

# NONPARTISAN VOTERS GUIDE

**TEXAS PRIMARY ELECTION ★ MARCH 5, 2024**

**U.S. President ★ U.S. Senate ★ Railroad Commission ★ Texas Supreme Court ★  
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ★ State Board of Education ★ Court of Appeals**

**EARLY VOTING: Feb. 20–Mar. 1, 2024 ★  
ELECTION DAY: March 5, 2024. Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

## » **EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.**

### » **VOTING IN TEXAS**

The upcoming Primary Election is extremely important for Texas!

**Primary Elections:** Texas has open primaries, which means all Texas voters can participate in *either* the Republican or Democratic primaries, or the Libertarian or Green party conventions. The primary elections include this Primary Election, to be held on March 5th, and the Runoff Election, to be held on May 28th.

- The Republican and Democratic parties each choose their candidates in primary elections.
- The Libertarian and Green parties each choose their candidates in a party convention.

Since many districts in Texas heavily favor one party over the other, the primary elections often determine the winner of the General Election! Even if you do not strongly identify with any political party, you can and should carefully consider the candidate choices and participate in one of the primaries or conventions.

Note: Once you have voted in one party primary election or convention, you cannot vote in another party's primary or convention. You can only vote in that same party's runoff election.

**General Election:** Voting in one party's primary election, convention or runoff election does NOT commit you to vote for a particular party or candidate in the November General Election. You can still vote for any candidate of your choice, regardless of party, in the General Election.

### » **VOTERS GUIDE CONTENTS**

Be a Texas Voter!	2
Voter ID—What to take to the Polls	3
Helpful Contacts and Websites	3
Voters Guide Policy	4
Texas Local Leagues	4
U.S. President	5
U.S. Senate	6
Railroad Commission	11
Texas Supreme Court	14
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals	18
State Board of Education	22
Courts of Appeals	27
Voters Guide Sponsors and Supporters	28



# » BE A TEXAS VOTER!

Your vote is your voice . . . below are the ways to exercise your right to vote. Whichever way you choose to vote, be sure you are registered by checking at **VoteTexas.gov**. You must be registered before you can vote!

## » VOTE BY MAIL

- You can vote by mail if you are:
  - 65 years or older
  - Sick or disabled
  - Out of the county during early voting and on Election Day
  - Expecting to give birth within 3 weeks before or after Election Day
  - In jail, but otherwise eligible to vote.
- To vote by mail in Texas, you must apply every year! Go to **lwvtexas.org/votebymail** for a vote-by-mail application and easy-to-understand instructions on voting by mail.
- Track your ballot at **VoteTexas.gov**. If there is an error in your vote-by-mail application or ballot, your county election office is required to notify you and instruct you how to fix it either by mail, in person or via the online tracker.

## » VOTE IN PERSON

- During early voting, you may vote at any polling place.
- On Election Day:
  - In some counties, you can vote at any polling place.
  - In other counties, you can vote only at your precinct.
- Find polling places on your county election website or at **VOTE411.org**.
- If you have a disability, you may request to move ahead of other voters in line.
- If in line before the poll closing time, you must be allowed to cast a ballot.

## » VOTE IN PERSON USING CURBSIDE VOTING

- If you are physically unable to enter the polling place without personal assistance or likelihood of injuring your health, you may park at the curbside voting parking space and call the number that is posted to ask that an election officer bring a ballot to your car.
- After you mark your ballot, give it to the election officer or hand it to a companion to deposit in the ballot box for you.

## » VOTE EVEN IF YOU ARE A SUSPENDED VOTER

You can still vote if your voter registration is in suspense as long as you are registered in your county. “Suspense” means that your county voter registrar needs to confirm your voting address.

## » VOTE A LIMITED BALLOT

If you have moved to a new county and have not registered in that county by the registration deadline, you may be eligible to vote a limited ballot in your new county. A limited ballot is one that allows you to vote on candidates and measures that are on the ballot for both your former county and your new county, such as statewide and national races.

- Note: Voting a limited ballot is only available during early voting at your county’s main early voting polling place.



## » VOTER ID: WHAT TO TAKE TO THE POLLS

You may use one of seven forms of photo ID, listed below.

- Texas Driver License
- Texas Election Identification Certificate
- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by the Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Handgun License issued by DPS
- US Military Identification card containing your photograph
- US Citizenship Certificate containing your photograph
- US Passport (book or card)

Note:

- IDs may have expired up to four years.
- Persons 70 years or older may use an expired ID, regardless of expiration date.
- ID address does not have to match the voter registration address.
- The name on the photo ID should match the name on the list of registered voters or be “substantially similar”. If your name doesn’t match exactly, you can still vote but will need to sign a form stating you are the person on the list of registered voters.

If you are registered but do not have a photo ID and cannot reasonably obtain one, you may sign a form and present alternative documentation. Learn more at [lwtexas.org/voterid](https://lwtexas.org/voterid).

## » VOTER HARASSMENT

- Election officials cannot question a voter about the use of an ID type.
- Poll watchers may never question a voter about Voter ID issues.
- If you are harassed, call or text Election Protection at 866-687-8683!



## » HELPFUL CONTACTS AND WEBSITES

**League of Women Voters of Texas**

[lwtexas.org](https://lwtexas.org)

**Secretary of State**

[VoteTexas.gov](https://VoteTexas.gov)

**Your County Election Website**

<https://www.sos.texas.gov/elections/voter/links.shtml>  
#County

**Election Protection**

[866OURVOTE.org](https://866OURVOTE.org)

**Voter Hotlines!**

- English: 866-OUR-VOTE or 866-687-8683
- Spanish: 888-Ve-Y-Vota or 888- 839-8682
- Asian: 888-API-VOTE or 888-274-8683
- Arabic: 844-YALLA-US or 844-925-5297
- Disability Rights TX: 888-796-VOTE or 888-796-8683

**Republican Party**

[texasgop.org](https://texasgop.org)

**Democratic Party**

[txdemocrats.org](https://txdemocrats.org)

**Libertarian Party**

[lptexas.org](https://lptexas.org)

**Green Party**

[txgreens.org](https://txgreens.org)



Text VOTERINFO to 80123  
to receive nonpartisan  
voting reminders!





## » ABOUT THIS *VOTERS GUIDE*

This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas. The League does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

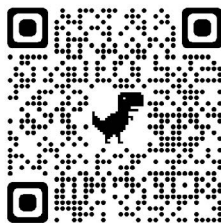
## » VOTE411

The online, interactive version of the *Voters Guide* is at **VOTE411.org**. By entering your address, you can view races and candidates on your ballot, compare candidate responses to unbiased questions posed by the League and create a print-out of your choices to take to the polls. If there is a local League in your community, you may also find information on any local races.



## » SUPPORT THE *VOTERS GUIDE*

Help us fund the cost of this valuable resource for Texas voters by making a secure donation online at **lwvtexas.org**, or by mailing the payment to the League of Women Voters of Texas, 1212 Guadalupe #107, Austin, TX 78701.



## » *VOTERS GUIDE* POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

- For the races covered in the *Voters Guide*, all candidates on the ballot with opponents on the ballot are invited to participate.
- Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification. The League assumes no responsibility for the content of the candidate responses.
- Negative references to opponents, including office-holders, or specific persons are not allowed.
- If a response does not meet the criteria listed in this *Voters Guide*, in place of a response or portion of a response that does not meet the criteria, the *Voters Guide* will state *Response removed; does not meet criteria.* or *Portion of response removed; does not meet criteria.*
- The *Voters Guide* is organized by office, with candidates listed by party. For primary and runoff elections, the order of the parties is alternated each election year and the candidates for each party are listed in alphabetical order. For general elections, candidates are listed in ballot order.

For the complete LWV Texas *Voters Guide* policy, see **lwvtexas.org**.

## » TEXAS LOCAL LEAGUES

Learn more about our local Texas Leagues and how they help shape today's important issues by visiting **lwvtexas.org**.

