporation that is supported by contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations. LWV-TEF gratefully acknowledges major contributions in the past year from Laura Blackburn, Elaine Bridges, Lois Carpenter, Patricia Cheong, Estate of Sondra Ferstl, Estate of John Johnson, Estate of Barbara Swartz, Estate of Dorothy Persohn, Miriam Foshay, Ruthann Geer, Margaret Hill, Julie and Michael Lowenberg, Marlene Lobberecht, Genie Mitchell, Susan Morrison, Carolie Mullan, Karen Nicholson, Linda Pavlik, Kaylene Ray, Betty Sanders, Elaine Wiant, and Nancy Vines Wilson.



## **i** VOTER INFO

### Photo ID Details & Exceptions

See "What to Take to the Polls" on the front page for a list of accepted photo IDs. This section provides additional information about the photo ID requirements.

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

Check the League's website for other helpful information about elections, voting and issues: [www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org).



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Learn more about our Local Leagues and how they help shape today's important issues by visiting the League's website at [www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org).