Amarillo	El Paso	Rio Grande
Austin Area	Fort Bend	Valley
Bay Area	County	San Antonio
Baytown	Galveston	Area
Bell County	Hays County	South Central
Brazos Valley	Hill Country	Texas
Collin County	Houston	Southwest Texas
Comal Area	Irving	Tarrant County
Cooke County	Lubbock County	Tyler/Smith
Corpus Christi	Midland	County
Cy-Fair	Montgomery	Wichita Falls
Dallas	County	Williamson
Denton	Richardson	County
Ellis County		

# U.S. PRESIDENT

Four-year term. The President is: the head of state of the United States of America; the Chief Executive Officer; and, the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are prescribed in the Constitution and federal law. The President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices, and federal judges, subject to Senate approval. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress. Current annual salary: \$400,000 per year.

## » REPUBLICAN PARTY

- » **Ryan L. Binkley**
- » **Ron DeSantis\***
- » **Donald J. Trump**
- » **Nikki Haley**
- » **David Stuckenberg**
- » **Chris Christie\***
- » **Vivek Ramaswamy\***
- » **Asa Hutchinson\***

## » DEMOCRATIC PARTY

- » **Joseph R. Biden, Jr.**
- » **Star Locke**
- » **Frankie Lozada**
- » **Armando "Mando" Perez-Serrato**
- » **Dean Phillips**
- » **Marianne Williamson**
- » **Gabriel A. Cornejo**
- » **Cenk Uygur**

» **See [VOTE411.org](https://VOTE411.org) to compare candidates for President.**

\*Withdrew from the race prior to the time of publication.

# U.S. SENATOR

Six-year term. One of two members of the U.S. Senate from Texas. With the U.S. House, the Senate makes laws; raises revenues, appropriates federal funds and manages the federal debt; regulates commerce among states and with other nations; declares war and maintains and regulates the military; establishes the federal court system and defines federal crimes; and directs the census every ten years. The Senate has the exclusive power to advise and consent on presidential nominations to executive and judicial offices, to ratify U.S. treaties, and to try impeachments. Current annual salary: \$174,000

## » QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

**Democracy:** What, if anything, needs to be done to protect our democracy and restore faith in our institutions?

**Immigration:** What policy changes are needed so the U.S immigration system is both effective and humane?

**International Relations:** What is the role of the U.S. in protecting democracy across the world and how do we balance that position against our economic interests?

**Climate Change:** What measures, if any, need to be taken at the federal level to address the impacts of climate change?

### » Ted Cruz (R)

No response received

### » Holland 'Redd' Gibson (R)

No response received



### » R.E. (Rufus) Lopez (R)

**Qualifications:** I am an Attorney with 59 years in the practice before all Federal and State courts. I am a 4/5th generation Texan, born and raised in south Texas and an avid rancher, farmer and hunter.

**Democracy:** The government needs to quit meddling in the individual lives of our citizens. The 10th Amendment is very clear: "The rights not given to the Federal Government are reserved to the states" Our Democracy is as strong as its citizens; I have not lost faith in our country, but the members of Congress must be retired; they are the root of the problem.

**Immigration:** We have not had an Immigration plan in 37 years. We must look back to the plans considered over the years and expand on those and complete one that will allow Seasonal workers, and those that can be

sponsored by citizens and who can contribute to the growth of this country. We must prohibit marriages of convenience and allow a gradual increase of immigrants who can prove that they can contribute

**International Relations:** We are the greatest country on earth and to those that much is given, much is expected. Protecting and encouraging democracy as the best form of government should be the central feature of our foreign policy. Encouraging economic trade is crucial to our growth while prohibiting foreign ownership of our lands. Ukraine is a true democracy and for once we are supporting one that mirrors ours.

**Climate Change:** Encourage the oil and gas industry to contribute to the endeavor. They too live in our environment and are effected by the development of the industry. A strong partnership with the industry must be developed such as we are seeing in the wind farms and off shore drilling.





## » Colin Allred (D)

**Qualifications:** I've spent my three terms in Congress working with folks in both parties to get things done. Texans can't afford 6 more years of extreme

politicians. We need a Senator we can count on.

**Democracy:** As a voting rights lawyer and a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I have worked to protect our democracy. I've championed reforms to root out corruption, get big money out of politics, end gerrymandering, and ensure every eligible voter can easily exercise their constitutional right to vote. I have also championed modernizing the Voting Rights Act to protect the right to vote.

**Immigration:** My mother was raised in Brownsville and I often spent summers visiting my grandmother in the Rio Grande Valley. Our current immigration system is broken and I support comprehensive reform that includes securing our borders, protecting Dreamers, and providing a pathway to earned citizenship for those who

are working hard and obeying the law. I will work with both parties to get this done.

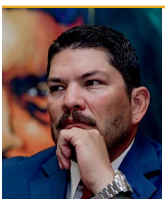
**International Relations:** I have served on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and I believe a strong national defense is critical to protecting America and our interests around the world. We must defend democracy and democratic values. It's why I support Ukraine and its effort to defend its democracy against Russian aggression. I also believe we must deter Chinese aggression and stand by our partner Taiwan.

**Climate Change:** We need action to address the climate crisis, and an all-of-the-above energy strategy that keeps costs low, keeps jobs in Texas and creates a more reliable electric grid. Texas is an energy leader and I will continue to support responsible oil and gas production and build on the historic investments we made in reducing pollution and growing wind, solar, hydrogen and other forms of clean energy.

**Campaign website:** [colinallred.com](https://colinallred.com)

## » Meri Gomez (D)

No response received



## » Mark Gonzalez (D)

**Qualifications:** Tattoos. Motorcycle riding. Reformer DA. Vaquero. Father of five and attorney. I know what it's like to meet a payroll, get the kids to a

dance recital on time, and castrate a steer at the ranch.

**Democracy:** As District Attorney, I got to see how people worked to undermine faith in our justice system. It was one of the reasons I ran for DA in the first place. An elected official has a duty to uphold their oath, but they also have the opportunity to lead by example. Senators should work for constituents rather than finding ways to trend on social media.

**Immigration:** Stop using people as props and fix the problem. Rhetoric around mass deportations hurts any

reasonable and bipartisan effort to achieve legislation. This must include a pathway to citizenship for those here and protections for DREAMers and their families. More can be done to protect farm workers and hold individuals accountable for taking advantage of immigrant workers.

**International Relations:** We have a moral obligation to protect freedom and promote peace around the world. That does not mean forgetting about problems at home, however. We should champion democracy globally, but do it through diplomacy, international cooperation, and fair economic policies. We can promote a world that respects democratic values while safeguarding our economic interests and national security.

**Climate Change:** We should be concerned about the global warming of our planet and its impact on water,

## » Mark Gonzalez (D) (continued)

farming and employment. When we talk about climate, we need to talk about how to protect, expand jobs. Democrats cannot ignore the impact on jobs in Texas

when talking about climate change. That's an opportunity to grow solar and wind power manufacturing jobs and ultimately obtain a net-zero emissions economy.

**Campaign website:** [www.markagonzalez.com](http://www.markagonzalez.com)



## » Roland Gutierrez (D)

**Qualifications:** San Antonio City Council member (2005-2008); Texas State Representative (2008-2021); Texas State Senator (since 2021) Find out more

at: <https://rolandfortexas.com/about/>

**Democracy:** For too long, people feel like they have been shut out of government without a voice. Therefore, we must ensure that every voter will cast a meaningful vote and that special interests have far less influence to affect policymaking. I would seek several changes, including campaign finance reform that provides greater transparency to voters, and a ban on gerrymandering for congressional districts.

**Immigration:** We must: 1) provide a pathway to normalcy for undocumented workers; 2) provide DREAMers immediate citizenship; 3) create a new work program for arriving immigrants that meets the needs of our economy; 4) fix and streamline dysfunctional visa program; and 5) end human trafficking and stop drug cartels.

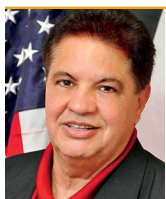
Find out more at: <https://rolandfortexas.com/immigration/>

**International Relations:** The U.S. must be a leader in the World promoting and protecting democracies. We must be for free and fair elections at home and abroad. For too long, our economic interests have lead the U.S. to undermine elected leaders throughout the developing world. Specifically, we should use our global economic power to demand trade partners that also value and promote self-representation.

**Climate Change:** I worry every day about the environmental legacy that my generation has left for our children. We must incentivize a robust renewable industry that will reduce carbon and provide jobs to Texans. In addition, our country should seek multi-national agreements to lower the amount of greenhouse gas consumption.

Find out more: <https://rolandfortexas.com/issues-energy-and-the-environment/>

**Campaign website:** [rolandfortexas.com](http://rolandfortexas.com)



## » A. "Robert" Hassan (D)

**Qualifications:** The Senate must be able to communicate effectively with a variety of people, including colleagues, staff, constituents, and the media. I am

most capable of working well under pressure.

**Democracy:** American democracy is at a dangerous inflection point. The moment requires a step-change in strategy and support. Without such momentum, the country faces a democratic setback. Many Americans view this moment with concern with worthy measure. America's system is creaky, but the world's old-

est democracy has strong institutions and will pull through.

**Immigration:** Since the end of the Cold War, most democratic failure globally has been caused by elected governments using legal methods, such technical rule changes, to derail democracy. Their destructions of their own democracies have been supported by pluralities or majorities of their citizenries, whose polarization leads them to back policies that harm democracy to ensure their side prevails.

**International Relations:** Many of the laws that form institutional guardrails were written poorly in the aftermath of the Civil War, with loopholes that are easily



## » A. "Robert" Hassan (D) (continued)

challenged given a lack of precedent. Moreover, the country's age means that much of what are presumed to be laws and institutions are, in fact, simply norms. These norms are eroding quickly.

**Climate Change:** In America, many states have been flooded with laws to alter voting. The worst of these ma-

neuvers have occurred in a dozen states that have passed laws transferring power to more partisan electoral bodies and/or criminalizing their election administrations. These antidemocratic legal moves cannot be overcome by turnout. In turn, effecting all climate change policy measures.

**Campaign website:** [hassanfortexas.org/](https://hassanfortexas.org/)



## » Steven J. Keough (D)

**Qualifications:** Steve is a retired Navy Captain. He has a Master's Degree in Congressional Studies and a law degree.

He was appointed by Presidents Clinton and GW Bush to the National Nuclear Threat Assessment team.

**Democracy:** It is important that US Senators hold themselves to higher standard of accountability. Accuracy and transparency are paramount. A key role of Senators is their oversight function. Judicial oversight over Supreme Court nominees and Justices needs to be restored. Oversight over how our friends overseas use our foreign aid also needs to be restored.

**Immigration:** The border wall is a failed US policy. In a modern world, there are more effective uses of the tax dollars to achieve a better result. It is unacceptable to use razor wire on the border. It is also unacceptable to misuse the National Guard the way Operation Lone Star

is using them. It is important to create an easy to understand legal pathway to citizenship.

**International Relations:** Steve has decades of experience of working in the area of International diplomacy and democracy building. Three hot spots to watch: Taiwan vs. China (Steve speaks Chinese) He has experience in working in Asia. US vs. Putin- Steve worked in former Soviet states to build democracy. Middle East- Steve commanded a unit in Bahrain, spent time in Iran and Israel, and understands the area.

**Climate Change:** Federal regulation over how the oil and gas industry cleans up after itself will be important going forward. Alternative energy subsidies should continue and should be encouraged. Cities need to be given more help to grow with climate science in mind. For example, flood mitigation, accessibility to water sources, and better handling of waste management.

**Campaign website:** [www.keoughforsenate.com](https://www.keoughforsenate.com)



## » Heli Rodriguez Prilliman (D)

**Qualifications:** As a Tejana from rural Texas, I'm proud to have helped build multiple successful tech start-ups over the past decade. I'm also a

mom exhausted with our country's lack of childcare and health care.

**Democracy:** We need to comprehensively reform our campaign finance laws to get billionaire and corporate money out of politics. Today, unless you come from wealth and powerful connections, it's almost impossible

to run for office. Ideas: Publicly funded elections, launch civics and media literacy initiatives, regulate online attention economy, vote-by-mail, term limits, and holding accountable the bad actors.

**Immigration:** Give immigrants a fair and humane path to citizenship. If you're here and want to work, we should make it easy: get them social security numbers so they can work and start paying taxes. If they keep a clean record, let them become citizens. We need to fix the visa processing bottlenecks, address the gaps that allow child migrant workers, and force a culture reset by forming a new agency.

## » Heli Rodriguez Prilliman (D) (continued)

**International Relations:** When it comes to protecting democracy around the world, our role should involve less aggressive posturing (end the unaccountable funding of weapons and war) and more focused on promoting global education and diplomacy. Honestly, our economic interests would work themselves out if we adequately funded childcare, healthcare, education, and mental health care for the American people instead of wars.



## » Carl Oscar Sherman (D)

**Qualifications:** I have a background as a city manager, businessman, mayor, member of the Texas House of Representatives, and pastor. These help me

understand the challenges faced by rural, suburban, and urban Texans.

**Democracy:** Our main focus should be on bipartisanship and addressing the needs of everyday Americans, regardless of their political affiliation. We must also provide protection for voters. Poor turnout in elections is due in large part to gerrymandering, discriminatory voter ID laws, lack of access to polls, and prejudice towards formerly incarcerated Texans.

**Immigration:** We must conduct investigations on unfair conditions in detention facilities, oppose private immigration centers, and provide additional judicial resources, translators, and social workers at our borders. It is also important to provide more pathways to citizenship

**Climate Change:** With aquifers and wells dwindling from climate change and multinational corporate overuse, the federal government must review all water rights laws so vulnerable communities don't run out of water. Prioritize weatherization of electrical grids and housing insulation. Train and transition workers to the clean energy industry as we continue to invest in solar, wind, nuclear, and other renewables.

**Campaign website:** [www.helifortexas.com](http://www.helifortexas.com)

and education to immigrants about their rights so they can also be their own advocates in an unfair system.

**International Relations:** Take a strong role in cultivating democracy helps ensure a peaceful world in which both human dignity and trade are facilitated and protected. But it can't be a policy of words without action. While it is important to collaborate and partner with other countries, democracy must start at home, which allows us to be a role model for others

**Climate Change:** The federal government can establish protected areas and support small agricultural producers. They can also implement carbon taxes to the largest producers of greenhouse gas and use the money to invest in small farmers, sustainable tech, and support organizations to combat climate change. Since global problems require global solutions, we must also collaborate with the international community.

**Campaign website:** [www.carlsherman.com](http://www.carlsherman.com)



## » Thierry Tchenko (D)

**Qualifications:** I'm a lifelong public servant who has worked in local & federal government as well as the nonprofit sector. I have devoted my life to serving

working families & everyday people.

**Democracy:** To restore faith in our institutions, we must hold elected officials accountable for their actions. Talking points while you're campaigning is not enough.

Our politicians must work on behalf of their constituents- by introducing and passing legislation. In order to protect our democracy, we must continue to fight voter suppression at every turn.

**Immigration:** Immigration changes needed among others: Place undocumented immigrants in U.S. without criminal record on a path to citizenship including Dreamers, pass a state-based guest-worker program, hire more immigration judges to address backlog of cases, establish processing centers in Central & South

## » Thierry Tchenko (D) (continued)

America to reduce activity at border, upgrade cameras and sensors at border to assist Border Patrol.

**International Relations:** The United States should be playing an active role in protecting democracy across the world primarily through diplomacy. Every decision that U.S. makes from a foreign policy standpoint should be guided by the objective of protecting our nation's interests and security. Aid and support should be evalu-

ated on a continuous basis to ensure our domestic needs are also being addressed.

**Climate Change:** Climate change is an issue that greatly affects Texas. I will support legislation to reduce carbon emissions and invest in Texas's renewable energy in order to ensure that our communities sustain themselves.

**Campaign website:** [www.tchenkofortexas.com](http://www.tchenkofortexas.com)

## RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

Six-year term. The Railroad Commissioner is one of the three-member Railroad Commission of Texas. The commission regulates the oil and gas industry, gas utilities, pipeline safety, safety in the liquefied petroleum gas industry and surface coal and uranium mining. It has no regulatory authority concerning railroads. Current annual salary: \$140,937

## » QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

**Natural Gas Facility Weatherization:** What further changes, if any, are needed to ensure that Texas has sufficient power in times of extreme weather conditions?

**Emissions:** What impact does flaring from oil and gas wells have on climate change, and what is the role of the Railroad Commission in reducing the amount of flared gas from oil and gas wells in Texas?

**Seismic Activity:** How can the Railroad Commission reduce the risk of seismic activity or earthquakes caused by water disposal from oil and gas drilling?

**Ethics:** Since candidates for Railroad Commission often raise money and receive income from the oil and gas industry, how can citizens be assured that those donations and income will not influence how commissioners regulate the industry?



## » Christie Clark (R)

**Qualifications:** I am proud that I grew up in a small town and have small town values. As an attorney, I have represented large companies, small businesses and most importantly ordinary folks.

**Natural Gas Facility Weatherization:** All indus-

tries need to work together and find common sense solutions. Texas has the best and brightest minds, let's work together.

**Emissions:** The Railroad Commission has all of the regulations necessary to ensure safe flaring. The regulations just need to be enforced.

**Seismic Activity:** A task force of industry professionals should be established to study and recommend

# RAILROAD COMMISSIONER | (continued)

## » Christie Clark (R) (continued)

changes necessary to ensure continued production while maintaining the environment and the safety of citizens.

**Ethics:** I am not a politician and have never received donations from industry. The current commissioners need to be audited and held accountable for their corruption.

## » Christi Craddick (R)

No response received

## » Corey Howell (R)

No response received



## » James 'Jim' Matlock (R)

**Qualifications:** After serving with an anti-terrorist unit in the United States Marine Corps, I began an 18 year career in the oil and gas industry, where I noticed the vulnerability of our energy sector.

**Natural Gas Facility Weatherization:** Contrary to popular belief, I don't agree with the final ruling. There were power plants that were not operating during the snow storms of 2021. Some of the biomass plants were not prepared to be operational. This information comes from those that worked for these facilities. Can we make improvements? Absolutely.

**Emissions:** Let's look beyond climate change. Flaring natural gas is not good stewardship of our resources. Flaring has been done since the 1930's. There have been countless technological advancements in the past 100 years that would use that wasted product to help keep electric and fuel affordable for the general public. It's

time we put technology to work for the people and reduce the amount of waste.

**Seismic Activity:** We need to reduce the amount of water being pushed into formations not capable of producing hydrocarbons. These formations should not have that kind of pressure added. With that being said, there's technology that could repurpose 80%-90% of the 14 million barrels of waste water produced daily in Texas for future completion jobs or even irrigation of land and crops.

**Ethics:** This is a major concern within politics all together. Politicians should be able to tell the public where they stand. I am pro oil and gas. I think we can produce it cleaner and do a better job of reducing/eliminating the waste. By eliminating the waste, we will be creating more affordable energy for all Texans. I am not invested in the industry. I spent 18 years trying to clean up the industry.

**Campaign website:** [matlock4rrc.com](http://matlock4rrc.com)

## » Petra Reyes (R)

No response received



## » Bill Burch (D)

**Qualifications:** I've been in the business 23 years, 65 countries as an oilwell firefighter and engineer. I'm a globally recognized subject matter expert, US

patent holder, and I am trustworthy and reliable.

**Natural Gas Facility Weatherization:** Semi annual reviews of the identified critical infrastructure and confirmation by independent auditors of accuracy and verification of findings. Yearly review of new equipment/facilities as networks expand to confirm there's adequate protection. Investment in public dashboard technology to provide reliable data for supply to wholesale markets for public confidence in TRRC doing its job correctly.

**Emissions:** Methane has a massive impact on climate change when flare stacks fail to maintain ignition. Flaring is a waste of resources not only from a monetary benefit for the State of Texas but for the royalty owners

and society's benefit for use. Flaring should be only as needed in emergency exemption. RRC is fully responsible for reducing all flaring from the oilfields.

**Seismic Activity:** RRC has failed to monitor and manage toxic radioactive isotopy laden produced water disposal everywhere in Texas. We must determine which SWD wells must be highly limited due to extreme risk and implement strict limits on volumes per section to let pressures decline. We must properly plug old wells nearby SWDs to prevent zombie wells. We must invest in fresh water recycling technologies.

**Ethics:** By being fully transparent with campaign finance documents and recusing oneself if rulings or actions present a perceived conflict of interest. Commissioners should also fully disclose in detail any royalties or working interest in companies or wells or projects that are under the jurisdiction of the RRC. The key is transparency and disclosure.

**Campaign website:** [burch4trrc.com](http://burch4trrc.com)



## » Katherine Culbert (D)

**Qualifications:** I am a Process Safety Engineer who helps Oil & Gas companies operate safely to protect communities and workers and follow regulations.

I care about my fellow Texans and want everyone to thrive here.

**Natural Gas Facility Weatherization:** Lawmakers need to adopt better energy efficiency rules to help Texans use less energy to save money and reduce demand. Preventing pipeline companies from owning the gas transported in their lines to stop monopolies and having a transparent gas market so the public can see the profits of pipeline operators during extreme weather would also help to address the gas supply issues.

**Emissions:** Flaring releases methane (natural gas) and other hazardous air pollutants and contributes to ground-level ozone. RRC needs to update Rule 32 to define when a flaring permit should be granted, remove flaring applications from the consent agenda, and hold

companies accountable for the environmental damage they are doing to all of us. They have only denied 44 out of >8000 permits since May '21.

**Seismic Activity:** The limits the RRC are putting on the injection wells are not working. We need to further limit the number of injection wells and the locations by not injecting disposal water near natural fault lines. Additionally, we need to hold the companies accountable for treating the waste water so it is not toxic and can be reused elsewhere.

**Ethics:** There is a difference between receiving income from working in an industry and making windfall profits from corporate investments with the companies you are regulating, having your actions directly increase your profits. Many agencies prohibit investments in companies that are affected by agency actions and Texas needs to implement the same rules.

Industry experience is an asset for regulators.

**Campaign website:** [www.katherine4texas.com](http://www.katherine4texas.com)



# JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

**Six-year term.** The Texas Supreme Court is the court of last resort for civil matters in Texas. This Court includes a Chief Justice and eight justices, each of which is elected by voters of the entire state. This court issues final decisions on civil and juvenile appeals; issues certain orders to governmental officials to act and individuals to appear before the court; and has jurisdiction over orders or judgments of trial courts if the Supreme Court determines them important to the Texas legal system. Current annual salary range: \$168,000 to \$201,600

## » QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

**Ethics:** Since judicial candidates solicit donations and raise money to be elected, how can voters be assured that campaign donations will not impact how judges interpret the law and/or review lower court decisions?

**Separation of Powers:** What is your view of the role of courts relative to the other branches of government?

**Equity:** What can be done to improve access to justice for all, including persons or groups who may be underserved?

**Other Issues:** What issues do you believe will be the most pressing for the Texas Supreme Court?

## » PLACE 2

### » Jimmy Blacklock (R)

Unopposed

**Campaign website:** [www.jimmyblacklock.com/](http://www.jimmyblacklock.com/)



### » DaSean Jones (D)

**Qualifications:** I have a reputation for being fair and impartial. In addition, I have over 5 years as a district judge. Over 22 years of military service.

Worked as lead counsel in civil and criminal trials.

**Ethics:** As an Army veteran the ideals principle to fundamental fairness are what I based my service upon. For this reason, I cannot be swayed by interest groups or money—nor have I ever been. Voters can check my donor history. To date, as a sitting judge I have never been recused.

**Separation of Powers:** The court is charged with the interpretation and application of the law. The judiciary must ensure the laws march in step with the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Texas as well as all applicable statutes. The court is the proverbial umpire poised to settle legal disputes—fairly and impartially.

**Equity:** As an African-American male navigating the legal landscape in Texas, the journey has not always been met with a welcoming embrace from the Bar. As such, I continue to mentor and build with those who are deemed underserved. Providing meaningful interactions as well as opportunities is key in regard to progress within our legal community.

**Other Issues:** Currently, the Texas Supreme Court is exclusively composed of individuals from a single political party, yet their decisions impact a broad spectrum of Texans beyond their preferred affiliations. Achieving equilibrium in the Texas Supreme Court is key. Justices address critical matters such as abortion, workers', and voting rights. Every Texan's perspective is invaluable in these determinations.

**Campaign website:** [www.daseanfortexas.com](http://www.daseanfortexas.com)



# JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

(continued)



## » Randy Sarosdy (D)

**Qualifications:** I have 30 years of civil trial and appellate experience and 15 years of experience teaching judges throughout Texas. I am a hard worker,

good listener and strive to understand both sides of any issue.

**Ethics:** I have subscribed to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices, and any campaign donations that I receive will be reported on a campaign finance report. If elected, I will never base a decision on a campaign donation but will apply the law fairly and impartially, without political influence or partisan consideration, and do my best to ensure that all parties are treated equally under the law.

**Separation of Powers:** The courts are sometimes referred to as the “third” branch of government, but they are in fact an independent and co-equal branch with the executive and legislative branches. It is imperative to the functioning of a healthy democracy that courts con-

tinue to serve this vital role as an independent and effective arbiter and guardian of fundamental rights.

**Equity:** First, it is important to provide better resources to self-represented litigants as the Justice Court Training Center has done for persons appearing in Justice Court. Second, we need to make sure persons are able to readily locate counsel through the Texas Bar or Legal Aid Services. Third, we need to continue to support the good work of the Texas Bar Foundation and the Indigent Defense Commission.

**Other Issues:** I believe the most pressing issues for the Texas Supreme Court currently relate to ensuring that the fundamental rights of Texans as guaranteed by the Texas and U.S. Constitutions are fully protected and safeguarded. I also believe the Texas Supreme Court must be vigilant in ensuring the preservation of our democratic institutions, many of which have recently come under attack.

**Campaign website:** [www.randyforjudge.org](http://www.randyforjudge.org)



## » VOTING FOR JUDGES IN TEXAS



Although in some states, judges are appointed, in Texas most judges are elected.

Judges make decisions about fundamental issues impacting family life, education, health care, housing, employment, finances, discrimination, civil rights, public safety, and government actions.

The Texas court system is made up of a statewide network of trial courts and courts of appeal. 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 a court of appeal where judges consider what happened at the trial court, evaluate legal arguments, and then decide if a mistake was made.

See <https://www.txcourts.gov/media/about-texas-courts/> for more information.

# JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

(continued)

## » PLACE 4

### » John Devine (R)

No response received

### » Brian Walker (R)

No response received

### » Christine Vinh Weems (D)

Unopposed

**Campaign website:** [www.weemsforjudge.com/](http://www.weemsforjudge.com/)

## » PLACE 6

### » Jane Bland (R)

Unopposed

**Campaign website:** [www.justicejanebland.com/](http://www.justicejanebland.com/)



### » Bonnie Lee Goldstein (D)

**Qualifications:** A 33 year varied civil and municipal law practice; 20 years judicial experience: 11 years as a municipal judge, 6 years as a civil district trial

judge and 3 years as intermediate appellate justice.

**Ethics:** Transparency through the Campaign Finance Reports detailed disclosure requirements, updated periodically according to the reporting schedule, along with stringent limitations imposed upon campaign contributions for judicial races, help safeguard against the appearance of impropriety and protect the integrity and independence of the judiciary.

**Separation of Powers:** The courts serve as an essential, independent and equal third branch of government to preserve and protect our constitution. The judiciary applies the law to the facts of a particular case and appellate review provides clarity, meaning, and consistency to the interpretation of the laws as enacted by the

legislative branch, in accordance with constitutional parameters.

**Equity:** Prioritize continued vigilance to identify the underserved, and the resources necessary to improve access to justice. Update and adapt pandemic-tested solutions for improved access through increased use of technology, virtual platforms and hybrid proceedings, as well as the development of user-friendly informational or instructional materials to help navigate the judicial system.

**Other Issues:** As a judicial candidate for the Texas Supreme Court, I cannot comment on issues that may come before me. The Canons prohibit a judge from being “swayed by partisan interests, public clamor, or fear of criticism” therefore transparency in judgment, clarity and consistency of opinions, are critical to preserve and protect the constitution, the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary.

**Campaign website:** [judgegoldstein.com](http://judgegoldstein.com)

# JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

(continued)



## » Joe Pool (D)

**Qualifications:** I am now serving as the 428th Judicial District Judge of Texas. Before that I was protecting and defending property rights and other

civil rights of clients under our constitutions, Texas and U.S..

**Ethics:** Our Texas Founders answered this concern by stating in our Texas Constitution, The right of trial by jury shall remain inviolate. Art 1. Sec 15. Unfortunately powerful political organizations have groomed judges and justices to violate Art. 1. Sec. 15. with summary judgements found by judges, not jurors and the Texas Supreme Court has redecided facts when facts are conclusive at the 14 COA's.

**Separation of Powers:** The Texas and U.S. Constitution establish three separate but equal branches of government. The legislative branch is charged with making laws. The executive branch is charged with enforcing laws. The judicial branch is charged with interpreting

the law. It is illogical and undermines our rule of law when a 50 year precedent is overturned. Any changes to the precedent should be made by Congress.

**Equity:** The major obstacle to improving access to justice for all is costs. Many property rights of low income individuals are simply given up because they cannot afford an attorney. Texas counties provide criminal defence costs, if you are indigent, but not in civil matters. This causes problems and inefficiencies when it involves families & others. More civil law cases should be provided free legal.

**Other Issues:** The Texas Abortion Law will be the most pressing issue for the Texas Supreme Court until Congress revives Roe v Wade or enacts laws standardizing access to abortions. The civilian enforcement of the Texas Abortion Law is reminiscent of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 that allowed deputisation of private citizens to aid in the capture of runaway slaves. It gives new meaning to Neighborhood Watch.

**Campaign website:** [poolforjustice.com](https://poolforjustice.com)

# JUDGE, TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

Six-year term. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals is Texas' highest court for criminal cases. The Court includes a Presiding Judge and eight Judges, each of which is elected by voters of the entire state. The court must review all cases in which the death penalty is assessed. It also exercises discretionary review in other criminal cases and issues rulings about wrongful imprisonment. Current annual salary range: \$168,000 to \$201,600

## » QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

**Ethics:** Since judicial candidates solicit donations and raise money to be elected, how can voters be assured that campaign donations will not impact how judges interpret the law and/or review lower court decisions?

**Separation of Powers:** What is your view of the role of courts relative to the other branches of government?

**Equity:** What can be done to improve access to justice for all, including persons or groups who may be underserved?

**Philosophy:** What is your judicial philosophy?

## » PRESIDING JUDGE



### » Sharon Keller (R)

**Qualifications:** My experience. I am the longest-serving Presiding Judge in the Court's history. On top of a full caseload, I have been the administrative

head of the Court since 2001.

**Ethics:** Voters can look at a judge's record. I have a proven record of following the Constitutions.

**Separation of Powers:** Separation of powers is critical to a properly functioning government. In my opinion for the Court in the criminal prosecution of Governor Rick Perry, I wrote that sepa-

ration of powers required that the prosecution be dismissed.

**Equity:** I have been Chair of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission since it's inception in 2002. We have transformed the indigent defense system in Texas, and each year more people receive counsel than ever before. We are also meeting the challenge of providing counsel for people arrested under Operation Lone Star. Cooperation with local jurisdictions has led to innovation and better outcomes.

**Philosophy:** I follow the Constitutions as written.

**Campaign website:** [sharonkeller.com](http://sharonkeller.com)



### » David J. Schenck (R)

**Qualifications:** I clerked for the Chief Judge of the 5th Cir., served for 8 years on the state's largest appellate court (civil and criminal matters), chaired the

State Conduct Comm., graduated 1st in class at Baylor

**Ethics:** Sadly, they aren't as yet. I have argued this issue to the U.S. Sup. Ct. and have repeatedly proposed reforms

that have been approved by the Supreme Court and exist elsewhere. Judges (1) should not sit in cases where they've received large contribution from either side (by direct or indirect means), (2) should not be contacting parties for \$, and disclosure should be direct and immediate.

**Separation of Powers:** Courts are passive players with the vital role of assuring fidelity to the operative constitutional assurances that constrain all three branches. Courts must arrogating power onto them-

# JUDGE, TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

(continued)

## » David J. Schenck (R)

selves—without a clear textual mandate—or allowing other branches to encroach on each other. They are not empowered to impose their policy preferences on legislative choices assigned to the legislature.

**Equity:** I received the State bar's highest award for pro bono service in securing access to the pro bono or low cost representation through representation of the state before the U.S. Supreme Court. In criminal cases indigent parties are assured counsel. Defendants in death

penalty cases should not be receiving lawyers who have been sanctioned or suspended, as has happened in recent years.

**Philosophy:** I am a constitutionalist. I believe the judiciary has one job: assure public confidence in the rule of law and the constitution by providing a forum that is independent of influence from other branches, transparently fair among the parties and competent. I believe the Texas Constitution assures this and my time as a judge and in the Conduct Commission tells me that we have come up short on this

## » Holly Taylor (D)

Unopposed

## » JUDGE, PLACE 7

## » Barbara Parker Hervey (R)

No response received



## » Gina Parker (R)

**Qualifications:** Worked as Assistant County Attorney, Assistant District Attorney, and currently practicing defense attorney. Served as a commissioner &

Chair of TX Dept of Licensing & Regulation hearing admin appeals

**Ethics:** A personal commitment to the Constitution and the rule of law. Also, the legislature might review the amount lawyers are allowed to donate to a court they practice before.

**Separation of Powers:** There are 3 separate branches of government with distinct roles. The judicial branch is charged with upholding the US Constitution, the State Constitution, and the laws not in violation of

these documents. Judges should not legislate from the bench but uphold the rule of law.

**Equity:** The rule of law is undermined when defendants cannot afford counsel. The Fair Defense Act was established to administer appropriations and policies to help counties with indigent defense programs. Also, transparency and accountability at the local level will ensure fairness and eliminate conflicts of interest and cronyism. Pro bono work is a way to provide counsel to the underserved.

**Philosophy:** Above all other duties, judges should uphold the rule of law. Additionally, they should be independent and impartial, should demonstrate appropriate temperament by respecting all parties to a case, and should have good character/integrity.

**Campaign website:** [www.ginaparkercampaign.com](http://www.ginaparkercampaign.com)

# JUDGE, TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

(continued)

## » JUDGE, PLACE 7 (continued)

### » Nancy Mulder (D)

Unopposed

**Campaign website:** [judgemulder.com](http://judgemulder.com)

## » PLACE 8



### » Lee Finley (R)

**Qualifications:** I have 20+ years of criminal defense experience in multiple state and federal jurisdictions. I have represented hundreds of indigent defendants in Texas Courts.

**Ethics:** Citizen trust in the Judiciary, and the legal system as a whole, is essential to an ordered society under the rule of law. Maximum transparency in campaign finance and Court procedures promotes confidence in the system.

**Separation of Powers:** The separation of powers doctrine is important to prevent the concentration and abuse of power. However, judges must not be permitted

to use the separation of powers doctrine as a shield for judicial activism.

**Equity:** Increasing the predictability and consistency of the judicial system, for all citizens, regardless of cultural, ethnic or socio-economic background, increases the trust of the citizens in the Courts, and increases the utilization of the system by those who have been historically underserved.

**Philosophy:** Maximum Justice with Minimal Interference. Individual rights: local government: State government: Federal government: in that order. The more we can link the consequences of decisions, to those making the decisions, the better quality of decisions we will get.

**Campaign website:** [gleefinley.com/](http://gleefinley.com/)



### » Michelle Slaughter (R)

**Qualifications:** Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Jan. 1, 2019 - Present. Judge, 405th District Court, Jan. 1, 2013 - Dec. 31, 2018. See [www.JudgeMichelleSlaughter.com](http://www.JudgeMichelleSlaughter.com) for more.

**Ethics:** I can only speak for myself - I have never allowed campaign donations to affect my judicial decisions. I always strictly interpret the Constitution and laws as written and as originally intended regardless of whether I agree with the outcome and regardless of any outside influences.

**Separation of Powers:** The judicial branch is the weakest branch. Judges cannot make law, they may only interpret it. Further, judges must strictly construe the Constitution and laws and interpret them as originally intended. Yet, the judicial branch serves as a critical check and balance on the other branches to ensure that their actions are in compliance with the will of the people as set forth in our Constitution.

**Equity:** Texas Access to Legal Services published a report on Dec. 5, 2023 (<https://www.texasatj.org/sites/default/files/2023.12.05%20Final%20Report.pdf>). In this report, there is a recommendation to “allow qualified paraprofessionals to provide limited legal services



# JUDGE, TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

(continued)

## » Michelle Slaughter (R) (continued)

directly to low-income Texans.” This is an excellent recommendation and a step in the right direction, though more needs to be done.

**Philosophy:** I am a constitutional conservative and originalist. The Constitution and laws must be strictly construed and interpreted in the way they were origi-

nally intended. “The Constitution is the repository of the people’s will. Its provisions are fixed as of the date of its adoption. These provisions are the same at all times thereafter. They are superior to all laws enacted thereunder.”

**Campaign website:** [www.JudgeMichelleSlaughter.com](http://www.JudgeMichelleSlaughter.com)

---

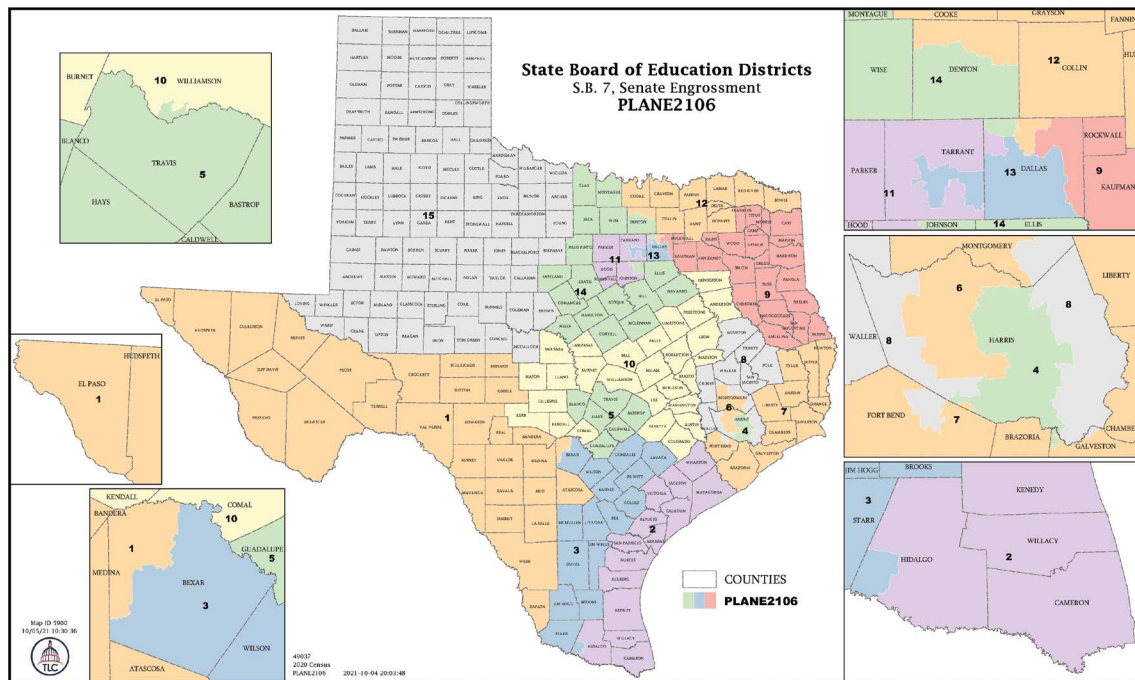
## » Chika Anyiam (D)

Unopposed

**Campaign website:** <https://judgechikaanyiam.com>

# STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Four-year term.** The fifteen-member board decides curriculum, standards, student testing, special education programs, and textbooks for Texas public schools. It also oversees the Permanent School Fund. **Current annual salary:** Members of the Board do not receive pay, but are reimbursed for expenses to attend meetings.



## » QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

**Charter Schools:** What educational standards should be required for approval of new independent charter schools in Texas?

**History Education:** As the developer of Texas public school curriculum, how would you ensure students are taught a comprehensive and accurate history of our state and country?

**Teacher Certification:** Should teachers who are not certified be allowed to teach in Texas classrooms? Why or why not?

**Other Issues:** What other issues do you believe will be the most pressing for the State Board of Education

## » DISTRICT 1

### » Michael (Travis) Stevens (R)

Unopposed

**Campaign website:** <https://www.facebook.com/stevensfortxsboel/>

### » Gustavo Reveles (D)

Unopposed

## » DISTRICT 3

### » Marisa Perez-Diaz (D)

Unopposed

**Campaign website:** [marisabperez.com](https://marisabperez.com)

## » DISTRICT 4

### » Staci Childs (D)

Unopposed

## » DISTRICT 10

### » Mary Bone (R)

No response received



### » DC Caldwell I (R)

**Qualifications:** I care about kids, have four years of military leadership development training, 11 content area teaching certifications (more than any

other candidate or member of the current SBoE) and a law degree.

**Charter Schools:** Standards are now in place which new schools should be expected to meet. However, I am more concerned about the standards for ALL schools in Texas, not just the less-than-ten percent seeking to provide an alternative. Many parents have good reason to perceive many schools as merely wanting their support, when the schools exist to support the students and their families, not the other way around.

**History Education:** I believe bans on books are bad public policy, and that this question addresses that controversial issue. I regard the proper response to speech that you disagree with, even lies, to be more speech. I want to empower students to find information. My focus is not to fill kids' heads with information that might

be regarded as trivia, but to teach students skills which they will then actually apply.

**Teacher Certification:** Yes, in short. Why? Because we have teacher shortages. In my experience, the shortage is not primarily due to teacher pay, but instead is due to barriers to entry into the profession. Substitute teachers and assistants are often not certified teachers but are nevertheless assigned to fill those roles on a temporary basis because of real-time needs that are a human resources and staffing problem.

**Other Issues:** Incumbents have become career politicians and failed at the duty of leaders to mentor protégés to replace themselves, inspiring my vote of no confidence.

The Texas education academic goals as found in Education Code Chapter 4, and the TEKS based thereon, are outdated, misguided, and badly written. We need to redirect from college-ready to career-ready to prepare students for life after school.

**Campaign website:** [dcaldwelltexas.square.site/](https://dcaldwelltexas.square.site/)

## » DISTRICT 10 (continued)



### » Tom Maynard (R)

**Qualifications:** Christian, educator, former executive. I have served on the SBOE since 2013. I am a recognized leader who fights for change, winning conservative victories on the board and in the Legislature.

**Charter Schools:** Charter schools are public schools and are held to the same educational standards as traditional ISD's. However, there are certain items that require scrutiny in the application process. Among these are compliance with all state laws, special education, adherence to open enrollment procedures, fidelity to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, governance, transportation and food service.

**History Education:** The overarching mission of education is captured in our state constitution: "The general diffusion of knowledge being essential for the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people..." In a 180-day school year, students must be taught the foundations of

our state and American history. I will continue to ensure that woke agendas are not part of our history education.

**Teacher Certification:** As a certified teacher, I believe that having qualified teachers is important. Most in Texas classrooms are either certified or working toward a certification. The simple pipeline through college-based teacher preparation programs is not today's reality. Half of all teachers are alternatively certified. Eliminating local discretion could exacerbate teacher shortages.

**Other Issues:** Completion and implementation of: Review and revision of social studies curriculum standards, set to begin in 2025.

Completion of the implementation of the Permanent School Fund's transition to a governmental corporation. Within that, strategic planning, asset allocation and internal controls.

HB1605 is the most significant law related to instructional material and still requires implementation.

**Campaign website:** <http://maynardfortexas.com>



### » DC Caldwell I (D)

**Qualifications:** I care about kids, have four years of military leadership development training, 11 content area teaching certifications (more than any other candidate or member of the current SBoE), and a law degree.

**Charter Schools:** Standards are now in place which new schools should be expected to meet. However, I am more concerned about the standards for ALL schools in Texas, not just the less-than-ten percent seeking to provide an alternative. Many parents have good reason to perceive many schools as merely wanting their support, when the schools exist to support the students and their families, not the other way around.

**History Education:** I want to empower students to find information. My focus is not to fill kids' heads with information that might be regarded as trivia, but to teach students skills which they will then actually apply. I believe bans on books are bad public policy, and that this question addresses that controversial issue. I regard

the proper response to speech that you disagree with, even lies, to be more speech.

**Teacher Certification:** Yes, in short. Why? Because we have teacher shortages. In my experience, the shortage is not primarily due to teacher pay, but instead is due to barriers to entry into the profession. Substitute teachers and assistants are often not certified teachers but are nevertheless assigned to fill those roles on a temporary basis because of real-time needs that are a human resources and staffing problem.

**Other Issues:** The Texas education academic goals as found in Education Code Chapter 4, and the TEKS based thereon, are outdated, misguided, and badly written. We need to redirect from college-ready to career-ready to prepare students for life after school. I do not trust the incumbents to make improvements, becoming career politicians and failing at the duty of leaders to mentor protégés to replace themselves.

**Campaign website:** [dcaldwelltexas.square.site/](http://dcaldwelltexas.square.site/)

## » DISTRICT 10 (continued)



### » Raquel Saenz Ortiz (D)

**Qualifications:** I taught middle and high school Social Studies for ten years, as well as held school leadership positions. I have a PhD in Education and

currently prepare future teachers at a university.

**Charter Schools:** Charter schools should be able to demonstrate a rigorous curriculum, as well as community accountability standards. Charter schools should also be required to meet special education needs of all students, as well as the needs of emergent bilingual students.

**History Education:** I would recommend the Social Studies standards TEKS be revised. In the previous revision, the SBOE voted to reject the recommendations of content advisors and not update the TEKS. State standards should be revised on a regular basis, with the input from teachers and content experts to ensure

that content is accurate, rigorous, and promotes critical thinking.

**Teacher Certification:** Currently, teachers can teach with an emergency certification in some cases while pursuing their certification. If teachers possess a degree in their content area, emergency certification should continue to be allowed. This is particularly important in a time when many people are leaving the profession and schools are struggling to ensure that positions are filled.

**Other Issues:** Instructional materials are adopted by the SBOE. It is important that these materials provide (scientifically and historically) accurate content, as well as content that promotes critical thinking. It is also important to allow teacher agency in choosing resources and materials for their classroom, which connect to students' real world experiences.

**Campaign website:** [www.drsofortexas.com/](http://www.drsofortexas.com/)

## » DISTRICT 11

### » Brandon Hall (R)

No response received



### » Pat (Patricia) Hardy (R)

**Qualifications:** After 30 years as a classroom teacher, I spent 17 years in the curriculum department. As a teacher I was active in academic organizations which

provided both enrichment and leadership opportunities.

**Charter Schools:** When I am reviewing charter schools I look for total fidelity to the TEKS as charters are responsible for upholding the same standards as the traditional public schools.

**History Education:** The SBOE is responsible for creating the standards from which the curriculum is de-

veloped. Social Studies is my area of expertise in both undergrad and graduate work as well as classroom experience. The Board must develop comprehensive and accurate standards but it is up to the local district to ensure that those standards are taught.

**Teacher Certification:** I do not think uncertified teachers should be teaching in the Texas classroom, unless it is a specialized Career Tech course where the teacher has a specific field expertise. Even then I think that such teachers should work toward becoming certified. It is unfair for some teachers to complete the rigor needed for certification and others not. Students should have highly qualified instructors.

## » DISTRICT 11

### » Pat (Patricia) Hardy (R) (continued)

**Other Issues:** Most pressing would be updating the already existing standards (TEKS) and assuring high quality instructional materials are made available for the classroom. All students must attain a strong foun-

ation in the elementary grades. I would like to see the state offer mandatory and compensated math academies to ensure that math professional development is provided to all elementary teachers.

**Campaign website:** [hardyforeducation.com](http://hardyforeducation.com)

### » Rayna Glasser (D) Unopposed

**Campaign website:** [www.facebook.com/raynaglasser/](http://www.facebook.com/raynaglasser/)

## » DISTRICT 12



### » Chad Green (R)

**Qualifications:** I have been in the education marketplace for 25 years developing solutions and school improvement projects. I have also been

a District Trustee in McKinney fighting pornographic materials.

**Charter Schools:** Currently there are no additions I would make to this. The process is rigorous looking into the financial and educational qualifications of the leadership. This has resulted in fewer charters failing over the last ten years.

**History Education:** I would eliminate current TEKS standards and classes that don't provide accurate his-

tory or scientific method. I am also a proponent of Texas creating its own comprehensive curriculum that will guarantee that no publisher will be adding their own agendas into our materials.

**Teacher Certification:** This is a very broad question. If you make it law, you will be taking an unprecedented position requiring both private school teachers, charter school teachers and home school parents to be certified. I would not be for this. Ultimately their performance is evaluated not only yearly but on an ongoing basis by the systems they employ to measure effectiveness.

**Other Issues:** Curriculum, setting policies and evaluating materials the TEA provides for evaluation.

**Campaign website:** [www.chadgreenfortexas.com](http://www.chadgreenfortexas.com)



### » Jamie Kohlmann (R)

**Qualifications:** I've testified to the Texas House, Senate & SBOE about curriculum, charter schools and parental empowerment. I am intimately in-

involved in the education of my three elementary aged children.

**Charter Schools:** Charter schools are critical to providing opportunity for students in every part of Texas. A successful charter school application should inspire

confidence in its leadership team's ability to hit the ground running while maintaining high standards and delivering distinctive outcomes.

**History Education:** Texas's history is rich and complex. Students must have a comprehensive understanding of our state and national history, ensuring lessons from the past are absorbed to drive individual and societal flourishing in the future. Ultimately, the SBOE is not responsible for developing public school curriculum, but I look forward to partnering with the TEA and Commissioner to accomplish these goals.



## » DISTRICT 12

### » Jamie Kohlmann (R) (continued)

**Teacher Certification:** This question is likely rooted in the current teacher shortage across Texas public schools. We should support and elevate the teaching profession to encourage more of the best, brightest and most qualified to enter the classroom. Certification

should ensure a high bar while also being flexible to attract and equip out-of-state talent and professionals with non-traditional backgrounds.

**Other Issues:** 1) Improve student outcomes, 2) Empower parents, and 3) Support teachers.

**Campaign website:** [www.jamiefortx.com](http://www.jamiefortx.com)



### » Pam Little (R)

**Qualifications:** Served on SBOE for 5 years, the last 3 as Vice Chair of the Board. I had a 20 year career in educational publishing where I worked with the SBOE in developing materials to meet the TEKS.

**Charter Schools:** Charter Schools should be required to meet the same educational standards as the Independent School Districts.

**History Education:** By teaching students what really

happened. Making sure the standards are comprehensive and not watered down.

**Teacher Certification:** Ideally teachers should be certified. There might be some instances in the career and technology area where experience is more important than an education certificate.

**Other Issues:** Developing the rules to implement HB 1605 which drastically changed the process of instructional material selection. The updating of the math and social studies standards.

» **Matt Rostami (R)** No response received

» **George King (D)** Unopposed

## » DISTRICT 15

» **Aaron Kinsey (R)** Unopposed

» **Morgan Kirkpatrick (D)** Unopposed

**Campaign website:** [kinseyfortexas.com](http://kinseyfortexas.com)

## CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEALS

Six-year term. There are 14 Courts of Appeals in Texas located in 14 cities throughout the state. Each of these Courts includes a Chief Justice and at least two other Justices. These Courts hear appeals on civil and criminal cases from lower courts in their districts. Current annual salary range: \$154,000 to \$187,800

See [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) to compare Court of Appeal candidates in your district.

## » VOTERS GUIDE SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

LWV Texas *Voters Guides* are funded by the League of Women Voters of Texas, a 501(c)(3) corporation that is supported by contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations. We would like to acknowledge the following generous *Voters Guide* sponsors and major donors, as well as the donations from all our supporters which make the publication of the *Voters Guide* possible.

### Gold *Voters Guide* Sponsors

Center for Women in Government, Texas Woman's University  
League of Women Voters of Dallas  
Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas

### Silver *Voters Guide* Sponsor

Joyce LeBombard

### Bronze *Voters Guide* Sponsors

Dorothy Marchand	Diane B. Sheridan, Facilitator
John Nolan	Texas Nurses Association
Judith Oppenheim	Elaine Wiant

### Major 2024 Contributors (donations more than \$2,500)

Frank and Kay Davis Fund	Relia Mae Sheib
Elisabeth MacNamara	



## EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

The LWV is a nonpartisan political organization and is one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations! We aim to:

- Achieve a free and fair democracy
- Increase participation in government
- Expand voter participation in Texas
- Create a League that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive.

### League of Women Voters of Texas Voter Education

**Chair:** Dorothy Marchand

### League of Women Voters of Texas Staff:

Aileen McMurrer, *Executive Director*; Joleen Smith, *Digital Communications Manager*; Breezie Reeves, *Data Manager*

**Voters Guide Volunteers:** Grace Chimene, Pamiel Gaskin, Joyce LeBombard, Elisabeth MacNamara, Janis Richardson

**Production Team:** Asian Texans for Justice, Jaci Collins, Community Impact, Inspireare Communications, Institute for Civic Education in Viet Nam, Motto Publishing Services, Translapro

© 2024 League of Women Voters of Texas | [lwvtexas.org](http://lwvtexas.org)

The *Voters Guide* is protected by copyright. For permission to duplicate the *Voters Guide*, please call the LWV Texas office at 512-472-1100. Any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.